



Join us for

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, March 24

Services of Divine Worship • 8:00 & 10:55 a.m.

Evening Worship • 6:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday, March 28

*Communion Service • 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, March 29

*Service of Reflection on the Cross • 12:00 p.m.

Resurrection Lord's Day, March 31

Sunrise Service • 6:30 a.m.

Services of Celebration • 8:00 & 10:55 a.m.

Briarwood Music Staff & Professionals in Concert • 6:00 p.m.

*Nursery Reservations are required for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Make reservations at briarwood.org/nursery.

For more details at briarwood.org/easter.



Briarwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Briarwood Weekly • info@briarwood.org • March 17 2024

LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION

On behalf of the Briarwood Session, I have been asked to provide a brief update on our transition process.

In November, just before Thanksgiving, we announced that the Session had called Dr. Dan Doriani to be our Intentional Interim Senior Pastor. Since that time Dan has been serving in this role while also fulfilling his prior teaching commitment to Covenant Theological Seminary. Since December we have benefited from Dan's pulpit ministry and he has been significantly engaged even during the week when he is in St Louis. In May his teaching commitment will be fulfilled and Dr. Doriani will be focused full time as our Interim Pastor.

One thing we learned as we talked with several advisors last year was the importance of not being in a hurry. We were encouraged to take the time necessary to make a thorough assessment of our current situation at Briarwood before beginning a search for a new Senior Pastor. Therefore, under Dan's leadership, Randy Pope has been and continues to work with the Elders and Staff to gather information and assess our current organizational effectiveness. Also under Dan's leadership, Sandy Willson has been giving guidance and insight into ministry effectiveness and relationships at Briarwood. The Session is working through this process to make sure that we exercise both our human due diligence and, more importantly, are sensitive to the Lord's leading in this transitional time. Having these men working with us in their areas of particular giftedness will allow us to be better prepared when the time comes to formally begin our pastoral search.

While much of the current work may not be visible to most, we want to assure you that steady progress is being made. Once the Session has completed these assessments they will decide our next steps.

I am personally very encouraged by the deliberate, thoughtful work that is underway and planned for the months ahead. I have been asked by several members "when will we be ready to call our next Senior Pastor?" The truthful answer is that we don't know a specific date yet. What we do know is that God is in control and we are making good progress as He leads.

As we have done at the end of each update we want to encourage you to pray. We just had a very exciting Global Missions Conference and we need to give thanks to the Lord for it! We need to be praying for Dr Doriani and the Briarwood Staff. We also need to pray for the Lord's blessing and leading through this transition, and for the man the Lord will call to be our next Senior Pastor. Finally, please pray that we all stay committed to equipping Christians to worship God and reach Birmingham to reach the world for Christ.

– Billy Ball

*For God's glory, Briarwood is committed to equipping Christians
to worship God and to reach Birmingham to reach the world for Christ.*

FEATURED EVENTS

Palm Sunday — Holy Week 2024 | March 24 *

Our Holy Week celebration begins with Palm Sunday as we remember Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Children ages K4–6th grade will have the opportunity to begin our morning worship services with a palm branch procession.

Maundy Thursday Communion Service — Holy Week 2024 | March 28 *

Maundy Thursday is the night that the Passover was transformed and translated from the Old Covenant Meal to the New Covenant Lord's Supper. Join us at 7:00 p.m. for a service of remembrance and celebration with the sacrament of Communion.

Good Friday — Holy Week 2024 | March 29 *

Join us at noon on Good Friday as we assemble for a Service of Reflection on the Cross with Bible readings and the singing of the great Atonement hymns.

Easter Sunday — Holy Week 2024 | March 31 *

Resurrection Lord's Day we celebrate our risen Savior with a Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. and worship services at 8:00 and 10:55 a.m. Continue the celebration of worship Sunday evening with our Briarwood Music Staff and Professionals in Concert.

“Raising Up a Sexually Faithful Generation” — Parenting Conference | April 13 *

This Harvest USA conference hosted here at Briarwood is designed to help give parents insight, practical help, and principles in raising children as they face the sexual confusion of our culture. Register at briarwood.org/parentingconference.

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

IN THE BRIARWOOD BOOKSTORE

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross: Experiencing the Passion and Power of Easter

edited by Nancy Guthrie | Adult Book

Bible teacher Nancy Guthrie invites readers to linger at the cross with classic theologians such as Martin Luther, Jonathan Edwards, Charles Spurgeon, J. C. Ryle, and Augustine, and with contemporary writers such as John Piper, R. C. Sproul, and Joni Eareckson Tada. Each chapter expounds on a particular aspect of the Easter story, helping readers reflect on Christ's passion and anchor their hope in the power of His resurrection. Price: \$15.99

The Donkey Who Carried a King

by R. C. Sproul | Children's Book

The Donkey Who Carried a King offers a unique perspective on the events of Jesus' Passion Week and calls all believers, both young and old, to follow in the footsteps of the Suffering Servant for the glory of God. Jesus was willing to leave the glories of heaven to suffer and die in this world on our behalf, so we should serve Him with all our hearts. Price: \$15.00

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

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Easter Basket Donations — March 17–24. Daniel Cason Ministries needs Easter baskets to give to children at an evangelistic Easter event. Cellophane wrapped Easter baskets can be dropped off in the Women's Ministry Office A106.

Easter Lily Dedication — Purchase a lily to be placed in the Worship Center in memory or honor of someone special for Easter Sunday. Order now online at briarwood.org/lily or drop by the Membership Office (A101). Order deadline is Sunday, March 17.

Communion Service — The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated in the Maundy Thursday service on March 28. An alms offering for the Mercy Ministry will be received. Elements are gluten-free.

Church and School Offices Closed — Friday, March 29 in observance of Good Friday.

Trailblazers Lunch — Tuesday April 9 at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Kathryn Lavallet Tortorici, author of *Two by Two—Conversations Between Friends Navigating Breast Cancer*, will be sharing. Tickets \$10 in the Bookstore and online at Briarwood.org/trailblazers.

VBS Volunteers Needed — We need your help for this summer's VBS, June 3–7! If you are interested in volunteering, email Raleigh Macoy at rmacoy@briarwood.org. Child registration will open in April at briarwood.org/vbs.

MidWeek at Briarwood — January 10 – April 24. Join us on Wednesdays for dinner in the Fellowship Hall from 5:15–6:30 p.m. Classes and activities start at 6:30 p.m. Find information, select an activity, and register for dinners at briarwood.org/midweek.

Faith Promise Pledges — Turn in your Faith Promise card during a worship service, mail your card to Briarwood, email faithpromise@briarwood.org with your commitment, or fill out the form at briarwood.org/faithpromise.

Graduate Information Needed — BYG and College graduating seniors, we want to recognize you! Please take a moment to fill out the form on the website. High school seniors go to briarwood.org/seniors. College seniors go to briarwood.org/college.

Mission Trip Needs — Christian Medical Ministry is collecting donations of ibuprofen (200mg), antifungal cream and 1% hydrocortisone cream for the spring, summer and fall Dominican Republic mission trips. Contact CMMA with questions at 205-776-5470.

Sacrament of Baptism — Infant Baptism is offered in our Sunday morning services. Contact Leigh Ann Reese at 205-776-5301 or lreese@briarwood.org for available dates.

Pickleball — Tuesday nights from 6:00–9:00 p.m. in the Gym. Come and join us for open play pickleball. For more information, call 205-776-5237 or visit questrecreation.org.

Job Opening: Hispanic Pastor — Bilingual pastor needed to shepherd our Hispanic congregation. Candidate must be ordained or ordainable in the PCA. Send resume to hmcDougall@briarwood.org or call 205-776-5404.

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

Monday, March 18 — Briarwood Prayer Focus

Pray for our youth ministry as they are already planning on a busy summer as well as their normal activities. Be in prayer about attending the upcoming “Raising Up a Sexually Faithful Generation” Parenting Conference on April 13 that will help parents and grandparents raise children in the sexual confusion of our culture as you “*train up your child*” Proverbs 22:6!

Tuesday, March 19 — Birmingham Prayer Focus

Pray for the Foundations Early Learning Center. They partner with families to help them prepare their children for school and for life during the most important age in their child’s development, birth to five. Pray as they are searching for a new location for the 24–25 school year.

Wednesday, March 20 — Missions Prayer Focus

Pray for the Church Revitalization Team as it continues to follow up with the most recent Lampstand Conference attendees. Our desire is to help them discover what the best “next step” is for each of their situations. Pray the Lord will use Lampstand and the team as a tool to guide them to a healthy church.

Thursday, March 21 — Global Ministry Partners

Pray for Carl and Kathy Most with Caribbean Ministries Association in Cuba; Vladimir and Anna with Cru in Kazakhstan; Victor and Nosizo Nakah with Mission to the World in South Africa; and Ty and Ginna Nash with Mission to the World in Thailand.

Friday, March 22 — National Ministry Partners

Pray for Bob McPherson with Cru in Alabama; Ryan and Megan McVicar with Red Tree Presbyterian Church in Ann Arbor Michigan; Kevin and Judith Moore with Mission Increase in Alabama; Tammy Murden with Navigators in Colorado; and Cahaba Medical Care/Hope Health Center.

Saturday, March 23 — Briarwood Officers and Staff

Pray for Briarwood elders Jim Bradford, Louie Haynes, Tim Scott; deacons Bob Blount, Lance Garrison, Tommy Lyles Jr.; and Raiders Director Ben Stallings and wife, Kathleen.

Sunday, March 24 — Church Family

Pray for our hospitalized members Charlie Cutcliffe, John Donaldson, Patti Harwell, Janice Hamil, Kathy Lawrence.

We offer our love and sympathy to Michelle Wall and family on the death of her mother, member Donna Wall, on March 5; Rhonda Beacham and family on the death of her husband, member Bill Beacham, on March 8; to Joe Morgan and family on the death of his wife, member Harriette Morgan, on March 9; and to Nina DeWitt and family on the death of her husband, member Chuck DeWitt, on March 10.

...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6



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THIS LORD'S DAY

Sunday Morning Worship Services:

“When Doubts Arise”

Matthew 11:1–19

Jim Alexander

Sunday Evening Worship:

“Reunited and Unashamed”

Isaiah 54:1–10

Greg Norfleet

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

Watch or listen to previous sermons on the Briarwood App.