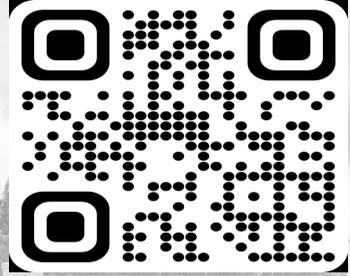


**Sermon Notes**

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 12**

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**Issue 2**

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**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 when it is being passed around.

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**  
**Sundays**

- Morning Service .....10 a.m.
- Children's Sunday School .....12 noon  
*Sis. LaDonna Carter (lower level)*
- Young People's Class .....12 noon  
*Bro. Ej. Taylor (upper level)*
- New Christians' Class .....12 noon  
*Bro. Webster (upper level)*
- Adult Bible Class.....12 noon  
*Bro. Eddie Taylor (main auditorium)*
- Evening Service .....6 p.m.

**Wednesdays**

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

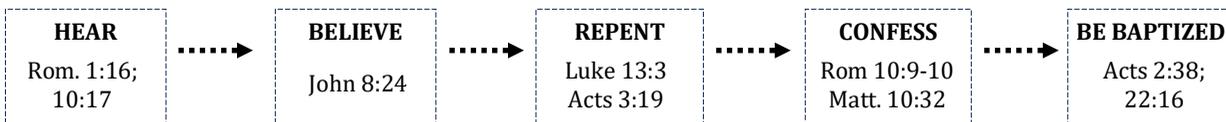
**Thursdays**

Men's & Ladies' Classes .....6:30 p.m.

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

Song ~ Song ~ Opening Prayer~ Song~ Scripture Reading~ Song~ Sermon~ Song~ Lord's Supper  
~ Offering~ Song~ Closing Prayer~ Announcements

**WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?**



# CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

## Our Spiritual Temperature

Once you stepped outside in Chicagoland this morning, you did not need a thermometer to know it was freezing. With temperatures near 2° F, the biting cold is undeniable. As Chicagoans, we know how to prepare. We check the forecast, warm up our cars, and layer ourselves with coats, gloves, and hats. We are keenly aware of the physical temperature and adjust our lives to survive it. Yet while we obsess over the cold outside, we often ignore another temperature just as important—the spiritual temperature of our hearts.

In the book of Revelation, Jesus addresses a church that had lost this awareness. Speaking to the church in Laodicea, He delivers a sobering warning: **“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot... because you are lukewarm... I will vomit you out of My mouth”** (Rev. 3:15–16). These words sound harsh, but they are meant to stir those who had become complacent rather than committed.

The rebuke makes more sense when we understand Laodicea itself. The city was wealthy and self-sufficient, much like a modern American city. But it had a serious water problem. Nearby Hierapolis enjoyed hot springs known for healing, while Colossae had cold mountain streams that refreshed travelers. Laodicea piped its water from miles away, and by the time it arrived, it was lukewarm and foul. It could neither heal nor refresh. It was useless.

Jesus used this physical reality to diagnose spiritual sickness. He desires us to be useful. A "cold" Christian refreshes the weary; a "hot" Christian brings healing fire. A "lukewarm" Christian is merely comfortable. Like the Laodiceans, we often rely on self-sufficiency, possessing enough religion to feel safe but not enough to impact the world around us.

So, how do we address a lukewarm heart? It's not about trying harder it is about examining ourselves honestly. Paul writes, **“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith”** (2 Cor. 13:5). We must confess our need for God's fire and trade comfort for zeal. As Rom. 12:11 urges, **“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord”** (NIV).

This winter, every time you zip up your coat to face the Chicagoland cold, let it remind you to check your soul's temperature. Prepare not only your body, but also your heart. May we refuse lukewarm faith and become refreshing and healing to a world in desperate need.

~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](mailto: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 niece of Sis. Webster, Carla King-Williams, was funeralized last Friday in Florida. Please keep the King-Williams, Francis and Webster families in your prayers.

\*Lorraine Knott-Lawrence, the sister of Sis. Webster, laid her husband to rest 2 weekends ago in Florida.

Please continue to pray for the Knott-Lawrence, Cunningham, Herron, Hardy, Reynolds and Sanders families.

## PRAYERS

Sis. Hardy's sister, Elaine, Bro. Brantford is recuperating from surgery, Roger Gray and Bro. Mel Kirksy, friends of Bro. & Sis. Eddie Taylor, are diagnosed with diabetes and stage 4 cancer respectively, Sis. Derrell Porter of Sheldon Heights, Sis. Nadia Hawks, Bro. Billie & Rachel Shaw & 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 Holloway, Sis. Chambers' niece, Danny Powell & family, the Simmons, Bro. & Sis. Arthur Davis, Bro. Darrell Hicks, the Goldmans, Sis. Ellis, Sis. Laurene Cunningham, her niece Rose Ann Hillard, the Dixon & Herron families.

## TRAVELING

Bro. & Sis. Webster traveled safely back from Florida from the funeral of their niece. They are with us today in worship service.

## LADIES' CLASS NEWS

Enjoy an evening of Bible Trivia and refreshments!

## WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS

We will continue studying the book of *1 Peter*. If you have not yet read the book, you are encouraged to do so.



## BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK

Bro. Ahmad Powell



Mon. 12/15

## NEW BIRTHS IN CHRIST

Continue to pray for and encourage all of our new converts.

## 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.

## 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.**

## 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	58
Sunday PM Worship	21
Wednesday Bible Class	35
Last Sunday's Offering	\$4,267.00
Last week's Jamaica Relief Support	\$175.00
<b>Total Jamaica Relief Support</b>	<b>\$11,815.00</b>
<b>Weekly Budget</b>	<b>\$4,069.13</b>