



December 14, 2025

Close to God

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

Jimmy Lyles 616-1109
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

I can't imagine what it'll be like to stand in God's presence, but I'm pretty sure it'll be the best thing about heaven.

What will it feel like?

What will he look like?

What will it be like?

I want that. But I'm not ready for it yet. People can't be in the presence of God—not actually, not yet. We wouldn't survive it.

Whenever God revealed himself in Scripture—even in a limited way—he always warned people to prepare so they could live through the encounter. After the Israelites left Egypt, God met them at Sinai to give his law, but he didn't simply stroll down the mountain and chat. He told Moses to consecrate the people for two days, have them wash their clothes, and be ready the third day. Then he drew a boundary: don't come too close. Cross it, and you die.

That's how it's always been. We can't come close to God because of our sins. Something has to happen—some cleansing, some atonement—before sinners can enter God's presence.

That's why these simple words from James stop me in my tracks: "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you" (James 4:8).

Us? Draw near to God? How?

Through Jesus. He cleanses us, makes us holy, and grants us access to God. The torn veil at Jesus's crucifixion shouted the good news: the barrier is gone. The way is open.

But James doesn't let us rush in casually. Right after he tells us to draw near, he adds: "Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. . . . Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you" (James 4:8-10).

Yes, we're forgiven. Yes, God welcomes us. But drawing near still involves repentance. It still involves remembering who we are and who he is.

We feel that every week at the Lord's Table. We don't deserve to commune with Christ, yet he invites us to sit and eat with him. And as we draw near, we remember—our sins, our failures, our wandering hearts. The times we've lost focus, spoken harshly, or acted selfishly. We draw near with gratitude, but also with humility.

And as we draw near now with repentance, one day we'll draw near with no barriers at all. No sinful flesh. No brokenness. No veil. Nothing but his immeasurable holiness and light.

We'll bask in it forever.

—Chuck

Worship Assignments

Elder to Contact in December for Needs: Jimmy Lyles

Sunday AM and PM

Greeters:

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

Nursery: Suzanna Weimer

Usher: Jim Petruzella

AM Singing: Kyle Wadley

Call to Worship: Chuck Webster

Scripture Reading: Chandler Montgomery

AM Opening Prayer: Torrey Clark

AM Sermon: Chuck Webster

AM Communion: Drew Spivey

Announcements: Harold Rhodes

AM Closing Prayer: Rick Williams

PM Song Leader: Matthew Cicero

PM Opening Prayer: Greg Coker

PM Closing Prayer: Allen Taylor

Audio/Cameras: Clint Richey/Grant Dalton; **Video:** Wes Blankenship; **Security:** Daniel Warren/Stephen King

Bible Reading Plan for December 14-21

Sunday, December 14: 2 Chronicles 16; Revelation 5; Zechariah 1; John 4

Monday, December 15: 2 Chronicles 17; Revelation 6; Zechariah 2; John 5

Tuesday, December 16: 2 Chronicles 18; Revelation 7; Zechariah 3; John 6

Wednesday, December 17: 2 Chronicles 19-20; Revelation 8; Zechariah 4; John 7

Thursday, December 18: 2 Chronicles 21; Revelation 9; Zechariah 5; John 8

Friday, December 19: 2 Chronicles 22-23; Revelation 10; Zechariah 6; John 9

Saturday, December 20: 2 Chronicles 24; Revelation 11; Zechariah 7; John 10

Today

Visitors, welcome to our worship service this morning—we're glad you're here! Please **scan the QR Code** on the card in the pews. We would like to know where you are from.

Our Fourth Quarter Sunday Bible Classes are underway. **Jeff Melton** is teaching in the Auditorium, and **Chuck Webster and Ben Vick** are leading the Library class.

On Wednesday night, the Auditorium class is studying a series of **"Question Asked by God/Jesus."** **Heather Spivey and Melony Webster** are teaching a ladies class in the Library using a book by Jennie Allen: *Get Out of Your Head: Stop the Spiral of Toxic Thoughts*.

All ladies are invited to the **Annual Cookie Swap today** following our morning worship service. Please bring two dozen cookies (or other treats) to share. Lunch will be provided.

This evening at 5:00, our Knit Together Groups will meet in homes to worship and fellowship. We will also have a lesson in the auditorium presented by **Pierce Lee** from Faulkner University.

News and Events

Our third Sunday congregational fellowship meal has been canceled for this month.

John 8:12

"I am the light of the world. He that follows me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life."

2 Corinthians 4:6

"For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness has shined in our hearts."

Words of Gratitude

Dear Hoover Church family,

We deeply appreciate the countless expressions of friendship, love, and support from so many of you during my Mom's illness and passing. Your kindness will always be remembered.

Love in Christ,

Donna, Marc, Caroline, and Hope Handley

Dear Church family,

Thank you for the generous encouragement you have given me through calls cards, and prayers during my recovery from hip replacement surgery. May God bless you all.

With a grateful heart,
Wanda Still

Happy Anniversary

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Tom & Sherri McQuillan | December 16 |
| Greg & Jean Coker | December 19 |

Happy Birthday

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Deebe Taylor | December 15 |
| Chad Blackmon | December 16 |
| Hope Davis | December 18 |
| Greg Nobles | December 19 |
| Alexander Clark | December 20 |

Youth

- **Wednesday, December 17:** F.A.M. Group Meetings.
- **Saturday-Tuesday, December 27-30:** Exposure Youth Camp in Huntsville.

Carelines

We extend our condolences to **Mark, Jennifer, and Tabitha Lackey** on the passing of Mark's father, **Don Lackey**. Mr. Lackey passed away on Thursday morning, December 11. Please keep them in your prayers as they mourn the loss of their loved one.

Keith Hills, Melinda Richardson's brother-in-law, has been diagnosed with kidney cancer. Please pray for his wife, Janice (Melinda's sister), as well.

Ginger Stacks, Sylvia Huffman's daughter, recently lost vision in her right eye.

Zach Warbington, Sam and Melody Warbington's son, is facing serious medical issues. Please continue to pray for Zach's physical and spiritual well-being.

Howard McDonald, Felicia Arnold's stepfather, has stage 4 lung cancer and has now started his chemotherapy and immunotherapy. Please pray that the treatments are effective.

Moranda Garrett, Jayne Ivy's friend, has a pituitary tumor that has shrunk some. She is taking medication and will have another MRI in February. She also has issues with the muscles behind the retina. Please pray for her healing.

Don Cicero, Matthew Cicero's father, is responding well to the infusions. He is fatigued—please continue to pray for him.

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

Remember our church family: **Kori White, Marla Stacey-Warren, Gail Powell, Wanda Still, Anita Hochdorf, and Tyler Tipples**.

Remember our family and friends: **Rex and Jeanne Anderson** (former members of Hoover), **Kathy Culbertson** (former member of Hoover), **Anita Wadley** (Kyle Wadley's mom), **Doug & Cathy Abbott** (Joel Abbott's parents), **Richard Lawson** (Alyssa Long's dad), and **Charlie Pflueger** (Tom Kidwell's dad).

Once Saved, Always Saved?

Eternal security, also known as "once saved, always saved," is the belief that from the moment one becomes a Christian, he can never lose his salvation. Every book of the New Testament refutes this teaching. The Bible teaches that a person can:

1. Be denied by Jesus (Matthew 10:33).
2. Make the Word of no effect (Mark 7:7).
3. Fall away (Luke 8:13).
4. Leave God's love (John 15:9-10).
5. Perish (Acts 8:20).
6. Cause a brother to fall (Romans 14:13).
7. Become disqualified (1 Corinthians 9:27).
8. Leave the faith (2 Corinthians 13:5).
9. Fall from grace (Galatians 5:4).
10. Be deceived by false teachers (Ephesians 4:14).
11. Become enemies of Christ (Philippians 3:18).
12. Move away from the hope of the gospel (Colossians 1:23).
13. Die from not standing fast in the Lord (1 Thessalonians 3:8).
14. Be deceived and damned (2 Thessalonians 2:3-12).
15. Put away the faith and be delivered to Satan (1 Timothy 1:19-20).
16. Err concerning the truth and be overthrown (2 Timothy 2:18).
17. Turn from the truth and deny God (Titus 1:14-16).
18. Have ineffective faith by failing to acknowledge Christ (Philemon 1:6).
19. Draw back to perdition (Hebrews 10:38-39).
20. Fall into judgment (James 5:12).
21. Be devoured by Satan (1 Peter 5:8).
22. Be led away by error and fall (2 Peter 3:17).
23. Disobey and not have the truth (1 John 2:4-5).
24. Lose his reward (2 John 1:8).
25. Follow that which is evil and not be of God (3 John 11).
26. Be destroyed (Jude 1:5).
27. Be blotted out of the book of life (Revelation 3:5; 22:19).

Let us strive to take heed lest we fall (1 Corinthians 10:12), fight the good fight, and finish the race (2 Timothy 4:7), for the Lord has promised a crown of life to His faithful children (Revelation 2:10).

—Zack Williams, Nashville, Arkansas

Attendance and Offering December 7, 2025

Attendance

Bible Study: 189

AM Worship: 251

PM Worship: 46

Wednesday: 150

Contribution: \$13,846.84

Weekly Budget: \$14,823.00

Weekly Average: \$15,178.40

Contribution to Date: \$743,741.75

Hoover Supported Works

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

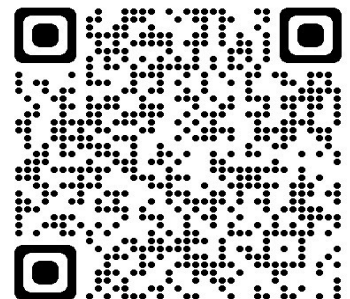
Mission Trips

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

Oversight

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

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



The Great Reversal (Luke 1:46-55)

God lifts up the _____ who wait on him

God brings down the _____ and _____

God keeps his _____ more completely than we can imagine

GriefShare Class

Any of our members who have struggled with loss are invited to participate in our **GriefShare** class. If you have friends who might benefit, please let them know about this class as well. **We will meet on the following Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon: December 13, March 14, and June 13.**

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.

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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Place
Postage