

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."**





October 4, 2026

10:30 Worship Service

Pastor, *Rev. Jeff Pate*
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 18*

Pastor: I love you, O LORD, my strength.

**All: The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield,
and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.**

Pastor: Call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised!

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

Pastor: Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 660

"O God beyond All Praising"

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 6:4-9*

4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the Lord is one. **5** You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. **6** And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. **7** You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. **8** You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. **9** You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Awesome and compassionate God, you have loved us with unfailing, self-giving mercy, but we have not loved you. You have spoken to us in your Word, but we do not always listen. You command us to love you with all that we are, but we withhold ourselves from you. Forgive us for our failure to love you. You have also called us to keep your Word on our hearts, sharing it with others and always keeping it before our eyes so it is written on our minds. Please have mercy on us for not treasuring your Word. God of grace, as you come to us in mercy, we repent in spirit and in truth, admit our sin, and gratefully receive your forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from 1 John 4*

Pastor: Hear the good news! In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: "How Deep the Father's Love for Us"

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure,
that He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss; the Father turns His face away,
as wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon the cross, my sin upon His shoulders;
ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life, I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no power, no wisdom;
but I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.

Words and Music: Stuart Townend, 1995
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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:

Leader: Christian, what do you believe?

All: I believe that...

...God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (1 Jn 1:5)
...Jesus is the image of the invisible God. (Col. 1:15)
...we must be perfect, as God is perfect. (Matt. 5:48)
...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Rom. 3:23)
...if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. (1 Jn 2:1)
...God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. (Jn 3:16)
...neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:38, 39)

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: 338

"Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart"

RECEIVING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *John 14:15-31*

15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. **16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, **17** even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. **18** I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. **19** Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. **20** In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. **21** Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” **22** Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” **23** Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. **24** Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. **25** These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. **26** But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. **27** Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. **28** You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. **29** And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. **30** I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, **31** but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.”

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

SERMON: “Conforming Love, Constant Help, Uncommon Peace” *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: 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: 353

"I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord"

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

New Members Class

We will be offering a New Members class soon. If you are interested in finding out more about Riverwood or are ready to join the church as a member, please email Pastor Jeff Pate (jpate@riverwoodchurch.org) and let him know you would like to attend.

Wednesday Evening Meal and Studies

Our Wednesday evenings at Riverwood provide a great opportunity to grow in Christian fellowship and knowledge of God's Word. There is a meal provided for anyone who would like to come at 5:30pm (please see your email on Friday to RSVP for dinner). Following the meal, there are discipleship opportunities through Youth Group, a Ladies' Bible Study, a Men's study, Children's Catechism, and a co-ed Pier Group. Please pray that God will bless our efforts to equip the saints and grow in Christian community.

Join College Students for Lunch and Prayer Time

College students gather each Lord's Day after worship for prayer and lunch. We want you to have an opportunity to support their fellowship and be encouraged by it. There are two Sundays remaining this fall that other congregants can provide food for their lunch, pray with them, and spend time getting to know one another better. If you are interested in supporting this wonderful fellowship on October 11, contact Lorrie Pate (205-771-0158). If you are able to support this gathering on November 1, contact Vielyana Kim (205-239-3101).

Wedding Gift Card Shower

We are excited to celebrate the upcoming wedding of Gabe Henson! He will be married out of town in November. Let's help Gabe and Amelia celebrate this exciting milestone with gift cards and good wishes! A basket will be in the foyer for the next few weeks!

Prison Ministry: Hygiene Kits

We are continuing our Hygiene Kit ministry to the men at Bibb Correctional Facility for Christmas. Last year, we provided kits for 720 men and prayerfully would like to be able to do that again this year. Items needed are: full size stick deodorant, bar soap, white washcloths, white crew socks (may have gray heel/toe but no other markings), individually-wrapped toothbrushes, toothpaste (4 oz or larger). Also, a monetary donation can be made with "Hygiene Kit" in the memo line. A basket is in the narthex for donated items. The deadline for collection is Nov. 13 with a packing party at Brent Presbyterian Church on Nov. 20.

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 on Mondays in the Sheppards' home (1513 Heritage Dr, 35406) @ noon. For more info contact Gene at (205) 614-2781.
- Pates on Wednesdays at Riverwood @ 6:30 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

October 4: Vielyana Kim & Caleb Kim
October 11: Brianna Hoyle & 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 September

Operating Income:	\$278,537.57
Operating Expense:	\$300,834.55
Net Income:	(\$22,296.98)
Designated gifts:	\$70,147.30
Building loan balance:	\$194,782.93



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