

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 18, 2026 10:30 Worship Service

Pastor, Rev. Jeff Pate
Assisting Elder, Dusty Sheppard
Piano, Joann Williams; Flute, Mina Webster

WELCOME

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

PRELUDE

"I Love You, Lord"

arr. Laura Klein

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: from Psalm 146

Pastor: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

All: I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have being.

Pastor: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them...

All: The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.

Pastor: The Lord will reign forever...Praise the Lord! Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 57

“Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah, O My Soul”

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 6:4-9

4 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. **5** You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. **6** And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. **7** You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. **8** You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. **9** You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

CORPORATE CONFESSiON OF SIN:

Almighty God, you are high and lifted up, inhabiting eternity, and your name is Holy. You alone are worthy of all honor and glory and praise. In your infinite goodness you have revealed yourself to us and called us to the high privilege of knowing and loving you. In the foolishness of our sin, we have not loved you with all of our heart, and soul, and strength. Please have mercy on us. Holy Spirit, increase our affection for the One who first loved us. Father in heaven, we confess that we have not taught and shared with others this command to love you, even with people we claim to love. Have mercy on us. Forgive us for our timidity and pride, thinking that we know what others need more than you do. We humbly confess this sin and admit our reliance on your mercy and grace. We ask this all in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSiON

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Romans 5*

Pastor: Hear the good news of salvation for all who trust in Christ! The free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ...the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 460

"Amazing Grace!"

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: from Philippians 2

Leader: What does Scripture teach concerning the humiliation and exaltation of Jesus?

All: **Though he was in the form of God, Christ Jesus did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

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: 131

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

RECEIVING THE WORD & SACRAMENT

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: “Set Free”

Rev. Jeff Pate

HYMN: 503 “Out of My Bondage, Sorrow, and Night”

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

BENEDICTION

HYMN: "It Was Finished upon that Cross"

How I love the voice of Jesus, on the Cross of Calvary.
He declares His work is finished; He has spoken this hope to me.
Though the sun had ceased its shining, though the war appeared as lost,
Christ had triumphed over evil. It was finished upon that Cross.

Now the curse it has been broken; Jesus paid the price for me.
Full the pardon He has offered. Great the welcome that I receive.
Boldly I approach my Father, clothed in Jesus' righteousness.
There is no more guilt to carry. It was finished upon that Cross.

Death was once my great opponent. Fear once had a hold on me.
But the Son who died to save us, rose that we would be free indeed.

Death was once my great opponent. Fear once had a hold on me.
But the Son who died to save us, rose that we would be free indeed.
Yes, He rose that we would be free indeed.

Free from every plan of darkness, free to live and free to love.
Death is dead and Christ is risen. It was finished upon that Cross.

Onward to eternal glory to my Saviour and my God
I rejoice in Jesus' victory. It was finished upon that Cross! (x3)

Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Nigel Hendroff
©2021 CityAlight Music. CCLI license #11239744

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

January 21 Gracen Bell
January 21 Addie Crawford
January 22 Sumlin Pate

Congregational Meeting

There will be a called congregational meeting this morning 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.

Contribution Statements

Your detailed 2025 contribution statements are ready to be picked up in the foyer. Save the church a stamp and pick yours up today! After next Sunday, January 25, all remaining statements will be placed in the mail. Please remember that if you contributed to Riverwood online in 2025, you will receive a separate statement directly from the PCA Foundation.

Youth Group

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study on the book of Revelation starts up again this Thursday, January 22 at 6 p.m. A light dinner will be provided. We will be starting with Lesson 7, pages 101-107. Looking forward to a time of fellowship and learning more about God's word.

Warrior Presbytery Women's Ministry Annual Meeting

The Warrior Women's Ministry Annual Meeting is at First Presbyterian Church in Aliceville on Saturday, January 31. Elizabeth Steele will be speaking on "Biblical Hospitality, From Burden to Blessing." Lunch will be served. Please RSVP to Erin Sheppard by January 22.

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 18: Erin Sheppard & Lilly Henry

January 25: Christie Parker & Claude Parker

Riverwood Church Officers

Elders:

John Kim
Gene Martin
Jeff Pate
Dusty Sheppard

Deacons:

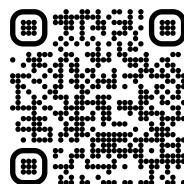
Tommy Coleman
Steven Crawford
Bruce DeHaan
Ed Kidder
Steve Patridge
Marvin Skelton

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