

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Building a Winter-Proof Faith

As the days grow shorter and the temperatures drop, we naturally start preparing our homes and cars for the winter. We check the furnace, weatherstrip the windows, and get the snow gear ready. But what about our spiritual lives? Are our relationships with God and our fellow Christians “winter-proof?”

Just as the harsh realities of winter, such as cold, ice, long nights, and illness, can wear down our physical defenses, the “winter seasons” of life can wear down our faith. These are the times of spiritual dryness and daily struggles that can make consistent commitment feel burdensome. We might find ourselves easily distracted or slipping into habits that slowly cool our spiritual passion. The things that often take a toll on our relationship with God are frequently subtle. We know we should be reading our Bibles and praying, but the warmth of the blanket is more inviting, or the stress of the season becomes more dominant in our minds. Before we know it, that daily time with God has dwindled down to a passing thought. No wonder we are advised to “**Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life**” (Prov 4:23). This drastic change in season can also easily creep into our fellowship. When roads are icy and the flu is rampant, it’s easy to choose convenience over church. We might miss church services, skip midweek classes, or stop reaching out to check on others. While wisdom is needed, allowing the struggles of winter to isolate us can make us spiritually weak. We are called to be a body. As the writer of Hebrews warns: “**not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching**” (Hebrews 10:25).

The good news is that we are not left to face these spiritual winters alone! God has “**empowered**” us to withstand these pressures. He doesn’t just want us to merely survive the winter; He wants us to thrive! Regardless of the circumstances he was facing, Paul said: “**I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me**” (Philippians 4:13).

This winter, let's intentionally build stronger, winter-proof relationships. Commit to a simple, consistent time with God each day. Choose to extend warmth and encouragement to your brothers and sisters, even when it's inconvenient. Let’s not let a little cold, a little ice, or a little weariness be the reason our love grows cold.



~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

*Lorraine Knott-Lawrence, the sister of Sis. Webster lost her husband to prostate cancer. He will be funeralized in Florida on Sat., Dec. 6th.

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

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, 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, has stage 4 cancer, Sis. Chambers' niece, 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.

LADIES' CLASS NEWS

Sis. Whitney Taylor will present this week's lesson.

Topic: Submission vs Assertiveness

Scripture: Ephesians 5:22, Hebrews 13:7 & Acts 5:29

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS

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



Sis. Lewis

BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK



Wed. 12/3

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.**

END-OF-YEAR FELLOWSHIP

Please be sure to sign up **today** for the End-of-Year Fellowship scheduled for Saturday, December 6th, from 4-7pm. This event is designed to strengthen the bond and will be filled with fun, food and togetherness for all ages.

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.

PRAYERS

Sis. Webster leaves for Florida on Thursday to attend the funeral of her brother-in-law. She returns next Monday.

Last Week's Record

Sunday AM Worship	49
Sunday PM Worship	27
Wednesday Bible Class	35
Last Sunday's Offering	\$7,031.45
Last week's Jamaica Relief Support	\$2,350.00
Total Jamaica Relief Support	\$6,710.00
Weekly Budget	\$4,069.13