

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."**





April 5, 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

*Be Thou My Vision*

arr. Susan W. Henry

## PRAISE

### CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Revelation 1*

Pastor: He is risen.

**All: He is risen, indeed!**

Pastor: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come...  
Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of  
kings on earth.

**All: To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and  
made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and  
dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship.

### HYMN: 286

"Worship Christ, the Risen King!"

### 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 11:13-21*

**13** And if you will indeed obey my commandments that I command you today, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, **14** he will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, that you may gather in your grain and your wine and your oil. **15** And he will give grass in your fields for your livestock, and you shall eat and be full. **16** Take care lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them; **17** then the anger of the Lord will be kindled against you, and he will shut up the heavens, so that there will be no rain, and the land will yield no fruit, and you will perish quickly off the good land that the LORD is giving you. **18** You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. **19** You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. **20** You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, **21** that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth.

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 for your mercy. We have not loved you or served you with all of our heart and soul, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have forgotten your Word and instead turned aside after idols of our own choosing. Please forgive us. 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. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your Spirit through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## **SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

## RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

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### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD:** *from John 10*

**Pastor:** Hear the gospel as Jesus Christ declares the price paid for our salvation and the assurance of our eternal life. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand." For those who have faith in Jesus Christ, he secured your eternal life by offering up his own life. He holds you in his hand and no one can snatch you away from him. The peace of Christ be with you.

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

### **HYMN:**

#### "He Will Hold Me Fast"

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;  
When the tempter would prevail, He Will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;  
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

#### *Chorus:*

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

Those he saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;  
Precious in His holy sight, He Will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;  
Bought by Him at such a cost, He Will hold me fast.

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;  
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.  
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast  
'Till our faith is turned to sight, when He comes at last.

Words by Ada Habershon & Matt Merker; Music by Matt Merker  
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# AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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## 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.**

# AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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**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.

## INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

## THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Dylan Holt

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

**HYMN:** 332

"Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove"

# RECEIVING THE WORD

**SCRIPTURE:**        *John 11:17-44*

**17** Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. **18** Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, **19** and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. **20** So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. **21** Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. **22** But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." **23** Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." **24** Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." **25** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, **26** and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" **27** She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." **28** When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." **29** And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. **30** Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. **31** When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. **32** Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." **33** When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. **34** And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." **35** Jesus wept. **36** So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" **37** But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?" **38** Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. **39** Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." **40** Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" **41** So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. **42** I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." **43** When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." **44** The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

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

**SERMON:**                            "The Resurrection and the Life"

*Rev. Jeff Pate*

# COMMUNION & BENEDICTION

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**HYMN: 692**

"To You, O Lord, I Fly"

## **RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

Pastor: With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us - even when we fell into sin.

**All: We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his life, death, and resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.**

Pastor: Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name.

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## **THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**HYMN: 277**

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

## **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 Birthday**

April 5 Nathan Parker

## **Men's Bible Study**

The men's Bible study will meet this Wednesday, April 8 at 5:30pm in the Administration Building.

## **Women's Bible Study**

The women's Bible study will meet in the Fellowship Hall this Thursday, April 9 to study lesson 10, our final one! We are planning a potluck dinner. If you are able, please bring a dish and come and enjoy finishing the study of the book of Revelation.

## **Attention College Students**

On Friday, April 10th at 6 p.m. we will have the third installment of discussions about the Means of Grace. This is especially for college students, but everyone is welcome to come as we consider the role of Sacraments in the Christian's life. Following teaching and discussion, we will gather around the tables to share a meal. Look forward to seeing you there, and bring a friend!

## **Service Opportunity**

Bess had a successful surgery last Wednesday! Praise be to God! Her doctor said that she cannot walk her dog, Penny, until April 16th. Please consider helping her out. Walks will take about 20 min and can happen anytime during the window of time listed. Please text Bess for instructions about location of house key and leash, 205-413-7475. Bess's apartment address is: 800 Energy Center blvd., Apartment 2216, Northport, AL 35473. Thank you so much! The link to sign up is in your weekly email.

# 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

April 5: Janalie Graham & Lauryn Elliot

April 12: Lorrie Pate & Warren Pate

## 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 March

Operating Income:	\$93,734.23
Operating Expense:	\$101,211.82
Net Income:	(\$7,477.59)
Designated gifts:	\$22,292.30
Building loan balance:	\$291,025.78



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