

REFLECTIONS

It is a wonderfully liberating experience when the desire to please God overtakes the desire to please ourselves, and when love for others displaces self-love. True freedom is not freedom from responsibility to God and others in order to live for ourselves, but freedom from ourselves in order to live for God and others.

John Stott

God uses people, who are themselves in need of change, as instruments of the same kind of change in others.

Paul Tripp

When another Christian falls into obvious sin, an admonition is imperative, because God's Word demands it. The practice of discipline in the community of faith begins with friends who are close to one another. Words of admonition and reproach must be risked when a lapse from God's Word in doctrine or life endangers a community that lives together, and with it the whole community of faith.

Nothing can be more cruel than the tenderness that consigns another to his sin. Nothing can be more compassionate than the ... rebuke that calls a brother back from the path of sin. When we allow nothing but God's Word to stand between us, judging and helping, it is a service of mercy, an ultimate offer of genuine community. Then it is not we who are judging; God alone judges, and God's judgment is helpful and healing.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

It was hard to do, but I quit cutting (his) hair and looked at Troy. I said, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you." Troy jerked his head up and widened his eyes at me. "Where did you get that crap?" I said, "Jesus Christ." And Troy said, "Oh." It would have been a great moment in the history of Christianity, except that I did not love Troy.

Wendell Berry
from *Jayber Crow*

RIVERWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

T U S C A L O O S A , A L A B A M A

October 15, 2017 • 11:00 Service • Rev. Jeff Pate, Pastor

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Leaders In Worship: Rev. Todd Gothard, Assisting Elder Lowell Urban
Nancy Allen, piano

WELCOME & PRELUDE

Program all communication devices to be in silent mode. Thank you.

Please use this time for prayer and meditation as we prepare to go before the living God in worship.

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Matthew 11:28-30*

Minister: Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

People: **Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.**

Minister: For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Come, let us worship God together.

HYMN OF PRAISE: 76 “Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

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.

CONFESSIO

SCRIPTURE READING: *Leviticus 19:17-18 and 1 Thessalonians 5:14*

¹⁷You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

¹⁴And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CORPORATE CONFESSIO OF SIN:

O Lord, I long to love as I have been loved by You.

Yet, when I see those who are idle,

I complain they are not doing their fair share.

When I see those who are faint,

I pat myself on the back for my perseverance.

When I see those who are weak,

I applaud my own strength.

And in all of those cases,

I become frustrated with those who are not perfect like me.

Lord, by Your Spirit, work in me the heart of the tax collector

who would not lift his eyes to heaven,

but beat upon his breast and said,

"God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

In Jesus name, Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSIO

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *based on Acts 10:36,43*

Pastor: 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.

People: Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Pastor: Because of God's love, we have forgiveness and redemption in Jesus.
The Peace of God be with you.

People: And also with you.

HYMN: 486 "God, Be Merciful to Me"

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Presentation of tithes & offerings

DOXOLOGY (Hymnal, page 731)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

RESPONSE: 735 "Gloria Patri"

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 359 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

PREACHING OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: *Galatians 6:1-2*

¹Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

SERMON:

Rev. Todd Gothard

COMMUNION

HYMN: 347 "The Church's One Foundation" st. 1-2

Minister: O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.

All: **Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."**

Minister: Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Riverwood Presbyterian uses wine in the celebration of Holy Communion. If you would prefer non-alcoholic grape juice, please take a cup from the inner circle of the tray.

HYMN: 347 "The Church's One Foundation" st. 3-6

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSING HYMN: 263 "Lift High the Cross" v. 4

TODAY AT RIVERWOOD

Everyone is invited to the sanctuary this evening at 5:00pm for a time of evening worship. Covenant Kids Club meets tonight at 4:30pm. Youth groups also meet this evening (see detailed announcements below).

SUNDAY EVENING SCHEDULE

- Oct. 15 Covenant Kids Club / Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group / Evening Worship
- Oct. 22 Covenant Kids Club / Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group / Choir Rehearsal
- Oct. 29 Church-Wide Fellowship: Reformation Celebration
- Nov. 5 Covenant Kids Club / Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group / Evening Worship

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

EVENING WORSHIP

Everyone is invited to return to the sanctuary this evening at 5:00pm for a time of evening worship and prayer.

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH

The Junior High Youth (grades 6-8) will meet in the Barn from 4:30 to 6:10 this afternoon for some KOOKY KICKBALL, some great songs, and the next chapter of the "I DON'T GET IT?!" Sunday Sermon Shakedown Series. Remember to take notes on the sermon this morning during church and then bring those notes with you to Youth Group. Hope to see YOU there!

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

Alrighty Senior Highs (grades 9-12) – it is time to test your nerves of steel. We are going to bring back GIANT JENGA tonight from 5:40 to 7:45 in the Barn and we want YOU to join us! Do you have what it takes? Come and find out. Then stick around for some awesome singing and the last half of John Chapter 9. As always, all friends are welcome!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

October 15 Jenny Zheng
October 16 Debbie Jones
October 16 Meredith Patridge
October 20 Eli Bell
October 20 Daniel Zheng
October 21 Bob DeWitt

WARRIOR PRESBYTERY MEETING

Riverwood will host Warrior Presbytery's meeting this Tuesday, October 17. Check your email announcements for a link with ways you can sign up to help. Please also take some time to be in prayer for the meeting. Other questions? See Elena Arnold.

CRAWFORD-VANDER WAL FOLD LUNCH

Everyone in the Crawford-Vander Wal Fold is invited to gather for lunch in the Fellowship Hall directly after the worship service next Sunday, October 22. Pulled pork and good fellowship are on the menu! There is a link in the weekly email announcements to sign up to help with food. Even if you can't bring anything, please come!

DEACON'S FUND OFFERING

Every month that has a fifth Sunday, our Deacons have an offering to replenish funds used exclusively for emergency and short-term mercy ministry needs. On Sunday, October 29, all cash and designated gifts will be used for this purpose.

REFORMATION CELEBRATION

We will be having a church-wide celebration on Sunday October 29th at 4:00pm. There will be activities for all ages (yes, this includes adults) with a surprise for the children. The second annual chili cook off will also correspond with this event. Help is needed:

1. Candy for games (A box is in the foyer. No peanuts please due to allergies.)
2. Helpers for games
3. Set up and clean up
4. Assistance with meal

A sign up sheet is in the foyer and a link to help with dinner and additional information will be made available in the email announcements on Tuesday.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

At Riverwood Presbyterian Church we have Sunday School at 9:45am for all age groups.

MEETING DOWNSTAIRS:

Nursery: Multi-Staffed
2-3 year olds: Janalie Graham & Joanie Norris
4-5 year olds: Debbie Jones

MEETING UPSTAIRS:

Grades 1-3: Monica Urban
Grades 4-6: Ginny Nippert

MEETING IN THE BARN:

Youth Class – led by Jeff Pate

MEETING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL:

Adult Class

MEETING IN THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING:

Benevolence Committee – led by the Diaconate

MINISTRIES OF SERVICE

NURSERY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

October 15: Darla Cook / Sarah Vander Wal / Janalie Graham & Sumlin Pate / David Barnes
October 22: Lisa Kidder / Elena Arnold / Meg Sigmon & Quay Finch / Chanley Henson

OCTOBER DEACON SCHEDULE:

Head Deacons: Tom Arnold & Steve Patridge
Clean Up: Dusty Sheppard & Chris Locklear

FINANCIAL REPORT

OPERATIONS:

Operating Income:	\$327,148.90
Operating Expense*:	\$329,068.93
Net Income:	(\$1,920.03)
Designated gifts:	\$48,452.00

*Includes the minimum monthly building loan payment

BUILDING FUND:

Total pledges received:	\$793,954.09
Received 2017 to-date:	\$85,205.23
Building account balance:	\$43,243.35
Monthly payment:	\$8,127.35
Loan balance:	\$1,019,247.78