

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 2023 Unifier Newsletter



**Bethany Union Church
of Chicago**

**Worship with us
Sundays at 10:30a
In-person**

**On our Bethany Union Church of Chicago
Facebook Page or on our website**

www.bethanyunion.com

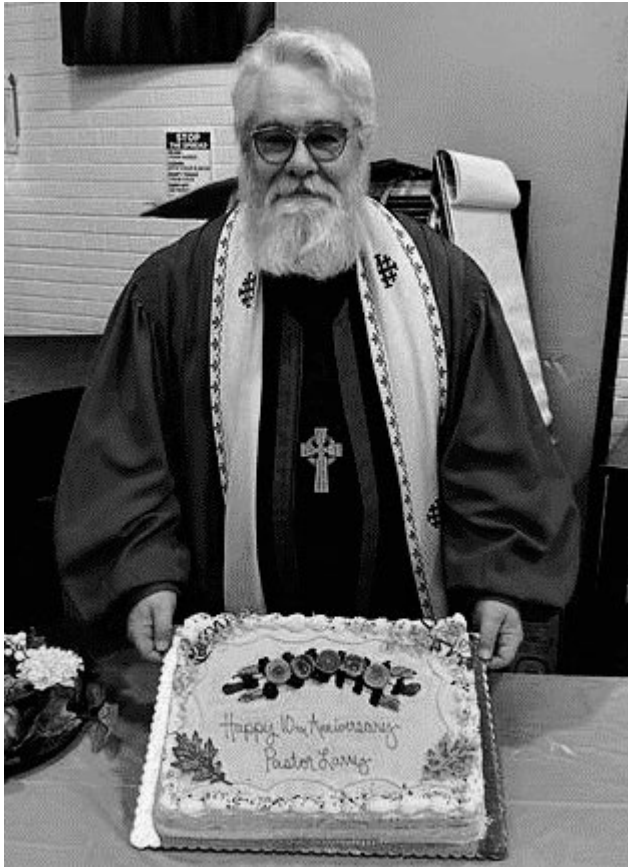
Grace and peace to all!

With wars raging, and chaos spreading it may be difficult to think that grace and peace will ever be the rule of planet Earth. We certainly have had lots of examples of lives lived with grace and peace, but the sounds of hate and chaos seem to ring louder. The promise we have been assured of in Christ Jesus is that there will be a time when grace and peace will be the rule of the day and humans will live in harmony with one another and war shall be studied no more. Our calling is to live in this reality, this Kin-Dom now! As we move into the Fall and Winter months we will be walking the Gospel Path attempting to learn and grow in the faith which is our eternal destiny in Christ Jesus.



Whatever the powers and principalities May through at us we know that the Lord of life is for us and lives as we gather in His name and do His bidding in ministry. To Him be our allegiance and all glory. Come, and prepare with us for what lies ahead, celebrate what goodness and riches we have been blessed with, and learn to live fully in the moment. I hope to see you in Worship Service this Sunday,

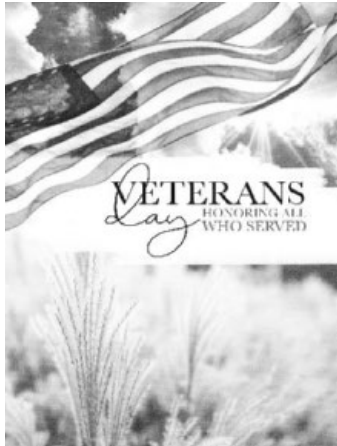
+Pastor Larry Cameron



I want to thank each of you for the wonderful tenth-anniversary celebration the congregation had for me. It was a delight to my soul and the cake was awesome as were the cards and gifts. On one hand, it seems like I have only just gotten here, and on another hand, I can't even remember life apart from Bethany Union. If the Lord is willing and desirous, and I have another ten years in me I look forward to serving, worshipping, and growing with you for another decade. This first one flew by quickly.

With love and admiration,
+ Pastor Larry

SUNDAY, NOV 5: FALL BACK & COMMUNION SUNDAY



SATURDAY, NOV 11: A VETERAN DAY PRAYER

God of all nations, you are our Strength and Shield. We give you thanks today for the devotion and courage of all those who have offered military service to our country. We ask today that you would lift up by your Spirit those who are now at war; encourage and heal those in hospitals or mending their wounds at home; guard those in any need or trouble; hold safely in your hands all military families and bring the returning troops to a joyful reunion and tranquil life at home. Give to us, your people, grateful hearts, and a united will to honor these men and women

and hold them always in our love and our prayers until your world is perfected in peace and all wars cease. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.—Rev. Dr. Jennifer Phillips

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, HARVEST HOME DINNER Bethany Union Church will once again be holding Our Harvest Home Dinner. This was an annual event until COVID-19 reared its ugly head. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us on Sunday, Nov 19, 2023, right after our 10:30 worship, when we will sit down to a pre-Thanksgiving dinner. That's right we will be having turkey with all the trimmings cooked and catered by D'Masti's from Blue Island. This has always been a special event in the life of our church when we gather and give thanks for all the blessings we have received. The cost has gone up significantly since our last Harvest Home dinner. We now must ask for a donation of \$20.00 per person to cover the cost of the dinner. Reservation tickets are available right now, please see Nancy & Chuck Diddia or call the Church Office at 773-218-6672. What a wonderful way to start the holiday season! **Please make your reservation by November 11th.**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23: 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 ten years, and we look forward to his continued ministry here at Bethany Union Church of Chicago. In the 152 years of this church's existence, we have had only 12 seated Pastors. That is remarkable! I am certain that this significant longevity is partly because Bethany Union Church has always had a wonderful, dedicated, supportive congregation. As we move through November and get closer to Thanksgiving, we all need to take stock and know that God has blessed us in many ways. Family, health, friendship, fellowship, and a wonderful church home.

With that, I want to say God Bless You and Happy Thanksgiving!

Chuck Diddia



Post BOA Chicago Marathon 2023

What a beautiful morning for a marathon in our great city of Chicago! My first Chicago Marathon was truly an inspiring event as I was part of and witnessed a community determined to cheer on every participant until the very end. Fundraising records were broken by many organizations, but I'm happy to report that Team RMHC for Ronald McDonald House Charities raised approximately \$2.2 million leading up to the race. That means 22,000 families will be housed nearby and comforted for a night (or multiple nights) while caring for and supporting their children while at the hospital. I just wanted to thank all of you who cheered me on, prayed for me, and donated to such a great cause. Without everyone's support, this exciting day wouldn't have happened. My support will continue into 2024 as I again look forward to running the 2024 Chicago Marathon, and hope to give more families in need a night of comfort and support!

Sincerely,

Mario Butler-Del Rio, Head Council Chair
Team RMHC Member



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25: DECORATING THE SANCTUARY, THE SEASON OF PREPARATION

This year Advent begins on December 3, 2023. Traditionally we have our sanctuary decorated; the tree up and trimmed wreaths in the windows, and our Advent wreath in place as we begin the season of preparation right before the 1st Sunday of Advent; however this year, December 2 is the Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast and the building will be filled and unavailable for anything more. Therefore, I am scheduling the "Hanging of the Greens" party and luncheon for Saturday, November 25th. Though it is the holiday weekend and many of you may be traveling, if you can help, please contact the church office and let us know of your availability to help prepare our beautiful church for Advent & Christmas.

- See page 7 for an order form for Poinsettias to grace our beautiful altar. We'll need them back by December 11th.

Thank You,
Chuck Diddia House Chairman

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 – BOY SCOUT PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Well, it wouldn't be December if we did not have a Pancake Breakfast to attend. After filling up on pancakes, sausage, orange juice, and coffee or hot chocolate, it is a perfect way to start your day and we are sure it will get you ready for Christmas Shopping. As usual, our own Scout Troop 607 with help from the Cub pack 3607 will be hosting their Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, December 4, 2023, from 7:00a till 1:00p. Tickets this year are the same as last year at \$8.00 per person (all you can eat!). This is the primary fundraiser for the Scout Troop and money raised helps purchase equipment, and the boys receive credit toward their Owasippe summer camp experience. So keep an eye out for a scout selling tickets. I will have tickets with me on Sundays throughout the month. In addition, tickets will be available at the door. See you at the Pancake Breakfast!

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS FROM CHUCK DIDDIA, TREASURER

Hello again. We are almost 5 weeks into our stewardship campaign. We are happy with the results so far, but there are still a significant number of responses not yet received. I encourage you once again to think of the many blessings you and your family have received and consider making your financial commitment to Bethany Union Church. With your support in 2024, Bethany Union Church's ministry will continue to flourish and hopefully grow. Our sanctuary was

built in 1926 the educational building in 1957 and the Howe House in 1893. We must maintain our church properties as needs arise and we need your help and support to do so. Please prayerfully consider what the Lord is leading you to give in 2024. We will be contacting those we have not heard from soon. Once we are certain that all giving cards have been received, we will begin the process of establishing a budget for 2024 and that budget will be presented to the congregation for approval at our annual meeting in January.



SIGNIFICANT UPGRADE FROM CHUCK DIDDIA, HOUSE CHAIR

Though we will not be able to enjoy the benefits this year, I look forward to the summer of 2024. On October 17th our HVAC contractor started work on air conditioning the sanctuary. All work was completed on the 20th. The system is manufactured by Mitsubishi Electronics. We will have two three-ton units outdoors on the east side of the sanctuary and two units mounted on the wall of the east sanctuary wall. We have asked John Brooks, Tru-Guard, Inc. to protect the outside units and secure them from theft. I am hopeful that this improvement will stimulate better attendance in the summertime, and we will all be more comfortable. This is really exciting!



27 Masie & Andrew Greene



Pastor Larry & family; the members and friends of the Bethany Union Church; those suffering, recovering, homeless, hungry, or homebound; those whose name appears in our weekly bulletins; For First Responders, those in the military, and for peace in our troubled world; in Thanksgiving for our many blessings.

ACTIVITIES BY OUR FRIENDS

Wednesday, 11/1 – All Saints Mission Prayer Service (GR)

Saturday, 11/4 (SH)



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Disease (PAD):

Abdominal Aortic
Aneurysm (AAA):

Atrial Fibrillation :

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Friday, 11/17 & Saturday, 11/18 Team Short Photography in GR

TOO GOOD TO PASS UP! Rev. Timothy Short, Pastor of Oasis of Hope, is making this opportunity available to all members, family, and friends who use Bethany Union Church, in other words, the Bethany Union extended Family. Register by calling 312-450-5704, or email capturingthemoment4u@gmail.com. Check out the website for examples and suggestions. You will receive the free digital copy of your photo that you can have processed at your expense into copies, frames, or Christmas Cards, etc., anywhere you choose, including Capturing the Moment 4U. We hope you'll participate. <https://capturingthemoment4u.pixieset.com/>.

Sunday 11/19 2:30p All Saints Ministry Thanksgiving Mass (SH)

Sunday, 11/26, 5p-7:30p Wordfetti Open Mic Night (SH)

Of course, we have our standing events:

Tuesdays – Light the Way Dog Training

Wednesdays – Boy Scouts

Thursdays – Cub Scouts

2nd Saturdays Girl Scouts

Family Friends and Community, Please Donate!

The TEECH Foundation is desperately attempting to assist the Homeless for the upcoming winter. Please donate blankets, hats, gloves and any other items that will keep them warm during the cold months. We are accepting donations, and monetary contributions through November 23rd. Donate through our website, www.teechfoundation1.org Drop off at 1750 W 103rd St, (312) 539-5263 or (224) 406-3798.

We will distributing to our Homeless Friends where they are on December 2nd.

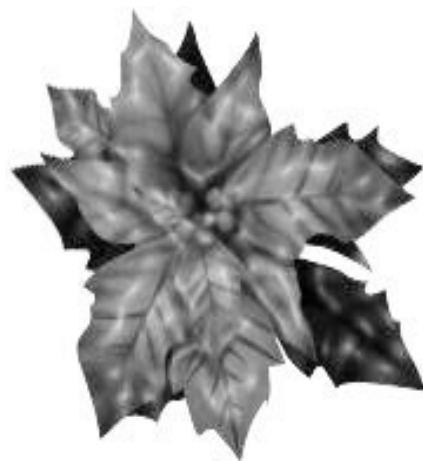
Getting Ready for Christmas

Advent

*December 3, December 10,
December 17, & December 24*

Christmas Poinsettias

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



The Poinsettias are \$23.00 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 10th

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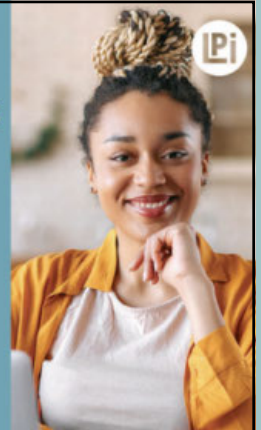


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