hoover
CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 1, 2026

The Secret to Marriage?

Years ago, I was standing in a Hallmark store looking for an anniversary card when an older man stepped into the same aisle.

"You too, huh?" he said with a grin.

"Yes sir."

"I bet I've got you beat."

"How long's it been?"

"Forty-nine years this Thursday with that sweet gal," he said, eyes gleaming.

At the time, I'd been married about fifteen years. I told him he had me beat by more than three decades. He chuckled and went back to scanning the cards.

After a moment, he said something I've never forgotten.

"Compromise."

"Sir?"

"Compromise. If both of you have to get your own way, it ain't gonna work. Both of you have to be willing to give in."

We talked for a few minutes, and then went our separate ways. I don't know anything about his background. I don't know if he ever read a marriage book or attended a seminar. I suspect he learned about marriage the old-fashioned way. By being married.

Now, almost thirty-four years into my own marriage, I can say this: he was right. But I understand his word a little better now.

Compromise in marriage isn't weakness. It's strength under control. It's choosing the relationship over your pride. It's deciding that winning an argument is far less important than protecting unity.

Marriage isn't sustained by romance alone. It's sustained by humility. By daily acts of consideration. By quiet apologies. By forgiving quickly. By remembering that you are not enemies competing for control but partners pursuing something far bigger than yourselves.

Paul writes, "submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ… Husbands, love your wives… Let the wife see that she respects her husband" (Eph. 5:21, 25, 33).

That kind of mutual submission isn't about keeping score. It's about reflecting Christ.

If both people insist on their own way, the marriage will fracture. If both people are willing to yield, to listen, to defer, and to love sacrificially, the marriage deepens.

After nearly thirty-four years, I would add this: compromise is not just the secret to surviving marriage. It's the pathway to enjoying it.

And it's deeply Christ-like.

That older gentleman was right.

If both of you have to get your own way, it ain't gonna work. —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
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YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTER
Marcus Williams
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Worship Assignments

Elder to Contact in March for Needs: Steve Cotney

Sunday AM and PM

Greeters:
Connie Morrison (Handicap Entrance)
Allen & Deebe Taylor (Back Entrance)

Usher: Stephen King

Nursery: Jennifer Lackey

AM Singing: Grant Dalton

Scripture Reading: Jim Petruzella

AM Opening Prayer: Rick Williams

AM Sermon: Chuck Webster

AM Communion: Jason McKeown

Announcements: Reggie Arnold

AM Closing Prayer: Paul Kirby

PM Song Leader: Rick Williams

PM Opening Prayer: Ben Vick

PM Speaker: Chuck Webster

PM Closing Prayer: Aidan McQuillan

Audio/Cameras: Grant Dalton/Brent Reaves

Video: Wes Blankenship

Security: Chad Blackmon/Norman Rutland

Bible Reading Plan for March 1-7

- **Sunday, March 1:** Deuteronomy 21-23; Psalm 60
- **Monday, March 2:** Deuteronomy 24-27; Psalm 61
- **Tuesday, March 3:** Deuteronomy 28-29; Psalm 62
- **Wednesday March 4:** Deuteronomy 30-31; Psalm 63
- **Thursday, March 5:** Deuteronomy 32-34; Psalm 64
- **Friday, March 6:** Joshua 1-4; Psalm 65
- **Saturday, March 7:** Joshua 5-8; Psalm 66

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.

Our Spring Quarter Adult Bible classes begin today. **Auditorium: Wade Warren** will continue his study on "Preparation of the World for the Messiah." **Library: Chuck Webster** is teaching in the Library on "Learning to Read Scripture More Faithfully." This class will use thoughts from M*isreading Scripture with Western Eyes: Removing Cultural Blinders to Better Understand the Bible* by E. Randolph Richards and Brandon J. O'Brien, as well as other materials. **Wednesday, Auditorium: Bill Rayburn** will teach a class during the month of March on "The Blessings That Come From Faith" (Romans 5:1-11). April and May will focus on biblical stewardship.

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

News and Events

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

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.

Rick and Brooke Williams, Jason McKeown, Steven Gaither, Will Spurlin, Walden Schlundt, Nathan Guill, Becky Smith, Nikesha Fantroy, Pam Blankenship, Kyle Bedgood, and Marcus Harris will be leaving for Peru on Friday, March 6, and returning the following weekend. Please pray for a successful mission trip and their safety.

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

Lee & Patty Bowman	March 3

Happy Birthday

Annika Dalton	March 1
Spencer Dalton	March 1
Corey Covington	March 2
Rhonda Bush	March 5
Harper Morgan	March 5
Sherrie Benson	March 6
Charity Blackmon	March 7
Pam Blankenship	March 7
Jessica Cicero	March 7
Emmeline Lyles	March 7

Youth

- **Today:** In-home devotional.
- **Wednesday, March 4:** Friendsday.
- **Friday, March 6:** Kindergarten-5th Grade Fun Night, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- **Saturday, March 7:** Parents' night-out childcare from 5:30-9:00 p.m.

Carelines

It is with tremendous grief that we announce that **Claire Elisabeth Clark** passed away unexpectedly Wednesday morning. Claire is the one-year-old daughter of Cody and Tara; sister to Elliott, Lawson, and Bennett. The family is deeply grieved and heartbroken, but strong and resilient through this incredibly difficult time. Cody and Tara request your prayers, but also need privacy while they grieve the loss of their precious "Claire Bear."

Brigitte Doutre was admitted to Brookwood Hospital last week.

Gail Powell is still at Brookwood and taking antibiotics and an anti-fungal medication. She may possibly be discharged tomorrow and go to Aspire Rehab Facility for one or two weeks.

Merv Prince will be having hip replacement surgery on Monday, April 6.

Jayvion, Moranda Garrett's son (Jayne Ivy's friend), had surgery at Children's Hospital and is doing well.

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.

Emily Bedgood is recovering from hand surgery.

Scarlette Smith, JoAnn McDonald's daughter, is undergoing chemotherapy for ovarian cancer.

Lila Destito, the grandmother of Sarah Destito (a frequent visitor at Hoover), broke her shoulder in three places and is in a lot of pain.

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.

Jeremy Schopper, Alyssa Long's cousin, is at 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.

(Carelines cont.)

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: Ali Tutak's sister, Jim and Marie Bryers (Giana Kidwell's cousins), 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).

A Note from the Eldership Regarding Prospective Deacons

We are thankful to share that the following men have now been appointed and are serving as deacons, helping coordinate specific ministries within our congregation (these assignments will be discussed on Sunday evening, March 29):

- Sid Aultman
- Wes Blankenship
- Nathan Guill
- Christian Harris
- Mark Lackey
- Micah Long
- Jason McKeown
- Tom McQuillan
- Bill Rayburn
- Brent Reaves
- Clint Richey
- Jonathan Weimer

We're grateful for the willingness of these men and their families to serve, and we appreciate the encouragement and support shown by our church family throughout this process. Please keep these men in your prayers as they begin this work, and continue to support them as we serve Christ together.

Attendance and Offering February 22, 2026

Attendance
Bible Study: 181
AM Worship: 265
PM Worship: 21 (Knit Together Groups Met)
Wednesday: 164

Contribution: $19,033.22
Weekly Budget:
Weekly Average: $17,183.56
Contribution to Date: $137,468.50

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 Family of Jesus
(Mark 3:20-35)

_____ Jesus

Jesus _____ Himself

The Great _____

The True _____

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 for a Grief Share Orientation: **March 14, June 13, and December 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. This class will being in August.

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/.

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Place
Postage