

December 24, 2023

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.



* NURSERY RESERVATIONS ARE
REQUIRED AT BRIARWOOD.ORG/NURSERY.

Sunday School Communities will not be meeting.



Briarwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



LAMPSTAND

"Discipling Leaders for Biblical Church Vitality"

Next month we have an opportunity to bless pastors and church leaders from around the world through the Lampstand Conference, January 18–21, 2024 hosted here at Briarwood Presbyterian Church.

Volunteering Needs:

We need pillows, wheels, and Cheetos! This year's Lampstand attendees are coming from as far away as New Mexico and even the United Kingdom—and many will need housing for 2–3 nights, depending on their itinerary. Hosts are not required to provide meals, only a warm welcome and a pillow.

If you have a vehicle that is not being used or if you are available to drive during the day, some of our attendees will need transportation. Other areas of service include snacks for breaks, greeting attendees, and helping with meals on site during the conference.

Your hospitality and service are a blessing not only to those who attend but ultimately their congregations, as well—and even beyond, as the Lord grows healthy churches that share the Gospel. We thank you for any assistance you can provide!

About Lampstand:

Founded by Harry L. Reeder, as Embers to a Flame, Lampstand encourages and equips leaders with a Gospel paradigm church health, providing biblical strategies for worship, discipleship, and outreach. For more than 25 years, the Lampstand team has come alongside churches to equip their leaders with Biblical principles for church planting, church revitalization, and church acceleration.

Through our gifted Lampstand, teaching team, Drs. Tom Hawkes, John Currie, and Sandy Willson, in addition to Briarwood pastoral staff Bryan Wintersteen and Rob Looper, attendees will learn the central importance of expositional preaching and the ministries that flow from it in a healthy church: The ministry of exaltation in worship, the ministry of enfolding in shepherding, the ministry of equipping in discipleship, and the ministry of sharing the gospel in evangelism.

You can learn more about the Lampstand ministry by calling 205.776.5243, emailing thelampstand@briarwood.org or by going to briarwood.org/lampstand.

How to Get Involved:

Please call Christi Bono at 205-776-5243 or email cbono@briarwood.org if you are interested in helping out. You can also stop by the Missions Office to talk to the Lampstand staff in person. Don't miss this opportunity to be a blessing!

FEATURED EVENTS

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.

MidWeek at Briarwood — Church Wide | January 10–April 24 *

Wednesday night dinners, classes and activities for the entire family resumes in January. Join us for dinner in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesdays from 5:15–6:30 p.m. Classes and activities start at 6:30 p.m. Find information to select an activity and register for dinners at briarwood.org/midweek.

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. If you want to help with this conference, email cbono@briarwood.org. Find additional details at briarwood.org/lampstand.

Women's In-Town Retreat — Women's Ministry | January 26–27

Ladies, join us for an In-town Retreat hosted here at Briarwood the weekend of January 26–27. This year's theme will be "By Design" and our keynote speaker will be Courtney Denton, Director of Mercy and Women's Ministries at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Cost is \$45 per person. Register at briarwood.org/women.

* Nursery is available upon reservation at briarwood.org/nursery.
Stay up-to-date with upcoming events on the Briarwood App.

IN THE BRIARWOOD BOOKSTORE

Come visit the Bookstore on Sunday, December 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon for your last-minute Christmas purchases. We will be closed for the Christmas holiday on Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26 and again on Sunday, December 31 and Monday, January 1 for the New Year holiday. Regular hours will resume on Tuesday, January 2 at 9:00 a.m.

Church Leadership's Recommended 2024 Devotional

Take Heart: Daily Devotions to Deepen Your Faith

by David Powlison | Adult Devotional

It's easy to lose heart in a world where many things can and do go wrong. Life is difficult, and there are struggles within and without, but we can take heart—the Lord is with us. He hears our cries for mercy. He knows our every need. He guides us, helps us, and strengthens us with his mighty right arm. Journey through a year with David Powlison, learning to "take heart" by meditating on his favorite Scripture passages, hymns, and biblical themes, exploring the ways God meets us with daily grace right where we live. Price: \$17 (includes tax)

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

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Communion — The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Sunday, December 24 in the 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service. An alms offering for the Mercy Ministry will be received. Elements are gluten-free.

Year-End Giving — The Accounting Office will close at 5:00 p.m. on December 29 for the year. Contributions received in the mail must be postmarked or canceled by December 31 to qualify as a gift in the year 2023. Contributions with January 2024 postmarks will be considered 2024 contributions.

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.

PCA Offering — Special offering envelopes will be placed in the pews on Christmas Eve. Through the Ministerial Relief Fund, the Christmas Offering provides monthly, supplemental income to our retired and disabled pastors, missionaries, church lay workers, their widows and dependent children who have low income and meet the Relief Fund guidelines. More information at briarwood.org/pcaoffering.

Church and School Offices Closed — Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26 for Christmas; then again Monday, January 2 for the New Year holiday.

Church Gate Holiday Schedule — On Sunday, December 24, the gates will open at 8:00 a.m. and close following the 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service. The church will be closed until Wednesday, December 27 at 5:30 a.m. and closed again on Monday, January 1.

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 or email sjohnston@briarwood.org.

Summer Camp Employment — Camp Briarwood counselor applications are now available at campbriarwood.org.

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.

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: YBL Financial Administrator — Part-time position for 15 hours per week. Individual needed to maintain accounts payable/receivable, and manage donor support and information. Applicant needs experience with database systems as well as proficiency in Word and Excel. Send resume to Rob Genin at rgenin@ybl.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 we will draw closer to our Savior in the upcoming New Year. Pray for those traveling over the holiday to be safe, and may the Lord provide opportunities for them to share Jesus.

Birmingham Prayer Focus — Pray for our Briarwood members who minister at Shelby County Jail. Pray the Lord would use weekly Sunday afternoon Bible studies to draw the inmates to Him.

Missions Prayer Focus — Pray for church planter Byron West in Dripping Springs, Texas, and All Souls Presbyterian Church. Pray that God will continue to supply their every need and surprise them with abundant grace. They are asking for God to send an additional 10 families to join the work by Easter.

Global Ministry Partners — Pray for Rob and Jenny Ilderton with Mission to the World in England; Jonathan and Maggie Iverson with Mission to the World in Japan; Jay and Faith Jackson with Global Empowerment serving Internationally; and Judith Jacobson with Mission to the World in Asia.

National Ministry Partners — Pray for Hunter and Vicki Brewer with Mission to North America in North Carolina; Cedric and Alicia Brown with Navigators in Maryland; Alonzo and Antionette Brown with Strong Tower in Alabama; Joey and Margaret Carter with Campus Outreach at Troy University; and Birmingham Urban Young Life.

Briarwood Officers and Staff — Pray for elders John Bentley, Bobby Bardin, Billy Ball; deacons Ethan Tidmore, Hans Sitarz, Jeff Olin; and Ministires Team Pastor Benny Parks and wife, Brenda.

CHURCH RESOURCES

Mobilization Opportunity: Volunteers for Lampstand Conference — Come help with Briarwood's Lampstand Conference in January. We need those willing to offer housing or transportation to seminary students, pastors or elders. We also need volunteers to put together attendee notebooks and goody bags! If you want to help, contact Christi Bono at cbono@briarwood.org.

Christmas at Briarwood Concerts & Programs — We have been blessed this Advent season with wonderful, Christ-exalting programs from our Children's Chiors, Briarwood Ballet, and Music and Drama Ministries. If you missed seeing these programs, you can easily access them on the Briarwood App. On the "Media" tab, go to "Special Media Archive" then "Christmas at Briarwood 2023." Use the "Share" button to text these video links to a friend or share on social media.

Online Livestream — Watch Live Streaming of the 8:00, 10:55 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Sunday Worship Services through our online livestream. You can find our livestream on the Briarwood App, Facebook, YouTube or briarwood.org/livestream. The Briarwood ROKU and Apple TV are currently under construction and will be re-launched soon.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit # 2143
Birmingham, AL

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

Address Service Requested



THIS LORD'S DAY

Sunday Morning Worship (10:00 A.M.)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

“The Ultimate Christmas Gift”

James 1:17 & Matthew 7:7-11

Dr. Phil Tuttle

Candlelight Celebration Services:

(5:00, 7:00 & 11:00 P.M.)

“Mary Christmas”

Luke 10:38-42 & Luke 2:8-20

Bruce Stallings

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