

August 20, 2023



BRIARWOOD MIDWEEK



FALL/WINTER
SEPTEMBER 6 – NOVEMBER 8, 2023

Sign up for dinners, classes and nursery at:
briarwood.org/midweek



Briarwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OUR SEASON OF PRAYER

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

Monday, August 21 | Congregation — Grieve with Hope

Father, thank you that You are with us, you strengthen us and give us hope in this time of grieving our dear Pastor Reeder's Homegoing. We trust in You and Your sovereign will. *"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."* Isaiah 41:10

Tuesday, August 22 | Interim Pastor Search — Holy Spirit Guidance

Holy Spirit, we ask that you lead the search committee as we seek to discover your will for our Interim Senior Pastor. Give us wisdom and guidance from the Word. *"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."* John 14:26

Wednesday, August 23 | Leadership — Christ-Centered

Father, we pray that you would give wisdom, strength and protection for our Church leadership. Please help them to remain Christ-centered in all they do. *"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."* John 15:5

Thursday, August 24 | On Mission — Discipleship

Pray today that we would be committed to spiritual multiplication through discipleship. Also pray that our members would grow in our unity of the faith, the knowledge of the Son, and in maturity in the things pertaining to Christ. *"And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also."* 2 Timothy 2:2

Friday, August 25 | Thanksgiving — Steadfast Love

Thank God that His love for us never changes. The loyal love of the Lord is always with us. *"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."* Lamentations 3:22-23

Saturday, August 26 | Personal — Fruit of the Spirit

Pray that you would individually exhibit the fruit of the Spirit in how you live and how you love others. *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."* Galatians 5:22-24

Sunday, August 27 | Lord's Day

Pray for our Church family to be encouraged and strengthened in Christ as we come together today to worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness. Pray for Pastor Nate Shurden as he preaches the Word of God to us. *"Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness."* 1 Chronicles 16:29

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

FEATURED EVENTS

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.

IN THE BRIARWOOD BOOKSTORE

The Masculine Mandate: God’s Calling to Men

by Richard D. Phillips | Adult Book

Dr. Phillips cuts through the cultural confusion, highlights God’s mandate for men, and encourages readers to join him on a journey of repentance and renewal. He begins in the Garden of Eden, drawing foundational teaching for men from the earliest chapters of God’s Word. Christian men today need to examine their hearts and embrace their God-given mandate. Only then will they be able to recognize their high calling, and by God’s grace, serve faithfully in whatever context God has placed them. Cost: \$14

(A)Typical Woman: Free, Whole, and Called in Christ

by Abigail Dodds | Adult Book

In a culture that can belittle womanhood on the one hand—making it irrelevant—and glorify it on the other—making it everything—it’s hard to know what it really means to be a woman. But when we understand womanhood through the lens of Scripture, we see that we need a bigger category for what God has called “woman.” This book breathes fresh air into our womanhood, reminding us what life in Christ—as a woman—looks like. When we see that we are women in all we do, we can be at peace with how God has created us, recognizing womanhood as an essential part of Christ’s mission and work. Cost: \$12

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Season of Prayer Meetings — Sunday at 5:15 p.m. in A-105. Our Church Family gathers weekly 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.

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.

Promotion Sunday for grades K4-6th grade — August 27. Check your mailbox the week of August 21 for a postcard with your child's new Sunday School class. Stop by the Ministries Lobby for donuts on Promotion Sunday before or after Sunday School!

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.

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.

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.

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.

GriefShare — Begins September 6 and meets Wednesdays from 6:30–8:00 p.m. in W202. Begin your journey from mourning to joy. Join our 13-week video/small group program that offers comfort and encouragement. Workbook \$20. Call 205-776-5227.

DivorceCare — Begins September 13 and meets Wednesdays from 6:30–8:00 p.m. in W203. Join our 10-week video/small group program that offers comfort and encouragement. For additional information, call 205-776-5281.

Counseling in the Local Church — Class begins September 6 and meets Wednesdays from 6:30–8:30 p.m. in A201. For additional information, call 205-776-5281.

Ladies' Exercise Classes — Weekly classes in M111. Monday/Wednesday/Friday at 8:30–9:30 a.m. for all ages and Monday/Thursday at 9:30–10:30 a.m. for chair assistance. Contact Brenda at brendabparks@gmail.com for information and registration.

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

Briarwood Prayer Focus — Pray for our Interim Pastor Search Committee as they seek God's direction and for our congregation as we join in *Our Season of Prayer*.

Birmingham Prayer Focus — Pray for Urban Hope Development serving the community of Fairfield. Urban Hope Development provides quality enrichment programs designed to bring hope to the community through education and economic development. Pray for needed financial resources and volunteers as they start a new school year. If you'd like to know more, visit UHope Development at urbanhopedevelopment.org.

Missions Prayer Focus — Pray for The Aspire Movement ministry as they prepare for another school year. Pray for current and future mentors as they walk alongside students, encouraging and training them to become leaders guided by Jesus. Pray more individuals would volunteer as their ministry seeks to reach more children with the Gospel.

Global Ministry Partners — Pray for Christopher and Donnette Brock with Mission to the World in France, Ian and Darlene Brubaker with Mission to the World in Malaysia, Sano Buasorn with Campus Outreach SERVE in Thailand, and Kisanna Budai with Cru in Hungary.

National Ministry Partners — Pray for Chris and Kristin Gadsden with Cru in Missouri, Rob and Carla Genin with Young Business Leaders in Alabama, Jennifer and Todd Gerelds with Love Life in Alabama, John and Cindy Gibbons with Fellowship of Christian Athletes in Alabama, and Birmingham Urban Young Life.

Briarwood Officers and Staff — Pray for elders Roy Costner, Steve Gathings, Jim Gewin; deacons JD Bragan, Ernie Brown, Jonathan Drescher; and Worship Pastor John Haines and wife Jenny.

Call to Me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known. Jeremiah 33:3

EMPLOYMENT & JOB OPENINGS

Assistant Church Librarian — Seeking a Briarwood member for a part-time (12-hour) Assistant Church Librarian. Applicant must be detail-oriented, able to work well independently, and have basic computer skills (Word, Excel, Outlook). For more information, contact at churchlibrary@briarwood.org.

CMMA Ministry Assistant — Christian Medical Ministry of Alabama is seeking a full-time administrative and ministry assistant for support of its operational and ministerial programs. Contact Molly at msmith@briarwood.org if interested.

Administrative Assistants & Part-time Staff — There are a number of full and part-time ministry positions open: Board Directed Ministries, Music Worship, Nursery, Special Connections Ministry, Briarwood Christian School and Church Facilities.

See all employment and job openings at briarwood.org/employment.

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THIS LORD'S DAY

Sunday Morning Worship Services:

“Friend of Sinners”

Mark 2:13–17

Dr. Richard D. Phillips

Sunday morning we welcome Dr. Richard D. Phillips back to the Briarwood pulpit.

Dr. Phillips is Senior Minister of the historic Second Presbyterian Church in Greenville, SC. He is the author of forty-five books and frequently speaks at conferences on the Bible and Reformed Theology. He has been the chairman of the Philadelphia Conference on Reformed Theology since 2000 and is series co-editor of the Reformed Expository Commentary series (P&R).

Dr. Phillips was recently the guest speaker at our 2023 Global Ministries Conference.

Sunday Evening Worship:

VIII. Colossians: The Preeminence and Prominence of Jesus Christ

“The Preeminence and Prominence of Jesus Christ Applied”

Colossians 3:15–17

Rev. Jim Alexander

Watch our live-stream on the Briarwood App, Facebook or briarwood.org.

Watch or listen to previous sermons on the Briarwood App.