

September 17, 2023

RAIDERS CALENDAR

SUNDAY EVENTS

Sept 10 - Dec 3

D-Groups @ The Barn
6:00 - 7:15 pm

WEDNESDAY EVENTS

Aug 30 - Nov 29

Raiders @ The Barn
6:30 - 8:00 pm
\$5 Dinner
5:30 - 6:30 pm

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open Barn
Sept 8 | Oct 13
Getaway
Jan 20-21

BYG Calendar

Sunday Events

D-Groups @ The Barn
6:00 - 7:30 pm
Sept 10 - Dec 3

Wednesday Events

BYG @ The Barn | 7:00 - 8:30 pm
Aug 30 - Nov 29
\$5 Dinner | 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Special Events

Sept 15: 5th Quarter
Oct 20: 5th Quarter
Dec 29-Jan 1: Laguna Beach Retreat



Briarwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OUR SEASON OF PRAYER

Monday, September 18 | Congregation — Christ-Centered

Pray that Christ would be preeminent in our congregation that He would be exalted in everything we say and do. *“And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.”* Colossians 1:18

Tuesday, September 19 | Interim Pastor Search — Encouragement

Pray that our Church will be proactive in encouraging our search committee as they seek the Lord for our Interim Pastor. Also, pray that we will all be encouraged, knowing that the Lord already has the man picked out that He has planned to serve as our Interim Pastor. *“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”* 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Wednesday, September 20 | Leadership — Ministry Leaders

Lord Jesus, by Your grace You raised up many effective Gospel ministries through Briarwood. Sustain all who serve as leaders, keeping their hearts and minds focused on exalting Your Holy Name. Advance Your kingdom through these leaders and many others who count it a joy to join them in serving You. *“Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to Your name give glory, for the sake of Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness!”* Psalm 115:1

Thursday, September 21 | On Mission — Global Missions

Let us pray that we will continue our legacy of effective global missions. Pray for God to raise up missionaries for us to send out to the unreached people groups in our world. *“And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”* Matthew 24:14

Friday, September 22 | Thanksgiving — Joy of the Lord

Pray that the joy of the Lord will be our strength. *“The stronghold built by God, and full of God, becomes our stronghold when we find Him to be the treasure hidden in the field and take Him as the treasure of our lives — when we are wakened to see and savor God as our joy. The joy of the Lord is your stronghold.”* (John Piper) *“And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”* Nehemiah 8:10

Saturday, September 23 | Personal — Wisdom

Heavenly Father, Your Word teaches us: *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.”* (James 1:5) Lord, we admit our need for wisdom, and we confess our sinful tendency to think we are wise when our actions prove how foolish we are. Give us Your wisdom and cause it to order our steps, so we might do what is just, love with kindness, and walk humbly.

Sunday, September 24 | Lord’s Day Worship

Lord, we pray that our time of worship today will magnify Your Holy Name. We ask You to bless the preaching of Your Word by Pastor Randy Pope and be with our worship team to lead us to exalt Your name together. *“I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together!”* Psalm 34:1-3

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

FEATURED EVENTS

YBL Breakfast with Jeff Struecker — Young Business Leaders | September 29

Join us for a 6:30 a.m. breakfast at Vestavia Country Club and hear from army ranger Jeff Struecker who became widely known for his part in the Battle of Mogadishu, Somalia, from the movie, *Blackhawk Down*. Register at ybl.org/events.

“In His Presence” — Briarwood Ballet | October 1 *

Come Sunday, October 1 as Briarwood Ballet leads us in worship during the evening service at 6:00 p.m. For additional information, go to briarwood.org/ballet.

WBL Fall Luncheon — Women Business Leaders | October 5

Friday, October 5 at 11:30 a.m. at the Vestavia Country Club. Hear Julie Sparkman share about “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

The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert: Expanded Edition

by Rosaria Butterfield | Adult Book

Rosaria, by the standards of many, was living a very good life. She had a tenured position at a large university in a field for which she cared deeply. Then, in her late 30s, Rosaria encountered something that turned her world upside down—the idea that Christianity, a religion that she had regarded as problematic and sometimes downright damaging, might be right about who God is, an idea that flew in the face of the people and causes that she most loved. What follows is a story of what she describes as a “train wreck” at the hand of the supernatural. These are her secret thoughts about those events, written as only a reflective English professor could. Price: \$14

Five Lies of Our Anti-Christian Age

by Rosaria Butterfield | Adult Book

In Rosaria Butterfield’s newest powerful book, she uses Scripture to confront five common lies about sexuality, faith, feminism, gender roles, and modesty that are often promoted in our secular culture today. Written in the style of a memoir, this book explores Butterfield’s personal battle with these lies—interwoven with cultural studies, literary criticism, and theology—to help readers see the beauty in biblical womanhood, marriage, and motherhood. Price: \$22

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Trailblazers Coffee and Learn — October 17 at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come hear registered dietitian Amanda Bronner share about “Heart Healthy Eating.” Contact sjohnston@briarwood.org with questions.

Sacrament of Baptism — Infant Baptism is offered in our Sunday morning services. Contact Marie Gathings at 205-776-5204 or mgathings@briarwood.org for available dates. If you're interested in a “New Believer” baptism, contact Wendy Long at 205-776-5208.

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.

Women's Fall Studies — 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 — Mondays at 6:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, Tuesdays at 11:45 a.m. 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.

MidWeek at Briarwood — Wednesday night dinners, classes and activities for the entire family. Dinner is from 5:15–6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Classes and activities start at 6:30 p.m. Register for dinners and nursery at briarwood.org/midweek.

DivorceCare MidWeek Class — Wednesdays from 6:30–8:00 p.m. in W204. Join our 10-week video/small group program that offers comfort and encouragement. For additional information, call 205-776-5281.

GriefShare MidWeek Class — Wednesdays from 6:30–8:00 p.m. in W203. 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.

Thrift Store Volunteers Needed — New Direction Thrift Store in Fairfield is open for business and seeking volunteers. Store hours are Tuesday–Friday from 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Call store manager Alan Russell at 205-915-7095 to get involved.

Preschool Sunday School Teacher Needed — The young 2's class is in need of a teacher. All materials provided, just bring your love of toddlers and the teaching of God's Word. Contact Alison Craig at acraig@briarwood.org.

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.

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

Briarwood Prayer Focus — Pray for the families who lost loved ones years ago on September 11. Pray for the protection of God's people in ministry throughout the world.

Birmingham Prayer Focus — Pray for WellHouse, a ministry providing opportunities for restoration to female victims of human trafficking through its emergency, short, and long-term care programs. Pray and consider volunteering to assist WellHouse's staff as they minister to hurting women and children. Visit their website at the-wellhouse.org.

Missions Prayer Focus — Pray for Tim and Barbie Kusserow who serve with SIM in Niger. A military coup has deposed Niger's democratic president causing much violence and unrest. Pray for wisdom and protection for SIM staff. Pray for the people of Niger, for God to use the situation for good, for emboldened believers and for many to turn to Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Global Ministry Partners — Pray for Ben and Kim Church with Mission to the World in Uganda, John and Kathy Clow with Mission to the World in Honduras, Michael and Maegan Cody with Campus Outreach SERVE in South Africa, and Ben and Cindy Cohen with Globeworks International Ministries serving globally.

National Ministry Partners — Pray for Peter and Rebecca Jones with TruthXchange in California, Ben and Melanie Kappers with All Saints Reformed Church in Utah, Fred and Jean Klett with CHAIM in Pennsylvania, Christopher and Rebecca Knaebel with Mission to North America in Florida and the staff of Grace House Ministries.

Briarwood Officers and Staff — Pray for elders Carter Harsh, Dave Mace, Josh Jones; deacons Ed Corcoran, Mike Felton, David Graham; and Families Pastor Jay Shaw and wife, Allison.

CHURCH RESOURCES

Mobilization Opportunity — Want to be a part of a growing group of professionals who have a heart for child survivors of human trafficking? Blanket Fort Hope is looking for Junior Board members. Learn more at blanketforhope.org/junior-board.

CMMA Field Staff/Male Disciple-maker — This position will assist the Executive Director in building disciples in the medical community and assist in weekly and annual activities. 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.

Facilities Set-Up Assistant — Full-time individual needed for 2nd shift facilities assisting in room set up/break down. Contact Dale Keller at dkeller@briarwood.org.

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:

“How Jesus Rose to Call You to Follow Him”

John 21:15–19

Dr. Murray W. Lee

Mission to North America, Executive Coordinator

Dr. Lee is a lifelong resident of Birmingham, a graduate of Samford University, and served as Senior Pastor of Cahaba Park Church PCA until 2022. Murray was a member of the MNA Permanent Committee (2013–2022) and served as its chairman from 2021–2022. He was elected Moderator of Evangel Presbytery (2020–2021), was Evangel Presbytery MNA Committee Chairman (2016–2022), and assisted in establishing the Alabama Church Planting Network. Dr. Lee and his wife Kim have been married 20 years and have three children.

Sunday Evening Worship:

Philippians: *Rejoicing in the Advancement of the Gospel*

“Rejoicing in Gospel Partnership”

Philippians 1:1–11

Stephen King

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

Watch or listen to previous sermons on the Briarwood App.