

December 3, 2023

CHRISTMAS AT BRIARWOOD

Children's Christmas Choir

"A Joyful Noel"

December 3 • 6:00 p.m.

Walk Through Nativity

December 6–8 • 6:45–8:45 p.m.

Briarwood Ballet

"O, Come Let Us Adore Him"

December 10 • 6:00 p.m.

Briarwood Christmas Festival

"Hallelujah! The Light Has Come"

December 17 • 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services

December 24

Morning Worship Service • 10:00 a.m.

Family Candlelight Service • 5:00 & 7:00 p.m.

Candlelight Communion Service • 11:00 p.m.

briarwood.org/advent



Briarwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OUR SEASON OF PRAYER

Monday, December 4 | Congregation — Rejoice with One Another

Lord Jesus, we rejoice in You for who You are and all You have done for us. Thank You for Your steadfast love and for our salvation. *“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.”* Philippians 4:4

Tuesday, December 5 | Our Interim Pastor — Praise

Father, we praise You for providing Dr. Dan Doriani as our Interim Pastor. We acknowledge and thank You for Your sovereign work in this process. Please bless him as he shepherds Your flock here at Briarwood. *“All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you!”* Psalm 145:10

Wednesday, December 6 | Leadership — WTN Outreach

Lord, we ask for Your blessings on all who lead and volunteer in the Walk Through Nativity. Help us to clearly present Your Gospel to all who attend and please draw people to receive You as their Lord and Savior. *“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”* John 12:32

Thursday, December 7 | On Mission — Gospel Fruit

Heavenly Father, by Your Spirit, cause Your Word to bear fruit in our lives so that others may see Your love working through us and desire to know You for themselves. *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”* Galatians 5:22-23

Friday, December 8 | Thanksgiving — Blessings

We thank You for the blessing we have to share Your Gospel in many outreach events this Advent season. We ask You to take these Gospel seeds and cause them to bear fruit in the lives of those who are attending. *“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’”* Isaiah 52:7

Saturday, December 9 | Personal — Joy

Jesus, we ask for abundant joy. Fill us with Your joy that bears witness of Your great salvation. *“Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”* 1 Peter 1:8-9

Sunday, December 10 | Lord’s Day Worship

Lord, we praise and exalt You for Your excellent greatness and all Your mighty deeds! You alone are worthy of our praise! We ask You to bless our worship services today and to speak to us through Dr. Doriani as he preaches Your Word. *“Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!”* Psalm 150:1-2

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

For additional information, go to briarwood.org/seasonofprayer.

FEATURED EVENTS

“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!

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

Invite your friends and neighbors to experience the story of the birth and life of our Lord in 13 scenes through drama with actors and live animals. Stop after for cookies and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall. Admission is free. Go to briarwood.org/nativity.

“O Come Let Us Adore Him” — Briarwood Ballet | December 10 *

Join the Briarwood Ballet on December 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Worship Center as they lead us in worship this Advent season. Go to briarwood.org/ballet.

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

Come experience Advent through musical and dramatic presentation from the Briarwood Choirs, Orchestra and Dramatists with special guest Sandra McCracken. This event is completely free and open to the public.

Christmas Eve Services — Worship Services | December 24 *

Reflect on the birth of Jesus with us this Christmas Eve. Sunday morning we will have one combined Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. with no Sunday School Communities meeting. Bring your family and friends back Sunday evening for Candlelight Family Services at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. or our Candlelight Communion Service at 11:00 p.m.

* 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.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Christmas Poinsettias — On sale until this Sunday, 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.

Selection Sunday for Officer Election — This Sunday, December 3. You have received in the mail the names of all candidates for elder and deacon. This Sunday you will have the opportunity to vote for up to 25 of the 47 elder candidates and up to 42 of the 55 deacon candidates. All members of Briarwood Presbyterian Church in good standing may vote. You must vote during the morning services.

2024 Budget — This Sunday, December 3 at 5:00 p.m. in A205. Members of the Budget Committee will be available to answer questions regarding the 2024 Budget.

Food Drive — Sunday, December 10. Begin gathering your canned goods and non-perishables for Oak Mountain Mission. That Sunday, you will leave your donations behind your vehicle for the Mercy Ministry Team to pick up while you are in church.

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.

Trailblazer Christmas Sing-A-Long — Tuesday, December 12 at 3:00 p.m. Meet us at Cahaba Ridge Retirement Community to sing familiar Christmas songs with Hunter Goff. Sign up online at briarwood.org/trailblazers or email sjohnston@briarwood.org.

Lampstand Conference Volunteers Needed — January 18–21, 2024. Briarwood is hosting the upcoming conference where pastors and church leaders from across the country come for teaching, encouragement, and fellowship. We need volunteers for housing, transportation and preparing attendee notebooks and goody bags. If you can help in any of these ways, contact Christi Bono at cbono@briarwood.org or 205-776-5243.

Ignite Sunday School Volunteers Needed — Volunteer helpers and teachers are needed for 4th–6th grade boys' Sunday School. This position serves January through May on a month-on, month-off basis. No prep is needed. If interested, email esitarz@briarwood.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 with any questions.

Job Openings: Briarwood Receptionist — Morning Receptionist (part-time, Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.); and Afternoon Receptionist (part-time, Monday–Friday, 12:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.). Briarwood membership required. For inquiries and application, email kbvice@briarwood.org.

Job Openings: Full-time & Part-time Staff — There are a number of ministry positions open. See all employment and job openings at briarwood.org/employment.

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

Briarwood Prayer Focus — Pray for those attending the Walk Through Nativity this week to see the love of Christ in each scene as we share each night and for the visitors who do not have Jesus in their hearts to come to know Him as Lord and Savior.

Birmingham Prayer Focus — Pray for the children and families involved with Urban Hope Development, Restoration Academy, Foundations Early Learning Center and Aspire Movement. Pray their hearts would be open to the Good News of Jesus as these ministries focus on Christmas activities.

Missions Prayer Focus — Pray for the upcoming Briarwood Lampstand Conference January 18–21. Pray for continuing registrations and for those who attend to be encouraged by the Biblical message on church vitality. Also pray for the health and travels of our speakers, Sandy Willson, John Currie, Tom Hawkes and Rob Looper.

Global Ministry Partners — Pray for Ben and Mary with Bee World serving in Southeast Asia; Brad and Alana Gutteridge with English Language Institute in Southeast Asia; Andrew and Julie Halbert with United World Mission in Costa Rica; and Joe and Silk Handley with Asian Access in Japan.

National Ministry Partners — Pray for Joel and Holly Wallace with Mission to North America in Alabama; Ben and Leah Weber with Campus Outreach at West Georgia; Byron and Jennifer West with All Souls PCA in Dripping Springs, Texas; Bill and Linda White with Daymark Counseling in Alabama; and NorthStar Youth Ministries.

Briarwood Officers and Staff — Pray for elders Charles Woodall, Bob Turnbull, Tim Townes; deacons Philip Holcombe, John Rollins, Brad Nichols; and Shepherding Pastor Benny Youngblood and wife, Belinda.

CHURCH RESOURCES

Mobilization Opportunity: Grace House Gift Wrap Booth — Do you love wrapping Christmas gifts? Grab a friend or two to wrap gifts as a fundraiser to benefit Grace House Ministries! Gift Wrap Booth at The Summit (Santa's Workshop next to Woodhouse Day Spa) is open December 1–3, 8–10 and 15–17. This is great family service activity. The Galleria Booth opens December 19–23. Email Hannah at hrutledge@grace-house.org to sign up. Are you overwhelmed with Christmas preparation? Take your gifts to the Gift Wrap Booths to have them wrapped for a donation to help this great ministry to girls.

Dr. Dan Doriani — Earned his Masters of Divinity from Westminster Theological Seminary and was ordained in the PCA in 1982. Presently he is Professor of Biblical and Systematic Theology at Covenant Theological Seminary. Dr. Doriani previously served for over a decade as the Senior Pastor of Central Presbytery Church in St. Louis. He also the founder of The Center for Faith and Work in St. Louis, which focuses on engaging the world through a Biblical understanding of work and vocation, seeking to transform the workplace for God's glory. Dr. Doriani has provided tremendous contributions of numerous books and commentaries along with his articles for *Table Talk*, blogs for The Gospel Coalition and the Alliance for Confessing Evangelicals and various podcasts.

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THIS LORD'S DAY

Sunday Morning Worship: First Sunday of Advent

“Jesus Came for Us, to Seek the Lost”

Matthew 20:28; I Timothy 1:15; Luke 19:1-10

Dr. Dan Doriani

Join us for this first Sunday of Advent as Interim Pastor Dr. Dan Doriani reads from the Word and preaches the first of a three-part Christmas sermon series.

Sunday Evening Worship: Children's Christmas Choirs

“A Joyful Noel”

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!

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