

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."**





May 31, 2026

10:30 Worship Service

Pastor, *Rev. Jeff Pate*; Visiting Pastor, *Rev. Mitch Haubert*
Assisting Elder, *Dusty Sheppard*
Piano, *Joann Williams*

WELCOME

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

PRELUDE

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 95*

Pastor: Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**All: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

Pastor: Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

**All: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 302

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

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 24:14-18*

14 You shall not oppress a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your brothers or one of the sojourners who are in your land within your towns. **15** You shall give him his wages on the same day, before the sun sets (for he is poor and counts on it), lest he cry against you to the LORD, and you be guilty of sin. **16** Fathers shall not be put to death because of their children, nor shall children be put to death because of their fathers. Each one shall be put to death for his own sin. **17** You shall not pervert the justice due to the sojourner or to the fatherless, or take a widow's garment in pledge, **18** but you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Almighty God, we humbly bow before you acknowledging that you are holy and we are sinful. We confess that though you have called us to do justly and love mercy, we have been selfish and unsympathetic. We admit that we have withheld what you have called us to freely give, and taken more than we need. We ask for your mercy because your word has made it clear that the wages of sin is death. Please forgive us. Holy Spirit, renew us today so that we will grow in grateful obedience to you and sympathetic generosity to others. We plead for your mercy and ask for your grace in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Isaiah 53*

Pastor: For all who believe in Jesus Christ as Savior, hear the good news of the forgiveness of sins announced through the prophet Isaiah who saw Christ's glory and spoke of him. "Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed." The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 252

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

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: *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.

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: 457

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

RECEIVING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:3-9

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, **5** who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **6** In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, **7** so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. **8** Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, **9** obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

SERMON:

“Faith in the Fire:
A Theology of Suffering, part 1”

Rev. Mitch Haubert

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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COMMUNION & BLESSING

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: 699

"Like a River Glorious"

BLESSING

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 Birthdays

June 4 Eliza Kate Gill

June 6 Rick Cook

No Sunday School this Summer

We will be taking a break from Sunday School classes this summer. Stay tuned for more details on when classes will kick off this fall!

Deacon's Fund Offering

Every month that has a fifth Sunday, our deacons have an offering to replenish funds in an account used exclusively for short-term mercy ministry needs. This has enabled our Diaconate to extend the kingdom of God to many within our community. This morning, all cash and designated gifts will be used for this purpose.

Dinner on the Grounds

Please join your church family for dinner on the grounds today immediately after the morning worship service. All are welcome!

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. *Please text first since the location does fluctuate during the summer months.*

Nursery Schedule

May 31: Erin Sheppard & Lilly Henry

June 7: Joanie & George 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 April

Operating Income:	\$119,198.14
Operating Expense:	\$132,742.52
Net Income:	(\$13,544.38)
Designated gifts:	\$29,022.30
Building loan balance:	\$279,017.26



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