

December 13, 2020



Wesley United Methodist Church

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Pastor: Rev. Charles A. Woolery, Sr.

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Bishop Sally Dyck District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Jacques A. Conway

"A Christmas Attitude All Year Round"

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever would believe in Him would not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

In the midst of the commercialization and secularization of Christmas where so much emphasis is placed on the gifts we exchange with one another, we need to be reminded that the greatest gifts of Christmas have already been given: joy and peace through Jesus Christ. Those gifts are not limited to the rich and famous, but are especially intended for the "least of these my little ones" (Matthew 25:31-46). Jesus is the only gift of the Christmas season that has true and lasting significance. Therefore, let us make Him the focus of this season. Let us celebrate His birth by emulating His lifestyle.

Let's take a look at our 'watered-down, 21st century, first-world version of Christianity, i.e., "Americanity" and compare it to radical Christianity that Jesus left us with. Let's go.

First, He was a man of the people. He did not seclude nor separate himself from the poor and the downtrodden. He claimed solidarity with them. He created community with outcasts and the marginalized. He was not a snob nor did He trip on classism. He preached good news to the poor reminding them that they belong in the kingdom of heaven and it belongs to them. So this Christmas, let's claim solidarity with the poor and the downtrodden. Let's use our God-given skill sets to alleviate the suffering of some group and/or individuals. There are a plethora of organizations, such as The Salvation Army and Pacific Garden Mission, that we can donate time and resources to help bring hope, healing, and heaven to people who need it most.

Second, He treated the people's needs as holy year round. One of my pet peeves about the Christmas season is that 'everyone' wants to care for the poor and less-fortunate for one month. It seems that we display our humanity one month out of the year and that is in December. We have to realize that suffering, hunger, poverty, and homelessness never take a vacation. Poor people face these issues on a daily basis and not just in December. It seems that we who are middle-class attempt to assuage our guilt for not being more compassionate during the entire year by being uber-generous in December. I think it is hypocritical to be Christ-like one month out of the year and then be non-committal, hedonistic, and indifferent towards others for the remaining eleven months out of the year. Let's challenge ourselves to be more like Jesus year round. Our compassionate and merciful acts should never be relegated to just thirty-one days out of the year.

Finally, Jesus poured His life into ministry. It consumed Him. I know that we live in a different time, era, and place than Jesus. I know that we have responsibilities, families, and outside interests. Yet, it would be nice if all of us were more intentional and sacrificial with our time, talents, and treasure. The church needs people who are willing to give their blood, sweat and tears to make it a viable spiritual institution that transforms lives. Year-round let us be ready and willing to take up a cross of ministry activity and pour our lives into that activity so that we can be difference makers. We should operate with a Christmas attitude all year round because that is what Jesus did. If Jesus gave His life for the church then surely we can give up more of our time in the service of the Lord. Have a great Christmas!

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

SPIRITUAL THEME FOR DECEMBER: "God is With Us"

ORDER OF WORSHIP

COLOR: PURPLE or BLUE

Scripture for the month: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." *Matt 1:23 NKJV*

Call to Worship		
Invocation		
Scripture	Matthew 11:2-11	see video, or page 4
Psalm of Praise	Psalm 126	see video, or page 5
Announcements		
Offering		
Pastoral Prayer		
Today's Message	"He is the One"	Rev. Charles A. Woolery, Sr.
Invitation to Christian Discipleship		

Affirmation of Faith

Benediction

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE			
Morning Worship (12/6/20)	218 (views)		
Worship Call "	32 (callers)		
Sunday School "	13 (callers)		
Prayer Group	6 (callers)		
Bible Study AM:10 PM:7	11 (views/calls)		
UMM Meeting	12 (views/calls)		
Outreach Meeting	8 (views/calls)		
TOTAL	300		

Morning Scripture Matthew 11:2-11 (NKJV)

² And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples

³ and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"

⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see:

⁵ The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

⁶ And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."

⁷ As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?

⁸ But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft *clothing* are in kings' houses.

⁹ But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet.

¹⁰ For this is *he* of whom it is written:

'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You.'

¹¹ "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.



Yesterday Wesley's own **Troy Hodge** was honored by the Chicago BMCR for his outstanding service to Wesley, *especially* during the current COVID crisis!

> Congratulations, Troy, for a job well done!

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Psalm of Praise Psalm 126

(R) For the night weeping may tarry; with the morning light comes joy.

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

² Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations,

"The LORD has done great things for them."

³ The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

(R) For the night weeping may tarry; with the morning light comes joy.

⁴ Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb!

⁵ May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy!

⁶ Those who go forth weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

(R) For the night weeping may tarry; with the morning light comes joy.

Black History Month

Book Discussion

Join us at **11 am**, **February 20**th for a Black History Month book discussion reviewing the new Isabel Wilkerson book,

Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents

Purchase the book now and be ready to join the discussion! Click <u>here</u> to purchase (Amazon.com).

Facilitator: Stephanie Jackson-Williams

A **limited supply of books** will be available to those who wish to participate but are unable to purchase. Please contact Stephanie for details. skjackwill@gmail.com | 312-961-8909



Click image above for NY Times book review.

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 <u>DEDICATED</u> text number, 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.
- **Gillespie Elementary School Mentorship Program** Wesley has established a partnership with Gillespie Elementary School to mentor and tutor students. Program details are still being defined. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Pastor Woolery.
- Black History Month Book Discussion Join us on February 20, 2021, 11 am, for a Black History Month book discussion reviewing the new Isabel Wilkerson book, <u>Caste: The Origins of Our</u> <u>Discontents</u>. Pick up the book <u>now</u> and be ready to join the discussion! Facilitator: Stephanie Jackson-Williams. A limited supply of books will be available for those who wish to participate but are unable to purchase them. Contact Stephanie for details: skjackwill@gmail.com | 312. 961.8909.

Nia Woolery	December 4 th	Evalena Davis	December 16 th
Kenya Barker-Gainey	December 9 th	Carnice Carey	December 17 th
Craig Hudson	December 12 th	Ena Davis	December 19 th
Connie Fogg	December 12 th	Taylor Helm	December 23 rd
Philicia Parker	December 12 th	Tony Howard, Sr.	December 29 th
Thomas Marks	December 13 th	Sterling Plaxico	December 31 st

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to all Wesley members with birthdays in December!

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)		
*Lucile Sanders (16)	*Doris Anderson (1)		
*Clarence Sanders (16)	*Spencer Plaxico (17)		
*Barbara Shepherd (18)	*Jessie Stokes (19)		
*Eric Geralds (3)	*Helen Tuck (7)		
*Fred Williams (20)			

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GENERAL				
*Callie Dulaney & Family (12)	*Daphne Hicks and Family (10)	Katherine Thompson		
*LaRue Grizzard (4)	Byron Agnew, Jr.	Shatarah Ridley		
*Y. Shorter-Darden & Family (4)	Sam Agnew	David Williams		
*Gloria Banks (20)	Nannie Agnew	Owen McPherson		
*Doris Echols (16)	Juanita Weatherspoon	Gregory McPherson		
*Mary Alice Lovely & Family (19)	Annie Lois Robinson	James Taylor		
*Diamond Jones (12)	Jessica Smith Crenshaw	James Curtis		
*Trinity Jones (12)	Joyce Chisem-Davis	The Baker Family		
*Lawrence Moore (13)	Carolyn Ransom	Anna Young		
*Wilena Campbell-Watkins (5)	Sylvia Nichols	Dorothy Williams		
*Mark Garrett (5)	Milton Kellum	Lois Tucker		
*The Plaxico Family (17)	Rosie Howard	Katherine Evans		
*Denise Richardson (20)	Natesha Smith	Carl Frazier		
*Clarence Rogers, II & Family (4)	James Sanders	Robert A. Watkins		
*Jessie Gilmore (16)	Joanna Lennhardt	Aaron Thomas, Jr.		
*Maurice & Faye Smith (17)	Martha Muhs	Michael Miller		
*Theresa Bradshaw (12)	Muriel Bolden	Angel Acosta		
*The Hudson/Bradshaw Families	Gregory Simms	Tammy Pompeo		
(7 1 12)				
*The Moss Family (13)	Norbert Sanders	Sharon Cruikshank		
*Darlene Clark and Family (1)	Brittany Porter	Vinelle Myrie		
*Lorraine Forbes and Family (3)	Rhonda Monique Miller	Alexandria Ward		
*Charles & B.J. Curtis and Family (3)	Ashley Parks	Davion McNeal		
*Betty Jenkins and Family (5)	Kathy Jenkins	Willie Moore		
*Dorothy Williamson and Family (10)	Rebecca Merkson	Peaches Clark		
*Donna/Deborah Lomax and Family (13)	John Anderson	Larry Clark		
*Odis & Lucinda Franklin Family (20)	Jerry Simmons	Justin York		
*Ena Davis (1)	Rochelle Johnson	Russell York		
*Gwendolyn Watkins (7)	The Ford & Robinson Families	Percy & Essie Hayes		
*Doris Thompson (19)	Mila Kuntu	Mildred Forest		
*Helen York and Family (5)	Ron Birton	Takia Yearby		
*Dawn Funches-Fox and Family (10)	Aiden Combs	The Anderson Family		
*Chester Plaxico (17)	Mae Gilliams Fizer & Family	The Marshall Family		
*Barbara Sanders (3)	Rashaud Thompson	The Weddington Family		
*The Porter Family (5)	Leslie Carey Kirk	James Williams		
*The Family of Lucious Smith (12)	Douglas Hargray			
*The Family of Heustis Williams (1)				
*The Family of Sandra Lewis (16)				

Continue to pray for those in the valley of Bereavement: Mr. Gilmore's nephew, **Mr. Archie Weddington**, passed away last Monday. Pray for the Gilmores as well as others struggling with grief this holiday season.

SUNDAY MORNING

HEALTH

HIV & AIDS Awareness

African Americans make up about 42% of all new HIV & AIDS cases in the United States. Out of the 42%, 31% of this population are males, while females make up 11% of the population. The HIV & AIDS epidemic in the African American community has continued to be a major problem, fortunately in the past decade HIV & AIDS diagnoses have decreased by 15%.

Facts about HIV/AIDS

- HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) is a virus that attacks the body's immune system. If HIV is not treated, it can lead to AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome).
- There is currently no effective cure. Once people get HIV, they have it for life. But with proper medical care, HIV can be controlled.
- People with HIV who get effective HIV treatment can live long, healthy lives and protect their partners.

Risk Factors for Higher Numbers in the African American Community

1 in 7 African Americans with HIV are unaware they have it.

- Poverty rates among African Americans are high. The socioeconomic issues associated with poverty, including limited access to highquality health care, housing, and HIV prevention education.
- Stigma, fear, and discrimination may prevent African Americans from accessing HIV prevention and care services.

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/hiv

BALM SALEAD

www.balmingilead.org 620 MooreField Park Drive, Suite 150 Richmond, VA 23236 804 644 2256 Please **NOTIFY** the church office of ALL meetings or events scheduled in the

DECEMBER 2020

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

church buildings or on ZOOM.

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29 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#	30	1 Today is <i>#GIVINGTUESDAY</i>	2 Remote Bible Study 11 am 1-312-626-6799; Mtg ID: 2951017709# (Call/email the church for ZOOM video link)	3 Remote Prayer Group 11 am Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	4	5 UMM Meeting (via Zoom) 9 am
6 9 am Sunday School Call 1.605.475.4000 Access code: 260259# Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	7	8	9 Remote Bible Study 11 am 1-312-626-6799; Mtg ID: 2951017709# (Call/email the church for ZOOM video link)	10 Remote Prayer Group 11 am Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	11	12 BMCR Annual Meeting and Founder's Day Celebration 9:30 am UMW Meeting (via Zoom) 12 pm Outreach Ministry Care Bag Distrib
13 9 am Sunday School Call 1.605.475.4000 Access code: 260259# <i>Remote Worship &</i> 10:30 am Call Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	14	15 Church Council Mtg 7 pm (via Zoom)	16 Remote Bible Study 11 am 1-312-626-6799; Mtg ID: 2951017709# (Call/email the church for ZOOM video link)	17 Remote Prayer Group 11 am Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	18	19
20 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#	21	22	23 Remote Bible Study 11 am 1-312-626-6799; Mtg ID: 2951017709# (Call/email the church for ZOOM video link)	24 Remote Prayer Group 11 am Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	25 Merry Christmas!	26 Board of Trustees Mtg 9 am (via Zoom)
27 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#	28	29	30 Remote Bible Study 11 am 1-312-626-6799; Mtg ID: 2951017709# (Call/email the church for ZOOM video link)	31 Remote Prayer Group 11 am Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	1 Happy New Year!	2 UMM Meeting (via Zoom) 9 am

Social Commentary

Distribution of the COVID-19 Vaccine: Let's Stop Inequality Before It Happens. Again."

by Lynn Sweet



WASHINGTON — When it comes to distributing the COVID-19 vaccine — with initial doses to be in short supply — the monumental challenge will be to not increase the gaping inequality gaps the pandemic exposed. The existing disparities in health care — access, quality, affordability — guaranteed that low-income Black and Brown communities with high numbers of frontline essential workers would be hit the hardest when coronavirus cases started to climb in the spring.

As COVID-19 cases soar to record numbers in Illinois and the rest of the nation, the task now is turning vaccines into vaccinations. The federal government, the state of Illinois and the city of Chicago are organizing massive campaigns involving everything from figuring out who gets the initial limited number of doses, to training an army of people to give the shots, to insuring that cold and ultra-cold storage standards are met, to keeping tracking records. "The state has not undertaken anything of this scale, ever," Jordan Abudayyeh, Gov. J.B. Pritzker's press secretary told me Monday. Is it possible to install a vaccination distribution system to stop more inequality from taking place? "There are so many different dimensions of 'inequality,' Baicker said. "When you say, 'Let's stop inequality before it starts in access to care' ... in some ways, we're not going to be able to undo all of the inequalities that are already so tragically manifested in who's bearing the burden of this disease." Equity is of vital importance.

"But does that mean starting with underserved communities? Does it mean starting with the people who are at the greatest health risk? Does it mean starting with the health care workers who are taking care of those people?" The state at first will get about 109,000 doses; about 23,000 will go directly to Chicago with some 86,000 doses for the rest of Illinois. The state and city will each develop its own plans. If the federal Food and Drug Administration grants emergency use authorization for vaccines made by Pfizer and Moderna at its Thursday meeting, the first shipment of the drug could arrive in Illinois in a matter of days.

Based on federal guidelines from the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, in Illinois, frontline health care workers and long-term care facility residents will be at the front of the line in "phase 1a." President-elect Joe Biden is going to have a COVID-19 Equity Task Force, and on Monday he named its chair: Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith, the founding director of Yale's Equity Research and Innovation Center. She is a specialist in health equity issues. The COVID-19 baton will soon be passed to

the Biden White House — and a president who will be making equity a priority, with vaccine distribution the first test.

Little Known Black History Fact

Charles "Chuck" Harrison



The late **Charles "Chuck" Harrison** is one of the most important industrial designers of his time, and items that he's either invented or designed have been impacting lives for over 60 years.

Charles Harrison Jr. was born September 23, 1931 in Shreveport, La. His father, Charles Harrison Sr., was a professor of Industrial Arts at Southern University. The family relocated to Texas where the senior Harrison taught at Prairie View A&M University before moving once again to Phoenix, Ariz. to work teach at the all-Black George Washington Carver High School where the junior Harrison attended.

After high school, Harrison studied at City College of San Francisco, thriving there despite battling dyslexia. He obtained a scholarship to the School of The Art Institute in Chicago (SAIC), graduating in 1954. Harrison was then drafted into the U.S. Army, working as a cartographer before resuming graduate studies and meeting his wife in Chicago. Harrison obtained his master's degree in art education from the Illinois Institute of Technology.

In the '50's, Harrison attempted to work at Sears, Roebuck, and Company but was reportedly denied due to his race. However, one of his undergraduate professors put him to work and he did freelance design work. Harrison's big break and one of his many notable career moments occurred in 1958 when he lead a team that improved the design of the popular View Master toy. In 1961, he was finally added to Sears' staff, and in 1963, he revolutionized waste management by inventing the first-ever plastic trash can.

Harrison worked for Sears for 32 years, designing hundreds of items including sewing machines, toasters, lawn mowers and several household items. According to reports, he is also the first Black executive for Sears. Harrison retired in 1993, but went on to teach part-time at several universities across Chicago, including his alma mater, SAIC.

Chuck Harrison passed on November 29. He was 87.

Wesley United Methodist Church 201 East 95 th Street Chicago, IL 60619	<u>SAVE these Conference</u> Sunday 10:30 am - LIVE Service Thursday 11 am - Prayer Call	Call Numbers 1.425.436.6348 Code: 672500#	
Rev. Charles A. Woolery, Sr., Pastor	Wednesday 11 am - Bible Study:	1.312.626.6799 ID/code: 295 101 7709# Passcode: 461427#	
	Sunday School 9 am – Conf Call:	1.605.475.4000 Code: 260259#	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 via email. 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 December 13th – December 19th

December 13

Obadiah 1:1-21 Revelation 4:1-11 Psalm 132:1-18 Proverbs 29:24-25

December 14

Jonah 1:1-4-11 Revelation 5:1-14 Psalm 133:1-3 Proverbs 29:26-27

December 15

Micah 1:1-4:13 Revelation 6:1-17 Psalm 134:1-3 Proverbs 30:1-4

2020 Vision: "The Year of the Child" (Matthew 19:14)

December 19

Zephaniah 1:1-3:20 Revelation 10:1-11 Psalm 138:1-8 Proverbs 30:11-14

December 16

Micah 5:1-7:20 Revelation 7:1-17 Psalm 135:1-21 Proverbs 30:5-6

December 17

Nahum 1:1-3:19 Revelation 8:1-13 Psalm 136:1-26 Proverbs 30:7-9

December 18

Habakkuk 1:1-3:19 Revelation 9:1-21 Psalm 137:1-9 Proverbs 30:10