

❄️ Sermon Notes ❄️

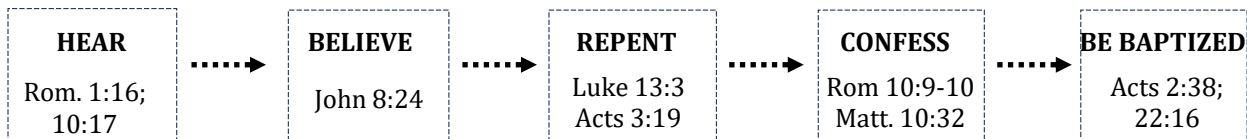
Text:  
Topic:



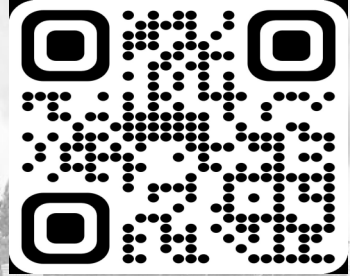
**ORDER OF SERVICE**

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 12** **December 24, 2023** **Issue 4**

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

👉 [www.westhammondcoc.com](http://www.westhammondcoc.com)

✉️ [westhammondcoc@gmail.com](mailto:westhammondcoc@gmail.com)

📍 1138 173rd St., Hammond IN 46324

**Secretary:** Sis. Ruthie Gamble  
(708)336-3120 (request/announcements)  
(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 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

## STEEL TOE BOOTS



Often after delivering a sermon, I am told that I “stepped on some toes”, a common phrase meaning that some feelings were hurt or that the words I had said may have affected someone listening. In Act 2:37, we see where Peter “stepped on some toes” while delivering the first gospel sermon. While I don’t delight in the pain of others, it would be disingenuous of me to claim that I don’t step on toes intentionally. After all, the three thousand souls that were saved only recognized their sad condition after Peter’s words “cut them to the heart” (Acts 2:37 NIV). I can’t help but believe that the greatest compliment you can give a preacher or public speaker is that they “stepped on some toes”. This lets the speaker know that the message was compelling and effective. However, there are times that no matter how compelling a message is, some hearts refuse to be pierced and some toes never feel the impact. Some people are wearing steel toe boots.

In 1 Timothy 4:1-3, Paul warns Timothy that there will be false prophets who will spread lies and not feel bad about it. He refers to the conscience of those people as “seared with a hot iron”. In Romans 1:28, Paul speaks of people who are so devoted to a life of sin and unrighteousness that God has given them over to a reprobate mind. It is difficult to reason with a reprobate or depraved mind. It is almost impossible to reason with someone whose conscience is seared with a hot iron. These people have developed a “steel toe boot mentality” where they cannot be pierced to the heart or moved to repentance. These individuals refuse to be taught righteousness and refuse to obey God’s word. No matter how many times you plead with them to repent, no matter how many scriptures you share with them, they refuse to repent or even feel remorse.

We must be careful to never end up in this sad condition. Repentance cannot take place with a steel toe boot mentality. It is difficult to forgive when you have your steel toe boot on the neck (or other body part) of your brother and sister in Christ. The next time a sermon or message moves you and cuts you to the heart, give thanks to God for keeping you on the path to righteousness.

Bro. Eddie Taylor, Jr.

**In Romans 1:28, Paul speaks of people who are so devoted to a life of sin and unrighteousness that God has given them over to a reprobate mind.**

# 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](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.

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](http://www.ladieslectureshipretreat.org)

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

## HOMELESS MISSION

You may continue to bring “gently” used clothing and bedding items throughout the year for the next mission.

## CONDOLENCES

Prayers for Bro. Arthur Davis & family as they mourn the loss of his brother, Clarence E. Davis.

- **Visitation:**- Wallace Broadview Funeral Home  
2020 W. Roosevelt Rd. Broadview, IL.  
**Wednesday, Dec. 27th, 4:00 -7:00pm**
- **Wake:** Canaan AME Church  
801 S. 14th Ave. Maywood, IL.  
**Thur. Dec. 28th 10.00 am & 11 a.m. funeral**

## TRAVELING

Please keep the Taylors, Bells and others who are traveling in your prayers.

## FOR PRAYERS

The Thigpen family, Sis. Sims, Janell Thompson & the Carter family, Jeanie Duncan a dear friend of Sis. Lightfoot. The Ricks family, the Webster family, Sis. Simpson & family, the Strickland family, Sis. Roya Cossom & family, Sis. Ellis, the Mendenhall, family, Bro. Paul Woodard, and the Brantfords.

## FOR ENCOURAGEMENT

We welcome Sis. Cecilia Williams who has placed membership with us. Also, Sis. Angelice Cunningham-Johnson who was baptized recently. Their information can be found in the online members’ directory. Please continue to pray for and encourage our newest members.

## 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

BRO. KRISTOPHER STRICKLAND SUN., DEC. 24TH  
SIS. COSTOLA THIGPEN THURS., DEC. 28TH



## NO ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

**Happy Holidays**

### Last Week’s Record

Sunday AM Worship & Zoom	88
Wednesday Bible Class (Zoom)	40
Last Sunday’s offering	\$3,468.83
<b>Weekly Budget</b>	<b>\$4,069.13</b>