

RESTING • RENEWED • RESPONDING

RIVERVIEW

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA

WELCOME TO RIVERWOOD

We are glad you are here! Finding a church home can be a daunting process, so we want to help you by telling you who we are up front. We are first and foremost a people **resting** in God's grace offered to us in the gospel of Jesus Christ, being progressively **renewed** by the Holy Spirit, and **responding** in faith, repentance, and obedience.

We are also a reformed, confessional church. That means that we trace our roots back to the Protestant Reformation, and we view the historic confessions, catechisms, and creeds as being invaluable and immensely relevant, because they were derived from our ultimate authority: God's word.

No matter where you are in your understanding of the Christian faith, we hope you find Riverwood to be a place where you can build relationships, ask questions, and grow in your knowledge of Jesus.

We would love to connect with you today before you leave! You can help us with that by scanning the QR code on the back page of this bulletin and filling out the linked *Information Connection* page. Our elders will also be in the foyer after the service to meet you and answer any questions you may have.

Now receive this welcome into worship from the risen, reigning Christ:

**"To all who are weary and need rest; to all who mourn and need comfort;
to all who fail and need forgiveness; to all who struggle and need strength;
to all who sin and need a savior: this church opens wide her doors
in the name of Jesus, the friend of sinners."**



Light and darkness cannot dwell together in peaceful coexistence. Therefore a witnessing church will be a persecuted church.

G. K. Beale

Being misrepresented, slandered, reviled, persecuted, and wrongfully accused is an inevitable part of being a Christian. We must expect to suffer unjustly. Our lives confront the culture we live in. We live as aliens in the world, and it should not surprise us when the world is hostile toward us (1 John 3:13). We were called for that purpose. In this world we will have tribulation (John 16:33). It goes with the territory.

John MacArthur

God hath in Himself all power to defend you, all wisdom to direct you, all mercy to pardon you, all grace to enrich you, all righteousness to clothe you, all goodness to supply you, and all happiness to crown you.

Thomas Brooks

Would you drown your cares? Then go, plunge yourself in the Godhead's deepest sea; be lost in His immensity; and you shall come forth as from a couch of rest, refreshed and invigorated. I know nothing which can so comfort the soul; so calm the swelling billows of sorrow and grief; so speak peace to the winds of trial, as a devout musing upon the subject of the Godhead. It is to that subject that I invite you this morning.

C. H. Spurgeon



November 5, 2023

10:30 Worship Service

Leaders In Worship: Pastor, *Jeff Pate*
Assisting Elder, *Dusty Sheppard*
Piano, *Mrs. John Graham*

WELCOME

Program all communication devices to be in silent mode. Thank you.

PRELUDE

"This Is My Father's World/This Is the Day"

arr. Jay Rouse

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Revelation 15:3,4*

Pastor: Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty!

All: Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations!

Pastor: Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy.

**All: All nations will come and worship you,
for your righteous acts have been revealed.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship!

HYMN: 53

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

SCRIPTURE READING: *Luke 12:22-34*

22 And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. **23** For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. **24** Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! **25** And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? **26** If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? **27** Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. **28** But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! **29** And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. **30** For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. **31** Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. **32** Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. **33** Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. **34** For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Gracious Father, we worship you who stretched out the heavens like a curtain and know the stars by name but we can also doubt your power or interest in our lives. Your word testifies that you easily raise up nations and dispose of their rulers but we often fear people and their opinions of us instead of trusting you and your love for us. Please have mercy on us. You are our Provider and all of creation is at your disposal but we anxiously worry that we won't have enough. Please forgive us. Holy Spirit, free us from fear by helping us know and trust the promises of God for us through faith in Jesus. Help us to seek His kingdom knowing that He delights to give it and then reform us to be generous with others. Remind us of the gospel and shape our lives by it. We ask this in Christ's name, Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Ezekiel 36:25-26*

Pastor: Through the prophet Ezekiel, God promised His covenant people that “I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.” By God’s grace through faith in the sinless life, atoning death, and victorious resurrection of Jesus Christ, you have been washed, forgiven, and God’s Spirit abides in you. Now, walk by the Spirit. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 252

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

arr. Mark Hayes

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Heidelberg Catechism, Q & A #1*

Pastor: Christian, what is your only comfort in life and death?

All: **That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit he also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

RESPONSE: "Gloria Patri"

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 337

"O Spirit of the Living God"

RECEIVING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *Isaiah 41*

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

All: but the Word of our God will stand forever.

SERMON: “God’s Doing and the End of Our Fears”

Rev. Jeff Pate

COMMUNION & BENEDICTION

HYMN: 461

"Not What My Hands Have Done"

RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: With these words our Lord commands all believers to eat this broken bread and to drink this cup in true faith and in the confident hope of his return in glory.

All: In this supper God declares to us that our sins have been completely forgiven through the one sacrifice of Jesus Christ, which he himself finished on the cross once for all. He also declares to us that the Holy Spirit grafts us into Christ, who with his very body is now in heaven at the right hand of the Father, where he wants us to worship him.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

HYMN: 585

"Take My Life, and Let It Be"

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSING HYMN: #263 "Lift High the Cross"

Refrain:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim, till all the
world adore his sacred name.

Thy kingdom come, that earth's despair may cease beneath
the shadow of its healing peace.

(Refrain)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers this morning are given by Jerry Douglas's children to the glory of God and in honor of their father's 85th birthday.

Covenant Kids & Youth Group

Covenant Kids Club and Youth Group will meet tonight at 5:30pm.

New Members Class

A new members class will meet this Saturday, November 11, from 9:00am-1:00pm in the Administration Building. If you have not already done so, please let Jeff Pate know if you plan to attend (jpate@riverwoodchurch.org).

Crafting with a Purpose - Due Dec. 3

The final stocking workshop will be this Saturday, November 11 from 10am-3pm. The stockings need to be delivered to New Day Women's Center on December 4. Over 100 stockings are completed, while many others have been taken home to be sewn. In the foyer is a bin with precut stockings ready to sew plus instructions. The second bin is for finished stockings. Anyone interested in either cutting out the various pattern pieces or taking stocking kits with instructions for sewing, contact Joyce Huizinga (334-216-0708).

We Give Thanks

After church on Sunday, November 19, plan to join your Riverwood family for dinner on the grounds. Each family is asked to bring a stand alone meal that is enough for your family plus extra for sharing. We encourage the use of coolers to keep things cold or hot as refrigerator space is very limited and too many crock pots blow our circuit breakers! The church will provide plates, cups, cutlery, napkins, and ice. Join us as we break bread together. Riverwood's annual We Give Thanks service will directly follow the meal in the Fellowship Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UnBound 216

We have the opportunity to minister to UnBound216 inmates inside Bibb Co. Correctional Facility by putting together 224 Hygiene Kits to be delivered at Christmas.

Items needed (*All items must be full-size*): Deodorant (no spray), bars of soap, white washcloths, white crew socks - plain white (no markings at all), toothpaste, and toothbrushes (individually packaged).

There is a bin in the narthex marked "UnBound216" for donated items. We need to collect these by Nov. 20. If you prefer to donate money, make checks out to RPC and mark the memo line with "UnBound216 Hygiene Kits." Questions? See Joanie and George Norris or Mickey and Bruce DeHaan.

Happy Birthdays

November 6 Lori Turner

November 7 Jerry Douglas

Pier Groups

We would like to encourage everyone to participate in one of our community groups, aka "Pier Groups." The Pier Groups for this fall include:

- Martins (4004 Triple Crown Circle, 35406) on Sundays in their home @ 5:30 pm
- Sheppards on Sundays in the Fellowship Hall @ 5:30 pm
- Pates (2030 Idlewood Drive, 35405) on Tuesdays at their home @ 6 pm
- Kims (5010 Lakehurst Drive, 35473) on Fridays at their home @ 6:30 pm

Financials through October

Operating Income:	\$341,828.24
Operating Expense*:	\$351,751.16
Net Income:	(\$9,922.92)
Designated gifts:	\$28,830.00
Building loan balance:	\$541,760.63



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