

Briarwood Ballet

December 10, 2023

O, Come  
let us adore  
Him



December 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Worship Center



*Briarwood*  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# OUR SEASON OF PRAYER

Praise the Lord, God has graciously answered Our Season of Prayer and provided Dr. Dan Doriani to be our Interim Senior Pastor.

We will conclude our formal weekly church-wide prayer time with a time of praise and intercession on Sunday, December 10, at 5:15 p.m. in A105. Our Daily Prayer Guide will conclude on Saturday, December 16. Continue to make an conscious effort to pray daily for our church.

## **Monday, December 11 | Personal — Faith in God**

Father, increase our faith in You. Teach us to draw near to You with confidence in Your character and in Your provision. *“And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”* Hebrews 11:6

## **Tuesday, December 12 | Our Interim Pastor — Blessing**

Father, thank You for our Interim Pastor, Dr. Doriani. Thank You for his deep love for You and for us. We pray that You will bless him in a special way this week in his time with You. Please encourage him and give him Your strength. *“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.”* Numbers 6:24–26

## **Wednesday, December 13 | Ministry — Advent Outreach**

Heavenly Father, help us to boldly share the love of God in Jesus Christ the Son through every Advent Outreach opportunity this year. Please save people from their sins and bring them into Your Kingdom. *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”* Isaiah 9:6

## **Thursday, December 14 | On Mission — God to Draw People**

Almighty Father, use us as salt and light in our homes, our community, and our state so many may receive eternal life in Jesus’ name. *“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.”* John 6:44

## **Friday, December 15 | Our Church — Thanksgiving**

Father, we give You thanks for the many ways You have worked in this season to provide Dr. Dan Doriani as our Interim Pastor. We thank You for the goodness and kindness You have shown to us. *“Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!”* Psalm 106:1

## **Saturday, December 16 | Our Commitment — Pray Always**

God has answered our prayers and blessed us as a Church Family during Our Season of Prayer. Since today is our last day of our intentional prayer guide, commit to pray each day for specific things for our Church and for Dr. Doriani. *“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”* 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

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

### **“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](http://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.

### **The Lampstand Birmingham Conference — Church Revitalization | January 18–21**

You are invited to attend The Lampstand Conference, a conference on Church Health and Revitalization, hosted here at Briarwood. Details at [briarwood.org/lampstand](http://briarwood.org/lampstand).

\* 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

### ***Deeper: Real Change for Real Sinners***

**by Dane C. Ortland | Adult Book**

If you loved *Gentle and Lowly*, you'll want to get a copy of Dane Ortland's *Deeper*. How do Christians grow? This book points believers to Christ, making the case that sanctification does not happen by doing more or becoming better. He urges us to go deeper into the wondrous gospel truths that washed over us when we were first united to Him. Drawing on wisdom from figures throughout church history, Ortland encourages readers to fix their gaze on Jesus in the battle against sin, casting themselves upon His grace and living out their identity in Christ. Price: \$13.99

### ***Little Pilgrim's Progress* (Illustrated Edition)**

**by Helen L. Taylor | Children's Book**

Helen Taylor has faithfully adapted John Bunyan's allegory of the Christian life, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, for young readers. It preserves the original plot lines of Bunyan's classic while telling the story of Little Christian and Christiana in a way that kids can understand. In this fresh, imaginative new edition, bestselling illustrator Joe Sutphin portrays the characters of Bunyan's tale as animals living in a woodland realm. Children will delight in the lavish illustrations, reading alongside their parents or interacting on their own with the timeless words and beautiful imagery that they discover on every page. (Accompanying coloring/activity book also available.) Price: \$22.99

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

# MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

**Food Drive** — Sunday, December 10. Bring your canned goods and non-perishable foods to benefit Oak Mountain Mission. 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.

**Persecuted Church Prayer Time** — The Persecuted Church Prayer Team will meet Sunday, December 10 at 5:00 p.m. in G103. Come pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ. All are invited to join us for this special time of prayer.

**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](http://briarwood.org/trailblazers) or email [sjohnston@briarwood.org](mailto:sjohnston@briarwood.org).

**Securities Stewardship** — When giving gifts of securities, please notify Matt Moore at the time of your gift so that your contribution may be processed accurately and efficiently. Contact Matt at 205-776-5205 or [kbvice@briarwood.org](mailto:kbvice@briarwood.org).

**Lampstand Conference Volunteers Needed** — January 18–21. 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](mailto:cbono@briarwood.org) or 205-776-5243.

**Trailblazer Travel: Florida** — March 11–15. Come travel with friends to Amelia Island, St. Augustine, and Jacksonville. We'll go on guided tours, visit a plantation, and cruise the St. Johns River. Five days and four nights includes breakfast and dinner for \$679. Go to [briarwood.org/trailblazers](http://briarwood.org/trailblazers) or email [sjohnston@briarwood.org](mailto:sjohnston@briarwood.org).

**Operation Christmas Child Thank You** — Many thanks to everyone who brought the 876 shoeboxes we collected! The Children's Ministry is so grateful to Martha Jenks and her table volunteers for their hard work and to Trail Life for delivering the boxes!

**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](mailto:esitarz@briarwood.org).

**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](mailto: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](http://briarwood.org/employment).

## WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

**Briarwood Prayer Focus** — Be in prayer for all the Christmas outreach events in the next three weeks. Pray those reached will be drawn to a closer relationship with Jesus.

**Birmingham Prayer Focus** — Pray for Briarwood's Hispanic Congregation as they host a special Christmas service and meal for those in their community on Saturday, December 16. They will distribute the Angel Tree gifts that many of you lovingly gifted. Pray the Message of Jesus will bring many to Him.

**Missions Prayer Focus** — Pray for the UAB international students who will be returning home for winter break and to a darker spiritual climate. Pray that the gospel conversations had at Briarwood will bear fruit to remind them of the Truth while at home, and the light of the Gospel will draw them to the Son. Pray for the relationships between students and ministry partners to endure the winter break, for students safe travels, and for the Gospel to go forth to the nations.

**Global Ministry Partners** — Pray for Paul and Crystal Henry with Mission to the World in New Zealand; Jeff and Angie with Christar in South Asia; Don and Teri Horsley with Navigators in Central Asia; and Jill Howard with Mission to the World in Asia.

**National Ministry Partners** — Pray for Max and Sarah Aeschlimann with Campus Outreach in Alabama; Dan and Lucy Allison with Globeworks International Ministries in Alabama; Latasha Allston with RUF in Washington DC; Carroll Baker with Fellowship of Christian Athletes in South Carolina; and Urban Hope Community Church.

**Briarwood Officers and Staff** — Pray for elders Steve Abernathy, Dave Wood, Bryan Word; deacons Gerald Jowers, Robert Rutledge, Jonathan Sanders; and Director of Fellows Chad Escue and wife, Kari.

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## CHURCH RESOURCES

**Mobilization Opportunity: Deliver Blessing Bags with Hearts in Hands** — Want to deliver holiday cheer? Hearts in Hands is an urban ministry to those in need in the Birmingham area. They need 18 people to spread holiday JOY! Meet fellow volunteers on Saturday, December 16 between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. to deliver 2 to 5 bags of blessing in the same general meeting area. Email [connie.heartsinhands@gmail.com](mailto:connie.heartsinhands@gmail.com) to get a meeting place and details.

**Celebrating 50 Years of the Presbyterian Church in America [PCA]** — On December 4, 1973, representatives from 260 congregations that had withdrawn from the Presbyterian Church U.S. met at the Briarwood Highway 280 location and formed what is now The Presbyterian Church in America [PCA]. Within a few years the PCA grew to include more than 500 churches with nearly 80,000 members. As of December 2008, there were over 1,400 churches and 340,000 members. Of the numerous Presbyterian denominations in North America, the PCA is among the fastest growing. Together we are lifting high a banner of love and testimony to Jesus Christ the Lord, locally and globally.

Learn more about Briarwood's heritage in the PCA at [briarwood.org/heritage](http://briarwood.org/heritage).



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## THIS LORD'S DAY

### **Sunday Morning Worship:**

#### **Second Sunday of Advent**

“Jesus Came to Give His Life as a Ransom for Many”

Matthew 20:17–28

Dr. Dan Doriani

### **Sunday Evening Worship:**

“O, Come Let Us Adore Him”

Briarwood Ballet

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.

Throughout the history of mankind there has been offered a most extraordinary invitation: to come into the Presence of our Awesome God. The invitation is extended to all nations and all people and the entrance begins at a Bethlehem manger. The Heavenly hosts announced His coming, wise men brought gifts and shepherds came to worship.

Briarwood Ballet invites you to Come, Let Us, Adore Him!

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.