

# Hoover Church of Christ

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

*Matthew 6:21*

December 18, 2022

3248 Lorna Road  
Hoover, AL 35216  
(205) 822-5610 Office  
www.hoovercoc.org  
jttroughton@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
Johnny Johnson	365-8593

## 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

## Drifting

One day my Dad and a fellow sailor went snorkeling off a Hawaiian beach when they were stationed there with the Navy.

They started following an exotic fish only to realize—almost too late—that they hadn't kept track of time or how far they'd gone. When Dad finally lifted his head out of the water, what he saw terrified him. The beach was so far away as to be hardly visible.

A few minutes of distraction almost cost them their lives, but both of them made it back safely . . . but barely.

It occurred to me that something similar often happens spiritually, but with much more tragic consequences. Have you ever watched someone walk away from God?

Occasionally, I suppose, it happens with one big splash, some kind of all-of-the-sudden loss of faith that leads to desertion. Maybe it's a catastrophe that creates doubt that wasn't there before, or at least wasn't recognizable.

But more often it happens differently. It begins slowly with a few tentative steps away from God. They're not noticeable at first, maybe not even to the one taking them.

If not corrected, however, a believer finds himself so far from shore that he no longer has the strength or will to make it back. That's why the Bible has warnings like this one:

*Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will (Hebrews 2:1-4).*

Maybe our first tendency is to do what I did above—think about a friend or family member who's drifted.

But a more appropriate response is to look inward.

Some Christians let down their guard—not much, perhaps, and maybe no one else even knows. Just a little more relaxed attitude toward sins that used to bother them, or perhaps a lesser commitment to spiritual things like worship and prayer. Does that ever describe you?

"Pay much closer attention," the Bible warns, "lest you drift away."

Perhaps this passage should lead us today to conduct a sort of spiritual checkup.

How's my relationship with Jesus? How's my devotional life? How am I treating people?

Is my worship spontaneous and sincere or rote and ritualistic? We all go through spiritual down times, of course, and being at a low point doesn't mean we've lost our faith.

But it probably means that we need to look back toward the Lord, pray to him, and ask him to turn our hearts toward him again. The best time to stop a drift is soon after it starts, before it gathers momentum.

If you look around today and notice signs of distraction, turn back quickly. Don't let yourself get too far away from shore. That can be deadly.

—Chuck

## Worship Assignments Sunday

**Elder to Contact in December  
for Needs:** Jimmy Lyles

### Sunday AM and PM

**Greeters: Front Lobby:** Bill Laughmiller

**Handicap Lobby:** Nancy Griner

**Back Lobby:** Jim & Denia Petruzella

**Ushers, AM:** Drew Spivey &  
Caleb Henry

**Call to Worship:** Chuck Webster

**Scripture Reading:** Norman Rutland

**Singing:**

**AM:** Kyle Wadley **PM:** Mark Lackey

**Opening Prayer:**

**AM:** Ben Vick **PM:** Jason McKeown

**AM Sermon:** Chuck Webster

**Communion:**

**AM:** Torrey Clark **PM:** Grant Dalton

**Announcements:** Harold Rhodes

**Closing Prayer:**

**AM:** Donnie Winningham

**PM:** Eli Powell

**Audio/Cameras:** Chad Blackmon

**Alternate:** Rick Williams

**Video:** Wes Blankenship

**Security:** Shawn Troughton

**Alternate:** Walden Schlundt

## A Prayer for Our Hoover Church Family

**Lord Jesus,**

Thank you for giving us such a vibrant church family of friends to do life with. We praise you for the people you have blessed us with, the ones who have come alongside us to love, encourage, support, and uplift us through all the twists and turns of life. We're so grateful that we do not have to go through life alone, but that you have shown us examples of your love through our dear friends.

**Amen.**

## Today

**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.

**Sunday morning Bible classes** are available for all ages. **Adult classes** are in the Auditorium and Library. **College and Young Professionals** meet in the fellowship hall.

**The Food Pantry** will be open today from 3:00-4:30pm. Thank you for supporting this ministry—we look forward to helping our community in 2023.

**This is your last bulletin for the year, 2022.**

## Bible Reading Plan for December 18-December 31

**Sunday, December 18:** Hebrews 1-6

**Monday, December 19:** Hebrews 7-10

**Tuesday, December 20:** Hebrews 11-13

**Wednesday, December 21:** James 1-5

**Thursday, December 22:** 1 Peter 1-5

**Friday, December 23:** 2 Peter 1-3

**Saturday, December 24:** 1 John 1-5

**Sunday, December 25:** 2 John; 3 John; Jude

**Monday, December 26:** Revelation 1-3

**Tuesday, December 27:** Revelation 4-8

**Wednesday, December 28:** Revelation 9-11

**Thursday, December 29:** Revelation 12-15

**Friday, December 30:** Revelation 16-19

**Saturday, December 31:** Revelation 20-22



## Happy Anniversary

Greg & Jean Coker	December 19
Christian & Rebecca Harris	December 21
Ben & Wendi Vick	December 28
Wade & Brenda Warren	December 28

## Happy Birthday

Greg Nobles	December 19
Alexandra Clark	December 20
Jennifer Smith	December 21
Nancy Harris	December 21
Eli Powell	December 22
Brooke Harris	December 22
Nancy Williams	December 22
Nikesha Fantroy	December 22
Jameson Jones	December 22
Teresa Hicks	December 26
Jamie Powell	December 26
Holly Church	December 27
Zach Warbington	December 28
Campbell Vick	December 29
Lori Aultman	December 29
Markie Jones	December 31
Henry Burnett	December 31

## News and Events

**All 9:00am Bible classes** (nursery-adults) will meet in the auditorium on Sunday, December 25 and January 1.

**We will have a Bible class at 5:00pm** on Sunday, December 25 and January 1. **Jerry Culbertson** will be teaching the class on the 25th.

**There will be no worship services** at AHEPA on Sunday, December 25 and January 1.

## Words of Gratitude

I want to thank everyone at the Hoover Church of Christ for all the prayers during both of my surgeries.

Love,

**Janice Renfroe**

### Carelines

**Doug Abbott**, Joel Abbott's dad, will have a transcatheter aortic valve replacement on January 4. Please pray for a successful procedure.

**G.B. Richey**, Clint Richey's grandfather, has been placed under the care of Hospice as a result of cancer.

**Helen Reinhardt** is undergoing tests at UAB. Please pray for good results.

**Steve King** is recuperating at home after having hip replacement surgery.

**John Hill**, Emily Bedgood's dad, is at UAB with complications from a broken leg and ankle.

**Chris Hethcox**, Markie Jones' dad, has cancer, and they are still exploring different options for treatment.

**Eddie Williams**, Leah Covington's stepdad, has both lung and skin cancer. He will be undergoing chemo and radiation.

**Denise Hillis**, Melody Warbington's sister, is undergoing chemotherapy for bone cancer. Please pray that these treatments will be effective.

**Esmeria Sagurit**, the mother of Junas Sagurit, is in the final stages of colon cancer. Junas is a leader of the church in the Philippines.

**Jo Clelland**, Mike Clelland's aunt, recently had lung surgery and is recovering at home.

**Fred O'Barr**, Mike Clelland's uncle, has been diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer.

**Davina Clifton**, Mike Clelland's cousin's wife, has been diagnosed with lung cancer.

**Rebecca Wheat**, Suzanne Clelland's daughter's friend, is pregnant and has been told that the baby has anencephaly. Please pray for the mother and her unborn child.

**The results of Ashley Blalock's** (Suzanne Clelland's friend) ultrasound showed no cancer.

**Remember our shut-ins:** Lynne Nichols, Nancy Williams, and Joyce Baker.

**Remember our church family:** Bob Arnold, Darrell Smith, Jeanne Anderson, Dick Smith, Edward Curry, and Gail Powell.

**Remember our families and friends:** Betsy Groh (Karen Kirby's sister-in-law), Larry Banks (Virgie Banks' brother-in-law), Joy Jones (Jennifer Dalton's mom), Jane Spivey (Rex Anderson's sister), and Richard Lawson (Alyssa Long's dad).

### As You Are Going

In Luke 9, Jesus sent his followers out to the towns and villages to teach the gospel and to heal. These disciples had been following Jesus every day and watching Him do the impossible. They'd been listening to the perfect words of the Messiah. The *comfortable* thing might have been for the disciples to stick like glue to Jesus' side, to be adored by the crowds, and to tell exciting stories about their journeys. But they had work to do on their own.

Even though Jesus was the most powerful and wisest teacher, God has always seemed to prefer to send imperfect, broken people to carry His most important messages to others. He sent the fathers, judges, prophets, apostles, disciples, and now he is sending us. "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation (Mark 16:15). Even when you feel inadequate or ill equipped, remember that the One who knows ALL has confidence in you.

So, our confidence is never in ourselves to say the right things or to know whom we should reach out to next. It's exciting to remember that the gospel is GOD'S power to save people (Romans 1:16). It's not about our own power, talent, gracefulness, eloquence, or quick wit. When Moses reasoned that he wasn't a good speaker, God reassured him by saying, "I will be with your mouth and teach you what you will say" (Exodus 4:12). We will only succeed in the ministry of the gospel if we trust in God to help us reach the hearts of those around us.

How does this work? I don't know how God does what He does, but He is alive and working in the world today. "... He is not far from each one of us" (Acts 17:27). What He wants more than anything is to have more people turn to Him and go to heaven. So, as you are going, keep your eyes open for those who are hungering and thirsting for something more than this fallen world has to offer. Keep your heart open to the direction of the Holy Spirit toward the souls He has in mind for you to reach. Then, let Jesus make the difference.

—Darrell

### Attendance and Offering December 11, 2022

**Attendance:** 153  
**AM Worship:** 258  
**PM Worship:** 132  
**Wednesday:** 109

**Contribution:** \$7,064.01  
**Weekly Budget:** \$15,050.00  
**Weekly Average:** \$14,058.18  
**Contribution to Date:** \$702,908.87

#### Hoover Supported Works

- *Childhaven, Cullman, AL*
- *Rainbow Omega, Eastaboga, AL*
- *Churches of Christ Disaster Relief*
- *George Funk, Gospel Chariot Missions, South Africa*
- *Cy Walker, Guyana*
- *Clothing Closet*
- *Food Pantry*
- *Guyana*
- *Tanzania*
- *Philippines*

#### Mission Trips

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

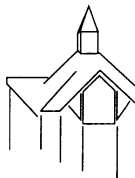
#### Oversight

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

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>King Jesus (Mark 1:1-8)</b></p> <p>The _____</p>   <p>Meeting the King in the _____</p>   <p>The King's _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GriefShare Ministry</b></p> <p><b>GriefShare Ministry:</b> So many people in our congregation (and beyond) have experienced significant losses in their lives, so we're thankful to be able to offer GriefShare Ministry. This ministry 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, Kyle Wadley, or Chuck Webster for more information, or you can visit <a href="https://www.griefshare.org/">https://www.griefshare.org/</a>. The sessions meet in the church library each Saturday from 10:00am-12:00noon, and will continue through Saturday, December 31, at the same time each week. Please let us know if you have any questions.</p>
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