



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.

January 7, 2024

8:45 AM Prayer Gathering

9:30 AM Worship Service

11:00 AM Connect Hour

Worship Service

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

MEDITATION

“The love for equals is a human thing - of friend for friend, brother for brother. ... The world smiles. The love for the less fortunate is a beautiful thing - the love for ... the poor, the sick, the failures, the unlovely. This is compassion, and it touches the heart of the world. The love for the more fortunate is a rare thing - to love those who succeed where we fail, to rejoice without envy with those who rejoice. ... The world is always bewildered by its saints. And then there is the love for the enemy - love for the one who does not love you but mocks, threatens, and inflicts pain. ... This is God’s love. It conquers the world.”

Frederick Buechner, *The Magnificent Defeat*

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

PEOPLE: *For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.*

Psalms 95:6-7

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

SONGS

“All for Jesus”

“’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”

PRAYER

Helping Lead Today’s Worship Service

- Will Spink Senior Pastor
- Derrick Harris Associate Pastor
- Kelli Johnson Announcements
- DJ Baptiste Director, Music Ministry
- Newt Johnson Piano
- Tim Adcock Organ
- Michael Babin Acoustic Guitar
- Nick Walker Bass Guitar
- Ron Poteat Electric Guitar
- Michael Athey Drums
- Lyndsay Abel Vocals
- Nina Cash Vocals
- Jarrett Kaempfer Audio
- Lance Cooper Livestream
- Padyen Pearson Slides

Worship Service

We affirm together what the Bible tells us about the source of our power for mission and our hope for eternity.

PROFESSION OF HOPE

LEADER: Jesus said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

PEOPLE: *And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.*

LEADER: And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said,

ALL: *"Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."*

from Acts 1:7-11

SONG

"I'd Rather Have Jesus"

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

BAPTISM

Neely Kathryn Jones

Daughter of Kevin and Kathryn Jones

SONG

"Because He Lives"

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

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SONG

"Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken"

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

Worship Service

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

PREACHING OF THE WORD

Matthew 22:34-40
"Heart Check"

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken"

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 Sanctuary for family talk about mission and priorities

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

Introduction: TMTITKTMTTMT

Focus #1: Is **God** truly central and deeply satisfying for you? (22:37-38)

Focus #2: Are your **neighbor's** needs as important as your own? (22:39)

Conclusion: Who's gonna focus on **ME**?

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

1. If someone evaluated your life (time, decisions, money, conversations, etc.), what would they conclude is the "main thing" for you?
2. What is one way you want to see the love of God grow in your heart/life this year? Love of neighbor?
3. How does the good news of God's love and care and commitment to you need to sink into your heart in a fresh way? What could help that happen more often?

Announcements

Connect Hour Today

While our children and youth resume their gatherings today, adults will gather in the sanctuary for a Family Conversation. Our pastors and others will lead an interactive discussion of God's mission and our priorities as a church family.

2024 Churchwide Bible Reading Plan

We are continuing our two-year journey through the Bible together as a church family, and it's not too late to jump in. Grab a pew card for directions to the Bible app or to the PDF on our website (southwood.org). If you prefer, grab a printed copy of the plan in the Narthex today.

Communicants Class Begins Today

If your child is interested in learning about relationship with God, the Lord's Supper, & church membership, join us for this 5-week class targeted at 4th-8th graders and beginning today after the service.

Welcome to Southwood Class

If you want to learn more about a relationship with God, the heart of Southwood, or church membership, we invite you to join us for our next Welcome to Southwood class starting Sunday, February 11. Details to come!

Express Grace Conference

Our annual conference will be January 27-28 and feature our campus ministry partners as we focus on "Equipping the Next Generation." Make plans to join us for gatherings Saturday morning, Saturday evening, and Sunday morning.

This Week @ Southwood

Sunday, January 7

8:45am – Prayer Gathering
9:30am – Worship Service
11:00am – Connect Hour (all ages)
11:00am – Communicants Class
7:00pm – Sr. High-Life

Tuesday, January 9

6:00pm – Session Meeting

Wednesday, January 10

6:00pm – Jr. High-Life
6:30pm – 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.

Deacon/Finance Update

Budget and Congregational Meeting

Final year-end income and expenses, as well as the 2024 budget, will be presented at the annual congregational meeting on Sunday, February 4, 2023.



Scan this QR code to give electronically.

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

Prayer Guide

Mission: 3 Key Relationships **Relationship with God**

Pray that gratitude for God's grace would draw each of our hearts nearer to our Father's heart this year.

Ask that Holy Spirit would refresh our zeal for God's Word, prayer, and sacraments as priorities that shape our lives.

Pray that those among us who do not personally know God would experience the hope and joy of relationship with Him this year.

Specific Needs

Praise God for the birth of Matthew Stephen Potts to Stephen and Libby last weekend.

Pray for Jill McCann as she recovers from gallbladder surgery Thursday.

Praise God for Laura Wolfson's progress in recovery and continue to pray as she remains in ICU.

Praise God for Cynthia Mann's healing and continue to pray for her rehab in days ahead.

Pray that our hearts would be transformed as we begin another year in our Bible Reading Plan.

Pray for our young people beginning the Communicants Class Sunday to embrace the God who loves them so deeply.

Missions Partner Requests

Express Grace Conference - Equipping the Next Generation

This year's Express Grace Conference will focus on our student ministry partners. As we prepare for this event, we will share requests from some of the leaders who will be participating. The following requests are from Amanda Koch with InterVarsity.

Please pray for the growth of a new Bible study on the campus of Alabama A&M, and for the two students who lead it.

Praise God with us for La Fey, a new fellowship at UAH specifically for Latino students.

Pray that God would provide 20 new monthly partners so that we will have the resources we need to support these ministry opportunities.

Senior Member

Nell Skidmore

12000 Turnmeyer Dr SE, Apt 1110
Huntsville, AL 35803

Expectant Mothers

Grace Guin — January 2024

Beth Patton — February 2024

Lauren Taylor — May 2024

Sarah Nell Compton — May 2024

Shealy Holliday — May 2024

Sarah Collins — June 2024

Elizabeth Fancher — June 2024

**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



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to let us know you're
here.

Experience & Express
Grace