

October 22, 2023

EVERY MEMBER COMMITMENT 2024

# BRING ALL TO HIM

Convocation Sunday, October 29

## Giving Without Fear

I recently saw this title to a sermon preached by John Piper. It was a reminder of how the call to give can cause us to fear. There is much in our country today that leads to anxiety, especially when it comes to giving. The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Philippi, *“Be anxious for nothing.”* How is it possible for us not to be anxious about giving given today’s environment?

First, remember that we are God’s. He is our Father and as our Father, He has taken the responsibility to care for all our needs. *“The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want”* (Psalm 23). There is promised peace in that fact.

Second, God calls us to be responsible stewards of all He has given us. The EMC is a challenge for us to evaluate where our money is being used. We often fear not having something instead of being satisfied with what God has provided. The easier it is for us to live to meet our needs instead of our wants, the less anxiety we feel.

Finally, God’s call of faith in Him is a call to trust Him in all things. The song “Oceans” may capture this thought,

*“Your grace abounds in deepest waters, your sovereign hand will be my guide.  
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me, you’ve never failed and you won’t start now.”*

It is in the faithfulness of God’s provision we can freely give.

Mike Felton  
Stewardship Education Committee



*Briarwood*  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# OUR SEASON OF PRAYER

## **Monday, October 23 | Congregation — National Ministries Conference**

Lord Jesus, thank You for giving us Your Holy Spirit and the spiritual power to be Your witnesses in Birmingham, Alabama, the United States of America, and the world. *“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.”* Acts 1:8

## **Tuesday, October 24 | Interim Pastor Search — Perseverance**

Perseverance is the strength to accomplish Your mission even when it can be discouraging. Perseverance is sticking with things. It means being hardworking and finishing what is started, despite barriers and obstacles that arise. Father, help us to encourage one another as we persevere in steadfastness and seek You to provide our Interim Senior Pastor. *“Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!”* 1 Chronicles 16:11

## **Wednesday, October 25 | Leadership — Sunday School Teachers**

Heavenly Father, we pray for our Sunday School teachers – whether they are teaching our adult classes, our youth, or our children. We ask You to fill them with Your steadfast love and keep them faithful to Your Word. *“A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.”* Luke 6:40

## **Thursday, October 26 | On Mission — Vision**

Lord, it is our desire to follow You faithfully and obey Your will. Continue to reveal Your perfect will as we *“commit our way to the LORD, trusting in Him, knowing He will act.”* Psalm 37:5

## **Friday, October 27 | Thanksgiving — In Everything**

Father, help us to learn the importance of giving thanks in everything. Our thanksgiving is a testimony to Your providence and sovereignty. Often, we are unsure in the midst of our circumstances, but we are thankful we can be sure that You are working everything for our good. Help us give thanks in all our circumstances! *“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”* 1 Thessalonians 5:18

## **Saturday, October 28 | Personal — Walk in Holiness**

Father, empower us to be holy. Help us to put specific sins to death and to live according to Your holy will. *“As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’”* 1 Peter 1:14–16

## **Sunday, October 29 | Lord’s Day Worship**

We praise you Lord for Your glorious work through Godly leaders in ages past who stood firm on Your Holy Scriptures. We extol You and rejoice in Christ on this Reformation Day. Please cause the fire of the Gospel of Christ to burn bright in us through the preaching of Your Word by Dr. Stafford Carson. *“Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!”* Psalms 117:1–2

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

For additional information, go to [briarwood.org/seasonofprayer](http://briarwood.org/seasonofprayer).

## FEATURED EVENTS

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

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 nights. For details on the conference, 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.

### **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 additional information, 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. The Every Member Commitment provides the opportunity for members to indicate their intended level of giving to the Lord's work for the next year. For details, go to [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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## IN THE BRIARWOOD BOOKSTORE

### ***God Shines Forth: How the Nature of God Shapes and Drives the Mission of the Church***

**By Daniel Hames & Michael Reeves | Adult Book**

Evangelism and missions are parts of the Christian life often accompanied by fears, insecurities, and cultural pressures. Hames and Reeves argue that an individual's relationship with God influences their evangelism and missions more than anything else. Scripture clearly shows that a believer's responsibility is to make God known in the world, but this cannot be done without first knowing and enjoying God. They address biblical themes such as the glory of God, Christ's sacrifice, the fallenness of man, and the Church's future hope. There is hope for those who find these topics intimidating—when believers focus on the glory of the lamb of God, the gospel will shine through them. Price: \$12

### ***Mission Possible Young Reader's Edition: Go Create a Life That Counts***

**By Tim Tebow | Children's Book (Ages 10 & Up)**

Do you struggle with self-defeating thoughts? If so, you're not alone. The Enemy wants you to believe you're here by accident or have nothing to offer. But that's a lie. God has a special plan and purpose for your life. Through your interests, talents, and faith, you can make a positive difference in the world right where you are...right now! Part of the fun is discovering your mission-driven superpowers. With His help, you can bring light to a world that has grown dark. Having a clear impression of your God-given significance provides a sense of purpose that turns an ordinary life into an extraordinary one. Price: \$13

Featured books are available to purchase online at [briarwood.org/bookstore](http://briarwood.org/bookstore).

# 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** — 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 for an evening of worship with Immanuel performing group as we focus our hearts 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** — Women, pick from eight available classes meeting Monday–Thursday. See class topics, teachers, and additional 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. For further information, contact Dave at 205-873-1989.

**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** — Men, join us at 7:00 a.m. each Saturday for a weekly prayer and fellowship time at the Mountain View House. Contact Dave Matthews at 205-873-1989 for more information.

# WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

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

**Birmingham Prayer Focus** — Pray for the many Briarwood members who will participate in our local service project IMPACT Birmingham on Saturday, October 21. We will bring much needed encouragement, help, and care to our ministry partners.

**Missions Prayer Focus** — Pray that the National Ministries Conference will be a light and encouragement to all those 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.

**Global Ministry Partners** — Pray for Maged with UFM Worldwide in France; Jon and Tathiana Elam with Campus Outreach SERVE in Brazil; Ed and Silvia Emsheimer with Ethnos 360 in Brazil; and Sumya and Undrakh Enkhtaivan with Cru in Mongolia.

**National Ministry Partners** — Pray for Tyler and Courtney Rollason with Campus Outreach in Georgia; Dan and Peggy Ruppel with Mastermedia in California; Vicky Samaritano with Cru in New York; Matthew and Erica Schmidt with Engage 360 Ministries, Inc. in North Carolina; and the staff of Birmingham Urban Young Life.

**Briarwood Officers and Staff** — Pray for elders Loring Muir, Bob Roark, Chuck Powell; deacons Eric Evans, Steve Mace, David Marshall; and Director of Campus Outreach Olan Stubbs and wife, Lynna.

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## CHURCH RESOURCES

**Sermon Series Archive: “Crisis and the Christian”** — This 7-part sermon series preached by Pastor Reeder in 2020 focuses on the Biblical response from Christians when faced with adversity and crisis. Examples from Scripture include Daniel (Daniel 1 & 3), Nehemiah (Nehemiah 1), Joseph (Genesis 50:15–21), Joshua (Joshua 5:13–15), and Jesus Christ (Luke 13:1–5). Listen to past sermon series on the Briarwood App. On the “Media” tab, choose “Sermons & Services”, and then “Sermon Series Archive.”

**Mobilization Opportunity: IMPACT Birmingham** — Are you volunteering to help others in our community? Do you need a place to IMPACT Birmingham with the Gospel? Briarwood has numerous ministry partners in our local area who need people to volunteer faithfully and share the hope of Jesus. Email [localmissions@briarwood.org](mailto:localmissions@briarwood.org) for more information on where to serve.

**Job Opening: 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](mailto:k.smith@briarwood.org) for more information.

See all employment and job openings at [briarwood.org/employment](http://briarwood.org/employment).

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## THIS LORD'S DAY

### **Sunday Morning Worship Services:**

**2023 National Ministries Conference: Bring Him to Them**

“God’s Mission – Bringing the Lost to Jesus”

John 4

Dr. Eric Watkins

Dr. Eric Watkins is the pastor of Harvest Orthodox Presbyterian Church in San Marcos, California, and was recently appointed the part-time Director for the Center for Missions and Evangelism at Mid-America Reformed Seminary. He has been a minister in the OPC since 2001 and has planted two churches. Dr. Watkins is happily married to Heather; the two of them have four beautiful, adopted children. His pastimes include surfing, beach volleyball, and playing guitar.

### **Sunday Evening Worship:**

**2023 National Ministries Conference: Bring Him to Them**

“Father to the Fatherless”

Mark 12:38–44

Dr. Eric Watkins

Watch our live-stream on the Briarwood App, Facebook or [briarwood.org](http://briarwood.org).  
Watch or listen to previous sermons on the Briarwood App.