

September 3, 2023

Women's Fall Studies

Starting September 5 • briarwood.org/women

Join a Women's or Men's Fall Study
starting in September!

○ MEN OF THE COVENANT

MEN'S FALL STUDIES 2023

Starting September 11 • briarwood.org/men.



Briarwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OUR SEASON OF PRAYER

Monday, September 4 | Congregation — Unity in Body

Pray that our Church family would be unified in Christ. We were not created to live the Christian life in isolation, but together as the body of Christ. *"I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment."*

1 Corinthians 1:10

Tuesday, September 5 | Interim Pastor Search — God's Calling

Pray for the Lord to direct us to the man whom He has called to serve as our Interim Senior Pastor, and that the Lord will give him a desire to serve Christ with us at Briarwood. *"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established."*

Proverbs 16:3

Wednesday, September 6 | Leadership — Deacons

We ask for our Diaconate, that these men might mount up with Your strength day after day as they continue serving this Body of Christ faithfully this week and in the months ahead: *"For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus."*

1 Timothy 3:13

Thursday, September 7 | On Mission — Project Andrew

Pray that we would be a Church who are actively sharing the Gospel to bring others to Jesus, especially during our Project Andrew emphasis. *"And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.'" Matthew 4:19*

Friday, September 8 | Thanksgiving — Word of God

Thank you, Lord, for Your written Word which tells us how to live our lives to glorify You. *"A lamp is for night; light shines in the day." (Alexander Maclaren) "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."*

Psalm 119:105

Saturday, September 9 | Personal — Scriptural Disciplines

"The character of a life is not set in two or three dramatic moments but in ten thousand little moments." (Paul David Tripp) Pray for a consistent, God glorifying life, even in seemingly mundane things like eating and drinking. *"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."*

1 Corinthians 10:31

Sunday, September 10 | Lord's Day

Father God, we desire for You to be glorified in our worship of You today. We ask You to speak to us through Dr. Tom Hawkes as he preaches Your Word. Give us an excitement to come together and worship You, with an expectation to hear from You. *"How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. (10) For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness."*

Psalm 84:1-2; 10

Receive each day's prayer as a notification through the Briarwood App.

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

FEATURED EVENTS

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. Find information and register for dinners at briarwood.org/midweek. If you need help finding a class, please contact Eric Reebals at erebals@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*. The registration price includes lodging two nights, three meals on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday morning. Find more details and register online at briarwood.org/women.

WBL Fall Luncheon — Women Business Leaders | October 5

Friday October 5 from 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. at the Vestavia Country Club. Come hear Julie Sparkman share about how you can have “The Impact of Personal Transformation” in your workplace and the world. Find information and purchase tickets at wblbirmingham.org.

Disaster Response Training — Church Mobilization | October 7

Join us Saturday, October 7 from 8:30–11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall to receive training from Mission to North America (MNA) Regional Specialist Mike Kennamer on many ways to get involved in providing comfort to those who are impacted by disaster. Get additional information and register at briarwood.org/disastertraining.

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

IN THE BRIARWOOD BOOKSTORE

Where Is God in All the Suffering?

by Amy Orr-Ewing | Adult Book

Suffering and evil affect us all, both at a general level—as we look at a world filled with injustice, natural disasters, and poverty—and at a personal level—as we experience grief, pain, and unfairness. And how we think about and process the reality of pain is at the heart of why many people reject God. This empathetic and easy-to-read book will help those hoping to answer one of life's biggest questions as well as those who are either suffering personally or comforting others. Price: \$12.

Why Does God Let Bad Things Happen?

by Chris Morpew | Children's Book

Big questions deserve good answers. This warm, reassuring, and fast-paced book looks at what the Bible says to help ages 9 to 13 think through this big question for themselves. It puts the problem of suffering in the context of the Bible's big story, and encourages readers to see that whatever they're facing, Jesus is with them. Lively stories and illustrations make this book easy for this age group to engage with. Price: \$10.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Season of Prayer Meetings — Sundays 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.

Communion Service — Sunday, September 3. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated in the evening service. An alms offering for the Mercy Ministry will be received. Elements are gluten-free.

Church and School Offices Closed — Monday, September 4 for Labor Day.

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 online and in-person classes this fall. To view the class schedule go to bts.education or call 205-776-5650.

GriefShare MidWeek Class — Beginning September 6 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 for more info.

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

Children's Choirs — Beginning September 10. Our Children's Choirs (preschool and elementary age children) meet each Lord's Day evening during the worship hour at 6:00. For more information, please contact Shanna Phillips at 205-222-1062.

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.

DivorceCare MidWeek Class — Beginning September 13 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.

Trailblazers Lunch with Gary Palmer — September 24 at 12:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come have lunch and hear from Gary Palmer. Purchase tickets in the Bookstore or online at briarwood.org/trailblazers. Contact sjohnston@briarwood.org with questions.

Open Play Pickleball — Tuesdays from 6:00–9:00 p.m. in the Church Gym. Free of charge and church members may bring a guest. For information, call 205-776-5237 or visit questrecreation.org.

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

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

Briarwood Prayer Focus — Pray for our interim pastor search and for the protection and wisdom of the committee members.

Birmingham Prayer Focus — Pray for Foundations Early Learning and Family Center in Fairfield. They are in need of weekly volunteers to come play with their students and help them with reading, math and art projects. On October 13, Foundations will host a Fall Festival for the community. Pray and consider volunteering to plan, prep and participate. Visit foundationselfc.org for details.

Missions Prayer Focus — Pray for Bruce and Kathy McClenahan serving with Cru Jesus Film Project. Two years ago Cru leadership divided the world into seven regions. Bruce's team leads the Europe Region strategies for the Jesus Film Project including Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Russia, Armenia, and Israel. Pray for exciting, positive breakthroughs in effectively reaching the hardest places.

Global Ministry Partners — Pray for Tim and Niai Byrd with Campus Outreach SERVE in Zambia, Adam and Michelle Cain with Mission to the World in Honduras, Ray and Michele Call with Mission to the World in Belize, and Chip and Becky Carter with Africa Inland Mission in Kenya.

National Ministry Partners — Pray for Gladys Hillman with Cru at Atlanta University Center; Scotty and Sylvia Hollins with Blueprint, Inc. at the University of Alabama; Buster and Gina Holmes with Cru/Master Media in California; Kyle and Maggie Hooper with Navigators in Virginia; and the staff of Christian Service Mission.

Briarwood Officers and Staff — Pray for elders Dave Giddens, Charlie Hoke, John Goolsby; deacons Joshua Calhoun, David Clark, Erik Futral; and Pastor for Japanese Congregation Kotaro Hamamatsu and wife, Jackie.

CHURCH RESOURCES

Mobilization Opportunity — Do you want to help children that have been rescued from sex trafficking? Blanket Fort Hope is putting on Hold the Fort Races at Oak Mountain State Park on September 16 to benefit child sex trafficking survivors. Visit HoldtheFortRaces.com to register or volunteer to help.

CMMA Field Staff/Male Disciple-maker — This position will assist the Executive Director in building disciples in the medical community. A major part of this job will be discipling male students one-on-one and in small groups. If interested, contact Bobby Parks, bjparks@briarwood.org or 205-612-9969.

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:

“Peace with God”

Romans 5:1–5

Reverend Fred Greco

Reverend Greco is the Sr. Pastor at Christ Church in Katy, Texas. Fred and his wife, Deb, are both originally from the Buffalo, New York area. They have four children: Peter, Daniel, Paul and Abigail; and one dog, Tucker.

Before entering the ministry, Fred studied Law (J.D., University of Michigan Law School) and practiced as a corporate attorney. In 2003, Fred enrolled in seminary at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi. He accepted a call in 2006 to be the Senior Pastor of Christ Church.

Sunday Evening Worship:

X. Colossians: The Preeminence and Prominence of Jesus Christ

“Prayer & Partnership for the Advancement of the Gospel”

Colossians 4:2–18

Saeyoung Park

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

Watch or listen to previous sermons on the Briarwood App.