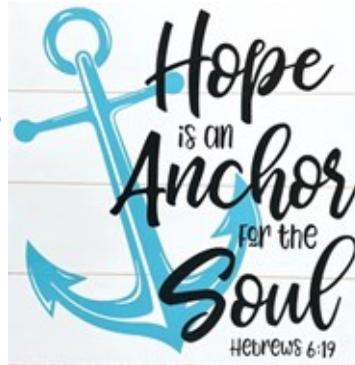


CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

HOPE: THE ANCHOR THAT KEEPS THE SOUL

For the Christian, hope is not a mere wish or a "fingers-crossed" optimism, but a confident expectation rooted in God and His promises. It is not "I hope so," but "I know so—because God said so." Titus 1:2 says God "cannot lie." Our hope is not based on outcomes but on the faithfulness of God. Lam. 3:22-24 declares, "Great is thy faithfulness...Therefore I hope in him." This hope serves as an anchor—not for a ship in the sea, but for us to navigate the turbulent waters of life.

Spiritually speaking, hope is not an optional accessory; it is a survival mechanism. Heb. 6:19 declares, "This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil". Without this anchor, the soul is prone to "drift away" (Heb. 2:1). When we lose hope, we begin to seek security in forbidden places. Despair often leads to compromise, driving us toward worldly traps, dishonest gains, or the abandonment of faith just to find temporary relief from pain. To live without hope is to invite a spiritual shipwreck where we eventually "do things" that result in the loss of our souls. Thankfully, hope serves as the guardrail that keeps us from the precipice of sin.



The value of hope extends into every corner of our existence. In our relationship with God, hope acts as the "earnest expectation" that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. When a tragedy strikes or a prayer seems unanswered, hope reminds us that the current chapter is not the end of the book. It gives us the patience to endure a difficult job or the grace to forgive someone, because we are seeking those things above (Col. 3:1). Paul also wrote, "For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?" (Rom. 8:24). This understanding transforms our daily trials into stepping-stones.

Brethren, let us remember that our anchor is fastened to something immovable: the very throne of God. While the world around us shifts like sand, the promises of God remain "sure and steadfast." Do not let the storms of life cause you to let go of your confidence, which has a great reward. By clinging to this hope, you are not just surviving; you are ensuring that your soul remains anchored to our eternal God.

~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**.
- ◆ Issues accessing the **membership directory**

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP

Members are encouraged to support our evening service as we endeavor to abide by Hebrews 10:25 "**not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.**" It starts at 6:00 pm. 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

Sis. Whitney Taylor, Dorrett Williams, the mother of Bro. Oddman, the Brantfords, Bro. Kinds, Sis. Chambers, Bro. & Sis. Davis, Bro. Darrell Hicks, the Goldmans, Sis. Ellis.

NEW BIRTHS IN CHRIST

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

QUARTERLY FELLOWSHIP

Our first quarterly lunch fellowship for this year will be on **Saturday, March 14**. This is designed to strengthen our spiritual bond which is essential to our spiritual family.

LADIES' & MEN'S CLASS NEWS

We meet on Thursdays at 6:30 P.M., here at the building.

The ladies are on Lesson 1, Day 4 in their new books. Read ahead and answer the questions in preparation for this week's class.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS

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



BIRTHDAYS

Sis. Whitney Taylor
Sis. Donna Hardy
Sis. Andria Mendenhall



Today– Sun, 2/15
Wed. 2/18
Sat. 2/21

HOMELESS MISSION UPDATE

Our fall homeless mission has been rescheduled to **Sunday, March 1st**. We are in urgent need of **monetary donations, men's warm clothing, canned goods, and toiletries**. Volunteers are also needed to assist with handing out gift bags.

Donations may be placed in the lower-level donation room. Please reference "**Mission**" on all checks and electronic payments.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

BRING-A-FRIEND DAY

Next week, **Sunday, February 22**, will be our first event for this year. 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 adults. Let's share God's love together!



Last Week's Record

Sunday AM Worship	65
Sunday PM Worship	12
Wednesday Bible Class	42
Last Sunday's Offering	\$3152.00
Last week's Jamaica Relief Support	0.00
Total Jamaica Relief Support	\$17,415.00
Weekly Budget	\$4,069.13