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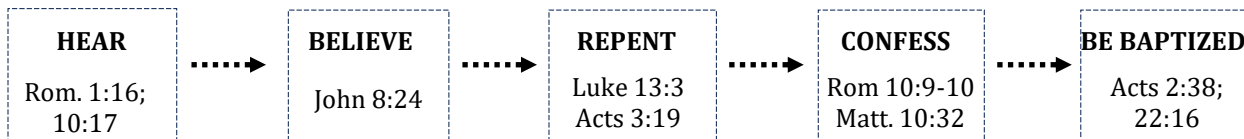
Sermon Notes



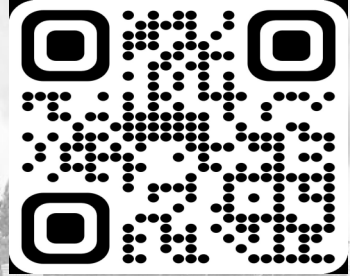
ORDER OF SERVICE

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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**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 will 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 will 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**

Children's Sunday School ....10 a.m.  
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.

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

# CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

## Avoid The Path of Least Resistance!

In the journey of life, it's common to gravitate toward the path of least resistance. This path often promises comfort, ease, and minimal challenges. However, our spiritual growth and development as Christians is often located in the terrain of resilience, courage, and a firm belief in God's guiding hand.

The path of least resistance can be enticing, as it is devoid of discomfort and hardship. It is the easy route, the downhill slope, the wide gate. It presents fewer struggles, minimal obstacles, and less pain. Yet, as followers of

Christ, we must remember that our Savior Himself did not choose this way. He carried His cross, endured suffering, and gave His life for us (1Pet. 2:21). His journey was not easy, but it was necessary for our salvation.

In the book of Matthew, Jesus tells us, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few

find it" (Matthew 7:13-14). This passage clearly emphasizes the importance of avoiding the path of least resistance and embracing the narrow, and sometimes challenging, path that leads to life.

When we choose the path of least resistance, we may avoid discomfort, but we also miss out on growth opportunities that come from facing challenges head-on. Each challenge we encounter is an opportunity to rely on God's strength, rather than our own. They teach us to trust in Him, to lean not on our own understanding, and to submit our plans to Him.

Every trial, every obstacle, every hardship presents a unique opportunity to grow closer to God. As we navigate these challenges, we learn to trust Him more deeply, love Him more passionately, and follow Him more closely.

In the Apostle Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, he implores us to "walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7). This means stepping off the path of least resistance and onto the path that God has laid before us, trusting in His guidance even when the way is uncertain or challenging.

So, while the path of least resistance may seem attractive, it rarely leads to true spiritual growth. As followers of Christ, we are called to take up our cross (Matt. 16:24), face our challenges with courage, and trust in God's guiding hand. So let us bravely step off the comfortable path, and venture onto the narrow road, trusting that with God, all things are possible.

Bro. R. Webster

Every trial, every obstacle, every hardship presents a unique opportunity to grow closer to God!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## REMINDERS:

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



*New guests* please complete a Welcome Card.

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

A **Suggestion Box** and **Prayer Request** cards are located in the foyer. All are welcomed.

**Contributions** can be made electronically via **Zelle (recommended)** using the church's email-[westhammondcc@gmail.com](mailto:westhammondcc@gmail.com).

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

The **Men's Class** will now meet **every** Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

The **Ladies' Class** has been put on hold until further notice.

## ANNUAL LADIES LECTURESHIP RETREAT

The 37th Annual Retreat will take place next year, March 28-31, 2024 in Orlando, Florida.

The theme is **Christian Women: A Steadfast Extraordinary Journey**. Registration is now open. Website: [www.ladieslectureshipretreat.org](http://www.ladieslectureshipretreat.org)

Ladies, please do not wait until the last minute to register. Fees go up incrementally as the months go by. For group information see Sis. Webster.

## HOMELESS MISSION

**We need all donations in by, October 31st.** We are accepting canned goods, household items, toiletries, men, women and children's clothing. Put donations inside the room downstairs labeled **Intake Donation Room**. Please indicate "**mission**" on checks and electronic payments. Additionally, Sis. Gamble will be at the church building every Friday in October from 3:30-5:30pm.

## TRAVELING:

Praying for the Simmons and the Hardy families who are traveling.

## CONDOLENCES:

We express deepest sympathy to the Simmons family on the passing of one of Bro. Simmons'

sisters who lived in Louisiana. A memorial service was held for her last week.

## PRAISE BE TO OUR GOD!

Sis. Roya Cossom was told by her doctor last Friday that her cancer is in remission. We are joyful for our sister and will continue praying fervently for her spiritual and physical health.

## FOR PRAYERS:

Sis. Ellis, Bro. Craig Conner & family, the Davises Sis. Blanche and Andriana Mendenhall, Bro. Paul Woodard, Zuri McLaurin, the granddaughter of the Davises, as well as Greg Lewis, the cousin of Sis. Davis who is undergoing cancer treatment. Sis. Goldman, Sis. Brantford and Sis Whitney Taylor.

## SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

**Children's Bible Class** taught by Sis. Carter (lower level).

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

**Adult Bible Class** taught by Bro. Webster (main auditorium)

**Fortifying the Christian Class** taught by Bro. Ed. Davis (lower level)

## NO BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK OR ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

## SKILLS BANK

Remember to submit your information to be added to the skills bank and be diligent to do your verification for relevant licensing.

Sis. Webster .....Real Estate Agent  
Sis. Debra Woodard .....Financial Advisor  
Gambles .....Property Preservation & Custom Wood Work Décor/Signs (Home/Business)

## Last Week's Record

Sunday AM Worship & Zoom	70
Wednesday Bible Class (Zoom)	52
Last Sunday's offering	\$3847.25
<b>Weekly Budget</b>	<b>\$3,282.00</b>