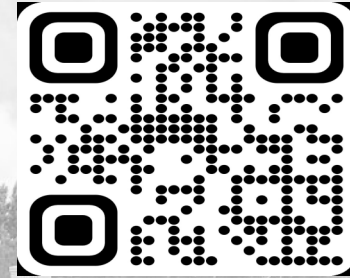


❄️ Sermon Notes ❄️

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 1

January 14, 2024

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

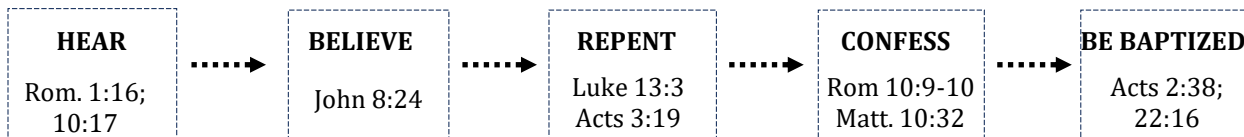
Wednesday

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

"Break Up Your Fallow Ground!"

The Scriptures often use agricultural imagery to convey spiritual truths, and the concept of breaking up fallow ground is no exception. In Hosea 10:12, we find the call to action: "*Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.*"

Fallow ground refers to soil left uncultivated and unproductive. The law of Moses required the Israelites to allow their ground to be left uncultivated once every seven years (Exo. 23:11). In a spiritual context, it represents hearts and lives that have become hardened or neglected. The call to break up the fallow ground is an invitation for self-examination and renewal.

As we journey through life, it's easy for our hearts to become hardened by the challenges, disappointments, and misplaced priorities that surround us. The cares of this world can create a crust over our spiritual soil, hindering the growth of God's Word within us. However, just as a farmer tills the soil to prepare it for a bountiful harvest, similarly we called to break up the fallow ground of our hearts in order to receive the abundant blessings that God has in store for us.

Breaking up the fallow ground involves repentance, humility, and a willingness to surrender to God's power to mold us after His will.

Breaking up the fallow ground involves repentance, humility, and a willingness to surrender to God's power to mold us after His will. It's a process of removing the obstacles that hinder our relationship with Him, allowing the seeds of righteousness to take root and flourish. In doing so, we position ourselves to experience the refreshing rain of God's grace and mercy. Let this be a season of spiritual cultivation in our lives. Let us seek the Lord earnestly through prayer, study of His Word, and obedience. As we break up the fallow ground within us, may our faith, love, and unity become more evident among us as a spiritual family.

Therefore, let the words of Jeremiah 4:3 resonate in our hearts: "*Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.*" May this exhortation inspire us to prepare our hearts for the abundant blessings God desires to pour out upon us.

Bro. Robert Webster

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.

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.

Please **review** your information on **website** for accuracy. Send any **corrections** or **updates** to: whcocsecretary@gmail.com or Text 708-336-3120.

If you would like a **year-end contribution statement**, send an email request to whcocsecretary@gmail.com or text to 708-336-3120.

The **Men's Class** meets **every** Thursday at 6:30 p.m.
The **Ladies' Class** is scheduled to resume in the Spring. More information to follow.

The **American Red Cross** is hosting a **blood drive** Jan. 17th & 18th from 7a.m.-7p.m.
Visit redcross.org for locations near you.

ANNUAL LADIES LECTURESHIP RETREAT
The 37th Annual Retreat will take place next year, March 28-31, 2024 in Orlando, Florida. Fees go up incrementally as the months go by. For group information see Sis. Webster.
The theme is **Christian Women: A Steadfast Extraordinary Journey**. Registration is now open.
Website: www.ladieslectureshipretreat.org

BAPTISM

Paige Richardson, granddaughter of the Carters, was baptized into Christ last week Sunday in the afternoon. Let's get to know our newest sister as we pray for and encourage her.

CONDOLENCES

To Sis. Young & family on the passing of her

Brother, Willie Mabry.

FOR PRAYERS

Sis. Lightfoot, Quince Dixon, the sister of Sis Laurene Cunningham, Sis. Angelice Cunningham-Johnson, Bro. Arthur Davis & family, the Ricks family, Sis. Ellis, Bro. Paul Woodard, and Sis. Brantford.

FOR ENCOURAGEMENT

Continue to pray for and encourage our newest members. Sis. Cecilia Williams, Sis. Angelice Cunningham-Johnson and Antekia Ellis.

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

BRO. BELL WED, JAN. 17TH
SIS. GOLDMAN WED, JAN. 17TH
*OMARI COSSOM SAT, JAN. 20TH

*DENOTES NOT A MEMBER

NO ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

Gospel Broadcasting Network is a brotherhood sponsored television station. Go to www.GBNTV.org.

Last Week's Record

Sunday AM Worship & Zoom	107
Wednesday Bible Class (Zoom)	52
Last Sunday's offering	\$4046.52
Weekly Budget	\$4,069.13