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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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**September 24, 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

“Jesus did not come to make selfish people dutiful. He came to make dead people alive by a power that doesn’t belong to this world.”

Ray Ortlund

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

## CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Let those who delight in my righteousness shout for joy and be glad and say evermore,

*ALL: “Great is the Lord, who delights in the welfare of his servant!” Then my tongue shall tell of your righteousness and of your praise all the day long.*

Psalm 35:27-28

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

## SONGS

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”  
“Rejoice”

## PRAYER OF PRAISE

### Helping Lead Today’s Worship Service

- Will Spink Senior Pastor
- Derrick Harris Associate Pastor
- Jeremy McCoy Announcements
- DJ Baptiste Director, Music Ministry
- Newt Johnson Piano
- Tim Adcock Organ
- Nick Walker Bass Guitar
- Ron Poteat Electric Guitar
- Aaron Cox Drums
- Lyndsay Abel Vocals
- Kathryn Jones Vocals
- Jarrett Kaempfer Audio
- Wesley Chambers Slides
- Leslie Ellis Livestream

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# Worship Service

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

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

## CONFESSION OF SIN

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

Psalm 103:10-13

## SONG

"God So Loved"

## PRAYER FOR CHURCH PLANTS

## SONG

"Who Is on the Lord's Side?"

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

## GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OFFERTORY SONG

"Redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb"

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# Worship Service

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## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

*Parents may escort K-1st graders upstairs after Children's Moment.*

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

## PREACHING OF THE WORD

John 3:1-21

"The Gift of Life"

God invites us to taste and see his goodness in the bread and cup that represent the body and blood of Jesus for us.

## LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is the family meal of Christians. We invite all those who trust in Jesus and are baptized members in good standing of any church that preaches the good news of Jesus to partake in the meal with us. Children not yet received as members themselves or others not partaking today are encouraged to observe and/or ask an elder to pray with you after the service.

*\* Gluten-free bread is available in center front and back.*

*\* Grape juice is in clear cups in the outer ring of each tray, while wine is in purple cups in the inner rings.*

## SONG OF RESPONSE

"God So Loved"

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 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

**Introduction:** Bringing your Questions to Jesus

## 1. The Impossible Necessity:

The thing you most need is something you can't give yourself.

- New Birth by Water and the Spirit

- Ezekiel 36-37

## 2. The Necessary Simplicity:

God gives you that gift, and you receive it by trusting Jesus.

- Numbers 21

- The Heart of God

**Conclusion:** Jesus' Answers to Our Questions

### Grace Group Questions

1. What questions, confusion, or uncertainties would you like to bring to Jesus? What is the most important thing He could answer for you?

2. When did you realize the thing you most need is something you can't give yourself? What's your favorite part of being "born again"?

3. How would you talk to a friend about the necessity, the impossibility, and yet the simplicity of being born again? Which one does your friend most need to understand?

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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+).

## Leadership Training Class - Module 2

All are invited to join us for Leadership Training, Module 2: "Theology" on Wednesdays starting THIS WEEK from 6-8pm. While a great opportunity for anyone to learn more, this module is required for those interested in serving as officers, session advisors, or teachers. Sign up at [wyketa.shipman@southwood.org](mailto:wyketa.shipman@southwood.org).

## Welcome to Southwood Class

Do you want to learn more about the heart of Southwood? Are you interested in connecting with the mission and people of our church family or pursuing membership? Join Pastor Will today in Room B immediately following the service for our welcome class.

## Worship at Fleming Farms - TODAY!

Join us today at 2:30pm as Southwood leads worship with our neighbors at Fleming Farms Senior Living.

## Southwood Nursery Open Position

Southwood is currently seeking a Nursery Supervisor to serve as a part-time member of ministry staff. If you or someone you know is interested, please email [kids@southwood.org](mailto:kids@southwood.org).

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## This Week @ Southwood

### Sunday, September 24

6:00am – Men's Fellowship  
8:45am – Prayer Gathering  
9:30am – Worship Service  
11:00am – Connect Hour (all ages)  
2:30pm - Worship @ Fleming Farms  
7:00pm – Sr. High-Life

### Wednesday, September 27

6:00pm – Leadership Class: Theology  
6:00pm – Jr. High-Life  
6:00pm – Children's Choir Rehearsal  
6:30pm – Women's Bible Study

### Thursday, September 28

10:00am – 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

\$35,580

### Year to Date Giving

\$1,442,580



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 recognize our deep dependence and need for prayer.

Ask that God would make our leaders increasingly dependent upon his guidance more than their own wisdom and strategies.

Pray for an outpouring of God's Spirit in our city that could only be explained as divine power and mercy.

Ask that Holy Spirit would work in our hearts so that awareness of our sin would drive us to our Father rather than away from Him.

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## Specific Needs

Pray for the All Saints and Southside church plants as they seek to build relationships with new friends in their neighborhoods and plan for upcoming morning worship services.

Pray for God's provision of staff members to fill ongoing needs in the nursery and female youth positions.

Pray for our members who are caring for aging loved ones and facing both physical and emotional weariness.

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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

### Julie Miller

14016 Camden Cir.  
Huntsville, AL 35803

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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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Huntsville, Alabama 35802

(256) 882-3085

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



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to let us know you're  
here.

Experience & Express  
*Grace*