

"The Church With The Warm Heart"

January 31, 2021



Wesley United Methodist Church

**201 East 95th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60619**

Tel: 773.821.6240

Fax: 773.821.4016

GivePlus+ Text: 833.595.0705

Pastor: Rev. Charles A. Woolery, Sr.

eMail: wesley_chicago@comcast.net

Website: www.wesleyumcchicago.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/wesleyumcchicago

Twitter: www.twitter.com/WUMCChicago

Bishop John Hopkins (interim)

District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Jacques A. Conway

"The Mission of the Church is to Make Disciples"

"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip (John 1:46).

It was Dietrich Bonhoeffer who said that "salvation is free but discipleship is costly." Mr. Bonhoeffer was intrigued by what he called the "cost of discipleship". In fact, he was so intrigued by it that he penned a book with the same title. In the book, he argues that modern-day Christians prefer a sanitized version of Christianity that allows them to do anything they want without being asked to submit or sacrifice for the sake of the gospel. He argues that modern-day Christians want 'cheap grace.' To him, cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, and grace without Jesus the Christ." To follow Jesus is a costly endeavor. And I don't mean cost as in money. I mean "costly" as in it will cost you something like your time and talents, your energy and focus. Jesus gave His life to give birth to the church. The least we could do is to continue His work of building it up.

Since we are disciples of Jesus and therefore followers of Jesus it behooves us to truly follow Him. Bible readers recognize that Jesus had a mission to save those who He considered 'lost' because their connection to God had been severed. In Luke chapter 15 we see His theology of the lost unfold. When He is criticized for sharing table fellowship with known sinners such as tax collectors and people who could or did not adhere to the Mosaic Law, he tells three parables in chapter 15. And all of the parables have the same message: Heaven rejoices and has a party when one sinner reconnects with God. Evangelism is a rewarding yet costly endeavor. One we must engage in if we are going to be a church that makes disciples out of unbelievers and unchurched people.

According to Sam Chan, author of [Evangelism in a Skeptical World](#), *"the essence of evangelism is the message that Jesus Christ is Lord. Evangelism is our human effort of proclaiming this message—which necessarily involves using our human communication, language, idioms, metaphors, stories, experiences, personality, emotions, context, culture, located-ness—and trusting and praying that God, in His sovereign will, will supernaturally use our human and natural means to effect his divine purposes."*

Evangelism is a rewarding yet costly endeavor. It will inconvenience you. It will move you out of your comfort zone. It will cause you to do things you never thought you would do. It will cause you to express your faith. It will cause you to share your story of how God saved you. It will cause you to be transparent in order to share your testimony with coworkers, friends, and family. It will cause you to face rejection by those who don't have time to hear what you have to say. In February, we will creatively come up with ways to fulfill our mission to make disciples by focusing on the ministry, message, and methods of Jesus to seek and save the lost. Believe it or not, Jesus is not supposed to be a secret. Please read Matthew 28:18-20. Have a great week.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

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: GREEN

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 Matthew 5:13 see video, or page 4

Psalm of Praise Psalm 111 see video, or page 5

Announcements

Offering

Pastoral Prayer

Today's Message *"Be Salty"*

Rev. Dr. John E. Jackson, Sr.
Pastor, Trinity United Church of Christ-Gary, IN

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Affirmation of Faith

Benediction

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	
Morning Worship (01/24/21)	83 (views)
Worship Call "	31 (callers)
Sunday School "	15 (callers)
Prayer Group	6 (callers)
Bible Study (AM: 10 PM: 6)	16 (views/calls)
TOTAL	151

Morning Scripture

Matthew 5:13 (NKJV)

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

Today's Speaker

A native of Chicago, Illinois, **Reverend Dr. John E. Jackson, Sr.** received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Divinity degrees from Loyola University and McCormick Theological Seminary, respectively, in Chicago.

Under the leadership of the Reverend Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr., Reverend Jackson served as the Associate Pastor to Men's Ministries and the Pre-Marital Counseling Program at the dynamic Trinity United Church of Christ (TUCC).

In this capacity, Reverend Dr. Jackson not only provided pastoral leadership to the various Men's ministries of Trinity UCC, but he also facilitated a weekly Men's Bible Class and organized the quarterly Men's Worship Service. Reverend Jackson also developed the Annual Men's Prayer Breakfast into an Annual Men's Conference, providing opportunities for workshops, lectures, and worship to over 500 brothers-in-Christ each year.

In 2004, Reverend Dr. John E. Jackson, Sr. was called to serve as Senior Pastor of The Trinity United Church of Christ in Gary, IN. Since its first worship service the second Sunday in October 2004, Trinity UCC-Gary has been consistently growing. In order to accommodate the ever-expanding ministries, Trinity UCC-Gary completed construction of their new sanctuary for worship, and held their first worship service in the new edifice on October 5, 2008. It is located at 1276 West 20th Avenue in the City of Gary.

The motto of Trinity UCC-Gary is “We are not just another church but we are a culturally conscious Christ centered church committed to the community!” We are "Unashamedly Black and Unapologetically Christian."

In May of 2014 Pastor Jackson earned the Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary, Dayton, OH.

Reverend Dr. John E. Jackson, Sr. shares his life with his wife the former Janiece N. Barney, their three adult children, and five grandchildren.

Psalm of Praise

Psalm 111

(R) Great are the works of the LORD, which abound to the ends of the earth.

¹ Praise the LORD.

***I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.***

² Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who have pleasure in them.

***³ Full of honor and majesty are the works of the LORD
whose righteousness endures for ever,***

⁴ who has caused his wonderful works to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.

***⁵ The LORD provides food for the faithful
and is ever mindful of his covenant.***

(R) Great are the works of the LORD, which abound to the ends of the earth.

⁶ The LORD has shown his people the power of his works
by giving them the heritage of the nations.

***⁷ The works of the LORD's hands are faithful and just;
the precepts of the LORD are trustworthy;***

***⁸ they are established for ever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.***

⁹ The LORD sent redemption to his people
and has commanded his covenant for ever.
Holy and wondrous is God's name!

***¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
The praise of the LORD endures for ever.***

(R) Great are the works of the LORD, which abound 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 **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.
- **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. RSVP [here](#) today to confirm your participation.
- **End-of-Year Contribution Statements** are being mailed this weekend.
- **Communion Elements Distribution and Contribution Collection** The United Methodist Men will distribute communion elements from **11 am – 1 pm Saturday, February 6th**. Drive by the church Saturday, 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.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Rori Rogers	February 1 st	Carlton Binion	February 10 th	Gloria Lomax	February 16 th
Tina Bailey	February 2 nd	Chester Plaxico	February 11 th	Dr. Sooniti Weems	February 19 th
Janiyah Flakes	February 3 rd	Roosevelt Wiley	February 11 th	Mary Holmes	February 21 st
Frederick Williams	February 4 th	Ciara Curtis	February 12 th	Charles Goodrich	February 26 th
Shirley Adams	February 7 th	Laniya Bradley	February 14 th	Edward W. Davis	February 27 th
David Stinson	February 8 th	Catherine Hudson	February 14 th	Ronetta Graham	February 28 th
Clarence Rogers II	February 9 th	Cheryl Turner	February 15 th	Sierra Rainey	February 28 th

Be sure to wish our members with February birthdays 'Happy Birthday!'

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 Gerald (3)	*Helen Tuck (7)
*Fred Williams (20)	

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

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

FEBRUARY 2021

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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31 Youth Sunday! 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#	1	2	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#	5	UMM Meeting (via Zoom) 9 am ----- UMM Communion Element Pick-up 11 am – 1 pm (parking lot)
7  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#	8	9	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#	12	UMW Meeting (via Zoom) 10 am
14  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#	15	16	Ash Wednesday 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#	19	CSD-UMW Learning Event 2021 (via Zoom) 9 am \$5 Pre-registration required
21 9 am Sunday School Call 1.605.475.4000 Access code: 260259# ----- Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	22	23	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#	26	Board of Trustees Mtg 9 am (via Zoom)
28 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#	1	2	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#	5	UMM Meeting (via Zoom) 9 am ----- UMM Communion Element Pick-up 11 am – 1 pm (parking lot)

Coming up in March...

Lifeline Health Screenings
 Wednesday, March 17, 2021

The Community Blood Center Blood Drive
 Saturday, March 20, 2021

SUNDAY MORNING HEALTH CORNER

Benefits of Getting the COVID-19 Vaccine

Long-standing systemic health care issues and social inequities have caused African Americans to be at an increased risk of contracting or even dying from COVID-19. As COVID-19 continues to ravage the Black community, the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) found that 7 in 10 African Americans say they are mistreated based on race or ethnicity when they try to seek medical care. Many factors contribute to the trepidation and speciesism African Americans have surrounding the COVID-19 vaccination. Here are some reasons why you should get vaccinated.

Three benefits of the vaccination

The COVID-19 vaccination will help keep you from getting COVID-19.

All COVID-19 vaccines that are in development are being carefully evaluated in clinical trials and will be authorized or approved only if they make it substantially less likely you'll get COVID-19.

The COVID-19 vaccination is a safer way to help build protection.

Both natural immunity and immunity produced by a vaccine are essential parts of COVID-19 disease that experts are trying to learn more about. The CDC will keep the public informed as new evidence becomes available.

The COVID-19 vaccination will be an important tool to help stop the pandemic.

Wearing masks and social distancing help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others, but these measures are not enough. Vaccines will work with your immune system, so it will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed.

For more information on COVID-19 visit:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits.html>



THE BALM
IN GILEAD
INC

www.balmingilead.org
620 Moorefield Park Drive, Suite 150
Richmond, VA 23236
804.644.2256

Social Commentary

I Can Still Hear Father Pflieger, No Matter How Silent Chicago Now Seems

by John Fountain



Silence. Hear the silence, the sound of nothingness, crashing like waves upon this star-kissed city's shore in the face of injustice and poverty that roar. Silence deafening amid burgeoning malevolence, merciless greed that leaves Black lives scattered, Black lives shattered. Listless in the bitter night cold. Frozen in drifting now. Souls frostbitten by hatred so cold, so bold. Old schemes in "The White City," where Black dreams remain elusive, privilege exclusive. And voices that challenge the status quo, so few and far between that silence now screams! But I can still hear Pflieger, Father Pflieger, cryin' in the wilderness of dreams. Defyin' cataclysmic schemes. No matter how silent Chicago now seems — without him.

Silence. Feel the void, a familiar oppressive noise, rising violently. Capsizing, sinking beneath relentless stormy seas. Fragile new hopes, old dreams. Gasping amid Silence that drowns cries that abound. Of those who die with the mucus of poverty dripping from their lonely eyes. The deafening sound of piercing lies that soar miles high toward forbidden, powder blue skies with invisible glass ceilings. Repressed feelings and PTSD in this American city of Du Sable — where the Negro still is not free. Who is unafraid to speak for me? To fight for we? For us, in frequencies decipherable by even the least of these. But reviled by powers that be.

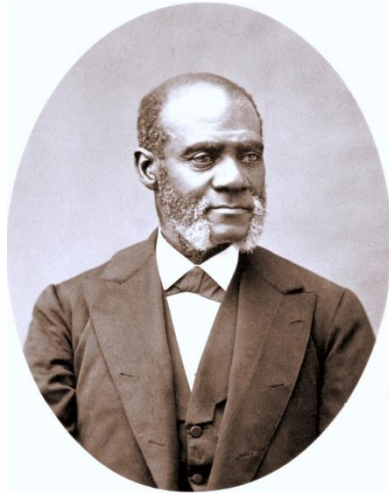
A voice unrelenting. Uncompromised. And yet despised. "The Enemy" to them who lie. But Champion in our brown eyes for decades now, unto this hour: Pflieger. Father Pflieger. No. 1 Instigator. No. 1 Agitator. Chief Drum Major for Justice both here and beyond. A city I find most fond of silence. Silence. O, great city now absent of that rolling thunder that cries aloud, "Justice!" even when it just is just us for whom justice is still denied. O, city that does not hear our cries: Silence!

This much is plain: Pflieger, Father Pflieger, has marched into the fiery hell of city streets. Waged a holy war for the least of these. Did not abandon ship in stormy seas. Sought not politicians or preachers to please. Cried aloud and spared not in the face of hate. That he might help alter this city's fate. Declaring with crystal clear clarity in the key of Charity, the way things are, but the way things ought to be. His light shining. Redefining "church." Bringing healing to hurt. Not a savior. But a man who has lifted his voice for a righteous plan. Stood as a good shepherd in defense of lambs when so many so-called leaders didn't give a damn. Silence! Except I still hear Pflieger, Father Pflieger. And the witness of his light, after all these years, compels me now and here, loud and clear, to say something: To hell with Silence!

Little Known Black History Fact

Rev. Henry Highland Garnet

by D.L. Chandler



Rev. Henry Highland Garnet made history as the first Black minister to address the U.S. House of Representatives in 1865, but another pivotal moment in his life took place this week in 1843. Garnet's famous speech "Call to Rebellion" rallied slaves to rise up against their masters and was widely criticized by other abolitionists for being too radical.

Garnet was born December 23, 1815 in New Market, Md. The family escaped slavery and settled in New York where Garnet attended school and joined the surging abolitionist movement. He became a Presbyterian minister in New York starting in 1842.

On August, 21, 1843, Garnet addressed the National Negro Convention with the speech, demanding that the enslaved pool their resources and snatch back their freedom. The speech was denounced by attendees of the convention because of its radicalism, including by Garnet's colleague, Frederick Douglass. Douglass and other abolitionists felt that Garnet's fiery speech would stoke the fears of whites and upend their non-violent efforts.

"Brethren, it is as wrong for your lordly oppressors to keep you in slavery as it was for the man thief to steal our ancestors from the coast of Africa. You should therefore now use the same manner of resistance, as would have been just in our ancestors when the bloody foot-prints of the first remorseless soul-thief was placed upon the shores of our fatherland. The humblest peasant is as free in the sight of God as the proudest monarch that ever swayed a sceptre," Garnet said in part of his address.

Garnet later traveled to Europe in 1850 and worked in the country as a celebrated lecturer regarding anti-slavery efforts. On February 12, 1865, Garnet made his appearance at the House. Near the end of his life, Garnet chose to live out his remaining days in Liberia. He was named the U.S. Minister for Liberia, dying two months into his term.

Wesley United Methodist Church

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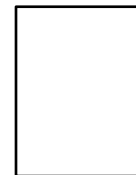
Rev. Charles A. Woolery, Sr., Pastor

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!



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!

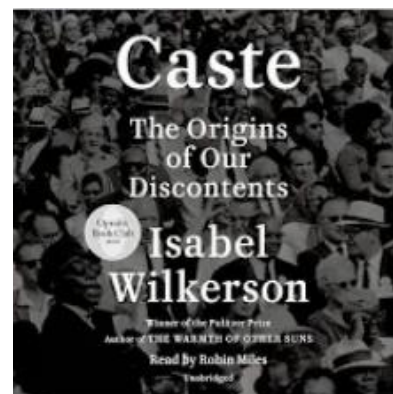
Click [here](#) to purchase (Amazon.com).

Facilitator: Stephanie Jackson-Williams

Please contact Stephanie for details.

skjackwill@gmail.com | 312-961-8909

Click [HERE](#) to RSVP for February's Book Discussion!



Click image above for NY Times book review.

As you read, here to listen to a podcast of the author, moderated by Oprah Winfrey.

2021 Daily Bible Readings (One Year Bible Reading Plan)

Week of January 31st – February 6th

January 31

Exodus 12:14-13:16
Matthew 20:29-21:22
Psalm 25:16-22
Proverbs 6:12-15

February 1

Exodus 13:17-15:18
Matthew 21:23-46
Psalm 26:1-12
Proverbs 6:16-19

February 2

Exodus 15:19-17:7
Matthew 22:1-33
Psalm 27:1-6
Proverbs 6:20-26

2021:

“The Year of Restoration”

(1 Peter 5:10)

February 6

Exodus 23:14-25:40
Matthew 24:29-51
Psalm 30:1-12
Proverbs 7:24-27

February 3

Exodus 17:8-19:15
Matthew 22:34-23:12
Psalm 27:7-14
Proverbs 6:27-35

February 4

Exodus 19:16-21:21
Matthew 23:13-39
Psalm 28:1-9
Proverbs 7:1-5

February 5

Exodus 21:22-23:13
Matthew 24:1-28
Psalm 29:1-11
Proverbs 7:6-23