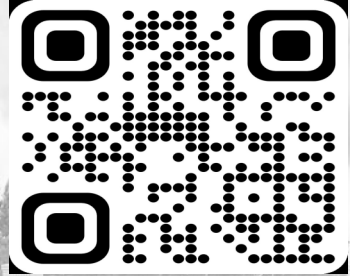


❄️ Sermon Notes ❄️

Text:
Topic:



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 12 **December 17, 2023** **Issue 3**

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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 School10 a.m.
Young Christians' Class10 a.m.
Sun. Adult Bible Class.....10 a.m.
Worship Service11 a.m.

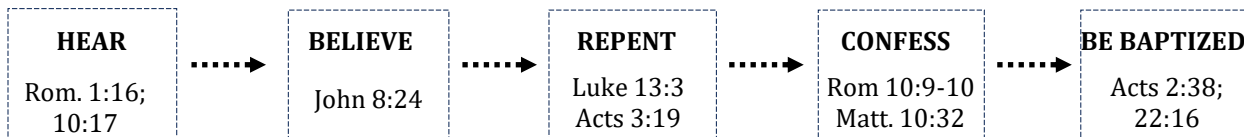
Wednesday

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

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

Marriage Is For Life

Marriage was the first institution which God established in the beginning for all mankind. Since God is its author, God has given the regulations to govern it. Concerning marriage, Jesus said in Matthew 19:5-6, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So then they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." Marriage is a lifelong commitment. Marriage is one man, for one wife, for life.

A proper observance of the principle of "shall be one flesh" will solve most every problem in the marriage relationship. Each will treat their spouse, as they would treat their own flesh. When a man and woman marry the union is spoken of as "what God has joined together." Marriage is a covenant made with both one's spouse and with God. What should the husband and wife relationship be? In Ephesians 5:24-25 we read, "Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her." Love causes us to be kind. Love knows no limit to its endurance and no end in its trust.

When two people marry they are bound together by God for as long as the other shall live. As we read in 1 Corinthians 7:39, "A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord." God placed strong protective laws around the home. Also notice that she is to marry only a Christian. Marriage is sacred and holy, because God instituted marriage, not man. In our permissive age, let us hold fast to the sacredness of marriage and the home. Our wedding vows must be "for better, for worse, till death us do part". The Bible clearly spells out exactly what our Lord expects of us in marriage. Man cannot put marriage asunder except at the risk of his own soul.

Marriage is a lifelong commitment. Marriage is one man, for one wife, for life.

Marriage is a covenant made with both one's spouse and with God.

By: Ron Boatwright

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMINDERS:

~Please silence your *cell phones*.
~**No eating nor drinking** inside the auditorium.



New guests please complete a Welcome Card.
Returning guest please **print** your name in the Returning Guest Log in the foyer for attendance.

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.

Do you want to have your **bible restored**? Contact Susan Reinsma. Rusticjournals on Etsy (708) 878-3002, Highland, IN

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

Fees go up incrementally as the months go by. For group information see Sis. Webster.

HOMELESS MISSION

According to the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, there is close to 70k homeless people in Chicago, a number that exceeds Soldier Field's seating capacity by nearly 10,000. Our congregation is honored to have distributed 137 care packages this past Sunday to the homeless. We are deeply appreciative of the support of the donors and volunteers who make these missions possible every year. May God be glorified!

FOR PRAYERS

The Thigpen family, Sis. Sims, the Carter family, the Bell family, Bro. Simmons, Sis. McNeal, the mother of Sis. Young, the Ricks family, the Webster family, Bro. & Sis. Arthur Davis & the

Lloyd family, Sis. Simpson & family, the Strickland family, Sis. Roya Cossom & family, Sis. Ellis, Sis. Blanche and Andriana Mendenhall, Bro. Paul Woodard, Sis. Goldman and the Brantfords.

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. Lightfoot (main auditorium)

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



BIRTHDAYS



SIS. BLANCHE MENDENHALL TUESDAY, DEC. 19TH

NO ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

Happy Holidays



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	77
Wednesday Bible Class (Zoom)	41
Last Sunday's offering	\$3,815.71
Weekly Budget	\$4,069.13