# The Church With The Warm Heart

February 14, 2021



# Wesley United Methodist Church

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Bishop John Hopkins (interim)

District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Jacques A. Conway

# "Black History Month: An Annual Sankofa Moment"

### What is meant by Sankofa?

### The Origin

During the European-African slave trade, most slaves were primarily taken from Senegal, Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Benin before making their end journey to the "New World" or North America. Those Africans who were taken as slaves from these countries during the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade were known as Akan, an ethnic group made up what ethnologist and historians call the Ivory Coast.

#### The Language

The Akan (Ghanaian) people have a richly diverse culture that translates into pictorial symbolism, similar to that of Egyptian Hieroglyphics. These symbols told stories and/or expressed various African Proverbs. These proverbs provide insight on how the culture viewed its societal experiences, values and ethics.

The language is known as Adinkra, created by Ashanti craftsman. These craftsmen created the symbol you see below:



**San** means: to return **ko** means: to go **fa** means: to look, to seek and take

The Sankofa bird has sought its past trail to take back what was lost, in order to protect its future! Sankofa literally means "to go back and get what was taken." After the term made its way to the United States, African-American scholars coin the term to mean "remembering our past, to protect our future" within the African-American culture. Black History Month is a sacred month to remember, reflect and refocus our attention on celebrating African-American, African Diasporic, and African history made since the beginning of time. Make Africa Great Again! MAGA that!

# TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

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

www.wesleyumcchicago.org

SPIRITUAL THEME FOR FEBRUARY: "We've come this far by faith"

### **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**COLOR: WHITE or GOLD** 

**Scripture for the month:** <sup>23</sup> For the LORD your God dried up the river right before your eyes, and he kept it dry until you were all across, just as he did at the Red Sea when he dried it up until we had all crossed over. <sup>24</sup> He did this so all the nations of the earth might know that the LORD's hand is powerful, and so you might fear the LORD your God forever." Joshua 4:23-24 (NLT)

Call to Worship

Invocation

Scripture Isaiah 40:22-31 see video, or page 4

Psalm of Praise Psalm 50:1-15 see video, or page 5

**Announcements** 

Offering

Pastoral Prayer

Today's Message "Having Hope While on a Tightrope" Rev. Charles A. Woolery, Sr.

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Affirmation of Faith

Benediction

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE			
Morning Worship (02/07/21)	78 (views)		
Worship Call "	35 (callers)		
Sunday School "	15 (callers)		
Prayer Group	6 (callers)		
Bible Study (AM: 11)	11 (views/calls)		
UMM Monthly Meeting	12 (views/calls)		
TOTAL	157		

# Morning Scripture Isaiah 40:22-31 (NKJV)

<sup>22</sup> It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.

<sup>23</sup> He brings the princes to nothing; He makes the judges of the earth useless.

<sup>24</sup> Scarcely shall they be planted, scarcely shall they be sown, Scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth, When He will also blow on them, And they will wither, And the whirlwind will take them away like stubble.

<sup>25</sup> "To whom then will you liken Me, Or to whom shall I be equal?" says the Holy One.

<sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes on high,
And see who has created these things,
Who brings out their host by number;
He calls them all by name,
By the greatness of His might
And the strength of *His* power;
Not one is missing.

<sup>27</sup> Why do you say, O Jacob, And speak, O Israel: "My way is hidden from the LORD, And my just claim is passed over by my God"?

<sup>28</sup> Have you not known?
Have you not heard?
The everlasting God, the LORD,
The Creator of the ends of the earth,
Neither faints nor is weary.
His understanding is unsearchable.

<sup>29</sup> He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength.

> <sup>30</sup> Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall,

<sup>31</sup> But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

## **Psalm of Praise**

### Psalm 50:1-15

(R) Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory over all the earth be found.

The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

<sup>2</sup> Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

<sup>3</sup> Our God comes, and does not keep silence, before whom is a devouring fire, round about whom is a mighty storm.

<sup>4</sup> God calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that the people may be judged:

<sup>5</sup> "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"

<sup>6</sup> The heavens declare God's righteousness, for God alone is judge!

(R) Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory over all the earth be found.

<sup>7</sup> "Hear, O my people, and I will speak, O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God.

8 I do not reprove you for your sacrifices; your burnt offerings are continually before me.

<sup>9</sup> But I will not accept a bull from your house, nor a he-goat from your folds.

<sup>10</sup> For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.

<sup>11</sup>I know all the birds of the air, and all that moves in the field is mine.

<sup>12</sup> "If I were hungry, I would not tell you; for the world and all that is in it is mine.

<sup>13</sup> Do I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats?

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High;

<sup>15</sup> and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."

(R) Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory over all the earth be found.

### **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. RSVP <a href="https://here">here</a> today to confirm your participation.
- All End-of-Year Contribution Statements have been mailed to the member addresses on file.
- **The Lenten season is approaching**. Even though we can't be together for worship, we are a congregational family in spirit. During the lenten season, we usually provide coin gleaners for our members to give a special Easter donation to the church. This year we won't be distributing gleaners but we hope you will still remember to give an *Easter blessing* this Easter Sunday.
- Ash Wednesday is February 17<sup>th</sup>. Plan to stop by the church for the Imposition of Ashes from 12 noon-1 pm. NOTE: To accommodate this special service, Bible Study will begin at 10:30 am.

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

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

	GENERAL		
*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 and Family (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	Muriel Bolden	Angel Acosta	
(7 1 12)			
*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	, , , ,	
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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	Т	W	Т	F	S
31 Youth Sunday!	1	2	3	4	5	6
9 am Sunday School Call 1.605.475.4000 Access code: 260259#			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#		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#	Wesley's Family Game Night	UMW Meeting (via Zoom) 10 am
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	17 Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes 12 n-1 pm Remote Bible Study 10:30 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 (Zoom) 9 am \$5 Pre-registration Wesley's Book Club 11 am-1 pm Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents, by Isabel Wilkerson
9 am Sunday School Call 1.605.475.4000 Access code: 260259# Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	22	23	24  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)
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

## **HIV/AIDS Awareness**

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

### Facts about HIV/AIDs

HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) is a virus that attacks the body's immune system. If HIV is not treated, it can lead to AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome).

There is currently no effective cure. Once people get HIV, they have it for life.

Proper medical care can control HIV, and people with HIV who get effective HIV treatment can live long, healthy lives and protect their partners.

If current rates persist, CDC projects that approximately one in 20 black men and one in 48 black women will receive a diagnosis of HIV during their lifetimes.

## Why are Rates Higher in the African American Community?

1 in 7 African Americans with HIV is unaware they
have it. There needs to be more access to
resources and education regarding HIV/AIDs.

Poverty rates among African Americans are high. The socioeconomic issues associated with poverty, including timited access to high-quality health care, housing, and HIV prevention education.

Stigma, fear, and discrimination may prevent African Americans from accessing HIV prevention and care services.



# **Social Commentary**

# Black History: Trip to Ghana Reminded Me of Our Existence Long Before Slavery

by John Fountain

Imagine. If the ocean could cry. If the walls did cry. If the sands could speak. If the cells here in Cape Coast would try to tell the tale of blood lost, of tears shed. Of souls dead. Imagine...

These were the words I penned shortly after visiting the former slave castle in Cape Coast, Ghana, in 2007 — a hauntingly majestic white stone fortress overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Standing on that side of the Atlantic upon this castle, where my ancestors began their shackled journey to North America, staring into waves that lapped at its shores, I was awash in Black history.

Moved in ways I had not been before by our story as African Americans, by our journey, which did not begin in 1619. In the humid dungeon, I could feel the human carnage, the volume of perished souls. I was staggered by the depth of darkness, by visions of Black bodies stacked, and imaginations of the thinness of the air, mixed with sweat, urine and feces. I could hear their cries.

Black history gripped my body and soul. And it left me almost breathless, certainly temporarily tearless. I felt lost, stunned silent, as I wandered through the belly of hell inside Cape Coast Castle. Cape Coast Castle was only part of my experience in Ghana. Simply breathing the air as I walked through its streets, into its markets, and otherwise encountered a sea of beautiful deep dark Black people, I felt, for the first time in my life, free among a people for whom my skin is not a sin.

I was not a Black man but simply a man. I was home. I inhaled the beauty of Ghana. Its splendor. Its pride. And it reminded me, spoke clearly to me, of our existence long before slavery. Of the time when we were kings and queens upon the continent from whose soil emerged the beginning of man. Not lost on me was that Ghana, in 1957, became the first sub-Saharan nation to gain its freedom from colonial rule, or that W.E.B. Du Bois is buried there, or that Ghana has been dubbed the mecca of the Black liberation movement and Pan-Africanism.

This much I vowed to myself while there: I would return to Ghana someday and bring my family with me. For I am convinced that every African American — even if not seeking to repatriate — must make pilgrimage to the Motherland. I hear her calling my soul.

I have no illusions. Ghana is not "Wakanda." But imagine.

# **Little Known Black History Fact**

### Charles "Chuck" Harrison



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

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

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

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

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

Chuck Harrison passed on November 29, 2018. He was 87.

#### **Wesley United Methodist Church**

201 East 95<sup>th</sup> 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!



# Black History Month



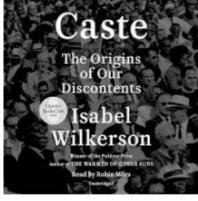
Join us at 11 am. February 20th for a Black History Month book discussion reviewing the new Isabel Wilkerson book,

### Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents

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

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.





# Happy Valentine's Day!



## 2021 Daily Bible Readings (One Year Bible Reading Plan) Week of February 14th - February 20th

Exodus 37:1-38:31 Matthew 28:1-20 Psalm 34:11-22 Proverbs 9:9-10

### February 15

Exodus 39:1-40:38 Mark 1:1-28 Psalm 35:1-16 Proverbs 9:11-12

### February 16

Leviticus 1:1-3:17 Mark 1:29-2:12 Psalm 35:17-28 Proverbs 9:13-18

#### 2021:

"The Year of Restoration" (1 Peter 5:10)

#### February 20

Leviticus 9:7-10:20 Mark 4:26-5:20 Psalm 37:30-40 Proverbs 10:6-7

#### February 17

Leviticus 4:1-5:19 Mark 2:13-3:6 Psalm 36:1-12 Proverbs 10:1-2

### February 18

Leviticus 6:1-7:27 Mark 3:7-30 Psalm 37:1-11 Proverbs 10:3-4

#### February 19

Leviticus 7:28-9:6 Mark 3:31-4:25 Psalm 37:12-29 Proverbs 10:5