

THE HISTORIC BETHANY UNION CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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THE UNIFIER MAY 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

FROM PASTOR'S DESK

"MayDay, MayDay," is actually not a May Day at all, but rather a derivative of a French word "m'aider" meaning, "Come and help!" It was first used in 1920 in the aviation arena. A code word for "we are crashing, and just in case there are survivors, come and assist them." It was sent out over the radio waves to anyone who was out there listening and able to do something. How many times have you found your living to be centered in a "Mayday" type crisis? Have you thrown out some Mayday prayers hoping that if there is a listening God, He/She will respond and help you out as you feel there is no other way out but a miracle? To some people, this is all that faith is about; believing that a God in Heaven is on standby to help us or harm us and that we direct God's actions via prayer.



The gift of faith that God gives to us is a yearning for God. It is God drawing us to God as nothing within us would naturally seek God. Faith is more and can be more than just having a giant "grant-maker," "wish-fulfilled," on-call superhero standing by for our use. Faith provides us with meaning and purpose, joy and solace, but most of all, faith provides us with God. It is not our faith in God; rather, it is God in our faith within us that is its own reward and blessing. Too often, we are stuck in a transaction or economic concept of how God and we live and relate. God is so far removed from such things, and our understanding and concepts of God will always fall way off if we try to contain our understanding of God in terms of reward and punishment.

With that being said, "May Day, May Day, May Day!" All during the month of May, let's allow ourselves to call out with praise and appreciation every day, knowing our Abba Father not only hears us but joins us in the day to be with us offering Him/Herself to us in abundance and grace. I hope to see you in worship soon as things begin to return as more and more of us are being inoculated.

See you for worship,
Lawrence Michael Cameron



May Calendar

May 2, 2021, is the First Sunday of the month and Communion Sunday. In-person we are using prefilled cups with juice and bread. **The Fifth Sunday of Easter.**

May 5, 2021, is Cinco de Mayo

May 6, 2021, is the National Day of Prayer

May 9, 2021, is Mother's Day, the Sixth Sunday of Easter.



May 13, 2021, is Ascension Day of our Lord.

May 16, 2021, is the Seventh Sunday of Easter.



May 23, 2021, is Pentecost Sunday. The gift of the Holy Spirit, the birth of the Christian Church.

May 30, 2021, is Trinity Sunday



The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, represented by the interwoven circles – no beginning no end, in unity

May 31, 2021, is Memorial Day

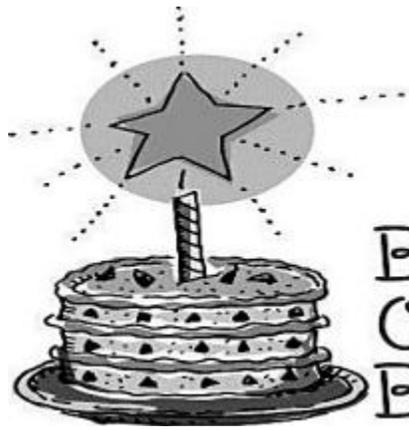


CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS

Let us keep Toi-Ann Bailey and her family in our prayers during this time of mourning over the deaths of her husband, William, and now her son, Nicholas. Nicholas was tragically killed by a hit-and-run vehicle while he was working as a surveyor.

Let us also keep Lillie Joseph and her family in our prayers in this time of mourning for Lillie's youngest sister, Karen Fields, who passed away the week of April 17, 2021.

May the Lord, GOD grant them peace now and forevermore.



BLESSINGS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY

APRIL BIRTHDAY

06 belated to Jordan Sloop

MAY BIRTHDAYS

05 Bethany Union Church 149th

08 Darryl Palmer

08 Luis Rodriguez, Jr.

10 Marissa Bingaman

11 Ryan Diddia

15 Cecil Coleman

19 Troop 607 100th

22 Langston Walls

25 Kayli Gandara

25 Freddie Carlton

29 Ede Iversen

31 Nancy Graves

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

14 Tammy & Jon Sloop

17 Margo & Reginald Clark-Marshall

CONGRATULATIONS!



Marissa and Cody Bingaman welcomed new daughter Emersyn Rose on Sunday, April 25th. Emersyn weighed 7lb 14 oz and was 19'. Congratulations to Big Sister Quinn Avery, Grandparents Tammy, and Jon Sloop!

WE WILL HONOR OUR GRADUATES IN JUNE. By MAY 15th, please send your graduate's name, school, and receiving school or plans to the church office by mail, email (office@bethanyunion.com), or text (773-449-0033.)



Easter Flowers Gracing our Altar 2021

(No Pictures but a beautiful Altar arrangement and 2 pots of pink tulips on the back table.)

Len Achtenberg in Loving Memory of Jane & Max Achtenberg;

Ora & Charles Fortmiller.

Nancy & Chuck Diddia in Honor of Loved Ones.

Terry Peterson in Thanksgiving for Family, Friends, Bethany Union Church and prayers answered.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

BETHANY UNION CHURCH WILL BE 150 YEARS OLD NEXT MAY 5, 2022.



We cannot let our anniversary go by the wayside simply because of the COVID pandemic. We must find a way to honor our beloved church. We need to begin now, so let's not delay. It should not be just a one-day event, but several weeks of events building up to a very Special Commemorative Service.

First, can we gather a group of people to plan and pull elements of the celebration together? This group should include Bethany Union members and friends, any age, who have abilities and interests in worship, writing, publicity, history, finance, and organization.

This initial, very important meeting should set the goals and tone for the celebration and decide how our history should be recorded. This group should choose which kinds of special activities it might like to plan in connection with the anniversary and set an overall budget.

We will need a few people to focus on researching, writing, and recording the history, planning a special dinner, organizing publicity, and planning the worship.

A few ideas to start:

- A theme, a prayer, a hymn, a Scriptural text?
- Help identify the (hidden?) talents of our members and friends who can carry out some of the activities and events.
- Design a pictorial representation of our theme –
 - Design a logo, write a program, a Hymn, or unique stanza to an old Hymn,
- Publicity throughout the time we celebrate -
 - Special music – organ concert
- Begin a year of photographing events throughout the year, along with some historical pictures for a presentation.
- Have special banners made as a remembrance of this anniversary with the design from above.

Please contact the church office with any questions and/or suggestions to assist with planning for this momentous occasion here at Bethany Union Church.

Sincerely,
Mario Butler-Del Rio
Council Chair

Thank You

Bethany Union acknowledges our supporters, those who advertise in our bulletin and Unifier, our Community, our vendors, and all who contribute to our church in giving or praying.

“May they know their true value, and may their day be blessed.”

FROM YOUR HOUSE CHAIR

Now that we have entered May, we are beginning to catch up with our many projects.

- We had an Electrician replace six ceiling lights in Room 14 on the second floor.
- The Heating Contractor has opened the floor near the front entrance, located the “tee,” cut the pipe, and installed a cap. This action isolated and stopped the leak in the radiant heat. The only problem is that the entryway will not have heat in the winter. We will have to see what impact that will have.
- I have selected a tile that will be used to replace the asbestos tile that was taken up. PK Construction, whom we have used several times, will be patching/leveling the concrete floor and installing the tile. Hopefully, by mid-May, the work will be done.
- We have received a check from Church Mutual (\$15,200) to help cover much of the work. Insurance does not cover any of the plumbing work associated with repairing the leak.
- Also, Kennedy plumbing was here on 4/15 to replace about 110 ft. of a porous leaking pipe in the Educational Building basement.
- We still need to repair the kitchen ceiling in the Howe House due to water damage. Also, we need to have an electrical outlet installed on the outside of the house to plug in a heat cord to prevent future ice dams.

That is all for now, except to pray for my quick recovery from shoulder replacement surgery on 4/30/2021.

Chuck Diddia

FROM LISA BUTLER-DEL RIO

We are no longer running American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) for Region 423; if you are interested or have questions, contact the main headquarters at ayso.org for more information.

FROM DE'SHARA SHELLS (TEECH FOUNDATION)

Effective mid-May, I will be a commissioned Notary Public. You can find me in the TEECH office at Bethany Union Church. Please call to make sure I'm in the office before you come (708) 530-1923. Thank you.

Local Craft Business Making Waves in the Sewing Community



Felicia Alston's My Crafty Table craft and sewing programs have been meeting at Bethany Union Church for at least seven years. We are happy to have her in our midst. This article from website.

An online craft business was the farthest thing from her mind
She was in the sixth grade when she first learned how to sew during Vacation Bible School (VBS) at Church. Two grades later she received her first sewing machine. During her high school and college years, Felicia Alston sewed for herself and others. Expanding her sewing talents, she learned crocheting from her sister and knitting from her mother... That's not all.

and **Local Craft Business Making Waves in the Sewing Community (cont.)**

Ms. Alston, a special needs teacher by day, started her side business *My Crafty Table Sewing and Crafts*, which offers vocational sewing classes sewing services on the south side of Chicago – Beverly and Bronzeville neighborhoods. My Crafty Table Sewing and Crafts serve kids, youth, and adults.

At one point, she almost walked away from the business. Her sister, who was her business partner for five years, passed away in February of last year. “Through prayer, encouragement, and constant interest for classes, I decided to continue in her honor and my purpose.”

The Accidental Entrepreneur

It wasn't Felicia's intention to start a craft business. At the time, she was looking to meet fellow crafters on Chicago's southside when she started a craft club meetup. She was fortunate to get free space at a local church to hold *Sip-N-Stitch* meetups once a month. Little did she know that the monthly meetup would lead to participants asking for lessons; whether it was for themselves, their kids, or grandkids. Some of the meetup members had sewing machines that haven't left the attic/basement/garage in years or remain unopened and asked if she could teach a class on how to use them.

<http://www.mycraftytable.com>

“I am not a designer, but sewing is my superpower. I can make pretty much anything I see. Construction is my specialty, seeing how things are made and how they work together.”

– Felicia Alston, Owner of My Crafty Table

When Teaching Children...

She often focuses on the connection to STEM skills, even though she prefers STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. Sewing uses all these skill sets once someone is into making something from a piece of fabric. All the concepts learned in sewing start to make sense when applied to the real-world situations. It also provides socialization, mental, emotional health benefits, and opportunities for individuals to create an income for themselves.

Ms. Alston prefers to teach children 10 years of age and older, but she recommends to parents with children between 6-9 years old that want to learn sewing to start with projects that can be completed by hand sewing. It introduces them to basic STEM skills, cutting and construction, and immediate gratification of a 'make and take' they completed themselves. Even adults are surprised when they take one of her hour-long free introduction classes and leave with a finished project.

Many lessons learned during her sewing journey

Her advice to new crafters: nothing is perfect in your eyes; only in the eyes of the customer (we always see flaws in our works). There are no mistakes. Only intended outcomes and outcomes that take our projects in a direction we didn't plan. Lastly, don't underprice or undersell yourself, or your goods and services. It's easy to underprice based on how easy it was to make, but the value is based on skill set – something customers don't have. While we enjoy what we do, it's also fun to make a profit.

It doesn't stop there...

Since she took a leap of faith and started her business, many opportunities opened up for Felicia. For starters, she won first place in a business pitch competition (\$10K Prize). Then, she started a non-for-profit *Sew N Love*, a vocational school for crafts. She's collaborated with Girls Take Your Place Science STEM camp and Paul G. Stewart Center. She now serves as the Vice President of the Haute Couture Club of Chicago, a sewing group.

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