

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."**





December 7, 2025

10:30 Worship Service

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

WELCOME and PRELUDE

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

ADVENT READING

Joshua Burton & Ava Concannon

Micah 5:1-5a

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 148*

Pastor: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!
Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!
Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!

All: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and maidens together, old men and children!

Pastor: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted.
He raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints.
Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 218

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

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: *Deuteronomy 19:15-20*

15 "A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established. **16** If a malicious witness arises to accuse a person of wrongdoing, **17** then both parties to the dispute shall appear before the Lord, before the priests and the judges who are in office in those days. **18** The judges shall inquire diligently, and if the witness is a false witness and has accused his brother falsely, **19** then you shall do to him as he had meant to do to his brother. So you shall purge the evil from your midst. **20** And the rest shall hear and fear, and shall never again commit any such evil among you."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Almighty God, the sum of your word is truth and every one of your righteous rules endures forever. We humbly confess that we can be quick to accuse others of wrongdoing and quick to believe malicious rumors about our neighbors. We admit that in our selfishness and pride, we even want to see other people fail, thinking it makes us look or at least feel better about ourselves. Please forgive us. Have mercy on us sinners and by your grace, make us merciful. Holy Spirit, remind us of the undeserved love of God for us, love that was revealed in the Son of God being sent for our salvation, and then make us people who love you and one another sincerely. We ask this in Jesus's name, amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from 1 John 4*

Pastor: Hear the good news of God's unmerited love! In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 230

"Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor"

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: *The Westminster Larger Catechism, #46, 47*

Leader: What was the estate of Christ's humiliation?

All: **The estate of Christ's humiliation was that low condition, wherein he for our sakes, emptying himself of his glory, took upon him the form of a servant, in his conception and birth, life, death, and after his death, until his resurrection.**

Leader: How did Christ humble himself in his conception and birth?

All: **Christ humbled himself in his conception and birth, in that, being from all eternity the Son of God, in the bosom of the Father, he was pleased in the fullness of time to become the son of man, made of a woman of low estate, and to be born of her; with divers circumstances of more than ordinary abasement.**

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.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Joshua Burton
Ava Concannon

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 197

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

RECEIVING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *John 7:40-52*

40 When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This really is the Prophet."
41 Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee?
42 Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" **43** So there was a division among the people over him. **44** Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him. **45** The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" **46** The officers answered, "No one ever spoke like this man!" **47** The Pharisees answered them, "Have you also been deceived? **48** Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him? **49** But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed." **50** Nicodemus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, **51** "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" **52** They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and see that no prophet arises from Galilee."

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

SERMON: "In the Court of Public Opinion"

Rev. Jeff Pate

HYMN: 201

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

All: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

Pastor: He forgives all your iniquity, heals all your diseases, redeems your life from the pit, and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

All: When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Pastor: And because we are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. Let us eat the feast with thankful hearts as God's redeemed and beloved children.

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)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthdays

December 8 Noah Parker
December 9 Heather Henson
December 12 Claude Parker

Youth Group Christmas Party

The Riverwood Youth will have its Christmas Party at the Pates' house tonight starting at 5:30. Everyone is asked to bring a finger food to share as well as a Secret Santa gift that's \$10 or less. Hope to see you all as we wrap up this semester of youth group with fun and fellowship!

Thank You from UnBound216

Thank you so much to everyone who donated items and made monetary donations to the UnBound216 Hygiene Kit ministry project!

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!

Christmas Cookie Exchange

Please join us for our annual cookie exchange on Thursday, December 11 at 7:00pm at Carrie Henry's home (2901 47th 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!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

On Wednesday, December 24, at 6:00pm, Riverwood will conduct a Christmas Eve candlelight Communion Service. It is a beautiful time in which we gather as the people of God to consider again the wonder of Advent and the beauty of our Savior. Please plan to join us with your family for this special time of praise and worship.

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.

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

December 7: Claire Hutchins & Halsie Bardin

December 14: Anna 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 November

Operating Income:	\$352,747.29
Operating Expense:	\$353,289.98
Net Income:	(\$542.69)
Designated gifts:	\$40,975.00
Building loan balance:	\$350,531.60



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RPC!



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