

Hoover Church of Christ

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:21

December 10, 2023

Obey

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

Carl Logan 979-9874
Jimmy Lyles 616-1109
Paul Williams, Jr. 408-7234
Harold Rhodes 876-9296

MINISTER

Chuck Webster

(205) 586-5610 (cell)
cwebster@hoovercoc.org

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Kyle Wadley

(205) 792-5922 (cell)
kwadley@hoovercoc.org

YOUTH & FAMILY

MINISTER

Darrell Powell

(205) 480-9773 (cell)
dpowell@hoovercoc.org

Some folks have a problem with obedience. Actually, we *all* have a problem with obedience. It seems that we're hard-wired with an inclination toward doing what we shouldn't, or not doing what we should.

It's easy to see in kids, of course. It's not a good parenting technique, but sometimes the quickest way to get a toddler to do something you want him to do is to tell him not to do it.

Unfortunately, that little rebellious streak never leaves us. Not even when we're saved. After telling his readers all that Jesus gave up for them, Paul gives them this pointed imperative:

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12).

Salvation is by grace, of course, but it's not cheap grace. God never saves people and leaves them where they are. He saves us so that we might live for him.

There's a hint of a warning here: Jesus expects obedience. And so we must obey.

We obey to thank him for what he's done. We obey to show our love for the one who saved us. We "work out [our] own salvation with fear and trembling" because we realize he paid a debt we could never pay.

Ask yourself, Am I obeying Christ? Am I obeying him only when it's easy, or also when it's hard? Have I truly submitted to his complete lordship over my life?

Being a Christian has never been merely trusting in Christ or submitting to the act of baptism.

It's been about accepting God's gift of salvation and spending the rest of our lives saying "thank you" by the way we live.

Today, just obey him, no matter what, and he'll bless you.

—Chuck

Worship Assignments

Elder to Contact in December for Needs:
Paul Williams, Jr.

Sunday AM and PM

Greeters: Front Lobby: Bill Laughmiller

Handicap Lobby: Nancy Griner

Back Lobby: Jim & Denia Petruzella

Usher, AM: Marc Handley

Nursery: Suzanna Weimer

Scripture Reading: Wes Blankenship

Call to Worship: Chuck Webster

Singing:

AM: Kyle Wadley

PM: Prayer & Song Service

Opening Prayer:

AM: Grant Dalton

PM: Drew Spivey

AM Sermon: Chuck Webster

Communion: Darrell Powell

Announcements: Jimmy Lyles

Closing Prayer:

AM: RJ Arnold

PM: Eli Powell

Audio/Cameras: Will Spurlin

Alternate: Chad Blackmon

Video: Clint Richey

Security: Shawn Troughton

Alternate: Steven Gaither

Bible Reading Plan for December 10-17

Sunday, December 10: Romans 11-13

Monday, December 11: Romans 14-16

Tuesday, December 12: Acts 20-23

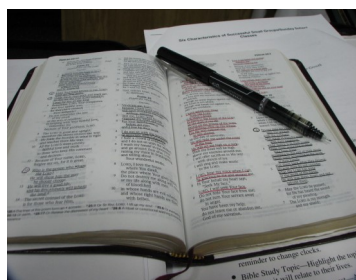
Wednesday, December 13: Acts 24-26

Thursday, December 14: Acts 27-28

Friday, December 15: Colossians 1-4;
Philemon

Saturday, December 16: Ephesians 1-6

Sunday, December 17: Philippians 1-4



Today

Join us for Common Grounds Fellowship every Sunday morning from 8:15-8:45am in the main lobby. Donuts and coffee are served.

Visitors, welcome to our worship service this morning—we're glad you're here. Please fill out a visitor's card that is located in the pew. We would like to know where you're visiting from.

Our Adult Education Classes: **Chuck Webster** is teaching in the auditorium, and his class is called: **"A Faith that Works: A Study of the Book of James."** **Rick Williams** and **Jason McKeown** are teaching in the Library, and their class is on **"Suffering."**

Our Ladies' Cookie Swap is in the fellowship hall after our evening worship service. Please bring two dozen cookies to share—dinner will be provided.

This evening at 5:00pm, we will meet in the auditorium for a Prayer and Song Service.

News and Events

Sean and Anita Hochdorf: Please take the time to watch the video at the link below. It's from Sean and Anita Hochdorf, who placed membership with us a few months ago. The Hochdorfs have served faithfully both in the United States and in Tanzania, and beginning in early 2024 they are planning to shift their emphasis back to Tanzania for some important work that needs to be done. We recommend them to you wholeheartedly and hope you will prayerfully consider their work. The short video from Sean and Anita is here: <https://mailchi.mp/bf0c95d77d66/the-tanzania-chronicles-a-joyful-return>

The Young at Heart will be meeting in the fellowship hall on Friday, December 15, for their Christmas celebration. If you plan to attend, please sign the sheet that has been placed on the back rail in the auditorium. This meal will be catered, and you will need to choose which meal you want. **The deadline to sign up is today.** We will be singing Christmas carols after our dinner and birth-day celebration.

Our GriefShare Ministry meets on Saturdays in the Library from 10:00am-12:00pm. This class will end on January 27.

News and Events cont.

Walk4Water update: Thank you so much for everything you've done to support this year's Walk4Water. Our congregation—along with the Palisades, Decatur Highway, and Ashville Road Churches of Christ—have raised \$49,600! It costs \$7,500 on average to dig one clean-water well, so that gives us enough for six wells this year, which is incredible. If we raise \$2,900 more, we'll dig a seventh well. If not, Healing Hands will use the balance to go toward repairing existing wells. Either way, your generosity is amazing, and thousands of people will be blessed because of what you've done. In the next few months we'll update you again and let you know where our wells are located. If you didn't get a chance to give, the link remains open for the next week or so: <https://walk4water.hhi.org/birmingham-al-2023>. Again, thank you so much for your kindness.

On Sunday, December 31, we will have a different format for our worship service.

- **9:00am:** Bible Class
- **10:00am:** Worship Service
- **11:30am:** Potluck Luncheon after the morning worship service
- **1:00pm:** Singing
- **Dismissed for the day**

Involvement: Don't forget to go to our online directory to complete your involvement checklist, or if you prefer, fill out one of the involvement sheets that are on the back rail in the auditorium.

Youth

- **The Lads to Leaders** Workshops for today and the 17th have been canceled.
- **Saturday, December 16:** Breakfast with Santa from 8:00-10:00am

Happy Anniversary

Tom & Sherri McQuillan December 16

Happy Birthday

James Schlundt	December 10
Adelynn Cicero	December 10
Janet Hamm	December 10
Wes Blankenship	December 11
Janie Gaither	December 13
Deebe Taylor	December 15
Chad Blackmon	December 16

Carelines

Vicky Till had surgery at St. Vincent's. She is out of SICU and in Room 483. Visitors are welcome.

We extend our condolences to **Leah Covington and her family** on the death of her stepdad, **Eddie Williams**.

We extend our sympathy to **Shawna Brown and her family** on the death of her brother-in-law, **Chad Mumpower**. Please continue to pray for the family, and especially for his wife, **Tina**, and their daughter, **Cecilia**.

Darren Brooks, Bob and Joy Brooks' son, is undergoing chemo treatments at MD Anderson and is in a lot of pain. Please send cards of encouragement to him at 114 S. Knights Crossing Drive, Spring, TX 77382.

Joyce Hinton, Nikesha Fantroy's mother, had a series of ministrokes.

Anthony Petruzella's close friend has requested prayers **for her mother, Michela Swafford**, who has been diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer.

Kelvin Blackmon, Chad Blackmon's dad, is recovering from back surgery.

Anita Wadley, Kyle Wadley's mom, is recovering at home and is in a lot of pain. Send cards of encouragement to her at The Bridge of Columbia, 851 W. James Campbell Blvd., Columbia, TN 38401.

Joel Abbott's medical assistant, Jasmine Burroughs, requests prayers for her brother, **Justin Traylor**. He is being evaluated for heart surgery.

Milton Stover, Paul and Karen Kirby's friend, has Multiple Myeloma and is undergoing chemo treatments.

Remember our shut-ins: Sylvia Huffman, Lynne Nichols, Dennis and Nancy Williams, and Joyce Baker.

Remember our church family: Dick Smith, Jeanne Anderson, and Gail Powell.

Remember our families and friends: Doug and Cathy Abbott (Joel Abbott's parents), Jane Spivey (Rex Anderson's sister), and Richard Lawson (Alyssa Long's dad).

Forgive Me for Keeping Your Bible

The train blew its whistle and wove its way along the winding rails of the hometown of a brother in Hungary. A communist customs agent came through checking all the baggage. The Bibles sat at our brother's feet. By his side lay his own personal Bible with notes and sermon outlines. The customs agent looked at the sack first. He opened it and thumbed through the pages of the Bible and began to sail them out the window of the speeding train. As if for spite, the agent looked down at the open, used (obviously personal) Bible of our brother, grabbed it, and sailed it out the window to parts unknown.

For three years our brother bemoaned the fact that his good Bible with so many notes and sermons was no longer his constant companion. "I believe Romans 8:28, but, Lord, how can this work out for good?" he wondered.

One day he received his personal Bible through the mail. A letter enclosed read, "Dear Brother in Christ: Thank you, thank you, for the use of your Bible. I found it by the railroad three years ago. I have kept it, read it, and studied it often. My family and I have written many Scriptures down on paper and many more in our hearts. We cannot thank you enough, for now maybe we can go to heaven . . . but brother, please forgive me for keeping your Bible so long. I thought that if I did not read it now, I might never again find a Bible to read." "Oh, Great God and Father of us all, forgive me for doubting," wept our Hungarian brother.

Would not it be wonderful if all could come to the Bible as if we found it for the first time? We could be simply "Christians" with a deep desire to go to heaven, to be with the saints of all the ages. Pick up your New Testament and read it again for the "first time." That is, read it as if you have never read it before. Follow what it says—not what someone says it says. Do what it commands—not what some other book requires (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Romans 8:2

"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death."

Attendance and Offering December 3, 2023

Attendance:

Bible Study: 153
AM Worship: 296
PM Worship: 60
Wednesday: 135

Contribution: \$20,903.73

Weekly Budget: \$14,280.00

Weekly Average: \$14,842.33

Contribution to Date: \$697,589.32

Hoover Supported Works

- *Childhaven, Cullman, AL*
- *Rainbow Omega, Eastaboga, AL*
- *Churches of Christ Disaster Relief*
- *Cy Walker, Guyana*
- *Clothing Closet*
- *Food Pantry*
- *Guyana*
- *Tanzania*
- *Philippines*

Mission Trips

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

Oversight

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

2 Timothy 2:24-26

"And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will."

From Outcast to Accepted (Luke 19:1-10)

Zacchaeus “was a chief tax collector”

Zacchaeus “was rich”

New GriefShare Class

We began a new GriefShare class on Saturday, November 4. It will be each Saturday from 10am-noon and will go through January 27. Any of our members who have struggled with loss are invited to participate. If you have friends who might benefit, please let them know about this class as well.

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. If you think this ministry might help you process your loss, please reach out to Harold Rhodes for more information, or you can visit <https://www.griefshare.org/>.



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Place
Postage