

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

# RIVERLEAF WOOD

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

# 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."**





March 1, 2026

10:30 Worship Service

Pastor, *Rev. Jeff Pate*  
Assisting Elder, *Gene Martin*  
Piano, *Nancy Allen*

## WELCOME

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

## PRELUDE

## PRAISE

### CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 27*

Pastor: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**All: One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after;  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,  
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.**

Pastor: Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage.  
Come, let us worship.

### HYMN: 376

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

### 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:**     *Deuteronomy 8:1-10*

**1** “The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers. **2** And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. **3** And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. **4** Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. **5** Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. **6** So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. **7** For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, **8** a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, **9** a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. **10** And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.”

Leader:             This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:                 Thanks be to God!**

## **CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:**

**Heavenly Father, we are forgetful people. Though you have created us to know you, worship you, and honor you through loving obedience, we forget and think that our lives are for our own glory and pleasure. Please forgive us. Though your word is real food and is given for our good, we forget and fail to read or listen so that we may have life. Have mercy on us. Holy Spirit, remind us today of eternal truths. Help us remember Jesus, who came and lived and died and rose for our salvation. Give us ears to hear the gospel, eyes to see the love of Christ, and hearts that respond in sincere repentance and humble faith. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

## **SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

# RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

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## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD:** *from 1 Corinthians 1 & 3*

Pastor: Hear the good news! "God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong...so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him, you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption...no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**HYMN: 521**

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

## **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: 59**

"Forever Settled in the Heavens"

# RECEIVING THE WORD

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**SCRIPTURE:**        *John 9:24-41*

**24** So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." **25** He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." **26** They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" **27** He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" **28** And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. **29** We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." **30** The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. **31** We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. **32** Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. **33** If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." **34** They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. **35** Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" **36** He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" **37** Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." **38** He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. **39** Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." **40** Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" **41** Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains."

Pastor:            The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

**SERMON:**            "The Enemy's Tactics & the Savior's Pursuit"

*Rev. Jeff Pate*

**HYMN:****"Behold the Lamb"**

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away, slain for us – and we remember  
The promise made that all who come in faith find forgiveness at the cross.  
So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of His sacrifice,  
As a sign of our bonds of peace around the table of the King.

The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ, torn for you – eat and remember  
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life, paid the price to make us one.  
So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of His sacrifice  
As a sign of our bonds of love, around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin, shed for you – drink and remember  
He drained death's cup that all may enter in, to receive the life of God.  
So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of His sacrifice  
As a sign of our bonds of grace, around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise, to respond, – and to remember  
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ, as His body here on earth.  
As we share in His suffering, we proclaim Christ will come again!  
And we'll join in the feast of heaven, around the table of the King.

Words and music by Keith and Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend  
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# COMMUNION & BENEDICTION

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## RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: God meets us in the sacraments, holy acts in which his deeds elicit our response. In the supper our Lord offers the bread and cup to believers to guarantee our share in his death and resurrection, and to unite us to him and to each other.

**All: We take this food gladly, announcing as we eat that Jesus is our life and that he shall come again to call us to the Supper of the Lamb.**

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

**HYMN: 318**

"Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"  
(to the tune of *Regent Square*)

## 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)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## **Happy Birthday**

March 4 Peggy Drinkard

## **Bridal Shower for Ashton Daum**

You're invited to a bridal shower for Ashton Daum today at 2:00pm at Riverwood. Ashton is registered on Amazon.

## **Youth Group**

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

## **Men's Bible Study**

Men's Bible study will meet this Wednesday, March 4 at 5:30pm in the Administration Building.

## **Women's Bible Study**

The Women's Bible Study on the book of Revelation meets this Thursday, March 5 at 6p.m. A light dinner will be provided. Looking forward to a time of fellowship and learning more about God's word.

## **Host College Students for Lunch**

Riverwood Members, thank you for your hospitality in hosting college students on Sunday, March 8th, for lunch. Hosts: 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, March 5th.

## **Bridal Shower for Tindol Pate**

You're invited to a bridal shower for Tindol Pate on Saturday, March 14 at 2:00pm at Riverwood. Tindol is registered on zola.com.

# 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

March 1: Erin Sheppard & Bruce DeHaan

March 8: George & Joanie Norris

## 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 January

Operating Income:	\$54,989.50
Operating Expense:	\$61,970.00
Net Income:	(\$6,980.50)
Designated gifts:	\$18,878.46
Building loan balance:	\$303,505.66



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