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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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**October 1, 2023**  
**8:45 AM** Prayer Gathering  
**9:30 AM** Worship Service  
**11:00AM** 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

“Nothing that you have not given away will be really yours. Nothing in you that has not died, will ever be raised from the dead. Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay, but look for Christ, and you will find him, and with him everything else thrown in.”

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

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

## CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

*ALL: We will bless the Lord from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the Lord!*

Psalm 115

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

## SONGS

“To God Be the Glory”  
“How Great Is Our God”

## PRAYER OF PRAISE

### Helping Lead Today's Worship Service

- Mark Baginski Ruling Elder
- Jeremy McCoy Ruling Elder
- Kelli Johnson Announcements
- DJ Baptiste Director, Music Ministry
- Newt Johnson Piano
- Tim Adcock Organ
- Michael Babin Acoustic Guitar
- Nick Walker Bass Guitar
- Wesley Chambers Violin
- Michael Athey Drums
- Jarrett Kaempfer Audio
- Jonathan Ellis Slides
- Leslie Ellis Livestream

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# Worship Service

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God speaks to us through the Bible to call us back to Himself.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." But you were unwilling, and you said, "No! We will flee upon horses"; therefore you shall flee away; and, "We will ride upon swift steeds"; therefore your pursuers shall be swift.

Isaiah 30:15-16

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

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus said, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30

## SONGS

"Jesus, I Come"  
"He Will Rejoice"

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

## GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OFFERTORY SONG

"More of You"

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

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# Worship Service

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

## PREACHING OF THE WORD

John 3:22-36  
"He Must Increase"

## SONG OF RESPONSE

"Jesus, I Come"

God sends us on his mission with his blessing.

## BENEDICTION

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

II Thessalonians 3:16



### Following the Worship Service

Elder Mark 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 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

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# Sermon Notes

I. An Ironic Opening

II. Who's Who

III. Less is More

IV. Final Warning

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

1. How is pursuing one's desire to be more actually self-destructive?
2. How is making Christ more actually self-fulfilling?
3. What might "making Him increase and you decrease" look like in your life?
4. How does the truth of God's wrath affect your relationship with God and others?

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# Announcements

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## Adult Connect Communities

TODAY following the worship service in our Connect Communities, Todd and Amy Gandy will teach on "The Meaning of Marriage" with adults under 45. Mark Baginski and Kevin Ellis will discuss Christian living in every season with *The Fight* by Dr. John White as a guide (ages 45+).

## Day of Prayer - Wednesday!

Join with us in our monthly Day of Prayer for our relationships with our neighbors as we focus on prayer for evangelism in our lives and revival in our community. Pray where you are throughout the day.

## "Let's Gather!" Women's Luncheon

Ladies, please invite your friends to join us for a time of food and fellowship at the Southwood Women's Luncheon. "Let's Gather!" in the Lodge on Saturday, November 4, beginning at 11:00 am. Lunch will be provided at no charge. To RSVP, email us at [women@southwood.org](mailto:women@southwood.org) by Oct 31.

## Men's Hamburger Lunch

All men are invited to join us at the Lodge Tuesday, October 17, anytime between 11:30 and 1:00 for a casual time of connecting with new and old friends. Come hungry!

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## This Week @ Southwood

### Sunday, October 1

6:00am – Men's Fellowship  
8:45am – Prayer Gathering  
9:30am – Worship Service  
11:00am – Connect Hour (all ages)  
7:00pm – No Sr. High-Life

### Wednesday, October 4

All Day – Day of Prayer (no gathering)  
6:00pm – No Leadership Class  
6:00pm – No Jr. High-Life  
6:30pm – No Women's Bible Study

### Thursday, October 5

10:00am – No Women's Bible Study

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

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## Deacon/Finance Update

### 2023 Budget

\$2,555,912

### Weekly Budget Need

\$49,152

### Last Week's Giving

\$47,646

### Year to Date Giving

\$1,490,226



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 Commitment

**We are driven by relationships.**

Ask for boldness and intentionality in workplace and neighborhood relationships - that we might share the hope of Christ with those regularly in our lives.

Pray for our young people to develop Christ-centered relationships in a culture of self-centered priorities.

Ask that our Grace Groups would increasingly be havens of refuge for those who are hurting and searching to find life-giving community.

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## Specific Needs

Pray for Lana Austin as she continues to battle multiple health issues in and out of the hospital the past couple weeks.

Pray for Sarah Cruze in the death of her grandfather this week.

Pray for Marcelle Mahesh as she prepares for treatment to address recently diagnosed breast cancer.

Pray for Jim Smith, longtime Southwood member now in Birmingham, whose health is seriously declining since a fall last month.

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## Missions Partner Requests

**Chase Daws - RUF at Vanderbilt**

*The staff of RUF at Vanderbilt strives to share the belief that the gospel is what brings about personal change, social healing, and cultural renewal. You can help Chase and his team spread this vital message by praying for these requests.*

Ask God to be with us as we head to our upcoming fall conference, Oct 6-8. We'll take 80+ students to play, pray, and grow in our faith.

Pray for us financially. Our account hit a deficit this month and we need God to provide new donors.

Pray for my preaching and our Large Group series, "The Ordinary Christian Life." We've had wonderful attendance at Large Group this year, and lots of new students and curious students. Very excited about the momentum - God's at work!

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## Senior Member

**Nancy Unks**

145 Sam Henley Ln.  
New Market, AL 35761

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## Expectant Mothers

**Ashleigh Lewis** — October 2023

**Ashlyn Everett** — November 2023

**Libby Potts** — December 2023

**Beth Patton** — February 2024

**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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(256) 882-3085

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



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to let us know you're  
here.

Experience & Express  
*Grace*