

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."**



Jesus plainly puts His own words on an equality with what He certainly regarded as the divine words of Scripture. He claimed the right to legislate for the Kingdom of God. Let it not be objected that this note of authority involves merely a prophetic consciousness in Jesus, a mere right to speak in God's name as God's Spirit might lead. For what prophet ever spoke in this way? The prophets said, "Thus saith the Lord," but Jesus said, "I say".

J. Gresham Machen
Christianity and Liberalism

There are times when the truth will receive a wide hearing and times when it will not. Jesus had a congregation of five thousand one day and four women and two bored soldiers another. His message was the same both days.

Eugene Peterson

The fruit of the Spirit is the gift of God, and only He can produce it. They who bear it know as little about it as the tree knows of its fruit. They know only the power of Him on whom their life depends. There is no room for boasting here, but only for an ever more intimate union with Him.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer



February 25, 2024

10:30 Worship Service

Leaders In Worship: Pastor, *Jeff Pate*

Assisting Elder, *John Kim*

Piano, *Ginny Coleman*

WELCOME

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

PRELUDE

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 85*

Pastor: Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us! Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

All: Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

Pastor: Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

**All: Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship!

HYMN: 103

"Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

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: *Revelation 2:12-17*

12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: "The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword. **13** I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. **14** But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. **15** So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. **16** Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth. **17** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Almighty God, we humbly confess how quickly our convictions can give way to compromise. Please forgive us for selfishly using the abilities and gifts you have given us and employing them in ways that are contrary to your holiness. We confess that though you have called us to be "in the world" but not "of the world," it is often difficult to distinguish our lives from those who are living in opposition to you. Have mercy on us. Holy Spirit, help us repent. Give us a deep affection for you that displaces our other worldly loves, and give us faith that would rather suffer loss than live in disobedience to you. Give us ears to hear and hearts to believe. We ask this in Jesus's name. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

Pastor: All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

HYMN: "Yet Not I, but through Christ in Me"

1. What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer.
There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
for my life is wholly bound to his.
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

3. No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
The future sure, the price it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And he was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

2. The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side, the Savior he will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need, his power is displayed.
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

4. With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For he has said that he will bring me home
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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: *Westminster Larger Catechism, Q & A 3, 4*

Leader: What is the Word of God?

All: The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the Word of God, the only rule of faith and obedience.

Leader: How does it appear that the Scriptures are the Word of God?

All: The Scriptures manifest themselves to be the Word of God, by their majesty and purity; by the consent of all the parts, and the scope of the whole, which is to give all glory to God; by their light and power to convince and convert sinners, to comfort and build up believers unto salvation: but the Spirit of God bearing witness by and with the Scriptures in the heart of man, is alone able fully to persuade it that they are the very Word of God.

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: 94

"How Firm a Foundation"

RECEIVING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *Isaiah 50*

1 Thus says the Lord: "Where is your mother's certificate of divorce, with which I sent her away? Or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities you were sold, and for your transgressions your mother was sent away. **2** Why, when I came, was there no man; why, when I called, was there no one to answer? Is my hand shortened, that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to deliver? Behold, by my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a desert; their fish stink for lack of water and die of thirst. **3** I clothe the heavens with blackness and make sackcloth their covering." **4** The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. **5** The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. **6** I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. **7** But the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. **8** He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. **9** Behold, the Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty? Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up. **10** Who among you fears the Lord and obeys the voice of his servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God. **11** Behold, all you who kindle a fire, who equip yourselves with burning torches! Walk by the light of your fire, and by the torches that you have kindled! This you have from my hand: you shall lie down in torment.

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

SERMON:

"Who Has Your Ear?"

Rev. Jeff Pate

COMMUNION & BENEDICTION

HYMN: 599

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Eternal God, let your Holy Spirit move in power over us and over these earthly gifts of bread and wine, that our sharing of them may be for us the communion of the body and blood of Christ, and that we may become one in him. May his coming in glory find us ever watchful in prayer, strong in truth and love, and faithful in the breaking of the bread. Then, at last, all peoples will be free, all divisions healed, and with your whole creation we will sing your praise, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

All: Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

HYMN: 95

"Though Troubles Assail Us"

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 continues this Thursday at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. We are considering Dr. R.C. Sproul's "What is Reformed Theology?" Questions? Contact Dusty Sheppard at (205) 542-0252.

Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting immediately after worship on Sunday, March 24 for the purpose of electing new officers. The two candidates will be Robert Sheppard (elder) and Tommy Coleman (deacon).

Holy Week at Riverwood

Palm Sunday, March 24

Congregational Meeting after worship

Maundy Thursday, March 28

Communion Service at 7:00pm

Saturday, March 30

Kids Club Easter Event at 10:00am

Easter Sunday, March 31

The Son Has Risen Service at 8:30am

Easter Breakfast at 9:15am

Worship Service at 10:30am

UnBound216 Easter Hygiene Kits

We will be putting together hygiene kits for the 320 inmates who are involved in the UnBound216 ministry. There is a basket in the narthex to place your items. Donations needed: white washcloths, full size bars of soap, full size toothpaste, individually packaged toothbrushes, full size stick deodorant, and plain white crew socks. There will be a packing party on March 22 at 5:30pm at Brent PCA, and all are invited!

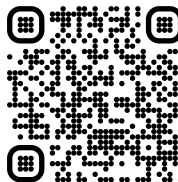
Pier Groups

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. John can be reached at (443) 722-1727.

Financials through January

Operating Income:	\$29,112.26
Operating Expense*:	\$32,662.93
Net Income:	(\$3,550.67)
Designated gifts:	\$11,410.00
Building loan balance:	\$510,484.56



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