

**THE HISTORIC BETHANY UNION CHURCH OF CHICAGO**

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Chicago, IL 60643

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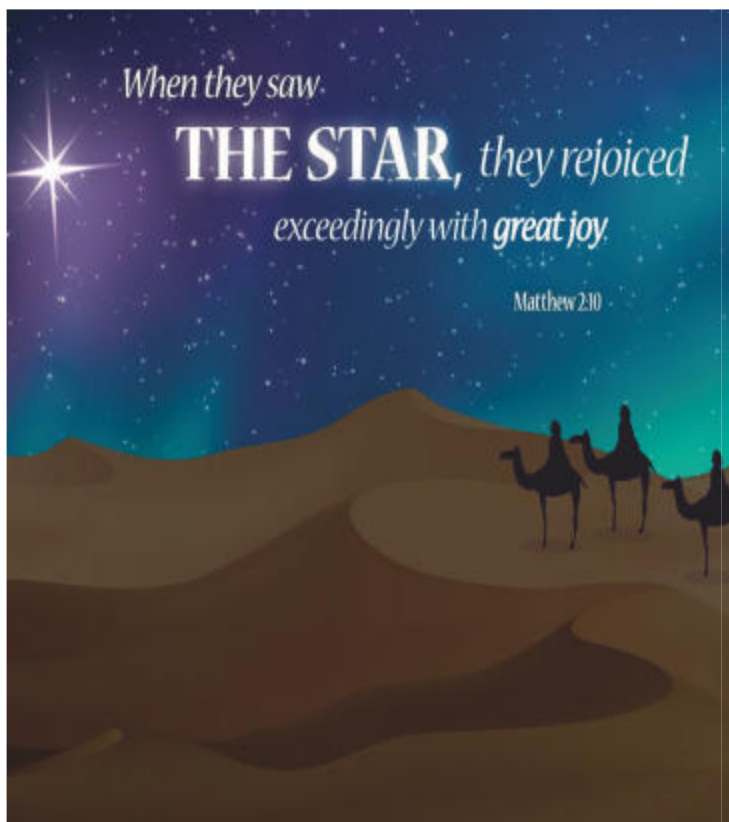
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\*Time Sensitive Materials\*

DO NOT DELAY

Address Correction Requested

# THE UNIFIER JANUARY 2021



## **BETHANY UNION CHURCH OF CHICAGO**

**WORSHIP WITH US  
SUNDAYS AT 10:30A**

**IN-PERSON  
FOLLOWING COVID-19 SAFETY  
PROTOCOLS**

**ON OUR BETHANY UNION CHURCH OF  
CHICAGO FACEBOOK PAGE OR ON OUR  
WEBSITE**

[www.bethanyunion.com](http://www.bethanyunion.com)

## FROM PASTOR LARRY...

It may take us a while to process and say what this past year, 2020, was to us. I am wondering how the history books will write this one? It has had so many major events, and each was huge in and of itself, let alone pile them all together in a single year. I'm not going to list them or recall them here. Still, I know of at least six "significant" happenings of note which not only had an immediate impact but that will be determinative for decades or possibly centuries to come. There is no one to sum 2020 all up into a nice neat little package that can be grasped and put on the shelf. So, I'm moving on to 2021!

Here is a huge thank you, Lord, that we have a vaccine! I pray we have the leadership and wisdom to use it well and get it distributed in the quickest and best way possible. Many of us are guesstimating June 2021 will be the first time anything like a "back to normal" will be manifested. Until then, or whenever it happens, we will continue to carry on and worship here and LIVE online. We will continue to meet via ZOOM, and utilize other modes of communication and connection (like this Unifier) to stay in touch, keep our eyes focused upon our God.

For your faithfulness and long-suffering, I praise our God and continue to count each of you in my prayers. I hope you are keeping me in yours as well. 2021 here we come! With faith, love, and resilient hope, I send good thoughts to you.

In Him Who Is With Us Always,

+Pastor Larry



faith love hope

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR...**



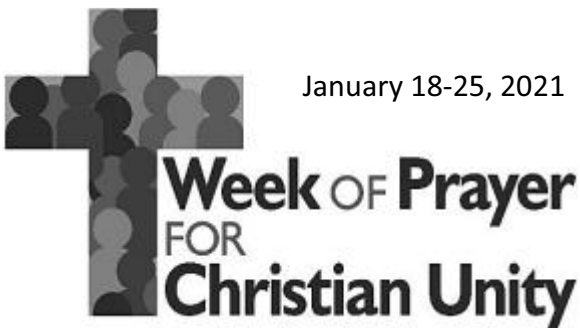
- January 1, 2021 - New Year's Day! Office closed.
- January 3, 2021 - First Sunday in the New Year to worship our God. Holy Communion Served. Church Council Meeting – see page 6.
- January 4, 2021 - End of year reports are due in the church office, electronically, by noon – see page 6.
- January 6, 2021 - Epiphany
- January 10, 2021 - Sunday, Sunday, Sunday! The Baptism of our Lord
- January 12, 2021 - Annual Reports for 2020 will be mailed one to each household. Please review as this report will be voted on in our virtual annual meeting – see page 6.
- January 17, 2021 - Sunday, Sunday! If you haven't received your 2020 Annual Report, contact the church office – see page 6.



- January 18, 2021 - Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Day.
- January 24, 2021 - Sunday, Sunday, Sunday!
- January 31, 2021 - Sunday, Sunday, Sunday! Our 148<sup>th</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting (Virtually Live – see page 6)



MLK DAY—January 18<sup>th</sup>



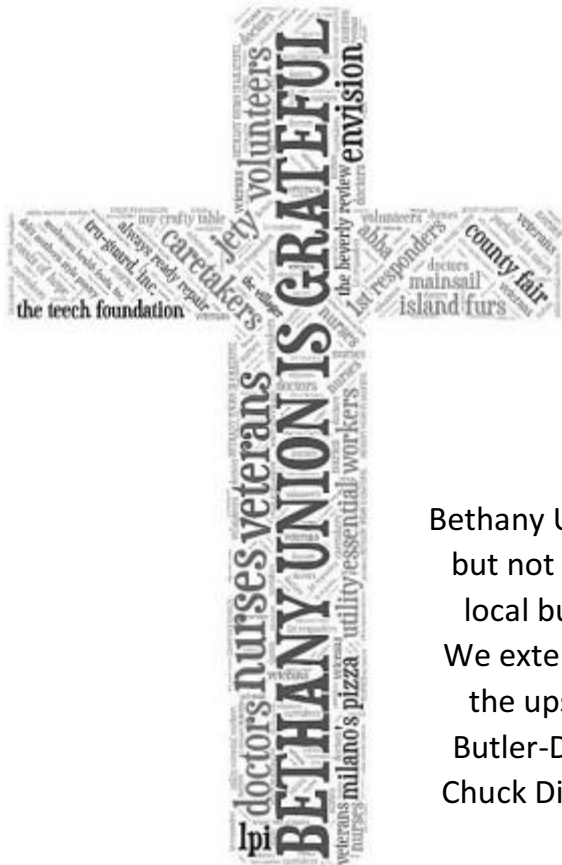


## A CHRISTMAS STORY

In early December, when our church finances were looking pretty bleak, which they usually do at this time of year, Bethany Union Church received a blessing. On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, we received an envelope in the mail with a check for a very generous amount. The Donor was not familiar to anyone in the office, so we searched and found his address and phone number in Google. Pastor Larry called to thank him for his donation.

During that call, Pastor Larry learned much more and shared his story in the December 6<sup>th</sup> Sermon. And now, as Paul Harvey used to say... 'this is the rest of the story.' As World War II was winding down in 1945,

our Donor was living in an orphanage; he hoped that he might be able to leave his war-torn Germany one day. Time passed, and as he grew older, his time in the orphanage came to an end, and he began exploring various opportunities he might use to see his dream come true. Our Donor worked with Church World Services, who in the early 1950s had a relationship with Bethany Union Church. Together Church World Service, Bethany Union Church, with a few church members of the time, sponsored our Donor's immigration to the United States. That happened in about 1956. Our Donor remembered the kindness and life-changing support shown to him by Bethany Union and recently felt moved to thank us, hence his gift. I might add that we actually received his check on "Giving Tuesday." What a true blessing at Christmas!



Make sure to "like" us on Facebook and share often with your peeps by passing along the memes and postings we put up. This helps us spread the Good News! Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and on our website

[www.bethanyunion.com](http://www.bethanyunion.com)



Bethany Union is grateful to those who supported us during 2020, including but not limited to the names in the Word Art. Please continue to use the local businesses in 2021 and tell them Bethany Union Church sent you. We extend a special debt of gratitude to Pastor Larry who saw us through the ups and downs of COVID and Andrea; Church Council Chair, Mario Butler-Del Rio, Trustee Chair, Robert Davis, and House Committee Chair, Chuck Diddia, Treasurer, Arlene Williams, Music Director, David Zizic, who kept us afloat.



## THE POINSETTIAS GRACING OUR SANCTUARY

### IN MEMORY OF

Joe Hale by Betsie Hale

Jane & Max Achtenberg; Ora & Charles Fortmiller by Len Achtenberg

The Peterson Family, Mary Alice Hughes, & Barbara Micheletto by Terry Peterson

William Sandstrom, by Marie & Philip Sandstrom

George Tedesco, L K Couser Family, & Robert Mains Family by Dorothy Tedesco

The Boyens, Heniff, & Winski Grandparents by Jan & Tom Winski

Family and 2020 by the Butler-Del Rio/ Charles Family

Virginia Nichols by LeeAnn Thornton & Family

Heather Ann Farrell & Jarvis White by The Lisle & White Family

The Elliott & Van Dyk Families by Maggi Van Dyk



### IN HONOR OF

Loved Ones by Chuck & Nancy Diddia

The Peterson Family and COVID Frontline by Terry Peterson

My Children Michelle Jokay, Michael Hale, David Hale and their families by Betsie Hale

*(Poinsettia Plants reserved may be taken after the Christmas Eve Service)*

11<sup>th</sup>- Lukka Frankie Jean Gandara 2

12<sup>th</sup>- Lisa Butler-Del Rio

13<sup>th</sup> - Jan Winski

15<sup>th</sup> - Pastor Larry

18<sup>th</sup> - Joyce Kerwer

27<sup>th</sup> - Nancy Brown

28<sup>th</sup> - Sheila Reid

31<sup>st</sup> - Betty R Baugh





**Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Hear Ye!  
You Are Dutifully and  
Faithfully Called!**

The 149<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Congregation called The Historic Bethany Union Church of Chicago is called to gather once more to worship, break bread, and meet as the people of God in this place and time, to secure the business of God's Church for

one more year and map out here trajectory for the coming 2021 year. Our Annual Meeting will take place on **Sunday, January 31, 2021**, with a service of Worship starting at 10:30 a.m. and afterward staying in the Sanctuary space for a Virtual Annual Meeting. If you are not here in person because of the pandemic, you can still participate by watching it LIVE on our Facebook page. On that platform, you can send messages and interact in the meeting right there from your home. You may also call into Pastor's cell phone number 734-652-1471 or use the church line 773-779-0123. Because of the pandemic, we have to be flexible and creative to get done what needs to be done as the Ministry of Jesus Christ marches on.

## **AND JUST SO YOU'VE GOT THE INFORMATION...**

**January 3<sup>rd</sup> following 10:30a Worship, there will be a ZOOM – live in-Sanctuary and online Church Council Meeting to approve the 2021 budget. Details and instructions to follow.**

**January 4<sup>th</sup> by noon. Committee & Organization Chairs, please have your 2020 reports in the office electronically.**

**January 11<sup>th</sup> The compiled group reports will go to print.**

**January 12<sup>th</sup> One 2020 Annual Report will be mailed to each Bethany Union Church household for your review, comments, and use at the Annual Congregational Meeting.**

**January 17<sup>th</sup> The second Sunday before the Annual Meeting. If you have not received your copy of the 2020 Annual Report, please contact the church office.**

**January 31<sup>st</sup> The 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting. Bring your 2020 Annual Report.**

## COMMUNITY NOTES:

### Help Feed the Hungry and Donate

Hunger is real in Beverly, Morgan Park, and Mt. Greenwood. It may be invisible because we see beautiful historic homes, strong businesses and organizations, and a sense of comfort and wealth. But it is here, and with the COVID-19 pandemic, it is on the rise.



Today, Maple Morgan Park Food Pantry is even more vital for Chicagoans and others in high need areas. For \$20, you can provide two weeks' worth of groceries for a needy family.

### THE FREE STORE

The Free Store hosted by the Morgan Park Presbyterian Church needs your help. I have ordered some heaters during our distribution, so the predicted cold weather should be a smaller factor. Though there will be heat, please do bundle up.

We are noticing that there is a rise in our numbers, which I believe is a reflection of our current economic situation. I am happy that we are here to help our neighbors, yet sad at the same time. Along with many other organizations, we are headed into no longer having food provided for our distribution. The USDA Farmers to Families program is wrapping up at the end of the year, in 2 weeks. We have not heard anything as of yet regarding the resumption of the program. We are moving forward, as if the program will be continued.

We hope you can join us in helping our neighbors through these rough times. Trust me when I say you will get a lot from experience.

We wish you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season.

Tim Noonan [e:info@19aid.com](mailto:info@19aid.com) t: 773-852-3080   

### FYI from Citizens' Climate Lobby

Rick Knight (from the Chicago area) is Research Coordinator for CCL

Today at the national CCL Zoom meeting he presented a study of the EFFECT ON HOUSEHOLDS of our TAX ON CARBON policy.

HR 763 collection of carbon fees at \$20 per ton of fossil fuel would result in approximately \$400 per household per year if 763 had passed.

Researcher Kevin Ummel did the study between November of 2019 and March of 2020. It found that the annual increased cost of energy caused by the tax would be \$273 for the bottom quartile of incomes, \$326 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quartile and \$921 for the top quartile. The result is that 61% of households would get more than their increased costs and the wealthiest only pay a one-half percent penalty.

If the Biden administration passes a carbon tax bill like that in the EU and Canada, the fee will be more like \$40/ton in the first year. As Yogi Berra said, "It is hard to make predictions, especially about the future."

*For questions, contact Rol Dix, 239-463-9812 til 3/31/2021*

*4/1/2021 (312-448-0125)*

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