

THE HOME PAGE

Volume No. 54

March 5, 2026

Issue No. 8

SIGNING OF THE RELATIONAL COVENANT

Sunday, March 8th at 10:30 am

We hope you will join us this Sunday for a special service of worship. As a follow up to the discernment process from the fall of 2025, we will be inviting the church to enter into a relational covenant with one another. This Relational Covenant comes out of the Greater Way Covenant from several years ago where we signed our names to say that as a church, we would live out the commands of Jesus to love God, love our neighbors, and make disciples. Once again, we reaffirm the Greater Way Covenant and make a commitment to how we relate to each other in our church and our community. A copy of the Relational Covenant is on the church website, and there are also hard copies available in the welcome center. Please look at this covenant prayerfully, and on March 8, we will have the opportunity to sign our names in an act of commitment.

Relational Covenant

COMMISSIONING OF THE PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Sunday, March 8th at 10:30 am

In addition to signing the Relational Covenant, we will also be laying on hands and commissioning our Pastor Search Committee, which has already been hard at work. We want to commit to praying for them as they have the monumental task of searching for our next pastor. The members of the committee are: Wayne Turner and Amy Moore (co-chairs), Denise Plumblee, Meredith Smith, Steven Rau, Margo Love, and Grey Register.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TRAINING

This Sunday, March 8th at 12:00 pm

This Sunday we will host our annual training for those that currently serve in the Children's Ministry and also for those that would like to learn more about volunteering! This training includes adults and those interested in being a youth helper. We will cover policies, procedures and first aid. Lunch is provided for those who signed up prior to March 4th.

AN UPDATE FROM THE PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

This week your Pastor Search Committee met with Bill Wilson and Frank Granger to detail plans for the kickoff of 40 Days of Prayer for our Pastor Search on Saturday, March 21 and for the Congregational Conversations on Sunday, March 22. We are excited and hope you can join us for both! Mark your calendars for the Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, March 21 at 9:00 am. There is no charge for breakfast but registration is requested so we know how much to prepare. In addition, note that on Sunday, March 22 we will have coffee and biscuits at 8:30 am and congregational conversations at 9:00 am during the Sunday School hour. **For this Sunday only, worship will begin at 11:00 am.**

PRAYER BREAKFAST

Saturday, March 21

9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall

We will kick-off our 40 Days of Prayer for our Pastor Search. There is no charge for the breakfast. Please register by clicking below so we can prepare enough for everyone!

Prayer Breakfast Reservations

BREAKFAST AND CONVERSATIONS

Sunday, March 22

There is no charge for the meal and no registration required! Everyone (6th grade and up) is welcome to attend. Childcare will be provided through 5th grade.

8:30 am: Coffee and Biscuits

9:00-10:30 am: Congregational Conversations

11:00 am: Worship in the Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

Wednesday, March 11th

5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Main Entree (\$8)

Hamburger Steak, Scalloped Potatoes, Lima Beans

Grilled Chicken Salad (\$8)

Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza Entree (\$5)

Please remember to register by 12:00 pm on Monday, March 9th. This deadline is to give our caterer an accurate headcount.

Dinner Reservations

JOIN US IN WORSHIP

Sunday, March 8

9:15 am: Sunday School

10:30 am: Worship

Third Sunday in Lent

Children's Love Offering

Signing of the Relational Covenant

Anthem: *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*
by the Sanctuary Choir

Scripture: Galatians 6:2; Colossians 3:11-20

Sermon: **"The Forgive One Another Church"**
by Gary Strickland

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Pat Riddle

MINISTER ON CALL

March 6-8

Janice Hinnant

(864) 346-3834

janice@esbcgreenville.org

STAFF ANNIVERSARY

GARY STRICKLAND

March 19, 2023

3 years

ATTENDANCE REPORT

Sunday School Attendance

Sunday School..... 127

Worship Attendance

Sanctuary127

Preschoolers and Children..... 13

Total..... 140

Online Views (as of 3/5/26)..... 88

BUDGET REPORT

**No budget report
available at time
of printing.**

DEACON OF THE WEEK



Monte McKinney is our deacon of the week. Monte and his wife, Jan, have been members since 2018. Monte worked for a construction company for 44 years. He is a member of the Loaves and Fishes Sunday School Class. Monte serves on the Community Missions Team, Safety Team and as an Usher.

CHURCH CONFERENCE
Wednesday, March 11th
6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

AGENDA

- Report from the Nominating Committee
- Report and Recommendation from the Mission Vision Council
- Report for the Committee for Deacon Nominations

SENIOR ADULT RETREAT
Thursday, March 12th
10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall
Theme: Fully Alive: Heart, Mind and Body

Stephen Clyborne and the senior adults of First Baptist Church Piedmont will be joining us! We will be using Psalm 16 and Stephen's newest book, *My Two Beating Hearts*, as the springboard for our theme, "Fully Alive: Heart, Mind and Body." Our musicians will be presenting a special program of music. The cost of the meal is \$10. Registration begins at 9:40 am. To sign up for the retreat, please contact the church office at 233-5332 or click below!

Senior Adult Retreat Reservations

SENIOR ADULT SUNDAY
Sunday, March 15th
10:30 am: Worship
12:00 pm: Luncheon

We are excited for Senior Adult Sunday. During worship, we will hear from some of our seniors during the sermon! Following the worship service, all senior adults (and a guest if needed) are welcome to a free luncheon. Seating is limited so please make your reservation now!

Senior Adult Luncheon Reservations

From the Minister Of Music and Worship

Janice Hinnant (ext. 202) – janice@ESBCgreenville.org

Gather & Praise Youth Choir Festival

We had a wonderful weekend in Hilton Head for the Gather & Praise Festival. There were four churches that participated, with a total of 86 in the combined choir. I am especially proud that Chloe Rau and Wren Smith auditioned and got the two big solos! We may have had the smallest group, but they represented well!

To view the service, [you may click here](#). A special thank you to First Presbyterian Church Hilton Head and watch it by clicking here. I also want to thank Meredith Smith for driving and helping to chaperone. We are already looking forward to next year!



EASTER POTLUCK BREAKFAST AND EGG HUNT

Sunday, April 5th
9:00 am: Potluck Breakfast
9:45 am: Egg Hunt
10:30 am: Worship

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a joyful Easter morning together! Bring your favorite breakfast casserole or dish to share as we gather for food, fellowship, and celebration. After breakfast, children are invited to enjoy a fun Easter Egg Hunt—and adults are welcome to follow along and cheer them on!

GRADUATE SUNDAY Sunday, April 26

We will be recognizing our high school and college graduates during worship on **Sunday, April 26**. If you have a graduate you would like included in the service, please let Lucy know by **April 12** at lucy@esbcgreenville.org. Congratulations to the Class of 2026, we are so proud of you!

BELT DONATIONS NEEDED

Teenage students at the Sullivan Center in Greenville are in need of belts. Students are required to wear a belt to be in dress code while they attend classes. These students are ages 16-18 and need adult size belts. New or gently used belts can be placed in the Welcome Center. Alfred Johnson will collect the belts and distribute them to the students in need.





OPERATION INASMUCH
Saturday, April 25

Inspired by Gospel of Matthew 25:40 — “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” — Operation InAsMuch is all about turning our faith into action. This is a church-wide opportunity to step outside our walls and serve others in practical, meaningful ways.

This year, we are offering seven different service projects, giving everyone a chance to participate in a way that matches their gifts, interests, and abilities. Whether you enjoy hands-on work, encouraging others, organizing, cleaning, or building there is a place for you!

We will be serving Chick-fil-A biscuits at 8:00am. Please sign up for breakfast so we will have a good count for breakfast.

In the afternoon, we will host a cookout from 2–5 p.m. at a local apartment complex in partnership with The Church Without Walls. We encourage you to sign up for a morning service project and then join us for this special time of fellowship and outreach in the afternoon.

Please click the link below to view all available service opportunities and sign up. We look forward to serving together!

[OIAM Breakfast Reservations](#)

[OIAM Projects](#)

**THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT:
How Walking In The Spirit Impacts The World In
Which We Live And Serve
Adult Winter Discipleship Group
Wednesdays at 6:00 pm**

March 11: Church Conference

March 18: No Activities (Spring Break)

March 25: “Walking in the Spirit of Kindness”
Led by Meredith Smith

April 1: No Activities (Holy Week)

April 8: “Walking in the Spirit of Goodness”
Led by Gary Strickland

FOOD DRIVE TO SUPPORT RISE CAROLINA

As part of our mission to love our neighbors and serve those in need, our church is hosting a food drive to benefit Rise Carolina, a local organization that supports refugees and immigrants as they begin new lives in our community. Refugees and Immigrants face many barriers such as limited transportation, language differences, and the high cost of resettlement. We will be collecting shelf stable and culturally appropriate food as well as baby supply items in the ESBC Welcome Center.

Let us be the hands and feet of Christ by extending hospitality, compassion, and practical support to our new neighbors. Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness in serving others.

We invite you to prayerfully consider donating the following items:

- Rice, pasta, dry beans, and lentils
- Canned vegetables and fruits
- Canned proteins (tuna, chicken, beans)
- All purpose flour
- Cooking oil and basic spices (sugar, salt, garlic powder, etc.)
- Baby formula and diapers
- Culturally diverse, shelf-stable foods

**THE
GREATER
WAY FUND**

The Greater Way Fund was established in August 2024 to be used for additional funding for current mission partners, mission emergencies, spontaneous needs that arise or new mission opportunities. The Mission Vision Council has been tasked with evaluating opportunities presented by mission partners and other non-profits.

If you believe that your organization would benefit from The Greater Way Fund, please click the link below and fill out the request form. We will prayerfully consider your organization’s mission and request. Thank you for the work that you are doing.

[The Greater Way Fund Request](#)

A Sacred Promise

Join Us for Our Relational Covenant Signing Service and
Commissioning of the Pastor Search Committee on March 8, 2026.

What does it mean to belong to a church?

In a world where commitment is often casual and community is often temporary, the church stands as something different. The church is not simply a gathering we attend. It is a covenant we share.

Throughout Scripture, God forms His people through covenant. From God's promise to Abraham, to Israel gathered at Sinai, to the New Covenant sealed in Christ, God has always created a people who belong to Him—and to one another.

The early church understood this deeply. In Acts 2, believers “devoted themselves” to teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. They did not drift in and out of community; they bound themselves together in shared faith, shared mission, and shared responsibility.

What is the Relational Covenant we are signing?

The *Relational Covenant* grew out of the discernment process last fall to clarify our identity as a church and become more intentional in relating to one another in Christ-like ways in our day-to-day affairs and especially in times of conflict.

This relational covenant is an extension of *The Greater Way Covenant* adopted by the church several years ago. That covenant calls us to live a greater way based on the commandments of Jesus to: Love God, Love Neighbors, and Make Disciples. Now, we are building on that covenant to share specific ways in which we will be a *Greater Way* people.

A church covenant is a solemn and joyful promise we make:

- To walk together in Christian love
- To pursue spiritual growth
- To bear one another's burdens in community
- To support the ministry of the church
- To live as witnesses of Christ in the world

**This covenant is not a contract of perfection.
It is a commitment of faithfulness.**

When we sign a church covenant, we are saying: “I am not just attending. I belong. I will pray. I will serve. I will give. I will forgive. I will walk with you.”

On Sunday, March 8, you will have the opportunity to affirm your commitment to the mission of God through the ministry of Earle Street Baptist Church as you pledge to live a *Greater Way* by affirming the commitments found in the *Relational Covenant*.

We will also have the joy of encouraging and commissioning the Pastor Search Committee as they seek our next pastor.