

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."**





January 4, 2026

10:30 Worship Service

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 113*

Pastor: Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord!

**All: Blessed be the name of the Lord  
from this time forth and forevermore!**

Pastor: From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
the name of the Lord is to be praised!

**All: The Lord is high above the nations,  
and his glory above the heavens!**

Pastor: Who is like the Lord, our God? Come, let us worship.

### HYMN: 21

"Sing Praise to 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

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**SCRIPTURE READING:**     *Exodus 20:13-17*

**13** "You shall not murder. **14** You shall not commit adultery. **15** You shall not steal. **16** You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. **17** You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or 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 God, we come to you to acknowledge and confess that we have sinned in thought and word and deed. We have not loved you with all our heart and soul, with all our mind and strength, and we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Have mercy on us. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, or for the good we have left undone. You, O Lord, are full of compassion and gracious, slow to anger and abundant in mercy. There is forgiveness with you. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and bind up what is broken. Holy Spirit, give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls. Speak to each of us the word that we need, and let your word abide with us until it bears the fruits of faith, obedience, hope, and love. We ask this in Jesus's name. Amen.

## **SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

# RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

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## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD:** *from Psalm 34 & 1 Peter 2*

Pastor: Hear the good news of our God who draws near to us with compassion and grace. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. The Lord Jesus Christ came near for our salvation. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. The peace of Christ be with you.

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

**HYMN:** 252

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

## **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: 332

"Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove"

# RECEIVING THE WORD

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**SCRIPTURE:**        *John 8:21-30*

**21** So he said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come." **22** So the Jews said, "Will he kill himself, since he says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come?'" **23** He said to them, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. **24** I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins." **25** So they said to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been telling you from the beginning. **26** I have much to say about you and much to judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him." **27** They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father. **28** So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. **29** And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him." **30** As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

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

**SERMON:**                                "Evangelical Preaching"

*Rev. Jeff Pate*

**HYMN:****"In Christ Alone"**

In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song.  
This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease,  
My comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.  
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;  
For every sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain.  
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again.  
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me.  
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me.  
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand.  
Till He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

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# COMMUNION & BENEDICTION

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## RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: With these words our Lord commands all believers to eat this broken bread and to drink this cup in true faith and in the confident hope of his return in glory.

**All: In this supper God declares to us that our sins have been completely forgiven through the one sacrifice of Jesus Christ, which he himself finished on the cross once for all. He also declares to us that the Holy Spirit grafts us into Christ, who with his very body is now in heaven at the right hand of the Father, where he wants us to worship him.**

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

**HYMN: 73** "Rejoice, All People, Homage Give"

## BENEDICTION

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## 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)

## **Happy Birthdays**

January 4	Sophie Chandler
January 4	Clara Parker
January 6	Vetta Lavender
January 9	EJ Gay
January 10	Brenda Sheppard

## **Joint Officers Meeting**

This coming Wednesday our elders and deacons will meet at 6:30pm for a combined meeting in the Administrative Building.

## **Congregational Meeting**

There will be a called congregational meeting on Sunday, January 18, immediately following the morning worship service. The purpose of the meeting is two-fold. First, the deacons will be presenting the budget for 2026 and answering any questions related to it. Second, the session will be presenting and answering questions about our church's recently revised Policy on Abuse. This policy expresses Riverwood's commitment to protect children and vulnerable adults and outlines practices and procedures that will help us keep that commitment. All members are encouraged to attend.

# 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. Resumes January 11.
- Pates (2030 Idlewood Drive, 35405) on Mondays at their home @ 6 pm. You can reach out to Jeff at (205) 771-0170. Resumes January 12.
- Kims (5010 Lakehurst Drive, 35473) on Fridays at their home @ 6:30 pm. John can be reached at (443) 722-1727. Resumes January 16.

## Nursery Schedule

January 4: George & Joanie Norris  
January 11: Lynn Tootle & Bruce DeHaan

## Riverwood Church Officers

### *Elders:*

John Kim  
Gene Martin  
Jeff Pate  
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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