

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."**



Our heavenly King is pleased with all our graces: hot zeal and cool patience pleaseth Him; cheerful thankfulness and weeping repentance pleaseth Him; but none of them are welcome to Him without faith, as nothing can please Him without Christ.

Thomas Adams

Scripture is like a working museum of which the Spirit is the Curator, showing us around and explaining the wonders of the mind of the Maker. In this museum we are taken behind the scenes to learn from God Himself. In growing to know God, therefore, there is no substitute for the discipline of Bible study and Scripture reading and meditation. We cannot bypass the handbook God has given to us and then expect that we can know Him in our own way. The only god we can know in our own way is a god that we make in our own image.

Sinclair Ferguson

I hear men praying everywhere for more faith, but when I listen to them carefully, and get to the real heart of their prayer, very often it is not more faith at all that they are wanting, but a change from faith to sight. Faith says not, "I see that it is good for me, so God must have sent it," but, "God sent it, and so it must be good for me." Faith, walking in the dark with God, only prays Him to clasp its hand more closely.

Phillips Brooks



January 21, 2024

10:30 Worship Service

Leaders In Worship: Pastor, *Jeff Pate*
Assisting Elder, *Dusty Sheppard*
Piano, *Joann Williams*

WELCOME

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

PRELUDE

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *Psalm 121*

Pastor: I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

**All: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

Pastor: The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

All: The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

Pastor: The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and
forevermore. Come, let us worship!

HYMN: 38

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

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 18:10-14*

10 "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. **12** What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? **13** And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. **14** So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *Hebrews 10:12-14, 19-22*

Pastor: When Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified...Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

HYMN:

"I Will Glory in My Redeemer"

I will glory in my Redeemer, whose priceless blood has ransomed me
Mine was the sin that drove the bitter nails, and hung Him on that judgment tree
I will glory in my Redeemer, who crushed the power of sin and death
My only Savior before the Holy Judge
The Lamb who is my righteousness
The Lamb who is my righteousness

I will glory in my Redeemer, my life He bought, my love He owns,
I have no longings for another, I'm satisfied in Him alone
I will glory in my Redeemer, His faithfulness my standing place
Though foes are mighty and rush upon me
My feet are firm, held by His grace
My feet are firm, held by His grace

I will glory in my Redeemer, who carries me on eagles' wings
He crowns my life with loving kindness, His triumph song I'll ever sing
I will glory in my Redeemer, who waits for me at gates of gold
And when He calls me, it will be paradise
His face forever to behold
His face forever to behold.

Words and music by Steve and Vicki Cook
©2001 Sovereign Grace Music; CCLI license #11239744

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

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 Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Vera Rose Bell
daughter of Eli and Gracen Bell

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

RECEIVING THE WORD

HYMN: "Speak, O Lord"

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You, to receive the food of Your Holy Word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us, shape and fashion us in Your likeness.
That the light of Christ might be seen today, in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us, all Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us Lord, full obedience, holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes, in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see, your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail, let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time, that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises, and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built, and the earth is filled with Your glory.

SCRIPTURE: *Isaiah 46*

1 "Bel bows down; Nebo stoops; their idols are on beasts and livestock; these things you carry are borne as burdens on weary beasts. **2** They stoop; they bow down together; they cannot save the burden, but themselves go into captivity. **3** Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all the remnant of the house of Israel, who have been borne by me from before your birth, carried from the womb; **4** even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save. **5** To whom will you liken me and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be alike? **6** Those who lavish gold from the purse, and weigh out silver in the scales, hire a goldsmith, and he makes it into a god; then they fall down and worship! **7** They lift it to their shoulders, they carry it, they set it in its place, and it stands there; it cannot move from its place. If one cries to it, it does not answer or save him from his trouble. **8** Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, **9** remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, **10** declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,' **11** calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it. **12** Listen to me, you stubborn of heart, you who are far from righteousness: **13** I bring near my righteousness; it is not far off, and my salvation will not delay; I will put salvation in Zion, for Israel my glory."

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,
All: but the Word of our God will stand forever.

SERMON: "Who's Carrying Who?"

Rev. Jeff Pate

COMMUNION & BENEDICTION

HYMN: 629

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

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: 668

"Who Trusts in God, a Strong Abode"

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

Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting today 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.

Covenant Kids Club & Youth Group

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

Warrior Presbytery Women's Ministry Annual Meeting: Help Needed!

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 **today**. We need help hosting this event! See the signup link in your weekly email announcements for information on how you can participate.

Women's Bible Study

The winter Women's Bible Study continues this 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!!

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.

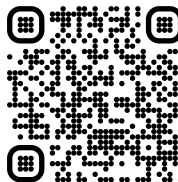
Pier Groups

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.

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



Scan this QR code to
fill out a visitor's
form, request prayer,
or learn more about
RPC!



RIVERWOODCHURCH.ORG