

"The Church With The Warm Heart"

March 21, 2021



Wesley United Methodist Church

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Chicago, Illinois 60619**

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Bishop John Hopkins (interim)

District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Jacques A. Conway

“God’s Plan”

“God's plan, God's plan. I can't do this on my own, ay, no, ay” Drake

In our morning bible study class, we talked about the life of Moses and how everything that happened to him was a part of God’s plan. From being born under a public policy of genocide for black boys; to his ‘cruise’ down the Nile River and being discovered by Pharaoh’s daughter; to him being raised in Pharaoh’s house; to him committing murder after seeing an Egyptian abuse a Hebrew, which led him to flee to Midian where ultimately he had his ‘burning bush’ encounter; and the rest is liberation history. Every high and low in his life was a part of God’s plan.

The class discussion that evolved from this idea led us down a road we seldom like to think about. That road was this: “Even the bad things that happened to Moses or that Moses did willingly were a part of God’s plan too?” This sparked some debate. One student’s insight led us to some type of consensus when he emphatically said, “Everything that happened to Moses went according to God’s plan.” He then argued the ‘sovereignty of God.’ We paused. We reflected. I marinated on this for the next several days. I pondered the idea of God’s sovereignty. Sovereignty means that God does what God wants to do and does not have to answer for it or to anybody. You could also say that God allows what God wants to allow to happen and God does not have to justify or explain God’s self to anyone. That involves both good and bad experiences of life.

The scriptures say, *“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope” (Jeremiah 29:11)*. This scripture was originally addressed to the entire nation of Israel, but it has been re-appropriated to apply to individuals as well. Yes, God has a plan for all of us. Collective plans and individual plans. The challenge is discovering what those plans are and then doing all that we can to ensure that those plans become a reality. I believe that the mission of the church is not just to make disciples of Jesus Christ but to also help people to discover what God’s plan is for their lives. Prayer, praise, proclamation, ‘phasting’, studying, seeking, serving, and surrendering can lead us down a path of discovering God’s plan for our lives. Every baptized believer has been called by God to partner with God to make earth look like heaven. That is God’s Plan. Where do you fit into that plan? I believe that if you ask God, God will tell you exactly where and how you fit.

#WesleyForever

FIFTH 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: PURPLE

Scripture for the month: ⁴ Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading 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

Joshua 24:14-22

see video, or page 4

Psalms of Praise

Psalms 57:1-17

see video, or page 5

Announcements

Offering

Pastoral Prayer

Today's Message

"Don't Quit"

Rev. Charles A. Woolery, Sr.

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Affirmation of Faith

Benediction

| WEEKLY ATTENDANCE | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Worship Video (03/14/21) | 97 (views) |
| Worship Call " | 24 (callers) |
| Sunday School " | 15 (callers) |
| Prayer Group | 6 (callers) |
| Bible Study (AM: 12 PM: 6) | 18 (views/calls) |
| UMW Monthly Meeting | 17 (views/calls) |
| TOTAL | 177 |

Morning Scripture

Joshua 24:14-22 (NKJV)

¹⁴ “Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD!

¹⁵ ***And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”***

¹⁶ So the people answered and said: “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods;

¹⁷ ***for the LORD our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, who did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went and among all the people through whom we passed.***

¹⁸ And the LORD drove out from before us all the people, including the Amorites who dwelt in the land. We also will serve the LORD, for He is our God.”

¹⁹ ***But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the LORD, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins.***

²⁰ If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you, after He has done you good.”

²¹ ***And the people said to Joshua, “No, but we will serve the LORD!”***

²² ***So Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD for yourselves, to serve Him.”***

And they said, “We are witnesses!”

Psalm of Praise

Psalm 51:1-17

(R) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

³ ***For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.***

⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless in your judgment.

⁵ ***Behold, I was born into iniquity, and I have been sinful since my mother conceived me.***

(R) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

⁶ Behold, you desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

⁷ ***Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow;***

⁸ Make me hear with joy and gladness; let the bones which you have broken rejoice.

⁹ ***Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.***

(R) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

¹¹ ***Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your holy Spirit from me.***

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

¹³ ***Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.***

¹⁴ Deliver me from death, O God, God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

¹⁵ ***O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth your praise.***

¹⁶ For you have no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

¹⁷ ***The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.***

(R) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

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.
- **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)

| SHUT-IN | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| *Minnie Thompson (20) | *Bessie Alford-Moore (18) |
| *Lucile Sanders (16) | *Doris Anderson (1) |
| *Clarence Sanders (16) | *Spencer Plaxico (17) |
| *Barbara Shepherd (18) | *Jessie Stokes (19) |
| *Eric Geraldts (3) | *Helen Tuck (7) |
| *Fred Williams (20) | |

| GENERAL | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| *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 Thompson (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 | Robert Leach |
| | | |
| | | |

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 Health Team Trustee Mtg 7 pm | 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 ----- |

SUNDAY MORNING HEALTH CORNER

Hereditary ATTR (hATTR) Amyloidosis: It Runs In the Family

hATTR amyloidosis is a rare, hereditary condition that affects several parts of the body, including the nerves, heart, and digestive system

- ✓ hATTR amyloidosis is caused by a gene variant, or change within a gene.
- ✓ The genetic variant is passed down to children (each child of someone with this variant has a 50% chance of inheriting the variant).
- ✓ Not everyone who inherits the variant will develop hATTR amyloidosis.

Approximately **1 in 25 African Americans** have a certain gene variant that may be associated with the development of hATTR amyloidosis.

If you think you may be experiencing symptoms of hATTR amyloidosis or become aware of a family history, talk to your doctor to determine the right plan of action. You can also learn more about hATTR amyloidosis at www.hATTRbridge.com.

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CECE, living with hATTR amyloidosis, with her son



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IN GILEAD
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Social Commentary

I'll Say It Again: Where Is the Outrage for the Unsolved Murders of 51 Chicago Women?

by John Fountain



I don't give a damn who's tired of hearing it. I'm not gonna stop saying it: If 51 dogs were slain and discarded in trash cans, abandoned buildings and vacant lots across Chicago, set on fire and dismembered, this city would be up in arms. Why not for at least 51 women slain here since 2001, and whose murders remain mostly unsolved? Why not for their families who seek solace and justice for these daughters whose innocent blood cries out from their cold graves?

What if it were 51 women mostly white instead of 51 women mostly Black? What if they were mostly middle class instead of mostly poor and working class? What if they lived and died in a posh Near North Side neighborhood or along the Magnificent Mile, rather than on the South and West Sides on poverty's isle? Would these murders still be largely unsolved? Might this city then care? What if these women had not been all summarily — and falsely — characterized as “prostitutes” and “drug addicts”? Would we be so easily dismissive of their fate? Would we still deem them as perhaps “less than,” if not altogether “disposables,” rather than as flesh and blood and heart and soul, created in the image of God?

Remember Jussie Smollett and how quickly police got to the bottom of the truth? But Black women and girls disappear, or are raped and murdered damn near every day. And what does the city do? All the official hand wringing and explaining sounds like one big excuse. And the inability to solve the murders of the 51 just evidence that this case is clearly not a priority for the mayor, or the police or for far too many.

Maybe I'm wrong. What I do know is that some don't want to hear it anymore. In so many words and with looks of dismay they say, “*Shut up, John Fountain, you've already said that. Write about something else, let it go.*” I can't. I won't. And I don't give a damn what “they” say. I said it again. And I'm gonna say it some more.

Little Known Black History Fact

Yvonne Brathwaite Burke

by D.L. Chandler



Congresswoman **Yvonne Brathwaite Burke** has one of the most incredible stories in politics. In 1973, she became the first woman serving in Congress to give birth, adding to a list of boundaries she broke over the course of her career.

Born Perle Yvonne Watson in Los Angeles on this day in 1932, the future congresswoman attended college at UCLA and then earned a law degree from the University of Southern California School of Law. After running a private practice, she was elected in 1966 to the California State Assembly, becoming the first Black woman elected to the state legislature.

In 1972, Burke became the first Black woman from California elected to Congress. In 1973, she gave birth to her daughter, Autumn, shattering another barrier. However, the choice of raising a child and working in Congress was made when she decided to not run for re-election in 1978 and returned to her hometown.

In 1957, Burke married Louis Brathwaite, divorcing in 1964. She married William Burke in 1972. Burke was also the first Black woman to serve as chair of the Los Angeles County of Supervisors in 1993. She officially retired in 2008, but in 2012, President Barack Obama appointed her to the Amtrak board of directors, a position she still holds.

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

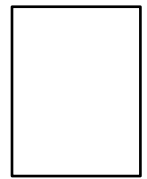
ID/code: 295 101 7709#

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!



Seniors and People with Disabilities Who Are Homebound

Chicago Dept. of Public Health is starting a program for **in-home vaccination of seniors and people with disabilities who are homebound**. This service is being provided by uniformed Chicago Fire Department community paramedics who can produce identification.

Call: 312-746-4835



2021 Daily Bible Readings (One Year Bible Reading Plan)

Week of March 21st – March 27th

March 21

Numbers 32:1-33:39

Luke 4:31-5:11

Psalms 64:1-10

Proverbs 11:22

March 22

Numbers 33:40-35:34

Luke 5:12-28

Psalms 65:1-13

Proverbs 11:23

March 23

Numbers 36:1-Deuteronomy 1:46

Luke 5:29-6:11

Psalms 66:1-20

Proverbs 11:24-26

2021:

“The Year of Restoration”

(1 Peter 5:10)

March 27

Deuteronomy 7:1-8:20

Luke 7:36-8:3

Psalms 69:1-18

Proverbs 12:1

March 24

Deuteronomy 2:1-3:29

Luke 6:12-38

Psalms 67:1-7

Proverbs 11:27

March 25

Deuteronomy 4:1-49

Luke 6:39-7:10

Psalms 68:1-18

Proverbs 11:28

March 26

Deuteronomy 5:1-6:25

Luke 7:11-35

Psalms 68:19-35

Proverbs 11:29-31