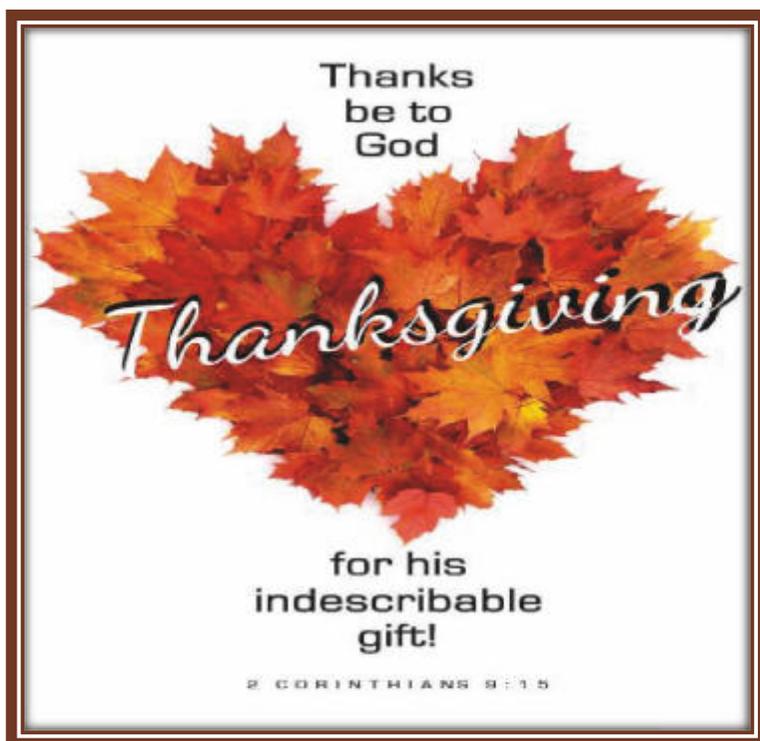


The Historic Bethany Union Church of Chicago
Rt. Rev. Dr. Lawrence Michael Cameron
12th Seated Pastor in 150 Years
1750 West 103rd Street
Chicago, Illinois 60643

Time Sensitive Materials

DO NOT DELAY

November 2021 Unifier Newsletter



**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



Dear Gentle People of Bethany Union Church of Chicago,

God is Great! as we welcome back Pastor Larry from his extended vacation of rest and reassurance starting the week of November 1, 2021. The plan is for Pastor Larry to be back in the pulpit around the first week of November, leading his Congregation again going forward. After much prayer and discussion with various members of the church over the last several weeks, Pastor Larry felt it was time to lead his flock once again.

We want to thank him for his continued dedication and service to our church and community and look forward to his return. Pastor Larry was the reason my family and I came to Bethany Union years ago. We love and appreciate him for his passion and energy he continues to give to Bethany Union every day.

Reverend Sharyon Cosey, Senior Pastor of ABBA Church of Renewed Faith, blessed us on Sunday, October 16th, and continued to share with us through the end of October in Pastor Larry's absence. We want to thank Reverend Cosey for taking care of our Congregation during this time.

As we move into the holiday season, be on the lookout for announcements to come and help decorate our church for the holidays so we can once again enjoy the warmth and joy of church and family, whether in person or online.

We are working out the kinks to continue live-streaming our Sunday services on Facebook Live. We thank John Nelson, who donated a new iPad to help with this endeavor.

I will continue to work with Pastor Larry, the Boards, and the church office as needed to continue with the mission of Bethany Union Church. We are praying for God's blessings as we look forward to 2022 and our 150th celebration.

In Love and Peace,
Mario Butler-Del Rio
Council Chair



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7: FALL BACK & COMMUNION SUNDAY



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11: HONORING OUR VETERANS

Veterans Day has its roots in what was called Armistice Day, when a peace agreement ended World War I on November 11, 1918. President Wilson proclaimed that Armistice Day was to be marked with solemn pride in heroism and with gratitude for victory as well as the “opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice.” In 1954, the remembrance was renamed Veterans Day to honor all U.S. military personnel. It’s a reminder to pray for and honor all who serve and sacrifice, to support and assist their families, and to pray that God will bring peace on earth.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25: THANKSGIVING DAY



Thoughts of Thanksgiving

Well, here we are into November already. It does not seem possible. November is a month of Thanksgiving, and we have much to be thankful for. We have been blessed to have Pastor Cameron as our spiritual leader and friend for the past eight years and look forward to his continued ministry here at Bethany Union Church of Chicago. In the 150 years of this Churches existence, we have had only 13 seated Pastors. That is remarkable! I am certain that this significant longevity is partly due to the fact that Bethany Union Church has always had a wonderful, dedicated, supportive congregation.

November is a great time to reflect on the many blessings that this church and its people have had over the years. We truly have much to be thankful for! In thinking back to when Nancy and I joined the church, the Congregation was quite large. There were two worship services on Sunday. One for the younger families with children, and the later service was more formal with a large choir. Our babies were baptized, attended Sunday School, made their Confirmation, and some were even married here. The impact of Bethany Union Church on the Diddia family is immeasurable but certainly significant. As we move through the month of November and get closer to Thanksgiving, we all need to take stock and know that God has blessed us all in many ways. With family, health, friendship, fellowship, and a wonderful church home. With that, I want to say God Bless You, and Happy Thanksgiving!
Chuck Diddia

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27: HANGING OF THE GREENS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28: THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Thank you, Chuck Diddia, House Chairman

THE SEASON OF PREPARATION

It doesn't seem possible, but we are fast approaching the Christmas Holidays. Looking at the calendar, we see that Advent, the Season of Preparation, begins on Sunday, November 28th. Even though it is Thanksgiving weekend, we hope to decorate our Sanctuary on Saturday, November 27th. We're doing less than usual, putting up the tree in the Sanctuary, and hanging the greens and wreaths. It will be nice to put a tree in the foyer where people going by can see our spirit brightly lighted. These are tentative plans, with the COVID uncertainties, but please plan on helping and mark your calendars. Call the office if you can help. We will confirm the plans as we get closer to the Hanging of the Greens at Bethany Union Church.

- See page 7 for an order form for Poinsettias to grace our beautiful altar. We'll need them back by December 12th.
- Once again, many hands make for light work. Please plan on helping, Saturday, November 27th.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS FROM YOUR TREASURER

Stewardship Thoughts from Your Treasurer

You will soon be receiving a letter and a Giving card from our Board of Trustees. 2022 will be a year of many activities, events, and surprises as we plan for our 150th anniversary. This is a time when we must continue to be strong, both spiritually and financially. We are now called to support Bethany Union Church so that the torch of the loving Gospel will be passed onward as our legacy to the future. So please prayerfully consider what the Lord is leading you to give in this coming year. Complete the pledge card and return it to the church as soon as possible. Then the Trustees will be able to set a proposed 2022 budget for the Congregation to consider and be presented at our Annual Meeting (whenever and however it will take place).

Thank You and May God Bless You and Bethany Union Church

Chuck Diddia

Treasurer



CELEBRATING NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

3 Charlie Villanova	17 Lauren Diddia
5 Sharon Lind	17 Melissa Heniff
Monday	19 Jack Voigt
9 Robert Davis	21 Hollie Davis
13 Lory Linnerud	23 Margaret Walson
14 Elaine Dix	29 James Bass
15 Jillian Dunlap	30 Monica White

KLOVE

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



7 Daisy & Luis Rodriguez
27 Masie & Andrew Greene



Bethany Union Church of Chicago Board Members:

As we head into the 2022 BUCOC Board Year, we would normally take this time to begin asking members of our congregation to consider joining various board positions as we head into our Annual Congregation meeting in January.

Due to COVID-19 and the fact that the majority of the boards have been on pause since March of 2020, we are asking for all current board members to stay on for the 2022 year (effectively a do over). This will allow all of you to serve in the capacity we were originally hoping for, and keep our board positions mostly filled for the 2022 year.

If this is not possible and you are unable to serve in your current board position for the 2022 year, please let your board chair know or contact the church office.

We hope that all of you are continuing to remain safe and healthy as we head into the holiday season, and we look forward to worshipping together again soon.

Peace, Love and Blessings,

Mario Butler-Del Rio
Council Chair

Feeding the Hungry: Maple Morgan Food Pantry

- October 4, 2021
- [#NeighborsHelpingNeighbors](#)
- [#MapleMorganParkFoodPAntry](#)



The Maple Morgan Park Food Pantry's annual holiday turkey fundraising campaign is underway. The Thanksgiving food distribution is in November, and many families are expected to need emergency food. Our local pantry gives a turkey and all the trimmings for holiday dinners in November and December.

Each donation of \$20 can supply a turkey and the trimmings of a family meal. Send checks to the Maple/Morgan Park Food Pantry, 11030 S. Longwood Dr., Chicago, IL 60643. Donations can be made on the pantry's website, maplemorganparkfoodpantry.org.

This year, Bethany Union Church is supporting the Maple Morgan Park Food Pantry Thanksgiving initiative. In early November, there will be envelopes in the pews for people to donate as they can. For those worshipping Live Facebook, we encourage you to donate online or via check to the above addresses.

As much as the pantry appreciates and needs donations of non-perishable food items, money is still the best donation; food can be purchased at exceptional savings through the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

For more information, call 773-239-3013. The Maple Morgan Park Food Pantry is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization.

Getting Ready for Christmas

Advent

*November 28, December 5, December 12 &
December 19*

Christmas Poinsettias

*December and Christmas are fast approaching; please
take this opportunity to place your order to beautify the
Sanctuary for this Christmas Season!*

Please return your order form to the Church by December 12th



The Poinsettias are \$21.00 each

Total number of plants _____ White ___ Red Amount enclosed _____

Name: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Do you wish to take the plant home after Christmas?

Yes _____ No _____

Please return your order form to the Church by December 12th

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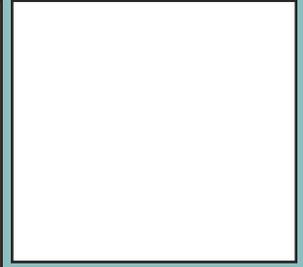
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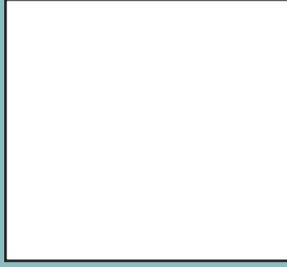
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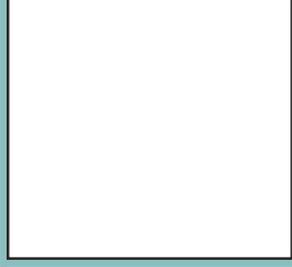
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