

# Hoover Church of Christ

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

*Matthew 6:21*

February 7, 2021

## Salt of the earth

We've all probably engaged in a little hand-wringing about the future of our country. What will happen, we ask, if we continue heading down a path that ignores God, flaunts rebellion, and mocks righteousness? What will it look like when our kids or grandkids become adults? Will God turn his back on us?

Those questions, though unavoidable, don't do much good. What Jesus said about anxiety applies here—worrying about the future accomplishes nothing. But thankfully, there's something we can do, and Jesus refers to it here:

*You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot (Matthew 5:13).*

When we think of salt, we probably think of the flavor it adds to our meals, but in Jesus's world its most basic function was to preserve food. And that seems to fit the context here best as well—Jesus is calling us to slow down the decay and corruption of the world around us.

Abraham once had a fascinating conversation with God about how many righteous people it would take to save Sodom. "Will you spare the city if it has 50 righteous souls living there?" Abraham asked. God said yes. "Forty-five?" Again, God said yes.

So Abraham asked about 40, 30, 20, and finally 10. God would withhold his destruction if only a handful of righteous people could be found.

I've often thought that God has blessed America because of the Christian influence. We've protected religious freedoms and (to some extent) maintained traditional morals. Our leaders have at times listened to Christian voices, and we've preserved some aspects of the Judeo-Christian ethic.

Is there a connection between those facts and our country's prosperity? I'd like to think so.

A strong argument could be made that those things are changing, of course. Recent trajectories seem to reflect an increasingly secular, anti-God mindset.

Even so, it still does no good to wring our hands and decry the loss of our country's Christian influences.

What Jesus tells us to do is keep being the salt. None of us have any idea how long God will spare our nation, but what we must do is to follow Jesus and model him to the people around us. We need to sanctify him in our homes. We need to teach our children and grandchildren to love him more than anything in the world. We need to adore him, worship him, serve him.

It was a tragedy that even 10 righteous souls couldn't be found in Sodom, and God destroyed the city.

What about us? Is there enough righteousness for God to protect us?

That's his decision, of course, but regardless, he's challenged us to be those righteous souls, to be the preservative in our spheres of influence.

He's calling us to be salt.

—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
Joe Thomas	823-0299
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.
- **Call to Worship:** Chuck Webster
- **Scripture Reading:** Matt Trousdale
- **Singing:** Kyle Wadley
- **Opening Prayer:** Drew Spivey
- **Sermon:** Chuck Webster
- **Communion:** Steve Cotney
- **Announcements:** Carl Logan
- **Closing Prayer:** Kyle Bedgood
- **Audio/Cameras:** Will Spurlin  
**Alternate:** Clint Richey
- **Video:** Chad Blackmon
- **Security:** Daniel Warren  
**Alternate:** Norman Rutland

## Bible Reading for February 7-13

- **Sunday, February 7:** Exodus 38-40; Proverbs 8
- **Monday, February 8:** Acts 1-3; Proverbs 9
- **Tuesday, February 9:** Acts 4-6; Proverbs 10:1-16
- **Wednesday, February 10:** Acts 7-9; Proverbs 10:17-32
- **Thursday, February 11:** *Reflection*
- **Friday, February 12:** Acts 10-12; Proverbs 11:1-15
- **Saturday, February 13:** Acts 13-15; Proverbs 11:16-31



## Today

**Bible classes for adults** meet in the following rooms: **Library, Team 1:** Jason McKeown, Torrey Clark, Ben Vick, Donnie Winningham; **Downstairs, Team 2:** Steve Cotney, Bill Rayburn, Eddie Sankey, Harold Rhodes; **Auditorium, Team 3:** Merv Prince, Wade Warren, Chuck Webster, Jeff Melton.

**KidSing** with Kyle Wadley is today at **4:30pm** on the Hoover YouTube channel.

**Sunday evening devo at 5:00:** There will be an online devotional guide on our website for everyone to enjoy, either at home or with other members.

## Family News & Events

**Mike and Carlene Hooper** welcomed a grandchild on Friday, January 29. **Congratulations** on the birth of **Baylor Ann Snider**; she was born to Meredith and Justin and brother, Banks.

There will be a **Baby Shower for Alexandra and Torrey Clark** in the front lobby on Sunday, February 28, from 2:30-4:00pm. Since they prefer not to know the gender of the baby until the birth, we are asking for gifts of diapers, baby wipes, and gift cards. Also, if you would like to assist with this shower, please speak with Lajuana Logan.

**The Food Pantry** will reopen on Sunday, February 28, from 3:00-4:30pm, and the food item that is needed this month is **Apple Juice**.

There will be a **Baby Girl Shower for Brooke and Marcus Harris** in the front lobby on Sunday, March 7, from 2:30-4:00pm. They are registered at the following link: <https://www.babylist.com/brookeharris>. If you have any questions or would like to help with this shower, please contact Wendi Vick.

## Youth

**Our first Preteen Devotional and Dinner** of the year will be in our Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, February 10, at 5:30pm. All **3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders** are invited to come and be a part of this special event. Food will be provided.

**Wednesday, February 10 (6th-12th grade):** Bring your own dinner to Bible Class.

**Wednesday, February 17 (6th-12th grade):** Bring your own dinner to Bible Class.

**Friday, February 19 (6th-12th grade):** Fun Friday.

**Sunday, February 21 (6th-12th grade):** Area-Wide Devotional.

**Wednesday, February 24 (6th-12th grade):** Bring your own dinner to Bible Class.

## Happy Birthday

Claire Lyles	February 7
Joan Arnold	February 8
Gale Jett	February 8
Dena Percer	February 8
Ava Lyles	February 8
Lee Bowman	February 10
Jason McKeown	February 12
Beth Burleson	February 12

## Iron Rose Sister Ministries

**The Iron Rose Sister Ministries are requesting prayers during the entire month of February.** To learn more about this ministry, visit [ironrosesister.com](http://ironrosesister.com). A calendar with daily prayer prompts can be viewed at <https://ironrosesister.com/be-a-part/pray>. There are also hard copies of the calendar on the back rail in the auditorium.

“Happy are people who have pure hearts, because they will see God.”  
—Matthew 5:8

## Doubt . . . I Get it Now

From time to time, when an idea occurs to me . . . or I hear something that I want to explore further, I start typing and then title and save it for a rainy day. Recently I was looking for something to work on and noticed a file entitled "Doubt." I thought, "We've been studying doubt in the teen class, so I'm sure I can add to that one." I opened it and saw these words: "Doubt . . . I get it now." I looked at the date and remembered the hurt I was feeling during that time. For a moment I felt guilty for the doubts I was harboring back then. Then I remembered the "I get it now" part that was going through my mind.

Through the years, I had developed this idea that if I ever doubted God . . . doubted his existence, his judgment, or his steadfast love . . . I was unworthy to follow Christ. But, are my questions offensive to God? Does he shrink back at my wonderings? If my lack of understanding makes me angry at him, does he turn his back? I believe the answer to every one of those questions is a resounding "No!"

When the father of the boy with the unclean spirit cried out, "I believe. Help my unbelief," Jesus didn't walk away hurt because of his weak faith. He used it as an opportunity to strengthen his faith. God doesn't fear our doubts, he watches for them . . . and when we doubt with a yearning to have that doubt calmed, he can use those moments of weakness to mold us into a better version of ourselves.

When God made from one man every nation of mankind, he willed "that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him." That doesn't sound to me like He expected His presence to always be obvious to us. Then, he reminded, "Yet he is actually not far from each one of us" (Acts 17:27).

When I doubt, Lord help me always to keep searching for you.

—Darrell

## Carelines

**Patsy McDaniel**, Holly Church's mom, had surgery at Brookwood last Wednesday for a malignant brain tumor. Once she is released from the hospital, she will go to rehab and then undergo radiation and chemotherapy.

**Jimmy and Carol Messick**, Jeanne Anderson's brother-in-law and sister, have COVID-19. Jeanne's sister, **Carol**, is in a hospital in Montgomery with a blood clot in her lung.

**Mollye Melton** had an emergency procedure last week; she is recovering and resting at home.

**Jessica Brown**, the sister of Kaiden Kennedy, has stage 4 cancer. Kaiden is a student at UAB who has been attending Hoover.

**Aaron Bell**, the youngest son of Mickey and Linda Bell (former minister and members of Hoover), has a brain tumor between his eyes and his brain. He had surgery last Thursday.

**Ricky Hamm**, Steve Cotney's nephew, is still in UAB.

**Mary Goodson**, Alan Starns' (Jamie Starns' husband) mother, is in ICU with COVID-19.

**Shirley Rayburn**, Bill Rayburn's sister-in-law, is undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer.

**Barbara Milam**, Donna Handley's mother, is undergoing a short round of radiation as a precaution and will have a follow-up scan in a couple of months.

**Mary Still**, Doris Sankey's mom, has pneumonia. Please pray that her strength and appetite will keep improving.

**Bob and Dianne Clelland**, Mike Clelland's parents, have contracted COVID-19.

**Barbara Thompson** is the mother of Jim and Christy Reece's neighbor. She fell and severely injured herself and has tested positive for COVID-19.

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

**Remember our church family:** Doyal Newsom and her family, the McQuillan family, Hosea Dallas, Charlene Thomas, Dick Smith, Joe Thomas, Celeste Till, Sarah Washington, Gail Powell, Sylvia Huffman, and Nancy Harris.

**Remember our families and friends:** Christa Smith (Sondra Moss' mother), Lynne Perkins (Lajuana Logan's friend's mother), Braxton Wiedman (Anita Williams' neighbor), and the father and stepmother of Lajuana Logan's nephew and his wife, Tamara.

"But I trust in You, Lord. You are my God. My times are in Your hands."

—Psalm 31:14-15

## Attendance and Offering January 31, 2021

**Attendance:**

**Bible Study:**

**Worship, 10:00am:** 188

**Wednesday, 7:00pm:** 120

**Contribution:** \$18,707.91

**Weekly Budget:** \$13,800.00

**Weekly Average:** \$17,112.77

**Contribution to Date:** \$85,563.87

## 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*

**Renew a right spirit within me  
(Psalm 51:7-12)**

Purge me with hyssop: \_\_\_\_\_

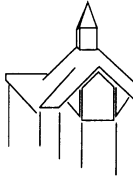
Let me hear joy and gladness: \_\_\_\_\_

Renew a right spirit within me: \_\_\_\_\_

Take not your Holy Spirit from me: \_\_\_\_\_

Uphold me with a willing spirit: \_\_\_\_\_

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



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Place  
Postage