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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 4, 2026**

**8:45 AM** Prayer Gathering

**9:30 AM** Worship Service

**11:00 AM** No 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

“Jesus is the expression of God, the communication of God. He’s everything God wants to say to the world, wrapped up in a person. If we want to know God, Jesus explains him perfectly.”

Glen Scrivener, *Long Story Short*

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

## CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God.

PEOPLE: *It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.*

LEADER: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

ALL: *For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

Psalm 100

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

## SONGS

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

“My Jesus, I Love Thee”

## PRAYER OF PRAISE

### Helping Lead Today’s Worship Service

- Will Spink Senior Pastor
- Derrick Harris Associate Pastor
- Kelli Johnson Announcements
- DJ Baptiste Director, Music Ministry
- Wayne Bucknor Piano
- Tim Adcock Organ
- Nick Walker Bass Guitar
- Marcus Pope Drums
- Angela Baptiste Vocals
- Kristin Symon Vocals
- Jarrett Kaempfer Audio

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# Worship Service

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We affirm together what we believe from God's Word.

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

LEADER: How did God speak to us long ago?

*PEOPLE: Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets.*

LEADER: How does God speak to us now?

*PEOPLE: 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.*

LEADER: What do we believe about Jesus, God's Son?

*ALL: 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. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.*

based on Hebrews 1

## SONG

"'Tis" So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

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

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:1-2

## SONG

"I Belong to Jesus"

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# Worship Service

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

## GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OFFERTORY SONG

"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

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

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

### PREACHING OF THE WORD

Hebrews 1:1-3

"God's Best Word"

### SONG OF RESPONSE

"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

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 next Sunday with our Annual Congregational Meeting for Adults and Youth in the Sanctuary and Kids Connect (birth-5th grade) classes in the Nursery and upstairs.

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# Sermon Notes

**Series Introduction:** Jesus is greater than ...

**Sermon Introduction:** Program, Philosophy, or \_\_\_\_\_

**Bottom Line:** God Speaks in the Unique \_\_\_\_\_ of his Son, Jesus.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_

2. The \_\_\_\_\_

3. The \_\_\_\_\_

4. The \_\_\_\_\_

5. The \_\_\_\_\_

6. The \_\_\_\_\_

7. The \_\_\_\_\_

**Conclusion:** Jesus is greater than ...

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

1. Where in your life are you feeling weary, insignificant, tempted to leave the greatness of Jesus? Where do you need the reminder that Jesus is greater than?
2. Have you considered recently the gracious wonder that God speaks to us? Where do you see yourself or others listening for another word from God beyond Jesus?
3. Which facet of Jesus depicted in these verses is most amazing or marvelous to you? How does that reality impact your life as you look toward this new year?

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## Announcements

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### 2026 Bible Reading Plan

Today is a great day to join our journey through God's Word together. We're using the "Two-Year Bible Reading Plan" available on the Bible App or a PDF on our website. To learn more, 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 booklet for January is available in the Narthex or Guest Center as well as on our website on the reading plan PDF.

### Women's Grace Groups

Many of our groups resume meeting Wed, Jan 7 (6:30pm) & Thurs, Jan 8 (10am with childcare), studying the Old Testament. New women welcome! Sign up at [southwood.org/grace-groups](https://southwood.org/grace-groups).

### Annual Congregational Meeting

Next Sunday, January 11, our annual meeting will be held during the Connect Hour. Please make plans to stay with us following the worship service for this important time of ministry update, financial report, vision casting, and prayer.

### Welcome to Southwood Class

Learn more about the heart of Christianity or Southwood in our next welcome class, starting Sun, Jan 18, at 11am. To sign up, please email [wyketa.shipman@southwood.org](mailto:wyketa.shipman@southwood.org).

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### This Week @ Southwood Sunday, January 4

8:45am – Prayer Gathering  
9:30am – Worship Service  
11:00am – No Connect Hour (all ages)

### Wednesday, January 7

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

### Thursday, January 8

10:00am – Women's Grace Groups

*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](https://southwood.org/grace-groups).*

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### Deacon/Finance Update

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

*Oct-Dec Budget Goal: \$1,182,675  
Oct-Dec Giving thru Dec 28: \$689,838*



Scan this QR code to give electronically.

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

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# Prayer Guide

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## Mission

### Experience and Express Grace

Ask that God's Word would dwell richly among us as it points us to the story of grace and the God of grace.

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

Ask that the good news of Jesus would be transformative in the lives of our youth and children and the entire next generation.

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## Specific Needs

Pray for Cam Burley as he has begun radiation treatment for his prostate cancer that will continue through the month.

Pray for our Grace Groups as they reconnect and walk with each other in another season of life where we need Jesus as desperately as always.

Pray for our church family to grow in relationship with God as we start a new journey through the Bible and prayer this year.

Pray for marriages and families facing extra strain after interactions during the holiday season.

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## Mission Partner Prayer Focus

**Adair** serves alongside national partner churches in Munich, Germany, supporting outreach into strip clubs and brothels. She also works with a Christian organization based in Munich that provides safehouses, practical assistance, and ongoing support for women leaving situations of sex trafficking and forced prostitution. Adair remains committed to the long-term sustainability of these ministries by building strong partnerships with national church leaders and equipping local churches to reflect God's justice and mercy to the most vulnerable and exploited in their communities. Please pray...

For Adair as she prepares her heart and mind to return to Germany on January 17.

For those she has been ministering to in Alabama, that they would continue on a path of healing, recovery, and redemption.

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## Senior Member

### Nancy Unks

145 Sam Henley Lane  
New Market, AL 35761

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## 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](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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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*