



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 29, 2024
8:45 AM Prayer Gathering
9:30 AM Worship Service
11:00 AM No Connect Hour

Worship Service

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

MEDITATION

“Those who believe in God can never in a way be sure of him again. Once they have seen him in a stable, they can never be sure where he will appear or to what lengths he will go or to what ludicrous depths of self-humiliation he will descend in his wild pursuit of man. If holiness and the awful power and majesty of God were present in this least auspicious of all events, this birth of a peasant’s child, then there is no place where we can hide from God, no place where we are safe from his power to break in two and recreate the human heart because it is just where he seems most helpless that he is most strong, and just where we least expect him that he comes most fully.”

Frederick Buechner,
The Hungering Dark

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—

PEOPLE: *and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*

LEADER: For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants.

PEOPLE: *For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way,*

ALL: *in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.*

Hebrews 2:14-17

Helping Lead Today’s Worship Service

- Will Spink Senior Pastor
- Bill Harritt Associate Pastor
- DJ Baptiste Director, Music Ministry
- Newt Johnson Piano
- Nick Walker Bass Guitar
- Ron Poteat Electric Guitar
- Michael Athey Drums
- Lyndsay Abel Vocals
- Kim Watkins Vocals
- Jarrett Kaempfer Audio
- Steve Long Livestream

Worship Service

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

SONGS

“Joy to the World”

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

PRAYER OF PRAISE

God places the sign of his promises on the child of parents who place their trust in Him.

BAPTISM

Julia Tillett Holliday

Daughter of Henry and Shealy Holliday

SONG

“The First Noel”

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

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

SONG

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

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

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SONG

“Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor”

Worship Service

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

PREACHING OF THE WORD

Luke 2:16
"A God for the Everyday"

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

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor"

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 next Sunday for Connect Hour.

Adults: Gather in rooms on hallway across from the Nursery

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

“Those who believe in God can never in a way be sure of him again. Once they have seen him in a stable, they can never be sure where he will appear or to what lengths he will go or to what ludicrous depths of self-humiliation he will descend in his wild pursuit of man. If holiness and the awful power and majesty of God were present in this least auspicious of all events, this birth of a peasant’s child, then there is no place where we can hide from God, no place where we are safe from his power to break in two and recreate the human heart because it is just where he seems most helpless that he is most strong, and just where we least expect him that he comes most fully.”

Frederick Buechner, *The Hungering Dark*

Introduction: A Baby in a Manger?

Three Meditations

1. Messiah in a Manger (Luke 2:16)
2. Word takes on Flesh (John 1:14)
3. King becomes Servant (Philippians 2:7)

One Application

Where will God show up in and through your everyday life?

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

1. If God showed up in your life where you least expect Him, where might you meet Him?
2. What is the most astounding part of the incarnation to you? What marvel leads you to wonder and worship?
3. How will you pray this coming year for greater awareness of God in your everyday life?

Announcements

Connect Hour

There will be no Connect Hour after the service today, but Connect Hour will resume next Sunday.

2025 Bible Reading Plan

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



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.

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.

This Week @ Southwood Sunday, December 29

8:45am – Prayer Gathering

9:30am – Worship Service

11:00am – No Connect Hour (all ages)

Wednesday, January 1

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

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

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

Quarterly Giving To Date: \$712,282

Last Week's Giving

\$117,812

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 for God's protection on the homeless of our community during the cold winter days.

Pray that growth in Huntsville would be spiritual as well as numerical and economic.

Ask for the Holy Spirit's work in each of us to remember the significance of living all of our lives before the face of God and on the mission of God

Specific Needs

Pray for Holy Spirit's work in our hearts to engage with God through his Word during this next year, as many of us begin the chronological reading plan.

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 local and global partners as they trust God for his provision through year-end giving and make plans for another year of ministry.

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

Mark Wolfson

138 Sarah Jane Dr.
Madison, AL 35757

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



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

Experience & Express
Grace