



May 24, 2026

## Why don't we confess to one another?

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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

elders@hoovercoc.org

#### MINISTER

**Chuck Webster**  
(205) 586-5610 (cell)  
cwebster@hoovercoc.org

#### ASSOCIATE MINISTER

**Kyle Wadley**  
(205) 792-5922 (cell)  
kwadley@hoovercoc.org

#### YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTER

**Marcus Williams**  
(615) 710-2319  
Marcus@hoovercoc.org

I don't know why we ignore this verse, but I'm pretty sure we do. Or at least we skip over the plain sense of it.

*Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed (James 5:16).*

When's the last time you did that? When's the last time you sat down with a Christian friend and honestly confessed the ways you're struggling in your relationship with Jesus?

*"Okay, let's see. I probably need to confess greed and covetousness, because I always feel like I have to have the latest style of clothing or some new piece of technology. I could be using that money to help someone in need.*

*"And I looked at another person Tuesday and entertained lustful thoughts. On Wednesday I listened to gossip that was making the rounds at work. I shouted at my kids yesterday, and I'm having conflict in my marriage that's rooted mostly in my own selfishness."*

Above I wrote that I don't know why we don't do this, but I think I know. We avoid it because it makes us uncomfortable. We're embarrassed. We think, *Nobody has this much sin but me.* If I start confessing this stuff, people will look at me differently for the rest of my life. The church rumor mill will be running at full speed.

The closest we usually get to anything like this is what we call the "invitation song." The preacher asks those who have prayer requests to come to the front during the song after the sermon, and they can submit their requests.

There's nothing wrong with that. It has its place. But it's still a long way from what James writes here. Our way of doing it is usually very public and yet strangely impersonal. It often lends itself to generic prayers like, "I've sinned and need forgiveness." Again, there's nothing wrong with that, but James is pointing us to something more personal, and much more powerful.

If we started doing this as we should, I'm guessing there would be a huge sigh of relief in our churches.

*"You mean you struggle with that too? I thought I was the only one."*

I think we'd be amazed at how freeing it is to live and worship in a church family where we don't have to pretend every Sunday that we've got it all figured out. Too often we come in with our church clothes on, our Sunday smiles on, and our religious airs on, acting as if we're all doing just fine.

Except we're not.

That's just a façade we put on to impress other people and keep them from seeing the real us.

I wish we'd start obeying James. I wish we could confess our sins to one another in trusted Christian relationships and small group settings, and experience the freedom of realizing that we're all in this together. We all struggle. We all need grace. We all need prayer.

If we did, I believe the church would become more of what God intends it to be: a close-knit, hand-in-hand community of believers helping one another follow Jesus until he comes again and makes all things new.

—Chuck

## Worship Assignments

**Elder to Contact in May for Needs:** Harold Rhodes

### Sunday AM and PM

**Greeters:**

Connie Morrison (Handicap Entrance)  
Yoshi & Karen Sugita

**Usher:** Drew Spivey

**Nursery:** Jamie Starns

**AM Singing:** Kyle Wadley

**Scripture Reading:** Dakotah Weeks

**AM Opening Prayer:** Reggie Arnold

**AM Sermon:** Chuck Webster

**AM Communion:** Drew Spivey

**Announcements:** Reggie Arnold

**AM Closing Prayer:** Tom McQuillan

**PM Song Leader:** Kyle Wadley

**PM Opening Prayer:** Wade Warren

**PM Speaker:** Wade Warren

**PM Closing Prayer:** Paul Kirby

**Audio/Cameras:** Rick Williams

**Video:** Clint Richey

**Security:** Jim Petruzella/Chad Blackmon

**Contribution Baskets:** Carter Williams, Brady Aultman, Noah White, Sam Williams, Campbell Vick, Aiden McQuillan, Zach Blakemore, Kai Sugita

### Bible Reading Plan for May 24-30

- **Sunday, May 24:** Ezekiel 8-11; Psalm 139
- **Monday, May 25:** Ezekiel 12-14; Psalm 140
- **Tuesday, May 26:** Ezekiel 15-17; Psalm 141
- **Wednesday, May 27:** Ezekiel 18-20; Psalm 142
- **Thursday, May 28:** Ezekiel 21-24; Psalm 143
- **Friday, May 29:** Ezekiel 25-28; Psalm 144
- **Saturday, May 30:** Ezekiel 29-30; Psalm 145



## Today

**Visitors**, welcome to our worship service this morning—we're glad you're here! Please **scan the QR Code** that's on the next page of our bulletin or the card that's in the pew. We would like to know where you are from.

**Adult Bible Classes:** (1) **Auditorium: Wade Warren** is teaching on "Preparation of the World for the Messiah." (2) **Library: Chuck Webster** is teaching in the Library on "Learning to Read Scripture More Faithfully." This class is using thoughts from *Misreading 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. (3) **Wednesday, Auditorium: Bill Rayburn** is teaching on biblical stewardship.

We **will not** have a devotional at the AHEPA 3 Apartments due to the Memorial Day Holiday.

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

## News and Events

**Mission to the Philippines:** Please pray for Bill Rayburn and Campbell Vick, who left for the Philippines on Wednesday. Pray especially for Campbell as he leads devotionals, teaches high school boys, and preaches during the trip. We're thankful for Campbell and Bill and for the work they'll be doing during their time there.

The office is closed tomorrow to observe the Memorial Day Holiday.

Join us for a **Couples Baby Shower** on Sunday, June 14, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. to honor the parents-to-be, **Kendyll and Dakotah Weeks**. Please **RSVP** to Karisa Schlundt at (561) 310-4931. They are registered at [babylist.com](http://babylist.com).

**Our Hoover Family Skate Day** is at the Roller Motion Skate Center in Bessemer on Saturday, June 6, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided. Contact **Kyle Wadley** with any questions.

**Summer quarter and promotion** for our children is Sunday, June 7.

## Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2026

Aidan McQuillan	Andrew Blackmon
Andrew McQuillan	Caroline Handley
Derick Bush	Emma Warren
Lucy McKeown	Marshall Pope
Noah White	

### Youth

- **Thursday, May 28:** Word-Day from 10:00-11:00 a.m.
- **Sunday, May 31:** 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Funday from 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- **Monday, June 1:** Mega Monday-Six Flags, from 7:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m. The cost is \$35 per person (bring money for two meals).

### Happy Anniversary

Jeff and Mollye Melton	May 25
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### Happy Birthday

Mac Richey	May 24
April Mauldin	May 27
Gracie Gaither	May 28
Kennedy Hicks	May 28

### Dear church family,

The elders have decided that our congregation will not have Vacation Bible School this summer, but we plan to offer a summer event again next year.

We're deeply thankful for the many people who have worked so hard over the years to make VBS possible. So many of you have given your time, energy, creativity, and love to serve our children and our community, and we appreciate that more than we can say.

This break will give those who have helped lead and serve in VBS over the years an opportunity to think carefully about the best way to serve our congregation and reach our community next summer. At that time, we plan to offer either a VBS similar to past years or a VBS-like event shaped to help us serve our children well while also strengthening our outreach to the community.

Thank you for your continued love for the Lord, for our church family, and for the children and families we have the opportunity to serve.

In Christ,  
**The Hoover elders**

**Carelines**

**Scarlette Smith**, JoAnn McDonald’s daughter, underwent surgery for ovarian cancer, and her doctor is pleased with the results. JoAnn and Scarlette are thankful for everyone’s prayers on their behalf.

Doyal Newsom requests prayers for **her cousin** who recently lost her son, **her friend** who had a stroke which affected her left arm and leg, and **her brother** who is having serious health issues.

**Joy Brooks** is undergoing physical therapy from surgery after a fall that resulted in a broken right femur.

**Richard Lawson** continues to battle Stage 4 kidney cancer.

**Doug Williams**, Landyn Williams’ dad, has multiple myeloma and will soon undergo a stem cell transplant.

**Kellie Covington**, Corey Covington’s sister, is undergoing chemotherapy for Stage 2 breast cancer.

**Doug and Cathy Abbott**, Joel Abbott’s parents, are facing ongoing medical challenges. Doug is doing somewhat better but continues to deal with the daily effects of Parkinson’s disease. Cathy also needs our prayers as she cares for her husband.

**Betty Shackelford**, Chè Abbott’s mom, continues to struggle with severe back pain.

**Don Cicero**, Matthew Cicero’s dad, is recovering from surgery to remove a brain tumor.

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

**Remember our church family:** Gail Powell, Sondra Moss, Jean Prince, Sharon McGraw, Linda Graham, Judy Smith, Betty Crawford, Celestine Hicks, Diann Tippins, and Tyler Tippins.

**Remember our family and friends:** Jeremy Schopper (Alyssa Long’s cousin), Jayvion (a friend of Jayne Ivy), Rex Anderson (former member of Hoover), and Kathy Culbertson (former member of Hoover).

**So Today I Choose . . .**

It’s quiet. It’s early. My coffee is hot. The sky is still black with darkness. The world is still asleep. In a few moments, the day will arrive. The stillness of the dawn will be exchanged for the noise of the day. Calm and solitude will be replaced by the pounding pace of the human race. The refuge of the early morning will be invaded by decisions to be made and deadlines to be met. For the next twelve hours, I will be exposed to the day’s demands. So it is now that I must make a choice.

**I Choose Love.** No occasion justifies hatred; no injustice warrants bitterness. I choose love. Today, I will love God and what God loves. **I Choose Joy.** I will invite my God to be the God of circumstance. I will refuse the temptation to be cynical, the tool of the lazy thinker. I will refuse to see people as anything less than human beings created by God. I will refuse to see any problem as anything less than an opportunity to see God. **I Choose Peace.** I will live forgiven. I will forgive so that I may live. **I Choose Patience.** I will overlook the inconveniences of the world. Rather than complaining that the wait is too long, I will thank God for a moment to pray. Instead of clinching my fist at new assignments, I will face them with a smile. **I Choose Kindness.** I will be kind to the poor, for they are alone; kind to the rich, for they are afraid; and kind to the unkind, for so God has treated me. **I Choose Goodness.** I will go without a dollar before taking a dishonest one. I will see good in others when it is hard to find. I will confess instead of accuse. **I Choose Faithfulness.** Today, I will keep my promises. My debtors will not regret their trust. My associates will not question my word. My wife will not doubt my love. My children will never fear that their father will fail to come home. **I Choose Gentleness.** Nothing worthwhile is won by force. I choose to be gentle. If I raise my voice, may it be only in praise. If I clench my fist, may it be only in prayer. If I make a demand, may it be only of myself. **I Choose Self-Control.** I am a spiritual being. After this body is dead, my spirit will soar. I refuse to let what will not rule the eternal. To these I commit my day. If I succeed, I will give thanks. If I fail, I will seek God’s face.

—*Family Matters*,  
Augusta Church of Christ

**Attendance and Offering  
May 17, 2026**

**Attendance**

**Bible Study:** 197  
**AM Worship:** 306  
**PM Worship:** 146  
**Wednesday:** 140

**Contribution:** \$13,626.42  
**Weekly Budget:** \$15,380.77  
**Weekly Average:** \$16,067.79  
**Contribution to Date:** \$321,355.73

**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.**



**Learning to Live Free  
(Exodus 16:2-5, 13-18, 27-35)**

The wilderness exposes what still \_\_\_\_\_ us

The manna teaches us daily \_\_\_\_\_

The Lord patiently trains his children as they \_\_\_\_\_

**GriefShare Class**

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 begin on Saturday, August 15, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.**

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