



SCHOOL YEAR 2021 – PRAYING FOR NORMALCY

55 million US students were affected by school closures as a result of the pandemic of March 2020 (Time – The Future of Education;2021)

There is a problem with U.S. schools this school year. It is more than the back to basic climate of No Child Left Behind. Yes, children must learn new interdisciplinary combinations - designs and technologies, arts and mathematics, but most parents, school districts, and teachers can't get to this level because they are all preoccupied with COVID-19 safety for our younger children.

Parents are faced with an impossible choice; send their young children to school and risk a Covid-19 infection or keep children home and jeopardize their emotional health and educational development. How can public health officials give reassurance about the safety of our children heading back to school? Should the young children wear masks?

Our focus should be on getting back to school - socialization; how to interact with people outside of the immediate family, how to sit at a desk, listen quietly in a group sitting and understand what it means to have and show respect toward others. All these are skills learned in K-3 grades.

As a country, we do not have a unified standard of education for all 50 states. So, I don't think we can have normal as that normal is relative and in some cases has gotten us into the mess of normalcy.

Pre-pandemic students spent much of the day as their great grandparents once did; reading textbooks that are out of date by the time that they are printed. How will and how can we make a change for the betterment? We must bring what is taught and how it is taught into the 21st century. Today's society demands that all student's skills be marketable.

The business of education is fragmented. What is important to parents, administrators, and the state, is the pandemic and the health of our students. This year we pray, "Dear God let it be over. Amen."

Educators, school districts, superintendents, policy writers there is work to be done for young lives are waiting.

Healthy students, healthy staff and a healthy community are far more important this school year than the high level competency in the traditional academic disciplines called 21st Century Skills.

But, I am looking forward to a great school year2022

Update: On August 25, 2021, Oakland County Health Department, issued a mask mandate for all K-12 students and staff, public and private.

By Thea Clark Hines, Ph.D.



2 Samuel 22:3-4. My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior; you save me from violence. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies

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Rest In Peace



I met Gladys in 2018 and we bonded instantly and became friends. The word to best describe her is the word GIVER. Before I could call her to ask for her service, she was already calling to see what she could give or help with!

She was serious about being a worker in Greater Dreams Church! She joined the Events Team Ministry and was a great support to the team. Service to others was always on her heart. I had the pleasure of working with her in many capacities, toy drives, children's events, fundraisers, and so much more. She also was a good cook and she made and donated delicious dishes to many church functions. She was an excellent baker and always donated cakes, but her homemade cornbread was my favorite! She did not mind getting her hands dirty either. One time, we needed chopped onions. Sister Gladys came in; put on her gloves and apron and chopped the whole bag of onions with a smile on her face and her eyes did not water!

She had a keen discerning spirit and could always tell when someone needed prayer. She would call out of the blue or stop anyone in church and ask if she could pray with them. Her thoughtfulness and kindness will be dearly missed.

It was a pleasure and an honor to serve God's people with Sister Gladys and her work and memories at Great Dreams Church will forever remain in our hearts.

Sister Dea Mason

TOLEDO:

Aaron Lee- 9/6, Tameka Moorehead- 9/10, Myra Love- 9/12, Minister Debra Neal- 9/14, Neil Goodloe III- 9/15, Gloria Harper- 9/18, Matt Collins- 9/30

WAYNE:

Jeffery Knott- 9/3, Tamika Bryant- 9/5, Lionel Daniel- 9/6, Minister Michael Mitchell- 9/10, Audrey Clark- 9/11, Jacqueline Steele- 9/20, Prophet Dulan Foster- 9/26

Anniversaries:

Tom & Sharon Gamble- 9/8; 49 years (Toledo), Elder Neil & Minister Antoinette Goodloe- 9/22; 14 years (Toledo), Randy & Dea Echols Mason- 9/23; 26 years, Steve & Toria McCogle- 9/25; 15 years

Face Mask Wearing Guidelines:

The COVID Care Ministry continues to require all attendees to wear face masks, even if fully vaccinated, until 70% of membership is fully vaccinated. Please notify Minister Deidre Bess of your vaccination status so she can accurately monitor our progress. COVID screening questions at building entrances and Social Distancing seating in the main sanctuary will be maintained in addition to liberal hand sanitizing.



MEMBER CORNER

Praying: Sending prayers of healing, restoration and condolences to:

Family of Mother Gladys Miller

Sister Audrey Clark recovering from knee surgery

Family of Deacon Norman Haygood



GDC Grab and Go Community Lunch Program

Every Tuesday from 12-1 PM, free lunches are distributed to the community. Please contact Sister Dea Mason, (734) 578-5443 for additional information about contributing or participating.

