



HE IS RISEN!

Join us as we celebrate our risen Savior this Easter.



Briarwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Briarwood Weekly • info@briarwood.org • April 5, 2026

DEVOTIONS FOR HOLY WEEK

GOOD FRIDAY | The Crucifixion of Our Lord – Matthew 27:27–61

Crucified! Dead! Buried! What a hopeless situation! Jesus was nailed to a cross, willingly gave up His spirit, and died. Luke reports after the resurrection, Jesus joined two disciples walking home to Emmaus. The hopelessness can be heard in their answer to His query. Luke says, “...they stood still, looking sad” (24:17).

But in Romans chapter six, the Apostle Paul tells us that rather than being hopeless, it is immensely hopeful. Paul asks, “Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?” (Rom. 6:1) He then recognizes our identity with Christ and our co-crucifixion, co-death and co-burial with Him. Paul concludes, “For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His” (Rom. 6:5). Christians refer to “Good Friday” because we died with Him, and therefore can reckon ourselves dead to sin (Rom 6:11) and alive to righteousness.

SATURDAY | On the Seventh Day He Rested – Matt. 27:57–60; Heb. 4:1–13

As God rested on the Sabbath following six days of creation, so Jesus rested after the first six days of Holy Week. God views rest as an important dimension of life. Jesus invites men to take His yoke, learn of Him and “find rest” (Matt. 11:29). On several occasions, the Gospel accounts indicate that Jesus, being weary, drew apart to rest. But His rest on this Jewish Sabbath is best understood from His words on the cross, “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit!” (Luke 23:46) Here He expresses absolute trust in God. He has done the work of God and now He rests in God’s promise.

Discover how to find this Sabbath Rest in Phil 2:13 and 4:13, Gal 2:20, John 15:1-5, and Psalm 127:1. As the Lord teaches your heart, write out a prayer that expresses to God your desire to enter daily into His rest.

EASTER SUNDAY | Jesus Is Resurrected – Matthew 28:1–8

Could there have been a more exciting day to be alive? The day of victory over death! “Oh death, where is your sting?” Most of us will come to an Easter service and sing, “Up from the grave He arose...” We will be excited! This is the most glorious day of the church calendar. But how will we live next week? Will we return to our old ways? Will we return to our sin? Will we let the things of this world overshadow Jesus in our lives? Let us not be so critical of the disciples’ lack of belief immediately following the resurrection, but rather learn from them. In the book of Acts some 30 years later, we hear people saying, “these disciples have turned the world upside down.” The resurrection impacted each of their lives.

So today make this your prayer: Dear Jesus, thank You that You died for me and rose again from the dead. Thank You that by faith I have been crucified and resurrected with You. Thank You for the Holy Spirit who lives within me, to empower me to say no to sin and yes to righteousness. Thank You for both Your unconditional love and Your transforming love that You have shed abroad in my heart. And, Lord, enable me to be a disciple who is making disciples. Amen.

Read the full Devotions for Holy Week at briarwood.org/easter.

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.

* 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

Did the Resurrection Really Happen?

by Timothy Paul Jones | Adult Book

The entire Christian faith depends on the belief that Jesus of Nazareth rose from the dead. If there was no empty tomb, Christians have an empty faith. But how can we be confident that the resurrection really happened? In this concise booklet, author Timothy Paul Jones addresses the doubts and questions that arise from Jesus' resurrection as recorded in the New Testament. Jones argues this story is not a mere repetition of old pagan tales or a fabrication to fulfill Jewish expectations. Instead, it was a historical event that is supported by compelling evidence, including accounts of men and women who were willing to die for what they believed they had seen. Skeptics are correct to assume that such claims should not be taken lightly. But what happens if Jesus really did rise from the dead? What would it mean for you and me? Price: \$7.99

The Friends and the Traveller

by Sam Brewster | Children's Book

"The friends set off, the traveller walking with them on the way. They walked and talked and talked and walked throughout the ebbing day." Winding along the road to Emmaus, two friends meet a traveller who opens their eyes to a life-changing discovery. Join them on the road as the joy of the first Easter dawns. Price: \$12.99

That Holy Week So Long Ago: The Seven Days that Led to Easter

by Matthew Boswell | Children's Holy Week Book

While sharing the Easter story with children, it's easy to rush from the pain of Good Friday to the victory of the empty tomb. But each day leading up to Jesus' resurrection holds special meaning. On the road to the cross, the Savior taught, prayed, and fulfilled many Old Testament promises. Retelling these stories through 10 poems for kids, Matthew Boswell displays the beauty of Holy Week day by day. This illustrated book includes short rhymes about Holy Week. Descriptive and memorable, each retelling helps children picture the timeline of the Easter story. They will love reading and reciting this fun book as they learn more about Jesus' life, ministry, and sacrifice. Price: \$12.99

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

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Become a Briarwood Member — April 15, 18 and 19. All newcomers and prospective members are invited to attend our Briarwood Inquirers' Class. Attending does not obligate you to join. To sign up, call 205-776-5208 or email wlong@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.

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.

VBS 2026 — Mark your calendar and plan to attend this summer June 1–5! Registration and teen helper sign-ups will begin in April. To volunteer, go to briarwood.org/vbs. Email Raleigh Macoy at rmacoy@briarwood.org if you have any questions.

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.

Mission Trip Needs — Christian Medical Ministry is collecting donations of ibuprofen 200mg, anti-fungal cream, Tylenol 500mg, and 1% hydrocortisone cream for mission trips to the Dominican Republic. Contact CMMA with questions at 205-776-5470.

Briarwood Audio / Video Team — Worship God and serve in the church by contributing your talents to the Sunday AV Team. Tasks include running worship slides, operating livestream cameras, and more. If you are interested, email lmckee@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.

Job opening: Women Business Leaders, Director — This role will focus on leading and managing the ministry of Women Business Leaders, focused on reaching working women within the Birmingham area. Send resume to rgenin@briarwood.org.

Job opening: Nursery Hallway Supervisor — Briarwood is looking to hire a Briarwood member to supervise the nursery hallway during Sunday evening services and during some special church events. Send resume to aneugent@briarwood.org.

Job opening: Family Ministry Administrative Assistant — Role supports the Family Pastor, G&C, and Children's Ministries and requires a broad understanding of family ministry and administrative support. Send resume to jshaw@briarwood.org.

Job opening: Senior High Ministry Guy Staff — Seeking a male staff member to work alongside the Youth Pastor and Youth Staff, supporting ministry for senior high students. Email resumes to Jay Shaw at jshaw@briarwood.org.

Job opening: Part-time Receptionist — If interested, email bscruggs@briarwood.org.

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

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

Sunday, April 5 — Briarwood Prayer Focus

Dear Jesus, thank You that You died for me and rose again from the dead. Thank You that by faith I have been crucified and resurrected with You. Thank You for the Holy Spirit who lives within me, to empower me to say no to sin and yes to righteousness. Thank You for both Your unconditional love and Your transforming love that You have shed abroad in my heart.

Monday, April 6 — Birmingham Prayer Focus

Please pray for the Briarwood Disaster Response Team, serving for God's glory in disaster-affected communities. Pray for the Disaster Preparedness Training at Briarwood on April 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This training is designed to help families, the church, and the community develop a plan for times of disaster.

Tuesday, April 7 — Missions Prayer Focus

Pray for our international adults who attend our weekly English classes, that they would know and experience the love of Christ in our church and during classes. Pray as they learn about Jesus that they would desire to know Him as their Lord and Savior. The flag of Turkey will be featured in the Worship Center this Sunday.

Wednesday, April 8 — Global Ministry Partners

Pray for Cole and Brooke Hunt with Campus Outreach SERVE International, Lars and Kathryn Huttar with UFM Woldwide serving Internationals, Keisuke and Bethany Idota with Presbyterian Mission International in Japan, and Rob and Jenny Ilderton with Mission to the World in England.

Thursday, April 9 — 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, April 10 — Briarwood Officers and Staff

Pray for our Briarwood Elders Bill Brazeal, Louie Haynes, Tim Scott; deacons Stephen Bond, Christian Holcomb, David Roebuck; and Hispanic Pastor Luis Leon and his wife Amanda.

Saturday, April 11 — Church Family

Pray for hospitalized members Sandy Bell, Karen DeRieux, Jim Shackelford, and JoAnn Weston.

Our love and sympathy to Charles, Shea and Den Terry and family on the death of their son and baby brother, Curtis Anderson Terry, on March 24; to Susie, Summer, Michael, Susanna Joy and Matthew Schor and family on the death of their sister and aunt, Cindy Roper, on March 24; to Joe, Jacob, Ben and Ethan Loggins and family on the death of their brother and uncle, Dave Loggins, on March 29; and to Ken and KC Gables and family on the death of their mother and grandmother, Carolyn Gables, on March 30.

Receive each day's prayer as a notification through the Briarwood App.

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



THIS LORD'S DAY

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service: (6:30 a.m.)

“Long Live the Lamb!”

Revelation 5:1–10

Rev. Rob Looper

Easter Sunday Morning Worship Services:

“He is Risen”

John 20:1–10

Dr. Scott Redd, Pastor

Easter Sunday Evening Worship:

Resurrection Evening Worship Recital

Rev. Max Bunn

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

Watch or listen to previous sermons on the Briarwood App.