

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Giving Up Is Not an Option!

In a world that often celebrates short cuts and the paths of least resistance, the call to perseverance can feel so anti-cultural. Yet, as followers of Christ, we are challenged to a different standard, one beautifully articulated in Luke 9:62: “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.” This isn’t just an agricultural metaphor; it’s a profound declaration about commitment, dedication, and the unwavering focus required for our spiritual journey.

Imagine a farmer setting out to plow a field. If he constantly looks over his shoulder, his furrows will be crooked, his work inefficient, and his harvest jeopardized. Similarly, when we commit our lives to Christ, we are called to move forward with purpose, eyes fixed on Him and the mission He has given us. Looking back—whether to past sins, worldly comforts, or the temptation of an easier path—can distract us, discourage us, and ultimately make us unfit for the vital work of the Kingdom.

The Christian walk is not always easy. There will be trials, temptations, and moments when our faith is tested. It’s in these moments that the temptation to “give up” can be strongest. We might question our calling, doubt our abilities, or wonder if the effort is truly worth it. But Luke 9:62 serves as a powerful reminder: turning back is not an option for those committed to serving God. This principle resonates throughout scripture. Paul, a man who faced immense hardship, urged the Philippians to press on: “I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14). He didn’t dwell on past struggles or future uncertainties; his focus was forward.

Similarly, Hebrews 12:1 encourages us to “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.” The imagery here is clear: a race demands sustained effort, not periodic bursts followed by surrender. Giving up is not a part of running the race marked out for us by God. Even in moments of weariness, we are assured of divine strength. Isaiah 40:31 promises, “But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” Our ability to keep going doesn’t rely only on our own willpower, but on our hope in God.

So, whatever challenges we face today, remember: Giving up is not an option for those of us who have put our hand to the plow of God’s kingdom. Let’s keep our eyes on Christ, draw strength from His Spirit, and press onward with unwavering determination. The spiritual harvest awaits!

Bro. Webster

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMINDERS

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

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- westhammondccoc@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.
- ◆ If you would like a list of the **absent members**.

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP

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

OUR CONGREGATION’S EVANGELISM PROGRAM

Every member is expected to get involved in the evangelistic mission of the church. Following Jesus’ example and teachings, we are to be seeking and saving the lost. Luke 19:10

PRAYERS

Sis. Strickland, Sis. Simmons, Sis. Woodard’s cousin is placed in hospice care, Lora Graham, mother-in-law of Sis. McKnight, is in critical care, Sis. Chambers, Deborah James, classmate of Sis. McKnight is scheduled for surgery on Aug. 1st, Sis. Harley, Ella Cardone, classmate of Sis. Brooke, Bro. & Sis. Hardy, Sis. Whitney Taylor, Malachi and Sis. Shannon Payne, CJ Johnson, friend of Bro. Brantford, the Mendenhall family, Bro & Sis. A. Davis, Sis. Thigpen, Levell Chaff, brother of Sis. Chaff, Sis. Simpson, Bro. Darrell Hicks, the Brantfords, the Goldmans, Sis. Ellis, Sis. Laurene Cunningham, Irene Herron, Quince Dixon, and Vera Johnson, sisters of Sis. Laurene Cunningham.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The sermons are recorded and can be accessed via the church’s YouTube channel. Go to YouTube and type in West Hammond Church of Christ. **YouTube is no longer live**. For this Wednesday’s Bible class we will continue with the study of 2 Corinthians. If you have not yet read the book, you are being encouraged to do so.

CONDOLENCES

Keith Lightfoot, brother of Bro. Lightfoot was laid to rest, this past Thursday. Please keep the Lightfoot family in your prayers.

Bro. Carter lost his cousin, DeWayne Carter. Funeral services TBD.

TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY

We are in need of volunteers for this position. In the interim, let Bro. Webster know if you or anyone you invite to church needs a ride.

NEW BIRTHS IN CHRIST

Bro. Ajani Powell was baptized last Sunday. Please continue to pray for and encourage him and all our new converts.

NEW CHRISTIANS’ CLASS

Bro. EJ Taylor taught this class this morning for Brother Webster.



BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



Sis. Lightfoot
Bro. Carter
Bro. Ajani Powell

Wed. 7/9
Fri. 7/11
Fri. 7/11

LADIES CLASS NEWS

Sis. Lydia Chaff will present a lesson on “Displaying the Fruit of the Spirit”, Galatians 5:22-23.

We are planning on hosting a **Ladies’ Day** this year. The proposed date is October 25th. All ladies are needed to be on board to be on committees and to start preparations for this big event. The first Zoom meeting was last Sunday afternoon. There will be another meeting soon. Please be prepared with ideas and willingness to volunteer in areas of need.

NEW HOURS-WORSHIP SERVICE & BIBLE STUDY

Effective today, the new time for worship service began at 10:00–11:45AM. There will be a 15 minutes break and then bible study will begin at 12:00. Please make careful note of these changes.

TRAVELING

Sis. Trussell & family, Sis. Woodard and her mother, the Bell family, the Lightfoots, and Sis. Webster.

ANNUAL GIVE-AWAY DAY

The tentative date is Saturday, July 26, 2025. Volunteers are needed.

<i>Last Week’s Record</i>	
Sunday AM Worship	70
Sunday PM Worship	26
Wednesday Bible Class	43
Last Sunday’s Offering	\$ 4,151.00
Weekly Budget	\$4,069.13