

November 12, 2023

Walk Through
NATIVITY

December 6–8

Wednesday, Thursday
and Friday nights
6:45–8:45 p.m.

Volunteers Needed!

Our annual Walk Through Nativity is quickly approaching, and volunteers are needed! We're looking for 750 people to help serve as thousands of visitors experience the true Christmas story of our Lord and Savior. From actors and costumers to parking attendants and scene builders, there's a place for everyone to get involved. What an excellent way to get to know your church family and establish meaningful traditions with your friends and family!

Sign up online at briarwood.org/nativity or call 205-776-5282.



Briarwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OUR SEASON OF PRAYER

Monday, November 13 | Congregation — Accept One Another

Father, give us a deep love for one another, that we may be of one mind and accept one another as Christ has accepted us. *“Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.”* Romans 15:5–7 (NASB)

Tuesday, November 14 | Interim Pastor Search — Wisdom

Heavenly Father, only in You can we find true wisdom and not the wisdom of this world. Your thoughts and ways are not our thoughts and ways. You are the source of wisdom. Please help us to grow in wisdom. *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.”* James 1:5

Wednesday, November 15 | Leadership — Unity in Christ

Holy Spirit, guard our hearts and fill our minds that we all might be anchored in Your Truth *“until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”* Ephesians 4:13

Thursday, November 16 | On Mission — Lord of the Harvest

Thank You, Almighty Father, for the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, Your Son. Call us and use us as You will, so others may know peace with God through Jesus Christ the Lord. *“Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’”* Matthew 9:37–38

Friday, November 17 | Thanksgiving — Trials

Pray for the Lord to help us thank Him for our trials. We must remember they do to our faith in Christ what fire does to gold. They purify us to make us more like Christ. Rejoice *“so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”* 1 Peter 1:7

Saturday, November 18 | Personal — Steadfastness

Lord, help us to have an unwavering trust in Your goodness and Your promises when we face the trials of life. May our immovable hope be a gospel witness in our world. *“Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.”* James 1:12

Sunday, November 19 | Lord’s Day Worship

Father, we come today with hearts of thanksgiving to You! We thank you for your steadfast love and great faithfulness! We praise You and bless Your Holy Name! *“Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”* Psalm 100:4–5

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

FEATURED EVENTS

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.

“I Cared Enough” Thanksgiving Meal — Mobilization | Tuesday, November 21

This year’s Thanksgiving Meal and Gospel Preaching Festival for Birmingham’s poor and needy will be on Tuesday November 21 at the Bill Harris Arena. We need to feed 10,000 people! Go to icaredenough.com or email jhaines@briarwood.org to get involved.

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.

“A Joyful Noel” — Children’s Christmas Choirs | December 3 *

Come Sunday, December 3 at 6:00 p.m. in the Worship Center to hear the Children’s Choirs of Briarwood as they bless us and begin our Christmas season!

“Hallelujah! The Light Has Come” — Briarwood Christmas Festival | December 17 *

Come experience Advent through the dramatic presentation of “Hallelujah! The Light Has Come.” This gift of talents features the Briarwood Choirs, Orchestra and Dramatists with special guest Sandra McCracken. This event is completely free and open to the public.

* Nursery is available upon reservation at briarwood.org/nursery.

ADVENT READING RECOMMENDATIONS

Gifts of Grace: 25 Advent Devotions

by **Jared C. Wilson** | **Adult Advent Book**

Just as with opening the doors of an Advent calendar day by day, this Advent devotional will build your anticipation for Christmas so that you can fully absorb and enjoy its central gift—Jesus Christ. Price: \$12 (includes tax)

God’s Big Promises Advent Calendar and Family Devotions

by **Carl Laferton** | **Family/Children’s Advent Book (Ages 2 to 7)**

Young children will enjoy learning about and interacting with the Christmas story in this colorful Advent calendar with 25 family devotions. Price: \$7 (includes tax)

The Ultimate Christmas Wishlist:

What If You Could Get What You’re Really Hoping For?

by **Rico Tice** | **Adult Advent Book**

This small book is a wonderful outreach resource for sharing the hope of Christianity at Christmas. Based on Isaiah 9:6, readers will see how Jesus is the ultimate gift as He delivers what they really want: hope, peace, purpose and guidance. Price: \$3 (includes tax)

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Veterans Day — Let us remember and give thanks for the men and women who have serviced our country and sacrificed so much so that we can live free.

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

Angel Tree — Available this Sunday, November 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 Sunday, November 19. Email Kari at kescue@briarwood.org with any questions.

Persecuted Church Prayer — Sunday, November 12 at 5:00 p.m. in G103. Come join the prayer team to pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ. All are invited.

Communion Service — Sunday, November 19. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated in the morning services. An alms offering for the Mercy Ministry will be received. Elements are gluten-free.

Briarwood Holiday Closing — Church and School Offices will be closed on November 23 and 24 for Thanksgiving.

Christmas Poinsettias — On sale until 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.

Officer Selection Sunday — December 3. Members will be asked to select officers during a called meeting of the congregation that begins at 8:00 a.m. and officially closes with the benediction of the 10:55 a.m. service. The men receiving the most votes will then be placed on a final slate that will be presented for election the following Sunday.

Officer Election Sunday — December 10. Men receiving the most votes from Officer Selection Sunday will be placed on a final slate that will be presented for the church membership to elect. There will also be a special order at 10:35 a.m. in the Worship Center to receive the 2024 budget.

"O Come Let Us Adore Him" — December 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Worship Center. Join the Briarwood Ballet as they lead us in worship this Advent season. More details online at briarwood.org/ballet.

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 with any questions.

Job Opening: ESL and Friendship Partner Director — Briarwood Missions Department is seeking a leader for our English as a Second Language (ESL) Ministry. If you are interested in this part-time position, please send your resume to and/or contact Heather McDougall for more information: hmcdougall@briarwood.org

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

Briarwood Prayer Focus — Pray for those still considering what their commitment will be to our Lord this year through His provision for each of us.

Birmingham Prayer Focus — Pray for Briarwood Angel Tree as we attempt to provide 300 gifts for families and children in the Birmingham area. Pray the Lord would use these gifts to show His gift of salvation and love this Christmas.

Missions Prayer Focus — Thank the Lord for a wonderful National Ministries Conference in October, for our keynote speaker Eric Watkins and all our partners who attended! Pray for Debi DeBoer and her team at First Priority of Alabama to have wisdom as they expand into new territory and bring others on board in their ministry. Pray the Lord will provide for their needs during this time of growth.

Global Ministry Partners — Pray for Richard and Sandra Fuentes with Reformed Evangelistic Fellowship in Nicaragua; Craig and Heather Gahagen with South America Mission in Peru; Angel and Norma Glory with Reformed Evangelistic Fellowship in Mexico; and Carlos and Yolanda Gomez with EQUIP in Spain.

National Ministry Partners — Pray for Stewart and Mary Swain with Reformed University Fellowship at University of Alabama; Trent Taylor with Campus Outreach at Samford University; Seth and Bethany Terrell with Campus Outreach at University of Alabama; Matthew and Megan Terrell with Reformed University Fellowship in New York; and the staff of Foundations Early Learning and Family Center.

Briarwood Officers and Staff — Pray for elders Nathan Sasse, Warren Smedley, Ed Stakes; deacons Ben (Ashley) Greene, Joel Megginson, Jason McMillian; and Global Missions Pastor Bryan Wintersteen and wife, Beth.

CHURCH RESOURCES

EMC 2024 Videos and Resources — You can watch Pastors Barker and Reeder testimony video, the Briarwood-supported ministries video, or the 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.”

Mobilization Opportunity: Prison Hygiene Kits — Partner with us as we donate hygiene items (full-size deodorant, full-size bars of soap, white washcloths, plain white crew socks, individual toothbrushes and full-sized toothpastes) for 320 men involved with BTS and Unbound216 at Bibb Correctional Facility. Drop items to bins in the Ministry Lobby, Missions Office or FH-A on November 12 and 19. Email any questions to localmissions@briarwood.org.

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Briarwood Presbyterian Church
2200 Briarwood Way
Birmingham, AL 35243-2923

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THIS LORD'S DAY

Sunday Morning Worship:
Every Member Commitment Canvass Sunday
“The Cure for Anxiety and Stress”
Matthew 6:25–35
Rob Looper

This Lord's Day 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.

Sunday Evening Worship:
VI. Philippians:
Rejoicing in the Advancement of the Gospel
“Forward Not Backward, Up Not Down”
Philippians 3:12–21
Joel Richards

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