



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 21, 2025
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

“Sweet Lord Jesus! You whose goings forth were of old, even from everlasting, you have not left your goings forth yet. O that you would go forth this day, to cheer the faint, to help the weary, to bind up our wounds, to comfort our distresses! Go forth, we beseech you, to conquer sinners, to subdue hard hearts, to break the iron gates of sinners’ lusts, and cut the iron bars of their sins in pieces! O Jesus, go forth. ... Trust him, trust him, trust him; and he will go forth to abide in your heart for ever.”

C.H. Spurgeon, *Christmas Sermon 1855*

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

PEOPLE: *He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.*

ALL: *“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.”*

from Hebrews 1

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

SONGS

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”
“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Helping Lead Today’s Worship Service

- Will Spink Senior Pastor
- Derrick Harris Associate Pastor
- Jeremy McCoy Announcements
- Kurt & Katie Stefanie Advent Reading
- DJ Baptiste Director, Music Ministry
- Newt Johnson Piano
- Tim Adcock Organ
- Nick Walker Bass Guitar
- Marcus Pope Drums
- Lyndsay Abel Vocals
- Michael Babin Vocals
- Kim Watkins Vocals
- Nick Walker Bass Guitar
- Jarrett Kaempfer Audio
- Andrew Foreman Livestream
- Caitlyn Spink Slides

Worship Service

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

OLD TESTAMENT ADVENT SCRIPTURE READING

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord. ... The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. ... They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

Isaiah 11:1-10

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Silent Confession

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

SONG

“The First Noel”

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

SONG

“Joy to the World”

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

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SONG

“Light of the World”

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

Matthew 2
"Let Earth Receive Her King"

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

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 Connecting Spaces for 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

God highlights the arrival of his promised King through ...

1. Fulfillment of Old Testament _____
 - Bethlehem (2:5-6)
 - Egypt (2:15)
 - Weeping (2:17-18)
 - Nazareth (2:23)
2. Control of International _____
3. Extraordinary _____
 - Dreams (2:12, 13, 19, 22)
 - Stars (2:2, 9-10)

So that everyone everywhere might respond ...

1. NOT with self-protective _____ (2:3, 16-18)
2. NOT with distracted _____ (2:3-6)
3. BUT with joyful _____ (2:1-2, 9-12)

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

1. Which of the things God does to bring everyone to worship the true King most impresses you? Where do you see God doing similar things today?
2. What does self-protective anger or distracted indifference sometimes look like in your life? What areas of your life do you actively or passively keep Jesus out of?
3. What would change in your life if joyful worship were your consistent response to Jesus? How are you praying that God would bring that change in your heart?

Announcements

Christmas Fellowship Today

All adults will share food and fellowship in the Connecting Spaces following today's worship service.

Christmas Eve Worship Service

Join us on Christmas Eve at 6pm for our traditional candlelight service with the Lord's Supper. Nursery provided (ages 0-3).

2026 Bible Reading Plan

Beginning January 1, we will embark on another journey through God's Word together. We'll use "The Two-Year Bible Reading Plan" as we seek to slow down and engage prayerfully as we read God's Word. To learn more, visit southwood.org or scan this QR Code:



2026 Prayer Resource

As an aide to us in slowing down to talk with God as we read his Word, Southwood leaders have written daily prayers inspired by Scripture readings for that day. The January booklet is in the Narthex or Guest Center as well as on our website on the reading plan PDF. Pick one up and enjoy time with our Father in 2026!

Women's Grace Groups

Many groups resume Wed, Jan 7 (6:30pm) and Thurs, Jan 8 (10am with childcare). New women welcome! Sign up at southwood.org/grace-groups.

This Week @ Southwood Sunday, December 21

8:45am – Prayer Gathering

9:30am – Worship Service

11:00am – Connect Hour (all ages)

Mon - Fri, December 22-26

Office Closed

Wednesday, December 24

6:00pm – Christmas Eve Service

Join us on God's mission together by becoming part of a smaller community through Grace Groups. Women's groups, men's groups, and coed groups meet throughout the week. Sign up to get connected at southwood.org/grace-groups.

Deacon/Finance Update

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

Oct-Dec Budget Goal: \$1,182,675

Oct-Dec Giving to Date: \$508,135

Last Week's Giving

\$76,034



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 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

Praise God for the safe arrival of the Alvarado-Zentella family in Mexico and continue to pray for them as they get settled in there.

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

Praise God that Jim Harris has finished his initial chemo course and keep praying for him and his family.

Praise God for the wedding of Holly Welch and Mark Tucker this weekend and pray for them as they begin their life together.

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 to find their joy in Jesus during Christmas celebrations.

Mission Partner Focus

Great Plains Gathering

Founded in 2011, Great Plains Gathering exists to see hope and peace flourish among Native people in Billings, MT through the gospel. Built on prayer, friendship, and trust, the church has grown into an authentic, multicultural worshiping community that reflects both its local context and God's heart for reconciliation. Today, Great Plains Gathering continues to foster belonging, community, and a sense of family in Christ.

Pray for their families, that the Lord would bring comfort, hope, and renewed strength amid discouragement and depression.

Pray for those who are coming to faith, that they would be rooted in God's grace and experience steady spiritual growth.

Pray that God would sustain the congregation in faithfulness, anchoring them in His promises.

Senior Member

Cynthia Mann

115 King Ave NE
Huntsville, AL 35801

Expectant Mothers

Libby Potts — January 2026

Rosemary Spooner — February 2026

Krista Fenton — February 2026

Ashleigh Lewis — March 2026

Amanda Tatum — March 2026

Megan Craig — May 2026

**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



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

Experience & Express
Grace