

# *"The Church With The Warm Heart"*

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April 4, 2021



## *Wesley United Methodist Church*

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**Bishop John Hopkins (interim)**

**District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Jacques A. Conway**

## **"It's Time to Rise!"**

Happy Easter Sunday! We are a resurrection people and that means we are eternally optimistic in the face of all things. No matter what we have to face; no matter how big the giants are; no matter how rough the seas are; no matter how difficult things may be; we can overcome them all because we know that the Spirit of God is the most powerful force in the universe. If God be in and for us, then who can be against us? Wesley, let's have a heart-to-heart conversation.

It is time for us to rise! In other words, let's go to the next level. We have been together, you and I, going on eight years. We have been through smooth and rough times together. You have learned from me and I have learned from you. I have learned more about you and you have learned more about me. Just as you have learned to accept my perfections and imperfections, I have learned to accept yours as well. In other words, we have "felt" each other out and now have some understanding of one another. You should know this about me. I will help grow this church by any means necessary. Together, we will lift the church on our collective shoulders and take it to where it needs to be. Teamwork makes the dream work. Where does it need to be?

First, it needs to walk down the street called "Excellence". Then it needs to climb the mountain of "Making a Difference," and then it needs to swim in the pool of "Powerful Witness" and then dry off with the towel of "Desire, Drive, and Determination." Next, the church needs to stroll through the field of "Faithfulness" and then climb the trees of "Tithing" and then feel the grass of "Greatness" between its toes. All the while basking in the "Light and Love" and "Warmth and Wonder" of the Son! We are headed somewhere and our destination depends on us. I say "us" because God will only take "us" as far as we are willing to go. In order to benefit from God's leading, we have to be willing to follow. In order to benefit from God's vision, we have to be visionary. In order to benefit from God's mission, we have to be missionaries. God will only take us as far as we are willing to go.

Let me remind you of the Exodus event. Once Israel received emancipation from Egypt, some could only go so far as the wilderness. Those that didn't make it out of the wilderness did so because of their choosing. Those who eventually made it to the Promised Land of Canaan did so because of their choosing, with the exception of Moses. The point I am making is this. The decision to reach our divine destiny, whether individually or collectively, is up to us. God has already spoken. It is up to us to accept what God has already said.

In John 11, when Jesus approached the tomb of Lazarus and exclaimed, "Lazarus, come forth!" Lazarus had a choice to make. He could have either remained in the tomb or he could have accepted the divine invitation for new life, a new start, new challenges, and a new mission. Lazarus accepted the divine invitation, rose to the occasion and inspired many to accept Jesus as their Savior. It was his time to rise and he took advantage of it. Like Lazarus, we have a choice to make. Either we can rise or recline; evolve or devolve; move forward or move backwards. The choice is ours. Have a great week!

# EASTER SUNDAY

Please check the church website, now our 'virtual church,' and your email regularly for ongoing updates.  
[www.wesleyumcchicago.org](http://www.wesleyumcchicago.org)

**SPIRITUAL THEME FOR APRIL: "New Life"**

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

**COLOR: WHITE or GOLD**

**Scripture for the month:** <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. <sup>26</sup> And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11:25-26 (NKJV)

**Call to Worship**

**Invocation**

**Scripture** John 11:32-44 see video, or page 4

**Psalm of Praise** Psalm 116:1-11 see video, or page 5

**Announcements**

**Offering**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Sermon** "The Comeback" 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 (03/28/21)	91 (views)
Worship Conference Call "	28 (callers)
Sunday School "	17 (callers)
Good Friday Conference Call	14 (callers)
Prayer Group	7 (callers)
Bible Study (AM: 10   PM: 7)	17 (views/calls)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>174</b>

# Morning Scripture

## *John 11:32-44 (NKJV)*

<sup>32</sup> Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.”

<sup>33</sup> ***Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled.***

<sup>34</sup> And He said, “Where have you laid him?”

They said to Him, “Lord, come and see.”

<sup>35</sup> ***Jesus wept.***

<sup>36</sup> Then the Jews said, “See how He loved him!”

<sup>37</sup> ***And some of them said, “Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?”***

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.

<sup>39</sup> ***Jesus said, “Take away the stone.”***

***Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, “Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days.”***

<sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, “Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?”

<sup>41</sup> ***Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.***

<sup>42</sup> And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said *this*, that they may believe that You sent Me.”

<sup>43</sup> ***Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth!”***

<sup>44</sup> ***And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Loose him, and let him go.”***

# Psalm of Praise

## ***Psalm 116:1-11***

***(R) O praise the Lord, who delivers your soul from death.***

<sup>1</sup> I love the LORD, who has heard  
my voice and my supplications,

<sup>2</sup> and has inclined his ear to me  
whenever I called.

<sup>3</sup> ***The snares of death encompassed me;  
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;  
I suffered distress and anguish.***

<sup>4</sup> Then I called on the name of the LORD:  
***“O LORD, I beseech you, save my life!”***

***(R) O praise the Lord, who delivers your soul from death.***

<sup>5</sup> Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;  
our God is merciful.

<sup>6</sup> ***The LORD preserves the simple;  
I was brought low, and the LORD saved me.***

<sup>7</sup> Return, O my soul, to your rest;  
***for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.***

<sup>8</sup> For you have delivered my soul from death,  
my eyes from tears,  
my feet from stumbling;

<sup>9</sup> ***I walk before the LORD  
in the land of the living.***

<sup>10</sup> I kept my faith, even when I said,  
“I am greatly afflicted.”

<sup>11</sup> ***I said in my consternation,  
“All humans are a vain hope.”***

***(R) O praise the Lord, who delivers your soul from death.***

## 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](http://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.
- **The Lenten season ends this weekend.** Though we weren't together for worship during this holy season, we are a congregational family in spirit. We usually provide coin gleaners for our members to give a special Easter donation to the church. We didn't distribute gleaners this year but we hope you will still remember to give a **special Easter blessing** today. **Thank you to all who have already given.**  
**Easter gleaners:** \$15+ donation **Easter Lilies:** \$20+ donation
- **COVID-19 Vaccination Information** Wesley UMC has registered as part of the **Protect Chicago Plus** team, focusing on getting the word out about vaccine events in the area. Be sure to watch your email for updates on vaccination events in and around the areas closest to the church. Of course, should we receive verified information of other events elsewhere, we will share it.

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Denise Richardson	April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Skylar Wilson	April 21 <sup>st</sup>
Charles Curtis	April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Letha Cunningham	April 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Gloria Banks	April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Ebun Agbaje-Williams	April 24 <sup>th</sup>
Kaylen Lomax	April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Jasmine Kidd	April 24 <sup>th</sup>
Mary Alice Lovely	April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Regina Julun	April 24 <sup>th</sup>
Dwight McCombs	April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Frederick Woolery	April 25 <sup>th</sup>
Monique Howard	April 20 <sup>th</sup>	Braila West	April 30 <sup>th</sup>

***Be sure to wish our members with April 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)

<b><u>SHUT-IN</u></b>		
*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)		

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

# APRIL 2021

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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<b>28 Palm Sunday</b> 9 am <b>Sunday School Call</b> 1.605.475.4000 Access code: 260259# <b>Remote Worship &amp; 10:30 am Call</b> Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Remote Bible Study 11 am ----- 1-312-626-6799; Mtg ID: 2951017709# (Call/email the church for ZOOM video link)	<b>1 Maundy Thursday</b> Remote Prayer Group 11 am ----- Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	<b>2 Good Friday</b>	<b>3 Holy Saturday</b> UMM Meeting (via Zoom) 9 am -----
<b>4 EASTER Sunday</b> 9 am <b>Sunday School Call</b> 1.605.475.4000 Access code: 260259# <b>Remote Worship &amp; 10:30 am Call</b> Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Remote Bible Study 11 am ----- 1-312-626-6799; Mtg ID: 2951017709# (Call/email the church for ZOOM video link)	<b>8</b> Remote Prayer Group 11 am ----- Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> UMW Meeting (via Zoom) 10 am -----
<b>11</b> 9 am <b>Sunday School Call</b> 1.605.475.4000 Access code: 260259# <b>Remote Worship &amp; 10:30 am Call</b> Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	<b>12</b>	<b>13 Church Council Mtg</b> 7 pm (via Zoom) -----	<b>14</b> Remote Bible Study 11 am ----- 1-312-626-6799; Mtg ID: 2951017709# (Call/email the church for ZOOM video link)	<b>15</b> Remote Prayer Group 11 am ----- Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18 Native American Ministries Sunday</b> 9 am <b>Sunday School Call</b> 1.605.475.4000 Access code: 260259# <b>Remote Worship &amp; 10:30 am Call</b> Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Remote Bible Study 11 am ----- 1-312-626-6799; Mtg ID: 2951017709# (Call/email the church for ZOOM video link)	<b>22</b> Remote Prayer Group 11 am ----- Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Board of Trustees Mtg 9 am (via Zoom) -----
<b>25</b> 9 am <b>Sunday School Call</b> 1.605.475.4000 Access code: 260259# <b>Remote Worship &amp; 10:30 am Call</b> Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Remote Bible Study 11 am ----- 1-312-626-6799; Mtg ID: 2951017709# (Call/email the church for ZOOM video link)	<b>29</b> Remote Prayer Group 11 am ----- Call-in number: 1.425.436.6348 Access code: 672500#	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> UMM Meeting (via Zoom) 9 am -----



# SUNDAY MORNING

## HEALTH CORNER

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### Regular Sleep for a Healthy Future

National Sleep Foundation guidelines advise that healthy adults need between 7 and 9 hours of sleep per night. The total amount of sleep a person receives each day is important. However, due to work, stress, and other obstacles, the average adult gets less than 7 hours of the recommended amount of sleep.

Signs of poor sleep quality include not feeling well-rested after getting enough sleep and repeatedly waking up in the middle of the night.

### Steps to Improve Your Sleep Health

-  **Turn Off Your Electronics.** Blue light emits through your electronic device and suppresses the amount of melatonin in your body needed to sleep. Turning off your electronics **an hour** before bedtime can help lead to better sleeping habits.
-  **Have a Hot Drink.** A hot, caffeine-free beverage such as tea, or warm water before bed, is an excellent way to relax and prepare for sleep.
-  **Work Out.** Exercising a couple of hours before going to bed can be a great way to help promote relaxation, reduce anxiety, and normalize your internal clock.
-  **Be Consistent.** Go to bed at the same time each night and get up at the same time each morning, including on the weekends. This way, your body gets into a routine on when to sleep and when to wake up.
-  **Forget Your Worries.** It's essential to let go of the worries that build up during the day as they can affect both the initiation and maintenance of sleep. Try making a list of all the things you have to do for the next day to alleviate your mind's stress.



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# Social Commentary

## **Shootings of Chicago Cops Are Also an Assault on All of Our Neighborhoods**

by Mary Mitchell



Eight people shot, one dead. Seeing the horrible news crawl across my TV screen, for a moment, I was confused. Did someone post old news? Or did this really happen so soon after a mass shooting at a South Side warehouse party left two people dead and 15 wounded? Sadly, it wasn't an error. Early Friday, two men started shooting inside a building in Wrightwood, killing a 26-year-old man and leaving seven others in need of medical care. Yet I count us lucky because of what recently happened in Atlanta, where a white gunman killed eight people, six of them women of Asian descent, leading many to label the shooting a hate crime. Soon after that, a man suspected of having a mental illness opened fire at a grocery store in Boulder, Colorado. Ten people were killed there, including a police officer.

That last shooting is part of a plague that, like the pandemic, also seems to target a vulnerable population — in this case, police officers, who have become targets in Chicago as well. Four police officers have been shot in Chicago in two weeks, making the city feel more like a war zone than a place to call home. In one of the shootings, prosecutors said a man shot an innocent person to “lure” police to the area “because he wanted them to kill him.” The suspect, Tracey Thomas Jr., has been charged with the attempted murders of five police officers. This unprecedented assault on police officers comes at a time the Chicago Police Department is trying to strengthen its ties with communities experiencing high crime. In recent months, I've witnessed police officers participate in prayer vigils on corners that are under siege by folks up to no good. And I wonder how these officers keep up their morale. Police Supt. David Brown took over a department embarrassed by scandal at the top and hampered by mistrust at the bottom. Yet he had to stand before the cameras after each gun atrocity and say something that was supposed to give us hope.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the number of gun deaths across the country is staggering — 39,707 in 2019. We consider ourselves to be such a progressive country. But the U.S. gun homicide rate is 25 times that of other high-income countries. And, for all of the progress that Black folks have made, we represent most of the victims of these killings. We are 10 times more likely than white Americans to be shot to death, according to Everytown Research & Policy. The news media need to run a daily tally of gun deaths in this country just like we do with COVID-19. Perhaps then more elected officials would be willing to take up the fight to pass more restrictive gun laws. We've fought too hard to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic to succumb to the epidemic of gun violence.

# Little Known Black History Fact

## Rev. Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker



The famous photo of the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in an Alabama jail cell was made possible by his chief strategist and SCLC Executive Director, the **Rev. Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker**. Rev. Walker passed this Tuesday, leaving behind a long career of civil rights organizing and activism from the streets to the pulpit.

Walker, who was born in Massachusetts, was working as a pastor in Virginia when he first involved himself in civil rights. In the late '50's, Walker organized peaceful protests of school segregation in the state. His work caught the attention of King, who appointed him as the first executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

With the high-profile position, Walker moved about activist circles and assisted King with day-to-day activities. Among his many contributions, King's famous "Letter from Birmingham Jail" letter was compiled with the help of Walker. Walker also sneaked a camera into the jail taped to his leg to snap the well-known photo.

Appointed to lead the Canaan Baptist Church in Harlem, Walker was installed by Rev. King and was the only New York pastor to have that honor. Just over a week later, Rev. King was assassinated. The fire in Walker's belly did not abate with King's untimely death, and he used the platform to rally against domestic and global injustice. His work inspired the likes of Rev. Al Sharpton, among others.

The family announced that Walker passed in an assisted living community in Virginia, where his civil rights career began. According to reports, Rev. Walker was around 88 years of age.

## **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

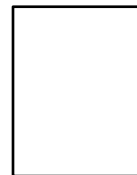
ID/code: 295 101 7709#

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!

## **Homebound Seniors and People with Disabilities**

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 April 4<sup>th</sup> – April 10<sup>th</sup>**

### **April 4**

Deuteronomy 26:1-27:26

Luke 10:38-11:13

Psalm 76:1-12

Proverbs 12:15-17

### **April 5**

Deuteronomy 28:1-68

Luke 11:14-36

Psalm 77:1-20

Proverbs 12:18

### **April 6**

Deuteronomy 29:1-30:20

Luke 11:37-12:7

Psalm 78:1-31

Proverbs 12:19-20

## **2021:**

## ***“The Year of Restoration”***

(1 Peter 5:10)

### **April 10**

Deuteronomy 34:1-Joshua 2:24

Luke 13:22-14:6

Psalm 79:1-13

Proverbs 12:26

### **April 7**

Deuteronomy 31:1-32:27

Luke 12:8-34

Psalm 78:32-55

Proverbs 12:21-23

### **April 8**

Deuteronomy 32:28-52

Luke 12:35-59

Psalm 78:56-64

Proverbs 12:24

### **April 9**

Deuteronomy 33:1-29

Luke 13:1-21

Psalm 78:35-72

Proverbs 12:25