

# Hoover Church of Christ

*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

*Matthew 6:21*

February 20, 2022

## Fake or real?

A couple of years ago I wanted to get a Yeti bottle—supposedly the best in the business at keeping hot drinks hot and cold drinks cold—so I put it on my Christmas wish list. On Christmas morning I was excited to open an insulated bottle from my family, but then I noticed that it was a brand I'd never heard of. As it turns out, the Christmas rush had caused local dealers to sell out of the Yeti models, but they had another brand in stock. To tease my family, I started calling it my "fake Yeti"—the kind of bottle you get when you can't get the real thing. [By the way, I love my "fake Yeti"—it keeps coffee scalding hot for hours—and I think it might be as good or even better than the Yeti I asked for . . .]

Most of the time it doesn't work like that, though, because offshoots are almost always inferior. The salesperson says it's just as good as the real thing, only cheaper. She's right about the cheaper but not about the just-as-good. The Gibson guitar knockoff won't set you back as much, but it won't play as well either. The lawn mower you bought on the cheap was priced right for a good reason—something you figure out three weeks into mowing season. The same is true for pretty much everything, from the tires you put on your car to the shoes you put on your feet. The real thing is almost always better than the fake thing, which is why the cliché became a cliché: you get what you pay for.

But it's one thing when we're talking about coolers or guitars and quite another when we're thinking about faith. The former might be frustrating, but the latter can be devastating.

Paul gave his understudy Timothy the best compliment ever when he said he knew that the young Christian's faith was "sincere" (2 Timothy 1:5). The underlying root word literally means *unhypocritical*. It's genuine, true, and real. Not a lookalike, not a façade, not an offbrand.

In a sense, there's no such thing as a knockoff Christian, because an empty faith isn't faith at all. When asked what turned them away from Christianity, non-Christians most frequently say it's the hypocrisy. I think we can respond to that in two ways: we might say that even if it's true it's no reason to let them keep you out of the church, and we'd be right but not too helpful.

Or we can look at ourselves and admit that it's true, or at least truer than we'd like to believe. When Christianity is a part of the culture—which it is in parts of the world—then churches' rolls are peppered with cultural Christians. They join a church because that's what people here do, and joining has all sorts of benefits: a place to find friends, business contacts, or maybe even an attractive girl or guy if you're in the market.

Christianity becomes something that people do because it's popular or convenient or helpful, but when it loses those traits then they lose the thing itself. It's superficial and expendable, something you can take off and replace like last year's clothing styles.

So here's a thought to consider: I think this is one of the worst problems we face in Christianity today. Sure, there's the New Atheism movement, the rise of secularism, and lots of other dangerous isms.

But none is as detrimental as the allure of convenient Christianity. It promises a lot and asks little. Give Jesus a *little* of your time, a *little* of your effort, a *little* of your heart. But not too much, because that might be uncomfortable.

What makes it devastating is that when people buy into Christianity-lite, they've got enough religion to make them feel religious, but not enough Jesus to make them feel convicted.

What about you and me? Is our faith real? Is it all-encompassing? Does it shape what we think, how we talk, what we hope for? Or is it just another thing on our list?

It's fine to go ahead and buy the knock-off shoes and the wanna-be top-of-the-line guitar. You might not be able to tell the difference.

But don't play around with faith—Jesus called us to something bigger than convenience.

—Chuck

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### Schedule of Services

#### Sunday

9:00 a.m. Bible Class  
10:00 a.m. Worship  
5:00 p.m. Worship

#### Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

#### ELDERS

Carl Logan 979-9874  
Jimmy Lyles 616-1109  
Paul Williams, Jr. 408-7234  
Harold Rhodes 876-9296

#### MINISTER

##### Chuck Webster

(205) 586-5610 (cell)  
cwebster@hoovercoc.org

#### ASSOCIATE MINISTER

##### Kyle Wadley

(205) 792-5922 (cell)  
kwadley@hoovercoc.org

#### YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTER

##### Darrell Powell

(205) 480-9773 (cell)  
dpowell@hoovercoc.org

## Worship Assignments Sunday

**Elder to Contact in February for Needs:**  
Paul Williams, Jr.

### Sunday AM and PM

**Call to Worship:** Chuck Webster

**Scripture Reading:** Tom McQuillan

**Singing:**

**AM:** Kyle Wadley

**PM:** Jason McKeown

**Opening Prayer:**

**AM:** Jeff Melton

**PM:** Rick Williams

**AM Sermon:** Chuck Webster

**PM Class:** Chuck Webster

**Communion:**

**AM:** Reggie Arnold

**PM:** Wes Blankenship

**Announcements:** Jimmy Lyles

**Closing Prayer:**

**AM:** Johnny Johnson

**PM:** Drew Spivey

**Audio/Cameras:** Grant Dalton

**Alternate:** Will Spurlin

**Video:** Clint Richey

**Security:** Daniel Warren

**Alternate:** Norman Rutland

## Bible Reading Plan for February 20-27

**Sunday, February 20:** Numbers 21-22

**Monday, February 21:** Numbers 23-25

**Tuesday, February 22:** Numbers 26-27

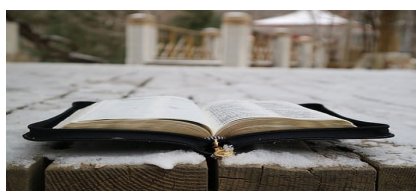
**Wednesday, February 23:** Numbers 28-30

**Thursday, February 24:** Numbers 31-32

**Friday, February 25:** Numbers 33-34

**Saturday, February 26:** Numbers 35-36

**Sunday, February 27:** Deuteronomy 1-2



## Today

**Visitors**, welcome to our worship service this morning—we're thankful for your presence. Please fill out a visitor's card that is located in the pew. We would like to know where you are visiting from.

**Don't forget about our Bible Classes** for all ages on Sunday morning at 9:00am.

Worship service for the **AHEPA 3 Senior Apartments** is at 3:30pm at 3320 Old Columbiana Road in Hoover.

**Tonight** at 5:00pm, we will meet in the auditorium for a **Bible class taught by Chuck**.

## Family News and Events

Please welcome **Kayla Reaves**, Brent Reaves' wife, to our family. Kayla is a high school teacher at Jefferson Christian Academy and is interested in getting involved with our Ladies' Ministry. We are blessed to have her with us.

**The Food Pantry** is beginning its 8<sup>th</sup> year! Although there has been a decline in numbers, we still serve families in need every month. This ministry continues to rely on your generous donation of the monthly pantry item. **We are asking that you limit your donations to the food item requested for the month, or to items and sizes posted on the pantry bulletin board.** The food item that is needed this month is **Canned Fruit**. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.

## Happy Anniversary

Corey & Leah Covington	February 21
Alan & Jamie Starns	February 22

## Happy Birthday

Dick Smith	February 22
Clint Richey	February 23
Andrew Searcy	February 24
Karisa Schlundt	February 25
Camden Bowers	February 25

## Carelines

**Edward Curry** is having knee replacement surgery tomorrow, February 21. Please pray for a complete recovery with no complications.

We extend our condolences to **Doyal Newsom and her family** upon the death of her first cousin, **Vivian**. Vivian passed away from COVID. Please pray for the family as they mourn their loss.

**Jeanne Anderson** will be starting chemotherapy soon, and she requests our prayers that the treatments will be effective. Please pray fervently for her.

**Joyce Baker** is experiencing TIAs (mini strokes). Please pray for her comfort and that these will cease.

**Philip Gaither**, Steven Gaither's brother, is extremely ill with COVID pneumonia. Please pray for his healing.

**Daphne Smith**, Reggie Arnold's colleague's stepdaughter, has been struggling with a brain tumor for years, and it has recently returned aggressively. Please pray for her and her family.

Gary Bradley, a former minister of Hoover, has a grandbaby, **Maggie**, who has been treated at UAB for Nonketotic Hyperglycinemia (NKH). She is now at home and being fed with a G-tube. Please continue to pray for her and for her family as well.

**Caroline McNeill**, Tom and Giana Kidwell's sister-in-law's sister, has esophageal cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy. Please pray for her healing.

**Austin Wentz**, 14-year-old grandson of John and Wilda Gardner (friends of the Rayburns), is out of the hospital and continuing his treatments at St. Jude three times weekly. His recent PT scan showed the mass in his chest was gone; he is in remission. Please continue to keep Austin in your prayers.

**Linda Ross**, a friend of Suzanne Clelland, is suffering with sepsis.

**(Carelines cont.)**

**Shirley Rayburn**, Bill Rayburn's sister-in-law, is now cancer free. She has one more treatment and then a follow-up appointment in three months.

**Remember our shut-ins:** Lynne Nichols, Nancy Williams, and Joyce Baker.

**Remember our church family:** Jamie Starns, Susan Pope, Sarah Washington, Linda Crow, Jeanne Anderson, Monica Robinson, Sheryl Jackson, Gail Powell, Dick Smith, and Mollye Melton.

**Remember our families and friends:** Tony Cutler (Kayla Reaves' uncle), Kevin and Chris Bryant (Suzanne Clelland's friends), Hadley Nelson (Joel Abbott's patient's child), Doug Abbott (Joel Abbott's dad), Corey Burke (Ashton Henry's cousin), Patrick Nichols (Lynne Nichols' son), Anita Wadley (Kyle Wadley's mom), Charlie Davis (Leah Covington's dad), Sam Cunningham (Janie Gaither's co-worker's nephew), Dean Kendrick (Markie Jones' grandmother), and Chris Hethcox (Markie Jones' dad).

**John 14:3**

"And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

**The Good News:** Even though it may not look like what you thought it should, God has a way of offering protection to us all so that He may be glorified.

—Ni'Kesia Pannell, *Woman's Day*

**New Year Bible Verse #6**

**Isaiah 43:18-19:** "Don't remember the prior things; don't ponder ancient history. Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it? I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness."

**I've Got the Joy Down in My Heart**

God's people have always been joyful people. The word "joy" appears 165 times in 155 verses in the Bible. Add in "joyous" (4) and "joyful" (25) and you have nearly 200 references. Add to this that "rejoice" is found 192 times (in 183 verses), and we have nearly 400 references to joy in the Bible.

Consider the following verses:

- \* "Then our mouths were filled with laughter, and our tongues with singing. Then they said, among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them'" (Psalm 126:2).
- \* "His favor is for life; weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning" (Psalm 30:5).
- \* There is a time "to laugh" (Ecclesiastes 3:4).
- \* "God loveth a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).
- \* We should rejoice with those who rejoice (Romans 12:15; cf. Acts 11:23; 1 Corinthians 12:26; Philippians 2:17-18, 28) and should not be selfish with laughter.
- \* Being a good sport demands that we laugh when others are merry, provided the merry mood is prompted by that which is clean and legitimate (Ephesians 5:1-4).

Laughter is in order when we are happy (Ecclesiastes 3:4). The way to true happiness is found in God (Proverbs 16:20).

**Only One Book Left**

When David Livingston started his trek across Africa, he had 73 books in three packs, weighing 180 pounds. After the party had gone 300 miles, Livingston was obliged to throw away some of the books because of the fatigue of those carrying his baggage. As he continued on his journey his library grew less and less, until he had but one book left—his Bible.

—*Today in the Word*, April, 1989, p. 28.

**Attendance and Offering  
February 13, 2022**

**Attendance:**

**Bible Study:** 151

**AM Worship:** 244

**PM Worship:** 117

**Wednesday:** 147

**Contribution:** \$15,658.32

**Weekly Budget:** \$15,050.00

**Weekly Average:** \$16,680.35

**Contribution to Date:** \$116,762.44

**Hoover Supported Works**

- *Childhaven, Cullman, AL*
- *Rainbow Omega, Eastaboga, AL*
- *Churches of Christ Disaster Relief*
- *George Funk, Gospel Chariot Missions, South Africa*
- *Cy Walker, Guyana*
- *Clothing Closet*
- *Food Pantry*
- *Guyana*
- *Tanzania*
- *Philippines*

**Mission Trips**

- *Guyana*
- *Tanzania*
- *Philippines*
- *Peru*

**Oversight**

- *Christ Happy Childhaven, Philippines*
- *Tanzania Missions*

**Psalm 16:2**

"I say to the Lord, You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing."

**I Am  
(John 8)**

Who does \_\_\_\_\_ think that he is?

Who do \_\_\_\_\_ think that he is?

Who do \_\_\_\_\_ think that he is?

**GriefShare Ministry**

So many people within our church family have experienced significant losses in their lives, so we're thankful to be able to offer a **GriefShare Ministry**. This will be a learning, sharing, and supportive small group ministry that will be open to members of our congregation. It is organized around a thirteen-week schedule where participants meet together for around two hours each week and watch professionally-designed videos featuring encouragement from professional grief counselors and also sharing from people who are grieving. These presentations are coupled with discussions that are designed to internalize what participants learn in the videos. If you think this ministry might help you process your loss, please reach out to Harold Rhodes, Kyle Wadley, or Chuck Webster for more information, or you can visit <https://www.griefshare.org/>. **This group meets each Sunday from 2:00-4:00pm.** Please let us know if you have any questions.

**Sunday Evenings**

In addition to our classes and worship on Sunday mornings and classes on Wednesday evenings, we're looking forward to providing many opportunities on Sunday evenings over the course of 2022. Here's what we have planned:

**First Sunday of each month:** Faith in Action (opportunity to serve our community in some way; Bible study in the church auditorium will also be provided)

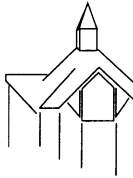
**Second Sunday:** Pray and sing and read Scripture together in the auditorium

**Third Sunday:** Sing and study Scripture in the auditorium

**Fourth Sunday:** Spend time at home with friends and/or family (worship opportunity provided in the auditorium as well)

**Fifth Sunday:** Sing together in the auditorium

**Hoover**  
church of  
**Christ**



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Place  
Postage