



July 12, 2026

Seeing Through the Fog

It was a fog-shrouded morning on July 4, 1952, when Florence Chadwick dove into the chilly waters of the Pacific Ocean. She intended to become the first woman to swim from Catalina Island to the California coast, but after more than fifteen hours in the water, she was exhausted, cold, and discouraged.

She asked the trainers in the boat beside her to take her out of the water. They pleaded with her to keep going. They told her the coastline was close. But when she lifted her head out of the water, all she could see was fog. Finally, they relented and pulled her into the boat.

She'd stopped only about a half-mile from the beach.

Later, Chadwick said she didn't want to make excuses, but she believed that if she could've seen land, she could've made it.

She was probably right.

Two months later, she tried again. The fog was still there, but this time she kept swimming. She held the shoreline in her mind, even when she couldn't see it with her eyes. And this time, she finished the swim.

In some ways, that story illustrates the Christian life.

We lose sight of the goal, and we get discouraged. We become tired, frustrated, stressed, and overwhelmed. The obstacles around us seem too large. The burdens feel too heavy. The way forward becomes hard to see. The fog becomes thick, and we're tempted to quit.

I suspect some of you are there right now. Your stresses have accumulated to the point that you feel like you can't keep dealing with all of it.

There's no magic pill and no simple formula, but the book of Hebrews gives struggling Christians a clear word of encouragement. Hebrews 12:1-2 tells us to lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and to run with endurance the race set before us.

Then comes the key phrase: "looking to Jesus." That's the difference.

If you look only at your bills, your time demands, your relationship challenges, your worries, your grief, and your problems, you'll be overwhelmed. That's the fog. And the fog can become so thick that it keeps you from seeing the One who matters most.

So take time this week to focus on Jesus. Think about how he lived. Think about what he taught. Think about how he loved people, forgave sinners, showed compassion to the hurting, and welcomed the weary. Think about his cross. Think about his resurrection. Think about the fact that he is now seated at the right hand of God.

Will you spend fifteen minutes each day focusing on the Lord? That may not sound like much, but it might be more than you've been spending with him lately.

Talk to him. Commune with him. Rest with him. Ask him to help you see through the foggy, messed-up parts of your life and recognize his presence and his work. Ask him to give you his joy, his peace, and his strength. Ask him to help you keep looking to Jesus, even when the fog hasn't yet lifted.

—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

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YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTER

Marcus Williams

(615) 710-2319
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Worship Assignments

Elder to Contact in July for Needs:
Chuck Webster

Sunday AM and PM

Greeters:

Connie Morrison (Handicap Entrance)
Corey & Leah Covington (Back Entrance)

Usher: Donnie Winningham

Nursery: April Winningham

AM Singing: Kyle Wadley

Scripture Reading: Will Spurlin

AM Opening Prayer: Brent Reaves

AM Sermon: Chuck Webster

AM Communion: Rick Williams

Announcements: Steve Cotney

AM Closing Prayer: Chandler Montgomery

PM Song Leader: Paul Kirby

PM Opening Prayer: Al Lyons

PM Speaker: Jimmy Holland, Faulkner University

PM Closing Prayer: Allen Taylor

Audio/Cameras:

Clint Richey/Grant Dalton

Video: Drew Spivey

Security: Daniel Warren/Stephen King

Contribution Baskets:

Caleb Winningham, Sam Williams, Jonah White, Garrett Vick, Derick Bush, Carter Williams, Noah White, and Brady Aultman

Romans 12:2

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.”

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*.

Don’t forget the **Baby Shower for Rya Richardson** today at 2:00 p.m. She is registered at <https://my.babylist.com/rya-richardson>.

The **AHEPA 3 devotional** is at 3:30 p.m. **Jeff Melton** is presenting the lesson.

This evening at 5:00, our Knit Together Groups will meet in homes for a devotional and fellowship. We will also have a lesson in the auditorium presented by **Jimmy Holland from Faulkner University**.

Bible Reading Plan for July 12-18

- ♦ **Sunday, July 12:** Job 29-31; Psalm 38
- ♦ **Monday, July 13:** Job 32-34; Psalm 39
- ♦ **Tuesday, July 14:** Job 35-37; Psalm 40
- ♦ **Wednesday, July 15:** Job 38-39; Psalm 41
- ♦ **Thursday, July 16:** Job 40-42; Psalm 42
- ♦ **Friday, July 17:** Ecclesiastes 1-4; Psalm 43
- ♦ **Saturday, July 18:** Ecclesiastes 5-8; Psalm 44

News and Events

Our third Sunday congregational fellowship meal is on July 19, and we will meet immediately after the morning worship service. The theme for this month is “Cookout.”

Happy Anniversary

Emory & April Best-Mauldin	July 12
Eddie & Terrie Watts	July 12
Jim & Denia Petruzella	July 17

Happy Birthday

April Winningham	July 12
Davis Mauldin	July 15
Ian Fantroy	July 16
Cooper Gann	July 17
Linda Graham	July 18

Youth

- ♦ **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

Richard Lawson, Alyssa Long's dad, had to be readmitted to the hospital the day after returning home and will remain there until at least Tuesday for additional testing. Please keep Richard and the entire family in your prayers.

Scarlette Smith, JoAnn McDonald's daughter, is at UAB following two operations for ovarian cancer. She will have more chemotherapy after she recuperates from the surgeries.

Anita Hochdorf, a former member of Hoover, suffers with ALS and is now under the care of Hospice.

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

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.

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

Remember our church family: Mollye Melton, Bob and Joy Brooks, Gail Powell, Sondra Moss, Jean Prince, Sharon McCraw, Linda Graham, Judy Smith, Betty Crawford, Celestine Hicks, Diann Tippins, and Tyler Tippins.

Remember our family and friends: Russ Stringer (Nancy Griner's son-in-law), Doug Williams (Landyn Williams' dad), Greg Wright (Felicia Arnold's cousin), Brother-in-law, 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).



Do Not Quit

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,

And the road you are traveling seems all uphill;

When funds are low and debts are high,

And you want to sigh,

When care is pressing you down a bit,

Rest if you must—but do not quit.

Cause you never can tell how close you are,

Though it may be near when it seems so far,

So stick to the job when you are hardest hit,

It is when things seem worse that you must not quit.

“Be strong and very courageous.”
—Joshua 1:7

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”
—James 1:5

Attendance and Offering July 5, 2026

Attendance

Bible Study: 190

AM Worship: 230

PM Worship: 103

Wednesday: 139

Contribution: \$17,627.43

Weekly Budget: \$15,380.77

Weekly Average: \$16,016.02

Contribution to Date: \$432,432.61

Hoover Supported Works

- *Childhaven, Cullman, AL*
- *Churches of Christ Disaster Relief*
- *Clothing Closet*
- *Food Pantry*
- *Tanzania*
- *Philippines*

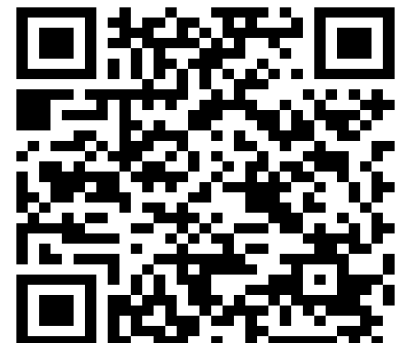
Mission Trips

- *Tanzania*
- *Philippines*
- *Peru*

Oversight

- *Christ Happy Childhaven, Philippines*
- *Tanzania Missions*

Visitors and members, please scan the QR Code below to log your attendance.



Encourage One Another (Hebrews 3:12-13) _____ lies to us. God's _____ tell us the truth. Christian community is not an _____.	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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