

October 15, 2023



NATIONAL MINISTRIES CONFERENCE 2023

BRING HIM TO THEM

BIRMINGHAM - ALABAMA - THE NATION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

8:00 A.M. Nursery Opens*
9:00 A.M. IMPACT Birmingham*
11:45 A.M. Lunch and Debrief at Briarwood

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

8:00 A.M. Early Morning Worship*
9:30 A.M. Congregational Communities
Ministry Partners share in Sunday School classes
10:55 A.M. Late Morning Worship*
6:00 P.M. Evening Worship*
6:00 P.M. SHINE Children's Conference*
6:45 P.M. Ministry Partner Glimpses*
7:20 P.M. Dessert and Displays

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23

5:15 P.M. Dinner
6:30 P.M. Nursery Opens*
6:30 P.M. Evening Worship*
6:30 P.M. SHINE Children's Conference*
7:10 P.M. Ministry Partner Glimpses*
7:50 P.M. Dessert and Displays

*** Nursery available. Reservations are required:
briarwood.org/nursery**

For more information, go to briarwood.org/nmc.



Briarwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OUR SEASON OF PRAYER

Monday, October 16 | Congregation — Celebrate God's Faithfulness

Father God, we thank You for Your Faithfulness. Thank You for calling us, saving us, and making us Your sons and daughters. You are faithful in all Your ways. We trust You today, for You are our Faithful God. *"God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."* 1 Corinthians 1:9.

Tuesday, October 17 | Interim Pastor Search — Trust in God's Timing

Thank You, Lord, for Your perfect timing, which is much better than our timing. We know that Your plans for us are far greater than we could ever imagine. Please help us to trust You and to have faith as we wait for our prayers to be answered. Great is Thy faithfulness. *"But for you, O LORD, do I wait; it is you, O LORD my God, who will answer."* Psalm 38:15

Wednesday, October 18 | Leadership — Elders and Deacons

Lord Jesus, thank You for the gift of Godly leaders in our Church who *"are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account."* Enable us to serve under their leadership in such a way that they might lead us *"with joy and not with groaning,"* (Hebrews 13:17) so that, in all things, You might be glorified.

Thursday, October 19 | Thanksgiving — God's Promises

Our Father, we thank You for Your faithfulness and for all Your promises You have for us in the Bible. It has been said there are over 8,000 promises in the Bible. We praise You for the great promise for all who place their faith and trust in our Savior Jesus Christ, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."* John 3:16

Friday, October 20 | Personal — Seek First the Kingdom of God

Father, help us to seek Your kingdom and Your righteousness as a first priority, while we trust You to provide. *"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."* Matthew 6:33

Saturday, October 21 | On Mission — National Missions Conference

Lord, thank You for Your Gospel of grace in Christ our Lord. We pray You will bless our National Missions Conference this week. Use us today as we participate in Impact Birmingham by sharing Your Good News with Gospel words and deeds in our city. *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."* Romans 1:16

Sunday, October 22 | Lord's Day Worship

Lord, we come together today to bless Your Holy Name! Please give us Your heart for the people of our Nation. Give us boldness to share the Gospel of Christ and to *"Bring Him to Them."* Speak to us today through the preaching of Dr. Eric Watkins. *"Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods."* Psalms 96:2-4

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

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

FEATURED EVENTS

IMPACT Birmingham — Church Mobilization | October 21 *

Come Saturday, October 21 from 9:00–11:30 a.m. as we kick-off our 2023 National Ministries Conference with IMPACT Birmingham. We are trusting the Lord that over 500 Briarwood members will volunteer to be mobilized in the Birmingham area. View the available service projects and sign up at briarwood.org/impactbirmingham.

National Ministries Conference 2023 — Briarwood Missions | October 21–23 *

Join us Sunday, October 22 and Monday, October 23 to hear our guest speaker Dr. Eric Watkins from San Marcos, California, and from various ministry partners during the Sunday School hour and breakout sessions on Sunday and Monday night. For details on the conference, go to briarwood.org/nmc.

Reformation Sunday — Worship Services | October 29

Celebrate the tradition that grounds our Presbyterian faith. This Sunday marks when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany in 1517.

EMC Convocation Sunday — Every Member Commitment | October 29

Join us Sunday, October 29 at 9:30 a.m. for a joint Sunday School for all adults. The Every Member Commitment is an annual event that allows church members to declare their support for the work of the Lord. EMC pledge cards can be turned in the following Sunday, November 5. For additional information, go to briarwood.org/emc.

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

IN THE BRIARWOOD BOOKSTORE

***I'm Praying for You: 40 Days of Praying the Bible for Someone Who Is Suffering* by Nancy Guthrie | Adult Book**

When we hear that a friend is struggling, it can be easy to say, “I’m praying for you,” but harder to know what to actually pray. Through forty carefully chosen Scripture passages, Nancy opens up the wealth of Scripture to teach us how to pray for those who are hurting. She shows us how the Bible provides a vocabulary for prayer that enables us to ask God to achieve what He intends in and through suffering. The book illustrates how God’s purposes are revealed even in our darkest days and encourages us to pray for His will to be done in difficult situations. Price: \$10

***I See Jesus* by Nancy Guthrie | Children’s Book**

The Old Testament is full of shadows. And when we look at these shadows, we can see something that looks a lot like Jesus. In this beautifully illustrated book, Nancy helps children and adults spot the shadows of Jesus on every page of the Bible. Through Bible stories, familiar and unfamiliar, children will discover Jesus as God’s Lamb, the Lion of Judah, Savior of the World, and so much more. Price: \$10

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 to sign up or for questions.

Working Women’s Dinner — October 17 from 6:00–7:30 p.m. You are invited to join us for dinner and an evening of fellowship, engagement and encouragement from those with shared experiences. Register at briarwood.org/women.

Operation Christmas Child Boxes — Start collecting your items for the Operation Christmas Child boxes. Pack a shoe box with small toys, hygiene items, and prayers to touch a needy child’s life with the love of Jesus! Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes will be available in the ministries lobby beginning October 29.

YBL Annual Golf Tournament — November 6 at 9:30 a.m.–4:30 pm. at Inverness Country Club. Registration and warm up begins at 9:30 a.m. Coffee, pastries and lunch will be provided. Find more information at ybl.org/events.

Trailblazer OCC Packing Party — Tuesday, November 7 at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. You can drop donations at the Membership Office or bring them with you to the Trailblazer Packing Party. Email sjohnston@briarwood.org for information.

“Without Ceasing” Briarwood Ballet — Thursday, November 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Worship Center. Come for an evening of worship with Immanuel performing group as we focus our hearts on God’s way of speaking to us, through His Word, and our way of speaking to Him, through prayer. More information at briarwood.org/ballet.

Christmas at the Caroline House “Portraits of Hope” — Tuesday, November 14 and Wednesday, November 15 at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Hear the gospel, see the beauty and enjoy fellowship as you prepare your heart for Christmas. Tickets at briarwood.org/cch.

“I Cared Enough” Thanksgiving Meal — November 21. Donate and help distribute food to the needy in downtown Birmingham with Daniel Cason KIDS Ministry. For information contact Daniel Cason at 205-365-1800 or go to danielcason.org.

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.

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

Briarwood Prayer Focus — Pray that the Lord would call 500 Briarwood members to participate in IMPACT Birmingham to serve our area ministry partners.

Birmingham Prayer Focus — Pray for Local Missions and Mobilization as we prepare for IMPACT Birmingham on October 21. Pray for guidance as all the details for each service project comes together. Pray about where you can have an IMPACT and sign up at briarwood.org/impactbirmingham.

Missions Prayer Focus — Praise the Lord for a blessed Lampstand Conference at Westminster PCA in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, on September 28–30. Just under 60 pastors, elders, and church leaders were encouraged through our teaching team, which included Drs. Sandy Willson, John Currie, and Tom Hawkes. Pray for all who attended as they faithfully pursue God's leading for the health of their churches.

Global Ministry Partners — Pray for Steve and Lindsay Discher with Campus Outreach SERVE in the Philippines, Ngwane and Ncamile Dlamini with The Evangelical Alliance Mission in Eswatini, Jeff and Amy Dowdy with Campus Outreach SERVE in Brazil, and Chris and Cary Drinkard with Campus Outreach SERVE in the Philippines.

National Ministry Partners — Pray for Jose and Anna Portillo with Vive Charlotte Church in North Carolina, Neil and Leandra Quinn with Good Shepherd Church in Michigan, Paul and Peggy Reynoso with Navigators in California, Brandon and Katrina Robbins with Birmingham Theological Seminary in Alabama, and the staff of The Aspire Movement.

Briarwood Officers and Staff — Pray for elders Sam Mooney, Mac Morson, John Phillips; deacons Gary Durbin, Kevin Lott, Tommy Lyles; and Young Couples Pastor Stephen King and wife, Kate.

CHURCH RESOURCES

Mobilization Opportunity — Want to make an IMPACT? Sign up to serve at Big Oak Ranch, Christian Service Mission, Grace House, Grace Klein Community, Hearts in Hands, Restoration Academy, Sav-a-Life, Urban Hope Development or WellHouse on October 21. Go to briarwood.org/impactbirmingham to learn more and sign up!

Senior High Ministry Director — Full-time position to oversee the Senior High Ministry through shepherding/discipling high school students, programming, equipping volunteers, assisting parents, and development of youth staff team. Contact k.smith@briarwood.org for more information.

Administrative Assistants & Part-time Staff — There are a number of full and part-time ministry positions open: Church Library, Children's and Graduate and Career, 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:

“Crisis Mode”

I Peter 4:1–6

Pastor Randy Thompson

Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Tuscumbia, Alabama

Born and reared in the Kanawha Valley of West Virginia, Randy Thompson holds a B. S. from Virginia Tech, a M.Div. from Covenant Theological Seminary, and a D. Min. from Westminster Seminary in California. He was the church planter and then pastor of Evangelical Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Cape Coral, Florida in 1980 and served there until 1995. He has also served as pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Greenwood, Mississippi. In 2002 he became the pastor of First Presbyterian.

He and his wife Cathy, have four grown children and eight grandchildren.

Sunday Evening Worship:

IV. Philippians: *Rejoicing in the Advancement of the Gospel*

“Sanctification: A Life of Keeping in Step with the Lord”

Philippians 2:12–30

Michael Wichlan

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

Watch or listen to previous sermons on the Briarwood App.