



October 11, 2026

A Gentle Whisper

3248 Lorna Road
Hoover, AL 35216
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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
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

God isn't pushy.

He calls, warns, invites, and confronts, but he doesn't bully anyone into faith. He gives us good reasons to believe while leaving us free to trust or refuse.

Some of Jesus' contemporaries always wanted something more. Despite what they'd already seen, they demanded another demonstration:

The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, seeking from him a sign from heaven to test him. And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, "Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation." And he left them, got into the boat again, and went to the other side (Mark 8:11-13).

Immediately before this encounter, Jesus had fed four thousand people with seven loaves. By this point in Mark's Gospel, he'd also healed the sick, cleansed a leper, cast out demons, calmed a storm, and raised a little girl from the dead. The problem wasn't a shortage of evidence.

Mark says the Pharisees asked for a sign "to test him." They weren't humbly searching for truth; they were demanding that Jesus perform on their terms. If he gave them this sign, they would want another one. Nothing he did would be enough because they'd already decided not to believe.

Notice Jesus' response: "He sighed deeply in his spirit." Their unbelief didn't merely irritate him; it grieved him. Then he refused their demand and left. There's something sobering about Jesus getting into the boat and leaving them with the unbelief they had chosen.

Jesus made a similar point in the story of the rich man and Lazarus. From the place of suffering, the rich man wanted Lazarus to return to earth and warn his brothers, assuming that someone coming back from the dead would surely convince them.

Abraham replied, "If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead" (Luke 16:31).

The history of Israel illustrates the same truth. The people saw the Red Sea divide, ate manna from heaven, and stood before Mount Sinai while it thundered and shook. Yet signs that spectacular didn't keep them from grumbling, doubting, and worshipping a golden calf. Miracles can attract attention, but they can't force a resistant heart to love and trust God.

That doesn't mean sincere questions are wrong or that faith is blind. Jesus was patient with honest doubters. He responded compassionately to the desperate father who cried, "I believe; help my unbelief!" But there's a difference between asking God for help and demanding, "Prove yourself to me on my terms."

We sometimes make quieter versions of the Pharisees' demand: "If God answers this prayer, then I'll trust him." "If he removes this problem, then I'll know he cares." But conditional faith can always invent one more condition.

We should ask God for humble, receptive hearts that recognize what he's already shown us in creation, in Scripture, and most clearly in Jesus. To those who are willing to see, the evidence of his presence is everywhere.

—Chuck

Worship Assignments

Elder to Contact in October for Needs:
Reggie Arnold

Sunday AM and PM

Greeters, AM: Connie Morrison
(Handicap Entrance); Clint & Abbie
Richey (Back Entrance)

Usher: Drew Spivey

Nursery Attendant: Brooke Williams

AM Singing: Kyle Wadley

Scripture Reading: Will Spurlin

AM Opening Prayer: Sid Aultman

AM Sermon: Chuck Webster

Communion: Joel Abbott

Announcements: Harold Rhodes

AM Closing Prayer: Torrey Clark

PM Song Leader: Paul Kirby

PM Opening Prayer: Al Lyons

PM Speaker: James Duer from Faulkner
University

PM Closing Prayer: Greg Coker

Audio/Cameras: Grant Dalton/Rick Wil-
liams

Video: Mark Lackey

Security: Front Entrance: Daniel War-
ren; Handicap Entrance: Marc Handley

Contribution Baskets: Zach Blakemore,
Scott Warren, Caleb Wunningham, Sam
Williams, Jonah White, Garrett Vick,
Carter Williams, and Brady Aultman

Bible Reading Plan for October 11-17

- ♦ **Sunday, October 11:** Acts 11-12;
Psalm 124
- ♦ **Monday, October 12:** Acts 13-14;
Psalm 125
- ♦ **Tuesday, October 13:** Acts 15-16;
Psalm 126
- ♦ **Wednesday, October 14:** Acts 17-
18; Psalm 127
- ♦ **Thursday, October 15:** Acts 19-20;
Psalm 128
- ♦ **Friday, October 16:** Acts 21-22;
Psalm 129
- ♦ **Saturday, October 17:** Acts 23-24;
Psalm 130

Today

Visitors, welcome to our worship ser-
vice 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 morn-
ings to enjoy studying in one of the fol-
lowing classes: **Chuck Webster** is teach-
ing the Auditorium class, and his topic is
“**Bible Texts We'd Rather Skip**,” a study
of difficult, troubling, and often misun-
derstood passages of Scripture. **Drew
Spivey and Jason McKeown** are teach-
ing in the Library, and their topic is
“**Practicing the Way**.” **Donnie Winning-
ham** 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.

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

This evening at 5:00, our Knit Together
Groups will meet in homes for a devo-
tional and to fellowship. We will also
have a lesson in the auditorium present-
ed by James Duer from Faulkner Univer-
sity.

News and Events

**Fall Fest is Wednesday, October 14,
from 6:00-8:00 p.m.!** The community is
invited, and we always have a big crowd.
Please donate individually wrapped can-
dy and boxes of Little Debbie Snack
Cakes. Also, volunteer to help at this
link: 2026FallFestivalsignupgenius.com.
And wear your costume!

The Peru mission team will host a fel-
lowship at the home of the McKeowns
on Saturday, October 17. This is for any-
one who has been part of the team and
anyone interested in traveling to Peru to
serve in the future.

Our **Ladies' Bible Class** meets weekly on
Mondays from 11:30-12:30 p.m.

(News and Events cont.)

Our Young at Heart will meet for their
monthly birthday celebration and game
night in the fellowship hall at 5:30 p.m. on
Friday, October 16. Bring your favorite
potluck dish to share. If you have any
questions, contact **Paul or Karen Kirby**.

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

Join us for a **Young at Heart Outing** on
Saturday, October 24, to the **Catfish
House in Millbrook, AL**. We plan to take
the church bus, but seating is limited.
Please let **Jean Coker** know if you plan to
ride the bus or drive separately so she
can give the restaurant an accurate head
count. The bus will leave the church
building at 4:00 p.m., and the plan is to
meet at the restaurant at 6:00.

Join us for a **Baby Shower for Olivia
Montgomery** on Sunday, October 25,
from 2:00-4:00 p.m. She is registered at
<https://my.babylist.com/etjvbxqu>.

Words of Gratitude

I want to thank the “Knit Together”
group for the thoughtful, encouraging
note you sent to me. I also thank the
“Encouragement Team” for the sweet
card to wish me a happy birthday. God
bless all of you.

Joyce Baker

Youth

- ♦ **Friday-Sunday, October 9-11:** Final
Fall Fling at Backwoods Christian
Camp.
- ♦ **Sunday, October 18:** Area-wide at
the Riverchase Church of Christ. The
bus will leave the building at 4:30
p.m.
- ♦ **Wednesday, October 21:** F.A.M.
Group Meetings.

Carelines

We extend our condolences to the family of **Betty Crawford and Celestine Hicks** on the recent death of their brother, **Curtis Hicks**. Please pray for them as they mourn their loss.

Jayvion, the two-year-old child of Moranda Garrett, a friend of Jayne Ivy, is recovering from ear surgery and a tonsillectomy.

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 undergo radiation treatments soon.

Kellie Covington, Corey Covington's sister, has undergone chemotherapy for breast cancer. Her lab results have been good so far.

Keith Hills, Melinda Richardson's brother-in-law, is suffering with cancer. 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: Greg Nobles, Mollye Melton, Bob and Joy Brooks, Gail Powell, Sondra Moss, Jean Prince, Sharon McCraw, Linda Graham, Diann Tipples, and Tyler Tipples.

Remember our family and friends:

Willard Worthington (Vergie Banks' brother), 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).



Happy Anniversary

Mason & Rya Richardson October 12

Happy Birthday

Joyce Baker	October 12
Avery Davis	October 14
Sylvia Huffman	October 15
Adelaide McKeown	October 15
Abbie Richey	October 15
Karen Sugita	October 15
Landon Wadley	October 17

World's Best Book

The prophecies of the Bible are amazing. Eight hundred years before Jesus was born, the prophet Micah predicted His birth in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).

Then Caesar sent out a decree, as recorded in Luke 2:1, that all the world should be registered. So Mary left Nazareth and went to Bethlehem where she gave birth to Jesus, because her husband Joseph, a descendant of David, had to return to his birthplace for the census. Amazing!

Psalm 22 was written centuries before crucifixion became the familiar Roman method of execution seen in the New Testament. Stoning, rather than crucifixion, was the characteristic method of execution prescribed under Israel's law. Yet Psalm 22 records these words, "They pierced my hands and my feet" (Psalm 22:16). It was prophesied that the soldiers would cast lots for His garments, ten centuries before the actual event (Psalm 22:18). The Bible prophesied in Zechariah 12:10, "They will look on Me whom they pierced."

Of all the wounds that could contribute to death, this one would be unusual. But it happened! The Old Testament description sounds like the writer had been standing at the foot of the cross.

—Howell Ferguson,
Bells, TN

Attendance and Offering

October 4, 2026

Attendance

Bible Study: 204

AM Worship: 308

PM Worship: 92

Wednesday: 177

Contribution: \$18,200.08

Weekly Budget: \$15,380.77

Weekly Average: \$16,088.41

Contribution to Date: \$643,536.57

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;">When God's Word Corrects You Series: Faithfulness Under Pressure (2 Kings 22:8-20)</p> <p>Let God's Word tell you something you don't _____.</p> <p>When God exposes sin, don't _____.</p> <p>Don't go looking for a _____.</p> <p>Real humility changes what _____.</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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