

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 18, 2026

10:30 Worship Service

Pastor, *Rev. Jeff Pate*
Assisting Elder, *Dusty Sheppard*
Piano, *Ginny Coleman*

WELCOME

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

PRELUDE

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *based on Psalm 36:5-9*

Pastor: The steadfast love of the LORD extends to the heavens,
his faithfulness to the clouds.

**All: His righteousness is like the mountains of God;
his judgments are like the great deep; he saves man and beast.**

Pastor: How precious is the steadfast love of God!
The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of his wings.

**All: They feast on the abundance of his house,
and he gives them drink from the river of your delights.**

Pastor: For with God is the fountain of life; in his light do we see light.
Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 4 "All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above"

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 7:6-11*

6 "For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. **7** It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, **8** but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. **9** Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations, **10** and repays to their face those who hate him, by destroying them. He will not be slack with one who hates him. He will repay him to his face. **11** You shall therefore be careful to do the commandment and the statutes and the rules that I command you today."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we bless your name. Your word tells us that those who are united to Jesus by faith were chosen in him before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and blameless in him. In love you chose us for adoption not because we were better, greater, purer or more deserving but simply because of your great love that is merciful, self-giving, and steadfast. We confess that we haven't loved you in response as we should. Lord Jesus, you tell us that if we love you we will keep your commands. Though you commanded it, we admit that we have not loved one another as you have loved us. Have mercy on us. Holy Spirit, help us to abide in Christ, resting in his love so that we will bear fruit that blesses others and brings glory to God. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Redeemer. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

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

Pastor: Lift your heads and hear the good news of salvation! While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. While we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son. So we rejoice in God through Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 172

"Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder"

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: *from Philippians 2*

Leader: What does Scripture teach concerning the humiliation and exaltation of Jesus?

All: **Though he was in the form of God, Christ Jesus did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the 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.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 597

"Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire"

RECEIVING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *John 15:12-17*

12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command you. **15** No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. **16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. **17** These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

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

SERMON:

"Commissioned to Love"

Rev. Jeff Pate

COMMUNION & BENEDICTION

HYMN: 615

"Come, Ye Disconsolate, Where'er Ye Languish"

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: 498

"Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!"

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)

EVENING WORSHIP

October 18, 2026

5:00 Worship Service

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 92*

*It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night...
For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work,
at the works of your hands I sing for joy!*

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: 635 "How Good It Is to Thank the Lord"

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 42, page 800

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*Prayer of Thanksgiving for God's Grace
Prayer Admitting our Dependency on God
Prayer of Petition for Maturing Faith
Prayer for Growth in Our Worship of God*

HYMN: 55 "To God Be the Glory"

READING OF SCRIPTURE *Ephesians 5:15-21*

SERMON "Walking Carefully as a Disciple of Christ"

HYMN: "Christ Is Mine Forevermore"

CLOSING PRAYER & BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthdays

October 18 Carter Henry
October 18 Lilly Henry
October 18 Mailon Henry
October 20 Eli Bell
October 20 Daniel Zheng

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.

Pancakes with the Pastor

Mark your calendars for "Pancakes with the Pastor" this Friday, October 23 at 6:00pm. We will start with a pancake meal followed by discussion. The topic will be "Worship in the Christian Home."

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 is one Sunday 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 able to support this gathering on November 1, contact Vielyana Kim (205-239-3101).

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 18: Katie Gill & Edith Gill

October 25: Erin Sheppard & Halsie Bardin

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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