



To all who are weary and need rest ...
To all who mourn and long for comfort ...
To all who feel worthless and wonder if God cares ...
To all who struggle and desire strength ...
To all who sin and need a Savior ...
We do, too.

Welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our great Hope and Joy, the reason we gather to celebrate and worship. Southwood opens wide our doors, our hearts, and our lives as our God has done for us.

December 24, 2023
8:45 AM Prayer Gathering
9:30 AM Worship Service

Worship Service

We contemplate who God is and who we are as we gather to worship.

MEDITATION

“‘Yes,’ said Queen Lucy. ‘In our world too, a stable once had something inside it that was bigger than our whole world.’”

C.S. Lewis, *The Last Battle*

God welcomes us into his presence and reorients our hearts to Him and each other.

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: The angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

ALL: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Luke 2:10-14

We express the worth of our God and the emotions of our hearts to Him.

SONGS

“Angels We Have Heard On High”
“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

PRAYER

Helping Lead Today's Worship Service

- Will Spink Senior Pastor
- Derrick Harris Associate Pastor
- The Brechin Family Advent Reading
- Jeremy McCoy Announcements
- DJ Baptiste Director, Music Ministry
- Wayne Bucknor Piano
- Tim Adcock Organ
- Newt Johnson Bass Guitar
- Ron Poteat Electric Guitar
- Michael Athey Drums
- Nina Cash Vocals
- Kim Watkins Vocals
- Jarrett Kaempfer Audio
- Andrew Foreman Livestream
- Josh Cash Slides

Worship Service

God reminds us from his Word of his promises to his waiting people centuries ago.

ADVENT SCRIPTURE READING

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

Micah 5:2-5

SONG

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SONG

“Away in a Manger”

We celebrate how God's grace flows through us in our relationships and community.

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SONG

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Parents may escort K-1st graders upstairs during offertory.

Worship Service

God speaks to us from the Bible explained and applied to our lives.

PREACHING OF THE WORD

John 18:33-38
"The True King"

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

God sends us on his mission with his blessing.

BENEDICTION

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26



Following the Worship Service

Pastor Will will greet and pray with people at the front of the sanctuary.

No Connect Hour today. Connect Hour resumes January 7.

Adults: Gather in Sanctuary for vision casting

High-Life Connects: Jr./Sr. High classes in the Lodge across the street

Kids Connect: Birth-5th grade classes in Nursery and upstairs

Sermon Notes

Why Christmas? Jesus came to announce the true Kingdom and the true King.

1. Kingdoms in Conflict

2. The King's Show and Tell

3. How to Live in the True Kingdom

Grace Group Questions *(for fuller discussion guide, visit southwood.org)*

1. Which values of the kingdom of this world seem most natural for you to embrace?

2. Consider the way in which the true King enters the world at Christmas. What contrast from other kings most impresses you?

3. What about the true King most makes you want to be a part of his kingdom? Would you say it's hard or easy to get into his kingdom?

Announcements

Connect Hour

No Connect Hour today.

Candlelight Service - Tonight!

Join us this evening at 6pm for our traditional candlelight service with the Lord's Supper. Nursery available for infants - 2's.

2024 Churchwide Bible Reading Plan

Next year we will continue our two-year journey through the Bible together as a church family. What a great blessing to learn more of God and his heart for us together! The new year is a great time to jump in even if you didn't participate in 2023. Grab a pew card for directions to the Bible app or to the PDF on our website (southwood.org). If you prefer, grab a printed copy of the plan in the Narthex today. If you would enjoy a daily devotional written for this plan, order *For the Love of God, Volume 2* by D.A. Carson.

Express Grace Conference 2024

Save the Date! Our annual Express Grace Conference is January 27-28.

This Week @ Southwood Sunday, December 24

8:45am – Prayer Gathering

9:30am – Worship Service

11:00am – No Connect Hour (all ages)

6:00pm – Candlelight Service

December 25 - January 1

Church office closed

Join us in pursuing God's mission together by becoming part of a smaller community through Grace Groups. Sign up anytime at southwood.org/grace-groups.

Deacon/Finance Update

2023 Budget

\$2,555,912

Weekly Budget Need

\$49,152

Last Week's Giving

\$87,908

Year to Date Giving

\$2,090,718

Year-End Giving Info

Year-end gifts postmarked or received by Dec. 31 will be accounted toward 2023. There is a fixed and secure drop box outside the office entrance for tithe and donation drop-off purposes when the office is closed.



Scan this QR code to give electronically.

Learn more, see full event calendars, and give electronically at southwood.org.

Prayer Guide

Core Commitment

We seek the restoration of all creation in Huntsville and beyond.

Ask God to provide our local partners with gospel opportunities with the people connected to their ministries during the Christmas season.

Pray for generous and selfless communities and neighborhoods to grow throughout our city.

Ask that God would give each of us a renewed vision of how our ordinary daily tasks are a part of his grand story of redemption and restoration.

Specific Needs

Pray for Elle Stakely in the death of her grandmother.

Pray for Laura Wolfson as she makes encouraging progress but continues to be hospitalized while recovering from heart surgery.

Pray for Cynthia Mann, who is hospitalized and being treated for issues related to heart rhythm and foot infection.

Pray for opportunities to share the wonder of Christmas with our neighbors and family members this year.

Pray for God's generous provision in our end-of-year giving, that we may have plenty to share with many others.

Missions Partner Requests

The Cornerstone Initiative

Debbi and Tony Akers

The CornerStone Initiative supports and equips individuals as they navigate a path through the unique challenges of poverty to a place of lasting transformation. You can support CornerStone by praying for these requests.

Thank God for the faithful volunteers who partner with our class participants and support them as they work to make healthy changes in their lives.

Please pray for participants who are parenting children, that they would trust God for guidance and provision.

Pray for program participants who may be experiencing loneliness, anxiety, and depression this holiday season.

Senior Member

Clayton and Nanette Morgan

443 Jasmine Dr.

Madison, AL 35757

Expectant Mothers

Libby Potts — December 2023

Beth Patton — February 2024

Lauren Taylor — May 2024

Sarah Nell Compton — May 2024

Shealy Holliday — May 2024

Sarah Collins — June 2024

Elizabeth Fancher — June 2024

**Email prayer@southwood.org
to be included in this Prayer Guide.**

Southwood's Mission

Southwood exists to experience and express grace in relationships that impact eternity.

Southwood's Core Commitments

We are committed to being Christ-centered.

We recognize our deep dependence and need for prayer.

We are driven by relationships.

We strive to love the least, the lost, the littlest, the lonely, and the left-out.

We seek the restoration of all creation in Huntsville and beyond.

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(256) 882-3085

southwood.org



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to let us know you're
here.

Experience & Express
Grace