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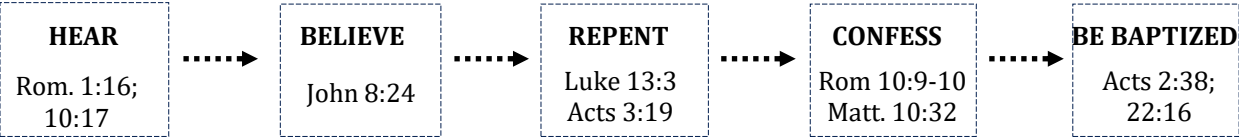
Sermon Notes



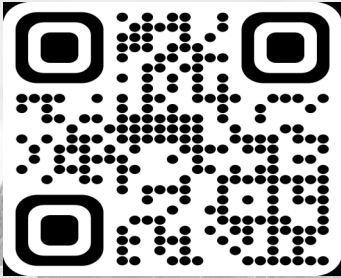
ORDER OF SERVICE

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." **1 John 1:5***

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WELCOME VISITING FRIENDS

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sundays

Children's Sunday School10 a.m.
Sis. LaDonna Carter (lower level)
Young People's Class10 a.m.
Bro. Ej. Taylor (upper level)
New Christians' Class10 a.m.
Bro. Webster (upper level)
Sun. Adult Bible Class.....10 a.m.
Bro. Lightfoot (main auditorium)
Sunday A.M. Service11 a.m.
Sunday P.M. Service6 p.m.

Wednesdays

Bible Study (on Zoom).....7 p.m.
Access through the website

Thursdays

Men's & Ladies Classes6:30 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 when it is being passed around.

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Always Be Ready

1 Peter 3:15 is a cherished verse that inspires us to live Christian lives characterized by hope, constant readiness, and reverence. It states, ***"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear."***

Peter wrote this letter to Christians facing hardship and persecution (1 Pet. 1:6-7), encouraging them to respond not with fear or vengeance, but by centering their lives on Christ. To "sanctify" God in our hearts means to honor Him as holy, allowing Him to be the central influence in our lives. This inner devotion empowers Christians to endure external trials with unwavering hope.

The word *"defense"* (or "answer" KJV), comes from the Greek word *"apologia,"* referring to a reasoned explanation or justification. While this word is associated with apologetics (intellectual defense of Christianity), Peter emphasizes a Christ-centered life that naturally prompts others to ask about our hope. As Paul says in 2 Corinthians 3:2-3, ***"You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. You are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God..."*** In a world filled with despair, our hope, which is rooted in Christ's salvation, should shine brightly, especially during suffering. It's no wonder Christ calls His disciples ***"the light of the world"*** (Matthew 5:14-16), urging them to let their good deeds shine before others, leading them to glorify God.

Peter also instructs us to offer this defense *"with gentleness and respect."* Sharing our faith should be done with humility and reverence, avoiding arrogance or aggression. Paul echoes this in Ephesians 4:15, ***"speaking the truth in love,"*** and Colossians 4:6, ***"Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."***

Ultimately, 1 Peter 3:15 reminds us that our lives should visibly reflect our faith, prompting others to inquire about it. By prioritizing Christ and living holy lives, we experience the transforming power of the Gospel.

~Bro. R. Webster

In a world filled with despair, our hope, which is rooted in Christ's salvation, should shine brightly, especially during suffering.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMINDERS

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

NEW BATHROOM FACILITIES

The bathrooms are just about completed except for the installation of the partitions. They can be used one person at a time.

New guests please complete A **Welcome Card**. **Returning guest**, upon *each* visit, 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**.

Contact the church's secretary at 219-742-9520 for any of the following:

- ♦ **Requests** or **announcements** to be made or to be included in the bulletin.

Send request for **year-end contribution statements**, send an email request to **whcocsecretary@gmail.com**- text to 219-742-9520.

NEW CHRISTIANS' CLASS

Bro. Webster is teaching this class for all new Christians dating back to 2022.

OUR CONGREGATION'S EVANGELISM PROGRAM

Every member is encouraged to get involved in the evangelistic mission of the church. Following Jesus' example and teachings we, too, are expected to seek and save the lost. Luke 19:10

The **Men's Class** and **Ladies' Class** are on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP

Sunday evening worship service needs the support of our members. It starts at 6:00pm, and we endeavor to abide by Hebrews 10:25, ***"not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together."*** Invite friends and families to attend.

NEW BIRTHS & MEMBERSHIP PLACEMENT

Continue to pray for and encourage all our new additions to the body of Christians who meet here at West Hammond Church of Christ.

CONDOLENCES

Sis. Glenda and Keith McKnight share the loss of Keith's brother, Kelvin McKnight. Funeral arrangements TBD.

TRAVELING

Traveling mercies for Sis. Thigpen.

PRAYERS

Bro. Darrell Hicks, the Washington family, friends of Sis. Bell, a co-worker of Sis. Mickles who has been diagnosed with cancer. Sis. Lennon's mother, Bro. Carter, the Brantfords, Sis. Simmons, Bro. & Sis. Goldman, Bro. Hardy, the Mendenhall family, Sis. Brooke Gamble, Sis. Lightfoot and Jabari Ware, the brother of Bro. Ken Ware III. Sis. Ellis, Sis. Angelice Cunningham, Sis. Doris Davis and her brother, Norman Hamilton, Denise Day, the sister of Sis. Conner, Enrique Duncan, Quince Dixon and Johnny Bailey, relatives of the Cunningham family who are all facing some serious health issues.



BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

*Galvin Bell Mon. 2/24

*DENOTES NOT A MEMBER

NO ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY

Contact Bro. Mendenhall if you, or anyone you invite to church, will need a ride to get here.

I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Psalm 122:1

ANNUAL LADIES LECTURESHIP RETREAT

Next year's retreat will be April 10th-13th in Chicago, IL. The theme is: **Christian Women: Surrendering All**

Website: **www.ladieslectureshipretreat.org**

*****See Sis. Webster for group information*****

Information about scholarships, awards and registration is on the notice board in the foyer.

Last Week's Record

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Sunday AM Worship | 65 |
| Sunday PM Worship | 10 |
| Wednesday Bible Class | 32 |
| Last Sunday's Offering | \$2,512.00 |
| Weekly Budget | \$4,069.13 |