

November 5, 2023



FEATURING

PORTRAITS
OF *Hope*

INSPIRATIONAL STORIES FROM
THE LOVELADY CENTER

NOVEMBER 14-15, 2023

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Briarwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OUR SEASON OF PRAYER

Monday, November 6 | Congregation — Honor One Another

Father, thank You for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Please help us to love, respect and honor one another in all our thoughts, words and actions. *“Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”* Romans 12:10

Tuesday, November 7 | Interim Pastor Search — For Our Search Committee

Lord, we pray for our Interim Senior Pastor Search Committee members. We ask for You to give them strength, wisdom and protection during this time. Help us show them our support in this search for the man You have for our Church. *“The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.”* Psalm 28:7

Wednesday, November 8 | Leadership — Humility and Service

Lord Jesus, forgive us when we think too highly of ourselves. Help us die to ourselves, live to Christ, and lift each other up to the glory of Your Holy Name. *“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.”* Philippians 2:3

Thursday, November 9 | On Mission — Mobilization

Thank You, Lord Jesus Christ, for the privilege of being on mission in ministry with You. Send each of us where You wish and show us the opportunities You are providing to share Your love with others. *“After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go.”* Luke 10:1

Friday, November 10 | Thanksgiving — Family

Gracious Father, please protect our families from the snares of the devil. Help us to practice the “one another” Bible passage with each other - to pray for one another, forgive one another, encourage one another and love one another. *“Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.”* Psalm 127:1

Saturday, November 11 | Personal — Peace of God

Father, help us to trust in You when we worry. Build in us a lifestyle of prayer. Grant us Your peace that You promise will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”* Philippians 4:6-7

Sunday, November 12 | Lord’s Day Worship

Lord, we come together today and worship Your Holy name. You are the Lord God Almighty, King Eternal. Bless all who lead us in worship and those who preach Your Word. Please give us ears to hear and faith to live for You this week. *“Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.”* Psalm 95:1-3

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

FEATURED EVENTS

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.

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 — Women's 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. 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.

Walk Through Nativity — Church Wide | December 6, 7 and 8

December 6, 7 and 8 from 6:45–8:45 p.m. Over 750 volunteer actors, costumers, parking attendants, scene-builders, and greeters are needed for this year's Walk Through! Sign up online at briarwood.org/nativity or call 205-776-5282.

* 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 Lord of Psalm 23: Jesus Our Shepherd, Companion, and Host

by David Gibson | Adult Book

David Gibson walks through each verse in Psalm 23, thoroughly examining its three depictions of the believer's union with Christ as sheep and shepherd, traveler and companion, and guest and host. Gibson provides canonical context for the Psalm's beautiful imagery, inspiring praise and wonder as readers reflect on the loving Shepherd who meets every need. Price: \$15

Found: Psalm 23

by Sally Lloyd-Jones | Children's Book

From the creators of the bestselling *Jesus Storybook Bible* comes *Found*, a board book retelling of Psalm 23 in child-friendly language that helps little ones know they are always cared for and protected by God. And the colorful, engaging illustrations of a shepherd with his sheep will hold your child's interest as you snuggle up and read together. Price: \$8

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Meetings — The Session has called Congregational Meetings for Sunday, December 3 for the purpose of selecting officers for the Class of 2026 and on Sunday, December 10 for the purposes of receiving the 2024 General Fund Budget and electing the slate of candidates receiving the highest number of votes on December 3. Both meetings will be from 8:00 a.m. to the conclusion of the 10:55 a.m. service. On December 10, there will be a special order at 10:35 a.m. in the Worship Center to receive the 2024 budget.

“It’s a Wonderful Life” — Saturday, November 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Barbara B Barker Auditorium Briarwood Fine Arts Academy will present this theater production. Tickets may be purchased at briarwoodchristianschool.org or at the door.

Christmas Poinsettias — November 5–December 3. Dedicate a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone this Advent season. Dedications are \$20 each; available for purchase in the Membership Office or online at briarwood.org/poinsettia.

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes — Pack a box with small toys, hygiene items, and prayers to touch a needy child’s life with the love of Jesus! You can pick up an empty shoebox in the Ministries Lobby or build one online at briarwood.org/occ. Due by November 12.

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 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. Get details at ybl.org/events.

Trailblazers Operation Christmas Child Packing Party — Tuesday, November 7 in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. Drop donations at the Membership Office or bring them to the Trailblazers party. Email sjohnston@briarwood.org for information.

Become a Briarwood Member — November 8, 11 and 12. All newcomers and prospective members are invited to attend our Briarwood Inquirers Classes. Attending these classes does not obligate you to join. To sign up, email Wendy at wlong@briarwood.org.

Adoption Connection Meeting — Wednesday, November 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Bride’s Room. This group for adoption/foster families or others who want to support them exists to ask, share, and support. Contact Carter Ralph at w.carter.ralph@gmail.com.

“Without Ceasing” Briarwood Ballet — Thursday, November 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Worship Center. Come worship with Immanuel performing group as we focus on God’s way of speaking to us. Information at briarwood.org/ballet.

Persecuted Church Prayer — Sunday, November 12 at 5:00 p.m. in G-103. Come join the prayer team to pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ. All are invited.

“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.

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

Briarwood Prayer Focus — Pray as we make our commitments this Sunday of what we will give to the Lord for the work of His Church. May each person give faithfully.

Birmingham Prayer Focus — Pray for the many people in Birmingham who are in need of Jesus' salvation, hope and joy. Pray for our ministry partners and their families as they faithfully follow Christ and seek out the lost and hurting.

Missions Prayer Focus — Pray fervently for our Israel ministry partners, David Zadok and Baruch Maoz, and all those in Israel as war is raging. Pray for peace, de-escalation of fighting, safety on the streets, and the safe and swift release of hostages. Pray that God will be glorified as civilians, soldiers, and the terrorists turn to Him for salvation.

Global Ministry Partners — Pray for Joe and Beverly Fitzpatrick with Mission to the World serving internationals; Samuel and Carol Foucachon with D.M. Stearns Missionary Fund in France; Francis and Donna Foucachon with Huguenot Heritage serving internationals; and David and Debbie Frank with Global Outreach Intl in Spain.

National Ministry Partners — Pray for Todd and Cindy Sproull with Mission to the World in Washington; Marc and Carol Stephens with Navigators in Tennessee; Jamie and Rebecca Strange with Fellowship of Christian Athletes in Alabama; Olan and Lynna Stubbs with Campus Outreach in Alabama; and the staff of Christian Service Mission.

Briarwood Officers and Staff — Pray for elders Dave Proctor, Dale Sitton, Mike Sanders; deacons Harrison Godwin, Richard McDonald, Andrew McGehee; and Mercy Ministry Pastor Chris Thompson and wife, Lynn.

CHURCH RESOURCES

EMC 2024 Videos and Resources — Did you miss our EMC Convocation Service this past Sunday? You can watch the testimony video from Pastors Barker and Reeder, the Briarwood-supported ministries video, or the full Convocation Service on the Briarwood App or website. On the App, go to the "Media" tab, then "Special Media Archive," then "EMC 2024." On the website, go to briarwood.org/emc.

2023 NMC Sermons and Ministry Partner Glimpses — Did you miss any of Dr. Eric Watkins' three sermons from this year's National 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."

Job Opening: YBL Small Group Coordinator — Work with (YBL) Director in discipleship initiatives among the 20-30-year-old demographic. Skills needed would be strong interpersonal skills, the ability to connect with new people, organize and facilitate small groups, and willingness to raise financial support. Contact Rob Genin at 205-776-5455 or rngenin@briarwood.org.

See all employment and job openings at briarwood.org/employment.

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THIS LORD'S DAY

Sunday Morning Worship:
Every Member Commitment Pledge Sunday

“For Such a Time as This”

Esther 4

Mark Cushman

During the Morning Worship Services, members have the opportunity to turn in their EMC 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.

Sunday Evening Worship:

V. Philipians:

Rejoicing in the Advancement of the Gospel

“Knowing Christ”

Philippians 3:1–11

Saeyoung Park

Watch our live-stream on the Briarwood App, Facebook or briarwood.org.
Watch or listen to previous sermons on the Briarwood App.