

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."**



...it is only when one submits to God's law that one may speak of grace; and it is only when God's wrath and vengeance are hanging as grim realities over the heads of one's enemies that something of what it means to love and forgive them can touch our hearts.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

In view of all the injustice and violence in the world...belief in evil offers a backhand proof of God's existence. Indeed, the very outrage we feel against evil acts—hijackers steering jet planes into buildings full of civilians, concentration camp guards torturing their prisoners, kidnappers abusing and killing young children—points to a built-in sense that some things are desperately wrong, blameworthy, damnable.

Philip Yancey

God will not let any violence go unpunished, but He Himself will take vengeance on our enemies and will send home to them what they have deserved by the way they have treated us... The person that does you harm or injury is interfering with the office of God and sinning against God as gravely as this man has sinned against you. Therefore, keep your fist to yourself. Leave it to the charge of His wrath and punishing, for He will not let it remain unavenged, and His punishment is more severe than you would like. This man has not assailed you but God Himself, and has already fallen into His wrath. He will not escape this. No one ever has.

Martin Luther



January 28, 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

"Break Thou the Bread of Life"

arr. Cindy Berry

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *Psalm 67*

Pastor: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,

**All: that your way may be known on earth,
your saving power among all nations.**

Pastor: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!

**All: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.**

Pastor: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!
Come, let us worship!

HYMN: 164

"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

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 18:15-22*

15 "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. **16** But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. **17** If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. **18** Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. **19** Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. **20** For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." **21** Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" **22** Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Almighty God, we know that you delight in righteousness and that you gave your own Son to cleanse us from our sin. In your Word you also speak to us honestly about our transgressions because you love us and don't want anything to hinder our fellowship with you. Please forgive us when we fail to love one another enough to honestly address the sin that hinders their fellowship with you and with us. Holy Spirit, help us to speak the truth to one another in love. Help us to confess our sins to one another. Enable us to be merciful, forgiving one another. We praise you for the gospel that assures us that the only righteousness that saves is yours and it is reckoned to us by grace through faith. We pray this all in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD:

Pastor: Hear the good news! God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Through faith in Jesus Christ who is the Son of God given for you, your sins are forgiven. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 305

"Arise, My Soul, Arise"

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

"The Gift to Be Simple"

arr. Dale Wood

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 Westminster Confession of Faith, 33-1,2*

All: God has appointed a day, wherein he will judge the world, in righteousness, by Jesus Christ, to whom all power and judgment is given of the Father. In which day, not only the apostate angels shall be judged, but likewise all persons that have lived upon earth shall appear before the tribunal of Christ, to give an account of their thoughts, words, and deeds; and to receive according to what they have done in the body, whether good or evil.

The end of God's appointing this day is for the manifestation of the glory of his mercy, in the eternal salvation of the elect; and of his justice, in the damnation of the reprobate, who are wicked and disobedient. For then shall the righteous go into everlasting life, and receive that fullness of joy and refreshing, which shall come from the presence of the Lord: but the wicked, who know not God, and obey not the gospel of Jesus Christ, shall be cast into eternal torments, and be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.

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: 316

"The Mighty God, the Lord"

RECEIVING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *Isaiah 47*

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

SERMON: "A Day of Reckoning with the Redeemer" *Rev. Jeff Pate*

HYMN: "He Will Hold Me Fast"

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, He Will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

Chorus:

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

Those he saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in His holy sight, He Will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost, He Will hold me fast.

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast
'Till our faith is turned to sight, when He comes at last.

Words by Ada Habershon & Matt Merker; Music by Matt Merker
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COMMUNION & BENEDICTION

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: 441 "Jesus Shall Reign"

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 & Youth Group

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

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 is teaching on the book of Daniel.

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study will be starting this Thursday, February 1 from 6pm to approximately 7 pm with plans to continue for a few months on Thursday nights in the Admin Building conference room. We will be considering Dr. R.C. Sproul's "What is Reformed Theology?" Please feel free to invite anyone outside the church that you think might like to attend. If you have questions you can contact Dusty Sheppard at (205) 542-0252.

Marriage Enrichment Weekend

Riverwood members have been invited to participate in a marriage enrichment weekend with Alberta Baptist Church on February 16 and 17. Pastor Jeff and Lorrie will be part of a panel discussion on Friday evening and leading a breakout session Saturday morning. More details to follow.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthdays

January 31 Caleigh Henson

February 3 Nora Crawford

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 today will be mailed. Please remember that if you made donations online, the statement for those contributions will come directly from the PCA Foundation.

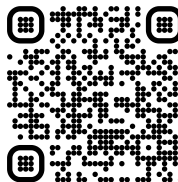
Pier Groups

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



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or learn more about
RPC!



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