



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 22, 2024
8:45 AM Prayer Gathering
9:30 AM Worship Service
11:00 AM Connect Hour

Worship Service

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

MEDITATION

“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.”

1 John 3:1

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

PEOPLE: *Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!*

LEADER: Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

ALL: *For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.*

from Psalm 95

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

SONGS

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Helping Lead Today's Worship Service

- Will Spink Senior Pastor
- Derrick Harris Associate Pastor
- The Willauer Family Advent Reading
- Jeremy McCoy Announcements
- DJ Baptiste Director, Music Ministry
- Newt Johnson Piano
- Tim Adcock Organ
- Nick Walker Bass Guitar
- Ron Poteat Electric Guitar
- Patrick Bogui Violin
- Michael Athey Drums
- Lyndsay Abel Vocals
- Michael Babin Vocals
- Kim Watkins Vocals
- Jarrett Kaempfer Audio
- Andrew Foreman Livestream
- Abraham Lee Slides

Worship Service

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

ADVENT SCRIPTURE READING

Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.

Isaiah 42:1-4

SONG

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

We talk honestly with our Father about our need for Him.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

God reminds us of his grace and forgiveness as the foundation of our relationship.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:1-2

SONG

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

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

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SONG

"Mary, Did You Know?"

Worship Service

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

PREACHING OF THE WORD

Galatians 4:4-7

“A Perfectly Messy Family Christmas”

K-1st grade may join Kids Worship after Children’s Moment.

God invites us to taste and see his goodness in the bread and cup that represent the body and blood of Jesus for us.

LORD’S SUPPER

The Lord’s Supper is the family meal of Christians. We invite all those who trust in Jesus and are baptized members in good standing of any church that preaches the good news of Jesus to partake in the meal with us. Children not yet received as communing members or others not partaking today are encouraged to observe and/or ask an elder to pray with you after the service.

** Gluten-free bread is available in center front and back.*

** Grape juice is in clear cups in the outer ring of each tray, while wine is in purple cups in the inner rings*

SONG OF RESPONSE

“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”

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.

Join us for Connect Hour, relating with God and each other around his Word.

Adults: Gather in the Connecting Spaces for a Christmas Fellowship

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

Introduction: Family Christmas

Bottom Line: Christmas is not about your messy family being perfect but about you and your messy family being included in God's perfectly messy family.

1. Permanent _____ at the Table (4:4-5)

2. Fall-Out-of-Bed _____ to the Father (4:6)

3. "I Don't Need Anything But You" _____ (4:7)

Conclusion: Christmas with God's Perfectly Messy Family

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

1. What family member or family dynamic is most joyful or difficult for you this Christmas season?
2. Do you regularly think of the reality of your adoption into God's family and his being your Father? What is the best part of that truth for you?
3. How does the mess in God's family give you hope and perspective on where God might choose to show up?

Announcements

Christmas Adult Connect Hour Today

All adults gather in the Connecting Spaces for our Christmas Fellowship.

Christmas Eve Worship Service

Join us at 6pm for our traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Lord's Supper. This is a special time of celebration for the whole family. Nursery provided. To volunteer in the nursery, please email kim.delchamps@southwood.org.

2025 Bible Reading Plan

Beginning January 1, we'll embark on another journey through God's Word together. We'll use "The One-Year Chronological Bible 365-Day Reading Plan" to grow our understanding of the context in which biblical events unfolded. To learn more, visit southwood.org or scan this QR Code:



Express Grace Conference

Save the date for our annual Express Grace Conference, January 25-26, where we talk about our "Motives for Mission" and focus on serving alongside our local community development partners.

Women's Grace Groups Sign-up

Some of our women's Grace Groups begin in January on Wednesday night and Thursday morning as we love one another and discuss the Minor Prophets. Sign up at southwood.org.

This Week @ Southwood

Sunday, December 22

8:45am – Prayer Gathering
9:30am – Worship Service
11:00am – Connect Hour (all ages)

Mon - Fri, December 23-27

Office Closed

Tuesday, December 24

6:00pm – Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 25

Merry Christmas!

Deacon/Finance Update

Quarterly Budget Need is based on Southwood's historical giving patterns.

Oct-Dec Budget Need: \$1,117,132

Quarterly Giving To Date: \$594,470

Last Week's Giving

\$81,497

Year-End Giving Info

Year-end gifts postmarked or received by Dec. 31 will be accounted toward 2024. There is a fixed and secure drop box outside the office entrance for tithe and donation drop-off purposes when the office is closed. Questions? Email melissa.patterson@southwood.org.



Scan this QR code to give electronically.

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

Prayer Guide

Core Commitments

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 Huntsville to know the rest offered by Jesus after a particularly busy season in a high-achieving culture.

Ask God to bless Huntsville's churches with a focus on the glory and grace of Christ during this Christmas season.

Specific Needs

Pray for Greg Ray as he awaits biopsy results that he should receive next week.

Pray for Billy Phillips, who has been hospitalized for heart-related issues but is now recovering at home.

Pray for our Christmas Eve service to be an experience of peace in a chaotic world for us, our family members, and our neighbors.

Pray for God's financial provision for Southwood as we approach year-end giving so critical to mission and ministry next year.

Pray for our kids especially to find their joy in Jesus during our Christmas celebrations.

Missions Partner Requests

Alex & Suzanne Sarran in Lyon, France

The Sarrans have been involved in full-time ministry since 2001, the year they were married. Alex pastors The Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lyon, France, where Suzanne helps lead the women's ministry and choir. The church is an important source of Gospel teaching in a spiritually dark city. You can support the Sarrans by praying for these requests.

We praise God for the wonderful turn out at our recent Christmas celebration.

Alex's laptop, containing sermons and other work along with family photos, has been stolen. Please pray that it would be recovered.

Ask God to send a sense of peace and hope to the church in Lyon as they celebrate the advent season.

Senior Member

Sharron Hunter

10 Cedar Holly Lane SE
Brownsboro, AL 35741

Expectant Mothers

Gabriela Graniel — Jan 2025

Sarah Riley — Feb 2025

Lydia Moore — Feb 2025

Amy Dobrowansky — May 2025

Caroline Jewell — June 2025

**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.

Southwood Presbyterian Church
1000 Carl T. Jones Drive
Huntsville, Alabama 35802

(256) 882-3085

southwood.org



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to let us know you're
here.

Experience & Express
Grace