

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 25, 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 106*

Pastor: Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!

**All: Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the nations,
that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise.**

Pastor: Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!
And let all the people say,

All: "Amen! Praise the LORD!"

Pastor: Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 53

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

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 7:17-21*

17 "If you say in your heart, 'These nations are greater than I. How can I dispossess them?' **18** you shall not be afraid of them but you shall remember what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt, **19** the great trials that your eyes saw, the signs, the wonders, the mighty hand, and the outstretched arm, by which the LORD your God brought you out. So will the LORD your God do to all the peoples of whom you are afraid. **20** Moreover, the LORD your God will send hornets among them, until those who are left and hide themselves from you are destroyed. **21** You shall not be in dread of them, for the LORD your God is in your midst, a great and awesome God."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Almighty God, the heavens and the earth reveal your mighty work of Creation and your Word declares your powerful work of Redemption. Together we praise you as our sovereign Creator and our almighty Savior. We confess that our faith is sometimes very weak and we live in fear. Please forgive us when we live in fear of other people instead of approaching them in love. Lord Jesus, you have commanded us to go and bear spiritual fruit that would bless others and bring glory to your Father in heaven, but we admit that we are more comfortable keeping to ourselves. Have mercy on us. Holy Spirit, help us to repent of fear and walk in faith. Give us love for the lost and a zeal to share with them the good news of Jesus Christ, who came to save the lost, wash away our sins, and conquer death. We ask this in his name, amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Romans 8*

Pastor: For all those who believe in Jesus Christ, hear the great assurance of your salvation! "If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us." The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: 528

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

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: *The Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A #86*

Leader: Since we have been delivered from our misery by grace through Christ without any merit of our own, why then should we do good works?

All: **Because Christ, having redeemed us by his blood, is also renewing us by his Spirit into his image, so that with our whole lives we may show that we are thankful to God for his benefits, and that he may be praised through us, and further, so that we may be assured of our faith by its fruits, and by our godly living our neighbors may be won over to Christ.**

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: "Speak, O Lord"

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You; To receive the food of Your Holy Word
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; Shape and fashion us in Your likeness
That the light of Christ might be seen today; In our acts of love and our deeds of faith
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us; All Your purposes for Your glory

Teach us Lord, full obedience; Holy reverence, true humility
Test our thoughts and our attitudes; In the radiance of Your purity
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see; Your majestic love and authority
Words of pow'r that can never fail; Let their truth prevail over unbelief

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time; That will echo down through eternity
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises; And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built; And the earth is filled with Your glory

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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RECEIVING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *John 15:18-27*

18 "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. **19** If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. **20** Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. **21** But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. **22** If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. **23** Whoever hates me hates my Father also. **24** If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. **25** But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.' **26** But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. **27** And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning."

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

SERMON: "Chosen Out of the World
 to Bear Witness to the World"

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: 92

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

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 25, 2026

5:00 Worship Service

CALL TO WORSHIP: from Psalm 46

God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble...

*There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.*

God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved...

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: 554 "From Depths of Woe I Raise to Thee"

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 130, page 833

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prayer of Confession of Sin

Prayer of Thanksgiving for God's Grace

Prayer for Patient, Persevering Faith

Prayer for Gospel Proclamation

HYMN: "Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor"

READING OF SCRIPTURE *Ephesians 6:10-20*

SERMON "Standing Firm as a Disciple of Christ"

HYMN: 575 "Soldiers of Christ, Arise"

CLOSING PRAYER & BLESSING

Happy Birthdays

October 27 Warren Pate
October 28 Robert Sheppard
October 29 Kristina Patridge
October 29 Elizabeth Chandler
October 30 Caleb Kim

Reformation Celebration and Chili Cook-Off

Join us for Riverwood's annual Reformation Celebration this Wednesday, October 28! We are once again having a chili cook-off. If you are interested in competing, please have your award-winning chili at the church by 5:30pm for the judges. Dinner begins at 6:00pm, followed by games and Reformation hymn singing.

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 25: Erin Sheppard & Halsie Bardin
November 1: Erin Sheppard & Bruce DeHaan

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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