

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, 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."**





September 14, 2025

10:30 Worship Service

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

Assisting Elder, *Gene Martin*

Piano, *Joann Williams*

## WELCOME

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

## PRELUDE

## PRAISE

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** *from John 4 & Psalm 95*

Pastor: The hour is coming and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.

**All: God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.**

Pastor: Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**All: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

Pastor: Come, let us worship.

**HYMN: 53**

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

## 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:**      *Deuteronomy 5:16-21*

**16** "Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. **17** You shall not murder. **18** And you shall not commit adultery. **19** And you shall not steal. **20** And you shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. **21** And you shall not covet your neighbor's wife. And you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, or his male servant, or his female servant, his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

Leader:                      This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:                              Thanks be to God!**

## **CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:**

**Eternal and merciful God, you have loved us with a love beyond our understanding, and you have set us on paths of righteousness for your name's sake. Yet we have strayed from your way; we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, through what we have done and what we have left undone. As we remember the lavish gift of your grace, O God, we praise you and give you thanks that you forgive us yet again. Grant us now, we pray, the grace to die daily to sin, and to rise daily to new life in Christ, who lives and reigns with you, and in whose strong name we pray. Amen.**

## **SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD:**      *from Micah 7*

Pastor:                      Hear these words of promise and assurance given through the prophet Micah: "Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities under foot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea." Through faith in Jesus Christ and according to God's grace and mercy, your sins have been forgiven. The peace of Christ be with you.

**All:                              And also with you.**

# RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

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## HYMN:

"His Mercy Is More"

What love could remember no wrongs we have done;  
Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum.  
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore;  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

*Praise the Lord! His mercy is more.  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn;  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.*

What patience would wait as we constantly roam;  
What Father, so tender, is calling us home.  
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor;  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

*Refrain*

What riches of kindness He lavished on us;  
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost.  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford;  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

*Refrain*

Words and music by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa  
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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:**      *Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q & A 84-87*

Leader:      What does every sin deserve?

**All:**      **Every sin deserves God's wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come.**

Leader:      What does God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse, due to us for sin?

**All:**      **To escape the wrath and curse of God, due to us for sin, God requires of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life, with the diligent use of all the outward means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption.**

Leader:      What is faith in Jesus Christ?

**All:**      **Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.**

Leader:      What is repentance unto life?

**All:**      **Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of their sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, does, with grief and hatred of their sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.**

**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:**    378

"Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face"

## RECEIVING THE WORD

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**SCRIPTURE:**        *John 6:28-35*

**28** Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" **29** Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." **30** So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform?" **31** Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" **32** Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. **33** For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." **34** They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." **35** Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

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

**SERMON:**                                "The Bread of Life"

*Rev. Jeff Pate*

## HYMN:

"Are You Weary?"

Are you weary, are you languid, are you sore distress'd?

"Come to me," says One, "and, coming, be at rest."

Has he marks to lead me to him, if he be my Guide?

"In his feet and hands are wound-prints, and his side."

*Finding, foll'wing, keeping, struggling, is he sure to bless?*

*"Saints, apostles, prophets, martyrs answer yes!"*

Is there diadem, as Monarch, that his brow adorns?

"Yes, a crown, in very surety, but of thorns."

If I find him, if I follow, what his promise here?

"Many a sorrow, many a labor, many a tear."

*Finding, foll'wing, keeping, struggling, is he sure to bless?*

*"Saints, apostles, prophets, martyrs answer yes!"*

If I still hold closely to him, what has he at last?

"Sorrow vanquished, labor ended, Jordan passed."

If I ask him to receive me, will he say me nay?

"Not till earth and not till heaven pass away."

*Finding, foll'wing, keeping, struggling, is he sure to bless?*

*"Saints, apostles, prophets, martyrs answer yes!"*

# COMMUNION & BENEDICTION

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## 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, Art. 35

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

**HYMN: 598**

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

## 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

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## **Happy Birthdays**

September 17 Dusty Sheppard

September 20 Nancy Zheng

## **Youth Group Tonight**

All 6th thru 12th grade students are welcome to join the youth tonight from 5:30-7pm. We will spend time in Bible study and prayer, followed by an on site service project, so wear work clothes. Oh yeah, we will also have food!

## **Men's Bible Study**

Men's Bible study meets this Wednesday, September 17 at 5:30pm in the Administration Building. If you cannot attend in person, check your weekly email announcements for a zoom link.

## **Favorite Things Party**

Women in the church, you're invited to a Favorite Things party, Thursday, September 18, at 7 p.m. at Carrie Henry's home (843-412-5273). Please bring an item (about \$10) that is one of your favorite things. Be prepared to share why it is your favorite thing. We'll enjoy dessert and fellowship, and everyone will leave the party with a new item that may be one of your new favorite things! Text Carrie for questions or directions.

## **Women's Fall Bible Study**

Due to the Favorite Things Party, Women's Bible study will NOT meet this week.

## **Corporate Prayer**

Everyone is encouraged to join us for corporate prayer next week Wednesday, September 24 at 5:30pm. We will meet in the conference room in the Admin Building. Come when you can and stay for as long as you are able.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 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 three 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.
- 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.

## Nursery Schedule

September 14: Lynn Tootle & Bruce DeHaan

September 21: George & Joanie Norris

## Riverwood Church Officers

### *Elders:*

John Kim  
Gene Martin  
Dusty Sheppard

### *Elders Emeritus:*

Bob Prince  
Robert Sheppard

### *Deacons:*

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

### Financials through August

Operating Income:	\$248,637.66
Operating Expense:	\$254,768.24
Net Income:	(\$6,130.58)
Designated gifts:	\$36,145.00
Building loan balance:	\$371,408.05



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