February 22, 2026

I Swear

You've probably heard stories about the good old days when people just shook hands over deals… when the attorney-written, loophole-closing, 200-page contracts of today were unknown. "A person's word is his bond," people said. "A handshake is as good as a contract."

Maybe that's partly romanticized. Maybe some people really did make big decisions with nothing more than a nod and a handshake. Either way, here's what we do know: for Christians, our word really should be our bond. When we tell someone we'll do something, we ought to break our necks to follow through. We shouldn't need a stack of Bibles or somebody's grave to swear on or by.

Why?

Because we serve a God of truth. Since he is truthful, his people should be truthful too. That means we speak the truth plainly, without dressing it up in extra phrases meant to convince people we really mean what we say.

James understood well what Jesus had taught, and he echoes the Lord's instruction (cf. Matthew 5:33-37):

> *"But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your 'yes' be yes and your 'no' be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation" (James 5:12).*

Christian parents usually try to teach this to their children early. If you tell someone something, you shouldn't need to add, "I swear it's true," or "I swear I'll do it," or even "I promise." Your word should already carry that weight.

It won't take people long to figure out whether you're a truth-teller or not. Over time, your habits speak louder than your explanations. If you are known for honesty, people won't need some kind of verbal proof that you mean what you say.

That's what James is driving at. He isn't condemning written contracts or suggesting it's wrong to take an oath in a courtroom. He's calling Christians to be people whose everyday speech is dependable and whose commitments can be trusted.

Tell the truth. Always.

Do what you say you're going to do. Always.

That means parents keep their promises to their kids. If we tell them we'll be at the game at 5:00, it should take an earth-shattering event to keep us away.

The same applies to our spouses, our co-workers, our neighbors, and the people we worship alongside each week. Our reliability should be obvious in every setting of life.

Christians are truth-tellers, and we don't need oaths to convince people of that.

If they know us, they should know exactly what we mean when we say "yes" or "no."

Always. —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

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

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MINISTER
Chuck Webster
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YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTER
Marcus Williams
(615) 710-2319
Marcus@hoovercoc.org

Worship Assignments

Elder to Contact in February for Needs: Reggie Arnold

Sunday AM and PM

Greeters:
Connie Morrison (Handicap Entrance)
Mark & Jennifer Lackey (Back Entrance)

Usher: Wes Blankenship

Nursery: Teale Yeilding

AM Singing: Kyle Wadley

Scripture Reading: Kyle Bedgood

AM Opening Prayer: Jeff Melton

AM Sermon: Chuck Webster

AM Communion: Greg Coker

Announcements: Rick Williams

AM Closing Prayer: Grant Dalton

PM Song Leader: Matthew Cicero

PM Opening Prayer: Wade Warren

PM Speaker: Jeff Melton

PM Closing Prayer: Allen Taylor

Audio/Cameras: Will Spurlin/Grant Dalton

Video: Marc Handley

Security: Daniel Warren/Stephen King

Bible Reading Plan for February 22-28

- **Sunday, February 22:** Deuteronomy 1-3; Psalm 53
- **Monday, February 23:** Deuteronomy 4-6; Psalm 54
- **Tuesday, February 24:** Deuteronomy 7-9; Psalm 55
- **Wednesday, February 25:** Deuteronomy 10-12; Psalm 56
- **Thursday, February 26:** Deuteronomy 13-14; Psalm 57
- **Friday, February 27:** Deuteronomy 15-16; Psalm 58
- **Saturday, February 28:** Deuteronomy 17-20; Psalm 59

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 Winningham are teaching a class in the **Library** called **"Goliath Must Fall."**

This evening at 5:00, our Knit Together Groups will meet in homes to worship and fellowship. We will also have a lesson in the auditorium presented by **Jeff Melton.**

News and Events

Please welcome **Cody, Tara, Elliott, Lawson, Bennett, and Claire Clark** to the Hoover family. They placed membership with us this past Sunday; we are blessed to have them with us! Their address is 4037 Falliston Drive, Helena, AL 35080.

The Young Adults will meet on Friday, February 27, for a worship service led by Micah Long.

There will be an **Elders, Deacons, and Ministers** meeting at 3:00 p.m. in the Library on Sunday, March 15.

The Spring Quarter starts on Sunday, March 1. Classes for adults are in the Auditorium with Wade Warren, and Chuck Webster will teach in the Library. Bill Rayburn will be teaching our Wednesday Night Class in the Auditorium.

Ladies meet weekly on Mondays at 11:30 a.m. for a **Bible Study**. The topic that is being studied this session is **Purim**. Contact Denia Petruzella or Leah Covington with any questions.

If you can help with the Sunday morning **Common Grounds Coffee Bar**, please see Jonathan Weimer.

Important Church-Wide Meeting—Sunday Evening, March 29

The elders met on Saturday, January 17, for an all-day planning session, and we're encouraged by where we believe the Hoover church is headed. We spent time in prayer and in honest conversation about our congregation—where we are, where we've been, and where God may be leading us.

One of our commitments as a new eldership is to communicate openly and regularly with the church. On Sunday evening, March 29, we plan to share some of the ideas and priorities that are taking shape as we think ahead to 2026 and beyond. This will be an opportunity to hear what we're discussing and how we're approaching the work God has given us.

We ask for your prayers as we seek wisdom and discernment, and we encourage everyone to attend if possible. We're grateful for this church family and hopeful about the future God has in store for us.

Happy Anniversary

Steve & Sherrie Benson	February 26

Happy Birthday

Rachel Hayes	February 23
Clint Richey	February 23
June Schlundt	February 24
Karisa Schlundt	February 25
John Bowers	February 27
Doyal Newsom	February 27
Aidan McQuillan	February 28
Andrew McQuillan	February 28

Youth

- **Wednesday, February 25:** F.A.M. Group Meetings.
- **Sunday, March 1:** In-home devotional.
- **Wednesday, March 4:** Friendsday.
- **Saturday, March 7:** Parents' night-out childcare from 5:30-9:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, March 11:** Backpack Buddies.

Carelines

Merv Prince had an arteriogram on Friday.

Jayne Ivy has requested prayers for her friend's (Moranda Garrett) one-year-old son, **Jayvion. Jayvion** had surgery at Children's Hospital on Friday. Please pray that he will heal completely and with no complications.

Nancy Griner is recovering from two bone fracture procedures and is feeling somewhat better.

Sondra Moss is recovering from rotator cuff surgery and is doing well.

Brigitte Doutre is in physical therapy at Aspire Recovery Center in Hoover. Her room number is 121.

Gail Powell is recovering from pneumonia and is feeling better.

Ali Tutak requests prayers for **his sister** who was recently in a car wreck. She lives in Turkey.

Doyal Newsom's brother will be having some surgical procedures soon. Please pray for a successful outcome.

Melinda Richardson requests prayers for her friend, **Andre Oliver**, who is awaiting results of a biopsy for prostate cancer.

Scarlette Smith, JoAnn McDonald's daughter, is undergoing chemotherapy for ovarian cancer. She met with another oncologist in New York and received a positive report.

Jeremy Schopper, Alyssa Long's cousin, has been moved to a long-term care facility and continues to need our prayers.

Judy Smith continues physical therapy following her recent knee replacement and is doing well.

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

Remember our church family: Betty Crawford, Diann Tippins, and Tyler Tippins.

Remember our family and friends: Jim and Marie Bryers (Giana Kidwell's cousins), Zach Warbington (Sam & Melody Warbington's son), Sue Adams (Jim & Denia Petruzella's aunt), Don Cicero (Matthew Cicero's father), Moranda Garrett (Jayne Ivy's friend), 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).

Teaching Children to Love the Right Things

Teach your children not to love the world (1 John 2:15), but to love God and the things He loves (Matthew 22: 36-40). Teach them to love:

- **Learning.** It is a blessing to have a desire to know (Proverbs 23:23; 1 Peter 2:2). It is better to get wisdom than to get gold (Proverbs 4: 5-8; 16:16; Psalm 111:10; Ecclesiastes 7:11).
- **Work** (Genesis 3:19; Ephesians 4:28; Proverbs 13:15). Life is not all play.
- **Liberty** (Galatians 5:1; John 8:32). We have freedom to do right and freedom from sin's guilt. Teach them not to infringe on the liberty of others (Matthew 7:12).
- **The Law** (1 Peter 2:13-15; Romans 13:1-8). Be law-abiding even when others are not and when in need of money.
- **Life.** Love to live and see good days (1 Peter 3:8-11; Psalm 1:1-6).
- **God.** Loving God also means to love Christ, the Bible, and the church (Matthew 22:37; 1 John 5:3-5; John 14:21). We cannot love sin if we love God (Amos 5:15; Romans 12:8-9).
- **The brethren** (1 Peter 1:22; 2:17).
- **Others.** Love neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:36-40). Since we would not lie, steal, slander, take vengeance on, or persecute ourselves, we should not do these things to others.

Learning what to love pays dividends throughout life.

—Gus Nichols

"Bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."
—Ephesians 6:4

Attendance and Offering February 15, 2026

Attendance
Bible Study: 178
AM Worship: 243
PM Worship: 126
Wednesday: 173

Contribution: $12,390.74
Weekly Budget:
Weekly Average: $16,919.33
Contribution to Date: $118,435.28

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.

The One Who Calls His People
(Mark 3:7-19)

Jesus calls more than _____—he's forming God's new _____.

Jesus demands more than _____—he calls people to _____ with him.

Jesus does more than teach _____—he reshapes lives with divine _____.

GriefShare Class

Any of our members who have struggled with loss are invited to participate in our **GriefShare** class. If you have friends who might benefit, please let them know about this class as well. **We will meet on the following Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon: December 13, March 14, and June 13.**

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.

We have additional information for Griefshare Sessions offered on other days and times in the Birmingham area. Please see **Harold or Donna Rhodes** if you have any questions regarding GriefShare. You can also find additional information at https://www.griefshare.org/.

hoover
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Place
Postage