

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."**



God keeps his promises as to what he will do, but...we cannot tie him down as to how he will do it...With regard to our expectations of him, he regularly reveals the "what," and just as regularly conceals the "how." And with regard to both the "what" and the "how," the decisions are his; for he is the Judge.

J. A. Motyer

Circumstances may appear to wreck our lives and God's plans, but God is not helpless among the ruins. Our broken lives are not lost or useless. God's love is still working. He comes in and takes the calamity and uses it victoriously, working out his wonderful plan of love.

Eric Liddell

God's sovereignty is always to His people in wisdom and in love. This is the difference between sovereignty in God and sovereignty in man. We dread the sovereignty of man, because we have no security of its being exercised in mercy, or even justice: we rejoice in the sovereignty of God, because we are sure it is always exercised for the good of his people.

Alexander Carson



January 14, 2024

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

"As the Deer" with "Fairest Lord Jesus"

arr. Mark Hayes

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 123 & 1 Peter 1*

Pastor: To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

**All: Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till he has mercy upon us.**

Pastor: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

**All: According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living
hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship!

HYMN: 75

"O Father, You Are Sovereign"

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: *Matthew 18:7-9*

7 "Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! **8** And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. **9** And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Heavenly Father, we confess before you today how lightly we consider the sin in our lives. You have told us in your word that our iniquities separate us from you and hide your face from us. Lord Jesus, we know you willingly died for our transgressions because our guilt required it but we often refuse to put sin to death in our lives. Please have mercy on us for being satisfied with worldly and temporary pleasures instead of enjoying fellowship with you. Holy Spirit, enable us to repent. Give us greater appetites that can only find their satisfaction in fellowship with our triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Titus 3:4-7*

Pastor: Hear the good news! When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

HYMN:

"Christ Is Mine Forevermore"

Mine are days that God has numbered I was made to walk with Him
Yet I look for worldly treasure and forsake the King of kings
But mine is hope in my Redeemer; though I fall, His love is sure
For Christ has paid for every failing I am His forevermore

Mine are tears in times of sorrow, darkness not yet understood
Through the valley I must travel where I see no earthly good
But mine is peace that flows from heaven and the strength in times of need
I know my pain will not be wasted Christ completes His work in me

Mine are days here as a stranger pilgrim on a narrow way
One with Christ I will encounter harm and hatred for His name
But mine is armor for this battle strong enough to last the war
And He has said He will deliver safely to the golden shore

And mine are keys to Zion city where beside the King I walk
For there my heart has found its treasure Christ is mine forevermore

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

arr. Cindy Berry

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: *The Heidelberg Catechism, Q & A 27, 28*

Leader: What do you understand by the providence of God?

All: **The almighty and ever present power of God by which God upholds, as with his hand, heaven and earth and all creatures, and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty—all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but by his fatherly hand.**

Leader: How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?

All: **We can be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well, and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing in creation will separate us from his love. For all creatures are so completely in God's hand that without his will they can neither move nor be moved.**

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: 128

"God Moves in a Mysterious Way"

RECEIVING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *Isaiah 44:24-45:25*

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

SERMON: "The Unexpected Ways of God"

Rev. Jeff Pate

COMMUNION & BENEDICTION

HYMN: 255

"O Jesus, We Adore Thee"

RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Our Savior Jesus Christ has ordained and instituted this Holy Supper to nourish and sustain those who are born again and grafted into his family: his church. Christ has instituted an earthly and visible bread as the sacrament of his body and wine as the sacrament of his blood.

All: Just as truly as we take and hold the sacraments in our hands and eat and drink them in our mouths, by which our life is then sustained, so truly we receive into our souls, for our spiritual life, the true body and true blood of Christ, our only Savior. We receive these by faith, which is the hand and mouth of our souls.

Pastor: This banquet is a spiritual table at which Christ communicates himself to us with all his benefits. By the use of this holy sacrament we are moved to a fervent love of God and our neighbors.

from Belgic Confession, Article 35

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

HYMN: 111

"This Is My Father's World"

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

Covenant Kids Club

Covenant Kids Club will meet tonight at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Youth at Ridge Haven

Please pray for our youth who are currently attending a retreat at Ridge Haven Camp in North Carolina! They return home tomorrow.

Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting next Sunday, January 21, immediately after the morning worship service. The meeting will include an update on the sale of a portion of the church property and a presentation of the 2024 budget.

Pier Groups

We believe an important component of Christian discipleship is regular time in the word and prayer with fellow believers. One way we seek to provide opportunities for that is through small groups that we refer to as Pier Groups. We currently have four groups for you to choose from.

- Martins (4004 Triple Crown Circle, 35406) on Sundays in their home @ 5:30 pm. For more info contact Gene at (205) 614-2781.
- Sheppards on Sundays in the Fellowship Hall @ 5:30 pm. To find out more about this group, call Dusty at (205) 542-0252.
- Pates (2030 Idlewood Drive, 35405) on Tuesdays at their home @ 6 pm. You can reach out to Jeff at (205) 771-0170.
- Kims (5010 Lakehurst Drive, 35473) on Fridays at their home @ 6:30 pm beginning in February. John can be reached at (443) 722-1727.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2023 Contribution Statements

Your detailed contribution statements are located in the foyer. Save the church a stamp and pick yours up today! Any statements remaining after January 28 will be mailed. Please remember that if you made donations online, the statement for those contributions will come directly from the PCA Foundation.

Women's Bible Study

The winter Women's Bible Study began last week. It meets on Wednesdays at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall with a light dinner provided. Paige Brown will be teaching on the book of Daniel. The study will last for 8 weeks with one week off (that week has not been determined yet). Young women in the church are also welcome!!

Warrior Presbytery Women's Ministry Annual Meeting

The Warrior Presbytery Women's Ministry Annual Meeting will be held at Riverwood on Saturday, January 27. Registration is from 9-9:30am, and lunch is provided after the meeting. The speaker will be Jamie Voss who is the CDM (Committee on Discipleship Ministries) Coordinator for the PCA's Southeast Regional Women's Ministry. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Kristina Patridge (205-310-8649) by Sunday, January 21.

2023 Financials

Operating Income:	\$420,785.60
Operating Expense*:	\$426,057.19
Net Income:	(\$5,271.59)
Designated gifts:	\$39,025.00
Building loan balance:	\$527,148.60



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