

# JANUARY 2026



December is a busy month—Sunday School class parties, family and friends gathering throughout the month, school programs, church get-togethers, cooking, cleaning, shopping, and then more cooking and cleaning. It's a full season for all of us. In the middle of all the bustle, it's easy to lose sight of the very reason we celebrate Christmas. So how do we keep our focus on Christ while so much is demanded of us?

At *Countdown to Christmas*, Candy Wood Lindley reminded us that preparing our hearts for Christmas begins with remembering our own salvation story. Each of us has a unique testimony of how the Lord brought us into a saving relationship with Him. For some, like Candy, the story began in the middle of deep hardship. For others, the Lord graciously nurtured faith through the steady influence of a strong Christian home where the gospel was faithfully taught. Whatever our story, God has been weaving the tapestry of our lives in such a way that brings Him glory and draws us joyfully into His loving arms. As we enter this Christmas season, may we continually remember that we are celebrating the birth of our Savior—the One who has given us life both physically and spiritually. Whatever we walk through in the days ahead, He is the same faithful Savior who will uphold us and keep us until the day we stand in the presence of the Father forever.

We truly have much to celebrate this Christmas.

**Merry Christmas!**

Kristie



## Inside this issue

In Town Retreat .....	2-3
Spring Bible Studies .....	4
Mom2Mom .....	5
Mom's Prayer .....	6
Missionary Coffee .....	7
BCS Bible Study & Pathway .....	8

## Special points of interest

- In Town Retreat  
February 6-7
- Mom2Mom  
January 26
- Missionary Coffee  
February 24

BRIARWOOD.ORG/WOMEN

WOMEN'S IN-TOWN RETREAT • FEB. 6-7, 2026 • \$45.00

# BY DESIGN

THE BRIDE OF CHRIST



Scripture uses many rich metaphors to help us understand what the church is and who we are together. Ephesians 1:23 uses the metaphor of the church as the body reminding us of our need for each other; John 15:1-5 uses the metaphor of the vine and branches reminding us of our dependence on Him; and John 10:1-15 uses the beautiful metaphor of the flock of sheep reminding us we are united under one shepherd. Ephesians 2:19 and 2 Corinthians 6:18 remind us that the church is a family that we have been adopted into by God our Father. We are not just “church friends” but we are actually in covenant relationship with one another forever!

The metaphor we will look at this retreat weekend is that of the Bride of Christ and it is specifically mentioned in Ephesians 5:22-23, 2 Corinthians 11:2 and Revelation 21:2, 9. As we unpack what it means that we, the church, are the Bride of Christ, my prayer is that it will grow us in our love of the Bridegroom and that it will enhance our understanding of the church.

Registration will open on December 17<sup>th</sup> <https://briarwood.org/women-of-the-covenant/in-town-retreat-2/>

The cost is \$45 and includes material, snacks and lunch on Saturday.

Nursery is available on Friday evening with nursery registration. Saturday the Gym will be open for Fathers and children.

## Schedule

### **Friday night, February 6**

**6:30 – 8:30 pm**

#### ***Bridal Expo***

Location: Fellowship Hall

Fun, Dessert, Giveaways

Introduction Session

**10:00 – 11:00 am**

Breakout Sessions

Various Locations

**11:15 – 12:15 pm**

#### ***The Ceremony***

Location: Worship Center

Worship and Large Session

Speaker: Amanda Leon

### **Saturday, February 6**

**8:30 – 9:45 am**

#### ***The Rehearsal***

Location: Worship Center

Fun, Giveaways, & Worship

Session

Worship Leader: Caroline Royal

**12:30 – 1:45 pm**

Lunch & Final Challenge

Location: Fellowship Hall

2026 WINTER/SPRING

# Women's Studies

## MONDAYS

**"GENESIS, PART 2"**  
MICHELE CANTLEY  
A-202 AND ZOOM | 10:00 AM

## TUESDAYS

**"THINKING BIBLICALLY, LIVING COVENANTALLY"**  
MARY ANNE TURNBULL, KRISTIE HARRICK & AMANDA LEÓN  
G-101 | 9:30 AM

**"LET'S CONTINUE TO MEET THE LADIES"**  
CINDY REEDER  
FH-A | 9:30 AM

## WEDNESDAYS

**"IN HIS IMAGE"**  
VARIOUS WOMEN  
G-103 & ZOOM | 6:30 PM

## THURSDAYS

**"SERMON ON THE MOUNT"**  
DONNA EVANS  
G-101 | 9:30 AM

**"HEBREWS, PART 2"**  
YVONNE WELCH  
G-103 | 9:30 AM

REGISTER ONLINE AT [BRIARWOOD.ORG/WOMEN](https://briarwood.org/women).  
Childcare is available for weekday study by reservation only at [briarwood.org/nursery](https://briarwood.org/nursery).

BRIARWOOD WOMEN'S MINISTRY

# MOM 2 MOM

*telling the next generation*



**JANUARY 26, MARCH 9, APRIL 20**

9:30 - 11:30 AM | FELLOWSHIP HALL F

Join us once a month as older moms and younger moms gather around a table for fellowship, refreshments and encouragement.

**For more information and to register, visit:** [briarwood.org/women](http://briarwood.org/women).

**Nursery available** with registration.



# MOMMS PRAYER GROUP

**Monday  
mornings**

**9-10 am  
Prayer Room**

Does your heart yearn for another mom with whom you can pray for your children? In the midst of a sometimes-scary world, God has entrusted us with the precious gift of children. The responsibility can feel daunting! BUT praying with other moms focuses our vision on the Lord and His Word as our source of wisdom, comfort, and instruction. Join us as we pray!

**Beginning January 12**

For more information, contact Linda Smedley at 205.223.8118.  
Nursery available through K-4 with registration.



# WOMEN'S MISSIONARY COFFEE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24  
9:30 - 11:30 A.M.  
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Come enjoy light refreshments, coffee, prayer and a time to  
hear from our visiting missionary ladies!

Nursery reservations required at [briarwood.org/nursery](http://briarwood.org/nursery).  
For more information, go to [briarwood.org/women](http://briarwood.org/women).



# BCS Moms Bible Study

**WEDNESDAYS • 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM**

Alumni House, Upper Campus  
Starting January 14

*Alumni House is open beginning 8:00 am*

## PATHWAY TO PREPARATION

A hands-on workshop on how to rightly  
understand the Word of God.

**REGISTER ONLINE**

[BRIARWOOD.ORG/WOMEN](http://BRIARWOOD.ORG/WOMEN)

Cost \$20 (includes  
materials and  
Saturday Lunch)

## Exciting News from Our Women's Ministry!



### Women's Ministry Leadership Training

MARCH 5-7, 2026

ATLANTA, GA

#### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Vanessa Hawkins

Paula Miles

Kristie Harrick

MUSIC: Lori Sealy

# Clay-Like Calling

God's Glory in our Weakness



women.pcacdm.org/lt-2026

We're thrilled to share that **our very own Kristie Harrick** will be teaching at **CDM's Women's Ministry Leadership Training!**

This annual training is designed for women who **encourage and equip other women in the Church**—whether you're leading a Bible study, serving in your local or presbytery women's ministry, or extending care to women in your congregation. The **Women's Ministry Leadership Training** exists to come alongside you—helping women grow in their faith, leadership, and ability to serve others with grace and wisdom.

Join us in celebrating Kristie as she uses her gifts to bless and equip women across our denomination!

Register [HERE!](https://women.pcacdm.org/lt-2026)



WOMEN'S MINISTRY MISSION TRIP

# *Munich, Germany*

MAY 2-11, 2026

We are continuing our partnership with the PCA Women's Ministry International team to provide continued Women's Ministry Training in Europe.

We will lead a Women's conference at Gospel Church Munich and at Freien Evangelischen Gemeinde in Rosenheim, Germany.

Would you consider supporting our Women's Ministry Team through prayer support and financial support? If you are interested in supporting the team financially, please make checks out to Briarwood Presbyterian Church and in the notes line list the following: Germany Trip 2026.

**All checks need to be turned in to the Women's Ministry Office or to a member of the team: Dana Cox, Kristie Harrick, Amy Lattner, Joy Moore, Linda Smedley and Christian Terrell.**

**REGISTER NOW: T8CW26**

**turn  
your  
eyes**

**SEEING THE SAVIOR  
IN THE PSALMS**

*June 11 - 13, 2026 • Indianapolis, Indiana*

**The Gospel Coalition Women's Conference  
(TGCW26)**

**June 11-13 | Indianapolis, Indiana**

**Registration is open. [Register here.](#)**

# L.O.V.E. MINISTRY



**The LOVE Ministry** is an outreach to Briarwood members who are no longer able to attend regular services at the church due to mobility or health-related issues.

## **Would you consider serving with our LOVE Ministry?**

The LOVE Ministry has two teams. One team arrives early on Monday morning to prepare small vases of flowers into arrangements using the flowers from the Sunday Flower arrangements that were located in the Worship Center and the foyer.

The second team (where we need volunteers) then meets on Monday at the flower room to pick up vases of flowers to deliver to Briarwood members in senior living homes, nursing homes and assisted living homes. We have over 60 members we can visit each week if we have the volunteers.

The goal is to bring light into the lives of Briarwood members and others who are unable to actively participate in the weekly activities of the church. We want to remind them they are still apart of our covenant family and we care for them.

We would love for you to join us in this beautiful outreach. It is a wonderful activity for spouses to do together, small groups, moms with little ones, or even on your own.

For more information, contact or [darby@turningheartsmministries.com](mailto:darby@turningheartsmministries.com).



Want to reach the nations but not quite ready to pack your bags for a mission trip? God is bringing the nations to us! Did you know there are adult learners from 19 different countries coming to Briarwood each week for our ESL classes?

We need volunteers to help us reach them by serving on our hospitality team, teacher team, and transportation team.

We offer ESL classes Tuesday mornings from 10-11:45am and Wednesday nights during Mid-week from 6:30-8pm. Come be a part of this exciting outreach by volunteering with us! You can impact the nations with the gospel of Jesus Christ right here in Birmingham!

Do you enjoy preparing food and using your hospitality gifts? We need 8 ladies to join the Hospitality Team by bringing snacks once a month: either for our Tuesday morning or our Wednesday evening classes.


Do you enjoy meeting new people and building relationships? Our Teacher Team needs additional volunteers to serve weekly as Teacher Helpers in our classes. We have openings for 2 Tuesday morning and 3 Wednesday evening helpers. No preparation needed – just a heart to serve!

Perhaps you enjoy driving around town and would like to provide transportation for students to/from class (as needed). Our Transportation Team would be grateful for your help!

[Click here to volunteer.](#) If you have any questions, please contact our ESL/Friendship Partner Director, Courtney McGregor [cmcgregor@briarwood.org](mailto:cmcgregor@briarwood.org).



# BRIARWOOD



# MINISTRY

## **Welcome Desk Mentor Mom's Needed!**

Thank you to all of the Mentor Moms (seasoned moms, you know who you are) that have served at the Nursery Welcome Desk this year! We are so thankful to the Lord for your willingness to welcome guests, greet members, and encourage young moms. Your warm presence and kind smile make a lasting impact and are vital to the heart of the nursery ministry. If you would like to serve as a Mentor Mom at the Nursery Welcome Desk in 2026, please sign up [here](#). If you have questions, please reach out to [nurseryadmin@briarwood.org](mailto:nurseryadmin@briarwood.org).

# Community Updates

Congratulations to Harrison and Catherine Godwin who welcomed Heidi Catherine Godwin on December 8, 2025.



## Briarwood Women's Care Team



The Briarwood Women's Care Team's primary focus is to serve as advocates for women experiencing significant needs and/or in crisis, and to come alongside the staff and leadership as they minister to women in the congregation in difficult circumstances.

To find out more information, or to request help, visit:

[briarwood.org/women-of-the-covenant/womens-care-team/](https://briarwood.org/women-of-the-covenant/womens-care-team/)