



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.

July 5, 2026

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

“It is the cross that gives God his credibility. The only God I believe in is the one Nietzsche ridiculed as ‘God on the cross.’ In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it? ... The crucified one is the God for me! He laid aside his immunity to pain. He entered our world of flesh and blood, tears and death. He suffered for us, dying in our place in order that we might be forgiven. Our sufferings become more manageable in light of his. There is still a question mark against human suffering, but over it we boldly stamp another mark, the cross, which symbolizes divine suffering.”

John Stott

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

PEOPLE: *Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.*

LEADER: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

PEOPLE: *One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.*

LEADER: On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

ALL: *They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.*

Psalms 145:1-6

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
- Marcus Pope Drums
- Clara Morris Vocals
- Kim Watkins Vocals
- Jarrett Kaempfer Audio/Slides
- Leslie Ellis Livestream

Worship Service

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

SONGS
"Our God is Greater"
"Holy Is the Lord"

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND DEPENDENCE

We talk honestly with our Father about our weakness 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
For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:13-14

SONG
"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

MISSION TEAM COMMISSIONING
Katie Cantonwine, Kelli Johnson, Clara Morris, Heather Morris

SONG
"Take My Life and Let It Be"

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

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
OFFERTORY SONG
"I Surrender All"

Worship Service

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

PREACHING OF THE WORD
John 8:31-36
Isn't Christianity Restrictive of My Freedom?

SONG OF RESPONSE
"Take My Life and Let It Be"

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 & pray with people at the front of the sanctuary.

Also, everyone is welcome to join Pastor Will in the Connecting Spaces for a discussion of today's sermon or if you have questions about God and faith.

Next Sunday, all ages welcome to join us for Connect Hour, relating with God & each other around his Word.

Sermon Notes

Introduction: The Untouchable Good

1. Freedom pursued apart from Jesus is _____.

- _____ we don't realize
- Slavery of conflicting _____

"True freedom is not the liberty to do anything we please, but the liberty to do what we ought; and it is genuine liberty because doing what we ought now pleases us." – D.A. Carson

2. Jesus offers the only _____ freedom.

- _____ rather than _____
- _____ rather than _____
- _____ rather than _____

Conclusion: God freely gives up freedom? We can, too?

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

1. What aspect of who you are or how you live your life are you most committed to maintaining personal control over? Why do we naturally assume such autonomy?
2. How would you describe freedom in Christ to someone who has never experienced it? What way that you enjoy it is most life-giving to you?
3. Read Galatians 5:13-14. How does the Bible connect freedom with love and service? What could it look like in your life to do with your freedom what Jesus did with his?

Announcements

Gathering with Pastor Will

While there is no Connect Hour for all ages today due to the holiday weekend, you're still invited to join Pastor Will in the Connecting Spaces to discuss today's sermon. Childcare not provided.

Summer Series Information

Our summer sermon and discussion series, "Thanks for Asking," continues Sundays through July 26, and focuses on some difficult questions many ask about God and faith. Cards sharing the schedule of questions are available in the Narthex and Guest Center. Invite friends and neighbors!

Flourish

Ladies, join us for Flourish on next Sunday, July 12, as Stephanie Pearson leads us in learning how to live out our spiritual gifts. We'll meet in the Connecting Spaces, 2:30 - 4pm.

Leader Training & Officer Nominations

Leadership Training (open to all) begins in August. In preparation, please pray and nominate those you feel should serve as church leaders or ordained officers. Link to nominate: <https://southwood.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/565/responses/new>

July 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 July is available in the Narthex or Guest Center as well as on our website on the reading plan PDF.

This Week @ Southwood Sunday, July 5

8:45am – Prayer Gathering
9:30am – Worship Service
11:00am – No Connect Hour (all ages)
7:00pm – No Sr. High-Life Cookout

Thursday, July 9

8:30am – Thailand Mission Team Departs
2:00pm – Women's Grace Group
6:00pm – Jr. High-Life Event
6:30pm – Women's Grace Group

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.

Apr-Jun Budget Goal: \$784,136
Apr-Jun Giving to Date: \$654,108

Last Week's Giving: \$21,931



Scan this QR code to give electronically.

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

Prayer Guide

Sermon Series Focus

"Thanks for Asking" Series

Ask that Holy Spirit would strengthen our faith and grow our love for God as we open his Word each week.

Pray that people wrestling with Questions and doubts will feel welcomed to bring them to God and to brothers and sisters at Southwood.

Ask for renewed zeal for sharing the hope of Jesus with people longing for answers, purpose, and hope in this life and beyond it.

Specific Needs

Praise God for the birth of Michael Jay "Ike" Propst, III, to Jay and Kathryn this week.

Pray for our nation as we celebrate 250 years and ask for God's continued direction, blessing, and peace upon us and our neighbors.

Pray for our Thailand Missions Team as they finish their preparations and prepare to leave next week.

Mission Partner Focus

Second Mile Development serves neighborhoods, strengthens schools, and empowers homes by connecting people to the love of Jesus and creating lasting change. This summer, our students will partner with Second Mile during our **Youth In-Town Mission Trip** which includes service in the community garden, Neighborhood Thrift Store, and the neighborhood clean-up day.

Pray for Second Mile and for the neighborhoods, schools, and families they serve to experience the hope of the gospel. Pray for our youth to serve with humility, joy, and compassion as they share Christ's love. Pray that God would use this mission trip to deepen our students' hearts for serving others and living on mission every day.

Senior Member

Julia Miller

14016 Camden Cir.
Huntsville, AL 35803

Expectant Mothers

Rachel Johnson — July 2026

Maggie Ratliff — August 2026

Emma Chambers — September 2026

Amber Colvard — September 2026

Alyshia Martin — September 2026

Hannah Platko — September 2026

Amy Dobrowansky — October 2026

Brantley Evans — October 2026

Ashlyn Everett — October 2026

Riley Brechin — December 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.

Southwood Presbyterian Church

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southwood.org



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to let us know you're
here.

Experience & Express
Grace