

BRIARWOOD WOMEN'S MINISTRY
PRESENTS

COUNTDOWN
TO
Christmas

NOVEMBER 19, 2025
9:30 AM & 6:30 PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

WITH GUEST SPEAKER
Candy Wood Lindley

TICKETS \$20 ON SALE OCT. 15
NURSERY RESERVATIONS REQUIRED



Briarwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

Women's Event on Wednesday, November 19 at 9:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Preparing Our Hearts for Christmas

As we string twinkling lights upon a green pine, hunt for the perfect gifts to place beneath it, and plan a delicious meal to gather around in celebration, let us not forget the substance behind these tasks. It is all too easy to busy yourself in holiday activities without slowing down to reflect on the immeasurable grace we've been given through a little baby in a manger.

To focus our attention on preparing our hearts for the upcoming Christmas season, the Women's Ministry invites you to our annual Countdown to Christmas. As our time together unfolds, we will reflect on the Good News of Christ, enjoy delicious food, and fellowship with one another. This event is for the believer and non-believer to take the time to meditate on the meaning of Christmas.

Our prayer is that this event will bring our focus back to the Heavenly Father's great love for His people in providing our Savior, Jesus Christ, whom Christmas is all about. We hope each person who attends will either grow in their love for the Savior or be introduced to Him for the first time.

Special Guest

Candy Wood Lindley, former Briarwood member and author of *Face of Faith*, will share her miraculous story of deliverance from terminal cancer and how God used major, face-altering surgeries to grow her dependence on Him.

"Her only chance at survival was a surgery so drastic that, according to her doctors, she would lose the greater portion of her face including the right eye and possibly the left, leaving her severely deformed," as a summary of her book, *Face of Faith*, describes. "Candy awoke with a new face on the outside and a renewed commitment to her Lord on the inside."

Through Candy's life altering experience and testament to God's grace, we hope you will experience a renewed joy for the sacrifice that Christ has made on our behalf and a fresh perspective on His incarnation.

Registration & Tickets

The cost is \$20 per person. Tickets will go on sale October 15 in the bookstore and on the Briarwood website. We have limited tickets for the event so there is a firm deadline to purchase your ticket by November 12.

Purchase tickets online at briarwood.org/countdown.

FEATURED EVENTS

Local & National Ministries Conference — Briarwood Missions | October 19–20 *

Join us Sunday, October 19 and Monday, October 20 to hear from guest speaker Dr. Sandy Willson and our National ministry partners who will share during Sunday School and breakout sessions on Sunday and Monday nights. Find additional details and see how you can volunteer at briarwood.org/nmc.

Every Member Commitment 2026 — All Members | October 26 – November 9

On Sunday, October 26, members are encouraged to attend the Convocation Service in the Worship Center at 9:30 a.m. during the Sunday School hour. Pledge Sunday, on November 2, members will turn in their pledge cards during the morning services or make pledges online. Canvass Sunday, on November 9, is the final opportunity for members to submit their pledges during worship. Learn more at briarwood.org/emc.

Countdown to Christmas — Women's Ministry | November 19 *

Women join us at 9:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall as we prepare our hearts for the Christmas season. Our speaker, Candy Wood Lindley, will share with us her story of faith and how she prepares her heart for Christmas. Tickets are \$20 at briarwood.org/women and in the Bookstore. Nursery available by registration.

* 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

Caring for One Another: 8 Ways to Cultivate Meaningful Relationships

by Edward T. Welch | Adult Book

Imagine an interconnected group of people who entrust themselves to each other. You can speak of your pain, and someone responds with compassion and prayer. You can speak of your joys, and someone rejoices with you. You can ask for help with sinful struggles, and someone prays with you. The goal of this book is that these meaningful relationships will become a natural part of daily life in your church. With short chapters and discussion questions, Ed Welch guides small groups through eight lessons that show what it looks like when ordinary, needy people care for other ordinary, needy people in everyday life. Price: \$8.99

The Berenstain Bears Get Involved

by Jan & Mike Berenstain | Children's Book

Brother and Sister Bear belong to the Cub Club at the Chapel in the Woods. They do fun things around the church, but the real purpose of the club is to help others. Little do they know that very soon their help would be truly needed indeed! A storm hits Bear country, and Bear Country might flood! It's up to the Bear family and the rest of the rescue team from the Chapel in the Woods to come together and save their community. Price: \$5.99

Featured books are available in the Bookstore or online at briarwood.org/bookstore.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

SHINE — Sunday, October 19 and Monday, October 20. Children grades K4 – 6th, join us during our National Ministries Conference in the Children's Auditorium. There will be missionaries speaking, fun and games! No registration is required.

BTS Fall Theology Conference — October 23–25 at Urban Hope Community Church. Join BTS for their Fall Theology Conference, hosting the Center for Biblical Unity Team on Biblical Views on Justice in Society. Register online at bts.education.

Baptism Class — October 29. At Briarwood, we ask that all new parents desiring to have their babies baptized either join our one-night baptism class or meet with Jay Shaw prior to setting up a date for baptism. For information, email lreese@briarwood.org.

Trailblazers Shoebox Packing Party — November 7 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come join the Trailblazers to pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Please bring items to share! Contact Sharon at sjohnston@briarwood.org to bring items early.

Children's Passport Night — Friday, November 14 from 6:00–8:30 p.m. K4–6th graders, come and learn about a foreign country through food and fun! Register your child online at briarwood.org/children.

Persecuted Church Prayer Breakfast — Saturday, November 15. Join us for breakfast and a focused time of prayer from 8:30 am to 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Resources will be provided to guide you on how to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ all over the world. Register online at no cost at briarwood.org/events.

"I Cared Enough" Gospel Thanksgiving Feast — Tuesday, November 25. Donate and help Daniel Cason Ministries distribute food to feed 20,000 homeless, special needs and elderly individuals in the Birmingham area. Find details at icaredenough.com

MidWeek at Briarwood — Join us for dinner, classes and activities for the entire family each Wednesday evening in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner begins at 5:15 p.m. and classes and activities start at 6:30 p.m. Find additional information at briarwood.org/midweek.

Job Openings: Families, Youth, & College Administrative Assistant — Candidate will support the Youth, College and Family Ministries through day-to-day administrative tasks, event coordination, communication, and office management. This is a full-time position with benefits. Please send resumes to jshaw@briarwood.org.

Job Openings: BIO Campus Ministry Director — Full-time position available to provide leadership in reaching international students and scholars at UAB for the purpose of evangelism and discipleship. Salary plus benefits. Send inquiries and resumes to cnorfleet@briarwood.org.

Job Openings: Kitchen Assistant — Part-time position available to assist in the Briarwood kitchen. Send inquiries and resumes to sblahnik@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, October 19 — Briarwood Prayer Focus

Lord, please give us Your heart for the people of our nation. Give us boldness to share the Gospel of Christ. Speak to us today and Monday night through the teaching on “Your Kingdom Come” by Dr. Sandy Willson. Encourage and bless our missionaries who are here for the Local and National Ministries Conference.

Monday, October 20 — 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, October 21 — Missions Prayer Focus

Please pray for the Local and National Ministries Conference October 18–20. Pray for the missionaries participating and the speaker, Dr. Sandy Wilson. Pray for wisdom, guidance, and health as he is preaching God’s word. Please pray for the missionaries to be encouraged and feel welcomed during their time at Briarwood. The flag of Birmingham will be in the worship center this Sunday.

Wednesday, October 22 — Global Ministry Partners

Pray for Julian and Serina Arias with South America Mission in Colombia, Imad Aubrey with Horizon’s International, Middle East, Phillip and Emily Avery with Campus Outreach SERVE, US/Intl., and Simon and Laura Florez with World Reach, Colombia.

Thursday, October 23 — National Ministry Partners

Pray for Ryan and Megan McVicar with Red Tree Presbyterian Church in Ann Arbor Michigan, Dan Millward with Redeemer Presbyterian in Detroit, Michigan, Kevin and Judith Moore with Mission Increase in Alabama, and Tammy Murden with Navigators in Colorado.

Friday, October 24 — Briarwood Officers and Staff

Pray for Briarwood Elders Lance Radbill, Kevin Gush, Loring Muir; Deacons Drew Vaughn, Charles Terry, Jonathan Drescher; and Special Connections Director, Michael Johnson and his wife Amanda.

Saturday, October 25 — Church Family

Pray for our hospitalized members Sandy Bell, Carolyn Campbell, Jeanette Ellis, Banks Farris, Debbie Frey, Mildred Risner, JoAnn Weston, and Barbara Williams.

We rejoice with Connor and Emmi Ford on the birth of their son, Callahan James, on October 12, and grandparents Russell and Wendy Long.

Our love and sympathy to the family of member Jean Cannon who died on October 13.

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:

Local & National Ministries Conference

“Your Kingdom Come”

Matthew 6:5–15

Dr. Sandy Willson

Sunday Evening Worship:

Local & National Ministries Conference

“When Kingdoms Collide”

Daniel 6

Dr. Sandy Willson

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