



# Hoover Church of Christ

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

*Matthew 6:21*

October 17, 2021

## Wolves

Is there any such thing as a false prophet in our world today? If so, what would that person look like?

I find myself thinking of someone with a sinister-looking face and a conniving grin. Other images—probably inspired by ridiculous Hollywood portrayals—come to mind: a devilish character with a forked tongue, faintly visible horns, maybe a pitchfork. In other words, in my mind it doesn't take too long to figure out whose side they're on.

And that's probably why these people are so effective. They never carry pitchforks, and nothing about them makes us think they're doing the devil's bidding.

But Jesus gives us this stern warning:

*Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits (Matthew 7:15-20).*

Maybe we think that "false prophets" were people who did their mischief during Bible times, but not any more. Or maybe we think they're people who are way out there—the David Koreshes and Jim Joneses of the world.

But look at what Jesus says—they come in sheep's clothing. That's become a cliché, so maybe we don't really think about what it means anymore. What he's saying is that these people who are lying to us look very appealing. They seem harmless, even angelic. They're nice and friendly and kind.

But on the inside they're wolves. They want to destroy you, rip you apart, kill you. They want to take you to hell.

We ought to pay attention.

All this brings us back to something we know but sometimes forget: We shouldn't ever let anyone tell us anything about God without our consulting the Bible to make sure it's right. People—even good, honest folks—make mistakes, and then of course some people are willfully dishonest.

Our faith is in Jesus Christ, not in a man or a woman or a church or a creed. We trust the Bible, not the sermons or books of fallible people.

How can we know? Jesus said to look at their fruit. Look at their lives and teachings. Compare their words with the words of Scripture.

Most of you who read this go to church and probably consume religious literature of some sort. And that's good, of course. We all need to worship and fill ourselves with thoughts of God.

But be careful. Never take anything you hear—whether it's from these articles or from your preacher or any other source—to be the gospel truth . . . unless it comes from the gospel source, the Word of God.

False teachers don't announce their presence, nor do they tell you about their plan to lead you astray. They look good, sound good, and make you feel good.

But they're incredibly dangerous.

—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 October for Needs:**  
Paul Williams, Jr.

**Call to Worship:** Chuck Webster

**Scripture Reading:** Johnny Johnson

**Singing:** Kyle Wadley

**Opening Prayer:** Steve Cotney

**Sermon:** Chuck Webster

**Communion:** Drew Spivey

**Announcements:** Jimmy Lyles

**Closing Prayer:** Jonathan Weimer

**Audio/Cameras:** Grant Dalton

**Video:** Chad Blackmon

**Security:** Shawn Troughton

## Bible Reading Plan for October 17-23

**Sunday, October 17:** Ezekiel 12-15;  
Isaiah 38

**Monday, October 18:** Ezekiel 16-19;  
Isaiah 39

**Tuesday, October 19:** Ezekiel 20-23;  
Psalms 123-124

**Wednesday, October 20:** Ezekiel 24-26;  
Psalms 125-126

**Thursday, October 21:** Reflection

**Friday, October 22:** Ezekiel 27-30;  
Psalm 127

**Saturday, October 23:** Ezekiel 31-34;  
Psalms 128-129



## Today

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

**Our Ladies' Ministry Kick-off** is tonight at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall.

**Please email** the Facilities team, [facilities@hoovercoc.org](mailto:facilities@hoovercoc.org), if you see anything pertaining to the building that needs to be addressed, repaired, etc. Thank you.

## Family News and Events

**Our Fall Festival is on Friday, October 22, from 6:00-8:00pm.** Our whole church family is invited (this event **will not** be open to the public). There will be so many fun things to do and lots of food to eat. **Members, please donate Little Debbie snack cakes and bags of candy**, and place these in the container in the foyer.

**The Young at Heart** will meet in the fellowship hall on Friday, October 29, at 5:30pm for a **Birthday Celebration, Game Night, and Supper.**

**The Food Pantry** will reopen on Sunday, October 31, from 3:00-4:30pm, and the food item that is needed this month is **Apple Juice.**

**The next American Red Cross Blood Drive** is on Sunday, November 7, from 7:30am-1:00pm. Sign up at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>; the sponsor code is HCOC.

**The Clothing Closet** will be open to the community and will be held in the fellowship hall on Saturday, November 20, from 9:00am-2:00pm. Masks will be required and there will be limited capacity. Volunteers will be needed to help set up prior to Saturday as well as the day of the event; sign up on our website at [Clothing Giveaway Event 2021](#). Please do not drop off any clothing until further notice.

## Happy Anniversary

Steve & Joy Martin                      October 20

## Happy Birthday

Ruby Williams	October 17
Mary Thomas	October 21
Donna Dearien	October 21
Samuel Adams	October 22
Felicia Arnold	October 23

## Words of Gratitude

**Thank you** for your prayers, calls, messages, and cards for support after my cousin's, Joe Martin, sudden passing.  
**Giana Kidwell**

**Thank you** to everyone involved in hosting and creating such a wonderful bridal shower! We truly, truly feel so blessed to be part of the Hoover Church of Christ family. Thank you for all of the time and effort you put into this and for sharing in our joy.

In Him,

**The Future Mr. & Mrs. Dakotah Weeks**

## Carelines

**Jeanne Anderson** had surgery on Friday. Please continue to pray for her healing.

**Jerry Moss**, Sondra Moss' husband, is in the hospital with problems due to his blood sugar, issues with pulmonary hypertension, and several other medical conditions.

**Sarah Washington** has been diagnosed with Invasive Ductal Carcinoma. She is scheduled to have more testing and then will begin treatment.

**Sheryl Jackson** is recovering from a second surgery and is now at her home.

**Debbie Cofer**, Suzanne Clelland's friend, is having precancerous breast surgery soon. She is on a pacemaker and has other health issues that make surgery a little risky for her.

**(Carelines Cont.)**

**Charlie Davis**, Leah Covington's dad, has prostate cancer.

**Doug Abbott**, Joel Abbott's dad, is recovering from back surgery.

**Elizabeth Chase**, Joel Abbott's co-worker's sister, is now being evaluated for heart failure as a result of postpartum issues.

**Cynthia Thomas**, a friend of Leah Covington's mom, had a lumpectomy, and the procedure went well. She will begin radiation treatments soon and have at least one more surgery.

**Dean Kendrick**, Markie Jones' grandmother, has been diagnosed with Dementia.

**Tyresha Riddle** is a friend of Jasmine Burroughs (Jasmine is Joel Abbott's medical assistant). On September 9, Tyresha had preterm birth at 22 weeks, and the baby, **Karis**, had to have abdominal surgery.

**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:** Tyresha Riddle and Karis Riddle (Jasmine Burroughs—Joel Abbott's medical assistant's friends), Tim Hethcox (Markie Jones' uncle), 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).

"Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven" (James 5:14-15).

**Should I Just Be Friends With Christians?**

Making friends is a really important part of being a human. God created us as social beings who long to be in relationship with others, so it's no wonder that for teenagers, our friends are one of the most important things in our lives! But if you're a Christian teen, you might have wondered: should I just be friends with other Christians? The short answer to that question is no!

**All people are created in the image of God.** In Genesis 1, we are told that God created humans in his image. Not just Christians, but all of us! Your Hindu friend, your Muslim mate, your atheist pal—all of them are created in God's image and have inherent worth and dignity. Obviously, it would be best if they also followed Jesus, but they are not worth less because they don't. Jesus died for all of us before we became Christians.

**We are called to love everyone.** In Matthew 23, Jesus tells his followers that the second greatest commandment is for us to love our neighbors as ourselves. The Samaritan and the man he helps are of different faiths, but Jesus uses them as an example of the love and care we are meant to show to each other.

**It's a great opportunity to show and share the gospel.** When you become friends with a non-Christian, you may be the person they look to as an example of what it means to follow Jesus. You're the one they'll think of when Christians are mentioned in the media or when one of their other friends criticizes Christianity.

**A quick warning**—now having said all that . . . we do need to be a little careful when becoming friends with non-Christians. Often, non-Christians will have different ideas of what is right and wrong to us. That doesn't mean we need to cut them out of our lives, but we may need to be prepared to stand up and say "no" if they want us to do something we aren't comfortable with.

**So what's the solution?** Well, have lots of non-Christian friends, but also have lots of Christian friends!  
—fervr.net

**Attendance and Offering  
October 10, 2021**

**Attendance:**

**Bible Study:** 110

**AM Worship:** 191

**PM Worship:** Small Groups

**Wednesday:** 134

**Contribution:** \$13,379.91

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

**Weekly Average:** \$14,921.26

**Contribution to Date:** \$611,771.65

**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*

**Acts 10:44**

"While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message."

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>I will follow you (Luke 9:57-62)</b></p> <p>Wherever you go . . .</p>   <p>Let me go first . . .</p>   <p>But let me first . . .</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday Nights</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Tonight:</b> Class in the auditorium: "What is God like?" (Exodus 34:5-7).</p> <p><b>October 24:</b> Spiritual growth at home with family/friends.</p> <p><b>October 31:</b> Singing service.</p> <p><b>November 7:</b> Faith in Action.</p> <p><b>November 14:</b> Walk4Water.</p> <p><b>November 21:</b> Class: "What is God like?"</p> <p><b>November 28:</b> Spiritual growth at home with family/friends.</p>
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Place  
Postage