

ON MISSION • ON MESSAGE • IN MINISTRY

IMPACT

BIRMINGHAM



LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER!

Register by April 19 at briarwood.org/impact.



Briarwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Briarwood Weekly • info@briarwood.org • April 19, 2026

“THE PEOPLE WE PASS BY”

IMPACT Birmingham | April 25, 2026

A Great Need — Living in Birmingham, we don't need to be convinced that there's a great need right here in our city. As you drive down 1st Avenue North, you can't miss seeing people standing on street corners, holding up a cardboard sign. From the intersection between Lakeshore Drive and Interstate 65 to the Highway 280 East Exit off Interstate 459, you're bound to see homeless people who will likely approach you asking for money. It's a prevalent reality that people are suffering, but the question is why. While there's no simple response to this question, there are great implications to how we answer. Our every thought and reaction towards a person living on the streets proceeds from how we answer this question.

Our Natural Responses — Some of us may respond with compassion. Our hearts may go out to them because they are living in a state that we believe no human being should live. Maybe we will be quick to give our money away or buy them a warm meal to bring them relief.

If we're honest, some of us may respond with judgment. We may assume they are reaping the consequences of their own actions, and we deem it unhelpful to give them a handout. We may be hesitant to enable them to continue any unrighteous living.

Or we may respond with a mixture of the two. Torn between caring for their needs and not easing any rightful consequences, we remain paralyzed—only thinking of avoiding eye contact. We've all experienced these conflicting moments, but they should not cause us to feel shame and guilt. Instead, let us look to Christ for how He would respond.

Bearing God's Image — Though we don't know the cause of each homeless person's suffering, we do know one thing for sure—they are valuable because they are made in the image of God. Truly, that's all we need to know. They are more similar to us than they are different. Christ loves them, too.

However you respond when a person comes up to you to ask for spare change, be sure to remind yourself of their worth. Many homeless people have lost their sense of dignity after living on the streets, and you have a special opportunity to reaffirm their worth by how you look at them and speak to them. Ask God to show you how He sees this person and how we can treat them as fellow image-bearers. From there, ask for wisdom on what to say to them or do for them. There's no one right response.

A Chance to Take Action — During IMPACT Birmingham on April 25th, we will have a team go downtown to minister to the homeless population. We will offer summer clothing, snacks, and rehabilitation resources. Most importantly, we want to offer them the opportunity to know the One who created them with worth and dignity. If the Lord is prompting you to show the love of Christ to those suffering, we have a spot for you on our team.

– Briarwood Local Ministries Team

For the full list of projects, visit briarwood.org/impact

FEATURED EVENTS

IMPACT Birmingham — Church Mobilization | April 25 *

On the morning of April 25, we will partner with local ministries to do service and repair projects, ranging from yard work and painting to distributing food. This will be an opportunity to serve together as the body of Christ and IMPACT Birmingham for Christ! Find additional information and register for projects at briarwood.org/impact.

G.F. Handel's Messiah — Music Ministry Worship Concert | May 3 *

During the Evening Worship Service on May 3, the Briarwood Choir & Orchestra will present several of the solo passages and choruses from G.F. Handel's Messiah, which outlines the redemptive story of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Vacation Bible School 2026 — K5–6th Graders | June 1–5

VBS will be June 1–5 from 9:00 a.m. to noon each day. VBS is free and open to both members and visitors. T-shirts are available for \$10. Register your child and purchase VBS t-shirts at briarwood.org/vbs.

* 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

Ezekiel: A Prophet in Exile

by Scott Redd | Newly Released Adult Book

Ezekiel: A Prophet in Exile offers readers an accessible yet profound exploration of one of Scripture's most complex prophetic books. Written for both scholars and lay readers, this commentary illuminates Ezekiel's unique voice during Israel's darkest hour—the Babylonian exile. Dr. Redd masterfully guides readers through Ezekiel's stunning visions, from the divine chariot-throne to the valley of dry bones, revealing how these dramatic images communicate timeless truths about God's holiness, justice, and redemptive love. The book demonstrates how Ezekiel's message of judgment against Jerusalem's corruption simultaneously offers hope for restoration to the faithful remnant in exile. What sets this commentary apart is its clear connection between Ezekiel's ancient prophecies and their fulfillment in Christ. He shows how the prophet's vision of a restored temple, a good shepherd, and streams of living water find their ultimate meaning in Jesus and the church. The Focus on the Bible series commentaries are popular-level commentaries, especially helpful for pastors and small group leaders. They are useful for personal devotions and spiritual growth. Many of the authors of the commentaries are leading expositors of God's Word on their specialty subjects. The series holds to the inerrancy of scripture and the uniqueness of Christ in salvation. Whether you're struggling to understand Ezekiel's bizarre symbolic actions or seeking encouragement during your own season of exile, this book provides both scholarly insight and pastoral wisdom. Dr. Redd proves that Ezekiel's message of hope emerging from judgment remains powerfully relevant for God's people today. Price: \$15.00 (includes tax)

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

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Local Ministry Prayer — Sunday, April 19 at 5:00 p.m. in the Prayer Room. All are invited to come and pray for our local ministry partners and mobilization opportunities.

Baptism Class — April 22. Expecting and new parents are invited to join us as we walk through the importance of infant baptism and how Briarwood partners with families in raising their covenant child. If you plan to attend, please email lreese@briarwood.org.

Canned Food Drive — April 26. Gather your canned goods and non-perishables for Daniel Cason Ministries. Sunday morning, April 26, leave your donations behind your vehicle for pick up while you are in church.

YBL & Urban Hope Lunch & Discussion Panel — May 1 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Urban Hope Community Church. Join us for a complimentary luncheon with panelists, Alton Hardy, Jason Ellerbee, and Rob Genin. Learn more and RSVP at ybl.org/events.

National Day of Prayer — May 1 from noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Chapel. All are invited to join us for worship and to pray for the nation at our National Day of Prayer Service. The Prayer Room will also be open all day for prayer.

Officer Nominations — May 1–31. Deacon and Elder nominations for the Class of 2029 will be accepted from the congregation during the month of May. Make submissions online at briarwood.org/nominations or email lreese@briarwood.org.

High School & College Graduating Seniors — May 4 deadline. If you are graduating high school or college this spring, please send your full name and school name to Leigh Ann Reese at lreese@briarwood.org or 205-776-5301.

Briarwood Ballet Presents “The Promise” — May 9 & 10 at the Barbara B. Barker Auditorium. This exciting performance is an allegorical retelling of the story of Joseph. Learn more and purchase tickets at briarwood.org/ballet.

CMMA Informational Reception — May 17 in the Fellowship Hall after the 2nd service. All Physicians, Dentists, Physician Assistants, Physical Therapists, Optometrists, & Occupational Therapists are invited to come and hear about the ministry of CMMA.

Support Our Soldiers Memorial Banquet — May 27 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for a banquet for Support Our Soldiers. Tickets are \$20 per person. Purchase 8 tickets to reserve a full table. Register at briarwood.org/events.

VBS Volunteers — June 1–5. Classroom shepherds, nurses, prayer team, greeters, and nursery are all still needed. Teen helper registration is now open for rising 7–12th graders. To sign up to volunteer, please go to briarwood.org/vbs.

Created for a Purpose Conference Volunteers — July 20–24. We need women to help with art rooms (cooking, sewing, paper, painting, sculpture), decorations, and prayer. If you feel led to serve, contact Hannah Grace Walker at hwalker@briarwood.org.

Job opening: Youth Pastor — This position involves responsibility for programming, discipleship, evangelism, outreach opportunities, retreats, and leadership training, and staff development. Send resume to Leigh Ann Reese at lreese@briarwood.org.

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

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

Sunday, April 19 — Briarwood Prayer Focus

Pray for our church family to look to Christ as our head, who joins us together and calls us to build each other up in love. As Ephesians 4:15-16 says, “speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

Monday, April 20 — Birmingham Prayer Focus

Pray for our Briarwood members who will be participating in IMPACT Birmingham on Saturday, April 25, as we partner with local ministries across 17 projects in our city. Ask God to prepare hearts, build connections, and inspire many to join us in serving—sharing the love of Christ with our community.

Tuesday, April 21 — Missions Prayer Focus

Join us in praying this week for Briarwood supported missionaries Vek and Samoeun Taing who serve with New Life Missions in Cambodia. They have been serving for over 50 years in church planting, evangelism and discipleship, and student ministry. They also operate two Christian radio stations and three orphanages in three provinces. We thank God for their faithful service. The flag of Cambodia will be featured in the Worship Center this Sunday.

Wednesday, April 22 — Global Ministry Partners

Pray for Joel and Michelle Johnson with Shepherd’s Fold in Southeast Asia, Jim and Claudia Jung with Mission to the World in Australia, Atieh and Zineb with Avant Ministries in Spain, and Fred and Alice Kabenge with Trinity Center for World Missions in Uganda.

Thursday, April 23 — National Ministry Partners

Pray for Todd and Cindy Sproull with Mission to the World in Washington, Marc and Carol Stephens with Navigators in Tennessee, Trent Taylor with Campus Outreach at Samford University, and Seth and Bethany Terrell with Campus Outreach at University of Alabama.

Friday, April 24 — Briarwood Officers and Staff

Pray for our Briarwood Elders Billy Buck Jr., Don Hendry, Dale Sitton; Deacons Sid Borland, Philip Holcombe, John Royal; and National Missions Pastor Rob Looper and his wife Lisa.

Saturday, April 25 — Church Family

Pray for hospitalized members Sandy Bell, JoAnne Cofer, Vera Cull, Kevin Gush, Doug Heise, Lynn Smith, George Whaley, and John Holcombe.

We rejoice with Mason and Sydney Murphy on the birth of their daughter, Britley Renee, on April 8, and with grandparents Don and Sandy Murphy.

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:

The Ten Commandments

“The Second Commandment: Worship”

Deuteronomy 5:8–10

Dr. Scott Redd

Sunday Evening Worship:

Mark: The Words of Eternal Life

“The Sower and the Seed”

Mark 4:1–9

Dr. Scott Redd

Watch our live-stream on the Briarwood App, Facebook, YouTube or briarwood.org.
Watch or listen to previous sermons on the Briarwood App.