

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Looking for Nothing in Return

In a world that embraces the ideas of "kickbacks" and "you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours," Christ calls us to a different kind of life. He taught us to serve others selflessly, without expecting anything in return. This kind of love is radical and reflects the heart of God, setting us, Christians, apart as faithful followers of Christ.

In Luke 6:35, Jesus says, **"But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil."** This command challenges us to give generously—not for personal gain, but because it represents God's unconditional love.

The apostle Paul reinforces this in Philippians 2:3-4: **"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."** The foundation of genuine and kind service to others is entrenched in humility, so that we can seek the good of others without keeping score.

Take, for example, the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) – Unlike the religious leaders who passed by the injured man, the Samaritan helped without hesitation, paying for the man's care without expecting repayment. How about Jesus washing the disciples' feet? (John 13:1-17) – The King of kings took the lowest role, serving His disciples, to demonstrate that greatness comes through humility. Let us not forget the widow's offering. (Mark 12:41-44) – Though she gave only two small coins, Jesus praised her because she gave sacrificially, not for recognition, but out of devotion.

So, how can we live this out today and this week? **Serve anonymously** – Do a kind deed without revealing it was you. **Give without conditions** – Help someone who can't repay you. **Pray for others sincerely** – Intercede for others without seeking praise. When we serve expecting nothing in return, we reflect God's love in its purest form. As Galatians 6:9 reminds us, **"Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not."** Our reward may not be earthly, but it is eternal. Let us serve with open hands and humble hearts, looking for nothing in return.

~Bro. R. 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-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.
- ◆ 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. Salazar's 11 yr. old niece, Glorimar, whose heart surgery has been postponed, Sis. Chamber's grandson, Danny Powell, the Simmons, Bro. Ahmad Powell, Sis. Washinton & family, Sis. McKnight & family, the Lightfoots, Bro. & Sis. Arthur Davis, as well as, Melvin Davis, the brother of Bro. Davis, Sis. Janece Riley, Sis. Chaff, the Hardys and Vladis Reynolds, the mother of Sis. Hardy, the Mendenhalls, Levell Chaff, brother of Sis. Chaff, 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 and click, "Playlist". **YouTube is no longer live.**

For this Wednesday's Bible class we will continue with the study of Phillipians. If you have not yet read the book, you are encouraged to do so.

BACK-TO-SCHOOLERS

Special prayers for all students, teachers and other school personnel at all levels for the new school year.

PIZZA & GAME NIGHT

Friday, August 29th from 6-9 p.m. We will be having a pizza and game night for all ages. Please bring your favorite pizza to share (size large) and your favorite game! There will be a sign-up sheet on the ledge.

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 CHRISTIANS' CLASS

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

NEW BIRTHS IN CHRIST

Bro. Ajani Powell was recently baptized. Continue to pray for and encourage him and all our new converts.



BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



Sis. Michelle Metevia
Sis. Angelice Cunningham

Today 8/17
Mon. 8/18

NO ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

LADIES CLASS NEWS

Sis. Jesseann Taylor will present this week's lesson. Topic: **Effective Communication**. Scripture: **Ephesians 4:29**.

There will be a meeting of the ladies immediately following this morning's service. Ladies, please stay behind.

We are planning on hosting a **Ladies' Day** this year. The proposed date is October 25th. All ladies are needed to be on various committees and to start preparations for this big event. Please be prepared with ideas and willingness to volunteer.

Back to School Blessings

Last Week's Record

Sunday AM Worship	53
Sunday PM Worship	34
Wednesday Bible Class	37
Last Sunday's Offering	\$7,007.00
Weekly Budget	\$4,069.13