

"The Church With The Warm Heart"

December 27, 2020



Wesley United Methodist Church

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Bishop Sally Dyck

District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Jacques A. Conway

“Christmas Integrity”

I hope your Christmas was great. The following essay is designed to help you understand the significance of this holy-day. Christmas is celebrated on December 25th because when Rome embraced Christianity as its official religion in the 4th century, it changed its annual celebration of the birth of the ‘Sun God’ to the celebration of the birth of the ‘Son of God’. When the religion of the oppressed became a religion of the Roman Empire, and ultimately of the Western world, Rome kept the same official dates from their pagan celebrations but just changed the names to Christian names. For instance, instead of worshiping the rite of Spring and their Goddess of fertility, now that they were Christians, they called the holiday Easter (which is still a variation of the name of the original pagan ritual), but they instituted the remembrance of Christ’s resurrection and the significance of new life which is what the season of Spring symbolizes.

With the power of Empire, the king has the power to name or rename anything. Christianity was truly done a disservice when it became the official religion of the empire. Because once it became the official religion of the empire, it was manipulated and used to keep the rich in power and the poor oppressed. Once Christianity became the official religion of the empire, it was manipulated and used to justify wars, conquests, slavery, and subjugation of Africans, Native Americans, and others. It has been used to justify the old Crusades of the 10th, 11th, and 12th centuries and this new Crusade of the 21st century against Arabs and Muslims (remember every Arab is not a Muslim.) It has been used to justify White Power, White Supremacy, and European domination of the Colored peoples of this world. It has been used to give African-Americans a “pie in the sky” heaven while the rich and powerful “Christian” majority gets a ‘real pie’ in the here-and-now with all the trimmings. You feel me?

Now that we got the origin of the Christmas holiday out of the way, let us deal with Christmas integrity, i.e., the honesty about Christmas. Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus (English), Iesous (Greek), Yeshua (Hebrew), and Ayesu (Ghanaian). Jesus was not born on December 25th, but the most important thing we know is that he was born! And what a glorious season it was that he was born, grew up, lived among humanity, and gave his life so that others who followed in his footsteps would live abundantly. Celebrating his birth honestly has nothing to do with buying presents for everyone in your family. Celebrating his birth honestly has nothing to do with charging up credit cards and opening up new ones or getting payday and title loans just so merchants of misery can make 40% to 60% of their annual sales quota. No it is not even about emulating the wise men who came bearing gifts to baby Ayesu.

Celebrating the birth of Jesus with integrity is about making his lifestyle your lifestyle. Jesus was a Savior and a gift/giver to the world. If you want to celebrate the birth of our Savior, then devote your life to being a savior and being a giver to the world. Be like Jesus, and work not with the status quo, but against it in order to bring truth, love, mercy, justice, and compassion, hope, understanding, and tolerance to the world.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

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: WHITE or GOLD

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 2:1-12

see video, or page 4

Psalm of Praise

Psalm 148

see video, or page 5

Announcements

Offering

Pastoral Prayer

Today's Message

"If It's to Be, It's Up to Me"

Rev. Charles A. Woolery, Sr.

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Affirmation of Faith

Benediction

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	
Morning Worship (12/20/20)	126 (views)
Worship Call "	24 (callers)
Sunday School "	16 (callers)
Prayer Group	3 (callers)
Bible Study AM:8	8 (views/calls)
UMW Special Recognition Mtg	9 (views/calls)
TOTAL	186

Morning Scripture

Matthew 2:1-12 (NKJV)

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,

² ***saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."***

³ When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴ ***And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.***

⁵ So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

⁶ ***'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'*** "

⁷ Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared.

⁸ ***And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."***

⁹ When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.

¹⁰ ***When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.***

¹¹ And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹² ***Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.***

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 communion elements is: *Saturday, January 2, 2021.*

Psalm of Praise

Psalm 148

(R) Let all things their creator bless: Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia!

¹ Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens,
praise the LORD, in the heights!

***² Praise the LORD, all his angels,
praise the LORD, all his hosts!***

³ Praise the LORD, sun and moon,
praise the LORD, all shining stars!

***⁴ Praise the LORD, highest heavens,
and all waters above the heavens!***

(R) Let all things their creator bless: Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia!

⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded and they were created,

***⁶ who established them for ever and ever,
and fixed their bounds which cannot be passed.***

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth,
sea monsters and all deeps,

***⁸ fire and hail, snow and smoke,
stormy wind fulfilling God's command!***

(R) Let all things their creator bless: Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia!

⁹ Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

***¹⁰ Beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!***

¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

***¹² Young men and maidens together,
old men and children!***

¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
whose name alone is exalted,
whose glory is above earth and heaven.

***¹⁴ God has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful ones,
for the people of Israel who are near their God.***

Praise the LORD!

(R) Let all things their creator bless: Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia!

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 (January 2nd), between 11 am and 1 pm to pick up communion supplies and drop off tithes & offerings. 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

EARLY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Lillye Hart	January 1 st	Callie Dulaney	January 3 rd
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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, and Laniya Bradley lost an aunt. Pray for the Thompsons, the Bradleys, and 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.**

JANUARY 2021

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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<p>27</p> <p>9 am Sunday School Call 1.605.475.4000 Access code: 260259#</p> <p>Remote Worship & 10:30 am Call Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#</p>	28	<p>29</p> <p>Remote Bible Study 11 am ----- 1-312-626-6799; Mtg ID: 2951017709# (Call/email the church for ZOOM video link)</p>	30	<p>31</p> <p>Remote Prayer Group 11 am ----- Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#</p>	1 Happy New Year!	2 UMM Meeting (via Zoom) 9 am ----- Communion Element Pick-up 11 am – 1 pm (parking lot)
<p>3</p> <p>9 am Sunday School Call 1.605.475.4000 Access code: 260259#</p> <p>Remote Worship & 10:30 am Call Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#</p>	4	5	<p>6</p> <p>Remote Bible Study 11 am ----- 1-312-626-6799; Mtg ID: 2951017709# (Call/email the church for ZOOM video link)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Remote Prayer Group 11 am ----- Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#</p>	8	9 UMW Meeting (via Zoom) 10 am
<p>10</p> <p>9 am Sunday School Call 1.605.475.4000 Access code: 260259#</p> <p>Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#</p>	11	12	<p>13</p> <p>Remote Bible Study 11 am ----- 1-312-626-6799; Mtg ID: 2951017709# (Call/email the church for ZOOM video link)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Remote Prayer Group 11 am ----- Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#</p>	15	16
<p>17</p> <p>9 am Sunday School Call 1.605.475.4000 Access code: 260259#</p> <p>Remote Worship & 10:30 am Call Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#</p>	18	19	<p>20</p> <p>Remote Bible Study 11 am ----- 1-312-626-6799; Mtg ID: 2951017709# (Call/email the church for ZOOM video link)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Remote Prayer Group 11 am ----- Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#</p>	22	23
<p>24</p> <p>9 am Sunday School Call 1.605.475.4000 Access code: 260259#</p> <p>Remote Worship & 10:30 am Call Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#</p>	25	26	<p>27</p> <p>Remote Bible Study 11 am ----- 1-312-626-6799; Mtg ID: 2951017709# (Call/email the church for ZOOM video link)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Remote Prayer Group 11 am ----- Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#</p>	29 Merry Christmas!	30 Board of Trustees Mtg 9 am (via Zoom)
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

SUNDAY MORNING


HEALTH CORNER

Enjoy the Winter Holiday During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has been stressful and isolating for many people. This holiday season, consider how you can modify your holiday plans to reduce the spread of COVID-19 to keep your friends, families, and communities healthy and safe.

 Host a virtual celebration with friends and family


- Schedule a time to eat a meal together virtually and have people show their main dish, vegetable, or dessert.
- Gather virtually for a gift exchange or activity.
- Schedule a time to meet virtually to open gifts together.
- Throw a virtual dance party and collaborate with friends and family on a holiday playlist.

 Decorate for the season.

- Drive or walk around your community to look at decorations from a safe distance.

 Attend a religious ceremony.

- Attending virtual services is the safest way to worship.

 Volunteer and help others in need.

- Find virtual opportunities to contribute.



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Social Commentary

Pfleger Plans NY's Eve March to Protest the 'COVID and Carnage' that has Devastated Chicago this Year

by Michael Sneed



It's a case of cheer and fear. It's the Christmas season's most deadly couple: COVID-19 and gun violence. The coronavirus may have claimed the lives of 3,850 Chicagoans through the middle of this past week, but the violence of the gun has now resulted in the shooting of nearly 4,000 people in Chicago.

Gun violence, notes anti-gun activist priest **Michael Pfleger**, has killed nearly 750 people this year so far. Angered by these alarming stats, Sneed is told Pfleger plans to repeat his 2016 New Year's Eve march down North Michigan Avenue, when cross-carrying protestors draped themselves with names of Chicago's 2016 murder victims.

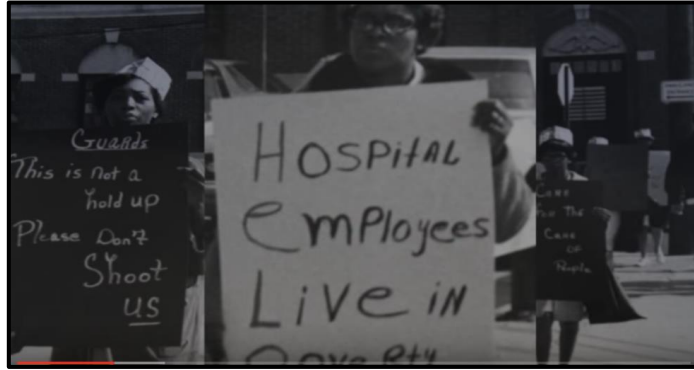
Only this time Pfleger will be leading protesters carrying Chicago flag replicas riddled with bullet holes and "dripping" with blood. "We can't just be silent over this murderous carnage in our city," said Pfleger, who is pastor of St. Sabina Catholic Church, located in Auburn Gresham on the South Side, which has been devastated by violence. "The shooting deaths are now on their way to a move upwards," he said. "These numbers are not acceptable, must not be acceptable." "When Chicago Police Supt. **Eddie Johnson** was in office, the numbers were consistently going down monthly. Since the beginning of 2020, under an interim top cop plan, they have been on the rise!"

"We seem to be ignoring this fact in the midst of the COVID pandemic, which has already tragically claimed so many lives. "Although it's apparent we are focused now on COVID-19, we can also walk and chew gum. We cannot ignore all these lives destroyed by violence. We can and must fight COVID and carnage at the same time." The march is scheduled to begin at 435 N. Michigan Ave. at the Tribune Plaza and end at Michigan Avenue's uber-chic shopping emporium sporting boarded-up windows in the aftermath of looting following police brutality protests last summer.

Little Known Black History Fact

Charleston Hospital Worker's Strike

by D.L. Chandler



In May 1969, Black hospital workers in Charleston, South Carolina, mostly women, went on strike to gain recognition for their union and to demand workplace fairness. This past weekend, surviving members of the strike gathered in Washington, D.C. in memoriam and to give a push to the renewed efforts of the Poor People's Campaign.

The first action by the workers occurred on May 17, 1969 when Black workers in the city occupied the office of President William McCord at the Medical College Hospital. Although McCord agreed to hear their demands, they dispersed under threat of arrest. At the end, 12 workers were arrested for abandoning their posts but that only served to galvanize the group.

The Local 1199B Retail Drug and Hospital Employees Union gathered across the city, bringing operations at area hospitals to a standstill. They enjoyed the support of **Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Coretta Scott King, and Rev. Jesse Jackson** among other notable members of the SCLC, which drew national media attention. Although their efforts did not gain recognition for the union, it proved that Black unions within the labor movement could have tremendous impact.

This weekend's march in D.C. included members of the original group who are protesting for various reasons, including the South Carolina National Guard being sent to the U.S.-Mexico border. They also are protesting for fair wages and equal housing opportunities as Charleston's gentrification threatens to push many young people of color outside of the city.

The latest group also has joined with the Poor People's Campaign, currently led by Rev. William Barber and Rev. Liz Theohairs, continuing the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s campaign ahead of his untimely assassination in 1968.

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

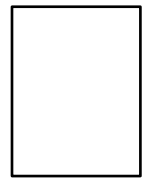
ID/code: 295 101 7709#

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!



Thank You for Contributing!

This year we celebrated **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 kicked-off our **66th Church Anniversary Pledge Drive**, “*Building for the Future*,” early in the year and our members and friends have given, not just in the first six months, as was the original plan for this pledge, but throughout the year. These donations have benefitted the church in a multitude of ways.

Wesley is blessed to have such members and supporters among our church family.

May God’s grace and blessings be yours now, and throughout the coming year!

2020-2021 Daily Bible Readings (One Year Bible Reading Plan)

Week of December 27th – January 2nd

December 27

Zechariah 10:1-11:17

Revelation 18:1-24

Psalm 146:1-10

Proverbs 30:33

December 28

Zechariah 12:1-13:9

Revelation 19:1-21

Psalm 147:1-20

Proverbs 31:1-7

December 29

Zechariah 14:1-21

Revelation 20:1-15

Psalm 148:1-14

Proverbs 31:8-9

2020 Vision:

“The Year of the Child”

(Matthew 19:14)

January 2

Genesis 3:1-4:26

Matthew 2:13-3:6

Psalm 2:1-12

Proverbs 1:7-9

December 30

Malachi 1:1-2:17

Revelation 21:1-27

Psalm 149:1-9

Proverbs 31:10-24

December 31

Malachi 3:1-4:6

Revelation 22:1-21

Psalm 150:1-6

Proverbs 31:25-31

January 1

Genesis 1:1-2:25

Matthew 1:1-2:12

Psalm 1:1-6

Proverbs 1:1-6