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 29, 2026	10:30 Worship Service

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

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

ADVENT READING & CANDLE: *Hope* Jared & Meagan Martin
Mark 1:1-8

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Isaiah 55*

Pastor: Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!
All: Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Pastor: Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
All: Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
Pastor: let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 218 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

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: *Isaiah 64:1-5*

1 Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence— **2** as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! **3** When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. **4** From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. **5** You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?

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

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN: *based on Isaiah 64:6-9*

Heavenly Father, we confess that we have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. If you left us to ourselves, none of us would call on your name, or rouse himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Be not so terribly angry, O Lord, and remember not iniquity forever. Have mercy on us. Look on Christ, to whom we are united by faith. Remember that it is by your grace that we are all your people. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Romans 3*

Pastor: Hear the gospel and believe! "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith." The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

HYMN: "Reformation Song"

1. Your word alone is solid ground, the mighty rock on which we build.
In every line the truth is found, and every page with glory filled.

2. Through faith alone we come to you, we have no merit we can claim,
sure that your promises are true, we place our hope in Jesus' name.

Chorus:
Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone. Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone.

3. In Christ alone we're justified, his righteousness is all our plea.
Your law's demands are satisfied, his perfect work has set us free.
Chorus

4. By grace alone we have been saved, all that we are has come from you.
Hearts that were once by sin enslaved, now by your pow'r have been made new.
Chorus

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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:

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)
I believe that Jesus is the image of the invisible God. (Col. 1:15)
I believe that we must be perfect, as God is perfect. (Matt. 5:48)
I believe that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Rom. 3:23)
I believe that if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. (1 Jn 2:1)
I believe that 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)
I believe that 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.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Jared & Meagan Martin
Christofer & Thalia Tobing
Caroline Tokay

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 341 "O Breath of Life, Come Sweeping through Us"

SCRIPTURE: *Hebrews 9:28 & Romans 8:18-25*

28 "...Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him."

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. **19** For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. **20** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope **21** that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. **22** For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. **23** And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. **24** For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? **25** But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

SERMON: "While You're Waiting: Hope" *Rev. Jeff Pate*

HYMN: 232 "O Jesus Sweet, O Jesus Mild"

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: 198 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!"

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)

Happy Birthday

December 3 Arnold Miller

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.

Sunday Evening Prayer & Hymn Sing

Tonight, we will gather in the fellowship hall at 5:00pm to praise God through prayer and song. We will provide the hymnals but we are counting on you to provide the hearts and voices!

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.

Youth Christmas Party

Following the meal this Wednesday, the youth will gather for a Christmas party and gift exchange. Each youth needs to bring a wrapped gift that is less than $10.

Christmas Cookie Swap

Please join us for the annual ladies cookie exchange on Saturday, December 5 at 7:00pm at Carrie Henry's home (2901 47th Ave. East). Please bring 3-dozen Christmas cookies from your favorite homemade recipe with 20 recipe cards. Everyone will be able to take home an assortment of cookies!

College Student Study Days

College students, come study for finals at Riverwood Church on Monday and Tuesday, December 7 and 8, and enjoy free coffee, snacks, and lunch from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Lunch will be served beginning at noon.

Help with College Student Study Days

Dear Riverwood Families, would you be willing to help by either preparing meals or assisting with hosting? There are several shifts available. To sign up, please use the link provided on Facebook or in the email announcement this Tuesday. If you have any questions, please contact Vielyana Kim (205-239-3101). Thank you!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

On Thursday, December 24, at 6:00pm, Riverwood will conduct a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. It is a beautiful time in which we gather as the people of God to consider again the wonder of Advent and the beauty of our Savior. This is also a great service to invite a friend or neighbor! Please plan to join us with your family for this special time of praise and worship.

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. *During December, times may vary! Please call ahead to verify.*

- 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 29: Vielyana Kim & Caleb Kim
December 6: 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 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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