



July 5, 2026

The Good Old Days

Every generation tends to believe that the world is worse than it used to be.

"We had it so good back in the good old days."

"When I was a kid, we didn't even have to lock our doors."

"When I was growing up, we walked to school barefoot in the snow, uphill both ways."

Some of that is nostalgia. Some of it is selective memory. And some of it may be an honest recognition that things really do change.

We do live in unsettling times. Many of the moral assumptions that once seemed widely shared are no longer assumed at all. More and more people around us appear to have little interest in the biblical foundations of right and wrong. Parents and grandparents naturally wonder what kind of world their children and grandchildren will inherit.

Those concerns are understandable. But hand-wringing has never been a Christian virtue.

Christians aren't the first people of God to live in difficult times. We're not the first to watch a culture drift from God. We're not the first to wonder what the future holds. And we're certainly not the first to be reminded that the kingdoms of men rise and fall under the rule of the God who does not.

Cardinal Francis George once warned about the increasing secularization of society and the cost it might bring for Christians: "I expect to die in bed, my successor will die in prison, and his successor will die a martyr in the public square." His words are sobering. Whether or not things unfold that way in our time, Scripture has already prepared us for this much: the people of God shouldn't be shocked when the world doesn't love the truth.

But neither should we despair.

Christianity has often grown strongest in the hardest soil. The darker the world becomes, the more clearly the light of Christ can be seen. God doesn't need favorable election results, court decisions, cultural approval, or public popularity in order to accomplish his will. None of those things surprise him. None of them threaten him. None of them can stop him.

We don't know exactly what God has planned for our country. But we do know that he has plans. We know that he is wise. We know that he is sovereign. We know that he is good. And we know that he has always used faithful people in difficult times to bear witness to his truth, his mercy, and his kingdom.

That means our calling is not panic. Our calling is faithfulness.

We teach our children. We love our neighbors. We speak the truth. We refuse to bow to the idols of the age. We serve quietly. We worship steadily. We trust God completely.

The old children's song had it right: he's got the whole world in his hands. Not just the parts of the world that make sense to us. Not just the parts that feel safe. Not just the parts that look like the "good old days." The whole world.

"Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand" (Proverbs 19:21). —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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Kyle Wadley

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YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTER

Marcus Williams

(615) 710-2319
Marcus@hoovercoc.org

Worship Assignments

Elder to Contact in July for Needs:

Chuck Webster

Sunday AM and PM

Greeters:

Connie Morrison (Handicap Entrance)
Rick & Brooke Williams (Back Entrance)

Usher: Donnie Winningham

Nursery: Jennifer Lackey

AM Singing: Kyle Wadley

Scripture Reading: Wes Blankenship

AM Opening Prayer: Torrey Clark

AM Sermon: Chuck Webster

AM Communion: Harold Rhodes

Announcements: Jimmy Lyles

AM Closing Prayer: Norman Rutland

PM Song Leader: Kyle Wadley

PM Opening Prayer: Ben Vick

PM Speaker: Chuck Webster

PM Closing Prayer: Scott Warren

Audio/Cameras:

Clint Richey/Grant Dalton

Video: Drew Spivey

Security: Daniel Warren/Steven King

Contribution Baskets:

Carter Williams, Noah White, Brady Aultman, Campbell Vick, Kai Sugita, Aiden McQuillan, Zach Blakemore, and Scott Warren

John 4:24

God is Spirit, and His worshipers must worship Him in spirit and in truth.



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 classes for the Summer Quarter are described below:

Steve Cotney is teaching the Auditorium class, and his topic is *God's Grace, Patience, and Providence; A Look at Solomon and Ecclesiastes*. **Merv Prince** is teaching a class in the Library, and his subject is *Becoming Unoffendable*, and he will be using material from the book by Brant Hansen: *Unoffendable: How Just One Change Can Make All of Life Better*. On Wednesday evenings, we will meet in the auditorium for our *Summer Series*.

The AHEPA 3 devotional is at 3:30 p.m. **Merv Prince** is presenting the lesson.

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

Bible Reading Plan for July 5-11

- ◆ **Sunday, July 5:** Job 1-3; Psalm 31
- ◆ **Monday, July 6:** Job 4-7; Psalm 32
- ◆ **Tuesday, July 7:** Job 8-10; Psalm 33
- ◆ **Wednesday, July 8:** Job 11-14; Psalm 34
- ◆ **Thursday, July 9:** Job 15-19; Psalm 35
- ◆ **Friday, July 10:** Job 20-24; Psalm 36
- ◆ **Saturday, July 11:** Job 25-28; Psalm 37

News and Events

Our Ladies Ministry is hosting a **Baby Shower for Rya Richardson** on Sunday, July 12, at 2:00 p.m. She is registered at <https://my.babylist.com/rya-richardson>.

The Young at Heart will be meeting on Friday, July 17, at 5:30 p.m. for their birthday celebration and game night. Our menu is Potluck. Ken and Carol Norris and Nancy Harris are hosting this event, and you can contact them with any questions.

Our third Sunday congregational fellowship meal is on July 19, and we will meet immediately after the morning worship service. This month our theme is "Cookout."

Happy Anniversary

Joe & Sue Ann Myers	July 5
Mark & Jennifer Lackey	July 6

Happy Birthday

Easton Griffin	July 5
Nic Butts	July 6
Chuck Webster	July 6
Judy Smith	July 8
Dakotah Weeks	July 8
Kendyll Weeks	July 9
Liz Weymouth	July 9

Youth

- ◆ **Monday-Wednesday, July 6-8:** Serve others week; Teen VBS.
- ◆ **Thursday, July 9:** Word Day at 10:00 a.m.
- ◆ **Thursday, July 16:** Kindergarten-fifth grade movie night.
- ◆ **Thursday-Sunday, July 16-19:** Legacy at Faulkner University.
- ◆ **Monday, July 20:** Mega Monday, Guys' Event at 11:30 a.m.
- ◆ **Monday, July 20:** Mega Monday, Girls' Event at 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ **Wednesday, July 22:** Kindergarten-fifth grade dinner and devotional at 6:00 p.m.

Carelines

Bob Brooks had an Atrial Fibrillation at Grandview Medical Center on Wednesday, July 1, and the procedure was successful.

Doug Williams, Landyn Williams' father, received a stem cell transplant. He is doing well and is recovering at home.

Doyal Newsom requests prayers for her **brother-in-law and his family**. His nephew passed away last week. Doyal also appreciates the prayers on behalf of her family.

Moranda Garrett, a friend of Jayne Ivy, suffers from severe back pain. She also has a tumor on her pituitary gland that is causing health problems.

Scarlette Smith, daughter of JoAnn McDonald, had a test last week to determine if she needs more surgery. Once this procedure is completed, she will undergo another two or three rounds of chemo.

Richard Lawson, Alyssa Long's father, continues to battle Stage 4 kidney cancer.

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

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

Remember our church family: Mollye Melton, Joy Brooks, 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: Greg Wright (Felicia Arnold's cousin), Cousin, Brother, and Friend of Doyal Newsom, Doug & Cathy Abbott (Joel Abbott's parents), Betty Shackelford (Chè Abbott's mother), Don Cicero (Matthew Cicero's father), Jeremy Schopper (Alyssa Long's cousin), Rex Anderson (former member of Hoover), and Kathy Culbertson (former member of Hoover).

Booth Saved Lincoln

The title might offend some people, but it's true. Context helps.

It was Edwin Booth, not John Wilkes. And it was Robert, not Abraham, Lincoln. Edwin Booth and Robert Lincoln were buying passage on a sleeping car in Jersey City, NJ. Robert lost his balance and fell between the train and the platform. He likely would've been crushed if Edwin hadn't pulled him to safety.

Context matters. Without it, we can draw wrong and even dangerous conclusions. This is especially true with the Bible. Many people know a little Scripture, but neglect to study it carefully. As a result, doctrines are sometimes built 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).

Some verses are clarified by nearby verses. In Acts 16, the jailer hears more about Jesus, and his faith includes repentance and baptism (Acts 16:32-34). In Matthew 18, the subject is church discipline, not worship (Matthew 18:15-18).

Other statements require the broader context. Pharaoh still chose pride. Paul explains that God had a sovereign purpose in choosing Jacob over Esau (Romans 9:11).

Calling on the Lord isn't confession only. Ananias told Saul to arise and be baptized, washing away his sins (Acts 22:16). When we study Scripture, context matters. God expects us to handle his word accurately (2 Timothy 2:15).

—adapted from Neal Pollard

Attendance and Offering June 28, 2026

Attendance

Bible Study: 215

AM Worship: 284

PM Worship: 25

Wednesday: 140

Contribution: \$14,348.07

Weekly Budget: \$15,380.77

Weekly Average: \$15,954.05

Contribution to Date: \$414,805.18

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.



Bear One Another's Burdens (Galatians 6:1-5)	GriefShare Class
Restore the _____ (6:1)	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.
Carry the _____ (6:2)	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/.
Reject _____ (6:3-4)	
Shoulder your own _____ (6:5)	



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