

Text:  
Topic:

Sermon Notes




# 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.

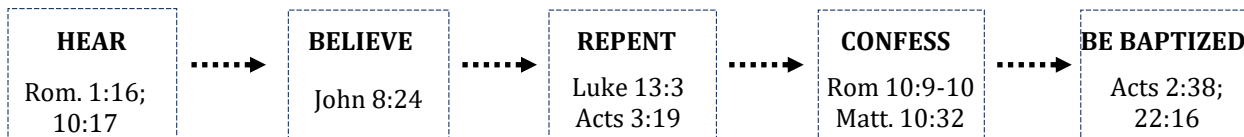
**Wednesday**

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

**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

## Navigating Grief with Faith

Grief is a journey that each one of us will inevitably travel, a path marked by the deep ache of loss. In these moments of profound sorrow, our faith becomes an unwavering anchor, providing solace, hope, and a steady guide through the storm. However, while everyone experiences grief, as God's children, we navigate its tumultuous waves with the assurance that we are not alone. The Bible acknowledges the reality of grief, and Jesus Himself wept at the tomb of Lazarus (John 11:35). Our faith doesn't shield us from pain, but it gives us a framework to process it with the understanding that God is intimately acquainted with our sorrow.

This means that in times of grief, the promise of God's presence offers profound comfort. Psalm 34:18 assures us that *"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit."* In our pain, God draws near, providing a refuge where we can pour out our hearts and find solace in His comforting embrace.

Faith also produces hope for our grief-stricken hearts. The apostle Paul, in 1 Thess. 4:13, reminds us that we grieve, but not as those who have no hope. Our hope is anchored in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, assuring us that those who have gone before us in faith are now in the eternal presence of our loving God. As a body of people that is reliant on faith, we are called to surround those who grieve with love and support. Galatians 6:2 encourages us to *"bear one another's burdens,"* so in times of grief, support becomes a tangible expression of God's love. Let us be diligent in offering our prayers, presence, and practical assistance to those in the depth of grief.


Our faith transforms grief from a journey of despair to one of healing and restoration. In the process of mourning, we find that God's grace is not merely a concept but a tangible reality that sustains us through the darkest nights. So, as we navigate the difficult terrain of grief, let us lean on our faith as a source of strength. Together, as a family that relies on faith, (11 Cor. 5:7) let us commit to walking alongside those who mourn, offering the assurance that even in the valley of the shadow of death, God's light shines brightly, and His love is an unending wellspring of comfort and hope.

~R. Webster

**Our faith doesn't shield us from pain, but it gives us a framework to process it with the understanding that God is intimately acquainted with our sorrow.**

# 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 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.

## FOR PRAYERS

Sis. Ellis has been admitted into Ingalls hospital. Bro. Craig Conner & family, Tenel Cunningham & Kimberley Poe, the cousin & friend of Sis. Gamble, Kristopher Anderson, Vanessa Grier & Christopher McKnight, grandson and friends respectively of Sis. Carter-McKnight. The Davis & McAllister families, Gavin Wagner a friend of Sis. Bell, 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, Sis. Cossom and Sis. Whitney Taylor.

## TRAVELING

Sis. Denee Webster leaves tomorrow to go back to New Mexico. She serves in the U S Air Force. We are thrilled to have her with us and we pray for God's continued guidance on her.

## 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)



## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



BRO. ARTHUR DAVIS	MON. - 10/2
SIS. REBA METEVIA	FRI. - 10/6
SIS. TERRY ARMMER	SAT. - 10/7
SIS. CLAUDIA CHAMBERS	SAT. - 10/7

## ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

#37 The Brantfords	Wed. 10/4
#46 The Youngs	Fri. 10/6

## 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	87
Wednesday Bible Class (Zoom)	42
Last Sunday's offering	\$6,389.49