

October 29, 2023

EVERY MEMBER COMMITMENT 2024

# BRING ALL TO HIM

Pledge Sunday, November 5

As I reflect on what it means to Bring All to Him, I am reminded of the poor widow in Luke 21 who puts all she has into the offering box. Although her gift was a mere penny, Jesus knew that she gave from a willing and cheerful heart. This has always been a convicting passage for me personally. If God asked me to give everything I have, would I eagerly give with a cheerful spirit?

When I first became a Deacon, my wife and I struggled with the time commitment it would take to effectively serve the church in that manner with two young children at home. There would be evenings when I would be gone at meetings. There would be Sundays when I would have to be at church early and get home late. But through prayer and by God's grace, we are now joyful for the opportunity to serve His church in this way.

You see, God has already asked me to give everything I have. My life, family, career, time, money, and ability all belong to Him. And now it is my responsibility to steward those resources for His glory. Even the time I do not spend directly serving the church is His time. Even the financial resources that I do not give directly to Briarwood are His money. As the Lord has given me understanding of this, it has opened my heart to give with joy.

In this season of Bringing All to Him, I encourage you to spend time asking the Lord how you can serve His church with the time, treasures and talents He has given you.

Brent Gilbert  
Stewardship Education Committee



*Briarwood*  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# OUR SEASON OF PRAYER

## **Monday, October 30 | Congregation — Build Up One Another**

Lord, give us Your heart for others. Help us see those who need an encouraging word. Give us strength to die to ourselves and to actively build others up in Christ. *“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”* 1 Thessalonians 5:11

## **Tuesday, October 31 | Interim Pastor Search — Spiritual Wisdom**

Pray for our Interim Pastor Search Committee as they seek to discover God’s Interim Senior Pastor who is the right fit for Briarwood Church. Ask the Lord to direct us to His man who will equip us, by the preaching of the Word, to trust in the Lord and to follow Him in every way. *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”* Proverbs 3:5–6

## **Wednesday, November 1 | Leadership — Lay Leaders**

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for raising up many Godly men and women to serve as lay leaders in Your church. Strengthen our Lay Pastors and those who serve our widows through the Grace Ladies so they may continue to have fruitful ministry in many lives. *“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”* Galatians 6:9

## **Thursday, November 2 | On Mission — Great Commission**

Thank You, Heavenly Father, for sending us Your Son, for redeeming us, and for giving us Your Holy Spirit to continue Your redeeming work until Jesus returns. *“And he said to them, ‘Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.’”* Mark 16:15

## **Friday, November 3 | Thanksgiving — His Preservation**

Let us thank the Lord for giving us spiritual values that we can hold on to as we progress toward maturity in Christ. Our values are based on the Bible that does not change. We are thankful that the Word of God is true and is as relevant today as it was when it was written. *“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.”* Isaiah 40:8

## **Saturday, November 4 | Personal — Love One Another**

Father, equip us to love others like Christ loves us. Teach us to be sacrificial and giving in the love we show to one another. *“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.”* 1 Peter 4:8

## **Sunday, November 5 | Lord’s Day Worship**

O Lord, Most High, we praise Your holy Name! We praise You for Your steadfast love that endures forever and Your great faithfulness. Please speak to us today through the preaching of Your Word by Dr. Mark Cushman. *“It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.”* Psalm 92: 1–2, 4

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

### **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. A special time of Remembrance of God's Saints will be held in honor of church members who have gone to be with the Lord this past year.

### **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 adult Sunday School. The Every Member Commitment is an annual event that allows church members to declare their support for the work of the Lord. For 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 2024. 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).

### **EMC Canvass Sunday — Every Member Commitment | November 12**

This is the final opportunity for members to submit their pledges during morning worship. Members who have not made a commitment or otherwise contacted the church will be contacted by church officers.

### **Christmas at the Caroline House — Womens Ministry | November 14–15 \***

Prepare your heart for Christmas with "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. Tickets at [briarwood.org/cch](http://briarwood.org/cch). Nursery available for morning sessions.

### **Service of Thanksgiving— Worship Service | November 19 \***

Come Sunday, November 19 at 6:00 p.m. for a service of praise and thanksgiving. Members of the congregation will have an opportunity to reflect on their thankfulness to the Lord at the conclusion of the worship service.

\* 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

### ***Every Moment Holy, Volume III: The Work of the People***

**by Douglas Kaine McKelvey | Adult Book**

The Bookstore has Volume III before its November 10 release date with permission to sell! If you're not familiar with this series, *Every Moment Holy* is a book of daily liturgies for daily life, drawing on a range of writers, artists, poets, songwriters, and pastors. This collection has over 100 new liturgies that represent a community of believers engaged in the work of reminding all of us that our lives are filled with sacred purpose and eternal hopes even in the midst of the everyday moments. New release price: \$25 (limited quantity)

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.

**Angel Tree** — Available November 5 and 12 in the church lobbies. This year's gifts will benefit children in need from the Birmingham area. Gifts are due back at Briarwood by November 19. Email Kari at [kescue@briarwood.org](mailto:kescue@briarwood.org) with any questions.

**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).

**“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).

**Candy Donation** — The nursery will gladly take your leftover candy (no hard candy please) after you trick/trunk or treat. Bring it by the brown desk on the Nursery Hall.

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

# WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

**Briarwood Prayer Focus** — Pray as our Lord leads us in His desire for our tithing this year. Pray for each family in Briarwood to listen and make a commitment on pledge Sunday, November 5.

**Birmingham Prayer Focus** — Pray for all the local ministries in Birmingham as they prepare for their Christmas outreaches. That the story of Jesus' birth and life would draw all of us to Him. Pray for Briarwood's Angel Tree and Operation Christmas Child opportunities.

**Missions Prayer Focus** — Pray for the Birmingham international students as global tensions mount. Given the varied faith groups that interact on campus, it is certainly a tense time. Pray the Gospel will shine through the darkness in the world and be an opportunity for the light of Christ to shine even brighter.

**Global Ministry Partners** — Pray for Hector and Angelina Estrada with World Reach in Honduras; Spencer and Carmen with Mission to the World in Malaysia; Fabiano and Suzana Fernandes with Avant Ministries in Portugal; and Brian and Terri Firpo with Campus Outreach SERVE in Thailand.

**National Ministry Partners** — Pray for George and Jill Shamblin with Center for Executive Leadership in Alabama; John and Jan Sherard with Cru in South Carolina; Larry and Rita Sherbondy with Navigators in Pennsylvania; David Sorrell with Engage 360 Ministries in Missouri; and the staff of Cahaba Medical Care/Hope Health Center.

**Briarwood Officers and Staff** — Pray for elders Mike Mungenast, Tim Scott, Lance Radbill; deacons Jordon Freeman, Colin McCown, Daniel McClurkin; and Women and Children's Counselor Chesley Peed.

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## CHURCH RESOURCES

**2023 NMC Sermons and Ministry Partner Glimpses** – Did you miss any of Dr. Eric Watkins' three sermons from this year's Nation Ministries Conference or any of our supported Ministry Partner Glimpses? Rewatch, listen or share with your friends on the Briarwood App. On the "Media" tab, go to "Special Media Archive" then, "2023 National Ministries Conference."

**Mobilization Opportunity: IMPACT Birmingham Update** — We had a great turnout for IMPACT Birmingham! To our 250 volunteers who worked on 15 projects for our ministry partners in Birmingham, Thank you! 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: Nursery Administrative Supervisor** — Full-time position supporting the Nursery Director with day-to-day needs, interacting with parents, and supporting nursery staff in the rooms. Contact Alison at [acraig@briarwood.org](mailto:acraig@briarwood.org) or 205-776-5214.

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:**  
**Reformation Sunday**  
“Not Ashamed of the Gospel”  
Romans 1:16-17  
Dr. Stafford Carson

John Stafford Carson is a former Principal and Professor of Ministry at Union Theological College, Belfast, and a former moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. He took office as moderator in June 2009 in succession to Dr. Donald Patton. As moderator, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree by the Presbyterian Theological Faculty, Ireland. In June 2013, he was appointed executive principal of Union Theological College and retired in December 2020.

**Sunday Evening Worship:**  
**The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**  
“The Five Solas of the Reformation”  
Briarwood Pastors and Staff

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.