

THE HISTORIC BETHANY UNION CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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Time Sensitive Materials

DO NOT DELAY

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THE UNIFIER MARCH 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

Pastor's Piece/Peace...

My brain is just way too small. I cannot begin to comprehend that in our nation, half a million people have died this past year to COVID and COVID-related issues. More deaths than both World Wars and the Viet Nam wars combined. I remember being a kid when the Viet Nam war was active and seeing the body count each night in the news. I remember how terrible it was to hear of the many reported deaths of our nation's young men and women in some far off distant land fighting for some unknown ambiguous cause. Covid comes along and blows all of the war stats off the charts. My brain is too little to comprehend the vast measure and meaning of all of this, and I have no idea how to begin to gain a clear perspective on where we are at as a nation and in the world.

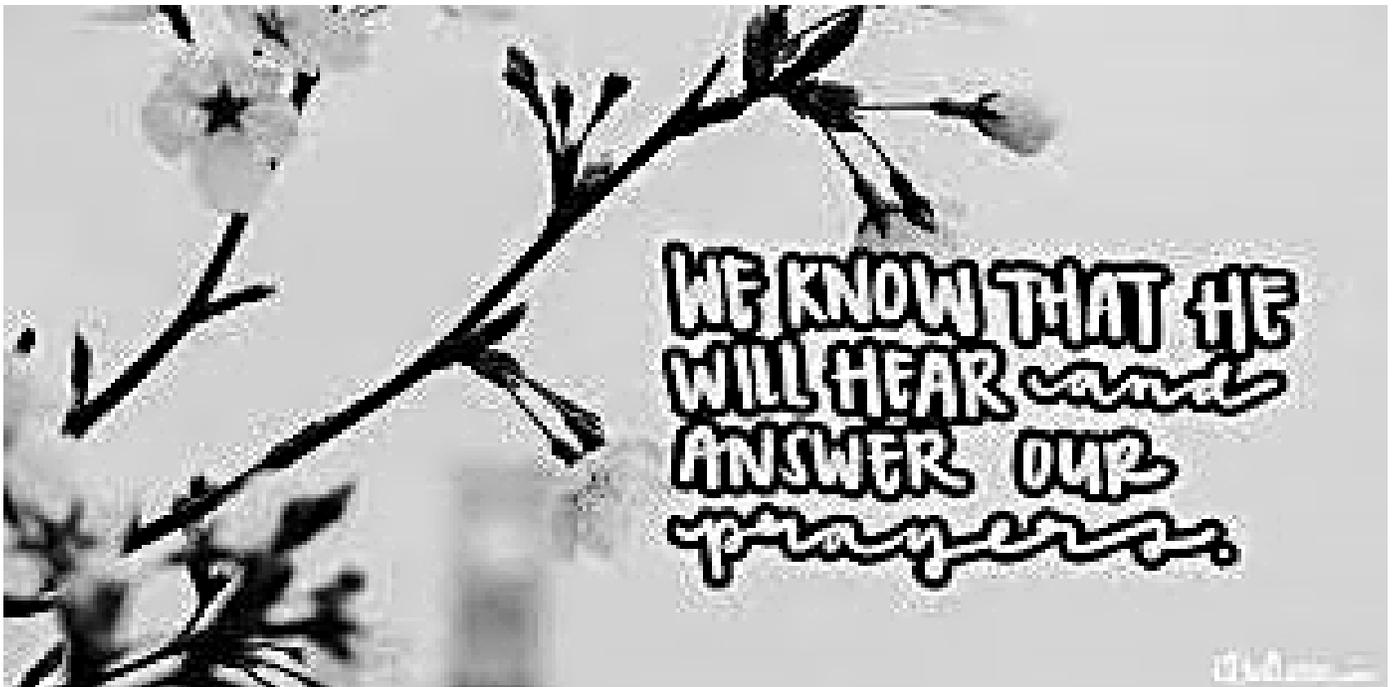
So, we don't give up. We don't stop asking the hard questions or considering all of the moral and ethical issues that seemingly are too large to discern. We continue to listen and ask and seek answers to all of the questions, including those we deem unanswerable. God doesn't get lost in the questions. Rather, God often arrives in the midst of the question being honestly and sincerely asked and pondered. So we ask. And listen. And ask. And listen. God remains faithfully with us in our asking and in our listening.

This is the Holy of Holies of The Christian calendar. We move through Lent into Holy Week and finally arrive amazed at an empty tomb. Like last year, 2020, this year 2021 will not be business as usual in our Church family's observation and celebration of Easter. We will move through the Holy time as best we can and continue to offer worship services each week in the Sanctuary and online via our Facebook page. I hope you will make it a discipline of yours to join us in one of the two settings and continue to worship and celebrate with us the great mystery of God's love for His world. To God be the glory forever!

See you soon and very soon,
Pastor Larry

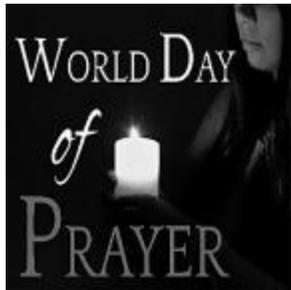


THE HISTORIC BETHANY UNION CHURCH
OF CHICAGO
CULTIVATING COMPASSION



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR...

- March 5, 2021 - World Day of Prayer
- March 7, 2021 - 3rd Sunday of Lent, Holy Communion Sunday.
- March 12, 2021 - Girl Scout Birthday. Congratulations, GS Troop 20117
- March 14, 2021 - **Daylight Saving Time begins.**
4th Sunday of Lent.
- March 20, 2021 - First day of Spring
- March 21, 2021 - 5th Sunday of Lent.
- March 28, 2021 - Palm Sunday. Holy Week begins.



3/5



3/7



3/14



3/14

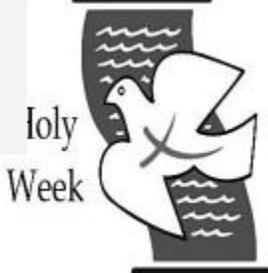


3/20



3/21

Begins
3/28



3/28

March

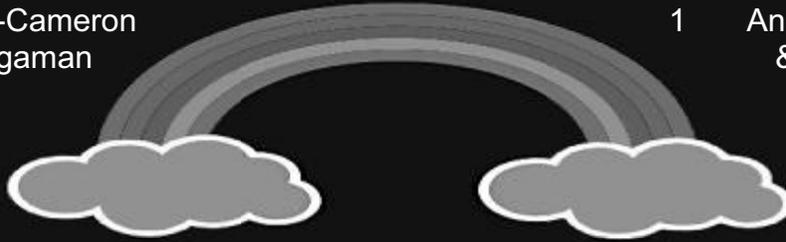


Birthdays

Milestones

Anniversary

- 1 Andrea Williams-Cameron
- 11 Quinn Avery Bingaman
- 18 Dorothy Syler
- 19 Mark Linnerud
- 22 Aracely Brooks
- 30 Joan Rumel



- 1 Andrea Williams-Cameron & Pastor Larry Cameron

Our Scouting Ministry

On Sunday, February 14, **Boy Scout Troop #607 and Cub Scout Troop #3607** participated in our Scout Sunday Worship Service. Michael Rudd, Scoutmaster, and Mike Crispo, Cubmaster, shared a few thoughts, and each of the following scouts did an excellent job in his presentation.

- Ryan Diddia Senior Patrol Leader - Reverence
- Gavin Rhodes Asst. Senior Patrol Leader - What Scouting means in his life
- Ethan Collins Patrol Leader - What Scouting means in his life
- Michael Collins Chaplains Aide - Reverence

Bethany Union Church has supported the scouting program for over 100 years. Scouting is a significant ministry of our church.

Our **Girl Scout Troop #20117** is celebrating the Girl Scout 109th Birthday on Friday, March 12. The organization promotes friendship, innovation, and empowerment among millions of girls across the nation. Though the Troop is not holding meetings at Bethany Union due to COVID, they virtually meet and carry out their program.

In Gratitude

Bethany Union Church has been fortunate to have Arlene Williams as a member and past Treasurer. Through her dedication and efforts over the last two years, she has successfully secured Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) loans for \$33,900. The loans are used to pay salaries and utility bills. In addition to securing the loans, she was instrumental in providing the necessary information for forgiveness. In these challenging times, it is needless to say how much we appreciate her effort. Thank You, Arlene! Thank you.

We received a lovely note and accompanied by check for \$1,000, a most generous donation from one of our neighbors on 103rd Street. It was a Thank You note to Bethany Union Church for "serving as a beacon of light in the neighborhood" and appreciation for the "music from our steeple which is a blessing. It is nice to hear that we are appreciated.



In absence of everyone getting a palm leaf on Palm Sunday, we are attaching this Palm Cross for your inspiration.



Inspirations continued...

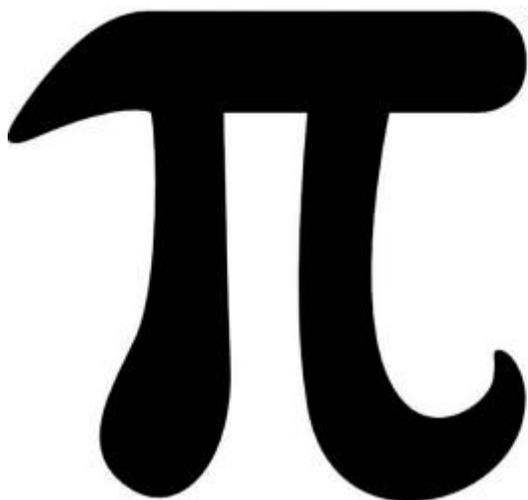
Looking at the office calendar, I noticed March contained several International and World Days that serve as a call to action. As we continue our Lenten Journey, these may be areas to focus on to make a difference in ourselves and our community.

"**UN International Days** are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity. The existence of international days predates the establishment of the United Nations, but the UN has embraced them as a powerful advocacy tool. We also mark other UN observances and anniversaries of key events in its history."

Not a UN observance, the **World Day of Prayer**, on 3/5, is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.

"**International Women's Day (UN)** on 3/8 is a global day celebrating women's social, economic, cultural, and political achievements. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. The campaign theme for International Women's Day 2021 is '**Choose To Challenge.**' A challenged world is an alert world. And from challenge comes change. So let's all #ChooseToChallenge. "





Happy Pi Day

3. 14159265358979
3238462643382327
9502884197169399
3751058209749945
9230781640628620
8998628034825342
1170679821480865
1328230664709384
4609550582223172
5359408128481117
4502841027019385

Stephen Barnes

Not a UN Observance but notable nonetheless. **Pi Day** is held annually on March 14 to celebrate the mathematical constant Pi (Π). This date was chosen because the digits in the date March 14 (3/14) are the first three digits in Pi, 3.14, the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter.

PIE FOR DESSERT ANYONE?

International Day of Happiness (UN), on 3/20, is a global event arranged by the United Nations annually on March 20. It serves to remind us that being happy is a human right and worth celebrating — and if you're not already happy on this day, the celebrations may change that! (And it's the 1st Day of Spring!)



World Day of Truth (UN) on 3/24, "we honor the bravery and determination of victims, civil society representatives and community leaders around the world who relentlessly strive for a better future, guided by the compass of human dignity. Their efforts to uncover the truth about gross human rights violations and the circumstances in which they were committed is an inspiration and a service to us all.

Truth opens the path to justice, reparation and healing. It helps us overcome prejudice, divisive narratives, and extreme polarization. It also helps address the root causes of conflict and prevent its recurrence. This is also why "The Highest Aspiration" -- my Call to Action for Human Rights – features efforts to promote justice and accountability for all.

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UN), 3/21, begins a week of activities is focused on combatting racism and racial discrimination. The week of solidarity with peoples struggling against this would be organized annually. We are in the middle of the **International Decade for People of African Descent**, proclaimed by General Assembly resolution and observed from 2015 to 2024. It provides a solid framework to take effective measures to address these issues in the spirit of recognition, justice and development. The midterm review is vital. It assesses the Decade program's effectiveness, its implementation, and challenges during the first five years. Based on the assessment, it is generating improvements in the activities and programs planned for the next five years to ensure the continued protection and promotion of people of African descent after the Decade's conclusion.

Since 1979, the apartheid system in South Africa has been dismantled. Racist laws and practices have been abolished in many countries. We have built an international framework for fighting racism, guided by the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The Convention is now nearing universal ratification, yet in all regions, too many individuals, communities, and societies suffer from the injustice, and stigma racism brings.

The information came from the United Nations International Observances



Photo by Deposit Photos

As we move through the Lenten and Easter Seasons doing things differently, we will be decorating only the altar with an Easter flower arrangement. If you care to make a donation to the flower fund, please mark your check "Flower Fund" and send it in an envelope with your name and any dedication.

SPRING AHEAD
Sunday Morning

- Daylight Saving Time resumes at 2 a.m.
- Adjust clocks
- Change batteries in smoke alarms

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