



January 18, 2026

## If the Lord wills

3248 Lorna Road  
Hoover, AL 35216  
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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

Reggie Arnold	602-4211
Steve Cotney	531-7517
Jimmy Lyles	616-1109
Harold Rhodes	876-9296
Kyle Wadley	792-5922
Chuck Webster	586-5610
Rick Williams	706-5735
Donnie Winningham	222-7635

#### MINISTER

##### Chuck Webster

(205) 586-5610 (cell)  
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#### ASSOCIATE MINISTER

##### Kyle Wadley

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Most of us like to plan. One-year, five-year, ten-year plans. What we'll do, when we'll do it, and how we'll get there.

If we invest 10% of our income starting at age 25, we'll retire at 65 with no financial worries. *Next year* we're going on vacation. *Next month* we'll take a couple days off from work. *Next week* we'll get this report done or that chore finished.

"See you Friday night," we say without thinking. "I'll be there at 6:00."

James doesn't particularly like all that, or at least he's got a strongly worded warning about *how* we do it:

*Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"—yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin (James 4:13-17).*

I don't think James is against retirement plans, or saving up for the vacation the family's been dreaming about. What he doesn't like—what *God* doesn't like—is when we make plans as if we control the future. As if we're certain what will happen. Like the if-then connection between now and future events is inevitable: If I do this, then I get that.

That mindset sneaks up on us. It shows up in our calendars, our budgets, our career paths, even in our prayers. We begin to assume that tomorrow belongs to us, that our health will hold, that the economy will cooperate, that the people we love will still be here, and that life will continue more or less on the schedule we've chosen.

It's me-centered, isn't it? And that's the root problem.

We don't know what will happen tomorrow, but God does. We have no idea what our career will look like in five years, what the markets will do, what our bodies will allow, or what unexpected turns life will take. We don't, of course, but God does.

And that's where James's "If the Lord wills" comes in. We simply don't have the ability to make plans about the future without God's involvement. So we submit all of it to his will. Not with fear, and not with passivity, but with humility and trust.

It doesn't mean we shouldn't plan—see the book of Proverbs, for example—but it does mean we recognize God's hand in overseeing everything we do.

So yes, let's plan what we hope to do this week, next month, and next year. Let's make vacation and retirement plans. Let's dream big and write bucket lists.

But let's do it all with open hands and open hearts, remembering: it's his future anyway.

—Chuck

## Worship Assignments

**Elder to Contact in January for Needs:** Rick Williams

### Sunday AM and PM

#### Greeters:

Connie Morrison (Handicap Entrance)  
Al Lyons & Jayne Ivy (Back Entrance)

**Usher:** Clint Richey

**Nursery:** Jamie Starns

**AM Singing:** Kyle Wadley

**Scripture Reading:** Jonathan Weimer

**AM Opening Prayer:** Grant Dalton

**AM Sermon:** Chuck Webster

**AM Communion:** Sid Aultman

**Announcements:** Steve Cotney

**AM Closing Prayer:** Wes Blankenship

**PM Song Leader:** Grant Dalton

**PM Opening Prayer:** Matthew Cicero

**PM Closing Prayer:** Allen Taylor

**Audio/Cameras:** Rick Williams/Will Spurlin

**Video:** Drew Spivey

**Security:** Chad Blackmon/Norman Rutland

### Bible Reading Plan for January 18-24

- **Sunday, January 18:** Exodus 4-6; Psalm 18
- **Monday, January 19:** Exodus 7-9; Psalm 19
- **Tuesday, January 20:** Exodus 10-12; Psalm 20
- **Wednesday, January 21:** Exodus 13-15; Psalm 21
- **Thursday, January 22:** Exodus 16-18; Psalm 22
- **Friday, January 23:** Exodus 19-21; Psalm 23
- **Saturday, January 24:** Exodus 22-24; Psalm 24

## Today

**Visitors,** welcome to our worship service this morning—we're glad you're here! Please **scan the QR Code** on the card in the pews. We would like to know where you are from.

**Sunday Bible Classes for Adults:** Wade Warren is teaching in the **Auditorium**, and his topic is **"Preparation of the World for the Messiah."** Wes Blankenship and Donnie Wittingham are teaching a class in the **Library** called **"Goliath Must Fall."**

**Everyone is invited** to join us in the fellowship hall after our morning worship service for our **third Sunday congregational fellowship meal**.

**This evening at 5:00,** we will meet in the auditorium for a lesson presented by **Chuck Webster**.

### News and Events

Join us as we welcome our new **Youth Minister and his wife, Marcus and Landyn Williams**, on Friday, January 30, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. We'll have a meal together and shower them with love through gift cards and pantry items as we help stock their new home. See Daniel and Lauren Warren with any questions.

**Our Ladies Bible** class meets weekly on Mondays from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The study this session is about **Purim**. Contact Denia Petruzella or Leah Covington with any questions.

### Happy Anniversary

John & Karen Bowers January 24

### Happy Birthday

Emily Bedgood	January 18
Matthew Cicero	January 19
Wanda Still	January 19
Jean Troughton	January 19
Jason Blakemore	January 20
Mason Clark	January 23
Susan Pope	January 24

## Common Grounds

We hope everyone has enjoyed the **Common Grounds Coffee Bar** before Sunday Bible Study and Worship Service over the past year. **Volunteers are needed in setting this up for one month out of the year.** It involves getting to church around 7:30-7:45, setting up the coffee station, picking up donuts at Shipley (everything needs to be ready by 8:25), and then cleaning the coffee bar up after services. Contact Jonathan Weimer with any questions.

### Youth

- **Today:** Area-Wide Devotional at the Deerfoot Church of Christ (bus leaves at 4:15).
- **Wednesday, January 21:** F.A.M. Group Meetings.
- **Saturday, January 24:** Manna Ministries 6:15-11:30 a.m.
- **Friday, January 30:** HYM Family Night and Parent Meeting, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

### Carelines

We extend our condolences to **Felicia Arnold and her family** on the death of her stepfather, **Howard Brooks McDonald**. Mr. McDonald passed away on Friday, January 9, after suffering with cancer. His funeral was Friday.

**Merv Prince** is having hip replacement surgery at UAB West on Thursday, January 22.

**Scarlette Smith**, JoAnn McDonald's daughter, has been diagnosed with ovarian cancer; she met with her oncologist on Friday. Please pray for her healing and comfort as she undergoes treatment.

**Mike Hooper** is recovering from two procedures for AFib.

**(Cont. Carelines)**

**Diann Tippins** is recovering from back surgery.

**Jeremy Schopper**, Alyssa Long's cousin, has undergone several extensive surgeries since the car accident. He is awake and responsive but still has a long recovery ahead of him.

**Emily Bedgood** is recovering at home from surgery.

**Judy Smith** is recovering from knee replacement surgery and is undergoing physical therapy.

**Sue Adams**, Jim and Denia Petruzella's aunt, fell and broke her hip and elbow. She is now at Kirkwood Skilled Nursing Facility for rehabilitation.

**Keith Hills**, Melinda Richardson's brother-in-law, recently had one of his kidneys removed. The cancer was contained to that kidney and did not spread. The family appreciates the prayers.

**Zach Warbington**, Sam and Melody Warbington's son, is facing serious medical issues. Please continue to pray for Zach's physical and spiritual well-being.

Remember our shut-ins: **Nancy Griner, Joyce Baker, and Sylvia Huffman.**

Remember our church family: **Kori White, Gail Powell, Wanda Still, Anita Hochdorf, and Tyler Tippins.**

Remember our family and friends: **Don Cicero** (Matthew Cicero's father), **Moranda Garrett** (Jayne Ivy's friend), **Ginger Stacks** (Sylvia Huffman's daughter), **Karen Shepherd** (Virgie Bank's daughter), **Rex and Jeanne Anderson** (former members of Hoover), **Kathy Culbertson** (former member of Hoover), **Doug & Cathy Abbott** (Joel Abbott's parents), **Richard Lawson** (Alyssa Long's dad), and **Charlie Pflueger** (Tom Kidwell's dad).

**Booth Saved Lincoln**

The very title might offend some people, but it is the truth. Of course, context helps. It was Edwin Booth, not John Wilkes. And it was Robert, not Abraham, Lincoln. Edwin and Robert were among customers buying passage on a sleeping car in Jersey City, New Jersey. Robert lost his balance and fell into an open space between the train and the station platform. By all accounts, he would have been crushed and likely killed if Edwin had not seized him and quickly pulled him out onto the platform. Context can be very helpful. Without it, we can draw some erroneous and even fatal conclusions. This is especially true with the Bible, a book many may know a little about but neglect to study with depth and purpose. Doctrines and conclusions are based on statements taken out of context.

- "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).
- "The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart" (Exodus 9:12; 10:20; 14:8).
- "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated" (Malachi 1:2-3; Romans 9:13).
- "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21; Romans 10:13).
- "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20).

Sometimes, a statement needs to be understood in light of the broader context. That would be the case regarding Pharaoh and Esau. The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart through the plagues, causing the Egyptian king to rebel against God's will and choose pride over penitence. In the case of Esau, as Paul explains, the idea is God's sovereign choice. God was not unjust. He had a purpose for choosing Jacob over Esau (Romans 9:11). Sometimes, a statement causes us to look deeper into all the Bible says about the subject. Consider the idea of calling on the name of the Lord to be saved. Rather than salvation by confession only, the Bible teaches what is involved in calling on the name of the Lord. Ananias taught Saul that this is done when one is baptized, washing away sins (Acts 22:16).

When we are studying the Bible, we must always do so contextually. It makes the difference in the conclusions we draw. God expects us to handle His word accurately (2 Timothy 2:15). May we be the best Bible students we can be!

**Attendance and Offering  
January 4 & 11, 2026****Attendance**

**Bible Study:** 338

**AM Worship:** 531

**PM Worship:** 99

**Wednesday:** 293

**Contribution:** \$47,412.97

**Weekly Budget:**

**Weekly Average:** \$23,706.49

**Contribution to Date:** \$47,412.97

**Hoover Supported Works**

- *Childhaven, Cullman, AL*
- *Churches of Christ Disaster Relief*
- *Clothing Closet*
- *Food Pantry*
- *Tanzania*
- *Philippines*

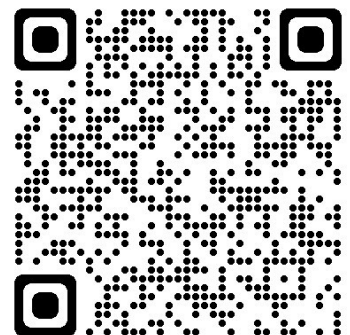
**Mission Trips**

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

**Oversight**

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

**Visitors and members, please scan the QR Code below to log your attendance.**



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Living by Faith in the Promise (Hebrews 11:13-16)</b></p> <p>Faith lives with a _____ horizon</p> <p>Faith shapes daily _____</p> <p>Faith creates a different kind of _____</p> <p>Faith learns to _____ what God _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GriefShare Class</b></p> <p>Any of our members who have struggled with loss are invited to participate in our <b>GriefShare</b> class. If you have friends who might benefit, please let them know about this class as well. <b>We will meet on the following Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon: December 13, March 14, and June 13.</b></p> <p>So many people in the world have experienced significant losses in their lives, so we're thankful to be able to offer this GriefShare Ministry. It is organized around a thirteen-week small-group program where participants meet together for around two hours each week and watch professionally-designed videos featuring professional grief counselors and also people who are grieving. These presentations are coupled with discussions that are designed to internalize what participants learn in the videos.</p> <p>We have additional information for Griefshare Sessions offered on other days and times in the Birmingham area. Please see <b>Harold or Donna Rhodes</b> if you have any questions regarding GriefShare. You can also find additional information at <a href="https://www.griefshare.org/">https://www.griefshare.org/</a>.</p>
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