

"The Church With The Warm Heart"

December 20, 2020



Wesley United Methodist Church

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Bishop Sally Dyck

District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Jacques A. Conway

“Christmas: A Time of Remembering, Celebrating, and Investing”

Good morning, Wesley family. Can you believe that Christmas is only five days away? Unbelievable! The familiar Christmas story is old, however every year we attempt to extract some fresh water from this old well. The story is retold annually with the intent to gain some new insight into the significance of Jesus' birth. We are familiar with John 3:16 which says, “For God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son that whosoever would believe in Him would not perish but have everlasting life.” It is one of the greatest scriptures of all time.

Today marks the 4th and final Sunday of the Advent season. During the Advent season, we remember with extreme intentionality the reason why Jesus was sent to our world – to serve and to save. Our worship and our work to make disciples should intensify during this holy season as we remember not just the “who” of Jesus but also His “why?” I believe it was Mark Twain who said that “the two most important days in your life are the day you were born and the day you figure out why you were born.” Therefore, Christmas is a holy-day when we celebrate the “why” of Jesus. Jesus came to save us from the effects of sin, the efforts of Satan, and the evils of systems of oppression. Jesus came to save us from going to hell, which is separation from God. Why catch hell on earth and then die and go to hell? That's just too much hell. Jesus came to restore our relationships to our Heavenly Father and humanity. That's a cause for remembering and celebrating.

We must remember that He was nurtured in a woman's womb. We must remember He was born of an unwed teenage African-Jewish girl named Mary. Then we must celebrate the birth of this baby boy who would grow up to become the Savior of the world. And we celebrate the birth of this baby boy who would grow up and become the Jesus of history and the Christ of faith. There is another angle to the Christmas story we must highlight as well.

When one reads the Christmas story in the gospels, one realizes that Jesus didn't raise himself. He was a product of his community, his family, his faith, his heritage, his history, the Temple, and his synagogue (i.e., his community of faith). Jesus was nurtured by this holistic village and I argue that without that nurturing He would not have become the Son of God nor the Savior we know him to be.

I am suggesting that one of the powerful messages of the all- too-familiar Christmas story is that it reminds the church community of how important it is to invest in children. The birth narratives of the Christ child demand a response for the Black Church in the 21st century by posing the question, “What are we doing to protect, guide, nurture, teach, lead, uplift, feed, clothe, house, and educate its children?” To bring it home, how will this Advent/Christmas season change our mindset at Wesley UMC when it comes to reaching out to children and making them a high priority? The baby Jesus is the focus during this season and it would be a great thing if that would serve as a catalyst for our great church to start focusing on the babies and teens in our community. Have a great week!

FOURTH 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 1:18-25 see video, or page 4

Psalm of Praise Canticle of Mary see video, or page 5

Announcements

Offering

Pastoral Prayer

Today's Message *"A Time for Dreaming"* Rev. Charles A. Woolery, Sr.

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Affirmation of Faith

Benediction

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	
Morning Worship (12/13/20)	192 (views)
Worship Call "	26 (callers)
Sunday School "	13 (callers)
Prayer Group	6 (callers)
Bible Study AM:9 PM:7	16 (views/calls)
UMW Meeting	17 (views/calls)
Church Council Meeting	9 (views/calls)
TOTAL	279

Morning Scripture

Matthew 1:18-25 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹ ***Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.***

²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

²¹ ***And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”***

²² So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:

²³ ***“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”***

²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife,

²⁵ ***and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.***

Distribution of Communion Elements

Stop by the church on the Saturday before the first Sunday and pick up your communion elements for the Sunday service the following day. The UMM will be available at the church between 11 am and 1 pm to distribute the elements for communion and accept your tithes and offerings.

The first scheduled date to pick-up Elements is: Saturday, January 2, 2021.

Psalm of Praise

Canticle of Mary (Magnificat)

(R) The glory of the Lord shall be revealed; all flesh shall see it together.

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
who has looked with favor on me, a lowly servant.
From this day all generations shall call me blessed:

the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is the name of the Lord,
whose mercy is on those who fear God
from generation to generation.

The arm of the Lord is strong,
and has scattered the proud in their conceit.

God has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly.

God has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich empty away.

God has come to the aid of Israel, the chosen servant,
remembering the promise of mercy,
the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children for ever.”

(R) The glory of the Lord shall be revealed; all flesh shall see it together.



Black History Month



Book Discussion

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

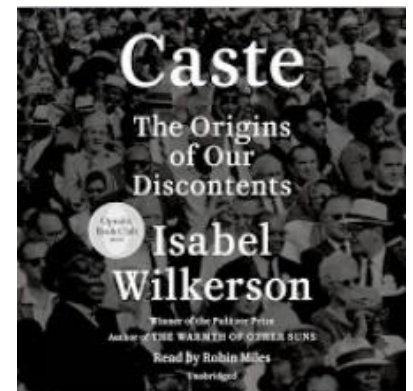
Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents

Purchase the book now and be ready to join the discussion!

Click [here](#) 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 DEDICATED 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, **Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents**. Pick up the book [now](#) 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.
- **Communion Cup and Wafer Distribution** Drive by the church on the Saturday before first Sunday (this January 2nd), between 11 am and 1 pm to pick up your communion supplies and drop off tithes. The UMM will be outside to distribute the elements and receive donations.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

PRAYER LIST

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

(* = Church member, followed by Class Number)

SHUT-IN	
*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 Gerald (3)	*Helen Tuck (7)
*Fred Williams (20)	

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 (7 1 12)	Gregory Simms	Tammy Pompeo
*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 & Family (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: Doris Thompson lost her mother, **Mrs. Eddie Mae Grey**, earlier this week. Pray for the Thompsons as well as others struggling with grief this holiday season.

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

DECEMBER 2020

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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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 #GIVINGTUESDAY	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# ----- Remote Worship & 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 ----- Communion Element Pick-up 11 am – 1 pm (parking lot)

Sunday Morning

Health Corner With Dr. Soo

The Holidays, Reflections and Setting Future Goals

The holiday season is not only about family and friends coming together or giving thanks, but it is also about reflection. Research from Harvard Business School shows you learn most from your experiences when you take time to reflect. Further research shows that when you purposely make an effort to synthesize, extract and communicate the key lessons taught by experience, the experience itself becomes more productive and you feel more confident in our ability to do better next time.

Before the end of the year, take some time to reflect on the following questions:

What went well this year?
What did not go so well this year?
How could I have done it differently?

Once you have determined what can be done differently, think about setting future goals. By setting goals you are able to measure your future success. It also helps you to stay on track when things get crazy (and they will!) Start by asking yourself, "What is it that I really want to achieve?" Next, make sure that you are ready to commit to achieving your goal(s). If you are ready, then set your goals!

When setting your long and short-term goal(s), make sure they are S.M.A.R.T

S=Specific	Ask yourself the who, what, where, when and why about your goal(s)
M=Measurable	Ask yourself, how will I know if I am making progress
A=Achievable	Ask yourself, how important is this goal(s) and how attainable is it
R=Realistic	Ask yourself, is the goal(s) reachable given the time and resources
T=Timely	Ask yourself, when do I want to achieve this goal

Setting goals may be difficult, but if you follow the directions above and take some small steps toward them, it will be just a matter of time before you achieve them.

www.newdream.org
www.storenvy.com
www.corporatefinanceinstitute.com

Reflecting on the holidays
Why goals is crucial to holiday success
SMART Goal

Social Commentary

Chicago Episcopal Diocese Elects First Black Woman as Bishop

by Mitchell Armentrout



A Washington D.C. priest made history in Chicago last Saturday, becoming the first Black person and the first woman ever elected bishop of the city's local arm of the Episcopal Church. The Rev. Canon Paula E. Clark was unanimously selected among four candidates on the fourth ballot of a virtual convention to take the helm of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, church leaders said.

"We Episcopalians are strong people who can model for the rest of this country and the world what it looks like to walk the way of love," Clark said. "God is calling us to a new day and a new way of being." Clark will be consecrated April 24, succeeding Bishop Jeffrey D. Lee, who is retiring Dec. 31. She comes to Chicago from the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, where she serves as canon to the ordinary and chief of staff to the bishop.

Clark received her undergraduate degree from Brown University and a master's degree in public policy from the University of California at Berkeley. Before studying at the Virginia Theological Seminary, she was a public information officer for the Washington mayor. Clark, who has focused on clergy development and multicultural and justice issues, describes herself as "the proud matriarch of [a] blended family of five adult children and seven grandchildren."

The Chicago Episcopal Diocese includes 122 congregations with a total of more than 31,000 members across northern, central and southwestern Illinois.

Little Known Black History Fact

by D.L. Chandler

Bishop Richard Allen



Bishop Richard Allen, the founder of the A.M.E. Church, was a hero to many and a bust erected in his honor in 1876 is thought to be first of its kind created by and for African-Americans. The monument was unveiled in Philadelphia's Fairmount Park during the Centennial International Exposition of 1876, the first official "World's Fair."

Allen was born into slavery on February 14, 1760, and though details of his place of birth have been heavily debated, some saying Delaware is his birth state. After hearing a white Methodist preacher rail against slavery, Allen converted to Methodism at 17, and was later able to buy his freedom for \$2,000 to relocate to Philadelphia.

In 1799, Allen became the first Black ordained minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in 1816, with the help of other Black Methodist churches, founded the African Methodist Episcopal church. Bishop Allen was a vocal opponent of slavery who inspired enslaved and free Black people who shared his passion to see all people free.

The bust of Allen was on display at the exposition but later ended up in the hands of Wilberforce University in Ohio into where it sat, neglected and in storage. In 2010, Wilberforce University loaned the bust out for a ceremony marking Allen's 250th birthday at the First District A.M.E. Church headquarters.

Chuck Harrison passed on November 29. He was 87.

Wesley United Methodist Church

201 East 95th Street

Chicago, IL 60619

Rev. Charles A. Woolery, Sr., Pastor

SAVE these Conference Call Numbers

Sunday 10:30 am - LIVE Service

1.425.436.6348

Thursday 11 am - Prayer Call

Code: 672500#

Wednesday 11 am - Bible Study:

1.312.626.6799

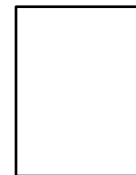
ID/code: 295 101 7709#

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 20th – December 26th

December 20

Haggai 1:1-2:23

Revelation 11:1-19

Psalm 139:1-24

Proverbs 30:15-16

December 21

Zechariah 1:1-21

Revelation 12:1-17

Psalm 140:1-13

Proverbs 30:17

December 22

Zechariah 2:1-3:10

Revelation 13:1-18

Psalm 141:1-10

Proverbs 30:18-20

2020 Vision:

"The Year of the Child"

(Matthew 19:14)

December 26

Zechariah 9:1-17

Revelation 17:1-18

Psalm 145:1-21

Proverbs 30:32

December 23

Zechariah 4:1-5:11

Revelation 14:1-20

Psalm 142:1-7

Proverbs 30:21-23

December 24

Zechariah 6:1-7:14

Revelation 15:1-8

Psalm 143:1-12

Proverbs 30:24-28

Christmas Day, December 25

Zechariah 8:1-23

Revelation 16:1-21

Psalm 144:1-15

Proverbs 30:29-31