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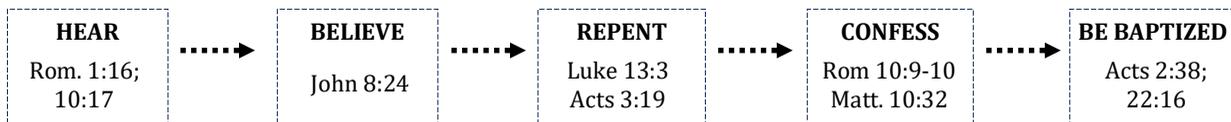
## Sermon Notes



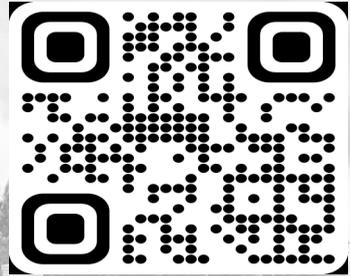
### ORDER OF SERVICE

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?



# 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**

**December 21, 2025**

**Issue 3**

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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.

# CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

## LORD, HELP MY UNBELIEF

**“Jesus said to him, ‘If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.’ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, ‘Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!’”** (Mark 9:23-24)

We often treat faith as a light switch: it is either "on" or "off." We read the declaration in **Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him,"** and we assume that if we have doubts, fears, or questions, we must not have any faith at all. We feel guilty for our uncertainty, thinking we need to be spiritual giants before we can approach God. But in Mark chapter 9, we meet a man who destroys this misconception. A desperate father brought his suffering son to Jesus. The disciples had already failed to heal the boy, and the father was disheartened. When he met Jesus, he didn't offer a perfect confession. He offered a desperate plea: **"If You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."**

Jesus challenged him, reminding him that all things are possible to him who believes. The father's response is one of the most honest acknowledgments in the Bible: **"Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"** This is a profound paradox. The man had faith—he went to Jesus. Yet, he also had doubts. He was not alone in this feeling; even the Apostles had to ask the Lord, **"Increase our faith" (Luke 17:5).** This father didn't let his doubt keep him from Jesus; he brought his doubt to Jesus. And what did Jesus do? He didn't turn the man away. He didn't demand 100% certainty before He would act. As Jesus told His disciples in **Matthew 17:20, "If you have faith as a mustard seed... nothing will be impossible for you."** Jesus accepted the man's "mustard seed" of faith and healed his son.

This week, you may be facing a situation that seems impossible. You may feel your faith wavering. Do not let the enemy convince you that your struggle disqualifies you from God's power. Remember **Psalm 34:18: "The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit."**

It is okay to admit to God that your faith is weak. Faith is not the absence of doubt; it is the courage to trust God *amid* doubt. Like the father in Mark 9, bring your little faith to a big God, and watch Him work.

~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 Conner family has lost several family members this year and two close relatives in the recent weeks.

\*The niece of Sis. Webster, Carla King-Williams, was funeralized 12/12 in Florida.

\*The family of Mel Kirksky upon his passing.

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

## PRAYERS

Bro. Salazar's niece, Glorimar had a successful surgery last Wednesday. Sis. Woodard and her mother, Evelyn Woodard, Sis. Hardy's sister, Elaine, Bro. Brantford is recuperating from surgery, Roger Gray friend of Bro. & Sis. Eddie Taylor, is diagnosed with diabetes, 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 Halloway, 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

The Salazar family is out of town. Prayers for traveling grace.

## 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

Sis. Cavitt  
Bro. Strickland



Tues. 12/23  
Wed. 12/24

## NEW BIRTHS IN CHRIST

Bro. Jose Salazar, the husband of Sis. Fanny Salazar was baptized last Sunday. Continue to pray for and encourage him and all of our other 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.

## 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.

## BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS

There will be a fellowship breakfast for members and guests ages 60 and up. Sign up on the sheet in the foyer and indicate how many guest(s) will be in attendance with you.

Other members are being asked to show up to serve.

Venue: Fellowship Hall downstairs

Date & time: Saturday, January 17 @ 10:00 am



## Last Week's Record

Sunday AM Worship	58
Sunday PM Worship	16
Wednesday Bible Class	27
Last Sunday's Offering	\$3,324.00
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>