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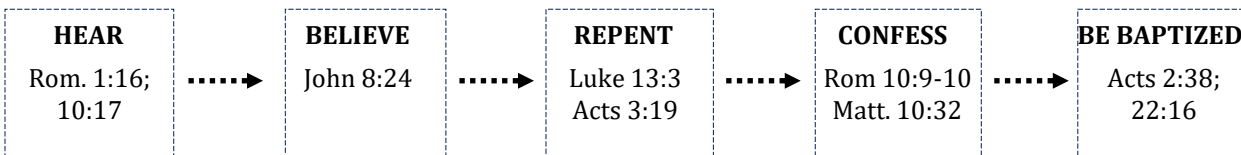
Sermon Notes



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?



THE MESSENGER

*"This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all." **1John 1:5***

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

www.westhammondcoc.com
 westhammondcoc@gmail.com
 1138 173rd St., Hammond IN 46324

Secretary: Sis. Ruthie Gamble
(708)336-3120 *(request/announcements)*
(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' Class10 a.m.
Sun. Adult Bible Class.....10 a.m.
Worship Service11 a.m.

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

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

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

A.W.O.L

Beginning in the mid 80's, I was at "church" so much, I joked about having my mail forwarded there. Sunday morning and evening Bible study and services, Wednesday evening Bible class, and chorus rehearsals on Friday evenings. Annette and I were teachers and counselors for our children and youth. There were ALWAYS special events and programs on the weekends, many of them out of town. Those were wonderful times that we often recall and remember with great joy.

As Y2K rolled in, I was working full-time and completing my undergraduate studies. I was working in the church, being an only-child caretaker for my parents, and legal guardian for my aunt. Jonathan was diagnosed with moderate autism in 1999 and began to indicate more severe behaviors. I was losing it, and didn't pay attention to my mental health. Everything went dark, and I was diagnosed with major depression. Attending church became difficult, then impossible. I felt absent without leave.

I approached God, shouting to ask for his patience. "God, I'M NOT LETTING YOU GO! If you hold on to me, and keep me close, I promise to serve you again when the Light returns to my life!" I began to appreciate all those years of being at church all the time, of attending worship and studying and singing and praying and serving the Lord. In my ocean of despair, God kept me afloat, and He did not let me drown.


Due to my current physical health, I struggle with my church attendance. However, I am determined to serve the Lord to the best of my ability! I will NOT be "Absent With Out the Lord!" Cause GOD IS GOOD! There will be challenges, and there may be darkness. But: "The Lord is my Light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the STRENGTH of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1) Praise God, and be blessed!

David A. Brantford

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMINDERS:

- ~Please silence your *cell phones*. 
- ~No *eating* in the auditorium.

New guest, please be sure to complete a Welcome Card.

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

Prayer request, please complete prayer request card located in the foyer.

Please send any *requests* and *announcements* to be made or to be included in the bulletin to Sis. Ruthie Gamble at 708-336-3120.

There is a *suggestion box* in the foyer.

Please review the *website* for any necessary updates. Also, if you would like a *year-end tax statement*, please contact Sis. Ruthie Gamble.

The *Ladies' and Men's Ministries* have resumed for 2023. We meet every other Thursday. The next meeting is scheduled for April 20th at 6:30p.m. Please plan ahead to be in attendance. These classes are intended to promote a heightened spiritual and social boost. Ladies, if received, please bring your **Bridges or Barriers** booklets.

Annual Ladies Lectureship Retreat

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

Date: April 20-23, 2023 in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Ladies please stay behind for a brief meeting immediately after service today.

Five ladies from our congregation, along with 1 friend, will be in attendance. Pray for safe travels and that they will return spiritually uplifted.

FOR PRAYERS:

Sis. Ann-Marie Webster returned home safely yesterday.

The Connors are desirous of travelling mercies.

The Pelt family of 87th St. Church of Christ lost their son, Jermaine Pelt who was a Chicago Firefighter. Stacye Forrest, cousin of the Cunningham/Gamble families who is scheduled for surgery this Monday. Sis. Denee Webster, Sis. Payne, Sis. Cossom & the Youngs. Sis Chaff's cousin, Toya House who suffered a brain aneurysm and was doing better, has taken a turn for the worse. Sis. Linda Smith, wife of Bro. Ozell Smith. The Cotton & Peden families, Sis. Helen McGee, Sis. Ellis, the Brantfords, Sis. Glenda Carter, Bro & Sis. Strickland, Sis. Davis, and Bro. & Sis. Taylor.

FOR ENCOURAGEMENT:

Please continue to pray for and encourage our new members Sis. Carrie Ricks, Sis. Terry Armmer, Bro. Kristopher Strickland, Bro. Croom, Sis. Reba & Michelle Metevia, and Sisters Tillman and McLaurin.

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

We are seeking volunteers for *Sunday School teachers* for kids. Please see Bro. Webster for more information.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

SIS. WILLIAMS	WED., APRIL 12TH
BRO. SHELTON	WED., APRIL 12TH

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

#30 THE MICKLES	MON., APRIL 10TH
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Last Week's Record

Sunday AM Worship & Zoom	79
Wednesday Bible Class (Zoom)	39
Last Sunday offering	\$3327.26
Weekly Budget	\$2625.00