

RESTING • RENEWED • RESPONDING

RIVERVIEW

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA

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."**





May 3, 2026

10:30 Worship Service

Pastor, *Rev. Jeff Pate*
Assisting Elder, *John Kim*
Piano, *Nancy Allen*

WELCOME

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

PRELUDE

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 22 & 18*

Pastor: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.

All: For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

Pastor: The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock,
and exalted be the God of my salvation.

**All: For this I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations,
and sing to your name.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 115

"All Creatures of Our God and 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 17:1-7*

1 "You shall not sacrifice to the Lord your God an ox or a sheep in which is a blemish, any defect whatever, for that is an abomination to the Lord your God. **2** If there is found among you, within any of your towns that the Lord your God is giving you, a man or woman who does what is evil in the sight of the Lord your God, in transgressing his covenant, **3** and has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, or the sun or the moon or any of the host of heaven, which I have forbidden, **4** and it is told you and you hear of it, then you shall inquire diligently, and if it is true and certain that such an abomination has been done in Israel, **5** then you shall bring out to your gates that man or woman who has done this evil thing, and you shall stone that man or woman to death with stones. **6** On the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses the one who is to die shall be put to death; a person shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness. **7** The hand of the witnesses shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people. So you shall purge the evil from your midst."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Almighty God, we come humbly before you in prayer confessing that we are sinners who deserve your judgment. Any offering that we could offer up for our sin is polluted by the imperfections of our hearts, minds, mouths, and hands. We have sinned against you in our affections, our thoughts, our words, and our deeds. Have mercy on us. Your justice and holiness demand perfect obedience and devotion but we fall short over and over. Without your grace, we would be cast out of the gates of your presence to face the consequences of our iniquities. Please forgive us. Our hope is not in the imperfect obedience or the blemished sacrifices that we can offer, but only in the perfect obedience of, and spotless sacrifice of Jesus Christ. We look to him in faith, and so we pray to you boldly in his name. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

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

Pastor: Hear the good news of your salvation! God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled shall we be saved by his life. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: "Before the Throne of God Above"

Before the throne of God above, I have a strong and perfect plea;
a great High Priest whose name is Love, who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands, my name is written on his heart.
I know that while in heav'n he stands, no tongue can bid me thence depart,
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see him there, who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;
for God the just is satisfied, to look on him and pardon me,
to look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there, the risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless righteousness,
the great unchangeable I AM, the King of glory and of grace.
One with Himself, I cannot die; my soul is purchased by his blood.
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God,
with Christ my Savior and my God.

Words by Charitie Bancroft; Music by Vikki Cook
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OFFERTORY PRAYER & OFFERTORY

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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: *Colossians 1:15-20*

Leader: Christian, what do you believe about Jesus Christ?

All: He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Deborah Isabella Berry

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 662

"As the Hart Longs for Flowing Streams"

RECEIVING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *John 12:20-26*

20 Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. **21** So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." **22** Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. **23** And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. **24** Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. **25** Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. **26** If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

SERMON:

"The Paradox of Faith"

Rev. Jeff Pate

HYMN:

"Are You Weary?"

Are you weary, are you languid, are you sore distress'd?

"Come to me," says One, "and, coming, be at rest."

Has he marks to lead me to him, if he be my Guide?

"In his feet and hands are wound-prints, and his side."

Chorus:

Finding, foll'wing, keeping, struggling, is he sure to bless?

"Saints, apostles, prophets, martyrs answer yes!"

Is there diadem, as Monarch, that his brow adorns?

"Yes, a crown, in very surety, but of thorns."

If I find him, if I follow, what his promise here?

"Many a sorrow, many a labor, many a tear."

(Chorus)

If I still hold closely to him, what has he at last?

"Sorrow vanquished, labor ended, Jordan passed."

If I ask him to receive me, will he say me nay?

"Not till earth and not till heaven pass away."

(Chorus)

COMMUNION & BENEDICTION

RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Brothers and sisters, as we come to the table of the Lord, let us cleanse out the old leaven that we may be a new lump, as we really are unleavened. For Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed.

All: Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil.

Pastor: We celebrate with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

HYMN: 369 "Shout, for the Blessed Jesus Reigns"

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 4 Chris Gill

Men's Bible Study

The men's Bible study will meet this Wednesday, May 6 at 5:30pm in the Administration Building.

New Members

We are excited to welcome three new members to the Riverwood family. Please extend the right hand of fellowship to Isabella Berry, Liam Sauter, and Tanner Roemmich.

Visit from Missionary Family

Be sure to join us during Sunday School on Sunday, May 24, for a visit from former Riverwood members who are currently serving on the mission field. They will give an update on their work.

Mark Your Calendars

- Sunday, May 24: Last day of Sunday School before the summer break
- Wednesday, May 27 at 5:30pm: Corporate Prayer
- Sunday, May 31: Dinner on the Grounds

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 two 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.

Nursery Schedule

May 3: Janalie Graham & Bruce DeHaan

May 10: 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

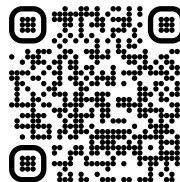
Ed Kidder

Steve Patridge

Marvin Skelton

Financials through March

Operating Income:	\$117,754.14
Operating Expense:	\$132,742.52
Net Income:	(\$14,988.38)
Designated gifts:	\$29,022.30
Building loan balance:	\$279,017.26



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