

"The Church With The Warm Heart"

March 7, 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 Hasn’t Changed”

According to Dr. James Cone’s seminal work, God of the Oppressed (1975), God has a preferential option for the poor and the oppressed. That is, God does all God can do to help alleviate the pain and problems of oppressed peoples all over the world. This is not to say that God doesn’t love or care for middle class and wealthy people. However, Cone argues that our biblical tradition does not hide the fact that God goes out of God’s way to uplift and restore marginalized and oppressed people.

Dr. Cone wrote the book to make academia aware that Black Theology is a legitimate discipline and contextually it is suggesting that since African-Americans are a part of the oppressed class, then God is on our side in our quest for full-equality and opportunity in America. Of course, he uses the scriptures to support his thesis using the biblical history of the nation of Israel, the Black experience, and the gospels.

He was onto something. When a serious student of the Hebrew and New Testament scriptures reads about the history of the fledgling faith community called Israel and how God had a preferential option for them coupled with the ministry of Jesus who ministered among the marginalized, you can’t help but to see that God is God of the oppressed.

I say this to remind all of us that the church’s mission to make disciples involves seeking to find those people who have been victims of oppression so much so that they don’t trust anyone, not even the church. Life has been rough and rugged for them and, to them, God has been nowhere to be found. They have given up on “the good” and have feasted on a diet of cynicism, fatalism, and nihilism. The Christian church to them is viewed as another instrument of oppression, white-washed to provide the foundation for a white supremacist ideology. They indeed are ‘lost’ but they didn’t get lost by themselves. They have had some help. Our mission is to recover ‘lost’ people. We have people who are ‘lost’ in poverty; ‘lost’ in hopelessness; ‘lost’ in fear and anger; ‘lost’ in distrust; ‘lost’ in hate; ‘lost’ in chasing earthly treasures; and some are even ‘lost’ in the church.

Based on what the bible says, I feel that if God has a preferential option for the oppressed, the least of these, and the lost, then so should the church. When Jesus gave the Great Commission it wasn’t presented as an option. It is a command. A mandate. Ask yourself, how many persons have you brought to Christ? How many persons have you brought to church?

There are people waiting to join a church like ours. They just have to be introduced. Won’t you facilitate that introduction? Have a great week.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

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

SPIRITUAL THEME FOR MARCH: "Women in the Bible"

ORDER OF WORSHIP

COLOR: WHITE

Scripture for the month: ⁴ Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading^[a] Israel at that time. ⁵ She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided. Judges 4:4-5 (NIV)

Call to Worship

Invocation

Scripture

Isaiah 6:1-8

see video, or page 4

Psalm of Praise

Psalm 19

see video, or page 5

Announcements

Offering

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

"The Two Most Important Days in Your Life"

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	
Worship Video (02/28/21)	76 (views)
Worship Call "	31 (callers)
Sunday School "	15 (callers)
Prayer Group	6 (callers)
Bible Study (AM: 10 PM: 7)	17 (views/calls)
TOTAL	145

Morning Scripture

Isaiah 6:1-8 (NKJV)

¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His *robe* filled the temple.

² ***Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.***

³ And one cried to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy *is* the LORD of hosts;
The whole earth *is* full of His glory!”

⁴ ***And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.***

⁵ So I said:

“Woe *is* me, for I am undone!
Because I *am* a man of unclean lips,
And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips;
For my eyes have seen the King,
The LORD of hosts.”

⁶ ***Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar.***

⁷ And he touched my mouth *with it*, and said:

“Behold, this has touched your lips;
Your iniquity is taken away,
And your sin purged.”

⁸ ***Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying:***

***“Whom shall I send,
And who will go for Us?”***

Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”

Psalm of Praise

Psalm 19:1-10

(R) The law of God is just, reviving the soul.

¹The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

***²Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.***

³There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

***⁴yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.***

In them God has set a tent for the sun,

⁵which comes forth like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and runs its course with joy like a strong man.

***⁶Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and there is nothing hid from its heat.***

(R) The law of God is just, reviving the soul.

⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

⁸the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

⁹the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

(R) The law of God is just, reviving the soul.

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.
- **Lenten Meditations** Pastor Woolery will be preparing weekly meditations throughout the Lenten season. Be sure to check your email for these inspirational messages as we progress through this, the holiest season of the year.
- **Next Sunday is UMCOR Sunday.** Please give generously.
- **The Lenten season has begun.** 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 distribute gleaners but we hope you will still remember to give a **special blessing** this Easter Sunday.

Easter gleaners: \$15+ donation

Easter Lilies: \$20+ donation

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Omar Helm	March 2 nd	Johnathan Flakes	March 9 th	Larue Grizzard	March 22 nd
Julia Kidd	March 2 nd	C. Sam Hancock	March 10 th	Jade Jenkins	March 22 nd
John Sanders	March 4 th	Domonique Mott	March 12 th	Doris Thompson	March 26 th
Joyce Chisem-Davis	March 5 th	Pamela Pirtle	March 12 th	Anedra Moss	March 27 th
Carlton Binion II	March 6 th	Kiara Goodrich	March 14 th	Damilola Shonoiki	March 29 th
Minnie Thompson	March 7 th	Robin Woolery	March 15 th	Sheila Ann Gonzales	March 30 th
Morris Echols	March 8 th	Y. Shorter-Darden	March 16 th	Cheryle Banks	March 31 st
Khayra Moss	March 8 th			Dorothy Williamson	March 31 st

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

Please remember to update the church office with needed changes to the prayer list!

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

MARCH 2021

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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	3 Remote Bible Study 11 am ----- 1-312-626-6799; Mtg ID: 2951017709# (Call/email the church for ZOOM video link)	4 Remote Prayer Group 11 am ----- Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	5	6 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	10 Remote Bible Study 11 am ----- 1-312-626-6799; Mtg ID: 2951017709# (Call/email the church for ZOOM video link)	11 Remote Prayer Group 11 am ----- Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	12	13 UMW Meeting (via Zoom) 10 am -----
14 UMCOR 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#	15	16	17 Life Line Screenings 8:30 a-4:30 p ----- Remote Bible Study 11 am ----- 1-312-626-6799; Mtg ID: 2951017709# (Call/email the church for ZOOM video link)	18 Remote Prayer Group 11 am ----- Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	19	20 Community Blood Center Blood Drive 11 am – 2:30 pm Give blood to help our community! Register here.
21 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#	22	23	24 Remote Bible Study 11 am ----- 1-312-626-6799; Mtg ID: 2951017709# (Call/email the church for ZOOM video link)	25 Remote Prayer Group 11 am ----- Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	26	27 Board of Trustees Mtg 9 am (via Zoom)
28 Palm 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#	29	30	31 Remote Bible Study 11 am ----- 1-312-626-6799; Mtg ID: 2951017709# (Call/email the church for ZOOM video link)	1 Maundy Thursday Remote Prayer Group 11 am ----- Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	2 Good Friday	3 Holy Saturday UMM Meeting (via Zoom) 9 am -----

Life Line Health Screenings
 Wednesday, March 17, 2021

Coming Up This Month...

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

Pandemic Makes Obvious Another Great Health Threat to African Americans: Obesity

by Laura Washington



As COVID-19 descended on us last March, the Fat Nag watched with dread and hope. Dread, knowing this 21st century plague would hit Black folks hardest. When it comes to health disparities, we always weigh in on the wrong side of the scale. And as the Fat Nag always reminds, there is another plague that affects us most — our everlasting battle with obesity. I harbored hope, however, the pandemic would usher in a new awareness that the fat is killing us.

For years, as the self-proclaimed Fat Nag, I have been reminding, railing and begging Black folks to get the fat out. Obesity impacts every demographic in the nation, notes a recent Chicago Sun-Times report, but hits us hardest. According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 40% of Blacks, 30% of whites and 34% of Hispanics are considered obese. And obesity can be a perilous underlying condition that makes other medical problems worse. “Having obesity increases the risk of severe illness from COVID-19,” Brett Chase of the Sun-Times writes. “Having obesity may triple the risk of hospitalization due to a COVID-19 infection.” Chicago already was an extremely dangerous place for Black folks. We lived with a triple threat of racism, violence and poverty. Then came the pandemic. Now, while Blacks make up about 23% of the county population, they account for 38% of COVID deaths, with obesity as a contributing factor.

We don't want to talk about it, but COVID has put the overweight and obese, particularly Black people, at much higher risk. For generations, we have died from and been disabled by ailments in which obesity is a major contributing factor: heart attacks, strokes, diabetes, cancer and more. Now COVID-19 is taking even more of us to the grave. Local Black clergy and others are responding to the obesity crisis with new outreach and education programs. The Nag applauds those efforts, but they're really nothing new. Oprah Winfrey has personally tried and promoted, it seems, every diet known to woman and man. As first lady, Michelle Obama made her fight to end childhood obesity, through her “Let's Move” initiative, the centerpiece of her White House agenda. For too many Black folks, being overweight has become the norm, commonplace and acceptable. Fat is embedded in our cultural fabric. We claim our food preferences — fried, greased and sugar-infested — are rooted in our heritage. We are comfortably ensconced in fat-denial. We trade in excuses and euphemisms. We believe being heavy is “beautiful” because it is more convenient to believe that.

The arrival of life-saving vaccines may save us from COVID-19. How about a vaccine that will save us from ourselves?

Little Known Black History Fact

The Real Women Warriors of Dahomey

by D.L. Chandler



Fans who saw the Marvel blockbuster movie, **The Black Panther**, were no doubt thrilled by the all-woman fighting force known as the “Dora Mijale”, the fierce soldiers who protected King T’Challa. In our world, an all-woman force known as the Amazons of Dahomey were a respected military presence that most accounts say emerged in the 18th Century.

History points to the Kingdom of Dahomey, which now rests where Benin and Togo are today as the place where the fighting force was born. Under the rulership of a king from the Fon tribe, the Ahosi [“king’s wives” in Fon], or the Mino [“our mothers in Fon] were said to be initially women who hunted large game for the king not unlike a lion’s pride. This moved the king to arm the women in or around the 1720s, making them an official part of his royal entourage.

The soldiers did not use the European name bestowed upon them due to their military might and strength in numbers, instead preferring the language of their people. The Ahosi struck a menacing pose in photos and other images, which showed them armed with guns taken from colonizers and European settlers in what was called the Slave Coast. There is even a painting of one Ahosi general holding a gun and a severed head of a white enemy.

The similarities to Black Panther’s Dora Mijale are quite evident. Like the Dora Mijale, which translates into the fictional Wakandan language to “the adored ones,” the Ahosi were said to be wives in training to the king. There isn’t widespread English-language research done on the Amazons but most findings point to them being just as skilled as their male counterparts in the art of war. After two major wars that took place in the 1890s when France invaded the kingdom, the Ahosi were officially disbanded in 1892. Benin declared independence in 1960.

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#

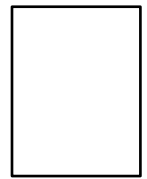
Wednesday 11 am - Bible Study: 1.312.626.6799

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!



March Health Events



Advanced Registration Required

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Register [HERE](#)

Click [HERE](#) to find Information on the COVID-19 vaccine in Cook County (IL).



THE COMMUNITY BLOOD CENTER

connecting lives | sharing life

Blood Drive

Advanced Registration Required

Saturday, March 20, 2021

11 am – 2:30 pm

Register [HERE](#)

2021 Daily Bible Readings (One Year Bible Reading Plan)

Week of March 7th – March 13th

March 7

Numbers 8:1-9:23

Mark 13:14-37

Psalms 50:1-23

Proverbs 10:29-30

March 8

Numbers 10:1-11:23

Mark 14:1-21

Psalms 51:1-19

Proverbs 10:31-3

March 9

Numbers 11:24-13:33

Mark 14:22-52

Psalms 52:1-9

Proverbs 11:1-3

2021:

“The Year of Restoration”

(1 Peter 5:10)

March 13

Numbers 19:1-20:29

Luke 1:1-25

Psalms 56:1-13

Proverbs 11:8

March 10

Numbers 14:1-15:16

Mark 14:53-72

Psalms 53:1-6

Proverbs 11:4

March 11

Numbers 15:17-16:40

Mark 15:1-47

Psalms 54:1-7

Proverbs 11:5-6

March 12

Numbers 16:41-18:32

Mark 16:1-20

Psalms 55:1-23

Proverbs 11:7