



# *Briarwood*

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*For God's glory, we are committed  
to equipping Christians to worship God  
and to reach Birmingham  
to reach the world  
for Christ.*

BRIARWOOD.ORG

# CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

National Ministries Conference – Sunday, October 22, 2023

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## Worship Leaders

Mr. Bruce Stallings, Executive Pastor  
Dr. John Haines, Worship Pastor

Mr. Hunter Goff, Organist  
Rev. Daniel Cason, Pianist

## THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*...in the great assembly I will bless the LORD. Psalm 26:12*

## Call to Worship & Preparation from the Psalms

Psalm 47:5–6

Leader: *God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.*

All: Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!  
For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.

## Prelude & Time of Meditation & Confession

*"For the Beauty of the Earth"*  
Briarwood String Quartet

*Our Great God, Sovereign King of the Universe, creator of all that is, we come before You today humbled that You have deigned to condescend to us, to love us with an everlasting love, and to redeem us from our sin and ourselves through the blood of Your perfect and spotless Son, Jesus Christ. As we come into this time of worship, we recognize that we do so upon Your invitation and upon our great need to give ourselves completely to You. During this hour and every hour of every day, we surrender our wills to You and live as "living sacrifices, holy and acceptable unto You, which is our reasonable service of worship." Hear us now as we confess our sins to You and prepare to worship You with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.*

## Choral Introit

*"Gracious Spirit Dwell With Me"*  
Sanctuary Choir and Ensemble (8:00)

*"Rejoice"*  
Children's Choirs (10:55)

## Invocation

## Gospel Word of Salvation

## Greeting of Grace & Peace\*

## Hymn of Ascents\*

*"We Come, O Christ, to You"* Hymn 117

## The Confession of Truth\*

Acts 1:8

All: But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you,  
and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria,  
and to the end of the earth.

## National Ministries Partners

## Testimony of Kingdom Ministry

## THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

*...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication  
with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6*

### Ministry Opportunities for Prayer

### Pastoral Prayer of Intercession

## THE ADORATION OF GOD'S GLORY

*Let the heavens praise Your wonders, O LORD,  
Your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones! Psalm 89:5*

### Presentation & Consecration of God's Tithe & Our Offerings

### Psalms, Hymns, & Spiritual Songs

*"It Was Finished Upon that Cross"*  
Hannah Brennan, Worship Associate

## THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*Blessed are You, O LORD; teach me Your statutes! Psalm 119:12*

### Prayer of Illumination\*

### New Testament Reading\*†

John 4

### Exposition of God's Word

Dr. Eric Watkins

2023 National Ministries Conference

*Bring Him to Them*

"God's Mission – Bringing the Lost to Jesus"

John 4

## THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*...to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations,  
forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:21*

### Pastoral Benediction\*

### Congregational Affirmation\*

*"To God Be the Glory"* Hymn 66

### Postlude

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\*The congregation is requested to stand, if able.

†K4–3rd grade dismiss to the Children's Auditorium for Children's Worship.

Following the 8:00 service, Children's Worship participants will be escorted to their Sunday School rooms.

Following the 10:55 service, please pick up K4–3rd grade children in the Children's Auditorium.

A Prayer Team is available following both morning services just to the right of the pulpit platform.

The 8:00 a.m. service is also "signed" each week in the Worship Center.

Sunday morning services are broadcast live on WLJR 88.5 FM.

The 8:00 and 10:55 a.m. services are available online at [briarwood.org/livestream](http://briarwood.org/livestream).

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Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, English Standard Version.

# FELLOWSHIP OF WORSHIP

National Ministries Conference – 6:00 p.m.

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**Prelude**

**Welcome**

Rob Looper

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

Philippians 2:9–11

Leader: *God has highly exalted (Jesus) and bestowed on Him the Name that is above every name, So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

**Prayer of Invocation**

**Hymn of Praise\***

*“Rise Up, O Church of God”* Hymn 293

**Testimony of Kingdom Ministry**

**Scripture & Sermon**

Dr. Eric Watkins

2023 National Ministries Conference

*Bring Him to Them*

*“Father to the Fatherless”*

Mark 12:38–44

**National Ministry Glimpses (6:45–7:15 p.m.)**

**Dessert and Displays (7:20 p.m.)**

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## WELCOME TO BRIARWOOD

We’re delighted you are worshiping with us today. The entire Briarwood family is eager to greet you, answer any questions you may have, and minister to you in any way. After the service, please stop by the Foyer so that we may offer you a small gift to acknowledge your presence with us. We pray that this morning’s worship will be all about Him and not about us and that it will draw you close to the Lord of the universe.

– The Briarwood Church Family

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Operation Christmas Child Boxes** — Beginning Sunday, October 29. Pack a shoe box with small toys, hygiene items, and prayers to touch a needy child's life with the love of Jesus! Shoe boxes will be available in the Ministries Lobby.

**YBL Annual Golf Tournament** — Monday, November 6 from 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. at Inverness Country Club. Registration and warmup begins at 9:30 a.m. Coffee, pastries, and lunch will be provided. Find more information at [ybl.org/events](http://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](mailto:sjohnston@briarwood.org) for information.

**“Without Ceasing” Briarwood Ballet** — Thursday, November 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Worship Center. Come worship with Immanuel performing group to focus your heart on God's way of speaking to us. More information at [briarwood.org/ballet](http://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](http://briarwood.org/cch).

**“I Cared Enough” Thanksgiving Meal** — Tuesday, 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](http://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. Email [pclaud@briarwood.org](mailto:pclaud@briarwood.org) with any questions.

**Women's Fall Studies** — Monday–Thursday each week. Women, pick from eight available classes. See class topics, teachers, and information at [briarwood.org/women](http://briarwood.org/women). Nursery is available upon reservation at [briarwood.org/nursery](http://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](http://briarwood.org/men).

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study** — Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in A105. Come study the book of Matthew each week with teacher Dave Matthews. Call 205-873-1989 for details.

**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](http://briarwood.org/midweek).

**Men's Prayer Group** — Saturdays at 7:00 a.m. in the Mountain View House. Men, join us for a weekly prayer and a time of fellowship. Contact Dave Matthews at 205-873-1989 for more information.

**Worship Center Flowers** — The flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Lynn McCurdy from her funeral on Monday, October 16.



## FEATURED EVENTS

### **National Ministries Conference 2023 — Briarwood Missions | October 22–23 \***

Join us today and tomorrow to hear guest speaker Dr. Eric Watkins from San Marcos, California, and various ministry partners during Sunday School and breakout sessions on Sunday and Monday nights. For conference details, go to [briarwood.org/nmc](http://briarwood.org/nmc).

### **Reformation Sunday — Worship Services | October 29**

Celebrate the tradition that grounds our Presbyterian faith. Reformation Sunday marks when Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany, in 1517. Morning services will feature a bagpipe processional and recessional.

### **EMC Convocation Sunday — Every Member Commitment | October 29**

Join us Sunday, October 29 at 9:30 a.m. in the Worship Center 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. For information on the tithe or on how you can make your pledge, go to [briarwood.org/emc](http://briarwood.org/emc).

### **EMC Pledge Sunday — Every Member Commitment | November 5**

This is the day for members to turn in their commitment cards for 2023. Pledge cards can be submitted in person during Sunday Worship, through the mail to the Accounting Office or online at [briarwood.org/emc](http://briarwood.org/emc).

\* Nursery is available upon reservation at [briarwood.org/nursery](http://briarwood.org/nursery).  
Stay up-to-date with upcoming events on the Briarwood App.

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## PRAYERS & CHURCH FAMILY

Praise the Lord! *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.* Psalm 23:1

**Briarwood Prayer Focus** — Pray the Lord would motivate all of us to get more involved with our local ministry partners as they seek to impact our city for Christ.

**Missions Prayer Focus** — Pray that the National Ministries Conference will be a light and encouragement to all who attend and hear our missionaries speak. Pray for our missionaries who have taken time to attend and for a smooth continuation of the conference as it wraps up Monday evening.

**Hospitalized** — Bill Beacham, Richard Gallo, Charles Gipson, Richard Stracner

**Our love and sympathy** — to Debbie, Jared and Drew Plyler on the death of their father and grandfather, John Melvin Sandy, on October 14; to Jan Parks and family on the death of her brother, David Bugg, on October 15; and to the family of member, Ethel Hoff, on her death on October 17.

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