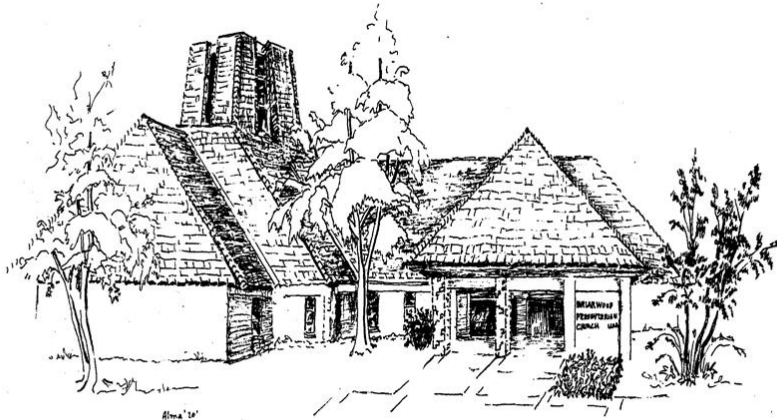


**Briarwood Presbyterian Church
Morning Worship 10:25 a.m.
December 26, 2021
Liturgical Color: White**



*Putting **God** first
Keeping **Christ's** Commands
Caring for People's Needs within the Church
and the **Community***

THE GATHERING

*Worshippers are invited to stand, if able. +Usher will seat you.
Please remember to turn off your cell phone while in the sanctuary.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Charles Bowdler
We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in
the worship, programs and service life of Briarwood Presbyterian
Church.

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

*Use this time to make the transition from getting here to being here.
Relax your body, quiet the inner dialogue of your mind, open yourself
to the Spirit of God moving in our midst, and prepare to worship God
joyfully with the body of Christ gathered here today.*

VOLUNTARY

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER

**Almighty God, you wonderfully created, and yet more
wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature. In your
mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to
share our humanity, and who now lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*HYMN 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

*1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant;*

O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!*

*2 True God from true God,
Light from light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
very God, begotten, not created! [Refrain]*

*3 Sing, choirs of angels;
sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! [Refrain]*

*4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed: we have not loved you with our whole heart, we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves: we repent and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Silence for Private Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI

THE WORD

+YOUNG DISCIPLES TIME

MUSIC

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PSALM LESSON:

Psalm 32:1-2

The Joy of Forgiveness

¹ Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

² Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

GOSPEL LESSON:

John 1:19-34

The Testimony of John the Baptist

¹⁹ This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²² Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor

Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶ John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷ the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” ²⁸ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Lamb of God

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ³¹ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” ³² And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

SERMON

“A Voice in the Wilderness”

Rev. Bowdler

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God

the Father almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*HYMN 147

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

*1 The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.*

Refrain:

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

*2 They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]*

*3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]*

*4 This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]*

*5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. [Refrain]*

*6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought. [Refrain]*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever, Amen

ANNOUNCEMENT OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SENDING

*HYMN 132 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* IN DULCI JUBILO

*1 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!*

*2 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;*

*now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!*

*3 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

PRAYER & CARE CONCERNS

(Names in **bold** indicate new concerns)

Members: **William Bowdler**, Nora Brunson, **Bill Carlisle**, Joy Clemmer, Vance Clemmer, **Donnie Cole**, Hope Conerly, Lisa Davis, **George Forkin**, Dean Gerber, Noel Guthrie, Hugh Hogue, Jeanne Hulsman, Vicki Jensen, Mary Kirby, **Marcia Magee**, **Pat Ray**, Marian Sessums, Paul & Crea Shelton, Betty Simmons, **Susan Sumrall**, Jerry and **Martie Taylor**, Kathy Van Tassell, **Myra Wheaton**

Family & Friends: **Tiara Amos** (Kathy Van Tassell's friend), Jeremy Ansah, Lenny Barnhill (Diane Hall's brother-in-law), Terry

Black (friend of Bob & Diane Hall), Cal Bowdler (Charles' nephew), **Isaac Coleman** (Larry & Louis' brother), Larry Coleman, Kathy Miller Evans (Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller's sister), Margaret Ann Forester, Jeannie Jenkins (Bill Dillon's daughter), **Greg Koziel**, Dennis Lightsey (Malcolm's brother), **Laura Lindell** (Lea Ann McElroy's and Stephanie Smith's sister), **Joe Martin**, Taaji Moore (Josie Moore's son), Grace & Amos O'Gwynn, Norman Rowsey (Ella Edwards' son-in-law), **Sarah Schobesberger** (Lisa & Werner's daughter), Sandra Smith, **William (Bill) Smith**

Missions: Lisa & Werner Schobesberger, Austria; Mission Hope

Military: Grace Foster, Matt Jasinski, Kevin Jameson, Jordan Saunders

USHERS THIS MONTH

Carol Alexander – David French – Debra Kinser –
Mara Kirby – Paula Shelton

Elders this week: Dan Duggan & Joanne White

Elders next week: Susan Bostwick & Corinne Fox

Flower Team this week: Dawn Pearson & Suzanne Stephens

Flower Team next week: Tommie Cole

Videographer this week: Kathy Van Tassell

Videographer next week: Mark Bailey

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, December 26, *First Sunday of Christmas*

10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time

10:25 a.m. Worship in person or Live on Facebook

WEDNESDAY, December 29

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

SATURDAY, January 1, *New Year's Day*

SUNDAY, January 2, *Second Sunday of Christmas*

10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time

10:25 a.m. Worship in person or Live on Facebook

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS: Following the worship service each week, Elders meet to receive new members in the church office located on the southwest side, behind the sanctuary. We welcome everyone who trusts in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and who desires to be an active part of our family of faith.

END OF YEAR GIVING: For tax purposes in 2021, your check must be dated in 2021. If mailing a check for a 2021 donation, mark the giving year in the memo line and postmark by December 31.

2022 PLEDGES: If you have not yet submitted your 2022 pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. Cards are available at each entrance should you need one.

POINSETTIAS: If you contributed to the poinsettias and would like to take one home, you are welcome to do so at the end of the worship service.

OFFICE CLOSED: The office will be closed Monday, January 3rd for the New Year holiday.

SESSION

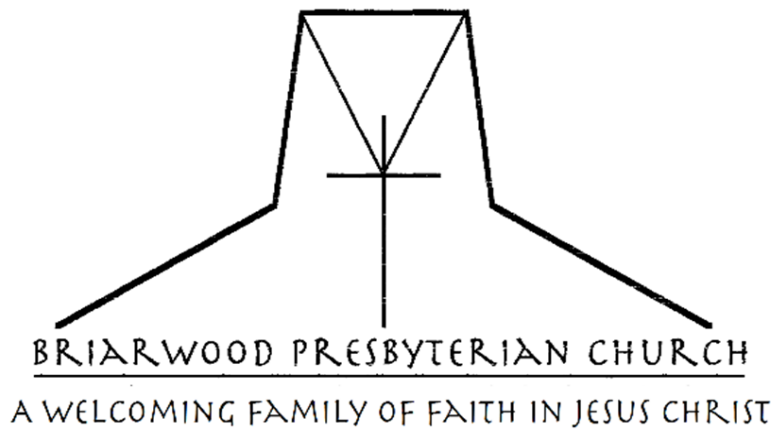
Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024
Dan Duggan	Susan Bostwick	Warren Dorsey
Corinne Fox	Joy Lightsey	Anne Dreher
David French	Tracee Thompson	Jim Jackson
Hugh Hogue	Joanne White	Doris Schneider

STAFF

Senior Pastor	Charles Bowdler	601.497.0006
Church Secretary	Lea Ann McElroy	601.750.5124
Choir Director	Barney McCann	601.750.0441
Organist	Charlyne Jones	910.322.6345
Custodian	Louis Coleman	601-826-7455
Financial Assistant	Brenda Hyde	601.212.7421
Child Care	Josie Moore	601-955-9503
Clerk of Session	Dan Duggan	601-260-1161
Treasurer	Monty Dodson	601-919-0406
Children's Ministry	Susan Sumrall	601-946-5858

MEMBERS, OFFICERS, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE PRESBYTERY OF MISSISSIPPI & THE SYNOD OF LIVING WATERS

The Reverend Charles Bowdler	Chairman, Commission on Ministry
The Reverend William Smith	Honorably Retired
The Reverend Richard Swayze	Honorably Retired
The Reverend Heather Williamsen	Validated Ministry with the Boy Scouts of America as a Cub Scout Chaplain and Troop Leader Member, Presbytery of Mississippi Permanent Judiciary Commission (PJC)
Elder Dan Duggan	Vice Moderator of the Presbytery of Mississippi
Elder Bill Cook	Advisor to the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Mississippi for Trustees
Elder Myra Cook	Member, Presbytery of Mississippi Commission on Ministry
Elder Suzan Dorsey	Member, Presbytery of Mississippi Mission Committee
Elder Susan Sumrall	Commissioned as the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Mississippi and Moderator of the Synod of Living Waters
Elder Susan Bostwick	Presbyterian Women, Presbytery of Mississippi Cluster B Leader
Linda Jabour	Presbyterian Women, Presbytery of Mississippi Secretary



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