

**THE HISTORIC BETHANY UNION CHURCH OF CHICAGO**

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\*Time Sensitive Materials\*

DO NOT DELAY

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# The Unifier October 2021



**Bethany Union Church  
of Chicago**

**Worship with us  
Sundays at 10:30a  
In-person  
following COVID “best practices”**

On our Bethany Union Church of  
Chicago Facebook Page or on our  
website [www.bethanyunion.com](http://www.bethanyunion.com)

**Dear ones of Bethany Union Church of Chicago,**

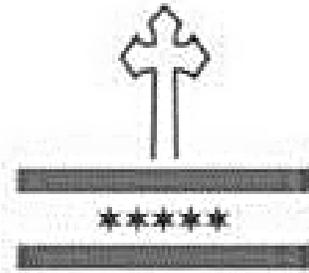
Eight years ago this month, we all began this new adventure of being Church together as Andrea and I were called to come and serve this congregation. I remember it like yesterday. It has been eight years of the 150 in the life of this grand Ole girl Bethany Union. A time that has been filled with many wonderful events and memories: Oktoberfests, Steak Frys, Watoto Choirs, Bazaars, Pot lucks, Sunday School, Worship, and so much more. I have been honored to Baptize your children, marry your young'uns, and bury your dead. It has been many a meeting, many a visit, and many a prayer. It has been an honor to work with David, the finest minister of music I have had the privilege to work with in nearly forty years of ministry. The music he produced for our worship was always the highest of caliber, and the choir was grand enough to put up against any choir twice its size. Worship was always a joy for me, and I thank the Lord.

I began my call into ministry in the 2nd grade when I announced to my parents that I would be a minister (or a turtle farmer) when I grew up. After nearly forty years of being in the pulpit, in many ways, I feel I am still just beginning. God has been good to me in all things, merciful and gracious, and I hope that along the way, God used me according to His will, and some good made its way into the world through my obedience to the Lord.

Now a new chapter in my life and ministry will begin. A robust, dangerous, profound, and challenging opportunity to follow in the lineage of St Brendan and board a boat, and set sail for wherever the Wild Goose takes me. On or about October 24, 2021, I will set upon a quest with my two dogs in a boat I have been preparing (at least in my head) to journey down the Illinois River to the Mississippi River into the Gulf of Mexico and head East towards the Keys. (It is a portion of the Great Loop). I will stop along the way and broadcast my whereabouts and whatever lessons I have learned along the way. You are invited to tune in and travel with me at least in prayer and online Live. Please know that I take you with me in my heart, and my daily prayers will also include you, and I hope yours will continue to include me.

We have an awesome God who is the Lord and King of all Creation. And as I have learned here through many a trial and experience, we belong to the Lord in life and in death. Nothing at all can separate us from God. So I go with God and charge you to do the same, and if we don't meet up again until the Kingdom is fulfilled, I will plan on feasting at the great banquet Table with you all at that time.

Blessings and love always,  
Pastor Larry Cameron



**THE HISTORIC BETHANY UNION CHURCH  
OF CHICAGO**  
*CULTIVATING COMPASSION*

**Pastor Larry's 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
10-1-21

Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

- EPHESIANS 4:11-12 -

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**Today**

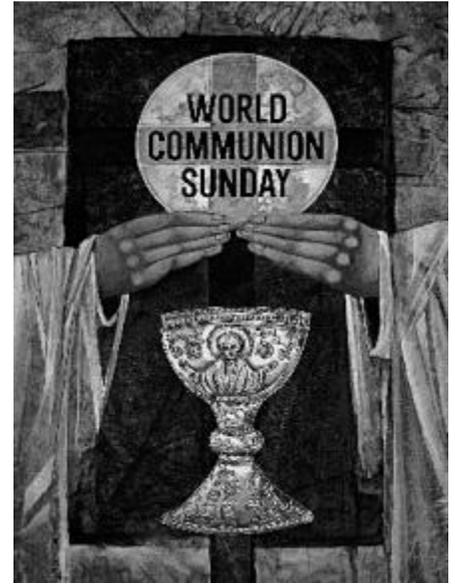
**In honor of Pastor Appreciation Month in October, consider: We don't change the message; the message changes us.** You probably won't like all your pastor's sermons or newsletter columns. But instead of complaining, ponder that something may rub you the wrong way because God is trying to change you. Keep an open mind and heart.

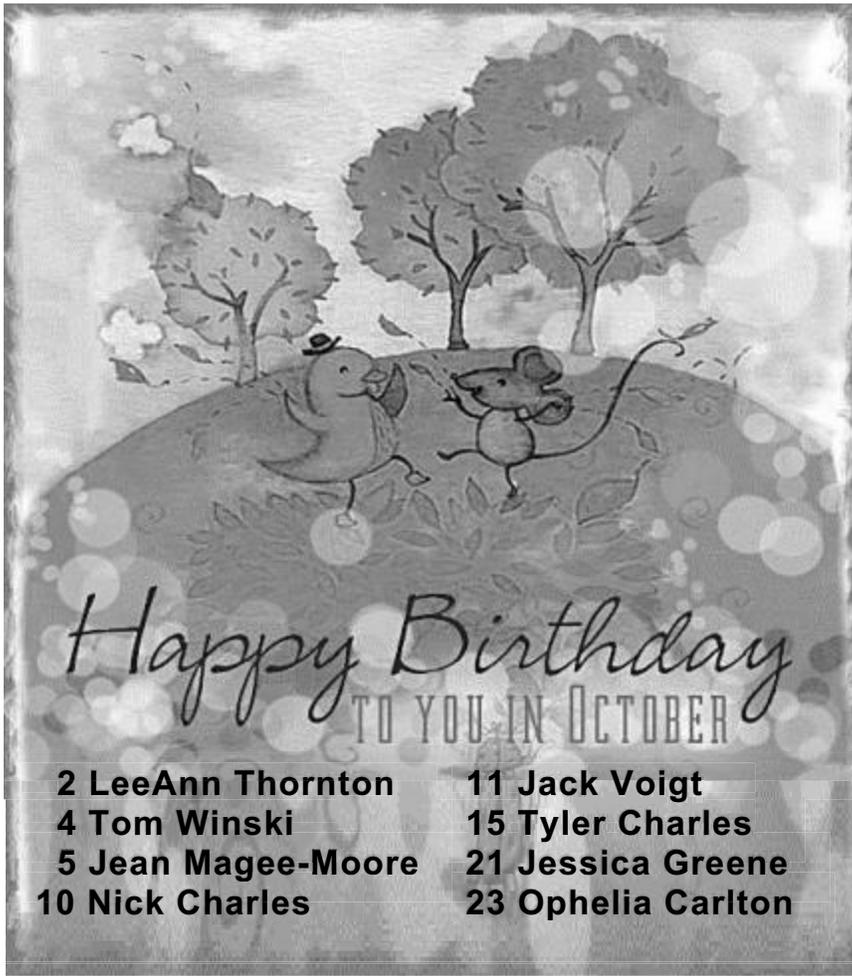
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3**

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\*

During this pandemic, we continue to use self-contained, all in one, prepacked wafers and juice sets. We also wear masks, social distance, take temperatures, and have sanitizing stations at every door for your safety.





**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 (8 years)  
4 Jan & Tom Winski  
25 Ellen & Curt Villanova

Our dear friend, **Faye Bonner**, went home to the Father, Monday, September 13, 2021. Lady Faye (as she was known) celebrated her 89<sup>th</sup> birthday in July and would have celebrated her 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Bethany Union Church in December. Please keep her family and friends in your prayers.



Also, please keep the following people and intentions in your thoughts and prayers: Pastor Larry, Michael Rudd, and Caden John; in thanksgiving for all of our blessings; for families who are suffering from loss and hardships; from death, jobs, COVID, violence, and circumstances beyond their control. Please pray for your Bethany Union Church as we move forward through Fall into 2022.

**“It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it.”**  
-Nelson Mandela\*

# A Special Thank You to Dr. Karen White, Ms. D'Shara Shells, and the TEECH

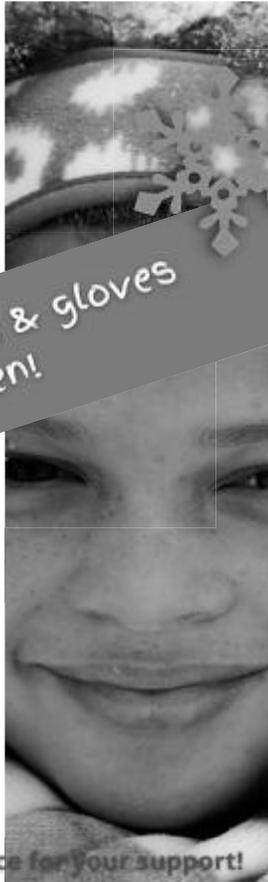
## T.E.E.C.H. FOUNDATION COAT DRIVE

Winter coats, hats, & gloves  
for children!

A FUNDRAISER DRAWING WAS  
HELD SEPTEMBER 28, 2021.

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE  
STILL WELCOME.

Thank you in advance for your support!



**Foundation Staff** for enforcing the safety protocols through this pandemic. Bethany Union Church, members & staff, and all the guests using our facility stay well and safe as we move through these uncertain and precarious times. When not in pandemic mode, TEECH sponsors monthly activities to strengthen the community and those they serve.

The TEECH Foundation provides a comprehensive recovery program throughout the far Southside. We are proud to have them here at Bethany Union Church. Additionally, the Foundation is an advocate for the children in the Southside communities it serves. They've recently made our own Shoop Academy a focus, with Back to School supplies and clothing, and now with their Coat Drive. While the Fundraiser Raffle is over, TEECH welcomes contributions.

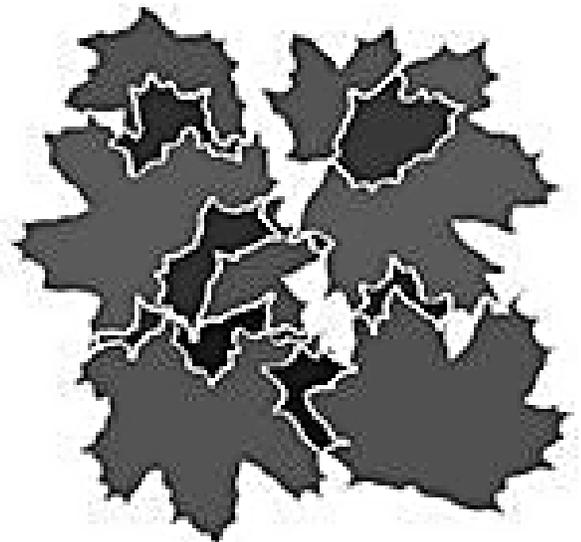
While the children at Shoop are not the only children they have taken under their wing, we are grateful to TEECH for considering them as important as we do with our benevolence programs for Shoop Academy.

CONTACT: **Dr. Karen White (224) 406-3798**  
[svdbygraceandmercy@sbcglobal.com](mailto:svdbygraceandmercy@sbcglobal.com)

**Learn from Leaves** As you're enjoying the fall colors and sipping apple cider, ponder this saying: "Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go."

When leaves stop producing chlorophyll, they turn vibrant shades of yellow, orange, and red. This yearly spectacle makes way for the leaves to let go and fall. It also serves as a good reminder of things we may need to drop: clutter around the home, a desire for control, commitments that no longer bring joy, personal expectations that cause added stress, a need to always be right, and so on.

Just as the Israelites had to let go of their past as slaves in Egypt and Saul-turned-Paul had to abandon his persecuting ways, we, too, can let go of what weighs us down and gets in the way of God's best for our lives. Embrace Fall as a season of change and see just how beautiful it is to let things go!



—Janna Firestone\*



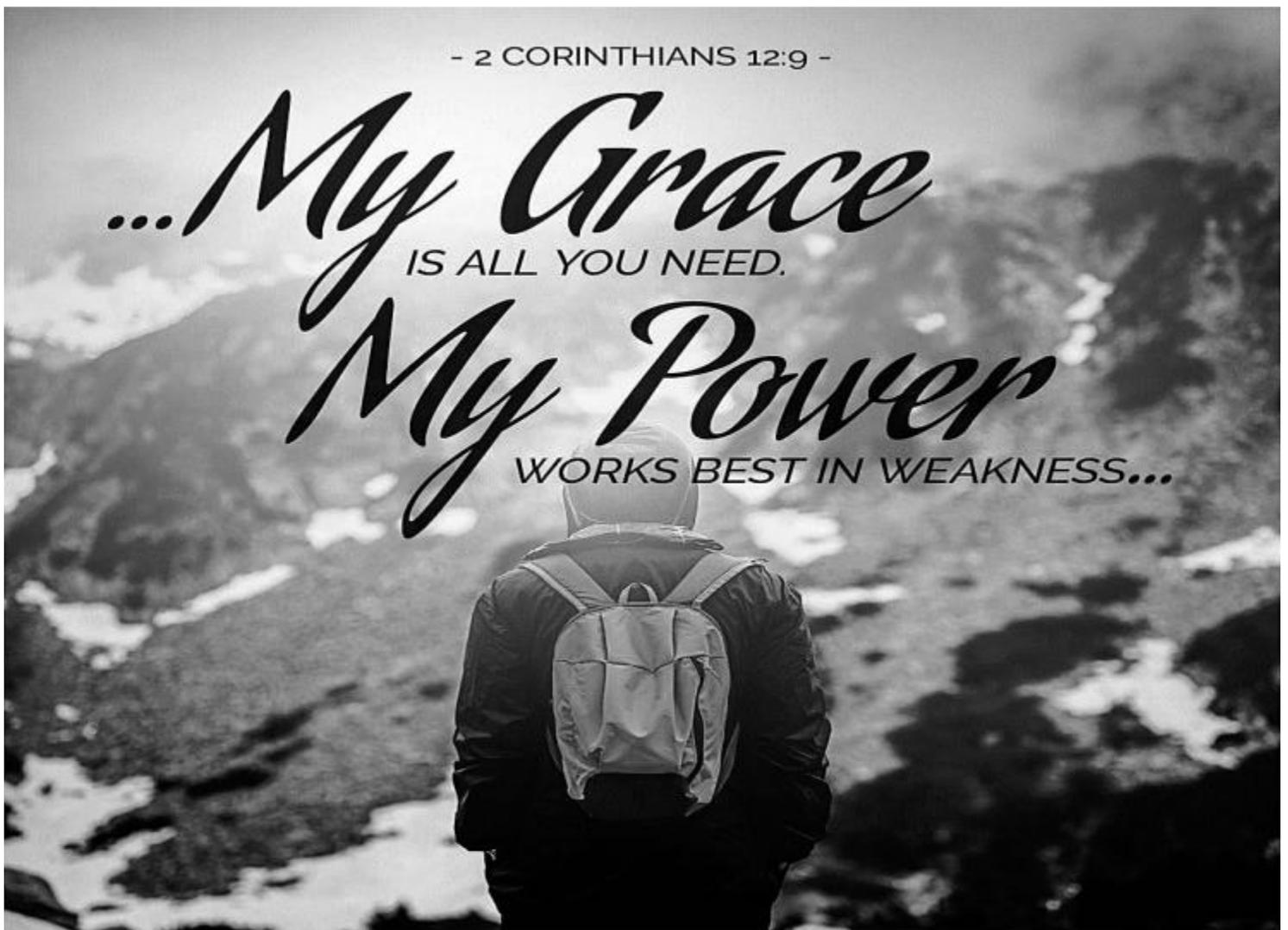
## What God Is Like\*

Before her death in 2019, Rachel Held Evans started writing a book with her young children in mind. The goal was to help them explore images for God, who is love. What Is God Like? (co-authored by Matthew

Turner) acknowledges, "That's a very big question, one that people from places all around the world have wondered about since the beginning of time." The book highlights such biblical images for God as an eagle, a shepherd, a fort, wind, an artist, a "strong and safe" mother, and a "gentle and safe" father.

Just as Evans remained open to questions as a means to grow in faith, her book concludes: **"Keep searching. Keep wondering. ... But whenever you aren't sure what God is like, think about what makes you feel safe ... brave ... loved. That's what God is like."** What images for God come to your mind? Indeed, what is God like — for you?

*\*Articles from Newsletter Newsletter, September & October 2021*



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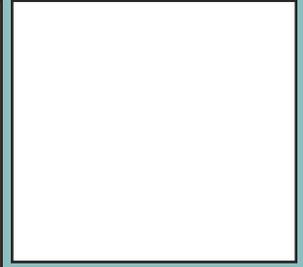
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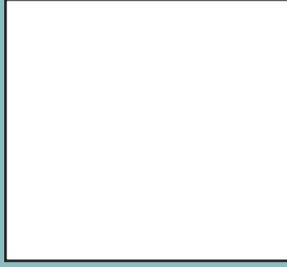
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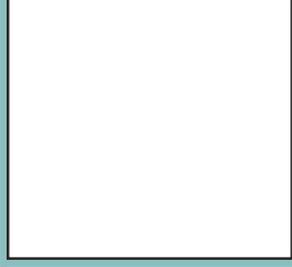
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