The Church With The Warm Heart

January 3, 2021



Wesley United Methodist Church

201 East 95th Street Chicago, Illinois 60619

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Bishop John Hopkins (interim)

District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Jacques A. Conway

"2021: A Year to Eliminate Fear"

A great way to begin the New Year is to work on eliminating your fear. It is the church's responsibility to help every member develop his/her faith. When we say "develop one's faith," what we mean is helping one to grow in their faith. God's desire for us is to grow in our faith and in order to grow in our faith we have to eliminate our fear. Fear is the arch enemy of faith. Trepidation is the enemy of trust. The book <u>Fearless</u> by Rev. Max Lucado, pastor of the Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, TX, is designed to help the readers eliminate the fear in their lives so they can realize their true potential. According to Rev. Lucado, one of the things that holds people back from really living, i.e., trying new things, taking risks, and embracing new challenges is fear. The 'fear of failure', 'fear of the unknown', or the 'fear of hard work' are just a few of the "fears" that prevent us from growing in life. But in this New Year God is saying to us "eliminate the fear!" Am I in the Bible? But of course! "For God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power, love, and a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7). Countless times throughout the Holy Writ, God comforts His audience with these words: "Be not afraid, for I Am with you."

Jesus conveys the similar phrase when He comforts His disciples while they are in the middle of the sea and a storm. This is the story of Jesus walking on the water and then inviting Peter to do the same. This is the story that is full of teachable moments. First, if we want to eliminate our fear, we have to realize that no matter what we find ourselves in the middle of; Jesus is on the way, into, and on top of the situation. The disciples found themselves in the middle of the sea, afraid and desperate. But Jesus came to them walking on the stormy sea, symbolizing that He is with them and on top of the situation. A storm can crop up anytime and we all need to know that we are never alone in the storm. Jesus can handle it and keep his hands on us at the same time.

Secondly, if we want to eliminate our fear, we have to know where to stare while in the midst of a storm. We do not choose when a storm comes into our lives for the most part. However, we do have a choice on where we can focus our energies and faith. In the text, Peter was doing fine walking on the water as long as he kept looking at Jesus. His trouble started when he began to take his eyes off of Jesus and began to listen to the wind and look at the waves. His focus impacted his faith. By focusing on winds and waves, he got weak and began to sink. Like Peter, if we are to stay on top of that which wants to sink us, then we have to stare in the direction of one who cares—Jesus. Storms will come and go but thank God we have a Savior who can calm the storms in our lives and invites us to "walk on water" even in the midst of the storm.

Finally, we learn from this story that if we want to "walk on water" (do the impossible) in 2019, we have to learn how to feed our faith and starve our fears. God has a garden that we have access to. In that garden there is a whole lot of "Let us". If we grub on "'Let us' read and study the word of God" and "'Let us' rise up and build the church" and the leafy kind called "'Let us' go into the house of the Lord", we can sho' nuff feed our faith. The more we feed our faith by reading and applying the Word of God to our lives, the more we starve our fears. An unknown but not unwise person said, "One day fear knocked on the door. Faith opened the door. To faith's surprise, no one was there." Happy New Year!

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

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

www.wesleyumcchicago.org

SPIRITUAL THEME FOR JANUARY: "A New You for the New Year"

ORDER OF WORSHIP

COLOR: WHITE or GOLD

Scripture for the month: "For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland." Isaiah 43:19 (New Living Translation)

Call to Worship

Invocation

Scripture Luke 2:41-52 see video, or page 4

Psalm of Praise Psalm 72:1-14 see video, or page 5

Announcements

Offering

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon "What is Your Business Plan?" Rev. Charles A. Woolery, Sr.

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Holy Communion A Service of Word and Table, II see video, or hymnal (page 12)

Affirmation of Faith

Benediction

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE			
Morning Worship (12/27/20)	199 (views)		
Worship Call "	34 (callers)		
Sunday School "	16 (callers)		
Prayer Group	9 (callers)		
Bible Study (AM only)	9 (views/calls)		
UMM Monthly Meeting	11 (views/calls)		
TOTAL	278		

Morning Scripture Luke 2:41-52 (NKJV)

- ⁴² And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast.
- ⁴³ When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know it;
- 44 but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances.
- ⁴⁵ So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him.
- ⁴⁶ Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.
- ⁴⁷ And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.
- ⁴⁸ So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously."
- ⁴⁹ And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"
- ⁵⁰ But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.
- ⁵¹ Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart.
- ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.



Book Discussion



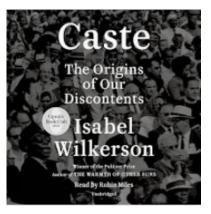
Join us at **11 am**, **February 20**th for a Black History Month book discussion reviewing the new Isabel Wilkerson book,

Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents

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

⁴¹ His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.

Psalm of Praise

Psalm 72:1-14

(R) I will give you as a light to the nations, my salvation to the ends of the earth.

¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son!

² May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice!

³ Let mountains bear prosperity for the people,

⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people; give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor!

and the hills, in righteousness!

⁵ May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations! ⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth!

⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more! ⁸ *May he have dominion from sea to sea*,

and from the river to the ends of the earth!

(R) I will give you as a light to the nations, my salvation to the ends of the earth.

 ⁹ May his foes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust!
 ¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!
 ¹¹ May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve Him!

¹² For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.

¹³ He has pity of the weak and the needy,

and saves the lives of the needy.

14 From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.

(R) I will give you as a light to the nations, my salvation to the ends of the earth.

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.
- 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 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.
- End-of-Year Contribution Statements Despite the impact of the Coronavirus, the Committee on Finance is committed to delivering your contribution statements in a timely manner. Because we are still not able to gather together, your 2020 annual contribution statements will be delivered via email. Please *verify* with the church office, *by January 15, 2021*, that your correct email address is on file. For those members who do not use email or prefer to receive a paper copy, your statements will be mailed to you.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Lillye Hart	January 1st	Helen York	January 11 th	Charles Woolery, Jr.	January 20 th
Callie Dulaney	January 3 rd	Tiffany Walton	January 13 th	Khayri Moss	January 21st
Verner Geddes	January 4 th	Minnie Grady	January 17 th	Teddy Mott	January 21st
Clarence Jones	January 4 th	Summer Rainey	January 17 th	Darlene Clark	January 23 rd
Sydney Jackson	January 5 th	Lucinda Franklin	January 18 th	Eddie Lee Hawkins	January 24 th
Frank Readus	January 6 th	Essie Judon	January 19 th	Daphne Sam	January 24 th
Darlene Ruffin	January 6 th	Donna Lomax	January 19 th	Dylan Julun	January 29 th
Tristen Newman	January 8 th	Edith Belisle	January 20 th	Rhonda Smith-Leach	January 29 th
Lisa Jones	January 11 th	Dixie Taylor	January 20 th	Megan Myrie	January 30 th
		Henry Stephen	January 20 th		

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)		

	OFNIED AL		
	GENERAL		
*Callie Dulaney & Family (12)	*Daphne Hicks and Family (10)	Katherine Thompson	
*LaRue Grizzard (4)	*Laniya Bradley & Family (7)	Shatarah Ridley	
*Y. Shorter-Darden & Family (4)	Sam Agnew	David Williams	
*Gloria Banks (20)	Nannie Agnew	Owen McPherson	
*Doris Echols (16)	Byron Agnew, Jr.	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 & Dwight Thompson & Fam. (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	Juanita Weatherspoon	
*The Family of Heustis Williams (1)		<u>'</u>	
*The Family of Sandra Lewis (16)			
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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	Т	F	S
9 am Sunday School Call 1.605.475.4000 Access code: 260259#	28	Remote Bible Study 11 am	30	Remote Prayer Group 11 am Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	1 Happy New Year!	UMM Meeting (via Zoom) 9 am Communion Element Pick-up 11 am – 1 pm (parking lot)
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	5	Remote Bible Study 11 am 1-312-626-6799; Mtg ID: 2951017709# (Call/email the church for ZOOM video link)	Remote Prayer Group 11 am Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	8	9 UMW Meeting (via Zoom) 10 am
9 am Sunday School Call 1.605.475.4000 Access code: 260259# ————————————————————————————————————	11	12	Remote Bible Study 11 am 1-312-626-6799; Mtg ID: 2951017709# (Call/email the church for ZOOM video link)	Remote Prayer Group 11 am Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	15	16
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#	18	19	Remote Bible Study 11 am 1-312-626-6799; Mtg ID: 2951017709# (Call/email the church for ZOOM video link)	Remote Prayer Group 11 am Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	22	23
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#	25	26	Remote Bible Study 11 am 1-312-626-6799; Mtg ID: 2951017709# (Call/email the church for ZOOM video link)	Remote Prayer Group 11 am Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	29	30 Board of Trustees Mtg 9 am (via Zoom)
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

SUNDAY MORNING

HEALTH CORNER

Achieving Your New Year's Fitness Goals

It's that time of year again... time to focus on your fitness and weight loss goals. Many people change the way they eat or start a new exercise program but often abandoned before Valentine's Day.

Before you begin: Make sure you're both physically and mentally ready to start any fitness program. Communicate to your doctor that you want to begin a fitness regimen and you want to make sure you're healthy enough to start.

You can increase your chances of long-term success of you follow these tips:



Eliminate Stress. Put your stress on the shelf and resolve to focus on you.



Make lifestyle changes. Regular exercise and healthy food choices are lifestyle changes, not temporary solutions to weight loss.



Add exercise to your daily routine.

Start slow to develop a solid foundation of fitness, and then build upon that foundation as your fitness improves.



Set realistic and feasible goals. You should think of your goals as a lifelong commitment to a healthier lifestyle.



Increase your water intake. Drinking more water can boost your metabolism and help control your weight. Slowly substitute sodas and juice with water. Work on making this a habit over time, and you will reap the health benefits long-term.



Social Commentary

Police Reform in Chicago is on Life Support

by Pete Cunningham



The brutal execution of 17-year-old LaQuan McDonald in October 2014 by a crazed police officer led to a host of consequences for Chicago: the firing of a police chief, a court-monitored consent decree to implement a broad set of reforms, and the election of Mayor Lori Lightfoot, who had played a central role in chronicling racism and abuse in the department and overseeing police misconduct cases. Six years later, Chicago has all but thrown in the towel on police reform.

Any illusion that police reform might ultimately seep into the rank and file was further shattered with the recent release of a bodycam video from 2019 showing a "wrong address" police raid in which a naked, 50-year-old Black, female social worker was handcuffed in her own apartment for more than 40 minutes while 10 male, mostly white cops calmly and callously searched for a drug dealer who happened to live in an adjacent apartment. Her desperate appeals for dignity are agonizing to watch and hear. The video prompted an apology from Mayor Lightfoot, the resignation of the city's top lawyer, who had tried to block release of the video, and a call for a special City Council meeting by outraged aldermen.

Their outrage over this horrific and tragic incident is more than justified, but it should be matched by outrage over this year's surging gun violence, which may set a 25-year record for homicides and shootings. Chicago likely will close out 2020 with nearly 800 murders and more than 4,000 shootings, far more than any other city in America. Meanwhile, Chicago's new police superintendent, David Brown — just seven months into the job after a career in Dallas — is taking the department in exactly the wrong direction.

Brown's temporary predecessor, former Los Angeles police chief Charlie Beck, rightly understood that local police commanders needed more authority to direct resources to the most violent areas of the city. Brown, on the other hand, has pulled more than 1,000 officers away from the districts to reestablish discredited and historically corrupt citywide gang and narcotics units. It's not working. Gun violence has remained high through the fall, and the department's already low murder clearance rate is dropping even further. Violence begets violence and in the absence of real justice, street justice prevails. Chicago has also been way too slow to adopt proven strategies such as data-driven policing, trust-building community partnerships, and the kind of reforms spelled out in the consent decree around use of force and de-escalation tactics.

Chicago's reputation as an irredeemable hotbed of gun violence is well-established on multiple continents. Our history of abusive policing is extensive, from its roots in controlling a supposedly dangerous underclass and union-busting to modern-day torture, corruption and racial profiling. Our failure to address these issues is indefensible. Chicago needs to radically reimagine public safety and rebuild its police department from the ground up.

Little Known Black History Fact

Coretta Scott King

by D.L. Chandler



While the late **Coretta Scott King** will forever be undoubtedly tethered to her famous husband, the late **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, she became just as vital to the ascension of civil rights. The activist and author's birthday was on April 27th.

Coretta Scott was born on April 27th in 1927, growing up in Marion, Alabama. As a girl, she endured the racial and social injustice common in the deep South while working on a cotton farm with her family. A talented vocalist and musician, she went on to study music at Antioch College before winning a scholarship to attend the New England Conservatory of Music.

It was there that she came across a charismatic young minister who was studying theology at nearby Boston University. Rev. King inquired about young woman who attended NEC and was eventually introduced to his future wife, but according to her, she wasn't initially interested. But ultimately romance blossomed which culminated into marriage in 1953, and thus she became the First Lady of the civil rights movement.

While largely playing a complimentary before her husband's assassination in 1968, just days after his death Mrs. King emerged as a powerful advocate for the oppressed and underrepresented.

With a brave face and while enduring the grief of losing her husband, King carried the mission of the movement and expanded it to included women's rights, LGBT equality, and supporting anti-apartheid efforts. She also helped to create the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, better known as the King Center, in Atlanta where the couple's youngest daughter, Bernice King, serves as CEO.

Last week, NEC unveiled a bust of Mrs. King titled "The Continuation of Change," that will be on permanent display at the school where she earned a degree in voice and piano.

Coretta Scott King passed in 2006.

Wesley United Methodist Church

201 East 95th Street Chicago, IL 60619 Rev. Charles A. Woolery, Sr., Pastor

SAVE these **Conference Call Numbers**

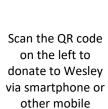
Sunday 10:30 am - LIVE Service 1.425.436.6348 Thursday 11 am - Prayer Call Code: 672500#

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#



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!



2021 Daily Bible Readings (One Year Bible Reading Plan) Week of January 3 - January 9th

January 3 Genesis 5:1-7:24 Matthew 3:7-4:11 Psalm 3:1-8 Proverbs 1:10-19	2021: "The Year of	January 6 Genesis 13:5-15:21 Matthew 5:27-48 Psalm 6:1-10 Proverbs 1:29-33
January 4 Genesis 8:1-10:32 Matthew 4:12-25 Psalm 4:1-8 Proverbs 1:20-23	Restoration (1 Peter 5:10) January 9	January 7 Genesis 16:1-18:15 Matthew 6:1-24 Psalm 7:1-17 Proverbs 2:1-5
January 5 Genesis 11:1-13:4 Matthew 5:1-26 Psalm 5:1-12 Proverbs 1:24-28	Genesis 20:1-22:24 Matthew 7:15-29 Psalm 9:1-12 Proverbs 2:16-22	January 8 Genesis 18:16-19:38 Matthew 6:25-7:14 Psalm 8:1-9 Proverbs 2:6-15