



October 4, 2026

Impression Management

It's a little embarrassing when you think about it. Most of us like to believe that we don't care very much what other people think about us. But psychologists have a term for the ways we consciously or unconsciously try to shape how others see us: "impression management."

And we all do it.

We choose what to wear, what to say, what not to say, and which parts of ourselves to reveal. These days we can even choose which pictures, accomplishments, and happy moments the world gets to see. We're constantly presenting some version of ourselves to other people.

That isn't necessarily wrong. There's nothing sinful about wanting to make a good impression. The danger comes when the person we want others to see matters more than the person we actually are.

The Pharisees struggled with that. Jesus warned about people who practiced their religion "in order to be seen by them" (Matthew 6:1). They prayed where people would notice, gave in ways that attracted attention, and loved places of honor and titles of respect. They cared deeply about appearing righteous.

In Matthew 23, Jesus exposed what all that religious impression management was hiding:

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. . . . You are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness" (Matthew 23:25, 27).

Jesus reserved some of his strongest words for people whose reputation for godliness was better than their character.

That ought to make us uncomfortable.

Religious impression management is easy because the rewards can be immediate. We like being thought of as faithful, generous, knowledgeable, prayerful Christians. Sometimes we can become almost as interested in looking spiritually mature as we are in actually becoming spiritually mature.

Maybe we make sure someone knows about the good thing we did. Maybe we want people to notice how much we serve or how much we know. Maybe we carefully conceal the parts of our lives that don't fit the image.

The frightening thing about hypocrisy is that we can become better at managing the image than dealing with what's underneath it.

Jesus points us in the opposite direction: take care of the inside. Become the person you want people to think you are.

That means worrying less about reputation and more about character. Less about being noticed and more about being faithful. Less about what people see and more about what God sees.

If we're genuinely walking with Christ, we don't have to manufacture an image. Take care of the inside. Let God take care of the reputation. —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
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 October for Needs:
Reggie Arnold

Sunday AM and PM

Greeters, AM: Connie Morrison
(Handicap Entrance); Al Lyons & Jayne Ivy (Back Entrance)

Usher: Drew Spivey

Nursery Attendant: Jean Coker

AM Singing: Kyle Wadley

Scripture Reading: Stephen King

AM Opening Prayer: Wes Blankenship

AM Sermon: Chuck Webster

Communion: Chandler Montgomery

Announcements: Steve Cotney

AM Closing Prayer: Kyle Bedgood

Audio/Cameras: Grant Dalton/Rick Williams

Video: Mark Lackey

Security: Front Entrance: Daniel Warren; Handicap Entrance: Marc Handley

Contribution Baskets: Caleb Winningham, Sam Williams, Jonah White, Garrett Vick, Carter Williams, Brady Aultman, Campbell Vick, and Kai Sugita

Bible Reading Plan for October 4-10

- ♦ **Sunday, October 4:** Luke 21-22; Psalm 119:97-128
- ♦ **Monday, October 5:** Luke 23-24; Psalm 119:129-152
- ♦ **Tuesday, October 6:** Acts 1-2; Psalm 119:153-176
- ♦ **Wednesday, October 7:** Acts 3-4; Psalm 120
- ♦ **Thursday, October 8:** Acts 5-6; Psalm 121
- ♦ **Friday, October 9:** Acts 7-8; Psalm 122
- ♦ **Saturday, October 10:** Acts 9-10; Psalm 123

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 OF God,"** will meet in the Auditorium.

Keith Harris, President of Freed-Hardeman University, is visiting Hoover today. It's their **Presidential Tour!** President Harris will be teaching a combined adult Bible class in the auditorium. Freed-Hardeman will also have a display outside after our morning worship service with games, snacks, and information about the university.

AHEPA 3 devotional is at 3:30 p.m. **Merv Prince** will present the lesson.

This evening at 5:00 is our Fall Fest. The community is invited, and we always have a big crowd. Members, please come and help us welcome our community. And don't forget to wear your costume.

News and Events

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.

(News and Events cont.)

Last week, **Shawn Troughton** asked the church to pray for him as he tries to follow Christ more faithfully. We're grateful for Shawn's confession and want to do everything we can to encourage him in his walk of faith.

The Agape Pecan Sale has begun for the holiday season. You can contact Jean Coker at **205-527-6360 or jmcoker-au86@gmail.com**. Orders must be in by October 31.

Our Ladies Bible class meets weekly on Mondays from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The class is studying ***The Commandments of the Lord: From Sinai to Sunday***. **Denia Petruzella and Leah Covington** are teaching the class.

Join us for a **Young at Heart Outing** on Saturday, October 24, to the Catfish House in Millbrook, AL. The plan is to take the church bus which has limited availability. Please let **Jean Coker** know if you want to ride the bus or if you will be driving separately (she needs to give a head count to the restaurant). The bus will leave the church building at 4:00—we need to be at the restaurant by 5:30.

Happy Anniversary

Bob & Joy Brooks	October 6
Thomas & Judy Smith	October 7

Happy Birthday

Andrew Blackmon	October 4
Jonn Rock	October 6
Lacey Barrett	October 7
Jerrick Rumph-Henderson	October 7
Wendy Wadley	October 8
Chè Abbott	October 8
Seth Edwards	October 9
Grant Dalton	October 10

Youth

- ♦ **Wednesday, October 7:** Friendsday at 6:00 p.m.
- ♦ **Friday-Sunday, October 9-11:** Final Fall Fling at Backwoods Christian Camp.

Carelines

Jayvion, the two-year-old child of Moranda Garrett, who is a friend of Jayne Ivy, had ear surgery and his tonsils removed at Children's Hospital. The surgery went well.

Kim Green, Karen Sugita's sister, has been moved to Pine Hills Rehab and Wellness Center at 200 N. Pine Hill Road, Birmingham, AL 35217. Cards are appreciated.

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

Kellie Covington, Corey Covington's sister, has undergone four chemo treatments for breast cancer.

Keith Hills, Melinda Richardson's brother-in-law, met with doctors at the Cancer Center of Houston for specialized treatment—the cancer has returned throughout his body. As you pray for Keith, please also remember his wife, Janice, and their daughter, Alexis.

Richard Lawson, Alyssa Long's dad, is continuing cancer treatments. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

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

Remember our church family: Shawn Troughton, Greg Nobles, Mollye Melton, Bob and Joy Brooks, Gail Powell, Jean Prince, Sharon McCraw, Linda Graham, Diann Tippins, and Tyler Tippins.

Remember our family and friends: Scarlett 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).

Keep Your Fork

A woman was diagnosed with terminal illness and given three months to live. She asked her preacher to come by her house to discuss her funeral.

She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, which Scriptures to read, and what dress she wanted to be buried in. She also requested to be buried with her favorite Bible.

As he prepared to leave, she suddenly remembered one more thing. "I have one more request," she said excitedly. "What's that?" the preacher replied.

"This is very important," she continued. "I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand." The preacher looked at her, not knowing quite what to say. "That surprises you?" she asked. "To be honest, I am puzzled," he replied. The woman explained. "In all my years of attending church fellowships and potluck dinners, I always remember that when the dishes were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, "Keep your fork." It was my favorite part, because I knew that meant something better was coming . . . like velvety chocolate cake or deep dish apple pie. Something wonderful!

"I want people to see me in that casket with a fork in my hand. Then, when they ask you, 'What's with the fork?' I want you to tell them, 'She believed the best is yet to come.'"

"Come, you who are blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

—Matthew 25:34



Attendance and Offering September 27, 2026

Attendance

Bible Study: 144

AM Worship: 285

PM Worship: 188 (Our Knit Together Groups met in homes.)

Wednesday: 162

Contribution: \$23,981.70

Weekly Budget: \$15,380.77

Weekly Average: \$16,034.27

Contribution to Date: \$625,336.49

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;">Strength Without Revenge Series: Faithfulness Under Pressure (1 Samuel 24:1-22)</p> <p>Don't confuse an _____ with _____.</p> <p>Don't let someone else's ____ determine who you become.</p> <p>Tell the truth without _____.</p> <p>Entrust justice to God without abandoning _____.</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. The class is now in session and will continue on Saturdays 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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<p>Place Postage</p>
