hoover
CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 13, 2026

The Approval Trap

Most of us like to be liked. A kind word from a spouse, a compliment from a friend, or recognition for something we've done well can brighten our day. There's nothing wrong with that.

But we can get too caught up in it.

In his book *The Life You've Always Wanted*, John Ortberg writes about "approval addiction"—our obsession with what other people think of us.

We replay conversations in our heads, wondering how we came across. A compliment can make our day, while one careless criticism can ruin it.

Do you struggle with this? Do you often think about whether your spouse, parents, boss, coworkers, or friends approve of you?

Paul wrote:

> *But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God (1 Cor. 4:3-5).*

Paul wasn't saying that other people's opinions were irrelevant. He was saying they didn't have the final word about who he was. Paul wouldn't even give himself the final word.

"It is the Lord who judges me."

Henri Nouwen wrote: "At issue here is the question: 'To whom do I belong? To God or to the world?' Many of my daily preoccupations suggest that I belong more to the world than to God. A little criticism makes me angry, and a little rejection makes me depressed. A little praise raises my spirits, and a little success excites me. . . . Often I am like a small boat on the ocean, completely at the mercy of its waves."

That's what approval addiction does. It puts our peace in somebody else's hands. Their praise lifts us up; their criticism knocks us down.

But Christians don't have to live that way.

When we remember that we belong to God and that our identity is rooted in Christ, other people's opinions assume their proper size. We can listen to criticism without being crushed by it and appreciate encouragement without needing it to survive.

We serve the King of kings. If we're walking faithfully with Christ, his judgment is the one that finally matters.

When his approval matters most, we become much less desperate for everyone else's.

What else matters?

—Chuck

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

Worship Assignments

Elder to Contact in September for Needs: Donnie Winningham

Sunday AM and PM

Greeters:
Connie Morrison (Handicap Entrance)
(Back Entrance) Jim & Denia Petruzella

Usher: Clint Richey

Nursery: April Winningham

AM Singing: Kyle Wadley

Scripture Reading: Avery Davis

AM Opening Prayer: Jason McKeown

AM Sermon: Roy Johnson

AM Communion: Ben Vick

Announcements: Rick Williams

AM Closing Prayer: Jonathan Weimer

PM Song Leader: Matthew Cicero

PM Opening Prayer: Greg Coker

PM Speaker: Will Lucas

PM Closing Prayer: Al Lyons

Audio/Cameras: Marc Handley
Video: Will Spurlin
Security: Steven Gaither (Front Entrance)
George Faison (Handicap Entrance)

Contribution Baskets: Campbell Vick, Kai Sugita, Zach Blakemore, Scott Warren, Caleb Winningham, Sam Williams, Jonah White, and Garrett Vick

Bible Reading Plan for September 13-19

- **Sunday, September 13:** Mark 13-14; Psalm 101
- **Monday, September 14:** Mark 15-16; Psalm 102
- **Tuesday, September 15:** John 1-2; Psalm 103
- **Wednesday September 16:** John 3-4; Psalm 104
- **Thursday, September 17:** John 5-6; Psalm 105
- **Friday, September 18:** John 7-8; Psalm 106
- **Saturday, September 19:** John 9-10; Psalm 107

Today

Visitors, welcome to our worship service this morning! We're glad you're here. Please **scan the QR Code** on the next page of the bulletin. We would love to know more about you and where you're from.

All Adults are welcome on Sunday mornings to enjoy studying in one of the following classes:
Chuck Webster is teaching the Auditorium class, and his topic is **"Bible Texts We'd Rather Skip,"** a study of difficult, troubling, and often misunderstood passages of Scripture.
Drew Spivey and Jason McKeown are teaching in the Library, and their topic is, **"Practicing the Way." Donnie Winningham** is teaching the Young Professionals on the book of **Romans**.
On Wednesday nights at 7:00, our Hoover Series, "**Questions Asked By God**," will meet in the Auditorium.

Our Lads to Leaders Kick-off Meeting and Luncheon will immediately follow our morning worship service. If you plan to participate in the 2027 program, please join us for this meeting. Sign-up sheets will be available for the competitive and non-competitive events offered to our youth. Contact **Kyle Wadley** with any questions.

AHEPA 3 devotional is at 3:30 p.m. **Jeff Melton** will present the lesson.

News and Events

Our Ladies Bible Class begins a new season tomorrow, September 14, from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Contact **Denia Petruzella or Leah Covington** with any questions.

The Young at Heart will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, September 18, for a birthday celebration and game night. It's football season, so wear your favorite team's jersey and bring plenty of tailgating food. **Harold and Donna Rhodes** are hosting this event.

News and Events cont.)

There will be a **Men's Breakfast** in the fellowship hall on Saturday, September 19, from 8:00-10:00 a.m. Please let **Brent Reaves** know if you will be attending—a sign-up sheet is on the back rail in the auditorium.

Our Third Sunday Congregational Fellowship Meal will be on September 20 and is immediately following our morning worship service. The church is providing Poppyseed Chicken Casserole and Pot Roast with Carrots and Potatoes. Members, please bring plenty of side dishes and desserts. You can contact **Kayla Reaves** with any questions.

There will be an **Elders, Deacons, and Ministers meeting** in the Library on Sunday, September 20, at 3:30 p.m.

The Peru Mission Team will host a fellowship at the home of the McKeowns on Saturday, October 17. This is for anyone who has been part of the team and anyone interested in traveling to Peru to serve in the future.

The Young at Heart will be going to the Catfish House in Millbrook, AL on Saturday, October 24. If you want to ride the bus, please let Jean Coker know (the bus will leave the building at 4:00). If you prefer to drive, please meet at the restaurant by 5:30 p.m.

Youth

- **Wednesday, September 16:** F.A.M. Group meetings from 7:00-8:00 p.m.
- **Friday-Saturday, September 18-19:** DEEP Youth Experience at the Ashville Road Church of Christ.
- **Sunday, September 20:** Area-wide at the Heritage Place Church of Christ from 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Happy Anniversary

Tom & Giana Kidwell	September 13
Landon & Kristina Wadley	September 19

Happy Birthday

Keenya Mathews	September 13
Wren Yeilding	September 13
Sid Aultman	September 15
Kasey Guill	September 16
Ava Collins	September 17
Allen Taylor	September 18

Judgement Day Excuses That Don't Work

We can imagine that on "the judgment of the great day" (Jude 1:6), there will be many excuses. Let's consider some. "But , Lord, what about all of the good that I have done?" This sounds like Matthew 7:22: "Many will say to Me in that day, "Lord, Lord, have we not . . . done many wonders in Your name?" But what will Jesus say? "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness" (7:23). What was their shortcoming? They failed to do the Father's will (7:21). The Lord wants us to be "zealous for good works" (Titus 2:14), but all the good works in the world cannot cover sin. "But, Lord, I was just doing what other folks were doing." Christ taught that this course of action leads to destruction: "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it" (Matthew 7:13). Remember, something is not right in God's sight just because a lot of people are doing it. "But, Lord, I was always so busy with work and everything that I didn't have time for church." A more truthful statement is that one does not make time. Jesus warned: "And the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful" (Mark 4:19). "Lord, I am sorry for the way that I lived. If I had a chance to do it again, I would do better." No one gets a second chance, "It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). Our life on earth is a one-shot deal (Titus 2:12). Let us all be certain that we are prepared for that day, so we won't need any excuses. —Roger Campbell

Carelines

Jayvion, Moranda Garret's two-year-old child and who is friends of Jayne Ivy, is having ear surgery at the Children's Hospital on Wednesday, September 23. He has also been diagnosed with Level 2 Autism.

Jill Evans, Lynn McKeown's daughter and Jason McKeown's sister, has been diagnosed with breast cancer and will begin radiation treatments soon.

Felicia Wright, Heather Spivey's grandmother, has been brought back under Hospice care and is not doing well.

Kim Green, Karen Sugita's sister, is still in the hospital with pneumonia but is doing much better. She will be moved to rehab soon and then to long-term care.

Kellie Covington, Corey Covington's sister, is undergoing chemotherapy and will have her 4th treatment on Tuesday, September 15. So far, she has received good results from her labs.

Richard Lawson, Alyssa Long's dad, has been receiving radiation treatments targeting a group of tumors in his lungs. His oncologist and care team are working together on a comprehensive treatment plan.

Keith Hills, Melinda Richardson's brother-in-law, met with doctors from the Cancer Center of Houston on Friday, September 11, for specialized treatment. The cancer has returned from this past January and has spread throughout his body. As you pray for Keith, please also remember his wife, Janice, and their daughter, Alexus.

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

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

Remember our family and friends: Willard Worthington (Virgie Banks' brother), Scarlette Smith (JoAnn McDonald's daughter), Russ Stringer (Nancy Griner's son-in-law), Doug Williams (Landyn Williams' dad), Doug & Cathy Abbott (Joel Abbott's parents), Betty Shackelford (Chè Abbott's mother), Rex Anderson (former member of Hoover), and Kathy Culbertson (former member of Hoover).

Attendance and Offering September 6, 2026

Attendance
Bible Study: 186
AM Worship: 264
PM Worship: 123
Wednesday: 175

Contribution: $15,590.65
Weekly Budget: $15,380.77
Weekly Average: $15,885.05
Contribution to Date: $571,861.94

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.

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. **The class is now in session and will continue on Saturdays 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/**.

hoover
CHURCH OF CHRIST
3248 Lorna Road
Hoover, AL 35216

Place
Postage