

Walk Through NATIVITY

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY
DECEMBER 10, 11, 12 • 6:45-8:45 P.M.

Stroll through twelve scenes depicting Jesus' birth, life, and resurrection. Enjoy conversation over cookies, coffee, and hot chocolate in the Fellowship Hall!

Admission is free, but the message is priceless!



SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER
AT BRIARWOOD.ORG/WTN.



Briarwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Briarwood Weekly • info@briarwood.org • November 9, 2025

WALK THROUGH NATIVITY

Experiencing the Meaning of Christmas

On a cold, not-so-white Alabama winter night, imagine the crisp air against your face and the twinkling stars against the deep blue sky. You are bundling up with your coziest sweaters and warm, leather gloves as you eagerly gather all of your family, neighbors, and friends for one of our church's most beloved activities of the year—the Walk Through Nativity!

As you begin walking the perimeter of our church surrounded by your loved ones and making new friends along the way, you are met with passionate actors bringing Bible characters back to life—from Mary, Joseph, and Jesus to angels, shepherds, and guards. As you go through the twelve biblical scenes, you experience tension, hope, and tragedy, but the unbeatable ending leaves you with so much joy!

Each time you witness these stories, you find there's more and more richness in the details of the scenes playing out before your eyes. What great significance of Jesus's full submission to God the Father as He prays, "Not my will but Yours be done" though He knew that He would soon be led to a gruesome death on the cross (Luke 22:42). How immense the beauty of the choir of angels who appeared to the shepherds saying "Glory to God in the highest" that gives you chills as if you were seeing it for the first time (Luke 2:14). And what a grand finale to celebrate at the empty tomb our *risen* Savior who is more powerful than the grave that held Him (Acts 2:24).

Cherish the opportunity to get a glimpse of what these real moments must have felt like and how they reveal the loving character of our Heavenly Father. They renew our joy in the freedom we have been given by putting our faith in Christ and create lasting memories for each of our families.

A Place for the Everyone

The children are filled with laughter as they enjoy seeing the array of animals from live sheep, billy-goats, and huge camels. The deaf ministry is interpreting every scene to include everyone in the nativity excitement. The greeters are assisting anyone who needs extra help walking the quarter mile around the building and guiding the way through the path.

The night ends as you come inside to the warmth of the Fellowship Hall looking forward to a steaming cup of hot chocolate and a delicious cookie. Your friends and neighbors are seeing the beauty in these stories and feeling welcomed by our church family as they are invited back for a Sunday service.

I hope the Walk Through Nativity can bring gladness to your heart as Christmas is nearing and can renew your appreciation for the true reason for the season, our promised Savior entering the world!

For more information, visit briarwood.org/nativity.

FEATURED EVENTS

EMC Canvass Sunday — All Members | November 9

This Sunday is the final opportunity for members to submit their pledges during morning worship. Church officers will reach out to those who have yet to make a commitment unless they have already contacted the church. Find additional information or make your pledge online 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.

Walk Through Nativity — Church Wide | December 10-12 *

December 10, 11 and 12 from 6:45–8:45 p.m. Over 750 volunteer actors, costumers, parking attendants, scene-builders, and greeters are needed for this year's Walk Through. Sign up online at briarwood.org/wtn or call 205-776-5282.

* 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

Practicing Thankfulness: Cultivating a Grateful Heart in All Circumstances

by Sam Crabtree | Adult Book

A favorite among many Briarwood pastors, as well as respected authors, *Practicing Thankfulness* is a highly encouraged read for this Thanksgiving season. Crabtree defines gratitude as the divinely given spiritual ability to see grace and the corresponding desire to affirm it and its Giver as good. "What a spiritually refreshing book this is! Reasoning from dozens of passages of Scripture, and showing substantial theological insight, Sam Crabtree explains blessing after blessing that come from a heart filled with continual thanksgiving, even in hardship. This is the best treatment of thanksgiving I have ever read." ~ Dr. Wayne Grudem Price \$14.99

A Very Thankful Prayer: A Fall Poem of Blessings and Gratitude

by Bonnie Rickner Jensen | Children's Board Book

Help your little one grow gratitude as you join adorable animals thanking God for everyday blessings with this sweet fall-themed board book. From watching the autumn leaves fall to picking pumpkins from the patch, from sharing a Thanksgiving meal with loved ones to learning how to give—there's so much to be thankful for! Cultivate a grateful heart in your little one with this thank-you prayer to God, who gives us every good thing. This book is also available in a "Seek and Find" edition. Price: \$8.99; Seek and Find price: \$10.99

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

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Stewardship Opportunities Survey — The Briarwood Diaconate has prayerfully put together a survey to help identify where you are serving in ministry. Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey at briarwood.org/emc.

Briarwood Angels — Sundays, November 9 & 16. Trees are available in the Bookstore and the Chapel Lobby. Gifts will benefit Birmingham area children and families in need. If you can work adoption tables, email Amy at apwood@briarwood.org.

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

Persecuted Church Prayer Breakfast — November 15 from 8:30–10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for breakfast and a focused time of prayer for our brothers and sisters in Christ all over the world. Register online at no cost at briarwood.org/events.

Operation Christmas Child Boxes — Available until November 16. Pack a shoebox with toys, hygiene items, and prayers to touch a child's life! Turn in boxes to the Children's Auditorium. Include \$10 for shipping. Build a shoebox online at briarwood.org/occ.

Briarwood Handbell Choir — Beginning November 16. Practice Sunday afternoons from 3:30–4:30 p.m. We will play in the morning services on Sunday December 21. Email Shane Davis at mshane327@gmail.com for more information.

Short-Term Honduras Mission Trip — November 16 at 4:30 p.m. in W-203. Prayerfully consider attending an informational meeting to learn more about a trip to Honduras from January 17 to 22, 2026. If interested, please email hmcdougall@briarwood.org.

Service of Thanksgiving — November 23 during Evening Worship at 6:00 p.m. Members of the congregation will have an opportunity to reflect on their thankfulness to the Lord at the conclusion of the worship service.

"I Cared Enough" Gospel Thanksgiving Feast — Tuesday, November 25. Donate and help Daniel Cason Ministries distribute food to feed 10,000 homeless, special needs and elderly individuals in the Birmingham area. Find details at icaredenough.com.

Children's Choirs Christmas Concert — November 30. During the Evening Worship Service enjoy a special Christmas Choir Concert from the Briarwood Children's Choir. For more information, please contact Shanna Phillips at sphillips@briarwood.org.

Christmas Poinsettias — Available through December 7. Dedicate a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone this Advent season. You can pick up your poinsettia after the Christmas Eve candlelight service. Purchase for \$18 at briarwood.org/poinsettia.

Job Opening: Women's & Children's Counselor — Qualifications include a master's degree in biblical counseling and five years of counseling experience. A candidate should inquire with resume to Patti Claud at pclaud@briarwood.org.

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

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

Sunday, November 9 — Briarwood Prayer Focus

Lord, protect our brothers and sisters around the world who are experiencing persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ. We are thankful for the prayer breakfast this Saturday where we can pray together for the persecuted Christians. Pray for our guest speaker, Dr. Karen Ellis, the Director of the Edmiston Center for Christian Endurance Studies at Reformed Theological Seminary-Atlanta, as she will be sharing information and stories of persecuted Christians.

Monday, November 10 — Birmingham Prayer Focus

Pray for Briarwood ministry partner, Urban Hope Community Church in Fairfield, Alabama. Urban Hope is dedicated to the growth and transformation of the Fairfield community and is focused on making disciples who are confident in their identity in Christ — in Fairfield and beyond.

Tuesday, November 11 — Missions Prayer Focus

On December 5, we shall be holding our annual Briarwood International Christmas Party. Please pray for three things: That planning/outreach goes well, that enough members volunteer and serve our international guests with the love of Christ, and that the gospel is effectively shared with all who attend. The flag of Iraq will be featured in the Worship Center this Sunday.

Wednesday, November 12 — Global Ministry Partners

Pray for Andres and Kayla Barreto with World Reach in Colombia, Juan and Eva Barrientos with World Reach in Peru, Baterdene and Enkhtuul with Cru in Mongolia, and Trevor and Rebecca with World Venture in Guinea.

Thursday, November 13 — National Ministry Partners

Pray for Tyler and Courtney Rollason with Campus Outreach in Alabama, Dan and Peggy Ruppel with Mastermedia in California, Vicky Samaritano with Cru in New York, and Matthew and Erica Schmidt with Engage 360 Ministries, Inc. in North Carolina.

Friday, November 14 — Briarwood Officers and Staff

Pray for Briarwood Elders Mark Thompson, Don Hendry, Tripp Reid; Deacons Brett Butler, Brandon Ball, Scott Austin; and Membership Pastor Bob McGregor and his wife Courtney, ESL Coordinator.

Saturday, November 15 — Church Family

Pray for our hospitalized members Sandy Bell, Jeanette Ellis, Banks Farris, Janet Greer, JoAnn Weston, and Elizabeth Holmes.

Our love and sympathy to Fred, Samuel and Mary Ryburn Morris and family on the death of their father and grandfather, Fred Morris III, on November 2.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13

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:

Ephesians: The One Body of Christ

“The Marriage Story”

Ephesians 5: 22–33

Dr. Scott Redd

After the morning services, church officers will reach out to those who have yet to make a commitment unless they have already contacted the church.

Sunday Evening Worship:

“And the Lord Relented”

Amos 7

Dr. Scott Redd

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