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THE HISTORIC BETHANY UNION CHURCH OF CHICAGO



The February 2020

The Unifier

**The Monthly Newsletter of the
Christians at 1750 W 103rd St in
Chicago**

**The Rt. Rev. Dr.
Lawrence Michael Cameron
12th Seated Pastor**

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR...

- February 2, 2020 - First Sunday Holy Communion served. All Boards meet followed by Council
- February 5, 2020 - Bethany Bible Academy, which begins at 10 a.m.
- February 9, 2020 - Sunday, Sunday, Sunday! Scout Sunday, celebrating BS Troop #607 & CS Pack #3607.
February Birthday Bash during Fellowship Hour.
- February 12, 2020 - Bethany Bible Academy, which begins at 10 a.m.
- February 14, 2020 - Valentine's Day
- February 16, 2020 - Benevolence Sunday and Change 4 Change. Last day to reserve your Lenten devotional.
- February 17, 2020 - National Holiday for President's Day
- February 19, 2020 - Bethany Bible Academy, which begins at 10 a.m.
- February 23, 2020 - Transfiguration Sunday & We begin the Season of Lent!
- February 26, 2020 - Bethany Bible Academy, which begins at 10 a.m.
- February 29, 2020 - LEAP DAY

Board Meetings followed by the Council Meeting, Sunday, 02/02/2020. (Palindrome date – 02/02/2020)

This will be the first meeting of all Newly Elected Boards and Council after our Congregational Meeting and according to our Constitution it is at this meeting that each of the three Boards will elect their own Chairpersons for the coming year. This is a great day! It is a “palindrome date” day. Forwards or backwards it is all the same. 02022020 backwards is still 02022020. So no matter how you slice it, forward or backward, up or down, over or under, through or in it is the Lord's Day and the Lord calls us to come together and be in Communion with each other in Him.



“The Cloud of Unknowing”

Bethany Bible Academy calls a challenge and a word of encouragement to all Disciples of Christ Jesus to come and see! The class is “The Cloud of Unknowing.”

Class sessions are every Wednesday, begins promptly at 10:00 a.m., concludes at 11:15 a.m. and are held in the Pastor's Study/Office. New members are still being accepted and may jump in and study this ancient foundational piece on Contemplative Prayer and the life of begin a Christ follower. Come and See! Come and join us.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS IN OUR CONGREGATION:



Birthdays of the Month

2nd – Tuesday B Perry
3rd – Lawrence Walls
8th – Rollin Dix
9th – Nancy Diddia
16th – Rev Dr Robert Moynihan
17th – Delaney Sloop
21st – Lorraine Morgan
23rd – Chuck Diddia
26th – LaTelle Palmer
27th – Rosa Bass

All of our February Birthdays will be celebrated by us with song, cake and fellowship at our monthly Birthday Bash which is held after worship service on the 2nd Sunday of each month. February's Birthday Bash will be on Sunday February 9, 2020 with a Full Moon and Scouts.

BENEVOLENCE
Taking Care of God's Family and the Community

DESTINY RESCUE ARTICLE

The Benevolence offering for February is for Destiny Rescue. The Midwest headquarters for Destiny Rescue is located right here at Bethany. Their mission is to: Rescue, Restore, Protect, Empower and be a Voice for the Voiceless. Their vision is to see the sexual exploitation and trafficking of children end in our lifetime. Destiny Rescue is committed to liberating the enslaved and restoring those who have been abused. Already serving in several nations, Destiny Rescue will keep expanding to reach even more children.

Destiny Rescue has operations in Thailand, Cambodia, India, the Philippines, Dominican Republic, and an undisclosed location in Southeast Asia. It began rescuing children from the sex trade in 2006, and to date, they have rescued over 4,000 lives, some of them over the age of 18.

Most of the rescues have come through Destiny's undercover operations: rescue agents posing as customers enter bars and brothels, gain the trust of children, then offer them a way out when the time is right. The remaining rescues have come through rescue/raid operations in collaboration with anti-trafficking police.

Survivors are rehabilitated in Destiny Rescue's care or with partner organizations and given education and training to enable them to find sustainable employment upon reintegration.

Please prayerfully consider your donation and be as generous as you can to assist Destiny Rescue in continuing their vital work.

Thank you, The Bd. of Church Life

GREETINGS FROM OUR FRIENDS FROM AFRICA



The Watoto Children's Choir

will be back with us for a brand-new tour performance in 2020. Mark your calendars and invite your family and friends to this outstanding free will concert on Saturday, May 23, 2020, here in the Sanctuary of Bethany Union Church.

THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT

There is NO boss, but God! There is NO authority, but God! There is no King, Ruler, Prince, President or Person-in-Charge, but God! There is NO CEO, Dean, Supreme Leader, Governor, Ruler, but God! As a people of faith, and as God's Children we are to, with fear and trembling, faith and fearlessness, together make our way in His Way! The Bible does not give us "how to" instructions or even a map of how to traverse all of the many variable of life. Rather the Bible focuses us and draws us into its witness of truth and telling that we can trust God and know that God has chosen us and not the other way around. We can trust God to be with us as we gather together and worship and work and fellowship in Christ's Holy Name.

With the above in mind let me be reminded that the Holy Season of Lent begins for many, but not for all, on Wednesday February 26, 2020 with what some call "Ash Wednesday." This historically has been for those who follow the Roman Way. For others in the Christian faith Great Lent starts on Monday March 2, 2020 and ends Friday April 10, 2020. Those who typically celebrate with one of the Ethnic Orthodox Church traditions follow this calendar along with the Byzantine Rite believers or Eastern Catholics.

Another, older and most ancient tradition begins the Holy Season (although its not called Lent) on the Day of Transfiguration (Sunday February 23, 2020) and concludes on the Holy Day of Pentecost. This is a much longer cycle than the 46 days found in the Roman Lenten tradition.

This year at the Historic Bethany Union Church of Chicago we will once again travel the path of the ancients and begin our Holy Season of intentional spiritual practices and prayers on this great day of the Transfiguration which is Sunday February 23, 2020. We begin our Lenten practice on this day and move to and through Holy Week 2020 until we are met by the Holy Spirit on the Feast Day of Pentecost which is May 31, 2020. This is a 95 day pilgrimage and is peppered with lots of High Holy Days and celebrations along the way. And it is also the Biblical mandate of celebration that God the Father tells us to observe in Holy Scripture. There are three appointed days that we are to celebrate and Pentecost is one of them as it has been from the days of old.



To aid us in our walk of faith we will be offering the members and friends of Bethany Union several opportunities to learn, grow and practice aspects of the Christian faith so that our walk with Christ might grow stronger and our living out of the faith might be richer. Here is what we will offer to you this coming Holy Season that begins at the end of February on Sunday Feb. 23 Transfiguration Sunday. Do all that the Lord leads you to do and remember that it is all for His glory why we do these things. Everything is open to anyone who wishes to grow in their faith journey with us. Here is what we are sharing;

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:30A.M.

Transfiguration Sunday February 23, 2020

Temptation Sunday March 1, 2020

Trinity Sunday March 8, 2020

Sunday March 15, 2020

Sunday March 22, 2020

Sunday March 29, 2020

Palm/Passion Sunday April 5, 2020

Pascha Sunday April 12, 2020

DAILY PRAYER JOURNALING AND/OR DAILY DEVOTIONALS

These will be ready to be picked up on Transfiguration Sunday February 23, 2020. These are a 40 day Lenten style devotional and prayer journal that may be used as either a daily devotional or a prayer journal or as both. They begin the day of Transfiguration and continue to go to the Day of Resurrection. You need to reserve a copy by signing up for one, reserving on using the “Connection Card” or by calling the office. These are free but they do need to be pre-ordered. You can order one for yourself up until Sunday February 16, 2020.

LENTEN FELLOWSHIP CARRY-IN SUPPERS

On Friday March 13, 2020 we will hold the first of two of our Friday Evening Lenten gatherings. These are both carry-in suppers. We ask everyone to bring in a dish they make or purchase that is “Vegetarian.” By definition “vegetarian” dishes do not contain any “meat.” There are so many to choose from these days. Hopefully you will bring something you are familiar with and think is good. If you have never experienced this food eating choice this is your opportunity to experience it and learn about what is all available. This first evening is all “vegetarian.”

Our second Lenten Fellowship gather will be on Friday March 27, 2020 at 6:00p.m. It will be our “Vegan Night.” And we will have notecards for you to identify what it is you have brought so everyone will know. If you have no knowledge of “Vegan” food choices it is all about not eating anything that comes from an animal. Vegans do not eat or use any animal products at all. No meat of course, but also no milk or dairy products, no eggs, nothing to do with any living soul. This is an experience of getting to see and taste and experience what this is all about. There are many who have taken up this lifestyle in their eating. No one is asking you to turn vegan. We are just giving ourselves the opportunity to learn and experience it as a Lenten practice for one meal.

After we feast on “no flesh” dishes these two nights we will have a Lenten program from the work of Gayle Boss and David G. Klein titled, “Wild Hope; Stories for Lent from the Vanishing.” Each of the two nights we will look at six different fellow Earth Souls that are endangered because of climate change and mass extinctions. We will learn of the hungry, the sick, the homeless, the poisoned, the hunted and the desecrated. These are fellow creatures, some of which will completely disappear in the next few years and many that are quickly reaching the point of no return due to their loss of habitat, food, and climate

changes. We will become familiar with real time vanishings of some of our fellow Earth Creatures and explore things we might do that may make a difference. We will center in on the Scriptural mandate we have been given by our Creator concerning His Creation and we will allow the text of Romans 8:22 guide our thinking, “*All creation groans in this one great act of giving birth.*” Some of our fellow creatures that are vanishing as we are yet alive include:



- Red Knot(bird)
- Amur Leopard
- Galapagos Penguin
- Staghorn Coral
- Panamanian Golden Frog
- Indiana Bat
- Koala
- Black-footed Ferret
- Monarch Butterfly
- North Atlantic Right Whale
- Polar Bear
- Lowland Tapir
- Golden Riffleshell Mussel
- Olm
- Laysan Albatross
- Giant River Otter
- Chenese Pangolin
- Ring-tailed Lemur
- Black Rhinoceros
- Hawksbill Turtle
- Bonobo
- Atlantic Bluefin Tuna
- African Elephant
- Takhi



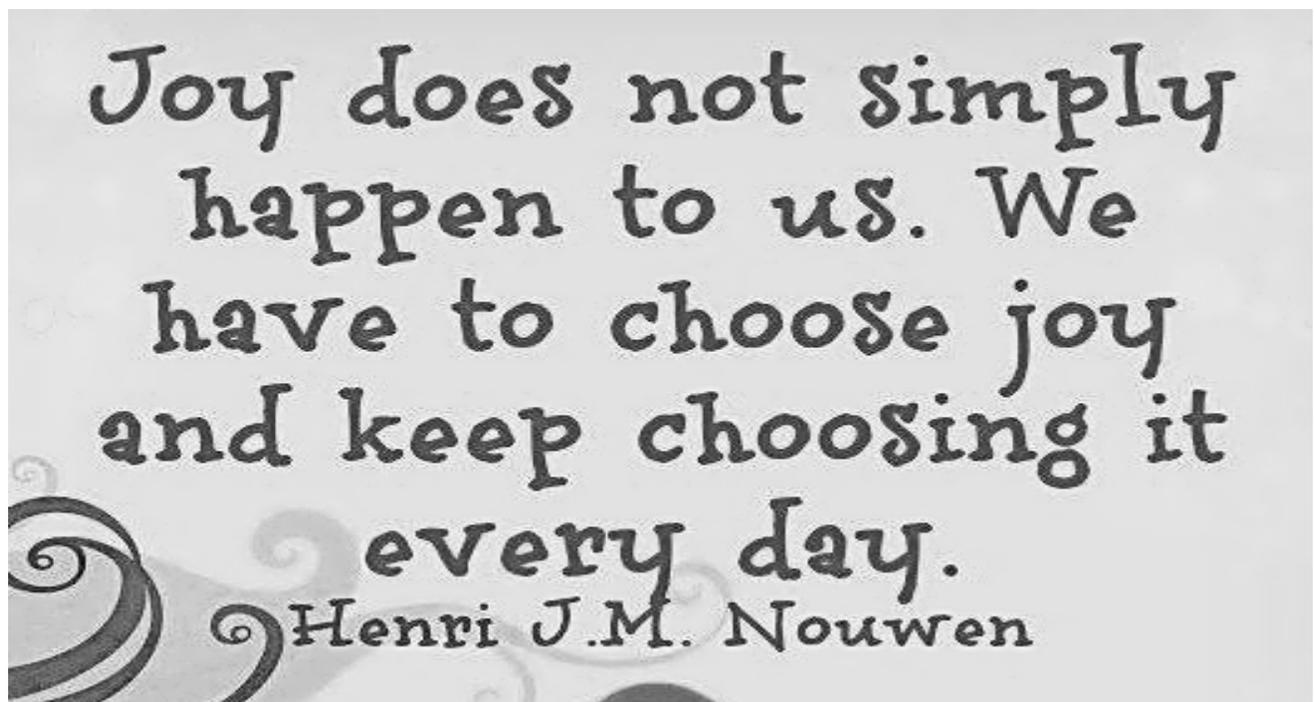
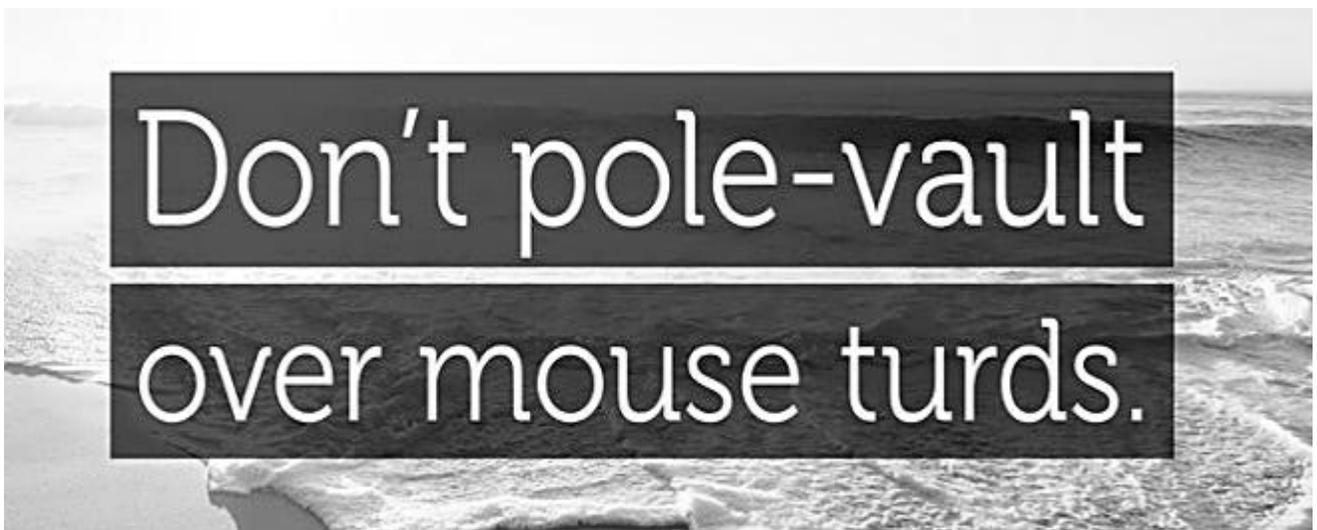
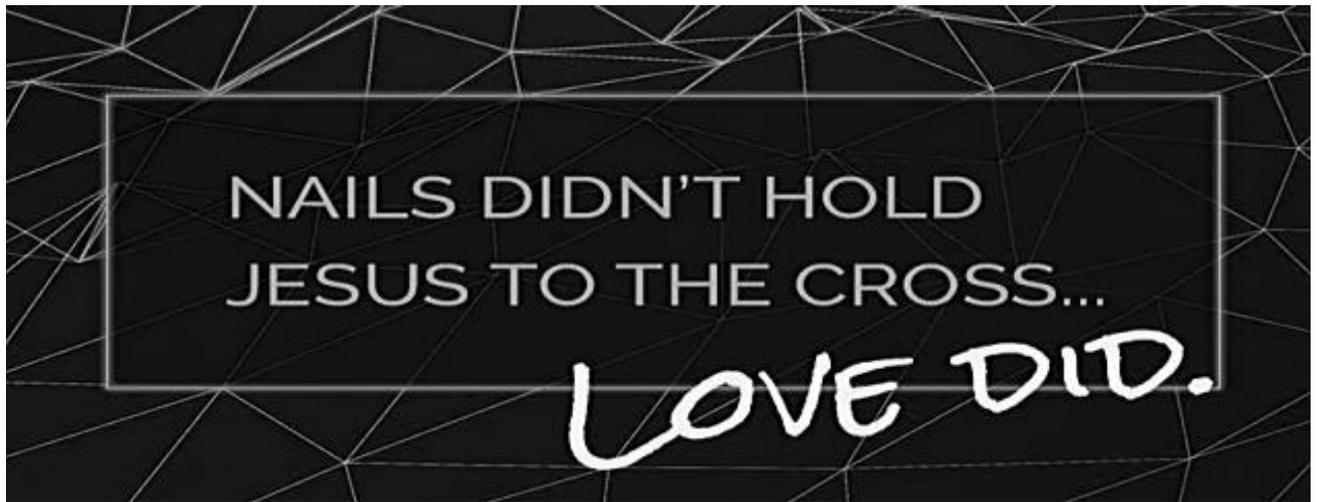
The first line of defense for us and all these fellow creatures is knowledge and education. Come and learn together with us and explore the resources and solutions that are possible. Climate change and mass extinction has occurred several times before. Predictions says this will be the sixth mass extinction we can count in the world. We are intimately and morally bound to this Earth and its creatures by our Creator God who has commanded us to care for it and tend to her. Lets pray it is not too late for some. We have lost too many already. We can be a part of the solution. Come and see.



CITIZEN’S CLIMATE LOBBY (CCL)

We have a Beverly area group that has recently formed to provide educational and informational materials and meetings to our citizen’s by our citizen’s on “all things climate.” Once a month they have an informational and action meeting that is free and open to anyone who is interested in this most immediate concern of climate change. The meetings have been held at various church and civic meeting places and you are welcome to come and see. Mr. Rol Dix, one of our Bethany Union Members can provide you will even more information. We will post upcoming meeting dates and times in our Sunday bulletins.

Three Memes for your life and living this month. Keep the focus!



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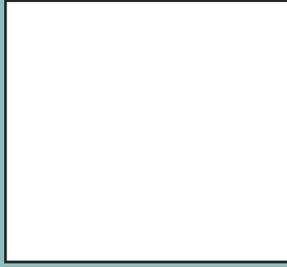
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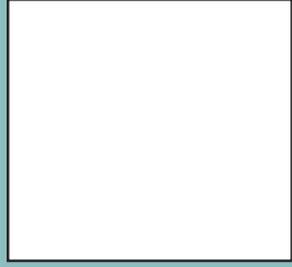
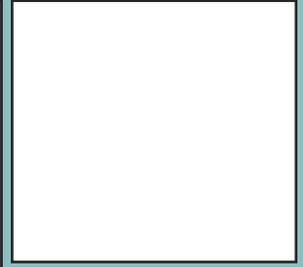
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