



May 31, 2026

Prayer Works

3248 Lorna Road
Hoover, AL 35216
(205) 822-5610 Office
www.hoovercoc.org
jtroughton@hoovercoc.org

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

Maybe you've occasionally wondered if there's any point to prayer. Does it work? Is God listening? Does he even care?

Whenever I start doubting, I go back and reread James. Here are a few translations of the end of James 5:16:

The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working (ESV).

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much (NKJV).

The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much (NASB).

The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective (NRSV).

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective (TNIV).

James apparently thought prayer worked, and you and I ought to believe him. He goes on to give an example:

Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit (James 5:17-18).

We might be tempted to think that well, of course, God answered prayer back then, but we live in a different age, a more hands-off age. Maybe God was more active in the days of prophets and apostles, but now he mostly leaves things alone.

But that reasoning doesn't work. There's absolutely nothing in the Bible that suggests God ever stopped hearing and answering the prayers of his people.

Do you believe that?

That question may be harder for some of us than others. Some people have prayed real prayers, faithful prayers, desperate prayers, and the answer they hoped for never came. A loved one still died. A marriage still broke apart. A child still walked away. The cancer still spread. The door still closed.

We shouldn't pretend those questions are easy. The Bible doesn't pretend they're easy either. God's people have always cried out, "How long?" and "Why?" and "Where are you?" Faith doesn't require us to act as if unanswered prayers don't hurt.

Sometimes God may not answer because we're not living in his will. Peter once wrote that a man who's not treating his wife well is going to offer hindered prayers (1 Pet 3:7).

Sometimes what we're asking may not be according to his will; and if so, we wouldn't want him to answer it our way anyway. I've begged him for things that I later realized I didn't need. I didn't know it at the time, but I'm glad he said no.

And sometimes, honestly, we may not know why the answer didn't come the way we hoped. We can say that without weakening our faith. God hasn't promised to explain every sorrow to us in this life. But he *has* promised to hear his children, to love them, and to work all things toward his good purposes.

So does prayer work?

Absolutely. Not because it gives us control over God, and not because it guarantees that every righteous request will be answered exactly as we hoped. Prayer works because the living God hears his people, receives their cries, and acts in wisdom, love, and power.

Believe that, and then pray accordingly. —Chuck

Worship Assignments

Elder to Contact in May for Needs:
Harold Rhodes

Sunday AM and PM

Greeters:

Connie Morrison (Handicap Entrance)
Corey & Leah Covington

Usher: Drew Spivey

Nursery: Jean Coker

AM Singing: Kyle Wadley

Scripture Reading: Stephen King

AM Opening Prayer: Jeff Melton

AM Sermon: Chuck Webster

AM Communion: Ben Vick

Announcements: Steve Cotney

AM Closing Prayer: Seth Edwards

PM Song Leader: Rick Williams

PM Opening Prayer: Jonathan Weimer

PM Speaker: Sid Aultman

PM Closing Prayer: Garrett Vick

Audio/Cameras: Rick Williams

Video: Clint Richey

Security: Jim Petruzella/Chad Blackmon

Contribution Baskets: Caleb Winningham, Derick Bush, Scott Warren, Garrett Vick, Jonah White, Carter Williams, Brady Aultman, and Noah White

Bible Reading Plan for May 31-June 6

- **Sunday, May 31:** Ezekiel 31-33; Psalm 146
- **Monday, June 1:** Ezekiel 34-37; Psalm 147
- **Tuesday, June 2:** Ezekiel 38-39; Psalm 148
- **Wednesday, June 3:** Ezekiel 40-43; Psalm 149
- **Thursday, June 4:** Ezekiel 44-48; Psalm 150
- **Friday, June 5:** Hosea 1-5; Psalm 1
- **Saturday, June 6:** Hosea 6-10; Psalm 2

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.

The AHEPA 3 devotional is at 3:30 p.m. **Kyle Wadley** is presenting the lesson.

This evening at 5:00, **Sid Aultman** is giving a presentation on the Tanzania mission work.

News and Events

Mission to Tanzania: Please keep Harold and Donna Rhodes, Betty Crawford, Rhonda Bush, Barbara Reed, and Lillie Bendolph in your prayers as they travel to Tanzania on Wednesday, June 3.

Mission to the Philippines: Please pray for **Bill Rayburn and Campbell Vick**, who are in the Philippines. 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're doing.

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

(News and Events cont.)

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

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.

Happy Anniversary

Bill & Deborah Everley	May 31
Jason & Karen Blakemore	June 3
Adam & Laura Lyles	June 3
Chandler & Olivia Montgomery	June 4

Happy Birthday

Carson Hayes	May 31
Randall Johnson	May 31
Julianne Reaves	May 31
Joe Myers	June 2
Michael Petruzella	June 2
Jewel Coker	June 3
Lauren Warren	June 4
Tracy Percer	June 6
Shawn Troughton	June 6
Wade Warren	June 6

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

- **Today!** 5th 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).

Carelines

We extend our heartfelt condolences to **Sherri McQuillian and her family** on the death of her mother, **Judy Spence**. Mrs. Spence passed away Wednesday evening. Her service and interment was yesterday in Dickson, TN. Please pray for Sherri and her family as they mourn the loss of their loved one.

Russ Stringer, Nancy Griner’s son-in-law, is undergoing tests at Grandview Medical Center for possible heart failure.

Scarlette Smith, daughter of JoAnn McDonald, recently underwent surgery for ovarian cancer. Her doctor is pleased with the results, and both JoAnn and Scarlette are grateful for everyone’s prayers.

Richard Lawson, Alyssa Long’s father, 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 continues to deal with the daily effects of Parkinson’s disease. Cathy also needs our prayers as she cares for her husband.

Doyal Newsom requests prayers for **her cousin**, who recently lost her son; **her friend**, who suffered a stroke; and **her brother**, who is facing serious health issues.

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

This past Wednesday night at church, we requested prayers for **Teri and Nevah Peek**. Teri is the granddaughter of Greg Cotney, Steve’s brother, and Nevah is Teri’s six-month-old daughter. Teri and Nevah were in a serious car accident and were hospitalized. Nevah remains in the ICU, but all of her vital signs have stabilized, and the doctors believe she will be okay. Teri is doing okay and has been able to go to the children’s hospital to be with Nevah. The family wanted the church to know how grateful they are for your prayers. Please continue to pray for Teri, Nevah, and their family.

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

(Carelines cont.)

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), Rex Anderson (former member of Hoover), and Kathy Culbertson (former member of Hoover).

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.** Life is not all play (Genesis 3:19; Ephesians 4:28; Proverbs 13:15).
- **Liberty.** 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; Galatians 5:1; John 8:32).
- **The law.** Be law-abiding even when others are not and when in need of money (1 Peter 2:13-15; Romans 13:1-8).
- **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

**Attendance and Offering
May 24, 2026**

Attendance

Bible Study: 200

AM Worship: 258

PM Worship: 20 (Knit Together Groups met in homes)

Wednesday: 150

Contribution: \$16,769.95

Weekly Budget: \$15,380.77

Weekly Average: \$16,101.22

Contribution to Date: \$338,125.68

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;">Saved for Something (Exodus 19:2-8; Exodus 20:1-3; Exodus 24:7-11)</p> <p>Grace comes before _____</p> <p>Obedience forms a _____ for God</p> <p>The _____ of the covenant brings us near</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GriefShare Class</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. This class will begin on Saturday, August 15, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.</p> <p>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/.</p>
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