

OUR SEASON OF PRAYER

Briarwood Family, our Elders have called our Church to a special season of prayer during this intermediate phase we are in, as we seek the Lord for an Interim Senior Pastor. In order to pray together as a Church, we have developed weekly prayer opportunities along with daily prayer requests.

Let's join together to commit to pray daily for each other in Our Season of Prayer.

A day-by-day Prayer Guide will be provided to you each week here in the Briarwood Weekly, online at briarwood.org, in the B-Mail weekly email, and on the Briarwood App.

Turn on push-notifications on the Briarwood App to receive each day's prayer as a notification on your mobile device.

For additional information, go to briarwood.org/seasonofprayer.



Briarwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OUR SEASON OF PRAYER

*"Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful
in it with thanksgiving." Colossians 4:2*

Monday, August 14 | Congregation — Glorify God

Our purpose in life is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. Pray that we as a Church will seek the Lord daily in His Word and in prayer in order to glorify Him in our lives. Pray that all we do and say would be according to His Word. *"Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to Your name give glory."* Psalm 115:1

Tuesday, August 15 | Interim Pastor Search — Discernment

Father, please give us discernment in all our thoughts, decisions and actions by Your Holy Spirit from Your Holy Word. *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."* Jeremiah 29:11

Wednesday, August 16 | Leadership — Spirit-Led

Holy Father, for all those You have raised up into positions of leadership in Your church at Briarwood, we ask Your help, that they might keep in step with You throughout this time of transition, following Your lead in all they do and say: *"Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."* Galatians 5:25

Thursday, August 17 | On Mission — Keep on Mission

Let us pray today, as Pastor Reeder often exhorted us, that we as a Church would be committed to being, "On mission, On message, and In ministry." *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* Matthew 28:19-20

Friday, August 18 | Thanksgiving — God's Providence

"There are many things for which we do not know the reason, but for everything we know who has ordained them." (Joel Beeke) *"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose."* Romans 8:28

Saturday, August 19 | Personal — Perseverance in Prayer

Paul admonished the Ephesians to pray, *"...at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints."* Ephesians 6:18 "Perseverance is more than endurance. It is endurance combined with absolute assurance and certainty that what we are looking for is going to happen," (Oswald Chambers)

Sunday, August 20 | Lord's Day Worship

Pray for our Church as we join together to worship our Lord in spirit and truth. Pray for Dr. Richard Phillips as he preaches the Holy Scriptures and for our Worship Team as they lead us in worship. *"But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."* John 4:23-24

Receive each day's prayer as a notification through the Briarwood App.
For additional information, go to briarwood.org/seasonofprayer.

FEATURED EVENTS

Christian Education Convocation — Evening Worship Service | August 13 *

New Briarwood Christian School Superintendent, Mr. Gus Martin, will be our speaker at this year's Convocation Service. A special time of dedication and prayer will be held for all Christian educators and the upcoming school year. Please join us as we encourage and pray for the men and women God has called to this strategic ministry of Christian Education.

Evangelism Interest Dinner — Briarwood Evangelism | August 30 *

Join us for a time to be motivated, challenged and encouraged to "Bring Them to Him" August 30 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Register for dinner and nursery if needed at briarwood.org/evangelism.

MidWeek at Briarwood — Church Wide | September 6–November 8 *

Wednesday night dinners, classes and activities for the entire family. Join us for our dinner in the Fellowship Hall each Wednesday evening from 5:15–6:30 p.m. Classes and activities start at 6:30 p.m. Contact Eric Reebals for more information at ereebals@briarwood.org.

Women's Retreat — Briarwood Women | September 22–24

Ladies, join us for a time of rest, learning and fellowship at our getaway retreat at Shocco Springs! Our speaker will be Lisa Looper, and this year's theme is *Rest*. Find details and register online at briarwood.org/women.

The Lampstand Lancaster Conference — Church Revitalization | September 28–30

Hear from Thomas Hawkes, Sandy Willson, Rob Looper, John Currie, and Bryan Wintersteen at The Lampstand Conference on Church Health and Revitalization at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Lancaster, PA. Details at briarwood.org/lampstand.

* Nursery is available upon reservation at briarwood.org/nursery.
Stay up-to-date with upcoming events on the Briarwood App.

CHURCH RESOURCES

Birmingham Conference on Theology and Life — Sermons & Messages

Audio from previous years' Birmingham Conference on Theology and Life is available for free on the Briarwood App. Previous speakers include Mr. Ken Sande, Dr. Johnathan Gibson, Dr. Sandy Willson, Rev. Ken Jones, Rev. Stephen Brown, Rev. Randy Pope, Dr. Bryan Chapell, Rev. John MacArthur, and Rev. Tim Keller. To access these messages, navigate to "Special Media Archives" on the "Media" tab.

Mobilization Service Day Recap — Ministry Story

July 15, 2023 was a great day serving at Christian Service Mission alongside other Briarwood families, and it was such an encouragement to see parents bringing their children to serve as well. We also had the opportunity to tour the facility and learn more about how CSM connects their resources with the needs of the community. Even though the tasks we completed were simple, it was great to be the hands and feet of Jesus as we served the community of Birmingham. To see photos from this event, go to the "News" tab on the Briarwood App and find the article "Mobilization Service Day Recap."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Roofing Project & Assisted/Valet Parking — August 13. Drop-off for assisted parking will be in front of Fellowship Hall E & F. Young families with children, please consider using parking lot A and entering at the Children's Auditorium.

Our Season of Prayer Meetings — Beginning August 13. Our Church Family will gather each Sunday at 5:15 p.m. in A-105 to pray together as we seek the Lord to lead us during this intermediate phase we are in. Email pclaud@briarwood.org with any questions.

Friendship Partner Orientation — August 15. Friendship Partners connects international college students to American individuals or families. It is a wonderful cultural exchange to be an effective witness for Christ. If you are interested, email cbrown@briarwood.org.

Briarwood Sanctuary Choir — Beginning August 16. Join the Choir each Wednesday in the Choir Room at 6:30 p.m. for practice. For info, go to signupforchoir.com. Contact Penny at pphilley@briarwood.org with any questions.

Briarwood Soccer — Register by August 19. Sign-ups are open for boys and girls ages 5–15 years old. Go to briarwoodsoccer.com or call 205-776-5114.

Become a Briarwood Member — August 23, 26 and 27. All newcomers and prospective members are invited to attend our Briarwood Inquirers Classes. Attending these classes does not obligate you to join. To sign up, email Wendy at wlong@briarwood.org.

Children's Catechism Sunday School Class — Beginning August 27. This nine-month class for 4th–6th graders requires outside work for the student and parents. If your child is interested, email Raleigh Macoy at rmacoy@briarwood.org.

Trailblazers Lunch with James Spann — August 29 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come have lunch and meet with James Spann. Purchase tickets in the Bookstore or online at briarwood.org/trailblazers. Contact sjohnston@briarwood.org with questions.

Youth Wednesday Nights — Beginning August 30. Students meet at 5:30 p.m. at The Barn for dinner. Raiders (7th–8th graders) meet 6:30–8:00 p.m. BYG (9th–12th graders) meet 7:00–8:30 p.m. For more information, contact Kristin Smith at k.smith@briarwood.org.

Women's Fall Studies — Beginning September 5. Women, pick from eight available classes meeting Monday–Thursday. See class topics, teachers, and additional information at briarwood.org/women. Nursery is available upon reservation at briarwood.org/nursery.

Men's Fall Studies — Beginning September 11. Mondays at 6:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, Tuesdays at 11:45 at Cajun Seafood House, and Fridays at 6:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. See class topics, teachers, and additional information at briarwood.org/men.

BTS Fall Semester — September 5–December 15. Birmingham Theological Seminary is offering a wide array of classes this fall. To view the class schedule go to bts.education.

Adult Ballet Classes — September 11–November 15. Briarwood Ballet is offering 10-week sessions of adult classes for novices as well those with dance experience. For information and to sign up, go to briarwood.org/balletclasses.

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

Briarwood Prayer Focus — Pray for revival our nation to grow in Christ.

Birmingham Prayer Focus — Pray for Restoration Academy's teachers, staff and students. Pray for needed resources to come in as they prepare for the new school year, that the needed tutors would volunteer and students will have hearts and minds ready to learn. Visit their website for more information at restorationacademy.org.

Missions Prayer Focus — Pray for Samy and Carol Foucachon with Mission Go in France. Pray for wisdom to find the best way to pursue and develop their ministry, for means to share the Good News of redemption, restoration and transformation, and for the freedom to worship our Lord in Spirit and Truth.

Global Ministry Partners — Pray for Hatem and Lisa with Mission to the World in Cyprus, Peter and Janet Boyd with Grace Presbyterian Church in New Zealand, Tony and Tracy Boyd with One Challenge in Malaysia, and James and Kelly Broadway with Campus Outreach SERVE in South Africa.

National Ministry Partners — Pray for John and Victoria Fluevog with Campus Outreach in Georgia, John and Penny Freeman with Harvest USA in Pennsylvania, Debbie Friley with Navigators in Florida, Tom and Linda Fritz with Cru in Georgia, and the staff of NorthStar Soccer Ministries.

Briarwood Officers and Staff — Pray for elders Neil Clay, Christopher Frost, Bruce Evans; deacons Trey Bragan, Sid Borland, Randy DeRieux; and Nursery Supervisor Alison Craig and husband Todd.

IN THE BRIARWOOD BOOKSTORE

Impossible Christianity

by Kevin DeYoung | Adult Book

Impossible Christianity reassures readers that they don't need to feel a collective sense of guilt for sins in the past and solve every societal problem in the present. Kevin DeYoung challenges the misconception that we need 40 hours in the day just to be good Christians. By reflecting on what Jesus actually taught about Christian discipleship, it encourages us to pursue single-minded devotion to God and find lasting joy in a life of sincere and simple obedience. Cost: \$15

How Can I Feel Closer to God?

by Chris Morpew | Children's Book

Sooner or later, kids ask big questions about themselves and their faith. In this fun and fast-paced book, Chris Morpew shows children how to grow in their relationship with God through the ordinary yet powerful habits of everyday discipleship: prayer, Bible reading, church community, rest, and simplicity. Cost: \$10

All featured books are available to purchase online at briarwood.org/bookstore.

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THIS LORD'S DAY

Sunday Morning Services:

“The Most Important Commandment”

Mark 12:28–31

Dr. Peter Jones

Sunday morning we welcome Dr. Peter Jones back to the Briarwood pulpit. Dr. Peter Jones is Associate Pastor at New Life Presbyterian Church (Escondido, CA), Director of truthXchange, and Scholar in Residence at Westminster Seminary, CA.

Dr. Jones has published numerous books including *Spirit Wars*, *Gospel Truth*, *Pagan Lies: Can You Tell the Difference?*, *The God of Sex: How Worldview Determines Sexuality*; and *Whose Rainbow: God's Gift of Sexuality: A Divine Calling*.

Sunday Evening: Christian Education Convocation Service

We are pleased to have our new Briarwood Christian School Superintendent, Mr. Gus Martin, as this year's speaker. A special time of dedication and prayer will be held for all Christian educators and the upcoming school year.

Please join us as we encourage and pray for the men and women God has called to this strategic ministry of Christian Education.