

## Sermon Notes

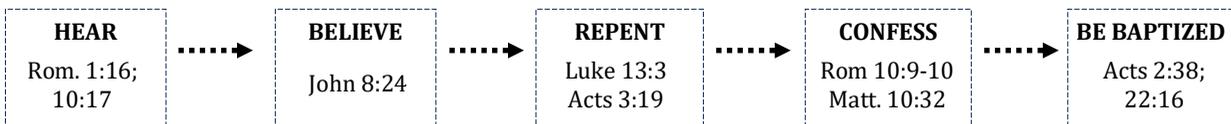
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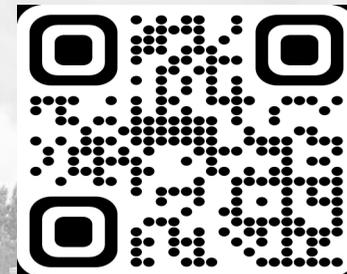
### ORDER OF SERVICE

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 1**

**January 18 , 2026**

**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

## Guarding the Heart in the Age of Information

In 2026, we are living through an unprecedented age of "information explosion." From the moment we wake up until we lay our heads down at night, our minds are bombarded with a relentless stream of notifications, news alerts, and social media feeds. While having the world at our fingertips is a blessing, it has created a significant spiritual challenge: the battle for our attention and the peace of our hearts.

The Bible provides a timeless defensive strategy for this modern struggle. In Proverbs 4:23, we are warned to **"Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life"** (ESV). The "heart" represents the seat of our thoughts and will. If these "springs" are fed by a constant stream of outrage, fear, and comparison, our spiritual lives will inevitably become polluted. To counter this, the apostle Paul offers a blueprint for mental health in Philippians 4:8, Paul said, **"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things."** Notice that he is urging Christians to fix their thoughts on whatever is true, noble, pure, and lovely.



The relevance of "guarding the heart" has never been more critical. Today, it is easy to get upset by fake news and artificial images that are not even real. By following the Bible's advice to focus on "whatever is true," we can rely on God's Word to show us what is really important. We must also be careful with social media, which often makes us feel lacking, by showing only the "perfect" parts of other people's lives. Guarding our hearts means choosing to dwell on our own blessings rather than someone else's. Finally, a 24-hour news cycle can lead to paralyzing anxiety. While we should stay informed to pray and act, we must not let the noise of the world drown out what God is saying to us in His Word. We are reminded in Psa. 119:105 that God's word **"...is a lamp to [our] feet and a light to [our] path."**

So, protecting our peace requires intentional action. We can practice this by turning off non-essential notifications or dedicating the first fifteen minutes of the day to Scripture before touching a phone. When we intentionally choose what we "think on," we make room for the peace of God to stand guard over our minds. By guarding the gate of our hearts, we ensure that the life flowing from us remains clear, calm, and centered on Christ.

~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**.

If you would like a **year-end contribution statement**, please send an email request to **whcocsecretary@gmail.com** or text to 219-742-9520

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

The Brantfords, Sis. Chambers, Bro. & Sis. Davis, Bro. Darrell Hicks, the Goldmans and Sis. Ellis. The Washington and Moses families recently lost loved ones.

## NEW BIRTHS IN CHRIST

Bro. Bryce Bell, the son of Bro. & Sis. Bell was baptized last Sunday. Continue to pray for and encourage all of our new converts.

## QUARTERLY FELLOWSHIP

Our first quarterly lunch fellowship for this year will be on the 3rd Sunday of March. This is designed to strengthen our spiritual bond which is essential to our spiritual family.

## TRAVELING

The Bells, the Salazars and Bro. Webster are traveling this week.

## LADIES' CLASS NEWS

The ladies have started a new book. See Sis. Whitney Taylor for ordering information. Read & answer questions from Lesson 1, Day 2 in preparation this week's class.

## WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS

Please read the book of **Jude** in preparation for the week's class.



## BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK

Sis. Salazar  
Sis. Norman



Tues., 1/20  
Sat., 1/24

## JAMAICA HURRICANE RELIEF

A huge thanks to all who have given to this humanitarian cause. The recovery process will take years for many who were severely affected.

Bro. Webster is currently in Jamaica to oversee the use and distribution of the love offering from the West Hammond congregation.

## BRING-A-FRIEND DAY

For 2026 this event will launch on Sunday, February 22, and will happen every 2 months. These special days support our church's evangelism efforts. Invite family, friends, neighbors! A special prize will be given to the person who invites the most based on categories which will be announced. Let's share God's love together!



## Last Week's Record

Sunday AM Worship	70
Sunday PM Worship	19
Wednesday Bible Class	38
Last Sunday's Offering	\$5,587.00
Last week's Jamaica Relief Support	\$0.00
<b>Total Jamaica Relief Support</b>	<b>\$12,165.00</b>
<b>Weekly Budget</b>	<b>\$4,069.13</b>