

RESTING • RENEWED • RESPONDING

# RIVER<sup>≡</sup>WOOD

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, and apostolic church. That means that we trace our roots back through the Protestant Reformation, the historic confessions, catechisms, and creeds of the church, all the way back to the teachings of the apostles. In all of this, our ultimate authority is 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."**





August 10, 2025

10:30 Worship Service

**Leaders In Worship:** Pastor, *Rev. Jeff Pate*

Assisting Elder, *John Kim*

Piano, *Nancy Allen*

## WELCOME

*Please program all communication devices to be in silent mode. Thank you.*

## PRELUDE

## PRAISE

### CALL TO WORSHIP: *taken from Isaiah 25*

Pastor: O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name,

**All: for you have done wonderful things,  
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.**

Pastor: For you have been a stronghold to the poor, a stronghold to the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat...

**All: ...He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth.**

Pastor: Behold, this is our God...let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

### HYMN: 604

"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"

## 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

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## **SCRIPTURE READING:**     1 Peter 3:8-12

**8** Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. **9** Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. **10** For

“Whoever desires to love life

and see good days,

let him keep his tongue from evil

and his lips from speaking deceit;

**11** let him turn away from evil and do good;

let him seek peace and pursue it.

**12** For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,

and his ears are open to their prayer.

But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

Leader:               This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:                   Thanks be to God!**

## **CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:**

**Gracious Father, we come before you confessing how often we have sinned against you in our thoughts, our words, and our deeds. You call us to unity and yet we can be quick to accuse others and defend ourselves. You direct us to be sympathetic but we can be so cold toward our neighbors, to be tender hearted and loving but our hearts are often calloused, and to be humble minded but pride is always lurking. Please forgive us. Have mercy on us when we fail to control our tongues and when we seek pleasure or power more than peace. Remember your steadfast love, not our sin. Holy Spirit, turn our gaze and our hearts to Christ who is the only hope for our salvation. Renew us and enable us to truly repent. We ask this all in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION**

# RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

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## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD:**    *from 1 Peter 3:18*

Pastor:            For all whose faith is in Jesus Christ, hear the good news! "Christ suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God." Through the sacrificial death of the righteous Savior who suffered in your place, you are forgiven. Behold, the love of God!

## **HYMN:**

"Amazing Love"

My Lord, what love is this, that pays so dearly;  
That I the guilty one, may go free?

*Amazing love, O what sacrifice, the Son of God giv'n for me;  
My debt he pays, and my death he dies, that I might live, that I might live.*

And so, they watched Him die, despised, rejected;  
But O, the blood He shed, flowed for me.

*Chorus*

And now, this love of Christ shall flow like rivers;  
Come wash your guilt away, live again!

*Chorus*

Words and Music by Graham Kendrick  
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## **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

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**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**      WCF 26.1,2 *“Of the Communion of the Saints”*

**All:**            All saints, that are united to Jesus Christ their Head, by his Spirit, and by faith, have fellowship with him in his graces, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory: and, being united to one another in love, they have communion in each other's gifts and graces, and are obliged to the performance of such duties, public and private, as do conduce to their mutual good, both in the inward and outward man.

Saints by profession are bound to maintain a holy fellowship and communion in the worship of God, and in performing such other spiritual services as tend to their mutual edification; as also in relieving each other in outward things, according to their several abilities and necessities. Which communion, as God offers opportunity, is to be extended unto all those who, in every place, call upon the name of the Lord Jesus.

**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:**    131

*“Children of the Heavenly Father”*

## RECEIVING THE WORD

**SCRIPTURE:** *Psalms 34*

**1** I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. **2** My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad. **3** Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together! **4** I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. **5** Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. **6** This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. **7** The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. **8** Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! **9** Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! **10** The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. **11** Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. **12** What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good? **13** Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. **14** Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. **15** The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry. **16** The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. **17** When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. **18** The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. **19** Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all. **20** He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken. **21** Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. **22** The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

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

**SERMON:** "The Ultimate Invitation"

Rev. Jeff Pate

**HYMN:****"Behold the Lamb"**

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away, slain for us – and we remember  
The promise made that all who come in faith find forgiveness at the cross.  
So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of His sacrifice,  
As a sign of our bonds of peace around the table of the King.

The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ, torn for you – eat and remember  
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life, paid the price to make us one.  
So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of His sacrifice  
As a sign of our bonds of love, around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin, shed for you – drink and remember  
He drained death's cup that all may enter in, to receive the life of God.  
So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of His sacrifice  
As a sign of our bonds of grace, around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise, to respond, – and to remember  
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ, as His body here on earth.  
As we share in His suffering, we proclaim Christ will come again!  
And we'll join in the feast of heaven, around the table of the King.

Words and music by Keith and Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend  
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# COMMUNION & BENEDICTION

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## RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

Pastor: With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us — even when we fell into sin.

**All: We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his life, death, and resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.**

Pastor: Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name.

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

**HYMN: 164**

"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

## 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)

## **Happy Birthday**

August 14 Ed Kidder

## **Churchwide Breakfast and Promotion Sunday**

We will be celebrating the kick-off of fall Sunday School classes on August 17 with a fellowship breakfast starting at 9:30am. Everyone is invited. If you are able, please bring a favorite breakfast item to share. After we eat and visit, everyone will be dismissed to their Sunday School class for a brief intro to the semester.

## **Calling All Instrumentalists!**

If you are interested in using your musical gifts to enrich our Sunday morning worship, please email Jeff at [jpate@riverwoodchurch.org](mailto:jpate@riverwoodchurch.org).

## **Other Events Coming Soon**

Wednesday, August 13, 6:00pm: Officers' Meeting

Wednesday, August 27, 5:00pm: Corporate Prayer

Sunday, August 31: Deacon's Fund Offering

Sunday, August 31: Dinner on the Grounds

## 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. There are two Pier Groups currently meeting:

- Martins (4004 Triple Crown Circle, 35406) on Sundays in their home @ 5:30 pm. For more info contact Gene at (205) 614-2781.
- Kims (5010 Lakehurst Drive, 35473) on Fridays at their home @ 6:30 pm. John can be reached at (443) 722-1727.

## Nursery Schedule

August 10: Lynn Tootle & Bruce DeHaan

August 17: Vielyana Kim & Erin Sheppard

## Riverwood Church Officers

### *Elders:*

John Kim  
Gene Martin  
Dusty Sheppard  
Robert Sheppard

### *Elder Emeritus:*

Bob Prince

### *Deacons:*

Tommy Coleman  
Steven Crawford  
Bruce DeHaan  
Ed Kidder  
Steve Patridge  
Marvin Skelton

### Financials through July

Operating Income:	\$215,787.75
Operating Expense:	\$224,756.94
Net Income:	(\$8,969.19)
Designated gifts:	\$33,818.00
Building loan balance:	\$378,480.48



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