

Text:
Topic:

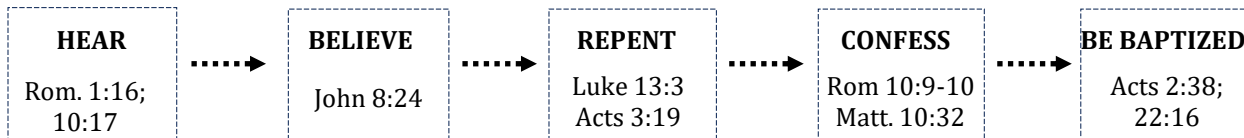
Sermon Notes



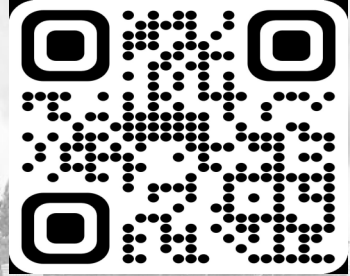
ORDER OF SERVICE

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***

Volume 10 **October 8, 2023** **Issue 2**

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

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday

Children's Sunday School10 a.m.
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.

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.

*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 Church: The Radiant Bride of Christ

While the Bible contains hundreds of figures of speech, the church referred to as the Bride of Christ is one of the most profound. This metaphor, paints for us a vivid picture of the intimate and sacred relationship between Christ and His followers.

This concept finds its origins in the New Testament, particularly in the writings of the Apostle Paul and the Book of Revelation. Ephesians 5:25-27 beautifully captures this idea, portraying Christ's love for the Church in marital terms. It says, *"Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish."*

This metaphor is a powerful declaration of Christ's sacrificial love for His people. The image of a bride adorned in splendor, without blemish, draws our attention to the redemptive work of Christ. Through His sacrifice on the cross, Christ cleanses and sanctifies the Church, presenting her (the church) as a radiant and holy bride.

The Book of Revelation further highlights this metaphor, describing the eventual union of Christ and the Church. Revelation 19:7-8 envisions a joyous celebration, declaring, *"Let us rejoice and exult and give Him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure."* This vision speaks not only of a future union but also of the ongoing process of preparation and sanctification. The Church, as the Bride of Christ, is called to actively participate in this sanctifying journey, adorned with the garments of righteousness.


As the Bride of Christ, the Church is not merely an institution but a living and vibrant body of Christians. It signifies a covenant relationship marked by love, devotion, and intimacy. The metaphor challenges us to view the Church not as a distant entity but as a beloved partner in a divine romance. This implores us to reflect on our individual and collective roles in this sacred relationship. We must acknowledge the power of Christ's love, and allow it to cleanse and beautify us. As the Bride of Christ, the Church is a beacon of hope, radiating the splendor of God's redemptive love to a world in need of grace.

~Robert Webster

As the Bride of Christ, the Church is a beacon of hope, radiating the splendor of God's redemptive love to a world in need of grace.

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.

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

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 donation 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.

CONDOLENCES:

We express deepest sympathy to the Simmons family on the passing of one of Bro. Simmons' sisters who lived in Louisiana. The memorial service will be this week.

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, Sis. Cossom 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)



BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



SIS. ARMMER	SAT. -10/7
SIS. CHAFF	SAT. -10/14
BRO. YOUNG	SAT. -10/14
SIS. MCLAURIN	SAT. -10/14

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

#11 THE MENDENHALLS  FRI. - 10/13

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. WebsterReal Estate Agent
Sis. Debra WoodardFinancial Advisor
GamblesProperty Preservation & Custom Wood Work Décor/Signs (Home/Business)

Last Week's Record

Sunday AM Worship & Zoom	80
Wednesday Bible Class (Zoom)	40
Last Sunday's offering	\$5,031.76
Weekly Budget	\$3,282.00