

The Branch

First Baptist Greenville

November 2026 | Issue 4



Andy Jung Welcomed

As part of our Parent Education Initiative for Children and Youth Ministries, we welcomed Andy Jung on Sunday, September 27. He led our joint Sunday School gathering and worship service, helping us explore what it means to be an intergenerational church that welcomes people of every age as full participants in the Body of Christ.

After worship, Andy met with our staff to discuss how artificial intelligence is shaping the spiritual formation of Generation Alpha. That evening, he joined our Youth Family at Sunday Night Live for a fun time of research and honest conversation about what builds trust and what breaks it.

We are grateful to Andy for spending the day with our church family and staff and for helping us imagine more fully what it means to be the church together.

OCT 24-25

COMPASSION FORMATION WEEKEND

Join Rev. Christy S. Edwards for a weekend of sessions on empathy, grief and healthier relationships, offering simple, practical skills to help us respond with compassion to the people in our lives.

[Register for the Grief Seminar](#)

[Register for the Parent Education Seminar](#)

OCT 21

MIDWEEK CAFE UPDATE

New breakfast items will arrive on Wednesday, October 21.

- Breakfast burritos every week
- New hot and cold coffee options, with espresso, lattes, seasonal syrups and new milk options

Our new expanded hours are Wednesdays from 8:00am to 1:30pm.

The MidWeek Cafe is open on Thursdays to sell any items that remain, so help us sell out by coming by either day!

Pick 2 Special:

Soup, salad, or sandwich for \$10.

Grab a friend and head over for a delicious soup combo!

[Check the MidWeek Cafe Menu here](#)

GATHERED

Serving, connecting and seeking
God together



MinisTREE

It's time for one of FBG's favorite holiday traditions, the MinisTREE!

During the month of November, you will see a Christmas tree standing in the Reception Area, filled with paper ornaments. Each will have a gift request for someone who finds themselves in need of a little help with Christmas this year.

Simply choose an ornament to take. Then it's time for some Christmas shopping! Please return the item indicated on the ornament – unwrapped – along with the ornament and a gift receipt, if possible, to the reception area by November 22. Thanks for your generosity!

Gayle Brown, Missions Committee



Advent Celebrations

On Sunday, November 29, we will adorn our worship space with garlands, greenery and poinsettias, and light our Chrismon tree. To provide these decorations, our congregation purchases dedicatory poinsettias. These dedications may be made to honor a living person or in memory of a deceased loved one.

Orders may be made here until November 20



Saturday Sing

On November 7, our Music Ministry is hosting a Saturday Sing! This choral festival will be led by our former Minister of Music, Dr. Vivian Hamilton. Guest singers will join our Sanctuary Choir for a morning of lively rehearsal culminating in a 2:00pm concert in our Sanctuary. Please join us for some familiar and inspiring choral music and bring a friend.



Community Garden

The garden at First Baptist was planted this fall during our first series of Wednesday night offerings in partnership with Mill Village Farms. Our youth and adults planted various vegetables and flowers, and they are thriving!

The garden is located on the playground terrace, and we invite you to come and take a look or enjoy the produce from the garden. Interested in volunteering or learning more? Reach out to [Taylor](#).



200 YEARS

Carried by those before us,
carrying each other now



Help Bring our History of Ministry to Life

In just five years, First Baptist Greenville will celebrate an extraordinary milestone: the 200th anniversary of the church! From the beginning on November 2, 1831, our faith community has touched generations of lives through worship, caring for one another, fellowship and service, and we need your help as we prepare to celebrate.

In 2025, the Archives Committee was created to renew preservation efforts and make our documents more accessible to our members. Three major projects have already begun to take shape: an oral history video project, a commemorative book of essays about our church that will be published in 2031 and a comprehensive effort to organize and digitize our archival collection.

As we move toward our 200th celebration, our goals are to share interesting stories from our history, expand our Archives by asking members to submit photos and memories with our team and to plan events for a yearlong celebration of First Baptist in 2031. Yet these goals cannot be met without the work of a large volunteer team.

If you are able to help First Baptist “make history,” consider volunteering now as we prepare. Volunteers are needed for audiovisual preservation, photo preservation, document scanning, maintaining artifacts, organizing volunteers for information and assisting with research projects. If you have a gift for any of these areas, our team can help train you on how to best help.

For more information or to get involved, please contact Cherron Saad, Archives Committee Chair, through Realm, cherronsaad@charter.net, or 864-630-7199.

The journey begins now!



Compassion Formation Weekend

Grief that is not transformed will be transferred. Chaplain Christy S. Edwards, a board-certified pediatric chaplain from Kansas City, joins us all weekend.

Saturday, October 24: Grief Seminar

A gentle space to learn healthy ways to cope with loss, including the quieter griefs we rarely name, like a move or a breakup. Bring someone you care about.

Sunday, October 25: Sunday School

How can we best respond to people in pain? Christy offers "what to say and not say" empathy training with practical skills to use in daily life, strengthening our personal and professional relationships. All adults are invited.

Sunday, October 25: Worship Proclaimer

"Incarnation as Empathy" from John 13:12-17, 31-35.

Sunday, October 25: Parent Luncheon

Christy speaks to parents, grandparents and guardians about cultivating healthy grieving and empathy.

[Register for the Grief Seminar here](#)

[Register for the Parent Education Seminar here](#)

ROOTED

Stories of faith, formation
and belonging



Pastoral Note

Carol McEntyre, Senior Minister



Everywhere you go, people are talking about artificial intelligence (AI). Some are excited about its potential for things like cancer research. Others worry about its environmental impact, its effect on jobs or the ethical questions it raises. These are important conversations.

Another question also deserves our attention: How will AI shape us as human beings? When the social media revolution began, we didn't ask this question soon enough. As Christians, we should think carefully not only about what AI can do, but also about the kind of people it will shape us into. If you would like to explore that question further, I've found a couple of resources helpful so far.

I invite you to consider reading Pope Leo XIV's latest encyclical (a letter outlining the Catholic Church's perspective on a topic), *Magnifica Humanitas*. Released on May 15, 2026, it builds on the robust theological tradition of Catholic social teaching, raises a range of ethical considerations and offers specific suggestions to safeguard human beings. The encyclical is widely available online for free.

In addition, author and minister Carey Nieuwhof has several episodes on *The Carey Nieuwhof Leadership Podcast* that explore the promises and pitfalls of artificial intelligence. The September 22 episode, "Is AI Worse for Mental Health Than Social Media?" offers a helpful starting point for thinking about AI's impact on our well-being.

Rather than approaching AI with fear and trembling or uncritical enthusiasm, let's think deeply about the impact it will have on human flourishing and choose to do everything we can to safeguard our hearts, minds and souls. These resources offer a helpful place to begin that conversation.

All adults are invited to attend a special Wednesdays@First gathering on October 21 from 6:00 to 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. This evening of "Sharing Our Stories" features a panel of church members across generations sharing who and what has shaped their faith.



Lula Whilden World Missions

We know First Baptist is a leader in working with other churches and organizations in our community, but did you know that our community extends around the world because of close relationships with our state, national and international partners?

[Click here](#) to learn more about our own Lula Whilden and the grassroots ministries we support through her namesake missions offering.

*Laurie Berry-Dorroh,
Partnerships & Affiliations
Committee*

The easiest way to give to the Lula Whilden World Missions offering is through Realm Connect. Click on the link above or open your Realm Connect app to get started. Don't forget to select "Lula Whilden World Missions" from the dropdown.

You can also give to the offering by adding "Lula Whilden" to the memo field of a check made out to First Baptist Greenville, or by checking the "Lula Whilden Missions" box on your offering envelope and writing in the amount you would like to designate.