



Green Valley Baptist Church

695 Green Valley Road
Lebanon, VA 24266

276-889-0257

www.greenvalleybaptist.church

Table of Contents

Beliefs and Values	4
Church Covenant	5
History	6
Ministers and Staff	8
Governing Structure	10
Stewardship	12
Worship	13
Spiritual Formation	14
Ministries	15
Green Valley Christian Academy	17
Attendance	18
Missions	19
Ministry Partners	21
Facilities	22
Community	24
Pastoral Profile	27



Beliefs & Values

- We believe the Scripture, both the Old and New Testaments, are divinely inspired and without error.
- We believe in the virgin birth, sinless life, death on the cross, bodily resurrection, and personal return of Jesus Christ.
- We believe in the reality of a literal heaven and hell.
- We believe salvation is available to all who repent of sin and place their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.
- We believe in the support and participation of local, national, and worldwide missions.
- We believe that the church exists to glorify God.

The Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God and is the basis for any statement of faith. We band ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ, personally committed to sharing the good news of salvation to lost mankind. The ordinances of the church are Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

The purpose of this church shall be to glorify God, to maintain a place for worship, to win others to the Lord Jesus Christ, and to spread the Gospel in Russell County, in Virginia, in our nation, and to the uttermost part of the earth.

The Church government is vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist churches.

The Church receives the Bible as the inerrant word of God for authority in matters of faith and practice. Its understanding of Christian truth as contained therein is in essential accord with the belief of Baptist churches as indicated in the declarations of faith as follows:

Our Articles of Faith shall be the same as those set forth in the Baptist Faith and Message, as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in annual session June 14, 2000.



Church Covenant

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into this covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love: to strive for the advancement of this Church in all knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel to all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and others; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; and, to be zealous in all our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to reach across racial, social, and economic barriers; to cultivate Christian sympathy and Christian courtesy in speech; and, to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place, we will, at the earliest time, unite with some other Church of the same faith and order where we can carry the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

History

Green Valley Baptist Church was first established in May 1895, when members from Lebanon Baptist Church were granted a letter to begin a new work in the Green Valley community of Russell County, Virginia. An acre of land for the church and a cemetery was donated, as well as other supplies and labor from the Campbell, Jessee, and Hargis families, as well as other church members. That little white wood-frame church opened under the leadership of Rev. G.W. Kilgore in 1896 with around eighty members.



Over the years the church continued to grow and expand. In 1937, Sunday school rooms were added. Then again in 1954 a large wing was added included additional classrooms, a kitchen, and restrooms. Subsequent upgrades continued in 1961, when land from the Kiser family was donated for a parsonage to be built. New lighting and a baptistry was added to the original church building in 1988.

The current church building, an almost 30,000 square foot facility, was voted upon to be built to help meet the demands of a growing community in the early 1990s. This was a major construction project, completed in large part from donated supplies and volunteer labor over several years. The new building includes a large sanctuary, as well as an educational wing with ample space for a nursery, many Sunday school rooms, and a large kitchen and fellowship hall.

In 2008, the original white wood frame church building was taken down and a new 4,800 square foot Family Life Center was constructed on the original church site. This center houses a full gymnasium, a small kitchenette, classrooms, and a game room where the youth meet on Sunday and Wednesday nights for bible study and activities. In more recent years the church has also purchased two busses for transportation needs, and invested in new sound, audio/visual, and live-streaming equipment which helped pave the way for online ministry opportunities.

In 2004, the church started a Christian preschool originally known as the Little Ed Learning Center, which operated out of the fellowship hall and adjoining classrooms. The preschool continued to grow and evolve, and in 2020 this ministry was renamed as the Green Valley Christian Academy when the class offerings expanded to add Kindergarten through 4th grade. The school currently serves 42 students.

The congregation has demonstrated strong mission-mindedness over the years, supporting local mission projects assisting with new church construction, as well as things like home and car repairs within the community. Groups have formed to aid in disaster recovery initiatives following catastrophic events such as Hurricane Katrina. Additionally, members have also participated in global fundraising initiatives for organizations such as the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, and collecting and packing shoeboxes annually for Operation Christmas Child. Members of the congregation have also taken overseas mission trips to Tanzania, Costa Rica, and Honduras.

A number of pastors have been called to lead Green Valley Baptist Church over the years. All have been aided and supported by deacons, lay leaders, Sunday school teachers, and other members of the congregation. As we embark on our search for the next pastor of GVBC, we humbly honor our rich history and the faithfulness of past generations, while excitedly looking to the future as we continue to grow and serve the community.



Ministers & Staff

Ministerial Staff



Brandon Nuckles

Associate Pastor

Brandon is a lifelong resident of Russell County who resides in Honaker, VA. He has served in various church roles since receiving the call to ministry in 2016, including pastoring, leading youth groups, and planning church events. He is a distance learning student at the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, NC, where he is seeking a degree in Pastoral Ministry. As a hobby Brandon and his wife Katie both love to get outdoors and spend time in God's beautiful creation.

Brandon and his wife Katie have been married since 2017, where she joined alongside him in ministry. Both have a heart to be "laborers in the harvest" and seeing those whom they minister to come to know Jesus Christ and develop a closer more intimate relationship with Him. Brandon and Katie are proud parents to their son Judson and daughter Paisley.

Green Valley Christian Academy Staff



Teresa Rasnake

Director, Green Valley Christian Academy

Teresa was born and raised in Haysi, VA. She accepted Christ at the age of seven during a revival service held by a missionary. She graduated from Southwest Virginia Community College with an Associate's degree in Computer Information Systems in 1989, and has worked in that field for thirty years. Teresa has been married to her husband, Matthew, for thirty-two years and they have two children, Rebekah and Kaeli. She has thirteen years of home school teaching experience as well as experience with organizing a homeschool co-op in Abingdon called CHATT (Christian Homeschoolers of Abingdon Training Together). She is passionate about giving children a Christian education and is excited about working with the children at the Green Valley Christian Academy.

Church Staff



Joyce Williams

Office Administrator

Joyce was born and raised in Russell County, VA and accepted Christ as a teenager while attending Morning Star Community Church of the Crossroads area. After marrying her husband Denny, she began attending Bascom United Methodist Church where she served as Sunday School Teacher and Youth Leader. She has served as the Office Administrator at Green Valley Baptist Church since August of 2016. Joyce and Denny have one son, one daughter, two granddaughters, two grandsons, one step-granddaughter, and one great-grandson.



Peggy Wallace

Housekeeper

Peggy has lived in Lebanon, VA for 40 years and has been a member of Green Valley Baptist Church since 1990. She has served as the church Housekeeper since 2010. Peggy and her husband Steve are both members of the church.

Music Staff



Marty Schlichting

Congregational Song Leader

Marty was born in Waterloo, IA, and grew up on a farm in Bremer county. Attendance at church with family was a major part of his life. After marrying his wife Fran, he became a member of Green Valley Baptist Church. Through the years Marty has served the church in several roles including Bible School Teacher, Sunday School Teacher, Director of Sunday School, Assistant Choir Director, Congregational Song Leader, and Deacon. Additionally he conducts weekly church services at Mountain View Retirement and Adult Care Residences. Marty and Fran are both retired and enjoy gardening, reading, and traveling.

Governing Structure

The governance of Green Valley Baptist Church consists of church officers, deacons and special committees all selected by the congregation.

Business Meetings

Regular church business meetings are held quarterly. Additional meetings may be called as needed under the direction of the chairman of the deacons.

Special Committees

Committee assignments are determined by the Committee on Committees. These assignments are approved by the congregation for a one-year term. Each committee is responsible to oversee that area of the church's operation. Some of these committees include Personnel, Benevolence, Buildings & Grounds, and Green Valley Christian Academy Oversight.

Deacons

The church will elect and ordain deacons as it deems wise and expedient. Deacons are to be zealous to guard the unity of spirit within the church in the bonds of peace. They represent the church body and serve as a council to advise and to confer with the pastor on all matters pertaining to the welfare and work of the church. With the senior pastor, they are to consider and formulate plans for the constant effort and progress of the church in all things pertaining to the saving of souls, the development of Christians, and the extension and growth of the Kingdom of God.

Senior Pastor

The Senior Pastor will work with the deacons in leading the church in the fulfillment of its mission. He will be an ex-officio member of all of the church committees, boards, and organizations. If the pastor's position becomes vacant, the Chairman of Deacons will fulfill those committee duties in the interim.

Associate Pastor

The Associate Pastor will assist the Senior Pastor in the performance of their duties. They may be asked to serve as an ex-officio member of various church committees, boards, and organizations as needed or designated by the Senior Pastor.

Elected Officials

The elected offices include the following: Clerk, Treasurer, Sunday School Director, and Music Director. The Clerk is responsible for keeping a record of all the actions of the church, including keeping a register of the names of members, with dates of admission, dismissal, or death, together with a record of baptisms. The Treasurer is responsible for paying and keeping an account of all financial receipts and disbursements. The Sunday School Director is responsible for overseeing the entire Sunday School program. The Music Director is responsible for coordinating the music program.

Trustees

At least three trustees elected by the church and confirmed by the Circuit Court of Russell County will hold the church property. They shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any property without specific vote of the church authorizing each action. It shall be the function of the trustees to affix their signatures to legal documents involving the sale, mortgaging, or purchase of property or other legal documents where the signatures of the trustees are required. Each trustee shall serve at the pleasure of the church until their resignation.

Church Members

Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and giving evidence of a change of heart and a Christian life may present himself or herself at any worship service of the church and be voted in by the members present. A person may be received in the church in the following ways: candidate for baptism, letter, statement, restoration, or new member orientation. All church members age 16 and older may vote at any business meeting.

Stewardship

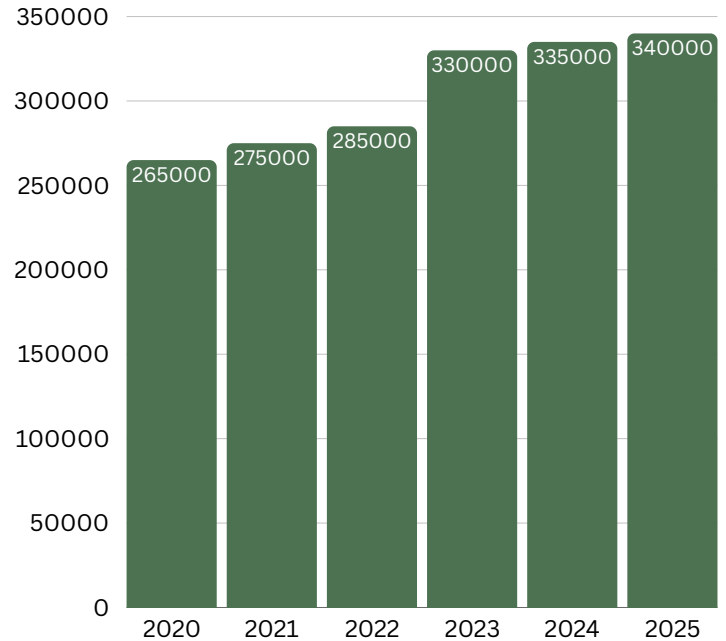
The budget of Green Valley Baptist Church is funded by faithful givers of the congregation who share their tithes and offerings with the church.

The operating budget for 2025 is \$340,000. This budget has increased over the past 5 years from \$265,000 in 2020. The majority of this budgetary increase was due to the creation of an Associate Pastor position.

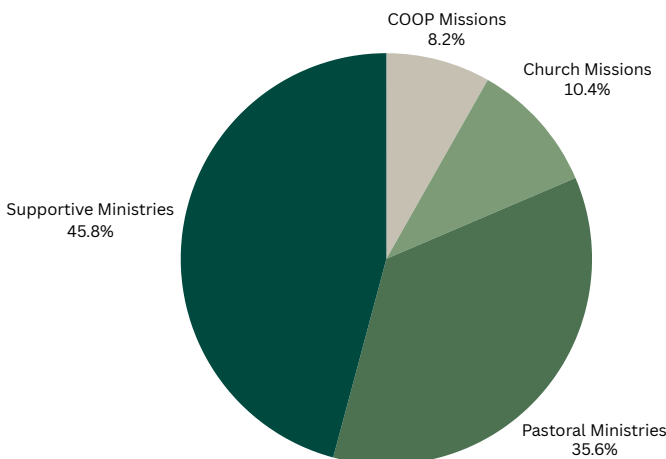
The church currently has no debt. All our facilities are owned by the church.

The Green Valley Baptist Church Foundation is a separate organization that was founded in 2022. The GVBC Foundation created the Green Valley Baptist Church Endowment Fund that annually provides funds to support missions of the church.

Church Budget



Church Expenses



Expense Breakdown

COOP Missions represent funds given to the Baptist General Association of Virginia and the New Lebanon Baptist Association.

Church Missions represent funds spent towards local missions for the church body.

Pastoral Ministries represent funds spent towards pastoral expenses.

Supportive Ministries represent funds spent related to the upkeep of our facilities, utilities, and support staffing.



Worship

At Green Valley Baptist Church we hope each member and guest of our congregation will feel a warm welcome and a sense of southern hospitality. Our services feature a traditional worship style. On Sunday mornings you can expect traditional hymns, prayer, reading of scripture, a children's sermon, an offering, a sermon, an invocation, and a benediction.

Our sanctuary has a primary center aisle, as well as additional aisles to the left and right of the center aisle with pew-style seating. You are welcome to sit and worship however you feel most comfortable. The pulpit features a center lectern and altar. While readings and preaching may sometimes align with the liturgical calendar, we do not adhere to a fixed order of worship or set liturgy. Sermons are determined by the pastor, and may sometimes fit within particular series or area of focus. We observe communion, or the Lord's Supper, once per quarter.

At Green Valley Baptist Church it is our hope that you feel the warm embrace of our church community, as you join us for worship. We also hope you will receive encouragement from our service, and continue to grow and develop your personal relationship with Jesus Christ.



Spiritual Formation

At Green Valley, we believe that we never stop growing in our faith. We seek to be a community of vibrant and growing Christians where questions and doubts are viewed as doorways into deeper understanding and sturdier faith.

Sunday School

At Green Valley Baptist Church we have several different Sunday school class offerings. During this time members and guests come together to study the Bible with an openness in an intimate atmosphere. Relationships are formed, caring and support of each other develops, allowing a special connection to the church which results in a faith community. Sunday School provides Bible study and activities for all ages beginning at 9:45 am each Sunday.



Children & Youth Classes

- Sunday School Nursery
- Bible Learner grades 1-2
- Bible Discoveries grades 3-6
- GVBC Youth

Adult Classes

- Ladies Class
- Fellowship Class
- Upper Room

Additional Opportunities

- Daylight Warriors Bible Study on Wednesday Mornings
- Adult Bible Study on Wednesday Evenings
- Youth on Wednesday and Sunday Evenings
- Trail Life USA on Monday Evenings (boys K-12)
- Woman's Missionary Union (WMU)
- Brotherhood

Ministries

Children's Ministry

At Green Valley, we believe that the children of the church are vital to our very existence. We offer several different Sunday school classes for our children and youth. On Sunday mornings, our nursery provides our youngest babies and toddlers a safe environment and opportunity to experience Christ's love for them through our wonderful volunteers. We also have a children's sermon as a part of our Sunday morning services, and children's church offerings for preschoolers through 3rd graders. Additionally, our church volunteers create an exciting week of Vacation Bible School each summer, welcoming nearly 125 children each year.

Youth Ministry

At Green Valley, our youth ministry is designed for children in 6th – 12th grade. The GVBC Youth meet on Sunday and Wednesday evenings in the Family Life Center (FLC). Through weekly Bible study, fellowship events, retreats, camps, mission trips, and other events our youth come together to share their lives as they journey with God through the life of discipleship.

Trail Life Ministry

Green Valley Baptist Church has recently formed a Troop with Trail Life USA, which is a church-based, Christ-centered, boy-focused mentoring and discipleship journey that speaks to the heart of a boy. Established on timeless values derived from the Bible and set in the context of outdoor adventure, boys from kindergarten through 12th grade are engaged in a Troop setting by male mentors where they are challenged to grow in character, understand their purpose, serve their community, and develop practical leadership skills to carry out the mission for which they were created.

Ministries

Women's Missionary Union (WMU)

Since the inception of the church, women have formed groups to create space for study, fellowship, community, and fun. At Green Valley, our women's organization is the WMU. They meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, and provide organization and leadership for special mission projects of the church. Women of all ages are welcome to join in at any time.

Brotherhood

Our men's organization at Green Valley is called Brotherhood. They have a weekly Men's Prayer Breakfast on Monday mornings at 7:00 am at Pat's Kountry Diner in Lebanon, VA. Men of all ages are welcome to join in at any time.

The Green Valley Baptist Church Foundation

The Green Valley Baptist Church Foundation is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charitable corporation that is legally separate from Green Valley Baptist Church that exists to support the church and its programs. It provides a means whereby cash and property may be received, managed, and applied to advance the vision and mission of the church and financially support the church's mission and ministry initiatives. The Green Valley Baptist Church Endowment Fund was created by the GVBC Foundation. This fund allows patrons to give for the future growth of the church, whereby only the earnings of the principal are available for yearly expenditures, allowing members to create a "living legacy" through their giving. This fund provides a channel for members who wish to donate to the church in honor or memory of a loved one.

Green Valley Christian Academy



Our school offers:

- Parental involvement
- Safe environment
- Small class size
- Academic development
- Christian values
- Character development

In 2004, Green Valley Baptist Church started a Christian preschool known as the Little Ed Learning Center. Over the years enrollment continued to increase, and in 2020, we saw the need to expand our efforts and offer a Christian education to students beyond the preschool years. In a gradual effort to grow the school, we began adding one grade offering per year. Through this expansion we renamed our school the Green Valley Christian Academy. We currently employ one director, four teachers, and two aides to safeguard and teach our 42 students in preschool through fourth grade.

At Green Valley Christian Academy, we strive to provide each student with an excellent classical education founded upon a Christian biblical worldview. Our students experience God's truth from the Bible integrated into social studies, history, geography, science, math, language arts, literature, art, music, and character development. We hope that these efforts will not only equip our students to be academically successful, but also help lead them and their families to develop their own personal relationship with Christ.

Our small class size and carefully selected educators seek to equip our students with the skills necessary to learn and grow confident in their character and decision-making. We employ tried and true teaching and assessment methods to make sure our students are well-equipped to read, write, and do mathematics at their respective grade levels.

We are also blessed to offer a scholarship program designed to help any family who desires to give their child a private Christian education have a place in our school. Our scholarships are privately funded and specific to each family's needs.

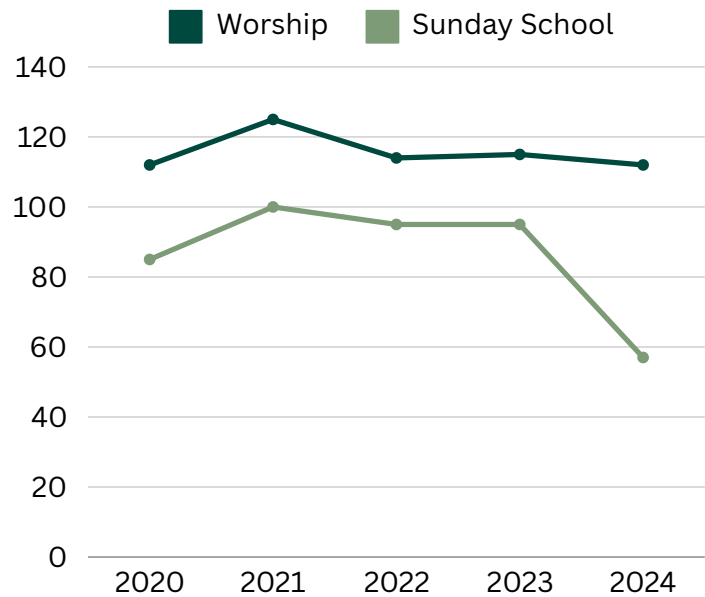
Attendance

Over the past five years, Green Valley Baptist Church has had an average weekly worship attendance of around 115 people. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we utilized our online streaming capabilities using YouTube to reach our congregation. Our online ministry currently reaches an average of 38 people per service, with approximately 25% of that viewership watching the entire livestream.

Our livestreaming has turned into a valuable ministry which continues to allow those who are unable to attend services in-person to worship with our congregation.

Our in-person attendance continues to rebound from the lows experienced during the height of the pandemic.

The majority of our members live in Russell County, Virginia, many of which call Lebanon and the surrounding areas home. We also have members from neighboring counties and communities.



Missions



Missions play a key role in demonstrating who we are as a body of believers. We strive to demonstrate the love of God through our care of others. One important way in which we accomplish this is through our various programs, efforts and opportunities focused around missions.

Local Missions

- Benevolence
- Assistance to local families in need
- Provide use of our facilities for local community needs
- Deliver sermon recordings to shut-ins and nursing homes
- Provide outreach programs for our children and youth, including Vacation Bible School

US Missions

Mission Dignity

Mission Dignity helps more than 2,800 retirement-aged Southern Baptist ministers, workers, and their widows struggling to meet basic needs through advocacy and financial assistance. Funds assist with housing, food, and vital medications, ensuring well-deserved dignity, independence, and often, the ability to continue serving the Lord in retirement.

Disaster Relief

Disaster Relief ministry focuses on bringing help, healing, and hope to those affected by natural disasters. Aspects of this ministry are focused on helping individuals and families by providing relief and recovery through services such as mass feeding, debris removal, and rebuilding.

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO) is the primary way Southern Baptists fund missions in North America. Funds support over 3,000 missionary families serving across the United States and Canada. Gifts are used to train and resource missionaries in church planting and compassion ministries, as well as create evangelism resources.



Global Missions

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a project spearheaded by Samaritan's Purse that collects and distributes shoebox gifts for children in need around the world, providing a tangible expression of God's love. Individuals pack shoeboxes with gifts like toys, school supplies, and hygiene items, and local churches and ministry partners deliver the gifts at child-friendly outreach events.

Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions

The Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions is an annual fund-raising initiative named for Alma Hunt (1909-2008), a native of Virginia who was known worldwide for her dedication to local and global mission service. This is a joint venture of the Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia (WMUV) and the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV). The offering provides funding for all WMUV missions and ministries and makes possible other special ministries, outreach projects, and initiatives not funded through regular streams of giving, but uniquely connected to Virginia Baptists.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is an annual offering collected by Southern Baptists to support international missions. The offering is named after Charlotte Diggs "Lottie" Moon, a Southern Baptist missionary to China, who saw firsthand the profound need to minister to and share the Good News with the lost. Funds given to this offering go directly to the mission field, providing for training initiatives as well as purchasing medical supplies and print-based resources to help share the gospel.

Ministry Partners

Green Valley Baptist Church highly values our primary partnerships with the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV) and the New Lebanon Baptist Association (NLBA).



Baptist General Association of Virginia

The Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV) is a network of churches working together to grow the body of Christ and disciple people into a deeper relationship with Jesus. They provide collaboration, resources, and support to nearly 1,300 churches throughout the US and around the world.

New Lebanon Baptist Association

The New Lebanon Baptist Association is a local organization partnering with over 35 churches in the area to help accomplish what cannot be done by one church alone. In partnering with this organization local area churches have access to additional resources to assist in our ministry and mission work.



Facilities



Green Valley Baptist Church is blessed with excellent facilities, located at 695 Green Valley Road, just outside of Lebanon, Virginia. The worship, educational, operational, and fellowship ministries of the church are well served by our facilities. The church property consists of the church itself, the Family Life Center, and the parsonage.

The current three-story church building was completed in the late 1990s and consists of an almost 30,000 square foot facility.

The sanctuary is located on the main level of the building. It features four sections of pew-style seating, with a center aisle, as well as side aisles on the left and right of the main aisle. The sanctuary seats around 500 people. There is also a baptismal facility, choir rehearsal room, and an audio/visual production room. The main level also features the church library, the nursery, classroom space, and restrooms.

The upper level of the building has storage rooms and ample classroom space, while the lower level of the building features administrative office space, a large fellowship hall, professional kitchen, and additional classroom and storage space. The building is ADA compliant, and has an elevator to increase accessibility for all of our visitors and guests.

In 2008, a 4,800 square foot metal building was constructed on the grounds of the original church. Our Family Life Center (FLC) houses a full gymnasium, a small kitchenette, classrooms, and a game room. The youth meet in the FLC on Sunday and Wednesday nights for Bible study, activities, and fellowship.

The parsonage was built in 1961, and is a 2-bedroom, 1.5 bath home, with a living room, dining room, kitchen, and a family room. It is roughly 1,600 sq ft.

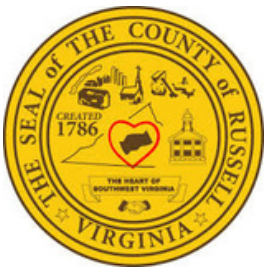
An outdoor playground was built in 2018, and is frequently used by our little ones in the warmer months of the year.

The church also owns two buses that provide transportation to our services, as well as for various ministries and mission trips.

There is ample parking surrounding the church.



Community



Green Valley Baptist Church is located in the Green Valley community of Russell County, Virginia, just outside the town of Lebanon. This rural region of the state is lovingly referred to as the heart of Southwest Virginia. Russell County is centrally located, surrounded by neighboring Dickenson, Buchanan, Tazewell, Smyth, Washington, Scott, and Wise counties. Lebanon is approximately 35 miles north of Bristol, 155 miles southwest of Roanoke, and 328 miles southwest of Richmond.

Located in the rolling hills of the Appalachian Mountains, the town of Lebanon serves as the county seat. Nearly 200 years old, Lebanon was chartered on January 4, 1831. The many cedar trees in the area are believed to have inspired the town's name, drawn from the biblical reference of the "cedars of Lebanon." The county comprises an area of 477 square miles and is home to the 4th highest peak in Virginia, Beartown Mountain.

The population of the town of Lebanon is around 3,100 people, and the population of Russell County is around 25,900 people. The ethnic demographic breakdown of the county consists of 96.7% White, 1% Black, 1.1% Hispanic, and 1.2% other.

Until the end of the 20th century, the area sustained itself largely through agriculture and coal mining. However, global business changes led local leaders to enter into strategic partnerships during the 1990s that resulted in a rebirth of our town as a manufacturing and knowledge-based economy.

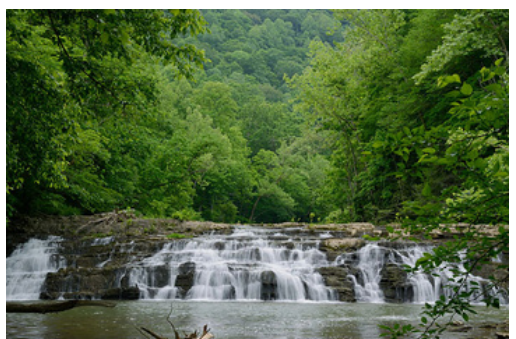
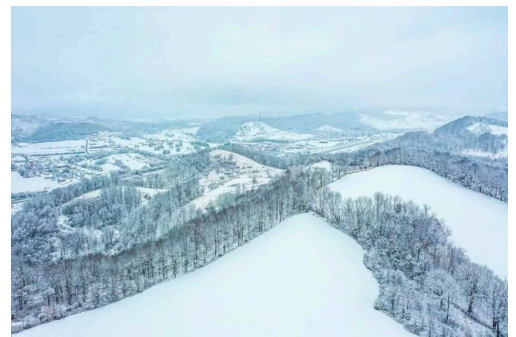
In 2004, the Russell County Industrial Development Authority deployed a world-class telecommunications network to attract high-tech companies, like CGI, into our area. These initiatives proved despite the rural nature of the area, we could deliver the workforce, the tools, and the infrastructure needed to help any company thrive. This combined with the area's low cost of living, breathtaking landscapes, and premier outdoor recreation, makes our region affectionately referred to as "one of the last great places on Earth."

The rural location offers a slower pace and lower cost of living as well as some of the most pristine, undisturbed natural environments in the American Southeast. Our cost of living is 12.4% lower than the US average, with the median home cost of \$140,000 being approximately 47% lower than the median price for new homes sold in the US. We also have one of the lowest median property tax rates in the nation with only 22% of US counties having a lower rate. The average annual property tax paid by Russell County residents is only 1.25 % of their yearly income.

The Russell County Public School System consists of 3 secondary schools, 10 elementary schools, and 1 vocational/technical school. The K-12 enrollment as of August 2023 was 3,240 students spanning PreK – 12th grade. The student to teacher ratio is 15.7 students per teacher. Additionally, there are three community colleges located nearby – Southwest Virginia Community College, in Richlands, VA, Mountain Empire Community College in Big Stone Gap, VA, and Virginia Highlands Community College, in Abingdon, VA. Nearby four-year universities include Emory and Henry University, King University, The University of Virginia’s College at Wise, Milligan University, and East Tennessee State University.

We are fortunate in our area to experience four distinct seasons each year. On average the area has around 200 sunny days per year with highs in the summer rarely reaching the 90s and lows rarely dropping into the teens each winter. The area experiences roughly 45 inches of rain per year, and 12-14 inches of snow.

Undoubtedly, the landscape of the area and the composition of the community will continue to evolve over the next few decades. Green Valley Baptist Church wants to remain committed to its engagement and service to the community and looks forward to growing alongside the local area.





Pastoral Profile

Over the past few weeks our Pastoral Search Committee has worked in consultation with BGAV, as we search for Green Valley Baptist Church's next Senior Pastor. The committee has conducted a survey of the congregation for input and has urged a church-wide prayer initiative as we begin our search.

Following the input of the congregation, the Pastoral Search Committee has worked to develop a profile that reflects the traits our congregation would like to see in the next Senior Pastor.

The most important thing for our congregation is that the Senior Pastor is called by God to serve at Green Valley Baptist Church. Our church sincerely desires a Senior Pastor who listens and knows God's voice, who is committed to being a loving shepherd to our congregation, as well as a faithful Christian member of our community.

Green Valley Baptist Church is fortunate to have a dedicated staff and group of deacons and church leaders who lovingly serve our congregation. Our staff needs a Senior Pastor with strong leadership and organizational skills who empowers staff members to be creative and work collaboratively.

We hope to continue to be a church where, no matter one's age, there are opportunities for involvement, spiritual growth, Christ-like service, and loving fellowship. Our Senior Pastor will have the unique challenge and blessing of ministering to the needs of our congregation.

Pastoral Traits

- Possesses strong knowledge and understanding of God's word
- Delivers biblically based sermons in a compelling and effective way
- Extends grace, compassion, and empathy to others
- Possesses an outgoing and friendly personality
- Serves the community with a servant's heart
- Possesses the joy of the Lord
- Leads by example
- Desires active engagement in the local community
- Relates well to all age groups
- Supports the Green Valley Baptist Church core values



Contact Us

- Address
**695 Green Valley Road
Lebanon, VA 24266**
- Phone
276-889-0257
- Email
searchcommittee@gvbchurch.com
- Website
www.greenvalleybaptist.church