

**The Historic Bethany Union Church of Chicago**

Rt. Rev. Dr. Lawrence Michael Cameron

12<sup>th</sup> Seated Pastor in 150 Years

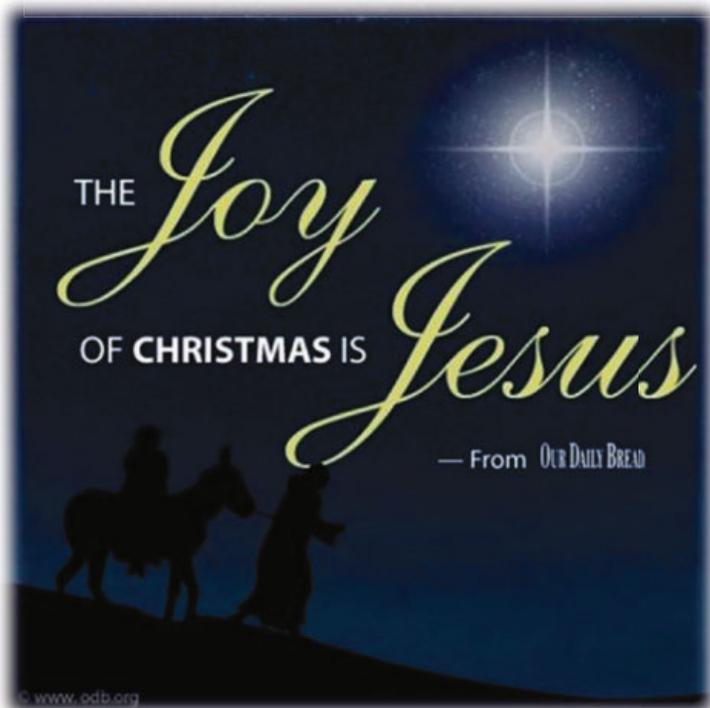
1750 West 103<sup>rd</sup> Street

Chicago, Illinois 60643

**\*Time Sensitive Materials\***

**DO NOT DELAY**

## DECEMBER 2021 UNIFIER NEWSLETTER



### ***JOY TO THE WORLD; THE SAVIOR REIGNS***

Advent Season Began Sunday Nov 28, 2021

Christmas Eve Service Friday, Dec 24, 9:00p

Sunday Worship services begin at 10:30a both  
in the Sanctuary\* and on Facebook.

\*COVID-19 protocols observed

Dear Kind People of God's Family called Bethany Union,

I am more than humbled and overwhelmed with blessedness that I get to be a part of the family of faith we call Bethany Union Church. I continue to praise God for all His kindness and support that he has shown through you all in so many different ways. This Advent, I look forward to sharing with you, all the wonder and mystery of the Incarnation, and celebrating all of what God is doing to us and through us. Let us forever praise the Lord of love and life, who becomes our flesh and saves us from ourselves and the ravages of sin and death. Christmas is the narrative of our liberation and the reconciliation of all the earth. Out of the pangs and grasp of death, we have been rescued by a GOD, who is not only for us but with us and one of us! We are so incredibly blessed.



Our Advent began on Sunday, November 28, 2021, with a message entitled, "Hanukkah is not a Jewish Christmas!" The Scripture text is John 10:22-30, one of the only historical writings that reference the holiday in the period of antiquity some 2000 years ago. From here, we move towards the Sundays in December and will celebrate "The Music We Sing and the theology it brings." We will be singing and celebrating the music of the season and learning the significance of its tellings of God. These next three weeks of our Advent season will address the three prayer postures and acts of the divine/human encounter we know as Christmas; Tragedy, Comedy, and Surrender, which invite us to Surrender, Generosity, and Abundant Life. These will be festive and celebratory services.

We will be offering our Annual Christmas Eve Candle Light Service on December 24, 2021, at 9 p.m.

I hope in Christ's hope, love in Christ's love, and live in Christ's life with you all. Be well and encouraged, and know that God is in love with you and on your side. Live it as truth, and come, let us worship the King of Kings; Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. See you in Worship, Pastor Larry Cameron

Lawrence Michael Cameron

*Worship*

## Why Advent?

Waiting can be hard, and not just for children. But I do love Advent: this four-week time when the Christian church prepares for Christmas.

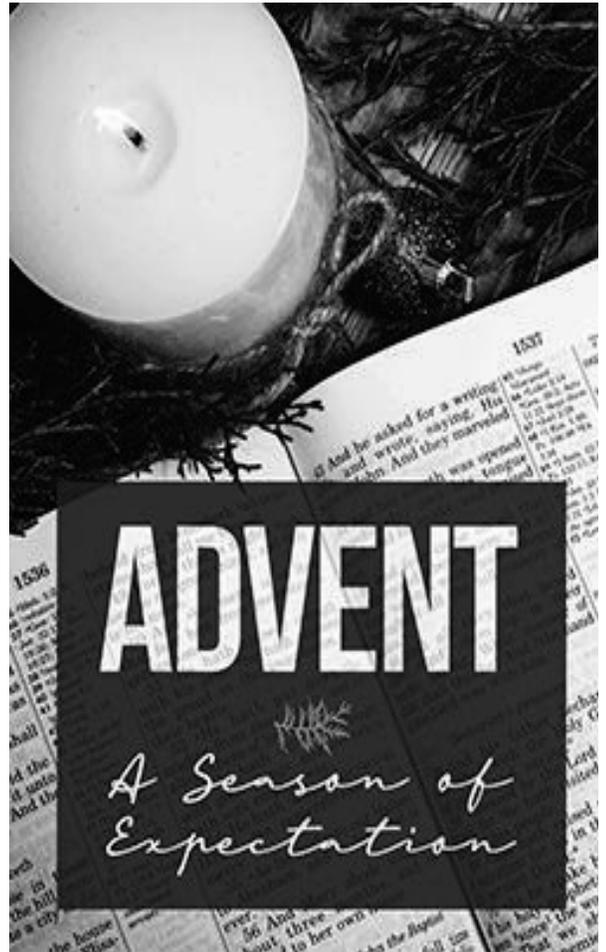
Maybe I like Advent so much because it involves active waiting, not thumb-twiddling. It is a gift the church offers the world, to be active (which isn't the same as busy) in ways that open our hearts — and the hearts we touch — to the true meaning of Christmas.

Mother Teresa said, "At this Christmas when Christ comes, will he find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern."

When I take time during Advent to remember in prayer and with gifts of money and time those who have less food than I do, those who are lonely, those without a home; when I pause to share love with a child or an elder, or gratitude for a healthcare worker, pastor or teacher; when I wait for justice to replace oppression but, while I wait, find ways to work for that result ... the Spirit's warmth fills my waiting heart. I am ready to welcome Jesus.

—Heidi Mann

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



## Post-COVID Inaugural! Boys Scout Troop 607 Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, December 4, 2021, 7:00a—1:00p

Adults \$7; Children under 12 \$5

# Support Our Scouts!



**DECEMBER 5 – 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT, COMMUNION SUNDAY,  
IMPORTANT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING AFTER WORSHIP**

A general council meeting has been called for Sunday, Dec. 5, 2021, at the conclusion of our Worship Service. All members are encouraged to attend. There is but one item to be addressed, and this is being addressed so we can jump in and begin addressing all the other items of the work and life of the Church. During these past two Pandemic years, we have had to shuffle along, punt, rearrange, postpone, remix and reboot and generally make things up as best we could. We do not know the when and the shape of how we recover or live when or if this pandemic lifestyle ever comes to a conclusion. One thing that we do know is that business, as usual, is thrown out the window. We presently do not have the same capacity we did when we were using the present polity system for the ministry of the Congregation. Our Constitution calls for 28 persons to sit and work on various boards to do the work of the church. On many Sundays, we do not even have 28 people in total for Worship. As a temporary solution to move us forward, we propose that we temporarily suspend the portion of. The Constitution addresses this area and instead votes to invest all of those duties and responsibilities to a Board of ten Elected Elders who will meet regularly to forward and promote the mission and work of the Church. These ten Elders will be chosen by the Congregation using the familiar guidelines we use for all Officers and Board members; active members in good standing. This designated meeting will be a time to speak to and sort out questions and concerns and attempt to put some temporary guidance for the Church as we move through this Pandemic episode. -

Lawrence Michael Cameron

**DECEMBER 12 – 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 19 – 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



*Like the cold of snow  
in the time of harvest  
is a faithful messenger  
to those who send him.*

PROVERBS 25:13

WINTER SOLSTICE DECEMBER 21, 2021

**THE GREATEST GIFT-GIVER**

When we give each other Christmas presents in [God's] name, let us remember that he has given us the sun and the moon and the stars, the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans — and all that lives and moves upon them. He has given us all green things and everything that blossoms and bears fruit and all that we quarrel about and all that we have misused. And to save us from our own foolishness, from all our sins, he came down to earth and gave us himself.

—Sigrid Undset

# TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Friday, December 24, 2021 9:00p  
in the Sanctuary\* or on Facebook

\*COVID-19 protocols observed

Worship with your family of faith on this most solemn and holy night. It has been said on several occasions that even an angel or two shows up this night and slips in and sits in a pew to help us sing, pray and adore the New Born King of Heaven! Come! This is what Christmas is all about.

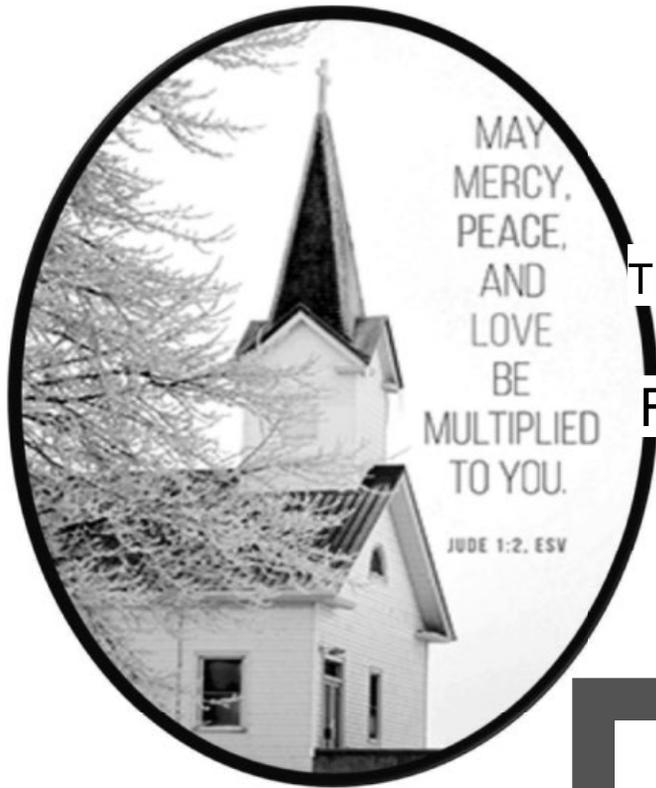


## FROM “THE STABLE OF BETHLEHEM”

'Twas not a palace proud and fair he chose for his first home;  
No dazzling pile of grandeur rare, with pillar'd hall and dome;  
Oh no! a stable, rude and poor, received him at his birth;  
And thus was born, unknown, obscure, the Lord of heaven and earth. ...

Come to your Savior's lowly bed, ye vain and proud of heart!  
And learn with bowed and humbled head the lesson 'twill impart;  
'Twill teach you not to prize too high the riches vain of earth —  
But to lay up in God's bright sky treasures of truer worth. ...

—Rosanna Leprohon (1829-1879)



“YEA, LORD, WE GREET THEE, BORN THIS HAPPY MORNING; JESUS, TO THEE BE ALL GLORY GIVEN; WORD OF THE FATHER, NOW IN FLESH APPEARING! O COME, LET US ADORE HIM!”

(JOHN FRANCIS WADE)

*enjoy every moment*

**BIRTHDAYS**

**ANNIVERSARIES**

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

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Norma Miller        | 29 Joan & George Rumel |
| 1 Eric Diddia         |                        |
| 5 Bestie Hale         |                        |
| 5 George Rumel        |                        |
| 14 Jack Peirce        |                        |
| 18 Chelsea Dunlap     |                        |
| <b>25 Jesus</b>       |                        |
| 27 Jamie Peirce       |                        |
| 27 Tiffany Smith      |                        |
| <b>31 Happy 2022!</b> |                        |



**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:** NANCY GRAVES; LORRAINE, SIGNEY, CHARLES MORGAN; TOI-ANN BAILEY; NOAH JOSEPH BAILEY; THOSE IN NEED OF OUR PRAYERS FOR HEALTH, JOBS, AND SPECIAL INTENTIONS; IN THANKSGIVING FOR OUR MANY BLESSINGS.



## STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS FROM YOUR TRUSTEES

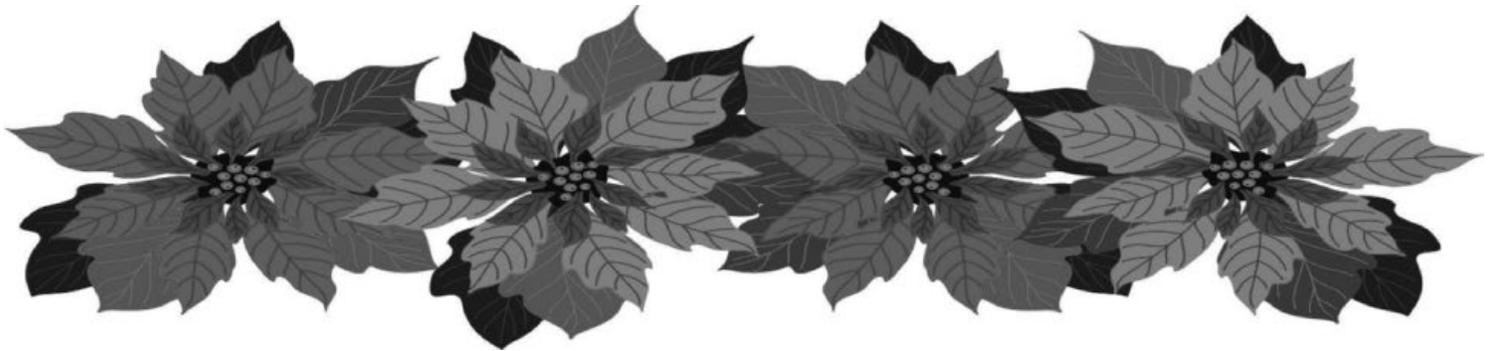
You have received a letter and a Giving card from our Board of Trustees. 2022 will be a year of many activities, events, and surprises as we plan for our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. This is a time when we must continue to be strong, both spiritually and financially. We are now called to support Bethany Union Church so that the 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. If you have turned in your commitment card, we thank you for your promptness and

generosity. If you have not already done so, please complete the pledge card and return it to the church by December 12th. Then the Trustees will be able to set a proposed 2022 budget for the Congregation to consider at our Annual Meeting in January (however it will take place).

Thank You and May God Bless You and Bethany Union Church

Andrew Greene

Chairman, Board of Trustees



# *Christmas Poinsettias*

*Total number of plants* \_\_\_\_\_ *White* \_\_\_\_\_ *Red* \_\_\_\_\_ *Amount enclosed* \_\_\_\_\_

*Name:* \_\_\_\_\_

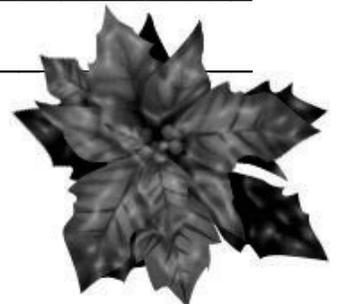
*In Honor of:* \_\_\_\_\_

*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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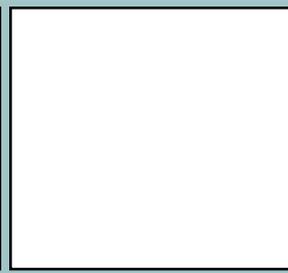
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*Behavioral Health Services*

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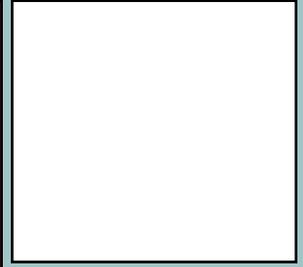
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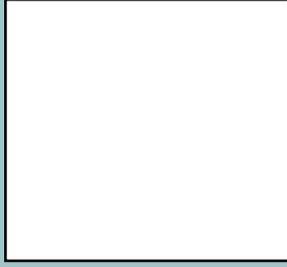
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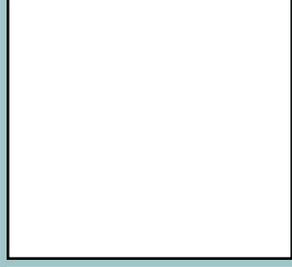
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