

The Historic Bethany Union Church of Chicago

Rt. Rev. Dr. Lawrence Michael Cameron

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1750 West 103rd Street

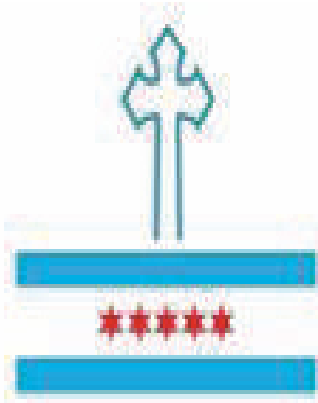
Chicago, Illinois 60643

Time Sensitive Materials

DO NOT DELAY

October 2020 Unifier Newsletter

A Historic Community Church on Chicago's Far South Side. Open to everyone, serving all.
Loving the World as Christ Loves us.



Sunday Worship Time 10:30 a.m. Chicago Time

Worship "LIVE" online on our Facebook page;

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Email: office@bethanyunion.com

Web page:

www.bethanyunion.com

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CULTIVATING COMPASSION

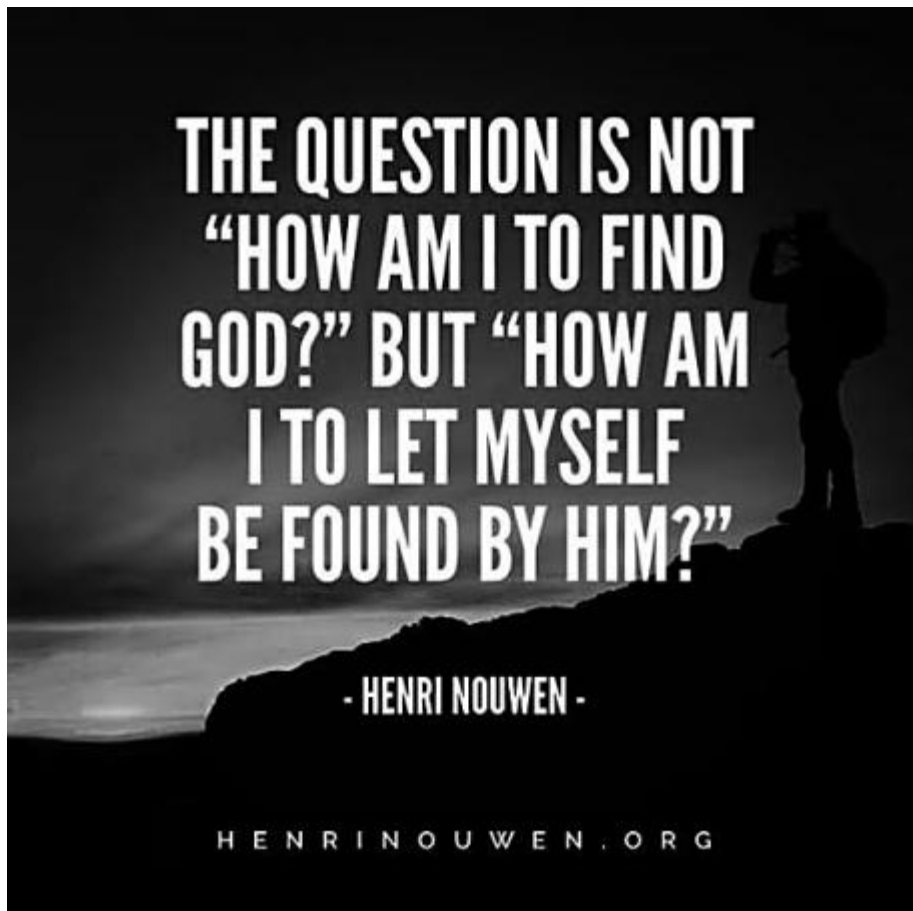
Snail Mail Address;
Bethany Union Church
1750 W. 103rd Street
Chicago, IL 60643

PASTOR LARRY'S PIECE/PEACE...

Historic wildfires out West. Hurricanes and tropical storms South. Flooding to the East. Pandemic all around. Racial strife rising. Civil unrest lingering. Economic ruin all too common. Mental health in serious trouble. Food challenged is the reality of more than ever here in the abundant USA. A Government that has forced women to be sterilized against their wills. Children are taken and separated from their parents and put in cages. A national election that is being scrutinized and questioned as to its possible fairness and legitimacy. Polarized politics. A voiceless Church presence. Gun violence skyrocketing. Murders stats way up. Our climate changing. How is your 2020 going?

To deny, hide, cover over, or neglect to face our present reality will not make it go away, nor will it change it for the better. We need leadership now at every level of rule and influence. The prophetic voice from the Christian Faith is needed now more than ever before in our Nation's history and the World. We are at the crossroads of epic proportions, and what has worked in the past will no longer benefit us for the future. Our question is always, "What are the People of God in Christ Jesus supposed to do?" Are we to flee afraid? Are we to despair? Are we to hang our heads in shame and failure? Are we to pretend that all will be OK? Are we to not recognize the State of our world and respond in some meaningful way? What are followers of Jesus Christ called to do?

Important and all-consuming questions. We turn to our God as revealed to us in the person of Jesus Christ as witnessed to us in Holy Scripture, and we seek the Holy One who seeks us. A real and profound time of prayer is mandated for such a time as this. Pray for the World, our Nation and National Leaders, our State and her leaders, our Church, and yourself. Pray that we would remain faithful or grow in faithfulness unto the Lord and that a new light would shine forth to illuminate the path God would have us tread. Pray for strength and courage for what lays ahead. Pray for forgiveness for what lays behind. Pray for a heart of compassion and endurance for the now. Pray!

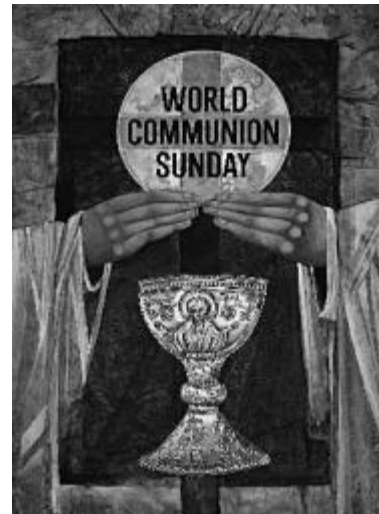


THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

In 1936, a group of pastors launched World-Wide Communion Day. Amid the Great Depression, they were looking for a way to meet people’s spiritual needs and unite Christians in their dedication to Christ.



The observance, now known as World Communion Sunday, is held on the first Sunday of October. For eight decades, it has served as a reminder that Christians around the globe share the same meal in remembrance of Jesus.

Published in: October 2016*

In keeping with this mission, Bethany Union Church will have a parking lot service on our **Communion Sunday, October 4th, at 10:30a.** To celebrate Holy Communion during this pandemic, we will have the self-contained, all in one, prepacked wafers and juice sets. Also, please wear masks even though we will be outdoors and keep your 6 feet of distance. We will have chairs spaced appropriately, a portable sound system, hand sanitizer, and lots of spirit to go around. Come and invite a neighbor or friend who hasn’t been able to go back to worship yet. Let’s celebrate the faith outdoors in the fresh, clean air of God’s Creation.



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11
PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY**

A Lesson in Appreciation

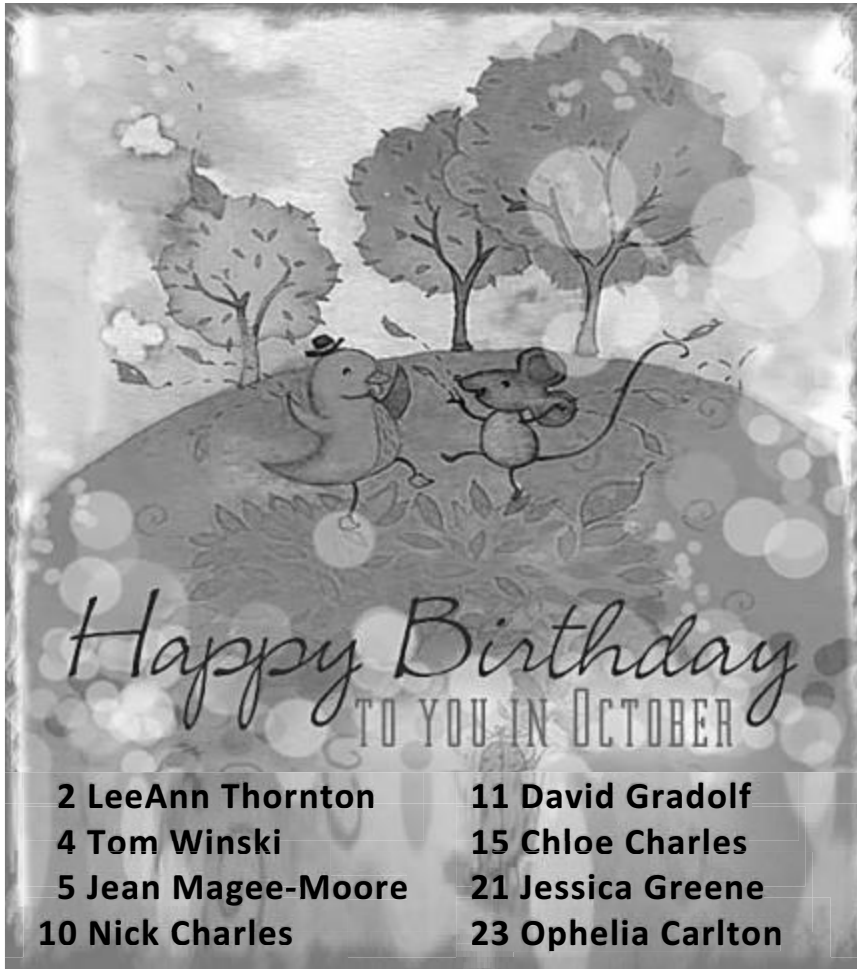
During a church anniversary celebration, a pastor overheard a group discussing various congregational leaders over the years. Her ears perked up when an older member said, “Whenever someone asks which of our pastors I liked best, my answer is always, ‘The one we have at any given time is my favorite.’”

What a relief for the pastor to hear — and what a great lesson for Pastor Appreciation Month. God sends each shepherd to us with a specific set of spiritual gifts and then works through those gifts to bless us.

Published in: October 2020*



*NewsletterNewsletter



**UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE,
OUR BIRTHDAY BASH
IS ON HOLD. BUT DO
KEEP OUR BIRTHDAY
PEOPLE IN YOUR
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS.**



1 Pastor Larry &
Bethany Union Church (7 years)
25 Ellen & Curt Villanova



SCOUT TROOP #607 NEWS Troop #607 is preparing for its Bethany Union Church Troop 607 100th Anniversary in May 2021. Check out their Facebook page of the same name.

THE MUSIC SCENE Ms. Anisha McFarland is back in the music room! She is conducting music lessons with her clients Monday through Thursday. Welcome back!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO DR. KAREN WHITE, MS. D'SHARA SHELLS, AND THE TEECH FOUNDATION for enforcing the safety protocols through this pandemic. Bethany Union Church, members & staff, and all the guests using our facility are staying well and safe as we move through these uncertain and precarious times. On October 29th & 30th, there will be a Recovery Coach training session here at Bethany Union. When not in pandemic mode, TEECH sponsors monthly activities to strengthen the community and those they serve.

JETY ACTIVITY CENTER is an E-Learning center for children 5-15. Please pray that they receive internet service, quickly, to host up to 25 children. Internet service is poor, and there seems to be a long waiting list for Comcast service.

NEWS FROM COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL, UPDATED ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2020 - COVID-19 cases are rapidly rising in Bolivia, more than tripling since the country began reopening economic activities in early June. As of Sept. 17, the country has reported 129,000 cases and 7,478 deaths. Bolivia canceled school for the rest of the year due to the pandemic, so some 2 million students won't attend either online or in-person classes until at least 2021. Additionally, the country is plagued by political unrest and protests after presidential elections were postponed for the second time.

Group activities at all Compassion child development centers remain on hold. Partner churches are working to provide food, disease prevention materials and hygiene supplies to beneficiaries and their families. **Since the crisis began, staff members have distributed 427,053 food packs and 197,303 hygiene kits and provided 1,119 individuals with medical support.** They are also checking in with families via phone to provide spiritual and emotional support and arrange for telehealth calls. Compassion Bolivia has deployed teams of physicians and psychologists to support frontline church partners and has conducted trainings to help churches safely resume activities.



**AND NOW...
GOOD NEWS
FROM
BOLIVIA &**

**OUR
ADOPTED
DAUGHTER,
MARY
CONTRERAS**



Dear friend Bethany Union Church,

1. May God bless you. It is a pleasure to greet you in this blessed day. My name is Gladys and I am Mary Contreras' tutor. She sends you greetings full of blessings for your life and in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. She is very thankful for the letter that you sent her. She also thanks you for your prayers and advises. She will pray for Pastor Larry and her wife, so that they are in good health. She also thanks you for the 2 gifts that you sent her. She bought provisions and furniture. Now Mary will answer your questions: Anybody will turn in those next months. Her family is in good health and she has the necessary to eat thanks be to God who was protecting her all the time.

Mary wants to tell you that here in La Paz-Bolivia weather is very cold and it is also windy. They are doing chuño and tunta (dry potato) in this cold time. They are dehydrating potato. They will sow qui- noa in the next weeks. Here in our country, pandemic affected many families, overall the old people

and with some illness. During this time of pandemic, Mary is studying on online and she presents her homework on time. She is responsible. Mary wants to ask you: What does weather look in your country? Now Mary prays for a lot. Until soon.

Love,

Gladys, Mary's tutor

2. Mary would like to ask you to pray for her family, so that God protects them of the danger. She also asks you to pray for the families who do not have much money because of the pandemic.

NOTE: More information about the pictures has been requested. Stay tuned for an update.



Authentic spirituality
is always about
changing you.
It's not about
trying to change
anyone else.

—Richard Rohr

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- 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9 -

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