

Metropolitan Community Church
ANNUAL MEMBER HANDBOOK
Reverend Leon Perry III, Senior Pastor



2024
**THE
YEAR
OF THE
OPEN
DOOR**

"I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name." (Revelation 3:8)



JOIN VIA PHONE or ZOOM
DIAL BY PHONE: (312) 626-6799
MEETING ID: 830 7588 4427

**SERVANT LEADERS PRAYER BEGINS
PROMPTLY AT 8:30AM**

JOIN US FOR OUR
**ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

IN PERSON & ONLINE

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2024
10:00 AM**

THE ANNUAL MEETING – WHAT IS IT?

The Annual Meeting is a once per year occasion in the life of the Metropolitan Community Church's congregation where the members of the church gather together to primarily do TWO things: 1) review the "annual report" from the previous year which shares the stories of what God has done in and through our life together as a church family over the past year, and 2) to elect new Trustee members...and confirm lay ministry leaders who we believe God has raised up to serve our congregation with wise and skilled lay leadership to steward our church's finances and advise our lead pastor on important matters of ministry and strategy.

We will also present our annual budget for 2024, so that everyone in our church can see how we plan to steward our resources to further God's Kingdom mission, make disciples, and share the love of Jesus with our city.

If you are a member of the church it is very important that you plan to be present for this meeting if at all possible. We need to have at least 50% of our members in attendance in order for the meeting to be valid. You can attend in-person in the sanctuary of Metropolitan Community Church OR via Zoom using the link that will be provided for you in this communication .

WHY ARE WE HAVING A MEETING?

Psalms 127 begins "unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain." One of the greatest promises in all of Scripture is that GOD promises to build His church. It's not up to us. It's up to God. But in His grace, He has dignified us to play a part on this work.

What to Expect & How to Prepare?

Come expectant to see the movement of God...both in what God has done in our midst in the past year as well as how He is providing for us even now in terms of leadership, order, and care.

There are 2 things to do to prepare well : 1) Take a few minutes to read through the "Annual Membership Handout" that will be given during the meeting and made available afterwards at the Habari Gani Desk.

Gather any questions you might have and bring them to ask during the space for questions on Saturday.

2) Pray for our church this week: our trustee nominees, our pastor, staff and clergy, and our congregation for protection, wisdom, and the leadership of God for our church.

We can't wait to share our Annual Congregational Meeting with you on Saturday, January 27th! Grace, peace and blessings on your week!

Metropolitan Community Church

ANNUAL CHURCH THEMES & SCRIPTURE

1997	Reaping the Harvest	Matthew 9:37-38
1998	Becoming A Congregation of Prayer	2 Chronicles 7:14
1999	Evangelism - The Great Commission	Matthew 28:19-20
2000	Commitment to Excellence	Hebrews 8:6
2001	Embracing the Vision	Proverbs 29:18
2002	One Body, One Spirit	Ephesians 4:4-6
2003	Jesus Our True Foundation	1 Corinthians 3:11
2004	Loving the Lord with all our Hearts, and our Neighbors as Ourselves	Matthew 22:37-39
2005	Building for Today and Hoping for Tomorrow	Jeremiah 29:11
2006	Serving God and One Another	Galatians 5:13-14
2007	From Glory to Glory... We Rise!	2 Corinthians 3:18
2008	Living in the Abundance	John 10:10
2009	Reaching Beyond the Walls	Matthew 25:35-36
2010	Seeking God's Kingdom	Matthew 6:33
2011	Renewed Hope for a New Beginning	2 Corinthians 5:18
2012	Going to the Next Level Knowing God is Able	2 Corinthians 9:8
2013	Going to the Next Level in Study, Prayer, Obedience, Praise and Worship	Ephesians 3:20-21
2014	Living in the Favor and Authority of God	Psalms 90:17
2015	It's All About Jesus	Hebrews 3:8
2016	The Year of Functionality	Romans 12:4-5
2017	Empowered	Acts 1:8
2018	Victory	2 Corinthians 8:12
2019	Victory "The Year of Possibilities"	Matthew 19:26
2020	Victory "Great is God's Faithfulness"	Deuteronomy 7:9
2021	Remaining Unmovable and Always Abounding in the Service of the Lord	1 Corinthians 15:58
2022	Serving With Power - "Stronger-Deeper-Higher"	1 Peter 4:11
2023	Embracing the Seasons - ...of the Year ...with Hope for Every Phase of Our Lives ...of Ministry Expansions	Ecclesiastes 3:1
2024	The Year of the Open Door	Revelation 3:8

Servant Leaders Prayer

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2024 - 8:30AM



Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2024 - 10AM

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION

2024 SCRIPTURE READING

OPENING PRAYER

READING OF THE MINUTES

TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

TRUSTEE PRESENTATION

PASTORAL PRESENTATION

MINISTRY CELEBRATIONS, QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ADJOURNMENT

CLOSING PRAYER



2024 **THE YEAR OF THE OPEN DOOR**

"I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name." (Revelation 3:8)

"The Year of the Open Door"

"I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou has a little strength, and has kept my word and has not denied my name."

Revelation 3:8

A Year of Open Doors

Praise the Lord and Happy New Year!!!

I am thankful to God who has allowed us to see this glorious year. I am excited and expectant at what God has in store for you and for us. Get ready!!

The year 2023 will forever remain a memorable year in the life of our ministry as we celebrated our 103rd year of Christian Ministry and witnessed the Burning of our Mortgage Ceremony. This same God is saying that this year will be a year of Open Doors.

Love family, may 2024 be a year like none other in your life and that of your family.

May very unique and uncommon doors open to you so much so that will leave you wide-mouthed and declaring..."this is the Lord's doing, it is marvelous in our eyes". In I Corinthians 16:9 the Bible says "For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries".

Love family, one good thing to remember is that the door that God opens, no man can shut. I declare that every adversary that has been strategically planted to close your door will not prevail in Jesus Mighty Name, Amen.

I call on the blood of Jesus Christ to be put on every door that Christ is opening for you and no angel of death will be able to enter or hinder its opening in Jesus Mighty Name, Amen.

In Revelation 3:8, Jesus speaking to the Church in Philadelphia says "I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept My word, and hast not denied My Name." This year I pray that God Almighty will purify your works, strengthen you and enable you to keep His Word and to never deny Him. I ask that the attributes Jesus has ascribed to this Church will be made manifest in each and every one of us. These are keys to enabling our doors to remain open.

Never forget that "All power belongs to God". Many are the plans of man but it is the counsel of God that will prevail. So even if people or forces gather, the Bible says "The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect." (Psalm 33:10).

The doors that He is opening this year will not be hindered by any force in Jesus Mighty Name, Amen. However, we should remain sober, vigilant and not allow ourselves to be caught unawares in Jesus Precious Name, Amen.

I want you to also remember that God is not just promising a small door, but A GREAT DOOR, Hallelujah!!

Expect great doors this year. Expect Great opportunities, Great divinely orchestrated openings. One of my favorite Bible verses is Proverbs 23:18 which says that "For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off." How GREAT is your expectation this year? How thirsty are you? How hungry are you? How expectant are you? This year, God will visit you according to your expectation. The expectations may be for ministry, for your finances, for your workplace, for your health....Nothing is too hard for God!! I declare that your expectations are increasing in Jesus Mighty Name, Amen.

The Bible says that the door was not only Great, but that it was an EFFECTUAL door too. In other words, an effective door, one that is sure to give you success. I thank God that all doors that open to you this year will be effectual in Jesus Faithful Name, Amen.

Never forget that "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." James 1:17 . I pray that God will grant you discernment to be able to see every counterfeit door that the enemy would want to open to you this year in Jesus Mighty Name, Amen.

Do not fear the adversaries in 2024 for "we are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus". Therefore, the doors that God has set open for you no man will shut.

I decree that there will be only Joy as door by door opens.

Love family, even ancient doors will open to us this year. Yes, huge doors that we never imagined ourselves walking through. I see us walking through them; even golden doors and double hinged doors. THEY ARE OPENING IN JESUS MIGHTY NAME, AMEN and AMEN.

Have a Great 2024,



Pastor Leon Perry III



Join Us!

January Sermon Titles

7th - "God Open Doors"

14th - "An Open Door of Hope & Promise"

21st - "When God Closes Doors"

28th - "Open Doors of Destiny"





Metropolitan Community Church
JANUARY 27, 2024 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
MINUTES FROM JULY 31, 2023 SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

Call to Order

- The semi-Annual Meeting of the Metropolitan Community Church continue to be held virtually via Zoom(roughly 50 members); In accordance with CDC guidelines those members who were physically present were well within the allotted number and maintained the recommended 6-ft distance, and the wearing of masks (optional).
- The July 31, 2023, Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting of the Metropolitan Community Church Established 1920 was called to order at 10:28a by Senior Pastor Leon Perry III who led the congregation in the recital of the church's 2023 theme taken from Ecclesiastes 3:1.
- Opening prayer was offered by Min. Darnette Solomon
- Pastor Perry offered God thanks for the first six months of ministry life at Metropolitan Community Church. He also acknowledged the Ministry Leaders and the Love Family for their obedience to God as we celebrate 103 years of Christian Ministry. He is also grateful for those returning to active ministry worship.
- Minutes from the January 28, 2023, Annual Congregational Meeting of the Metropolitan Community Church established 1920 were read into record by Nefertari Cutler, Recording Secretary; there being no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

Nomination Committee Report:

Gloria Stratton, on behalf of the Trustee Nominating Committee, provided notice to the congregation to submit names of those willing to serve with the Ministry of Trustees, to her or Trustee Chairman Dorothy Cole-Gary. She also provided the following eligibility requirements for becoming a trustee: Must be a member of the church in good standing for a minimum of two-years, Must be a regular tither, Must regularly attend Ministry of Bible Study and or Sunday School, Must be at least 18 years of age, Must be a member in good standing of another ministry for a minimum of one year. She further stated if there are approved candidates, there would be a vote in November 2023 for trustees. If there were no candidates, the current trustee members would remain in place for the next year. Gloria also reported that the Church was immensely proud of the work of the current trustee members, their commitment and willingness to serve, and pray that they continue to be showered with blessings.

Pastor thanked the Nominating Committee for their consistency and commitment, and reminded members of the obligation to the Constitution and By-Laws of the church, and that they voted earlier this year to receive the recommendation of the Nominating Committee suggestion of maintaining trustees as is given there were no new persons scheduled to be voted into the ministry by the congregation.

2023 Ministry of Stewardship Presentation:

Before sharing the 2023 Ministry of Stewardship, Chairman Dorothy Cole-Gary shared her testimony of her survival of a terrible traffic accident that could have been fatal, “but our God” is faithful! Chairman Cole-Gary then provided the first six months of activities including expenses and income for each line item that had been shared during the Annual Meeting in January. She explained that several of the line items are slightly below budget target, we are only six months into the year and there is an opportunity to meet our budget target by year-end closing. Our God can meet all our need according to his riches in Glory. She also shared the prioritized list of church pending repairs, replacements, or upgrades so members can extend their support beyond tithes and offers. Special thanks were given to Allena Gray in the Media Ministry for the beautiful slide presentation; to Pat Gayden for her six years of service as the Custodian and provided well wishes to her as she embarks upon a new endeavor; to our Facilities Management team. Rosager Parker, Willie Reavely, Raymond Walker and our new Custodian James Carey and Ministry team members.

Q&A

Regarding the Marquee purchase, Shawn English of Cal-Met Village mentioned they were also looking to purchase a marquee and perhaps the coordination of the two purchases could lower cost, this will be reviewed. Pastor then gave a break-down of household contributors and reminded members that it is not equal giving but equal sacrifices. COVID is buried; lovely pray God’s increase with financial resources to raise the bar of those in the \$1.00 - \$5.00 household range.

Pastoral Presentation - Highlights:

- Pastor Perry shared gratefulness for continued support of Min. Darnette, Ministry Leaders, event coordinators and all fellowship events for the first six months of the year.
- He reported that we have served, clothed, fed, and nurtured 63 – 70 households per week through our Food Pantry.
- He acknowledged the support provided to families of our deceased members and relatives of members by the MCC Love Family.
- He is thankful for the Facebook Live participants, which has reached beyond these walls to nearly 500 plus households weekly streaming live; with more women watching with an average age between 18 and 65 plus.
- Pastor shared that after the Revival, we would be focusing on Ministry Outreach for the balance of the year.
- There will be no MBS during the month of August, but rather there will be weekly prayer and scripture reading for the month of August.

- Pastor reminded members of the celebration of 103 years of Ministry and the burning of the mortgage for this campus in October.
- We were reminded of Heritage Sunday, our last one for the year. We are still supporting our works in Accra, Ghana: the water wells, our schools, our orphanages, and our churches; we have two college students and 497 school children.
- Everyone was encouraged to reach out to members who are home bound and let them know you miss them. He asked everyone to live their life as their best life for the rest of their life.

There being no questions for Pastor as to the Life of Ministry at Metropolitan Community Church, he called for a motion to close, Judy Bell motioned and it was seconded by William Saunders and, the 2023 Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting of the Metropolitan Community Church Established 1920 was closed. Closing prayer was offered by Pastor Leon Perry, III.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nefertari Cutler

Nefertari Cutler, Recording Secretary
Ministry of Trustees



Metropolitan Community Church Trustee Elections

Sunday, January 21, 2024
2024 Trustee Candidates



SHANYA WILLIAMS

SHANYA WILLIAMS is a member in good standing for over two years, a tither, in regular attendance for worship services and MBS. She is ready to grow spiritually and serve God as a member of the Ministry of Trustees.



JAMAAL SIMMS

JAMAAL SIMMS has been a member of Metropolitan for over two years and is a tither. Mr. Simms attends worship service, MBS and Sunday School regularly. He has served on the Brotherhood Ministry and is now called to serve on the Ministry of Trustees.



Chairman's Message: "Happy New Year!"

On behalf of the Ministry of Trustees, we pray for God's continued grace and mercy as we enter a new year. In 2024 we are looking forward to open doors of new opportunities and growth. Thanking God for Pastor Perry and for his spiritual leadership and guidance. We are praying for his healing, health, strength and prosperity and the best of what lies ahead in 2024. What an awesome God we serve! We continue to thank God for all He has done in 2023 in our lives and the life of our ministry, positioning us for greater ministry outreach in the building of His Kingdom. We are grateful for the support of Gilead Management and the obedience of our Metropolitan Community Church congregation and friends in the giving of your tithes, offering and time.

Special thanks to our Facilities Management Team: Rosager Parker, Willie Reavley, and James Carey for the upkeep and maintenance of our campus. Also, a special thanks to Faye Buchanan, Ben Jackson, and members of the Brotherhood Ministry for their volunteer service. Please find below our *Completed Campus Projects for 2023* and upcoming *Campus Projects for 2024*. We ask for prayers of wisdom, discernment and guidance as we continue to serve as members of the Ministry of Trustees.

Please feel free to reach out to the Ministry of Trustees for additional information.

Facilities Management: Completed Projects in 2023

PRIORITY 1:

- ◆ New Plumbing repair in the Multipurpose Room, Steward's Room and Women's Washroom on first floor (\$2,530)
- ◆ Purchased outside Digital Marquee (including software and back panel) (\$16,066.40)
- ◆ Replaced broken floor tiles at Multipurpose Room doorways (no charge)
- ◆ Cleaned Sanctuary Carpet (completed by Maintenance Staff)
- ◆ Repaired rooftop units with various concerns (\$10,719.57)
- ◆ Purchased Security Cameras Replacements (\$8,900)
- ◆ Stripped, buffed, and waxed floors (completed by Maintenance Staff)

PRIORITY 2:

- ◆ Replaced Kitchen Freezer (\$4,734.95)
- ◆ Trimmed Trees \$2,000)

QUESTIONS

Please contact one of the following Trustees:

- ♦ Giving Envelopes:
Lori Reavley or
Yvonne Bryant
- ♦ Facilities Upkeep:
Raymond Walker or
Brian Stewart
- ♦ Special Donations:
Dorothy Cole-Gary
or Raymond Walker

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP REPORTING



In spite of the pandemic, God continues to provide. We were able to finish strong. We are grateful to our members, friends and supports who remain steadfast with their electronic giving (Givelify and Swipe), to God's glory! Your obedience in giving has allowed the church to meet it's obligations as well as make the unexpectant repairs and purchases needed.

We are still on the journey of expanding our reach beyond the walls!

Facilities Management: Completed Projects in 2023 (cont'd)

Priority 3:

- ♦ Changed Parking Lot light fixtures from sodium vapor (high energy to LED fixtures for greater energy efficiency and cost effectiveness. (\$6,000)

Trustee Highlights

We celebrate you and the sacrifices you continue to make as empowered and victorious believers in the body of Christ.

"I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it; for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name." (Revelation 3:8)



Ministry of Trustees Eligibility Requirements

The minimum requirements a candidate for the Ministry of Trustees:

- ♦ Must be 18 years of age or older
- ♦ Must be a member in good standing of Metropolitan Community Church for a minimum of two years
- ♦ Must be a regular Tither
- ♦ Must regularly attend Ministry of Bible Study or Sunday School
- ♦ Must be a member in good standing of another ministry for a minimum of one year

If interested, please talk with Nominating Committee Chairperson Gloria Stratton or Ministry of Trustees Chairman, Dorothy Cole-Gary.

Rev. Leon Perry, III

Senior Pastor

Metropolitan Community Church

4610 S. Prairie Avenue

Chicago, IL 60653

Telephone: 773/536-2046

Email:

info@metropolitancommunitychurch.net

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/mcc1920

2024 Pending Repairs, Replacement or

Priority 1:

- * Removal of 100th Anniversary signage (\$5,000 plus lift)
- * Purchase Church Organ (*new—\$ 17,000; Used \$13,000*)
- * Replenish mulch surrounding campus grounds, front, rear and south, north side (\$8,000)
- * Clean Windows (\$1,500)
- * Install Cybersecurity and provide separate band for Media Ministry (\$1,512)
- * Purchase separate Laptop for Media Ministry for MCC usage only (\$1,999)

Priority 2:

- * Full tile replacement leading to first floor men and women washrooms and Food Pantry (\$8,000)
- * Purchase three (3) additional Desktops (\$1,889.97)
- * Resurface/replace damaged concrete; repair steps to south of building adjacent to parking lot and steps in front of the building (\$37,862) - Spring 2024

Priority 3:

- * Parking Lot: asphalt remove/replace; sealcoating, crack sealing and striping (\$11,589.34)
- * **If you would like to see into any of these projects, please notate on your Giving Envelope under "Repair & Maintenance"**

Ministry of Trustees

Chairman:

Dorothy Cole-Gary

Vice Chairman:

Raymond Walker

Treasurer:

Chandra Nicks

Assistant Treasurer:

Brenda Ross

Financial Secretary:

Lori Reavley

Asst. Financial

Secretary:

Yvonne Bryant

Recording

Secretary: Nefertari Cutler

Asst. Recording

Secretary:

Helena Wiley

Board Members:

Brian Stewart

MINISTRY OF TRUSTEES MEETINGS

The Ministry of Trustees meetings continue to be held on the third Sunday of the month after the counting has been reconciled. Below is an outline of the meeting agenda:

- ♦ Opening Prayer
- ♦ Reading of prior month's meeting minutes
- ♦ Pastoral Emphasis (via the Executive Committee)
- ♦ Financial Reports
- ♦ Old and New Business Items
- ♦ Liaison Reporting
- ♦ Committee Reports
- ♦ Good & Welfare
- ♦ Questions & Answer
- ♦ Adjournment



When the Whole Body is Working for the Glory of God, there is no Internal Competition

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.
1Corinthians 3:6 (NIV)



As a Ministry, What could we do better?

Do you have a comment or suggestion for the Trustees on how we can improve things here at Metropolitan Community Church. If you do, please feel free to write your comments, suggestions or questions on the bottom portion of this Newsletter and leave it in the Trustees mailbox on the second floor of the church (outside the conference room), or mail it to: **Metropolitan Community Church, 4610 S. Prairie, Attn: Trustee Ministry, Chicago, IL 60653**. You can also email us at infomcctrustees@gmail.com. Your input is important, we promise to respond timely to every comment.

Pastoral Presentation

TODAY I AM

thankful
FOR ...

- Embraced the Seasons of our Lives and Ministry
- Monthly Newsletters
- Tuesday Inspirational Text Messages
- Thankful Thursday Prayer Calls
- Intercessory Prayer Gatherings
- Prayer Circle with The Brotherhood
- 103rd Church Anniversary Service
- Mortgage Burning Ceremony
- Welcomed New Members to the Faith Community
- A Night at the Movies "Wakanda Forever"
- Jesus of Nazareth Outing
- Guest Spiritual Ballerina
- Sunday Guest Psalmist
- Welcomed New Servant Leaders
- Funerals: Support of Bereaved Families
- Weekly Food Pantry
- Social Media Platforms participation [average 534 weekly]
- Services held at Nursing Homes
- Community Outreach . . .i.e. Doorknockers
- Leadership Meetings
- Christian Education via Sunday school and Ministry of Biblical Studies

Ministry Goals

- 124 New Souls
- 10% Increase to Brotherhood
- Empower & Provide Resources & Tools to Ministry Leaders for effective service
 - "It's All About God, The People and Our Service . . .
- Monthly Prayer Gatherings with ALL Servant Leaders

Staffing Goals

- Hire Assistant to Pastor
- " Youth Minister
- Volunteer Staff Coordinator
- Director of Social Media
- Develop a Member Care Minister i.e. new members . . .

Outreach Goals

- Marketing tools i.e. social media platforms
- Collaborative Outreach Activities with Pastors. & Congregations
- Fellowship Event with Cal - Met Apartments Residents [invite to worship- followed by dinner /fellowship]
- Evangelize community - [invite to worship - via Door Knockers]

Pastoral Personal Goals

- One Month Sabbatical [the church will survive]
- Vacation every quarter
- Healthy Daily Activities
- Future Plans / Preparation

January - February Bible Study Series

Can You Envision OPEN DOORS in Your Life?

Career Advancement: The Lord is opening doors of opportunity in your career. Promotion and recognition are coming your way. Your skills and talents will be acknowledged, leading to new heights in your professional and entrepreneurial journey.

Financial Increase: Prepare to experience an open door of financial abundance. The seed you sow is a symbol of your trust in God's provision, and He will respond with multiplied blessings in your finances that will cause others to ponder in disbelief.

Restoration in Relationships: An open door to mending broken relationships is before you. The Lord is healing old and even recent wounds and bringing reconciliation where there was strife. Your connections will be marked by love and unity as a sign.

Health and Wellness: God is opening a door to improved health and vitality in your body. Your physical and emotional well-being will be restored, giving you the strength to pursue your dreams and accomplish them in this season.

Divine Guidance: The Lord is granting you access to His divine guidance as doors of wisdom and revelation are opening, helping you make wiser decisions and navigate life's challenges that will set you apart from others and make you a captivating leader.

Spiritual Growth: Expect an open door to spiritual growth and enlightenment. Your faith will deepen, and you will experience a deeper and greater walk with the Lord

Ministry ✨

TOUCHPOINTS

Information About Congregational Life

Regular Services

Sunday Morning Worship Service

Metropolitan Community Church is an interdenominational Christian church with a tradition of stirring music, preaching, and liturgy. Communion is offered once a month during the service and on other weeks immediately following the service.

Special Services

Christmas Eve

Each year on Christmas Eve, the Metropolitan Community Church offers a candle light service to celebrate the birth of Jesus, who is the Christ. This service includes carols and prayers and much joy. In addition our service follow the pattern of our weekly worship and include songs, scripture readings, a sermon, and communion.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday occurs forty days before Easter, not including six Sundays (which are considered feast days), and recalls Jesus' forty days in the wilderness, itself mirroring the Israelites' forty years in the desert. During the two services on this day, ministers mark those who attend with ashes as a reminder that "we are dust, and to dust we shall return."

Holy Week and Easter

Holy Week at Metropolitan Community Church is marked by regular services that strive to capture some of the drama of the week leading up to Christ's death on the cross and his glorious resurrection three days later.

Beginning with Palm Sunday, the services include dramatic features that draw worshipers deep into the journey to the cross.

Daily prayers at noon each day and special evening services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday provide the opportunity for deep reflection, prayer, learning, and worship.

The Maundy Thursday service includes communion, stripping the altar, and footwashing. On Good Friday, the midday service begins with a procession of the stations of the cross in the Sanctuary. The Tenebrae Service on Friday night includes a progressive dimming of the lights within the Sanctuary until the Congregation sits in darkness as we remember Jesus' death. Out of the darkness of Good Friday, erupts the joy of Easter morning!

Easter Sunday begins with our Sunrise Worship service as the sun rises and the community gathers to celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead. The day continues with Sunday school at 9:00 a.m. and concluding with worship @ 10:30a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Pentecost

Fifty days after Easter, the church celebrates the festival of Pentecost. Echoing the ancient Jewish festival of Shavuot, which remembers God's giving of the law on Mount Sinai, Pentecost celebrates God's giving of the Holy Spirit, itself a fulfillment of ancient prophecy. In the Acts of the Apostles, the disciples are gathered in Jerusalem when the Holy Spirit descends upon them in tongues of flame. In our worship on Pentecost, we celebrate and remember the giving of the Spirit that even now empowers and unites the body of Christ around the world.

World Communion Sunday

On the first Sunday of October, Metropolitan Community Church celebrates World Communion Sunday, as we give thanks for fellowship with Christians of every tribe and tongue around the world. At the Communion table, God's gift of our diversity becomes united in worship of Jesus Christ, the only Son of God.

*WEDDINGS ~ FUNERALS ~ MEMORIALS are available to active members of our faith community.

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL/CORPORATION MEETING of the Metropolitan Community Church will be held on Saturday January 27, 2024, at 10:00 am

The purpose of the Meeting is to receive the 2024 Annual Reports and approve the Projected budget of Ministry Operations and receive 2024 Church Vision from the Pastor. All members are reminded to be present (in person or via zoom) for this important meeting of the church.

Tuesday Text Messages

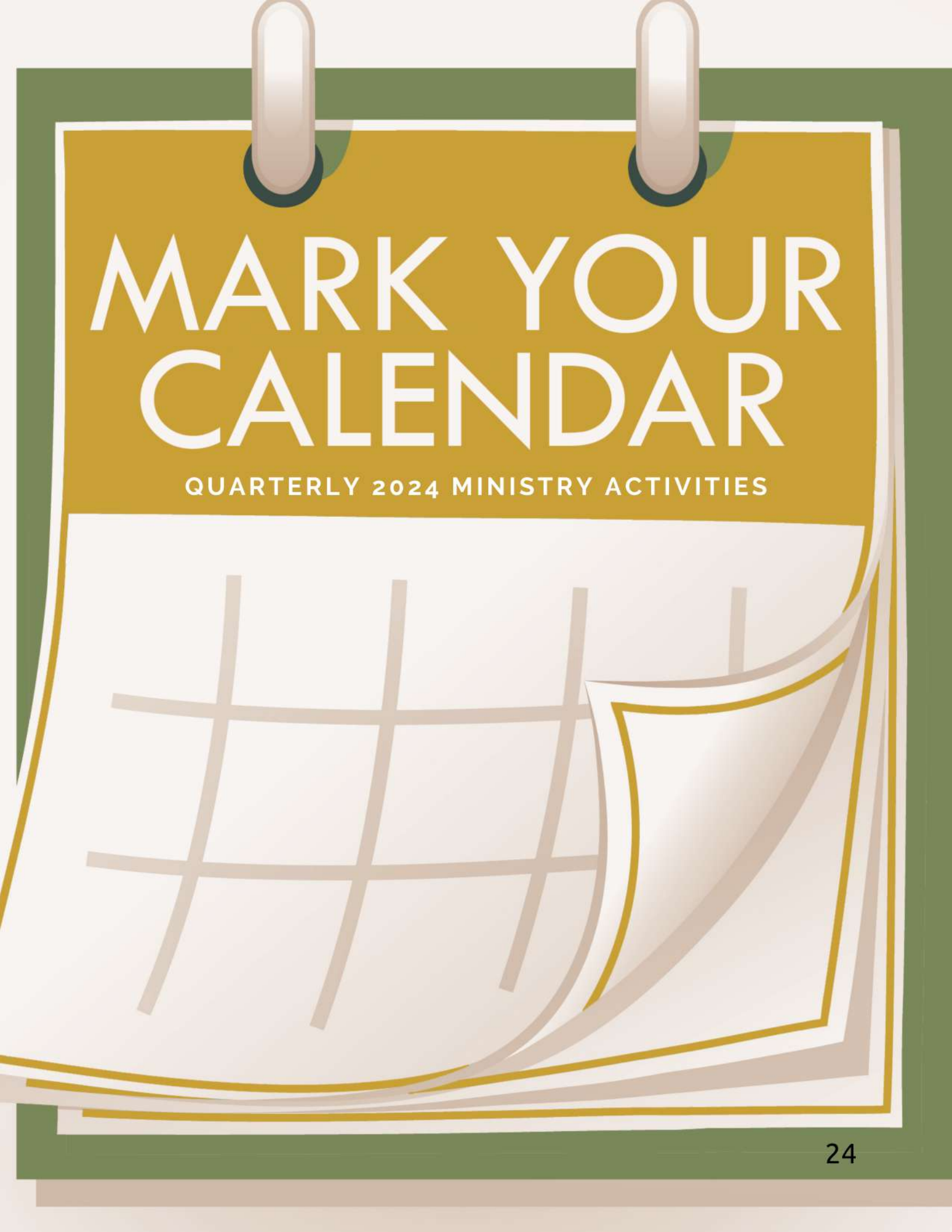
The purpose of our mass text messaging, is so you can receive inspirational quotes or kind words that can help make your day brighter and forward the same to someone else.

Thursday Calling Post Prayer

CallingPost helps helps our Love family to welcome visitors, communicate with staff, organize volunteers, & grow the faith community. In addition, important updates, encouraging messages, and prayers from your Pastor are offered to keep us as a congregation engaged & connected, no matter where we are.

Monthly Friday Zoom @12noon Fellowship

Fellowship is how we care for one another in Christ. It is basic to the Christian life. Fellowship is what provides a sense of stability, a sense of belonging, of being needed and of being loved. Fellowship is basic, and yet it is often (if not usually) misunderstood. We laugh, listen, share weekend plans, pray and much more . . .



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

QUARTERLY 2024 MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

Ministry Activities and Dates

JANUARY

15th - Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance Social Justice Ministry
20th - Share A Meal Hospitality
27th - Servant Leaders Prayer @8:30AM
27th - Annual Congregational Meeting @ 10am
28th - Victory "Consecration" Sunday / MCC Love Family Dinner & Fellowship

FEBRUARY

All Month - Black History Observances
11th - Valentine's Sweets Brotherhood
11th - "Pack A Pew" Sunday

- Each family is responsible for inviting their family and friends to pack their entire pew. The purpose of this endeavor is to strengthen family connections /involvement within the church. The family with the most guests will win lunch or dinner with the Pastor.

14th - Disposition of Ashes

MARCH

All Month - Women's History Month
1st - World Day of Prayer
9th - Brotherhood Partners with Maranatha Church Men's Ministry
16th - Share A Meal Hospitality
23rd - "Jesus of Nazareth" Play / Outing
24th - 30th - Holy Week
31st - Resurrection Sunday

April

13th - Justice Ministry TBD
28th - Community Church Sunday

MAY

All Month - Family Month
3rd - Flower & Vegetable Garden Startup
5th - Family & Friends Sunday
11th - Youth Mother's Appreciation Event
12th - Mother's Day
18th - Share A Meal / Outreach Mission
19th - Pentecost Sunday

June

8th - Brotherhood Partners with the Maranatha Church Men's Ministry
15th - Health Ministry Summer Community Collaboration Event
16th - Brotherhood Circle of Prayer
16th - Father's Day
19th- JUNETEENTH
23rd - Graduation Recognition Sunday College Support
30th - Heritage Sunday

July

14th - 28th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration
20th - Share-A-Meal Hospitality
27th - Semi-Annual Meeting

August

All Month - Sabbatical

September

8th - Grandparents Sunday Gloria Stratton, Coordinator

- Grandparents Sunday - All members who are grandparents are encouraged to invite their grandchildren to be a part of morning service with them. Those without grandchildren are encouraged to invite their nieces, nephews or god-children to church with them.

14th - Brotherhood Partners with Maranatha Church Men's Ministry
15th - Ushers Annual Sermon
21st - Share-A-Meal Hospitality
25th-27th - Annual Fall Revival
28th - Servant Leaders Appreciation Luncheon
29th - Pastor Perry's Birthday Recognition
29th - Heritage Sunday

October

2nd - Pastor Perry's birthday
10th - World Health Day
20th - 104th Church Anniversary
25th - Fall Faith Fest Youth Ministry

November

3rd - All Saints Day
9th - Hat Give A Way / Outreach Mission to the Family Shelter

- Hat Giveaway - Donated, newly purchased hats will be given away along with our church door hanger at the redline train station on 47th Street.

23rd - Thanksgiving Food Basket Giveaway
30th - Christmas Decorations Setup

December

1st - First Sunday of Advent
14th - Luncheon at the Walnut Room Youth Ministry
14th - Brotherhood Partners with Maranatha Church Men's Ministry
21st - Christmas Food Basket Giveaway
26th - Kwanza Begins

Additional Activities:

- Prayer Ministry Workshop - TBA
- Sunday School Teachers Training - TBA

Looking to Serve?

Want to use the gifts God has given you to serve others? If you are someone who loves Jesus and is passionate about leading others in their relationship with God, we invite you to find your areas of service in one of our 20 ministries listed below.

Our Mission Statement

Metropolitan Community Church stands committed to preach the Word of God and live the Work of God. Our mission is to minister to the spiritual, emotional, and intellectual needs of all people by spreading Christ's liberating gospel through word and deed. We will continue to be a positive example in the Metropolitan Chicago area with our ministries of evangelism and outreach.

Our Mission in Action

With the door of opportunity that no man can shut, we address homelessness with compassion and dedication, as we have kept his word to fulfill the biblical mandate to love our neighbors as ourselves. Mark 12:31.

African Missions:

Missionaries have been involved in Africa throughout the decades by living among the people with the goal of **supporting Africans and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.**

Our focus remains in West Africa, Ghana - building water wells, supporting local orphanages and covenant churches.

Bereavement Ministry:

The Bereavement Ministry will serve families who have lost a loved one to death through Metropolitan Community Church. The members of the ministry are trained to successfully implement our mission to give comfort and support to the grieving families of the Metropolitan community by giving them our time, hearing their thoughts and sharing their tears.

Brotherhood:

If you are looking to grow in your relationship with God, have accountability, make it her friends in the faith this is for you! Join us. Brotherhood, this is for you!

Christian Education

Christian Education stands committed empowering and providing opportunities in opening the way for spiritual growth and knowledge in the word and work of God in Christian Ministry.

Community Outreach

In collaboration with the other MCC ministries, we arm ourselves to accomplish God's will by meeting the needs of our local community residents and empowering them to live fully towards a future filled with hope and restoration.

Diaconate

The mission of the deacons is to assist the pastor of the church in fulfilling all the duties of pastoral care, included not limited to serving, equipping, encouraging, edifying and monitoring the spiritual growth of all the members.

Food Pantry

All members of MCC are invited to assist in the giving away of turkeys and other food items to visitors. Prayer will be offered to those in need of prayer from Ministry Staff/Diaconal. These are also opportunities for MCC members to fellowship and get acquainted with members of our immediate community.

Greeters

The greeters ministry serves to **reflect the love of Christ** through expressions of gratitude, excitement, and enthusiasm, to: Create a sense of belonging by making sure every visitor, member, and guest feels special and welcome in our church home. Encourage a smooth transition from being a visitor to becoming a member.

Health

Our ministry promotes health and healing as part of the mission and ministry of the church to our members (adults, youth, and children) and the community at-large.

Hospitality

At the Metropolitan Community Church Hospitality [food] Ministry, our purpose is to use the vehicle of food to feed the Kingdom by providing excellence in quality and service to all we serve, to demonstrate Christian service according to — *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men"* — and to encourage our team members and volunteers to full devotion to Christ.

Just A Sister Away

Using the opening doors to ministry opportunities where sisters of MCC are free to offer to one another mutual empowering, celebrating and encouraging each other to strengthen our bond with Christ and one another.

Justice Ministry

There is a biblical basis for social justice, and the Church has a role to play in promoting it. Social justice is about ensuring that everyone has an equal opportunity to live a good life, and it is an important part of the Christian faith. The Bible teaches that all people are created in the image of God and deserve to be treated with respect. Therefore, the Church should work to ensure that all people have access to education, healthcare, and other basic needs.

Marriage Ministry

To strengthen married relationships; this allows couples the opportunity to share and sharpen each other to the edification of God through their marriage.

Media Ministry

If you have been trying to find a place to get involved, and enjoy serving . . . If you have a passion for sound, technology, cameras or anything else related to media / production, this is for you!

Music Ministry

Music is one of the most powerful spiritual tools that shape the imaginative faculty of people. Through hymns and songs of praises, people are made to see life and God in a different light. It opens the eyes of believers to the wonders of the universe and its creator. A familiar quote from Saint Augustine, "He who sings prays twice," further underlines music's ability to get us closer to the creator. The biblical David mostly communicated with God through music. Paul, the Apostle, also highlighted the divine connection ability of music in his various apostolic missions. Many Christians sing gospel songs to edify their spirit and cleanse their soul.

Praise Dancers /Mime - Ministry of the Arts

Praise dancing is a liturgical or spiritual dance that incorporates music and movement as a form of worship rather than as an expression of art or as entertainment. Praise dancers use their bodies to express the word and spirit of God.

Prayer Ministry

Prayer Ministry –in this year of doors God is opening for blessings, we are dedicated to continuing in prayer ministry focusing on encouraging prayer without ceasing among members in quarterly prayer gatherings thereby increasing our relationship with God also interceding for this church, community, state, country, and nations.

Singles Ministry

To empower singles of all ages, stages and phases of life without compromising their commitment to a Christian Lifestyle .

Stewards Ministry

A volunteer group of the congregation whose ministry is to care for the altar, vestments, vessels, and altar linens of the parish. Altar Guild members prepare the sanctuary for services, and clean up afterwards. Altar Guild members frequently supervise the decoration of the sanctuary of the sanctuary with flowers.

Transportation: Ministry

To supply reliable and safe transportation to and from worship services and other church related functions as necessary. Our Transportation Ministry is a valuable outreach of our Church, designed to reach and cater to the entire family. The drivers and leaders of the Transportation Ministry strive to focus on providing a warm, friendly and clean environment on the van.

Trustees:

The Ministry of Trustees are elected by the church congregation to provide administrative leadership and governance, and oversee all matters pertaining to the legal, financial, business operation and facility health. As servants of God, we are charged with working collaboratively with the Pastor and the church body to advance the church's mission in support of ministry life. Also, the Ministry is responsible for the collection and disbursement of funds, maintaining accurate and timely records for reporting and communication to the corporate body. A Trustee Liaison is assigned to each Ministry to support their needs throughout the year. Please feel free to reach out to a member of the ministry at any time for support.

Under shepherds / Members Care Ministry

When a faithful group of under- shepherd-leaders work together to **care for God's church**, it spreads out responsibility, provides internal accountability (shepherding), and creates a healthy church culture where God's people grow strong and pastors are able to maintain a healthy spiritual life and work-life balance.

Usher Ministry

The Usher's duties include welcoming, seating, helping to make people comfortable, handing out bulletins/programs, providing assistance with special needs and emergencies. Ushers assist and serve the pastors, elders, and guest ministry. Ushers also keep order at the entrance and in the sanctuary. Through effective execution of the Ushers duties, other's experiences in our worship services will be enhanced.

Youth Ministry

We of the Youth Ministry know that our mission is to empower young hearts and minds by fostering a Christian and safe environment of faith, and dedication. The Youth ministry strives to empower the youth as they stand before the open door, of their lives. We invite all youth to embrace their faith in Jesus as they move fearlessly into their future.

Other Enterprises

- People to People, Inc.
- Community Federal Credit Union



IN MEMORIAM

Members Who Transitioned

Dolores J. Elliott
Calvin Giles
Dorothy Gregory
Martha Hilliard
Minnie McClain
Mary Moore
Felecia Robinson
Mitzi Slack-Reid
Diana White

CHRISTENING

Christian Montgomery

PAST SPEAKERS

Heritage Sunday

Bishop Augustus Miantona - Christ the Redeemer Church

27th Pastoral Anniversary

Rev. Dr. Brad R. Braxton - Chicago Theological Seminary
Psalmist Dwayne Lee

2023 Fall Revival

Pastor William E. Hall - St. James Community Church
Rev. Dr. Eric D. Clopton, Sr. - Cosmopolitan Community Church
Pastor Stephen J. Thurston II - New Covenant MBC

103rd Church Anniversary

Dr. Frank A. Thomas - Christian Theological Seminary
Psalmist Rodnie Bryant

Heritage Sunday

Rev. Dr. Chauncy P. Harrison - Zion Baptist Church



Metropolitan Community Church

COME WORSHIP WITH US!

Sunday School @ 9am via Facebook Live
Praise, Worship & Word @ 10:30am via YouTube

Wednesday Ministry of Biblical Studies @ 11am via Facebook Live

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REVEREND LEON PERRY, III
SENIOR PASTOR