

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Thankfulness, a Trait for all Seasons

Being thankful is not reserved for moments when life feels easy or prosperous. The Bible calls us to practice gratitude in every season—both in times of plenty and in moments of struggle. This kind of thankfulness is a deliberate and faith-inspired response to who God is, and what He has done, regardless of current circumstances.

The apostle Paul instructs in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, **“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”** Paul’s words are a powerful reminder that gratitude is not situation-based, but spiritual. Christians are called to recognize that the steadfast love of God remains unchanged regardless of our season in life. Throughout Scripture, examples abound of God’s people expressing thanks even in difficulty. In the belly of the fish, Jonah prayed, **“But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord.”** (Jonah 2:9) David, pursued by enemies and burdened with trials, wrote, **“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.”** (Psalm 100:4-5)



Why is thankfulness in every season essential? First, it turns our hearts toward God’s faithfulness rather than to our problems. When we focus on God’s unchanging character—His goodness, mercy, and sovereignty—we discover joy and peace, even amid hardship. (Philippians 4:6-7) Also, gratefulness acknowledges that every good and perfect gift is from above, (James 1:17) and even trials can produce spiritual growth and endurance. (James 1:2-4) Being thankful in every season is a testimony to both Christians and to the world. It shows that faith is not dependent on favorable circumstances but is rooted in our trust in God. As Ephesians 5:20 encourages, **“giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”** No season is wasted when God is with us, and we respond with gratitude. May we echo the Psalmist: **“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His steadfast love endures forever.”** (Psalm 107:1)

~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

CONDOLENCES

The funeral service of Sis. Hardy’s mom, **Vladis Reynolds**, was held yesterday, Sat. Nov. 8, in Jamaica.

Bro. John Sanders of Sheldon Heights CoC recently passed away. Please keep the Sanders family in your prayers.

PRAYERS

Bro. Mel Kirksy, friend of Sis, Jesseann Taylor is diagnosed with stage 4 cancer, Sis. Derrell Porter of Sheldon Heights, Sis. Nadia Hawks, Bro. Billie & Rachel Shaw & family, the Bell family & Greg Kenner the father of Sis. Bell, the Brantfords, Khalid Scott & Tanya DePeiza, friends of Sis. Strickland, Sis Chaff’s grandson, and friend Lonnie Halloway, Carla King-Williams, the niece of Sis. Webster, Sis. Chambers’ niece who recently lost her husband and her grandson, Danny Powell & family, the Simmons, Bro. & Sis. Arthur Davis, Bro. Darrell Hicks, the Goldmans, Sis. Ellis, Sis. Laurene Cunningham, the Dixon family and Irene Herron.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS

We will continue studying the book of **Titus**. If you have not yet read the book, you are encouraged to do so.

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.

NO BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

#33 Bro. & Sis Webster  Fri.11/14

NEW BIRTH IN CHRIST

Our newest convert, Bro. Gavin Bell, son of Bro. & Sis. Bell, was baptized last week Sunday after AM worship.

LADIES’ CLASS NEWS

The lesson & discussion on prayer continues.

FALL HOMELESS MISSION

Accepting canned goods, bottled water, toiletries, gently used **men’s** clothing/outerwear items only. Donations can be placed in the donation room, lower level. Please reference **“mission”** on checks & electronic payments. *****The mission has been postponed until further notice. Donations are still being accepted.**

HOLIDAY ORNAMENT EXCHANGE EVENT

Join us Saturday, December 6th from 4-7pm. Please bring a holiday ornament to exchange. Bring one, take one. There will be cookie decorating for the kids and food will be served.

JAMAICA HURRICANE RELIEF COLLECTION

Our congregation will be collecting a special contribution in aid of the hurricane victims of Jamaica for approximately a month. You may write 2 separate checks, or one check and specify on memo line how much goes to regular contribution and how much to the relief effort.



Last Week’s Record

Sunday AM Worship	60
Sunday PM Worship	22
Wednesday Bible Class	35
Last Sunday’s Offering	\$2,585.00
Jamaica Relief Support	\$180.00
Weekly Budget	\$4,069.13