

P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H • T U S C A L O O S A , A L A B A M A

RIVEIL WOOD

R E S T I N G • R E N E W E D • R E S P O N D I N G

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 11, 2026

10:30 Worship Service

Pastor, *Rev. Jeff Pate*
Assisting Elder, *Dusty Sheppard*
Piano, *Ginny Coleman*

WELCOME

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

PRELUDE

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 34*

Pastor: I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.

All: **Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the Lord delivers him out of them all.
The Lord redeems the life of his servants;
none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.**

Pastor: Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together!
Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 53

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

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 6:1-3

1 "Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, **2** that you may fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. **3** Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

CORPORATE CONFESSiON OF SIN:

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSiON

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Psalm 103*

Pastor: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: "His Mercy Is More"

What love could remember no wrongs we have done;
Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum.
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore;
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

*Praise the Lord! His mercy is more.
Stronger than darkness, new every morn;
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.*

What patience would wait as we constantly roam;
What Father, so tender, is calling us home.
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor;
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

Refrain

What riches of kindness He lavished on us;
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost.
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford;
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

Refrain

Words and music by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa
©2016 Getty Music Songs; CCLI license #11239744

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: 457

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

SCRIPTURE: John 8:31-36

31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, **32** and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." **33** They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free?'" **34** Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. **35** The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. **36** So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

SERMON:

"Truly Free"

Rev. Jeff Pate

SERMON NOTES PAGE

COMMUNION & BENEDICTION

HYMN: 499

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

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: 669

"Commit Now All Your Griefs"

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 Birthday

January 12 Kathy Gilbert

Youth Group

All 6th thru 12th grade students are welcome to join the youth tonight from 5:30-7pm.

Congregational Meeting

There will be a called congregational meeting next 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.

Host College Students for Lunch - Note Change

Riverwood Members, thank you for your hospitality in hosting college students on Sunday, January 25, for lunch. Hosts: This time, you can choose to either be a primary host or a co-host. Primary host hosts as before, either alone or with a co-host. A co-host partners with and helps out a primary host with the lunch. If you are interested in hosting or co-hosting, please reach out to Vielyana at 205-239-3101. Students: if you'd like to join a Riverwood member for lunch, please check GroupMe for a link to sign up or text Vielyana. The deadline to sign up for both hosts and students is Thursday, January 22.

Preaching and Pancakes

On Friday, January 30, Riverwood will be hosting the next installment in our look into the ordinary "Means of Grace." These are the normal and ongoing avenues that God provides for our spiritual nourishment and growth. We will be joined by Rev. Derrick Brite who will be discussing the benefit of reading God's Word and hearing it preached. We will begin at 6pm and a pancake meal will follow. Bring a friend, or three! *While this event is geared toward college students, everyone is welcome to come.*

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 Mondays/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. This group will resume on January 23.

Nursery Schedule

January 11: Lynn Tootle & Bruce DeHaan

January 18: Erin Sheppard & Lilly Henry

Riverwood Church Officers

Elders:

John Kim
Gene Martin
Jeff Pate
Dusty Sheppard

Deacons:

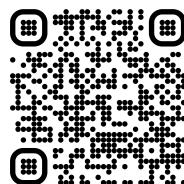
Tommy Coleman
Steven Crawford
Bruce DeHaan
Ed Kidder
Steve Patridge
Marvin Skelton

Elders Emeritus:

Bob Prince
Robert Sheppard

2025 Financials

Operating Income:	\$389,814.29
Operating Expense:	\$390,962.44
Net Income:	(\$1,148.15)
Designated gifts:	\$50,135.00
Building loan balance:	\$338,727.13



Scan this QR code to fill out a visitor's form, request prayer, or learn more about RPC!



RIVERWOODCHURCH.ORG