

BY DESIGN

THE BRIDE OF CHRIST



WOMEN'S IN-TOWN RETREAT

FEBRUARY 6-7, 2026

Register online at briarwood.org/women.



WOMEN'S IN-TOWN RETREAT

The Church, The Bride of Christ

Scripture uses many rich metaphors to help us understand what the church is and who we are together. Ephesians 1:23 uses the metaphor of the church as the body, reminding us of our need for each other; John 15:1–5 uses the metaphor of the vine and branches, reminding us of our dependence on Him; and John 10:1–15 uses the beautiful metaphor of the flock of sheep, reminding us we are united under one shepherd. Ephesians 2:19 and 2 Corinthians 6:18 remind us that the church is a family that we have been adopted into by God our Father. We are not just “church friends” but we are actually in covenant relationship with one another forever!

The metaphor we will look at this retreat weekend is that of the Bride of Christ, and it is specifically mentioned in Ephesians 5:22–23, 2 Corinthians 11:2 and Revelation 21:2, 9. As we unpack what it means that we, the church, are the Bride of Christ, my prayer is that it will grow us in our love of the Bridegroom and that it will enhance our understanding of the church.

Details & Registration:

Registration is open now on our website. The cost is \$45 and includes material, snacks and lunch on Saturday. Nursery is available on Friday evening with nursery registration. On Saturday, the Gym will be open for fathers and children to play during the retreat.



Register online at briarwood.org/women.

RETREAT SCHEDULE

Friday, Feb. 6

Bridal Expo

6:30–8:30 p.m.

Introduction Session

Fellowship Hall

Fun, dessert, & giveaways

Saturday, Feb. 7

The Rehearsal

8:30–9:45 a.m.

Worship

Worship Center

10:00–11:00 a.m.

Breakout Sessions

The Ceremony

11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Large Session

Worship Center

12:30–1:45 p.m.

Lunch

For more information, visit briarwood.org/women.

FEATURED EVENTS

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.

Sanctity of Life Sunday / Diaper & Wipe Drive | January 18

Join us to celebrate the Sanctity of Life. Our Ministry Partners will be recognized during morning worship, and you can visit with them in the Fellowship Hallway following the services. Bring your bags of diapers and wipes to leave behind your car for pickup while you are in church to benefit Bundles of Hope.

The Lampstand 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. Church members are eligible for a reduced registration rate. Find details and register at briarwood.org/lampstand. Volunteers are needed. If you are willing to house, lend a vehicle, or drop off snacks before the conference, contact Christi Bono at cbono@briarwood.org.

Women's In-Town Retreat — Women's Ministry | February 6–7

Ladies, join us for our In-town Retreat titled “The Church, The Bride of Christ.” Fellowship together with fun, dessert, and giveaways on Friday night, then return Saturday morning for breakout sessions in the Fellowship Hall. Nursery is available on Friday evening with nursery registration and the Gym will be open for Fathers and children on Saturday. Register for \$45 per person 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

Everyday Gospel: A Daily Devotional Connecting Scripture to All of Life by Paul David Tripp | Adult Book

Paul David Tripp, author of bestselling *New Morning Mercies*, has written a second daily devotional, offering 365 fresh, engaging entries that follow an annual Bible reading plan from Genesis through Revelation. Christians know that daily scripture reading is an essential spiritual discipline, but sometimes opening the Bible day in and day out can feel like a burden rather than the joy and gift that it is. Spending a few minutes reflecting on the truths found within God's word can strengthen your faith, help you resist sin, and inspire you to live for the eternal, unshakeable kingdom of God. In the *Everyday Gospel* devotional, Tripp provides a roadmap for readers who want to spend a full year in God's Word. Brief and practical, these reflections connect the transforming power of scripture to all you will experience in your everyday Christian life. Price: \$23.99

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

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Local Ministry Prayer — Sunday, January 18 at 5:00 p.m. in the Prayer Room. All are invited to come and pray for our local ministry partners and mobilization opportunities.

Infant Baptism Class — Wednesday, January 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the Bride's Room. Jay Shaw will teach on the meaning of Infant Baptism and answer any questions. This class is open to all ages. To register, contact Leigh Anne Reese at lreese@briarwood.org.

Become a Briarwood Member — January 21, 24, & 25. All newcomers and prospective members are invited to attend our Briarwood Inquirers Classes. Attending these classes does not obligate you to join. To sign up, email Wendy at wlong@briarwood.org.

Briarwood Soccer — Register by February 6. It's time for spring soccer! Registration is open for boys and girls ages 5–15 at briarwoodsoccer.com or 205-776-5114.

YBL Winter Breakfast — Friday, February 20 from 6:30–7:45 a.m. at the Harbert Center. Former NFL player, Brodie Croyle, will share his journey through victories and setbacks that deepened his faith, character, and understanding of true leadership. Tickets are available at ybl.org/events.

YBL Sporting Clays — Friday March 6 from 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. at Selwood Farm. Breakfast and lunch provided. Purchase tickets and register at ybl.org.

Women's Winter / Spring Studies — Ladies join one of our six studies this winter/spring. We have opportunities in person and online; in the morning and during the evening; and studies in the Old Testament and New Testament. For more information and to register, visit briarwood.org/women.

Men's Spring Studies — Mondays at 6:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, Tuesdays at 11:45 at Cajun Seafood House, Thursdays at 6:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, and Fridays at 6:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. See additional information at briarwood.org/men.

GriefShare MidWeek Class — Wednesdays from 6:30–8:00 p.m. in W203. Begin your journey from mourning to joy. Join our 12-week program designed to offer comfort and encouragement. Call 205-776-5227 to sign up.

Men's Praying Breakfast — Saturdays at 7:00 a.m. at the Mountain View Building. Please join us to pray for our church and the advancement of God's kingdom.

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: YBL Office Manager/Event Planner — Full-time role focusing on administrative support, plans and executes 10–20 events annually including venue management and post-event follow-up. Send resume to rgegin@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.

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

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

Sunday, January 18 — Briarwood Prayer Focus

Pray for our newly installed Briarwood elders and deacons. Pray that they would be committed to following Jesus, walking in holiness, leading with humility, and serving with truth and grace. *“Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands.”* (Psalm 90:17)

Monday, January 19 — Birmingham Prayer Focus

Pray for Blanket Fort Hope, a ministry serving child survivors of human trafficking. Pray for God’s guidance as they provide housing, trauma care, counseling, education, and the hope found in Christ

Tuesday, January 20 — Missions Prayer Focus

This Sanctity of Life Sunday, let us pray that we acknowledge the inherent value of every human life. May we boldly stand in defense of life from conception to natural death, committing to protect and value every individual, and reflect God’s love and compassion in all we do.

Wednesday, January 21 — Global Ministry Partners

Pray for Demps and Kristy Dempsey with Campus Outreach SERVE to Internationals, Henrique and Corina Dias with South America Mission in Brazil, Scott and Meghan Dillon with Mission to the World in Panama, and Steve and Lindsay Discher with Campus Outreach SERVE in the Philippines.

Thursday, January 22 — National Ministry Partners

Pray for Debi and James DeBoer with First Priority, Alabama; Anthony and Amber Elswick, Church Planter, Winter Haven, Florida; Micah and Brianna Evans with Campus Outreach, Samford University; and Jef and Victoria Fluevog with Campus Outreach in Georgia.

Friday, January 23 — Briarwood Officers and Staff

Pray for Briarwood Elders Matt Denard, Jim Blackmon, Ed Chan; deacons Brett Butler, Ken Barton, Austin Barr; and Mobilization Pastor Max Bunn and his wife, Kathleen.

Saturday, January 24 — Church Family

Pray for our hospitalized members Sandy Bell, Jennifer Bentley, Teresa Boackle, Bebe Costner, Kay Felton, Sam Nichols, Val Heise, Steve Smith, Mary Stevenson, Easton Woodfin, Elaine Wright.

We rejoice with Micah and Hannah Darlington on the birth of their daughter, Lucy, on January 9.

Our love and sympathy to Cindy Ragland and family on the death of her brother, Keith Connolley, on January 8; and to Stan Blair and family on the death of his wife, member Nikki Blair, on January 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:

Deuteronomy: Wholehearted Love

“The First Session”

Deuteronomy 1:9–18

Dr. Scott Redd

Sunday Evening Worship:

Mark: The Words of Eternal Life

“The Kingdom Come”

Mark 1:9–15

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.