



Hoover Church of Christ

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

Matthew 6:21

September 26, 2021

God answers prayers

Name it and claim it. Take your wish list to God, and if you believe and pray hard enough he'll give it to you, guaranteed. And, by the way, sending a little donation to our ministry greatly increases your chances . . .

You might've heard that from a TV preacher, but you probably already know it's not in your Bible.

But I wonder if maybe sometimes we go to the other extreme and think—though we'd never say it out loud—that God doesn't really respond to our requests at all.

Jesus thinks otherwise.

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! (Matthew 7:7-11).

Most of us parents know how many mistakes we make, but even on our worst days we'll give our kids the food they need. We won't, as Jesus says, try to trick them by giving them something that looks like food but isn't. Jesus' point is one of those how-much-more arguments that he often makes. If we—with all of our flaws and shortcomings—try to give our children what they need, won't our perfect God do even better?

As one writer points out, when Jesus says, "Ask, and it will be given to you," the "it" in English is a bit misleading. The "it" isn't whatever we ask for; it's whatever we need. Like a Dad who doesn't cater to every one of his children's immature requests, God responds to our prayers by sending us what's best for us.

So we should ask, seek, and knock, but we should recognize—and even hope—that God won't always give us what we ask for. And really, that ought to comfort us. We can be glad that our Father knows our needs so much better than we do, and that he can respond to our childish and sometimes self-centered prayers by saying "No, that's not best right now. Here's what I'll do for you . . ."

That's the God we serve. A God who gives good things—the best things—and he won't be thwarted by our sometimes short-sighted prayers.

—Chuck

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Hoover, AL 35216
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www.hoovercoc.org
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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 September for Needs: Carl Logan

Call to Worship: Bill Rayburn

Scripture Reading: Wes Blankenship

Singing: Kyle Wadley

Opening Prayer: Steve Cotney

Sermon: Bill Rayburn

Communion: Mark Lackey

Announcements: Harold Rhodes

Closing Prayer: Shawn Troughton

Audio/Cameras: Clint Richey

Video: Grant Dalton

Security: Stephen King

Bible Reading Plan for September 25-October 2

Sunday, September 26: Jeremiah 28-30;
Isaiah 20

Monday, September 27: Jeremiah 31-
33; Isaiah 21

Tuesday, September 28: Jeremiah 34-
36; Isaiah 22

Wednesday, September 29: Jeremiah
37-39; Isaiah 23

Thursday, September 30: Reflection

Friday, October 1: Jeremiah 40-42;
Isaiah 24

Saturday, October 2: Jeremiah 43-46;
Isaiah 25



Today

The Food Pantry is open today from 3:00-4:30pm. Volunteers are not needed at this time; thank you for supporting this ministry.

Worship services for the **AHEPA 3 Senior Apartments** will meet today at 3:30pm at 3320 Old Columbiana Road in Hoover.

Please email the Facilities team, Facilities@hooovercoc.org, if you see anything pertaining to the building that needs to be addressed, repaired, etc. Thank you.

Family News and Events

The Tuesday Ladies' Bible Class begins meeting this week. **Denia Petruzella, Jamie Powell, and Leah Covington** will be teaching the class, and their topic is **"The Holy Spirit."** The class is scheduled to meet weekly at 11:00am-12:00pm in the senior high classroom. There will also be a Zoom link for those who cannot attend in person. Babysitting will be provided. Please direct any questions to Denia, Jamie, or Leah.

We will be having a **Stronger Families Workshop** on Friday-Saturday, October 15-16, at the building. There is no cost to attend, and childcare will be provided. There will be a sign-up sheet on the back rail in the auditorium, or you can register online (an email has been sent with the link).

Our Ladies' Ministry Kick-off will be on Sunday night, October 17, in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please contact April Winningham.

Mark your calendar: The Fall Festival is on Friday, October 22, from 6:00-8:00pm. Details will be coming soon.

The Young at Heart will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, October 29, for a **Birthday Celebration, Game Night, and Supper**. Please see Gale Jett with any questions.

Carelines

Sheryl Jackson was readmitted to St. Vincent's on Thursday due to complications from her surgery. Please pray for her healing.

Jeanne Anderson had a heart catheter inserted and is dealing with other health issues. Please continue to pray for her healing.

Doug Abbott, Joel Abbott's dad, has Parkinson's Disease and severe arthritis in his back. He will be having a lumbar fusion on Friday, October 1, at St. Vincent's.

Elizabeth Chase, Joel Abbott's co-worker's sister, is at home now after being in the hospital for a long period. She is now being evaluated for heart failure as a result of postpartum issues.

Dean Kendrick, Markie Jones' grandmother, was recently diagnosed with Dementia and is getting worse.

Charlie Davis, Leah Covington's dad, has prostate cancer; please pray for his healing.

Jane Spivey, Rex Anderson's sister, had surgery, and her recovery will take about 2-3 weeks.

Tim Hethcox, Markie Jones' uncle, was dismissed from the hospital but is still on oxygen.

An eighth-grade student of Kendyll Covington and Rebecca Harris, **Haley Strippling**, lost her mom after struggling with COVID. A GoFundMe account was created for Haley and her family; please see Kendyll or Rebecca if you would like to help them.

Isaiah 53:4-5

"Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed."

(Carelines Cont.)

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

Remember our Church family: Tiffany Roberts, Gail Powell, Mollye Melton, and Dick Smith.

Remember our families and friends:

Robert & Tammy Powell (Tiffany Powell's parents), Patrick Nichols (Lynne Nichols' son), John McGee (Sam and Melody Warbington's neighbor), Pam Reece (Jim Reece's sister-in-law), Harry Green (Bill Rayburn's friend), and Shirley Rayburn (Bill Rayburn's sister-in-law).

Happy Anniversary

Damian & Nikesha Fantroy
September 28

Happy Birthday

Kendyl Hartman	September 26
Reggie Arnold	September 27
Bart Burleson	September 27
Harper Richey	September 28
Carlene Hooper	September 28
Jenilee Hunt	September 28
Dunia Naylor	September 28
Denia Petruzella	September 28
Zipora Bloodsaw	September 29
Sam Warbington	September 30
Melody Warbington	September 30
Patsy Freeman	October 2
Connie Morris	October 2

Remember that for every day of your life there is someone taking care of you, and may God continue to hold you in His gentle hands and bring you peace.

Galatians 6:2: "Carry each other's burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ."

The Good News: No one does anything alone. You can help friends and family get through life's big and small obstacles, and they will do the same for you.
—Jamie Ballard and Martha Sorren,
Woman's Day

Burying Our Chains in a Watery Grave

In 1838, Jamaican slaves were freed. The day before their emancipation, they built a large mahogany coffin. In the coffin, they placed their chains, whips, handcuffs, iron collars, branding irons, and clothing. At the stroke of midnight, they lowered the coffin into a grave. Afterwards they sang the "Doxology." This is a likeness of baptism. Sinners become dead to sin and are buried with Christ. Being free from sin, they are raised to walk in newness of life, leaving sin's chains behind in a watery grave.

Romans 6 teaches the following:

Freedom from the practice of sin. It is possible to live in sin (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Colossians 3:5-7), but those dead to sin will no longer do so (Romans 6:1-2, 14-15). Christians must not use the God-given liberty to indulge the flesh (Galatians 5:13).

Freedom from the power of sin. Those living in sin are under the dominion of Satan. Sin reigns in their bodies (Romans 6:12). Sin has dominion over them (6:14). They are enslaved by sin (6:16; John 8:31-36). The power of sin is death (Romans 5:20-21). The power of Jesus is life (Romans 6:9-11).

Freedom from the fruits of sin. Jesus said, "By their fruits you will know them" (Matthew 7:20). Paul contrasted the fruit of the Spirit with the works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-23). Both fruits come out of the abundance of one's heart (Matthew 15:18-20). The fruit of sin is shame, and the end of it is death (Romans 6:21). The fruit of God is holiness, and the end is everlasting life (Romans 6:22).

Freedom from the penalty of sin. The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). All are guilty (Romans 3:9-10, 23). All can be pardoned (John 3:16). Thus freed, Christians stand fast in their freedom (Galatians 5:1). The road map to freedom leads to a watery grave.

Christ is the only way to the Father (Romans 6:23; John 14:6; 10:7,9). Those buried with Him by baptism can walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4; John 3:3,5; 2 Corinthians 5:17). Those planted in the likeness of His death will be in the likeness of His resurrection (Romans 6:5). Obeying the form of doctrine frees from sin (Romans 6:17-18; 1 Peter 1:22; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). Many men and women have given their lives to secure social and economic liberties, but Jesus is the only one who died to secure liberty from sins.

—Anonymous

"Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed" (John 8:36).

**Attendance and Offering
September 19, 2021****Attendance:**

Bible Study: 151

AM Worship: 197

PM Worship: 50

Wednesday: 141

Contribution: \$14,537.09

Weekly Budget: \$13,800.00

Weekly Average: \$14,944.31

Contribution to Date: \$567,883.67

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*

Luke 4:43

"But he said to them, 'I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose.'"

September-October Sunday Nights

We're excited about the opportunities to learn, serve, and grow on Sunday nights, so we want you to be aware of what's ahead so you can prayerfully plan how you're going to be involved. Here's what Sunday nights will look like for the next few weeks.

Tonight: We will take time for family at home, or gather with other Christians. A video devotional will be available online, and there will also be a class in the auditorium at the church building if you'd prefer an in-person class.

October 3: Faith in Action

October 10: Small groups.

October 17: Class in the auditorium: "What is God like?" (Exodus 34:5-7).

October 24: Spiritual growth with family/friends.

October 31: Singing service.



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Place
Postage