



BRIARWOOD MIDWEEK



WINTER/SPRING 2025
JANUARY 8 – APRIL 9

Sign up for dinners, classes and nursery at:
briarwood.org/midweek



Briarwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Briarwood Weekly • info@briarwood.org • December 22, 2024

CAMPUS SECURITY UPDATE

Briarwood is blessed to have a thriving school ministry right here on our church campus through Briarwood Christian School. Such a high honor to educate so many young children within our walls comes with a very high responsibility to take care of their well-being and safety. This is a responsibility Briarwood takes seriously. We have taken many steps to increase the security of our campus. Additionally, our leadership has determined to enhance our security by installing a fence outside the school section of the building.

Installation for the fence is scheduled to begin during the school's Christmas Break and is projected to be completed by the end of March. The construction should not interfere with any church activity during that time. Children's Sunday School drop-off will not be affected. If there are any interruptions to entrances to the church, they will be temporary.

Your prayers and patience are appreciated as we enhance school security. While seeking responsibility, the church ultimately proclaims that its trust is in the Lord of Glory, who sovereignly cares and provides for His people.

– Matt Moore
Church Administrator

SESSIONAL ACTIONS

After careful study and extended prayers, the Session of Briarwood voted to change its leadership model at its October meeting. The Session has elected nine of its members to focus on governance matters to enable the rest of the session to focus more on shepherding, teaching, and equipping ministries. This aligns with our mission that *for God's glory, Briarwood is committed to equipping Christians to worship God and to reach Birmingham to reach the world for Christ.*

This governance shift will prioritize shepherding as the central focus of leadership, ensuring a balance between strategic oversight and the spiritual care of the congregation. The Delegated Session Team will consist of 9 of the 75 Ruling Elders allowing 66 to focus on Shepherding. Look for more information in the future.

At the December 10, 2024, called meeting of the Session, the session elected the following nine men to serve 2025 as the Delegated Session Team (DST).

Delegated Session Team:

Class of 2025

John Bentley
Wes Cline
Mark Hess

Class of 2026

Jon Adcock
Todd Carlisle
Jason Crowe

Class of 2027

Carter Harsh
Loring Muir
Mike Mungenast

For God's glory, we are committed to equipping Christians to worship God and to reach Birmingham to reach the world for Christ.

FEATURED EVENTS

Christmas Eve Services — Evening Worship | December 24 *

Join us for Family Candlelight Services at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. At 11:00 p.m., we will celebrate the Lord's Supper with a Candlelight Communion Service.

MidWeek at Briarwood — Church Wide | January 8–April 9 *

Wednesday night dinners, classes and activities for the entire family. 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 and register for dinners at briarwood.org/midweek.

Sanctity of Life Sunday — National Ministries | January 19

Join us to celebrate the Sanctity of Life. Our Ministry Partners will be recognized in the morning worship and you can visit with them in the Fellowship Hallway following the services. View a list of Briarwood's Ministry Partners at briarwood.org/sanctity.

The Lampstand Birmingham Conference — Church Revitalization | January 23–26

What part do churches members have in helping make their church healthy? Come be encouraged on how a church stays healthy by being on mission, on message, and in ministry. Members are invited to participate in the Lampstand Conference for the special rate of \$75 per person or \$100 per couple! Find details at briarwood.org/lampstand.

Women's In-Town Retreat — Women's Ministry | January 31–February 1

Ladies, join us for the In-town Retreat "By Design: The One Thread of Scripture." Our keynote speaker will be Meaghan May. Registration is \$45 per person through January 2, then \$55 through January 22. Register at briarwood.org/women.

* 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

The Briarwood Bookstore is a wonderful place to shop for gifts for everyone on your list. We carry a wide array of books and gifts including items made from local artists and artisans. Boxed Christmas cards are still well stocked along with Advent wreaths, candles, and calendars. Books ranging from historic fiction to systematic theology, devotionals, books for men, and more are carefully selected for sound theology and Bible-based themes. Journals, planners, kitchen items, and note cards make great gifts or stocking stuffers. 'Tis the gifting season, so come visit us and shop local!

Song of the Stars: A Christmas Story

by Sally Lloyd-Jones | Children's Book

It's time! It's time! Snuggle close with little ones as you read through this beautifully illustrated story about how all creatures come together during the Advent season to share the word that the Messiah is coming. Join the woodland creatures to those in the depths of the sea as they celebrate the arrival of Jesus! Board Book: \$6.99, Hardcover: \$13.99

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

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Bookstore Hours — Come to the Briarwood Bookstore for your last-minute gifts. Last date for Christmas shopping is Monday, December 23. The store will be closed on December 24 and 25 for Christmas and on December 31 and January 1 for New Year's.

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

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. You can find more information at briarwood.org/pcaoffering.

Christmas Poinsettias — Poinsettias dedicated may be picked up to take home following the Christmas Eve Candlelight services.

Church Gate Closings — On Tuesday, December 24, the gates will open at 3:00 p.m. in preparation for the Christmas Eve Services and close following the 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service. The gates will be closed on Wednesday, December 25 for Christmas Day, as well as Wednesday, January 1 for New Year's Day.

Church and School Offices Holiday Closings — Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25 for Christmas; then again Wednesday, January 1 for the New Year holiday.

Ambassador Holiday Soccer Camp — December 27–28 from 9:00 a.m.–noon. Camp for boys/girls ages 7–12. Register at briarwoodsoccer.com. Open to the public.

K4–6th Grade Passport Night — Friday, January 10 from 6:00–8:30 p.m. Come and explore Germany through food and fun! Drop-off is in the Ministries Lobby and pickup in the Children's Auditorium. Register online by Thursday, January 9 at noon at briarwood.org/children. Parents volunteer by emailing ebaker@briarwood.org.

Lampstand Conference Volunteers Needed — January 23–26. Briarwood is hosting the upcoming conference where pastors and church leaders from across the country will attend. If you are willing to house, lend a vehicle or drop off snacks before the conference, contact Christi Bono at cbono@briarwood.org or call 775-5243.

Year-End Giving — The Accounting Office will be closing for the year on Tuesday, December 31 at 5:00 p.m. Contributions received in the mail must be postmarked or canceled by Tuesday, December 31 to qualify as a gift in the year 2024. Contributions with January 2025 postmarks will be considered 2025 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 bscruggs@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

Sunday, December 22 — Briarwood Prayer Focus

Give praises for the greatest gift of all: Jesus Christ! *Hark the herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King! Peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled."* This triumphant hymn was written by Charles Wesley in 1739.

Psalm 32 says our Heavenly Father will guide and direct our path and watch over us with His steadfast love. Continue praying for the Pulpit Search Committee as they rely on direction and guidance from Him.

Monday, December 23 — Birmingham Prayer Focus

Pray for Lifeline Children's Services as they serve vulnerable children and families through fostering, adoption, counseling, and support for unplanned pregnancies. Ask for God to guide them in sharing the gospel and providing hope, healing, and loving care to those in need in our local communities.

Tuesday, December 24 — Missions Prayer Focus

Pray for Trevor and Rebecca who are primary care doctors serving with World Venture in West Africa. They share the gospel as they provide outpatient care to the unreached Maninka people. Pray they can partner with other missionaries and the local church to use medicine to enter other towns and villages make disciples, and plant churches.

Wednesday, December 25 — Global Ministry Partners

Pray for Spencer and Carmen with Mission to the World in Malaysia; Fabiano and Suzana Fernandes with Avant Ministries in Portugal; Brian and Terri Firpo with Campus Outreach SERVE in Thailand; and Samuel and Carol Foucachon with D.M. Stearns Missionary Fund in France.

Thursday, December 26 — National Ministry Partners

Pray for Clete and Karen Hux with the Apologetics Resource Center in Alabama; Joel and Jamie Irvin with Mission to North America in Indiana; Alonza and Vanessa Jones with Biblical Marriage Institute in Alabama; Peter and Rebecca Jones with TruthXchange in California; and Grace House Ministries.

Friday, December 27 — Briarwood Officers and Staff

Pray for our elders Steve Adams, Bryant Moore, Christopher Frost; deacons Philip Johnson, Brent Gilbert, Stephen Boyd; and Women's Director Kristie Harrick.

Saturday, December 28— Church Family

Pray for our hospitalized members Bob Gilmore, Larry Holley, John Lathram, Jim Lawrence, Leigh McCarty, Robert Pugh, Denise Whitworth, Nancy Worthington, Joy Blazer, Jerry Wilson, Leland Eaton

We rejoice with Kevin and Rachel Plyler on the birth of their son, Hampton Andrew Plyler, on December 10.

Our love and sympathy to Mark Rose and family on the death of his grandmother, Marjorie Williams, on December 9; and to Bonnie Goetz and family on the death of her husband, member John Goetz, on December 15; and to Brian, Matthew, Benjamin and Josh Handley and family on the death of their mother and grandmother, Patricia Handley, on December 16.

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



THIS LORD'S DAY

Sunday Morning Worship Services:

Fourth Sunday of Advent

“God’s Gifts: Meditations on God’s Gifts”

Romans 8:31–39

Dr. Dan Doriani

Sunday Evening Worship:

An Evening of Lessons and Carols

Dr. Dan Doriani

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