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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.

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**January 26, 2025**  
**8:45 AM** Prayer Gathering  
**9:30 AM** Worship Service  
**11:00 AM** Connect Hour

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# Worship Service

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

## MEDITATION

“In the name of Christ, distortion must be opposed everywhere - in the kitchen and the bedroom, in city councils and corporate boardrooms, on the stage and on the air, in the classroom and in the workshop. Everywhere creation calls for the honoring of God’s standards. Everywhere humanity’s sinfulness disrupts and deforms. Everywhere Christ’s victory is pregnant with the defeat of sin and the recovery of creation.”

Albert Wolters, *Creation Regained*

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

## CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: The Lord passed before Moses and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.”

*ALL: I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.*

from Exodus 34, Psalm 89

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

## SONG

“Come, Thou Fount”

## PRAYER OF PRAISE

### Helping Lead Today’s Worship Service

- Will Spink Senior Pastor
- Ben Porter Guest Preacher
- Jim Simoneau, Director of CEF
- Newt Johnson Piano
- Nick Walker Bass Guitar
- Michael Athey Drums
- Kathryn Jones Vocals
- Ron Poteat Vocals
- Kim Watkins Vocals
- Jarrett Kamepfer Audio
- Steve Long Livestream
- Amanda Tatum Slides

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# Worship Service

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## MISSION PARTNER REPORT

Child Evangelism Fellowship

## SONG

"Who Is on the Lord's Side?"

We talk honestly with our Father about our idolatry, brokenness, and need for Him.

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy Father, you have called us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. But we have so often loved ourselves and neglected our neighbors. We have ignored their needs, defamed their names, and minimized your image in each one of them. For Jesus' sake, forgive our selfish hearts and our preference for comfort, our hurtful words and our failure to love in action and in truth. By your Holy Spirit in us, renew us as vessels of your love each day.

## PRIVATE CONFESSION

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

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 5:20-21

## SONG

"His Mercy Is More"

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

## GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OFFERTORY SONG

"Jesus Paid It All"

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

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# Worship Service

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

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

God sends us on his mission with his blessing.

## PREACHING OF THE WORD

Luke 7:36-50

“Mission Motives: They Who Have Been Loved Much”

## 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

“Jesus Paid It All”

## BENEDICTION

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21



### Following the Worship Service

Pastor Ben Porter 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 Sanctuary for a panel discussion with our partners

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

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

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## Sermon Notes

1. Who is the worse sinner?

2. Who is Jesus?

3. What hangs in the balance?

### **Grace Group Questions** *(for fuller discussion guide, visit [southwood.org](http://southwood.org))*

1. Which character in the story does your heart most naturally resonate with – the one who sacrifices extravagantly for Jesus or the one who counts the cost carefully?

2. What has been required of Jesus to live in relationship with you personally? What sins or struggles were obstacles to his having you as his own?

3. What is one specific way God has put on your heart this weekend that you can be one who loves much?

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# Announcements

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## Express Grace Conference

Our final conference session follows the worship service as adults stay in the Sanctuary for a panel discussion with Pastor Porter and mission partners: "Real Talk: 10 Reasons We Don't Care for the Poor." If you want more information on connecting with or serving alongside our Missions Team or our mission partners, email [missions@southwood.org](mailto:missions@southwood.org).

## Welcome to Southwood Class

If you want to learn more about a relationship with God, the heart of Southwood, or church membership, join our Welcome to Southwood class starting next Sunday, Feb 2. Email [wyketa.shipman@southwood.org](mailto:wyketa.shipman@southwood.org) to sign up.

## Welcome to Southwood for KIDS!

Parents with children interested in our membership class meeting Sundays in February and March during Connect Hour, please email [kids@southwood.org](mailto:kids@southwood.org) today!

## Kids Ministry Volunteers Needed

Our Children's Ministry needs volunteers for upcoming events (Kids Club and Easter activities). If you are interested in serving, please email [kids@southwood.org](mailto:kids@southwood.org).

## Superbowl Soup Drive for HAP

As part of our Express Grace Conference, bring canned soup and pasta through next Sunday, February 2, in support of Huntsville Assistance Program's winter food drive. Drop off donations at the designated table in the Connecting Spaces.

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## This Week @ Southwood

### Sunday, January 26

8:45am – Prayer Gathering  
9:30am – Worship Service  
11:00am – Connect Hour (all ages)  
7:00pm – Sr. High-Life

### Wednesday, January 29

6:00pm – Jr. High-Life  
6:30pm – Women's Grace Groups

### Thursday, January 30

10:00am – Women's Grace Groups

### Friday, January 31

4:15pm – Depart for Sr. High Retreat, Camp Skyline, Mentone, AL

*Join us on God's mission together by becoming part of a smaller community thru Grace Groups. Sign up at [southwood.org/grace-groups](http://southwood.org/grace-groups).*

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## Deacon/Finance Update

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

Jan-Mar Budget Need: \$558,565

## Last Week's Giving

\$34,550



Scan this QR code to give electronically.

**Learn more, see full event calendars, and give electronically at [southwood.org](http://southwood.org).**

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# Prayer Guide

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## Core Commitments

### Experience and Express Grace

Ask Holy Spirit to transform our hearts so our relationships with our neighbors would be marked by grace and the offer of eternal hope rather than by judgment and condemnation.

Pray that our zeal to share God's grace with others would match our joy in receiving his grace for ourselves.

Ask that God would deepen relationships and partnerships as we serve alongside our mission partners right here in Huntsville.

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## Specific Needs

Praise God for the birth of Bennett Brooks Moore to Grant and Lydia last weekend.

Praise God for the birth of Arthur Thomas Riley to Adam and Sarah this week.

Pray for Pastor Ben Porter and our local community development partners as they join us for our Express Grace Conference this weekend.

Pray for Burns Accardi and his family as his father has been moved to hospice care following a recent fall and brain injury.

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## Missions Partner Requests

### Express Grace Missions Conference

*This weekend, January 25 & 26, Southwood will host its annual missions conference. We will learn more about our Community Development partners and hear messages about Motives for Missions from guest speaker, Pastor Ben Porter. Please help us prepare for this event by praying for these requests.*

Pray that God would give our guest speaker Ben Porter wisdom and discernment as he completes preparation for his messages.

Ask God to bring fruit from the time we spend serving with a learning about our mission partners this weekend.

Pray for a successful winter food drive for the Huntsville Assistance Program.

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## Senior Member

### Eileen Sessions

1613 Montdale Rd. SE  
Huntsville, AL 35801

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## Expectant Mothers

**Amy Dobrowansky** — May 2025

**Caroline Jewell** — June 2025

**Email [prayer@southwood.org](mailto:prayer@southwood.org)  
to be included in this Prayer Guide.**

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### **Southwood's Mission**

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

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### **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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Southwood Presbyterian Church  
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Huntsville, Alabama 35802

(256) 882-3085

[southwood.org](http://southwood.org)



Scan this QR code  
to let us know you're  
here.

Experience & Express  
*Grace*