

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 26, 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

This Is My Father's World

arr. Beth West

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 24*

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O gates!
And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

All: Who is this King of glory?

The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle!

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O gates!
And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

All: Who is this King of glory?

The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory!

Pastor: Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 101

"Come, Thou Almighty 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

SCRIPTURE READING: *Deuteronomy 16:18-20*

18 You shall appoint judges and officers in all your towns that the LORD your God is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment. **19** You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous. **20** Justice, and only justice, you shall follow, that you may live and inherit the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

O Lord, great God, all holy, Father most gracious, filled with mercy and steadfast love, we are embarrassed to come before you. We have preferred the ways of this world to your ways; we have rebelled against your wisdom and sinned against you; we have rejected your fatherly guidance and have lost our way. To you belongs righteousness, O Lord, and to us shame. O Lord, Father, most gracious, filled with mercy and steadfast love, incline your ear to our prayers. Hear us when we pour out our sorrows before you. Forgive us, not on the ground of our own righteousness, but on the ground of your great mercy displayed in the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. It is in his name that we pray, for he is our Savior and the mediator of the covenant of grace. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *based on Acts 13*

Pastor: Lift you heads and hearts, for I bring you the good news that what God promised he has fulfilled by raising Jesus. 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. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

HYMN:

“Yet Not I, but through Christ in Me”

1. What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer.
There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
for my life is wholly bound to his.
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

2. The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side, the Savior he will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need, his power is displayed.
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

3. No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
The future sure, the price it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And he was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

4. With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For he has said that he will bring me home
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

Words and music by Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, & Michael Farren
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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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Heidelberg Catechism, Q & A #26*

Leader: What do you believe when you say, "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth"?

All: That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them, who still upholds and rules them by his eternal counsel and providence, is my God and Father because of Christ the Son. I trust God so much that I do not doubt he will provide whatever I need for body and soul, and will turn to my good whatever adversity he sends upon me in this sad world. God is able to do this because he is almighty God and desires to do this because he is a faithful 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.

RECOGNITION OF COLLEGE GRADUATES

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 145

"The Spirit Breathes upon the Word"

RECEIVING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *John 12:12-19*

12 The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. **13** So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" **14** And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, **15** "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" **16** His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. **17** The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. **18** The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. **19** So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

SERMON: "A Foretold, Unexpected Procession"

Rev. Jeff Pate

COMMUNION & BENEDICTION

HYMN: 437

"O God, to Us Show Mercy"

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: 198

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!"

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)

Happy Birthday

May 1 Calvin Kim

Corporate Prayer

Everyone is encouraged to join us for corporate prayer this Wednesday, April 29 from 5:30-6:30pm. We will meet in the conference room in the Admin Building. Come when you can and stay for as long as you are able.

Men's Bible Study

Due to the corporate prayer meeting, the men's Bible study will NOT meet this week.

College Student Study Days

College students, come study for finals at Riverwood Church this week Monday and Tuesday, April 27 & 28, and enjoy free coffee, snacks, and lunch from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Lunch will be served beginning at noon. Riverwood families, a sign up link to help provide meals is posted in the email announcements and on Facebook.

Opportunity to Help a Riverwood Family

On April 29, Clara Parker will receive a much needed kidney transplant at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. Her recovery will include a month long stay in Rochester after the surgery. While insurance will help cover medical expenses, the family will incur significant costs for travel, lodging, and food during the month-long stay. Thankfully, the family can stay at the transplant house for only \$35 each night. We would like to help them by asking you to do two things. First, please pray for Clara, her family, and the doctors who will care for her. Second, would you consider sponsoring a night (or several nights!) at the transplant house? You can do so by making a contribution to Riverwood specifying "Team Clara" in the memo line.

Prayer for Donor

As you are praying for Clara, please also pray for Parker Pate, who will be donating a kidney for her. The Pates will spend several days in Rochester with Parker during his recovery. Thankfully, there is a fund that covers expenses incurred by living donors.

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 26: Halsie Bardin & Claire Hutchinson

May 3: Janalie Graham & TBA

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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