

"The Church With The Warm Heart"

April 26, 2020



Wesley United Methodist Church

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Bishop Sally Dyck

District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Jacques A. Conway

"Play the Game of Life with Gratitude"

In John Ortberg's book, When the Game is Over It All Goes Back in the Box, there is a chapter entitled "Play with Gratitude." The message of the chapter is simply "Live life with an attitude of gratitude and it will be more fulfilling than you could ever imagine." In that chapter, the foundational scripture is Luke 17:11-19, the story of Jesus healing ten lepers but only one returning to give thanks. The Lukan story shows us that ingratitude is a sin and a travesty. Gratitude is our ability to open up our hearts, eyes, and minds to recognize the goodness of God in all that God has blessed us with. Only through the lens of gratitude can we appreciate all that God has provided for us. Counting our blessings gives us the opportunity to be more thankful to God for things ranging from the simplest to the complex.

Sometimes we take the simple things for granted but we need to remember that God has been good to us in a number of ways that for the most part we have failed to appreciate. One of the ways we express gratitude to God is through praise and worship. Praise is a form of gratitude that is expressive and unmistakably intentional. Praise is something we do in the church and outside of the church, but especially in the church. If we were grateful to God for everything God has provided for us, then this church would be "jumpin" every Sunday morning.

I am grateful for Wesley United Methodist Church. I am grateful for the all of the challenges that we are confronted with because adversity doesn't build character it reveals character. We have some 'sho-nuff' character at our church. We are strong saints. We are mature saints. We understand that the church's mission is to be witnesses for Jesus everywhere and to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I am grateful because I know that if God be for us who can be against us? I am grateful because I know "that all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose." I am grateful because "we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us." I have learned to be grateful for everything God has placed in my pathway because it all has helped me become the man of God I am today. The same applies to you also. You would not be who you are today if God had not allowed you to experience some good, some bad, and some ugly. Be grateful for what God is doing in your life. Whatever God is doing n your life, it is for your own good.

Your gratitude plays out in how you live your life also. A grateful person uses whatever God has given him or her and maximizes those talents for the glory of God. Grateful people are full of great potential and possibility. Grateful people can see possibilities in people, places and things that ungrateful people can't see. Grateful people can look at a glass and see it as half-full while ungrateful people can look at the same glass and see it as half-empty. Viewing life through the lens of gratitude allows us to live strong and accomplish great things for the glory of God. A healthy attitude empowered by gratitude can lift us to the altitude we want to get to. Have a great week!

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Please check the church website, now our 'virtual church,' and your email regularly for ongoing updates.
www.wesleyumcchicago.org

SPIRITUAL THEME FOR APRIL: "Restoration is on the Way"

ORDER OF WORSHIP

COLOR: WHITE or GOLD

Scripture for the month:

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

Call to Worship

Prayer

Psalm of Praise

Psalm 116:1-11

Offering

'Native American Ministries Sunday'

Scripture

Daniel 3:16-25

Sermon

"Crisis Management"

Rev. Charles A. Woolery, Sr.

Benediction

Don't forget your Anniversary Pledge!

**66th Church Anniversary
Pledge Drive**



Morning Scripture

Daniel 3:16-25 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.

¹⁷ ***If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.***

¹⁸ But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”

¹⁹ ***Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.***

²⁰ And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

²¹ ***Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.***

²² Therefore, because the king’s command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.

²³ ***And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.***

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?”

They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.”

²⁵ ***“Look!” he answered, “I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.”***

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	
Morning Worship (4/19/20)	75 (views)
Sunday Morning Worship Call	29 (callers)
Prayer Group	15 (callers)
Bible Study Calls (AM=20 PM=8)	28 (callers)
TOTAL	147

Psalm of Praise

Psalm 116:1-11

(R) O praise the Lord, who delivers your soul from death.

¹ I love the LORD, who has heard
my voice and my supplications,

² and has inclined his ear to me whenever I called.

³ ***The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.***

⁴ Then I called on the name of the LORD:
“O LORD, I beseech you, save my life!”

(R) O praise the Lord, who delivers your soul from death.

⁵ Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
our God is merciful.

⁶ ***The LORD preserves the simple;
when I was brought low, the LORD saved me.***

⁷ Return, O my soul, to your rest;
for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

⁸ For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling;

⁹ ***I walk before the LORD
in the land of the living.***

¹⁰ I kept my faith, even when I said,
“I am greatly afflicted.”

¹¹ ***I said in my consternation,
“All humans are a vain hope.”***

(R) O praise the Lord, who delivers your soul from death.

PASTORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please check your email weekly for a full list of announcements, scripture readings and updates.

- **Multiple ways to worship!** Our worship services are now available online! Go to: **www.wesleyumcchicago.org** and click/tap **SUNDAY SERMON**. The videos are also available on other platforms, such as our church app (see SERMONS), our YouTube channel (Wesley UMC Chicago), and will be posted on our **Facebook** page each Sunday afternoon (@WesleyUMCChicago). For those who prefer a more personal experience, join the **Weekly Worship Conference Call** at 10:30 am each Sunday! Call-in info: 1-425-436-6348: code 672500#
- **Do you have the GivePlus+ app? Electronic giving just got easier!!** Vanco's **GivePlus+** app makes it as easy as 1-2-3! Just download the **GivePlus+** app, (click for **Apple**, or **Google**) complete your login and profile using your email address and password, provide your bank information and that's it! You can setup a recurring payment or enter the amount each time.
- **NEW FEATURE! GivePlus+ also allows you to make contributions with a quick text message!** Simply **send a text to our dedicated line, 1-833-595-0705**, with the amount you would like to contribute. Make sure to include the dollar sign before the amount. Example: \$25. Within a few minutes, you'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and credit or debit card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt via email. For future giving, simply send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically!
- **Wesley's Support Call – Mondays at 6 pm** This 'support call' will be open to anyone who is feeling challenged during this time or need to feel connected to your church family. During these calls, 1 person is needed to do the opening prayer and 1 person is needed to provide either an inspirational story, poem, song or clean joke. Call in info: 1-425-436-6348; 672500#
- **66th Church Anniversary Pledge Drive** Wesley has kicked off our **66th Church Anniversary Pledge Drive!** We are asking each member of the church to prayerfully sign a pledge, committing to one of two sacrificial giving program tiers for the first 6 months of the year: **Contractor @ \$750; Bricklayer @ \$500**, either of which may be submitted in installments or a single payment. Our faith-raising goal is **\$60,000**.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Jessie Gilmore	May 1 st	Zoe Green	May 16 th
Debbie Clark	May 2 nd	Cameron Woolery	May 16 th
Lem Newell	May 3 rd	Courtney Key	May 18 th
Yvonne Wormsby	May 4 th	Dawn Funches-Fox	May 21 st
Trinity Jones	May 6 th	Huron Wilson	May 23 rd
Jessie Stokes	May 7 th	Kelson Gaaney	May 25 th
Thaddeus Cecil	May 8 th	Edward Hancock	May 27 th
Kyna Stinson	May 9 th	Ben Davis	May 29 th
Liana Geddes	May 10 th	Bessie Moore	May 29 th
Doris Echols	May 15 th	Stephanie Jackson-Williams	May 30 th
Doris Anderson	May 16 th	Lawrence Moore	May 31 st

PRAYER LIST

Below is this week's prayer list. Please keep these persons in your prayers!

(* = Church member, followed by Class Number)

<u>SHUT-IN</u>	
*Minnie Thompson (20)	*Bessie Alford-Moore (18)
*Lucille Sanders (16)	*Doris Anderson (1)
*Clarence Sanders (16)	*Spencer Plaxico (17)
*Barbara Shepherd (18)	*Jessie Stokes (19)
*Eric Geraldts (3)	*Helen Tuck (7)
*Fred Williams (20)	*Lucious Smith (12)
<u>GENERAL</u>	
*Callie Dulaney & Family (12)	Adolph Fulbright, Jr.
*LaRue Grizzard (4)	Byron Agnew, Jr.
*Y. Shorter-Darden & Family (4)	Sam Agnew
*Gloria Banks (20)	Nannie Agnew
*Doris Echols (16)	Juanita Weatherspoon
*Mary Alice Lovely & Family (19)	Annie Lois Robinson
*Diamond Jones (12)	Jessica Smith Crenshaw
*Trinity Jones (12)	Joyce Chisem-Davis
*Lawrence Moore (13)	Carolyn Ransom
*Wilena Campbell-Watkins (5)	Sylvia Nichols
*Mark Garrett (5)	Betty M. Dermer
*The Plaxico Family (17)	Milton Kellum
*Denise Richardson (20)	Rosie Howard
*Clarence Rogers, II & Family (4)	Natesha Smith
*Jessie Gilmore (16)	James Sanders
*Maurice & Faye Smith (17)	Joanna Lennhardt
*Theresa Bradshaw (12)	Martha Muhs
*The Hudson/Bradshaw Families (7 1 12)	Muriel Bolden
*The Moss Family (13)	Gregory Simms
*Rhonda Smith-Leach (4)	Norbert Sanders
Joseph McDonnell	Brittany Porter
Larry Clark	Rhonda Monique Miller
Alexandria Ward	Ashley Parks
Mila Kuntu	Kathy Jenkins
Katherine Thompson	Rebecca Merkson
Katherine Evans	John Anderson
Vinelle Myrie	Jerry Simmons
Leslie Carey Kirk	Rochelle Johnson
Davion McNeal	The Robinson Family
Rashaud Thompson	The Ford Family
Mae Gilliams Fizer and the Gilliams Family	Ron Birton
Robert A. Watkins	Aiden Combs
Aaron Thomas, Jr.	Michael Miller
James Taylor	Angel Acosta
Carl Frazier	Anna Young
The Baker Family	Dorothy Williams
Belinda Starks	Lois Tucker
The Denman Family	David Williams
James Williams	Owen McPherson

SUNDAY MORNING HEALTH CORNER

Make Health and Nutrition a Priority During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

April is National Minority Health Month. Even as we practice social distancing, we should still stay physically active and healthy to support physical, mental, and emotional wellness.

Minimize trips to the supermarket during the pandemic and eat healthy

- Plan ahead. Visualize breakfast, lunch, and dinner for at least 5 days.
- Have children at home? Include children in meal planning, preparation, and clean up while teaching them writing, math, reading, and science.
- Think nutrition. The healthiest meals emphasize whole grains, vegetables, and fruits—serve them in the greatest amounts.
- Make a shopping list—and use it! You'll be less likely to forget items or buy impulse items

Think Positive! Mindset is vital to getting through this pandemic physically and mentally healthy

- Practice positive stress management strategies.
- Stick with your routine as much as you can. Go to bed and get up in the morning on your usual schedule.
- Manage boredom. Stay busy and engaged—resist hanging around the fridge or mindlessly watching TV. Enjoy your hobbies, read, cook, and stay in touch with family, friends, and colleagues.
- When you do go out, wash your hands before you leave home and as soon as you return.



ACTIVE & HEALTHY | APRIL 2020



THE
BALM
IN
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www.balmingilead.org
620 Moorefield Park Drive, Suite 150
Richmond, VA 23236

Content sourced from the American Society for Mutual Aid

Please **NOTIFY** the church office of ALL meetings or events scheduled in the church buildings.

MAY 2020

+ Event occurs after worship service
* Event occurs at alternate site

Please check bulletin and emails **regularly** for schedule changes.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
NEW! 9 am Sunday School Call 1.605.475.4000 Access code: 260259# Remote Worship & 10:30 am Call Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	27 Support Call 6 pm ----- Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	28	29 Remote Bible Study 11 am ----- 1-312-626-6799; Mtg ID: 495 087 043#	30 Remote Prayer Group 11 am ----- Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	1	2
3 9 am Sunday School Call 1.605.475.4000 Access code: 260259# Remote Worship & 10:30 am Call Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	4 Support Call 6 pm ----- Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	5	6 Remote Bible Study 11 am ----- 1-312-626-6799; Mtg ID: 495 087 043#	7 Remote Prayer Group 11 am ----- Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	8	9
10 Remote Worship & 10:30 am Call Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	11 Support Call 6 pm ----- Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	12	13 Remote Bible Study 11 am ----- 1-312-626-6799; Mtg ID: 495 087 043#	14 Remote Prayer Group 11 am ----- Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	15	16
17 Remote Worship & 10:30 am Call Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	18 Support Call 6 pm ----- Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	19	20 Remote Bible Study 11 am ----- 1-312-626-6799; Mtg ID: 495 087 043#	21 Remote Prayer Group 11 am ----- Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	22	23 Trustee Meeting (via Zoom) 9 am
24 Remote Worship & 10:30 am Call Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	25 Support Call 6 pm ----- Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	26	27 Remote Bible Study 11 am ----- 1-312-626-6799; Mtg ID: 495 087 043#	28 Remote Prayer Group 11 am ----- Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	29	30
31						

Two Ways to Experience

Remote Worship

1. Visit our website: www.wesleyumcchicago.org, and click **Sunday Sermon**
2. Call **1.425.436.6348/672500# @ 10:30 am** to join our **LIVE Worship Call**

Or, share in **BOTH** worship experiences!

Note: If calling in, please **join the call early**, as traffic in the call system may be heavy.

Social Commentary

In Praise of the ‘Essential Workers’ Helping Us All to Brave the Storm of Coronavirus

by John Fountain



Here's to the essential worker. To all the previously "invisible people" who some of us may suddenly now have discovered make the world go 'round. To those workers who sometimes have been reduced to being "just a CNA." To workers marginalized in the eyes of some who see your job as being "less than" — less glorious, less important, less essential. Here's to you. To all the "thanked-less" men and women who happen to be "just a blue-collar worker." "Just a hospital orderly." "Just a cook." "Just a bus driver." "Just a trash man." "Just a gas station attendant." This one's for the overlooked, over-taxed underpaid worker. For every nameless, faceless person who does all the little things that even the least grateful among us these days ought to now see aren't so little after all.

For each and every one of you without whom this global pandemic would be made unendurable, if not un-survivable. This one's for you. For those who wake up each morning and kiss your own family goodbye to brave the storm called COVID-19, faithfully going to your jobs — jobs upon which we completely depend, as life as we knew it has been unceremoniously interrupted by the greatest viral threat to humankind in more than 100 years. For truck drivers. For train conductors. For food preparers and deliverers.

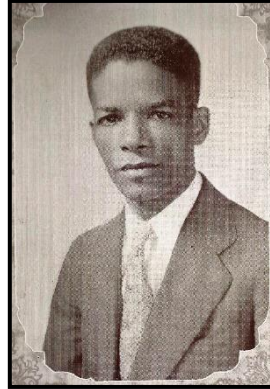
For those who march each perilous day to the front lines. For doctors and medical staff. Nurses. Technicians. Police officers, firefighters, paramedics, security guards and those whose posts are no less essential; whose sacrifice and bravery are no less weighty; and who deserve our respect and gratitude. This one's for the cashiers and the baggers at grocery stores who, by showing up each day, place yourselves potentially in the winds of the coronavirus.

For those who stock grocery shelves. For store greeters who now direct gloved and masked shoppers to sanitized metal carts as we enter in silence and caution, determined to get quickly in and out. For those who sometimes do the dirty or grimy jobs that make others cringe. Like cleaning up your charges at a nursing home — braving feces, urine and blood — and gently lifting an elderly woman from her wheelchair to her bed, going about your job with care and compassion. I see you. Perhaps I always have.

Little Known Black History Fact

Lucien Alexis, Sr.

By D. L. Chandler



Lucien Alexis, Sr. earned the nickname of the “Negro Einstein” while as a student at Harvard University. Despite facing an extreme set of obstacles, Alexis managed not only to graduate from the prestigious university, but became a famed educator himself. Alexis was born July 8, 1887 in New Orleans, La. Not much has been recorded about Alexis’ childhood but what is known is that he took work as a railway mail clerk at the age of 20. For seven years, Alexis toiled and saved up enough funds for four years at Harvard. The university did accept him, but asked if he would attend the Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire before entering Harvard.

The academy became a place where Alexis thrived, and also where he developed a love for foreign languages and the sciences. However, the year at Exeter cost him one year of his Harvard savings. Determined to fulfill his college dream, Alexis graduated “cum laude” in 1917, a year earlier than expected thus staving off the need for outside funds. In the same year, Alexis entered Officer’s Training School in Des Moines, Ia., and was commissioned 1st Lieutenant of the 367th Infantry in World War I. After the war, met and married Rita Holt. They had one son together, Lucien Jr., who also attended Harvard and is part of its lore as well for reasons other than academics.

Alexis returned to his hometown of New Orleans, working as a teacher and assistant principal of a pair of elementary schools. But it was his appointment as principal for McDonough High School in the city that made him a legendary figure. McDonough was the only public high school for Black people at the time, and it was nestled in a poor neighborhood. For 30 years, Alexis turned the school into one of the best in the city. He had so much respect that unsavory figures near the school wouldn’t bother any of his students as they traveled through the neighborhood.

During his time as an educator, Alexis continued his life of science and published several scientific articles. Upon retirement, he opened the Straight Business School in the city and his wife ran the facility. Alexis was also a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. Alexis passed in 1981, outliving his son who died in 1975.

Wesley United Methodist Church

201 East 95th Street
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<u>SAVE these Conference Call Numbers</u>	
Sunday 10:30 am - LIVE Service	1.425.436.6348 Code: 672500#
Monday 6 pm - Support Call	
Thursday 11 am - Prayer Call	
Wednesday 11 am - Bible Study:	1.312.626.6799 ID/code: 495 087 043#, #:



Scan the QR code on the left to donate to Wesley via smartphone or other mobile device!

Wesley's 66th Church Anniversary!

This year we will celebrate **Wesley's 66th Church Anniversary!** We are so very grateful for the years of service to this community, yet we know there is still much left to be done.

We've kicked-off our **66th Church Anniversary Pledge Drive**, "*Building for the Future.*" Program details will be shared periodically during morning worship service and via mailings. Please prayerfully consider participating in this sacrificial giving program. These special gifts can be given in a single payment or in installments over several months. We need your sober commitment to support our church and serve the Lord through this ministry!

2020 Daily Bible Readings (One Year Bible Reading Plan) Week of April 26th – May 2nd

April 26

Judges 6:1-40
Luke 22:54-23:12
Psalm 95:1-96:13
Proverbs 14:5-6

April 27

Judges 7:1-8:17
Luke 23:13-43
Psalm 97:1-98:9
Proverbs 14:7-8

April 28

Judges 8:18-9:21
Luke 23:44-24:12
Psalm 99:1-9
Proverbs 14:9-10

2020 Vision:

"The Year of the Child"

(Matthew 19:14)

May 2

Judges 15:1-16:31
John 2:1-25
Psalm 103:1-22
Proverbs 14:17-19

April 29

Judges 9:22-10:18
Luke 24:13-53
Psalm 100:1-5
Proverbs 14:11-12

April 30

Judges 11:1-12:15
John 1:1-28
Psalm 101:1-8
Proverbs 14:13-14

May 1

Judges 13:1-14:20
John 1:29-51
Psalm 102:1-28
Proverbs 14:15-16