

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 29, 2026

10:30 Worship Service

Pastor, *Rev. Jeff Pate*
Assisting Elder, *Gene Martin*
Piano, *Ginny Coleman*

WELCOME

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

PRELUDE

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Zechariah 9:9-10*

Pastor: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

All: Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Pastor: I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations;

All: his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth.

HYMN: 198

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!”

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 11:1-7*

1 You shall therefore love the LORD your God and keep his charge, his statutes, his rules, and his commandments always. **2** And consider today (since I am not speaking to your children who have not known or seen it), consider the discipline of the LORD your God, his greatness, his mighty hand and his outstretched arm, **3** his signs and his deeds that he did in Egypt to Pharaoh the king of Egypt and to all his land, **4** and what he did to the army of Egypt, to their horses and to their chariots, how he made the water of the Red Sea flow over them as they pursued after you, and how the Lord has destroyed them to this day, **5** and what he did to you in the wilderness, until you came to this place, **6** and what he did to Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, son of Reuben, how the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households, their tents, and every living thing that followed them, in the midst of all Israel. **7** For your eyes have seen all the great work of the LORD that he did.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Almighty God, as we gather here today to be fed through your Word and Sacrament, to join our voices in prayer and praise, to be renewed in covenant, and to grow in understanding and faith, we confess that we are unworthy and undeserving of your love and grace. As we consider your mighty works and your righteousness, we should be moved to love you with all that we are and obey you in every area of life. But our love wavers and our obedience is partial at best. Please forgive us. As our loving Father, you discipline us for our good through your Word and through circumstances in our lives. We are quick to grumble and complain instead of letting your rod and staff comfort us. Have mercy on us. Holy Spirit, help us receive correction humbly, confess our sins quickly, and look to Jesus Christ for our salvation constantly. We ask all of this in his name. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Acts 13:38,39*

Pastor: Hear the good news of forgiveness in Jesus Christ as announced by the Apostle Paul at the synagogue in Antioch of Pisidia: "Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses." For those who believe in Jesus Christ for salvation, your sins are forgiven and you are set free from the condemnation and enslaving power of sin. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 486

"God, Be Merciful to Me"

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: *Westminster Larger Catechism, Q & A 79, 80*

Leader: May not true believers, by reason of their imperfections, and the many temptations and sins they are overtaken with, fall away from the state of grace?

All: True believers, by reason of the unchangeable love of God, and his decree and covenant to give them perseverance, their inseparable union with Christ, his continual intercession for them, and the Spirit and seed of God abiding in them, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Leader: Can true believers be infallibly assured that they are in the estate of grace, and that they shall persevere therein unto salvation?

All: Such as truly believe in Christ, and endeavor to walk in all good conscience before him, may, without extraordinary revelation, by faith grounded upon the truth of God's promises, and by the Spirit enabling them to discern in themselves those graces to which the promises of life are made, and bearing witness with their spirits that they are the children of God, be infallibly assured that they are in the estate of grace, and shall persevere therein unto salvation.

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.

MISSIONS MOMENT

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 337

"O Spirit of the Living God"

RECEIVING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *John 10:22-42*

22 At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, **23** and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. **24** So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." **25** Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, **26** but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. **27** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. **28** I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. **29** My Father, who has given them to me,^[a] is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. **30** I and the Father are one." **31** The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. **32** Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?" **33** The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God." **34** Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I said, you are gods?' **35** If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken— **36** do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? **37** If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; **38** but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." **39** Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands. **40** He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing at first, and there he remained. **41** And many came to him. And they said, "John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true." **42** And many believed in him there.

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

SERMON:

"Assured Sheep"

Rev. Jeff Pate

COMMUNION & BENEDICTION

HYMN: 693

"Blessed Assurance"

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: 642

"Be Thou My Vision"

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

March 31 George Norris

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, April 1 at 5:30pm in the Administration Building.

Maundy Thursday

This Thursday, April 2, at 7:00pm, Riverwood Church will worship at our traditional Maundy Thursday Communion service. The service remembers the night the Lord was betrayed and met with His disciples and instituted Holy Communion. Join us in worship as we remember and anticipate the great celebration of Easter and the Resurrection.

Women's Bible Study

Due to the Maundy Thursday service, the women's Bible study will NOT meet this week. It will resume on Thursday, April 9.

Easter Services and Breakfast

Next Sunday, April 5, we will meet at 9:00am for a short "The Son Has Risen" service followed by a congregation-wide breakfast. After breakfast, we will gather for corporate worship beginning at 10:30am. There will not be any evening activities on Easter Sunday.

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 29: Christie Parker & Claude Parker

April 5: Janalie Graham & Lauryn Elliot

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 February

Operating Income:	\$54,162.50
Operating Expense:	\$62,648.84
Net Income:	(\$8,486.34)
Designated gifts:	\$18,878.46
Building loan balance:	\$303,505.66



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