RESTING • RENEWED • RESPONDING

RIVERWOOD

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."

November 15, 2026	10:30 Worship Service

Pastor, *Rev. Jeff Pate*
Assisting Elder, *John Kim*
Piano, *Joann Williams*

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

PRELUDE

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Isaiah 25*

Pastor: O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

All: **Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. For you have been a stronghold to the poor, a stronghold to the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 30 "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

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.

SCRIPTURE READING: *Deuteronomy 10:12-21*

12 "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, **13** and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good? **14** Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it. **15** Yet the LORD set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day. **16** Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn. **17** For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. **18** He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. **19** Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. **20** You shall fear the LORD your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear. **21** He is your praise. He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Eternal and almighty God, you have spoken to us in your Word, through your Son, and by your Holy Spirit. We confess that we quickly cling to the promises you give but are slow to embrace your call in our lives. You call us to fear you, obey you, love you, and serve you with all our being. We confess that we often fear man, obey our appetites, love the world, and serve our own selfish desires. Father, please forgive us. For our salvation you sent your own Son who loved us and gave his life for us. Please forgive us when we stubbornly refuse to abide in Jesus's love. You are just and merciful, caring for the most vulnerable and loving the sojourner. We admit that we can be indifferent to the most needy and closed off to people who are different from us. Please have mercy on us and forgive us. Holy Spirit, renew and change us to be more and more like the God who loves us. We ask this all in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *based on Romans 8 and 2 Cor. 5*

Pastor: Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

HYMN: 465 "Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord"

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: *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.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 335 "Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me"

SCRIPTURE: *John 16:25-33*

25 "I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. **26** In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; **27** for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. **28** I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father." **29** His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! **30** Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God." **31** Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? **32** Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. **33** I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

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

SERMON: "Take Heart!" *Rev. Jeff Pate*

HYMN: "All Must Be Well"

Through the love of God our Savior, all will be well
Free and changeless is His favor, all is well
Precious is the blood that healed us, perfect is the grace that sealed us
Strong the hand stretched forth to shield us, all must be well

Though we pass through tribulation, all will be well
Ours is such a full salvation, all is well
Happy still in God confiding, fruitful if in Christ abiding
Steadfast through the Spirit's guiding, all must be well

We expect a bright tomorrow; all will be well
Faith can sing through days of sorrow, all is well
On our Father's love relying, Jesus every need supplying
Yes in living or in dying, all must be well

Words by Mary Bowley Peters & Matthew S. Smith; Music by Matthew S. Smith
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RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: The bread that we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

All: We who are many are one body, for we all share the same loaf.

Pastor: The cup for which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

All: The cup that we drink is our participation in the blood of Christ.

Pastor: Congregation of Jesus Christ, the Lord has prepared his table for all who love him and trust in him alone for their salvation. All who are truly sorry for their sins, who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, and who desire to live in obedience to him as Lord are now invited to come with gladness to the table of the Lord. The gifts of God for the people of God.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

HYMN: 628 "Come, My Soul, Thy Suit Prepare"

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)

November 15, 2026	5:00 Worship Service

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Colossians 3*

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
Set your mind on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: 400 "O Bless Our God with One Accord"

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 126, page 832

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prayer of Praise for Our Salvation
Prayer of Thanks for God's Provision
Prayer of Petition for Those in Need
Prayer for Illumination as We Hear God's Word

HYMN: 624 "Through All the Changing Scenes of Life"

READING OF SCRIPTURE & SERMON *Ruth 2*

HYMN: 134 "God Will Take Care of You"

CLOSING PRAYER & BENEDICTION

We Give Thanks Luncheon

After church this morning, please join your Riverwood family for our annual We Give Thanks meal!

Session Meeting

The elders will meet this Tuesday, November 17 at 6:30pm in the Administration Building for their monthly meeting.

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.

Prison Ministry: Hygiene Kit Packing Party

We are continuing our Hygiene Kit ministry to the men at Bibb Correctional Facility for Christmas. We will be packing 720 kits and goodie bags at Brent Presbyterian Church this Friday, November 20 at 5:30pm. There will also be a potluck supper! If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Chris Taunton (chris.taunton1@gmail.com or 205-370-3090) and let him know if you can bring a side dish or dessert.

80th Birthday Party for Bob Prince

Please join us for an 80th birthday celebration honoring Bob Prince this Saturday, November 21 from 2:00-4:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. No gifts please! Your time with us is a perfect gift.

Previous Pastor to Fill Pulpit

Next Sunday, November 22, Rev. Tim Lien will be filling the pulpit once again at Riverwood. Tim served as Youth Minister and then Senior Pastor here from 2004 to 2014. Let's give Tim a big "welcome back!"

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

November 15: Janalie Graham & Lilly Henry
November 22: 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 October

Operating Income:	$308,423.20
Operating Expense:	$330,534.11
Net Income:	($22,110.91)
Designated gifts:	$74,232.30
Building loan balance:	$180,698.78

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