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Topic:

## Sermon Notes



# THE MESSENGER


Volume 12


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Issue 4

**Minister:** Robert Webster  
(708) 752-5589  
(robster67@gmail.com)

[www.westhammondcoc.com](http://www.westhammondcoc.com)

 westhammondcoc@gmail.com

 1138 173rd St., Hammond IN 46324

**Secretary:** Sis. Ruthie Gamble  
(708) 743-5439  
(whcocsecretary@gmail.com)

### WELCOME VISITING FRIENDS

If you are one of our visitors today, please know that we are indeed honored to have you. If you are a member of the Lord's body, thanks for choosing to worship with us today. If you are not a member of the Lord's church, we would be happy to meet with you and discuss how one becomes a member of the church which we read about in the New Testament. We aim to speak as they spoke and do as they did. We also offer a free Bible Correspondence Course which can be mailed to you. Or, someone would be glad to meet with you for a one-on-one Bible study. You can indicate your desire on a visitor's card and place it in the collection tray located at the front on the communion table.

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### **Sunday**

Young Christians' Class .....10 a.m.  
Sun. Adult Bible Class.....10 a.m.  
Worship Service .....11 a.m.

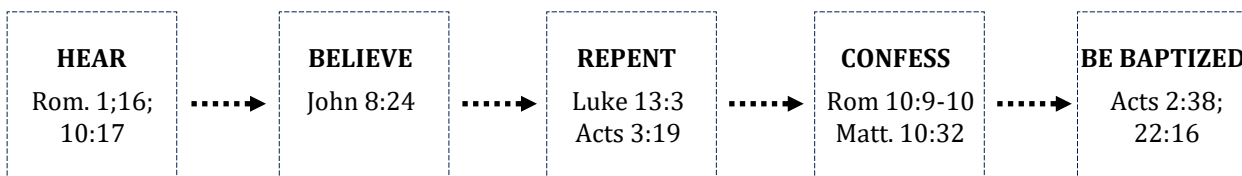
#### **Wednesday**

Bible Study (on Zoom)...7:00 p.m.

### ORDER OF SERVICE:

Song ~ Announcements ~ Song ~ Opening Prayer ~ Song ~ Scripture Reading ~ Song ~ Sermon ~ Song ~ Lord's Supper ~ Offering ~ Song ~ Closing Prayer

### WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?



*I rejoiced with those who said to me,  
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."  
Psalm 122:1*

# CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

## The Christmas Spirit or the Christian Spirit?

For some folks, the Christmas season is their favorite time of the year---the beauty of strings of lights and decorations, the crispness of the cold winter air, and maybe the pureness of fresh snow. It is a time of generosity when some of the Scrooges of the world find it in their hearts to think of others.

Some people herald Christmas as the day of Jesus’s birth. Their celebration is as though they are saying, happy birthday Jesus. Scripture lends no support to this idea. Luke records Jesus’s birth in this way after Joseph and Mary reached Bethlehem: *“While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger”* (Luke 2:6-7). The Bible gives neither a specific date for Jesus's birth nor an indication of God's desire for us to celebrate it (in contrast to remembering Jesus’ death each week in the Lord’s Supper). At least for a short time, people are thinking about Jesus.

It is wonderful to ponder. The Creator entered our existence and became one of us. *“The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us”* (John 1:14). Although we do not know the exact date, we do know it was the perfect moment. *“But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman”* (Gal. 4:4). Jesus’ birth evoked praise to God from a great company of the heavenly host, as well as that of humble shepherds (Luke 2:13, 14, 20). Later, magi came from the East and bowed in worship to the newborn King (Matt. 2:11). And let us not forget the purpose of His birth---He was born to die.

From time to time, we may hear people say concerning generosity, *“After all it’s Christmas.”* However, we should not limit our love, good cheer, and generosity to one day or season. Seasons come, and seasons go. We are called to be like Christ every day of our lives (Luke 9:23).

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David Stewart - (submitted by R. Webster)

### REMINDERS:

- ~Please silence your *cell phones*.
- ~**No eating** in the auditorium.
- ~Please be diligent in observing **CDC COVID-19 guidelines**.



Returning guest please **print** your name in the **Returning Guest Log** in the foyer.

There are **prayer request cards** and a **suggestion box** in the foyer.

Last Sunday after worship, Sis. Dana Burns was baptized into Christ. She has returned to Kansas City, MO where she resides. Please keep her lifted in prayer.

The **Ladies’ Ministry** will resume in the Spring of 2023.

### Annual Ladies Lectureship Retreat

Theme: **Christian Women Living Courageously in a Spiritual Pandemic**

Date: April 20-23, 2023 in Atlanta, Georgia.  
Website: [www.ladieslectureshipretreat.org](http://www.ladieslectureshipretreat.org)

### **Thanksgiving Service for Rob Hardy’s mother, Robertine Hardy, is as follows:**

Visitation: Fri. Jan. 6, 2023 - 6 to 8 p.m.  
Wake: Sat. Jan. 7, 2023 - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.  
Funeral: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Burial: Glenwood Oaks cemetery  
Repass: Leaks Reception Hall  
**Leaks and Sons Funeral Home**  
**18400 Pulaski Rd, Country Club Hills.**

### FOR PRAYERS

Sis. Errika Williams, Bro. Hardy & family, Sis. Debra Ellis & family, Bro. Croom & family, Kristopher Strickland, Sis. Davis, the Brantfords, J. W. Kinds, Sis. Wyatt and Sis. Whitney Taylor

The Merriweather family mourns the loss of Bro. Fred Merriweather, former minister of Chicago

Heights Church of Christ. He passed last Friday.

Please continue to pray for and encourage our newest members Bro. Croom Sis. Reba & Michelle Metevia, and Sisters Tillman and McLaurin.

We are thankful to God that Sis. Denee Webster, who serves in the US Air Force is home for the holidays and here with us today in worship.

### **SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES**

**Children’s Bible Class** taught by Sis. Whitney Taylor (lower level).

**Young Adult Class** taught by Bro. Taylor. (upper level)

**Adult Bible Class** - main auditorium

### **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

#### **THIS WEEK:**

#### **BIRTHDAYS**

- \*KRISTOPHER STRICKLAND - DEC. 24TH
- \*AHMAYA RICHARDSON - SAT. DEC. 31ST
- SIS. COSTOLA THIGPEN - WED. DEC. 28TH
- SIS. PAMELA LENNON - SAT. DEC. 31ST

#### **ANNIVERSARIES**

BRO. & SIS. CONNER #6



#### **Last Week’s Record**

Sunday AM Worship & Zoom	73
Wednesday Bible Class (Zoom)	44
Last Sunday offering	\$2922.45
<b>Weekly Budget</b>	<b>\$2625.00</b>