



B R I A R W O O D

COUNSELING MINISTRY

Connecting
the Treasures of Christ
to the Troubles of Life



Learn more about our Counseling Ministry
at briarwood.org/counseling.



Briarwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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BRIARWOOD COUNSELING MINISTRY

"I rejoice at your word like one who finds great spoil." (Psalm 119:162)

When we consider the pastoral needs within our church and city, we find good reasons for concern. Hard things come at us: I suffer, you suffer, they suffer—and it hurts. Bad things flow from us: sin lives in me, in you, in them—and it harms. So many troubles! But when we see what the Psalmist sees, we find better reasons to rejoice. The Wonderful Counselor has not left us in the dark but has spoken His truth in love to comfort sufferers and transform sinners. In God's written Word, and from Jesus the living Word, we find everything we need to live a godly life. So many treasures! Enjoy with me just a few of the spoils.

Scripture reveals God's way of understanding people.

Do you ever wonder how to make sense of common or complex problems in living? What does it mean to be human? What goes wrong? What makes right? To what goal do we help people grow? How do people change? As we look through the "eyeglasses" of biblical categories, we learn to see life as God sees it, and change as God does. As the Searcher of hearts, His diagnosis goes deep; as the Physician of souls, His cure in Jesus goes deeper. "He rescued me, because he delighted in me" (Psalm 18:19).

Scripture reveals God's way of counseling people.

Do you ever wonder what it takes to have a wise conversation with someone seeking help? Biblical counseling is the interpersonal ministry of the Word. We listen to people to know them truly, and to Scripture to know Christ deeply; from our growing understanding, we apply this Redeemer's treasures to this person's troubles. It's not simplistic, formulaic, or scripted; it's relational, practical, and humble, always seeking to keep in step with the Spirit who leads the way. By precept and example, Scripture trains us to offer God's truth wrapped in God's love. "The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary" (Isaiah 50:4).

Scripture reveals God's way of delivering His counsel to people.

Do you ever wonder how you fit into God's caregiving community? These biblical ways of seeing and helping have their home in the church, then flow into the world wherever God's people go. The care of souls is essentially pastoral, so God's ordained shepherds lead the way; but in this age of the Spirit, Jesus distributes this work to all His saints. By His Word and Spirit, He counsels us in our struggles, so that we may counsel others in their struggles. "From Him the whole body... grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work" (Ephesians 4:16).

Curious to learn more? Come and see how you can grow with us.

Within this vision, the twofold purpose of Briarwood's Counseling Ministry comes into focus: First, because God calls each of us to care for one another's soul, we aim to equip every church member for this conversational ministry. Second, because God gifts some of us to provide more focused care in times of trouble, we aim to enlist, equip, and empower a team of lay counselors. In a typical month, our team of seven combines to provide counseling for 80 individuals and/or couples within blocks of 130 appointments. But the demand exceeds our supply, so we are trusting God to expand our team still more.

Dr. Greg Norfleet, Director of Counseling Ministry
205-776-5281 • briarwood.org/counseling

FEATURED EVENTS

Reception for Dan and Debbie Doriani | Church-wide Event — July 13

This Sunday, July 13 marks the final Lord's Day that Dr. Doriani will serve as Briarwood's Interim Senior Pastor. All are invited to a special reception in honor of the Dorianis immediately following the evening service in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us in expressing our deep gratitude to Dan and Debbie for their faithful service to Briarwood and our congregation.

Impact Weekend — Briarwood Youth | August 1–3

9th–12th grade students, join us for our annual Impact Weekend, a weekend with speakers and discipleship groups at students' homes. This year, Ike Reeder will be our featured speaker on the topic of Authentic Fellowship and Will Carlisle will be leading worship. Come and allow the Lord to Impact your life and learn how to have an Impact on others! Register online at briarwood.org/impactweekend.

* 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 Bailey Family Goes to the Beach: Book 1 (Hide-And-Seek Scriptures)

by Laura Martin | Children's Book

Six-year-old Kanani needs to learn a Bible verse to earn a star for her Bible Club. Kanani's mom decides to help her spunky little girl and son, Chad, learn their verses by hiding sections of the verse around their hometown and on adventure trips. Through a series of hide-and-seek games, the children find the different parts of the verse and succeed in memorizing what they need for Kanani's award. This book series follows Kanani and Chad through their lives and around the world with their Navy father and clever mother as they seek to learn new Scriptures through their family adventures. Price: \$13.99

The Beach is Calling: 90 Devotions for Rest and Relaxation

by DaySpring | Adult Book

Whether you live on the beach or wish you did, this hardcover daily devotional will transport you to a place where you can rest and relax in the Father's love. It will provide a haven of rest for the times when you feel like the waves of doubt are crashing all around you or a storm is overwhelming your faith. You'll learn how to release your fears, worries, and concerns while resting in God's loving care. Each devotion begins with an encouraging Scripture followed by an inspiring message to remind you of God's closeness. A closing prayer guides you to rest in God's goodness and faithfulness and to receive His peace. This refreshing journey to the beach will assure you that God cares deeply about helping you find rest amid life's chaos. It's perfect for summer reading or anytime you want to escape to the beach. Price: \$10.99

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

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Communion Service — Sunday, July 20. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated in the morning services. An alms offering for the Mercy Ministry will be received. Elements are gluten-free.

Trailblazers Ice Cream Social — July 22 from 2:00–4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall E&F. Beat the heat with the Briarwood Trailblazers and Summer Sounds with John Livingston. Register online at briarwood.org/trailblazers.

Briarwood Fall Soccer — Registration is now open for all boys and girls 5–15 years old. Call 205-776-5114, email soccer@briarwood.org, or go to briarwoodsoccer.com.

Sunday Greeters Needed — If you are looking for a way to serve our church, we would love for your smiling face to be a welcoming presence for each person who walks through our doors. All ages can participate! You can serve individually or as a family. Contact Allison Barton at abarton@briarwood.org to volunteer.

ESL Volunteers Needed — Do you have a passion for internationals? Do you speak English? Then you would make a great addition to our ESL ministry! All necessary training will be provided. Contact cmcgregor@briarwood.org for more information.

Super Summer 2025 — Children ages K5 through 6th grade are invited to attend Super Summer at Briarwood. Each weekday, select age groups will meet in the gym and then go out to a fun activity. For details, go to briarwood.org/supersummer.

Women's Summer Bible Study — Join us this summer on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel. This Bible Study will focus on the epistle of Colossians which emphasizes the supreme authority of Jesus Christ over all things.

Men's Summer Study — Men, come this summer for a Wednesday study in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 a.m. We will be over-viewing A.W. Tozer's, *The Pursuit of God*. See details and register at briarwood.org/men.

Summer Evangelism Training — Evangelize with us on Wednesday nights. We will meet for dinner and a lesson on how to share our faith in different contexts. We will then split up and go out to share our faith. For details, go to briarwood.org/evangelism.

Children's Sunday School Promotion — If you are planning on holding your child back for the 2025–26 school year, let Raleigh Macoy know so we can make sure to place him/her in the appropriate Sunday School class for the fall. Email rmacoy@briarwood.org.

Job Opening: AV / Media Specialist — Full-time position to support the Briarwood AV Department. Audio mixing and production experience is required. Send your resume to Landon McKee at lmckee@briarwood.org.

Job Opening: BTS Bookkeeper — Birmingham Theological Seminary is seeking a detail-oriented individual with previous accounting and statistics experience to manage financial data and coordinate institutional research. If interested, email admin@bts.education.

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, July 13 — Briarwood Prayer Focus

Thank you, Lord, for your written Word which tells us how to live our lives to glorify You. “Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Psalm 119:105

Monday, July 14 — Birmingham Prayer Focus

Pray for ministry partner, Grace House, as they equip young women in foster care with the educational, emotional, and spiritual tools they need to overcome generational cycles of poverty and abuse. Pray that each girl would come to know Jesus as their Savior. Ask the Lord to hand-pick staff members with hearts fully devoted to Him and a deep love for the girls.

Tuesday, July 15 — Missions Prayer Focus

Please pray for those who expressed interest during General Assembly in receiving information regarding Lampstand. Pray these pastors and church leaders would take steps to secure and maintain church health. Also, prayer for the Lampstand model and coaching that is in development for future conferences.

Wednesday, July 16 — Global Ministry Partners

Pray for Paul and Elizabeth Sanduleac with International Exchange Organization in Moldova, Alex and Suzanne Sarran with Mission GO in France, Nai and Blaa Sathonrat with Campus Outreach SERVE in Thailand, and Ben and Amber Savjani with UFM Worldwide in Central Asia.

Thursday, July 17 — National Ministry Partners

Pray for Erik and Amy Veerman with Mission to North America in Georgia, Adam and Lisa Venable with Mission to North America in Huntsville, Alabama, Jennifer and Wayne Waddell with Cru at the University of Alabama, and Joel and Holly Wallace with Mission to North America in Alabama.

Friday, July 18 — Briarwood Officers and Staff

Pray for our elders Wes Cline, Lance Black, Ed Chan; deacons Matthew Michel, Matt Moton, Carter Ralph; and Church Administrator Matt Moore and his wife Tammy.

Saturday, July 19 — Church Family

Pray for our hospitalized members Janet Bittner, Jean Cannon, Tom Cartledge, Paul Cleveland, Roy Costner, LaTrelle Grayson, Brenda Harris, Warren Jones, Bill Moulton, Mildred Risner, Charles Woodall, Bill Feist, and Judy Donaldson.

Our love and sympathy to Nancy Bourne, Helen Pruet and family on the death of their brother and uncle, Gus Davis, on July 3; to Annette Blake and family on the death of her husband, member Campbell Blake, on July 6; to the family and friends of member Vern Betsch on his death on July 5; and to the family and friends of member Marjie Collins on her death on July 6.

The flowers in the Worship Center this Sunday are given to the glory of God from the wedding of Katherine Harriett Green and Chandler Todd Deerman on July 12.

Receive each day's prayer as a notification through the Briarwood App.
In your Briarwood App settings, enable “Weekly Prayer Guide” notifications.

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



THIS LORD'S DAY

Sunday Morning Worship Services:

“Run with Endurance”

Hebrews 12:1–3

Dr. Dan Doriani

Sunday Evening Worship:

“The Gifts of God and the Love of God”

1 Corinthians 13

Dr. Dan Doriani

Watch our live-stream on ROKU, Apple TV, Facebook, YouTube or briarwood.org.
Catch up with previous sermons and series on the Briarwood App.