

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."**





November 23, 2025

10:30 Worship Service

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

Assisting Elder, *John Kim*

Piano, *Ginny Coleman*

## WELCOME

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

## PRELUDE

## PRAISE

### CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 47*

Pastor: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

**All: For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared,  
a great king over all the earth.**

Pastor: God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.

**All: For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted!**

Pastor: Come, let us worship.

### HYMN: 76

"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

## 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:**     *Exodus 20:8-11*

**8** “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. **9** Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, **10** but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. **11** For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”

Leader:               This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:                   Thanks be to God!**

**CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:**     *based on a Puritan Prayer*

**O Lord, Our Lord, this is your day, the heavenly ordinance of rest, the open door of worship, the day of Jesus’s resurrection, the seal of the sabbath to come, and the day when saints militant and triumphant unite in endless song. But while we bless you, shame and confusion are ours: we remember our past misuse of sacred things, our irreverent worship, our base ingratitude, our cold, dull praise. Please forgive us. Sprinkle all our past sabbaths and our half-hearted worship with the cleansing blood of Jesus. Give us in rich abundance the blessings the Lord’s Day was designed to impart. Bind our hearts to Christ and free us from worldly thoughts and cares; flood our minds with peace beyond understanding. May our acts of worship be life and joy, our meditations sweet, our drink the streams that flow from your throne, our food your precious Word, our defense the shield of faith, and may our hearts be more knit to Jesus. In his name we pray, amen.**

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

# RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

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## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD:** *from Hebrews 4*

**Pastor:** The promise of entering God's rest still stands and we who have believed enter that rest. Whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession, and with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. The peace of Christ be with you.

**All:** **And also with you.**

**HYMN: 306**

"Jesus, My Great High Priest"

## **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:

Leader: Christian, what do you believe?

All: I believe that...

...God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (1 Jn 1:5)

...Jesus is the image of the invisible God. (Col. 1:15)

...we must be perfect, as God is perfect. (Matt. 5:48)

...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Rom. 3:23)

...if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. (1 Jn 2:1)

...God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. (Jn 3:16)

...neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:38, 39)

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: 335

"Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me"

## RECEIVING THE WORD

**SCRIPTURE:** 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

**6** The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. **7** Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **8** And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. **9** As it is written,

"He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;  
his righteousness endures forever."

**10** He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. **11** You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. **12** For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. **13** By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, **14** while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. **15** Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

**All:** but the Word of our God will stand forever.

**SERMON:**

## "Grace & Generosity"

Rev. Jeff Pate

# COMMUNION & BENEDICTION

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**HYMN: 434**

"Lord, Thou Lov'st the Cheerful Giver"

## **RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Pastor: The bread that we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**All: We who are many are one body, for we all share the same loaf.**

Pastor: The cup for which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

**All: The cup that we drink is our participation in the blood of Christ.**

Pastor: Congregation of Jesus Christ, the Lord has prepared his table for all who love him and trust in him alone for their salvation. All who are truly sorry for their sins, who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, and who desire to live in obedience to him as Lord are now invited to come with gladness to the table of the Lord. The gifts of God for the people of God.

## **THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**HYMN: 716**

"Sing to the Lord of Harvest"

## **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 Birthday**

November 28 Bob Prince

## **Youth Group**

The youth group will not meet tonight. They will resume next Sunday, November 30.

## **Men's Bible Study**

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the men's Bible study will NOT meet this week Wednesday.

## **Women's Bible Study**

The Thursday women's Bible study has finished for the fall. Look for an announcement to start back in January!

## **Deacon's Fund Offering**

Every month that has a fifth Sunday, our deacons have an offering to replenish funds in an account used exclusively for short-term mercy ministry needs. This has enabled our Diaconate to extend the kingdom of God to many within our community. Next Sunday, November 30, all cash and designated gifts will be used for this purpose.

## **College Student Study Days**

College students, come study for finals at Riverwood Church on Monday and Tuesday, December 8 & 9, and enjoy free coffee, snacks, and lunch from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Lunch will be served beginning at noon.

## **Help Needed for College Student Study Days**

Riverwood family, we expect to host 40-50 college students on Monday and Tuesday during finals week (December 8 and 9) for study days. Please sign up and help with meals using the link coming in your email announcement and posted to Facebook. If you have any questions, please contact Vielyana Kim (205-239-3101). Thank you!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## **Christmas Cookie Exchange**

Please join us for our annual cookie exchange on Thursday, December 11 at 7:00pm at Carrie Henry's home (2901 47<sup>th</sup> Ave. East, 35405). Bring 3-dozen Christmas cookies from your favorite homemade recipe with 20 recipe cards. Everyone will be able to take home an assortment of cookies!

## **Angel Tree**

*What is the Angel Tree Ministry?*

It is a ministry to children who have an incarcerated family member. Through this program, we can embrace children in our community by providing them with a Christmas gift and food, given in love, on behalf of their family member and in the name of Jesus.

*How Can You Help with Angel Tree?*

1. Please be in prayer for these children and their families as well as the incarcerated person. Also be in prayer for residents of Pine Valley who are purchasing gifts for the children.
2. Assist with the purchase of books that will teach the families about Jesus. Please see Joann for more information.
3. Provide non-perishable food items. The following are several suggestions, but this list is not exhaustive. All bulk items will be split between the families. There will be a box in the foyer to collect donations until December 14. Donation suggestions: *Shelf stable milk (e.g. Parmalat, Horizon Organic and Prairie Farms), breakfast items, granola bars, snack items for lunches or after school, bag of potatoes or other non-refrigerated fresh vegetable, canned vegetables, rice, pasta, sauces, etc.*
4. Volunteers to help prepare the family packages for each family on December 16.
5. Volunteers to deliver the presents and food packages on December 18 and 19.
6. Volunteers to wait for families at the Administration office on December 18 and 19 to pick up packages.

Please see Joann Williams to volunteer.

## **Mark Your Calendar**

December 24, 6:00pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

# 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

November 23: George & Joanie Norris

November 30: Erin Sheppard & Sumlin Pate

## 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 October

Operating Income:	\$314,938.04
Operating Expense:	\$323,124.72
Net Income:	(\$8,186.68)
Designated gifts:	\$38,300.00
Building loan balance:	\$357,573.85



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