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ADVENT

Christmas Eve Services December 24

Family Candlelight Services
5:00 & 7:00 p.m.

Candlelight Communion Service
11:00 p.m.

*May the Light of the World who was made flesh to dwell
among us remind you of the hope we have in Christ.
Thanks be to God for His inexpressible Gift!*



Briarwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BTS SPRING 2026 SEMESTER

BRIARWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:

Beginning Greek II	Prof. Bruce Horsley
Beginning Hebrew II	Prof. Bill Stroup
Biblical Marriage & Family Counseling	Dr. Howard Eyrich
Introduction to Covenant Theology	Dr. Scott Redd
Counseling in the Local Church II	Dr. Greg Norfleet
Introduction to Theological Research & Writing	Dr. Amy Boe
Ministry of the Word II (The Art of Preaching)	Prof. Jackie Gaston
New Testament Studies II (Pauline Epistles)	Dr. David Burnette
Comparative Religions	Dr. Amy Boe

BIRMINGHAM INTENSIVES:

Church Vitality (Lampstand Conference)	Prof. Ike Reeder
Biblical Counseling with Children & Youth	Dr. Chesley Kalehoff
New Testament Studies II (Pauline Epistles)	Rev. Mike Jones
Systematic Theology II (Anthropology)	Dr. Jeff Lowman
Systematic Theology V (Ecclesiology)	Prof. Derrick Brite

VIRTUAL CLASSROOM (VC) COURSES:

Reformation & Modern Church History	Dr. Ben Birdsong
Church History in America	Dr. Ben Birdsong
Advanced Biblical Counseling	Dr. Andy Wisner
Old Testament Studies II (Histories: Joshua - Esther)	Prof. Kuna Griggs
Conflict Resolution in the Church	Dr. Reed DePace
Old Testament Studies IV (Prophetic Literature)	Dr. Jud Davis
Leadership Development & Deployment	Dr. Timothy Mallard
Beginning Hebrew II	Dr. Jud Davis
Beginning Greek II	Dr. Pat Sanders
Ethics	Prof. Jason Dollar
Introduction to Theological Research & Writing	Dr. Pat Sanders
Apologetics & the Bible	Prof. Jason Dollar

Spring Semester: January 20 – April 17

Lampstand Conference: January 22–24

Drop/Add Period ends: January 30

Spring Break: February 23–27

Holy Week: March 29 – April 5 (Offices Closed April 2–3)

Learn more about BTS or sign up for classes at bts.education.

FEATURED EVENTS

“Your Light Has Come” — Briarwood Christmas Festival | December 21 *

Come experience Advent through musical and artistic presentations from the Briarwood Sanctuary Choir, Youth Choirs, Orchestra, and Ballet featuring special guest, Sandra McCracken. This event is free and open to the public.

Christmas Eve Services — Evening Worship | December 24 *

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

MidWeek at Briarwood — Church Wide | January 7–April 29 *

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.

The Lampstand Birmingham Conference — Church Revitalization | January 22–24

You are invited to attend The Lampstand Conference, a conference on Church Health and Revitalization, hosted here at Briarwood. Find details at briarwood.org/lampstand.

* Nursery is available for select events upon reservation at briarwood.org/nursery.

IN THE BRIARWOOD BOOKSTORE

A Vintage Christmas: A Collection of Classic Stories and Poems

by Various Classical Authors | Adult Book

Delight in the most wonderful time of the year with a collection of old-fashioned works from classic authors including L. M. Montgomery, Louisa May Alcott, Charles Dickens, and many more, who invite you to a feast of holiday nostalgia in this beautiful, giftable Christmas collection. Filled with stories that have been part of the Christmas season for generations, *A Vintage Christmas* is a unique collection of lesser-known Christmas tales, reflections, and poems from beloved authors across the centuries and makes the perfect gift for the reader in your life. This treasury will take you back to firesides, simple gifts, and warm family moments of Christmases past as you cherish the timeless truths and joys of the season. Price: \$13.99

Merry Christmas, My Darling Dear: Celebrating the Gift of Jesus

by Amy Kavelaris | Children's Book

Step into a winter wonderland filled with beautiful artwork of woodland animals and flower crowns as you celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with your little ones. *Merry Christmas, My Darling Dear* follows a baby and mama deer who discover that Christmas festivities, decorations, and presents are reminders of the greatest gift of all—the birth of God's Son. Let each gift you give be a reminder of the greatest gift, the gift of our Savior. Price: \$15.99

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

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Congregational Meeting — The Session has called a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 14 for the purpose of electing the slate of candidates receiving the highest number of votes on December 7. The meeting will run from 8:00 a.m. to the conclusion of the 11:00 a.m. service. There will be a special order at 10:35 a.m. in the Worship Center to receive the 2026 budget.

Canned Food Drive — This Sunday, December 14. Gather your canned goods and non-perishables for Oak Mountain Missions Ministries. Sunday morning, leave your donations behind your vehicle for pick up while you are in church.

Persecuted Church Prayer Meeting — Sunday, December 14 at 5:00 p.m. in G103. All are invited to a special time of prayer for our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ.

Camp Counselor — December 15 at 5:30 p.m. in G-101. Come hear about what it's like to be a camp counselor and get the chance to talk to current counselors about their testimony with Camp. Pizza will be provided! RSVP to quest@briarwood.org.

BYG Laguna Beach Retreat — December 27–30. All 9th–12th graders, don't miss this incredible trip as we close out the year with seaside activities, teaching from Wright Draper, and worship with Ezra Worship Initiative. Register at briarwood.org/laguna.

Year-End Giving — The Accounting Office will be closing for the year on Wednesday, December 31 at 5:00 p.m. Contributions received in the mail must be postmarked or canceled by December 31 to qualify as a gift in the year 2025. Contributions with January 2026 postmarks will be considered 2026 contributions.

Camp Briarwood Registration — Day Camp for rising 1st thru 3rd graders is June 8–12. Four Overnight Camp session options are available for rising 4th thru 10th graders during June 22–July 18. Register today at campbriarwood.org.

Lampstand Conference Volunteers Needed — We need volunteers for housing and assembling notebooks for those attending our conference on January 22–24, 2026. If you would like to serve in these areas, contact Christi Bono at cbono@briarwood.org.

Securities Stewardship — When giving gifts of securities, please notify our Church Administrator at the time of your gift so that your contribution may be processed accurately and efficiently. Call 205-776-5205 or email bscruggs@briarwood.org.

Sunday Greeters Needed — 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. Email abarton@briarwood.org to volunteer.

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.

Stay up-to-date with events and opportunities with the Briarwood B-Mail newsletter.

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

Sunday, December 14 — Briarwood Prayer Focus

Heavenly Father, help us share the love of God in Jesus Christ the Son through every Advent outreach opportunity You give this season. “For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Monday, December 15 — Birmingham Prayer Focus

Please pray for ministry partner Grace House’s Transitional Living Program as they seek godly mentors to invest in their girls. Pray for generous support for their Stock the Stockings initiative (grace-house.org/common-needs) so that Christmas will be filled with joy for the girls. To get connected, email jguhl@grace-house.org.

Tuesday, December 16 — Missions Prayer Focus

Please pray for the 2026 Lampstand Conference January 22–24. Pray for many registrations, preparations involved, volunteers and especially the speakers who will teach regarding church health and vitality. The flag of Birmingham will be featured in the Worship Center this Sunday.

Wednesday, December 17 — Global Ministry Partners

Pray for Tim and Niai Byrd with Campus Outreach SERVE in Zambia, Adam and Michelle Cain with Mission to the World in Honduras, Caleb and Miyoung with Mission Sending Service in Taiwan, and George and Claire with One Way Ministries to the Middle East.

Thursday, December 18 — National Ministry Partners

Pray for Bill and Linda White with Daymark Counseling in Alabama, Kevin and Taylor Wilkie with Campus Outreach in Georgia, Parks and Julie Wilson with Worldwide Discipleship Association at Purdue University in Indiana, and Lee and Sarah Wright with Reformed University Fellowship in Texas.

Friday, December 19 — Briarwood Officers and Staff

Pray for Briarwood Elders Jon Adcock, Bob Sproul, Jr., Bob Zachow; Deacons Roger Dobnikar, Joseph Cawood, Jason Cole; and Young Couples Pastor, Aaron Webb and his wife Fern.

Saturday, December 20 — Church Family

Pray for our hospitalized members Ralph Bidwell, Christi Bono, Carolyn Campbell, Sue Cizek, Jean Goebel, Jim Leonard, Barbara Matthews.

Our love and sympathy to Chase Crawford and family on the death of his father, Mickey Crawford, on December 4; to Paul Cleveland and family on the death of his mother, Ellene Cleveland, on December 5; to Jilly and Ezekiel Jones and family on the loss of their mother and grandmother, Betty Washington on December 6; to Lance Radbill and family on the death of his brother, Geoff Radbill, on December 7; and to Mike, Drew and Hannah Brunson and family on the death of their mother and grandmother, Dee Brunson, on December 7.

We rejoice with Matheus Teles and Darlie Nuza on the birth of their daughter, Liz, on November 28; and with Harrison and Catherine Godwin on the birth of their daughter, Heidi Catherine, on December 8, and with grandparents Jimmy and Beth Jordan.

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



THIS LORD'S DAY

Sunday Morning Worship Services:

Third Sunday of Advent

“Jesus, the Servant”

Isaiah 52:13–53:6

Dr. Scott Redd

Sunday Evening Worship:

An Evening of Lessons and Carols

Watch our live-stream on ROKU, Apple TV, Facebook, YouTube or briarwood.org.

Catch up with previous sermons and series on the Briarwood App.