

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."**





October 12, 2025

10:30 Worship Service

Leaders In Worship: Pastor, *Rev. Jeff Pate*
Assisting Elder, *Dusty Sheppard*
Piano, *Nancy Allen*

WELCOME

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

PRELUDE

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 116*

Pastor: Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.
The Lord preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.

**All: Return, O my soul, to your rest;
for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.**

Pastor: What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me?

**All: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,
I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 700

"Come, We That Love the Lord"

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: *Jeremiah 3:24-4:4*

24 "But from our youth the shameful thing has devoured all for which our fathers labored, their flocks and their herds, their sons and their daughters. **25** Let us lie down in our shame, and let our dishonor cover us. For we have sinned against the Lord our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even to this day, and we have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God. **1** If you return, O Israel, declares the Lord, to me you should return. If you remove your detestable things from my presence, and do not waver, **2** and if you swear, 'As the Lord lives,' in truth, in justice, and in righteousness, then nations shall bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory." **3** For thus says the Lord to the men of Judah and Jerusalem: "Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns. **4** Circumcise yourselves to the Lord; remove the foreskin of your hearts, O men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem; lest my wrath go forth like fire, and burn with none to quench it, because of the evil of your deeds."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Heavenly Father, just as the people of Israel and Judah sinned against you long ago and saw their shame as a bed and their dishonor as a covering, we too have sinned against you. We confess that we have not obeyed your voice or heeded your Word. Our only hope is in your character and your saving work. Remember your mercy and steadfast love that compelled you to send your Son for our salvation. Look on the life and death of Jesus as our substitute. Holy Spirit, circumcise our hearts and enable us to repent of our sins and follow our Savior as we look to Jesus in faith. We ask this in his name, amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Hebrews 10:10 & Isaiah 61:10*

Pastor: Hear the good news! For those who have faith in him, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Therefore, we can rejoice with the prophet Isaiah who exclaimed, "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels." The peace of Christ be with you.

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.

2. The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For 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.

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.

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: *Nicene Creed*

Christians, what do you believe?

**We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 692

"To You, O Lord, I Fly"

SCRIPTURE: John 6:60-71

60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" **61** But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this? **62** Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? **63** It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. **64** But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) **65** And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father." **66** After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. **67** So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" **68** Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, **69** and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." **70** Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil." **71** He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

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

SERMON: "To Whom Shall We Go?"

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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RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: God meets us in the sacraments, holy acts in which his deeds elicit our response. In the supper our Lord offers the bread and cup to believers to guarantee our share in his death and resurrection, and to unite us to him and to each other.

All: We take this food gladly, announcing as we eat that Jesus is our life and that he shall come again to call us to the Supper of the Lamb.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

BENEDICTION

HYMN: 179

"Hallelujah! Thine the Glory"

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

Happy Birthdays

October 15 Jenny Zheng
October 17 Sherry Chou
October 18 Carter Henry
October 18 Lilly Henry
October 18 Mailon Henry

Youth Group Tonight

All 6th thru 12th grade students are welcome to join the youth tonight from 5:30-7pm.
Following a meal, we will spend time in Scripture and service.

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible study meets this Wednesday, October 15 at 5:30pm in the Administration Building. If you cannot attend in person, check your weekly email announcements for a zoom link.

Women's Fall Bible Study

Fall Bible study continues this Thursday, October 16 at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. We are studying the book *Revelation: Eternal King, Everlasting Kingdom* via video with Jen Wilkin. Questions? Please contact Brenda at 205-792-3851.

New Members Class

We will be offering a New Members class on Saturday, October 25 from 9:00am-1:00pm. If you are interested in finding out more about Riverwood or are ready to join the church as a member, please email Jeff (jpate@riverwoodchurch.org) and let him know if you plan to attend. Lunch is provided!

Gift Baskets in the Foyer

There are two gift baskets in the church foyer! One is to assist the Crawford family get what they need for their growing family. The other is for Alyson and Dixon Hopton-Jones (son and daughter-in-law of Kristina and Steve Patridge) to help celebrate the upcoming arrival of their precious baby girl, Mavis Marie (Mae Mae) with cards and gifts. Both baskets will be there for a few weeks.

Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, October 25: Baby Shower for Mercedes Quinn

Sunday, October 26: Reformation Celebration

Wednesday, October 29: Corporate Prayer

Saturday, November 15: Bridal Brunch for Caleigh Henson

Sunday, November 16: We Give Thanks lunch

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 (4032 Carousel 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

October 12: Erin Sheppard & Halsie Bardin
October 19: Gardner Herren & Arden Markin

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 September

Operating Income:	\$272,296.24
Operating Expense:	\$294,788.65
Net Income:	(\$22,492.41)
Designated gifts:	\$37,415.00
Building loan balance:	\$364,473.21



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