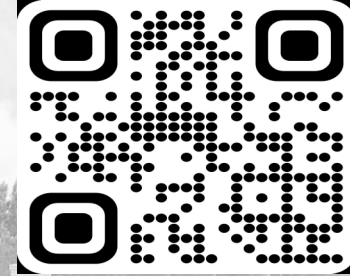


❄️ Sermon Notes ❄️

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

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Issue 4

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**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.

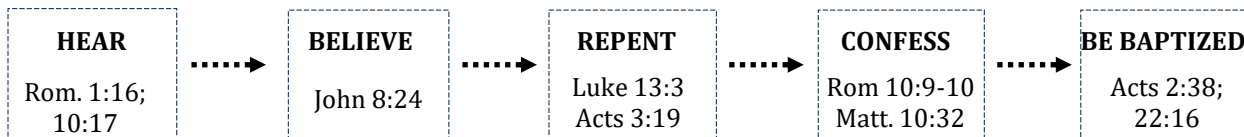
**Wednesday**

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

**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

## Forgiving the Unforgettable

Forgiveness. Some speak of forgiveness as if it comes as natural as breathing, while others understand that it often requires a level of spiritual maturity. For there are things in life that a simple “I’m sorry” won’t immediately resolve. If someone breaks your favorite coffee mug, you may be more inclined to forgive than if someone breaks your heart or your trust. How do we forgive those who have hurt us so badly? How do we mend relationships that bear the unforgettable?

The Oxford dictionary explains that forgiving entails no longer feeling anger or resentment. The second definition of forgiveness is especially interesting: “to cancel a debt”. In Matthew 18: 21-35, we read of a servant indebted to a king. The servant owed the equivalent of \$3.8 billion to the king, but the king was merciful and forgave (canceled) the debt. From this parable we learn that forgiveness involves no longer holding one accountable. When the servant was forgiven, he was no longer held accountable for his debt, the king no longer expected an explanation or repayment upon being forgiven. **Likewise, when we forgive someone, we should no longer expect them to answer for their sin, we no longer expect “payment”.**

When an unforgettable offense occurs, we feel, and even proclaim, that the offense will never be forgiven. True, you will never forget what was done, but as Christians we are to forgive if we expect forgiveness (Matthew 6:14-15). Bringing up repeatedly what the offender did to you is not forgiveness. Expecting endless apologies is not forgiveness. Wishing the offender to always appear “broken... bowed head and lowered eyes” is not forgiveness (Angelou, 1978). When we forgive, the debt is paid, and life continues. The assault no longer needs to be revisited for further explanation, for the debt has been “canceled”.

Therefore, one must be honest when he says, “I forgive you”. Once you utter those words you eternally liberate the offender, so you must be clear and honest with yourself and the offender. Either you do or you don’t; there can be no in between (Matthew 5:37). Wisdom from both parties will decrease the likelihood of a repeat of the offense.

If you are not in a place to forgive, continue to pray that God will grant you the strength and the faith to do so (Luke 17:4-5).

**Eddie Taylor, Jr.**

**If you are not in a place to forgive, continue to pray that God will grant you the strength and the faith to do so.**

# 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.

**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 [whcocsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:whcocsecretary@gmail.com) or Text 708-336-3120.

Please **review** your information on the **website** for accuracy. Send any **corrections** or **updates** to: [whcocsecretary@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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

## CONDOLENCES

Sis. Eula Gaddis passed away last Sunday. Funeral service will be at South Holland CoC this Saturday, February 3 at noon. Detailed funeral arrangements are posted on the notice board in the foyer.

The late brother of Sis. Young, Willie Mabry, was funeralized this past Wednesday.

## FOR PRAYERS

Sis. Thigpen’s god-brother, Deno Brown, had his fingers amputated. Sis. Denyale of Chicago Heights COC suffered a stroke and other medical issues. Stacye Forrest, the cousin of the Gamble/

Cunningham families, will be undergoing a major 13-hour surgery tomorrow. Sis. Hardy’s mother, Vladis Reynolds, who had a few bad falls this past week. Sis Debra Ellis and Quince Dixon, the sister of Sis Laurene Cunningham, are both awaiting diagnostic results. Sis. Angelice Cunningham-Johnson, Sis. Simpson, Sis. Ricks family, Bro. Paul Woodard, Sis. Brantford and Ms. Callahan, a friend of Sis. Webster.

## FOR ENCOURAGEMENT

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

\*\*\*New members please see Sis. Gamble to have your **photos** taken for the church’s online directory.

## 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

SIS. BRIA GAMBLE  
KRISTOHER ANDERSON



TUES, JAN. 30TH  
WED, JAN. 31ST

## NO ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

## \*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*

*Children are not allowed in the kitchen without adult supervision.*

## Last Week’s Record

Sunday AM Worship & Zoom	100
Wednesday Bible Class (Zoom)	42
Last Sunday’s offering	\$4,596.71
<b>Weekly Budget</b>	<b>\$4,069.13</b>