

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:

**"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 26, 2025

10:30 Worship Service

Leaders In Worship: Pastor, *Rev. Jeff Pate*
Assisting Elder, *Dusty Sheppard*
Piano, *Mrs. John Graham*

WELCOME

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

PRELUDE

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 46*

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

All: Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

Pastor: Be still, and know that He is God.

He will be exalted among the nations, he will be exalted in the earth!

All: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Pastor: Come, let us worship!

HYMN: 92

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

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: *Psalm 119:9-16*

9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. **10** With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! **11** I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. **12** Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes! **13** With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth. **14** In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. **15** I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. **16** I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Lord, we have sinned, without considering how much you love us. You see our sins more clearly than we can ourselves. Lord, you know when we are indifferent to your Word, the Bible; how often we forget to pray; the times we come unwillingly to worship; and yet we turn to you when we are in trouble. Lord, you know when we are untruthful and when we think evil of others. You see our anger and unfairness to our friends. You know how hard it is for us to forgive. Forgive us and make us clean, so that we can obey your call to take up our cross and follow you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Colossians 1*

Pastor: Jesus Christ, the beloved Son, is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. Through faith in Jesus Christ, your sins have been pardoned and you are reconciled to God. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

HYMN:

"Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor"

Christ the sure and steady Anchor; In the fury of the storm
When the winds of doubt blow through me; And my sails have all been torn
In the suffering, in the sorrow; When my sinking hopes are few
I will hold fast to the Anchor; It shall never be removed

Christ the sure and steady Anchor; While the tempest rages on
When temptation claims the battle; And it seems the night has won
Deeper still then goes the Anchor; Though I justly stand accused
I will hold fast to the Anchor; It shall never be removed

Christ the sure and steady Anchor; Through the floods of unbelief
Hopeless somehow, O my soul, now; Lift your eyes to Calvary
This my ballast of assurance; See His love forever proved
I will hold fast to the Anchor; It shall never be removed

Christ the sure and steady Anchor; As we face the wave of death
When these trials give way to glory; As we draw our final breath
We will cross that great horizon; Clouds behind and life secure
And the calm will be the better; For the storms that we endure

Christ the sure of our salvation; Ever faithful, ever true
We will hold fast to the Anchor; It shall never be removed (2x)

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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Westminster Confession of Faith III.4,5*

Leader: Christian, what do you believe concerning Scripture?

All: **The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed, and obeyed, depends not upon the testimony of any man, or church; but wholly upon God (who is truth itself) the author thereof: and therefore it is to be received, because it is the Word of God.**

Leader: We may be moved and induced by the testimony of the church to an high and reverent esteem of the Holy Scripture. And the heavenliness of the matter, the efficacy of the doctrine, the majesty of the style, the consent of all the parts, the scope of the whole (which is, to give all glory to God), the full discovery it makes of the only way of man's salvation, the many other incomparable excellencies, and the entire perfection thereof, are arguments whereby it does abundantly evidence itself to be the Word of God:

All: **yet notwithstanding, our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth and divine authority thereof, is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts.**

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: 145

"The Spirit Breathes upon the Word"

RECEIVING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *John 7:14-24*

14 About the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching. **15** The Jews therefore marveled, saying, "How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?" **16** So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. **17** If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. **18** The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood. **19** Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me?" **20** The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?" **21** Jesus answered them, "I did one work, and you all marvel at it. **22** Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. **23** If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because on the Sabbath I made a man's whole body well? **24** Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

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

SERMON: "Measuring the Messenger"

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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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: 453

"All Authority and Power"

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 27	Warren Pate	October 29	Kristina Patridge
October 28	Robert Sheppard	October 30	Caleb Kim
October 29	Elizabeth Chandler	November 1	Bonnie Martin

Reformation Celebration

Riverwood's annual Reformation Celebration is tonight! We are once again having a chili cook-off. If you are interested in competing, please have your award-winning chili at the church by 5:30pm for the judges. Dinner is at 6:00pm, followed by games and reformation hymn singing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Corporate Prayer

Everyone is encouraged to join us for corporate prayer this Wednesday, October 29 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.

Men's Bible Study

Due to the corporate prayer meeting, the men's Bible study will NOT meet this week.

Women's Fall Bible Study

Fall Bible study continues this Thursday, October 30 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.

Operation Christmas Child

RUF and the Navigators are working together with Riverwood to make 30 Operation Christmas Child boxes. Ways you can help:

1. Sign up for items at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/5c468dsa>
2. Come to the packing party at Riverwood on November 9th at 12:30.
3. Volunteer to bring food for lunch at the packing party (Contact Anna Gardner).
4. Pray for the children who will receive the boxes and hear the gospel.

UnBound216 Hygiene Kits

We are continuing our ministry to the 318 men in the UnBound216 program at Bibb Correctional Facility by again providing hygiene kits and goodie bags at Christmas. The needed items are full-size toothpaste, full-size stick deodorant, and plain white crew socks. If you would prefer to make a monetary donation please mark the check with UnBound216 Hygiene Kits in the memo line. There is a basket in the narthex marked UnBound216 for any collected items. The cutoff to collect items is November 14th with the packing party on November 21st at Brent Presbyterian Church.

Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, November 15, 11:00am: Bridal Brunch for Caleigh Henson

Sunday, November 16: We Give Thanks service/lunch directly after worship

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 26: Christie Parker & Claude Parker
November 2: Lynn Tootle & Bruce DeHaan

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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