

The Historic Bethany Union Church of Chicago

Rt. Rev. Dr. Lawrence Michael Cameron

12th Seated Pastor in 152 Years

1750 West 103rd Street

Chicago, Illinois 60643

Time Sensitive Materials

DO NOT DELAY

DECEMBER 2023 UNIFIER

COME, LET US ADORE HIM!

Advent Season Begins Sunday Dec 3, 2023

Christmas Party & Caroling on the Corner of 103rd & Wood
Sunday, Dec 10, during Fellowship

Celtic Service, Thursday, Dec 21, 7p

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Sunday, Dec 24, 8:p

Sunday Worship services begin at 10:30a

All services are both in the Sanctuary and on Facebook.

God grant you:

the light in Christmas, which is faith;
the warmth of Christmas, which is love;
the radiance of Christmas, which is purity;
the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;
the belief in Christmas, which is truth;
the all of Christmas, which is Christ.

-Wilda English

greet24.com

GREETINGS AND BLESSINGS TO ALL!

Dear Ones of Bethany Union Church I pray this edition of the Unifier finds you well and in good spirits! Hello, Advent and Christmas 2023.

May the Prince of Peace visit us in our lives and living in this glorious season. Let us go to Bethlehem and seek the promised One of Israel who has come to set the captives free. I recall a statement attributed to that great American patriot Harriet Tubman when she was asked how many slaves she had helped rescue during the course of her life and her reply was, "I could have saved many more if they had just known that they were slaves." What keeps us enslaved in part is our inability or refusal to recognize that we too are slaves - slaves to sin, our human condition, and the forces of evil that presently reside in creation. Advent and Christmas are about a cosmic battle that is decisively won by the powers of God and that changes our destiny forever in this life and in the world to come. Christmas is never done until that battle is complete and love rules and reigns in all places. May we celebrate, participate, and proclaim in word and deed our resilience in the Lord and His mighty power of love this and every season. I pray and hope to see you in church as we lift up and celebrate our Christmas reality.

In the hope of Christ,
+Pastor Larry Cameron

ADVENT MEANINGS

During Advent, which begins this year on December 3, many churches and families use wreaths to symbolize watchfulness and increasing joy as Christmas approaches. Colors for the candles vary, with some traditions using blue (for hope or creation) and others preferring purple (for royalty, humility, or penitence).



The four candles that each represent a week in Advent also signify hope, peace, joy, and love. (The third candle is often pink.) In the center is the white Christ candle, representing Jesus as the light of the world. That candle is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The round, green Advent wreath has special meaning of its own. It symbolizes eternal life and the unending love of God, who sent his only Son to earth to die in our place.

DECEMBER 2023 CALENDAR OF BETHANY UNION CHURCH EVENTS

DECEMBER 2 SCOUT PANCAKE BREAKFAST

DECEMBER 3 – 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
HOPE, COMMUNION SUNDAY, CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING AFTER WORSHIP

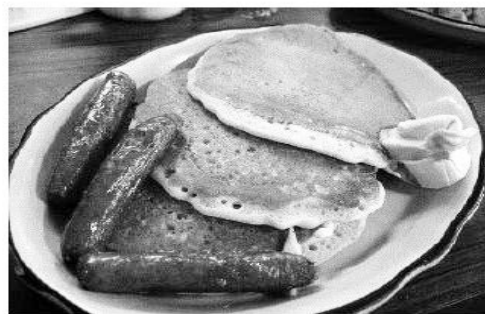
Boy Scout Troop 607

With help of Cub
Scout Pack 3607

Is hosting their
Annual Pancake
Breakfast on
Saturday, Dec 2
from 7a – 1p.

Tickets at door \$8

(Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, OJ, coffee & hot chocolate.)



DECEMBER 9 – DYNASTY PERSONIFIED 12P-4P

DECEMBER 10 – 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT PEACE; CHRISTMAS PARTY
& CAROLING ON THE CORNER (103RD & WOOD STS.) AFTER
WORSHIP. FOOD, FESTIVITY, AND FUN EXCHANGE OF WRAPPED GIFTS
COSTING NO MORE THAN \$3; APPROPRIATE FOR MALE OR FEMALE.
PARTY FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED.

RETURN CHRISTMAS FLOWER FORMS

DECEMBER 10 – 5-7:30P OPEN MIC NIGHT

DECEMBER 17 – 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT JOY;

DECEMBER 21 – WINTER SOLSTICE; CELTIC CHRISTMAS SERVICE
THURSDAY AT 7P,

DECEMBER 24 – 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT LOVE



DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE; SUNDAY, 8P

DECEMBER 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! (NO SERVICE)

DECEMBER 31 1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS



**FROM BRIGHSIDE HEALTH INC. – REMINDER
FOR THE HOLIDAYS: BE GENTLE WITH
YOURSELF!**

The holidays can trigger a lot of stress and emotion. Whether you’re dealing with family conflicts, grief, loneliness, or trauma, know that self-compassion can go a long way—and support is available. Visit our blog or follow us on social media for more tips, including 5 Ways to Relieve Stress, The Power of Gratitude, and Reminders for Healing.

For more helpful information, check out <https://www.facebook.com/brightsidehealth>.

enjoy every moment

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

1 Eric Diddia
5 Betsie Hale
5 George Rumel
14 Jack Peirce
18 Chelsea Dunlap
19 Michelle Barnhart
25 Jesus
27 Jamie Peirce
27 Tiffany Smith
31 Happy 2024!

29 Joan & George Rumel

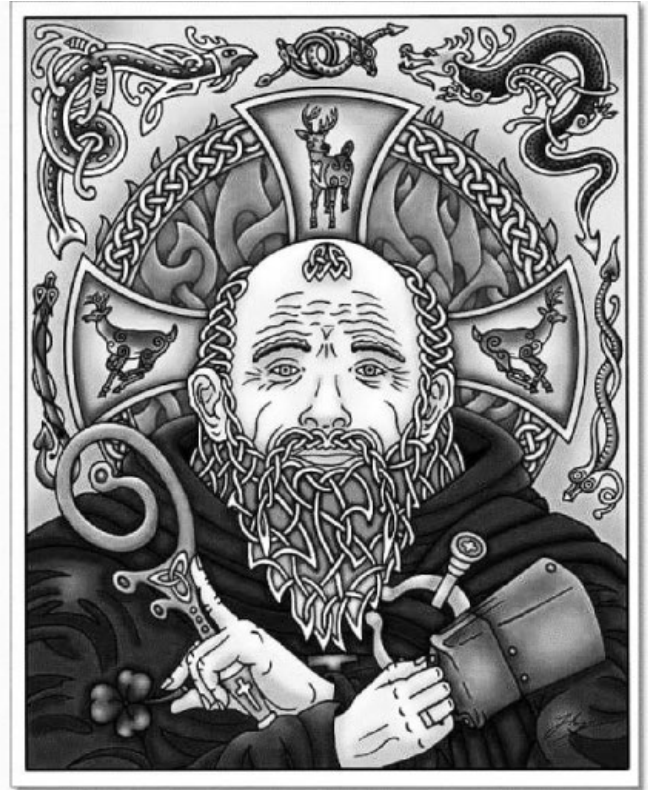


Pastor Larry & family; Sheila Reid; Nancy Diddia & family; Tom Van Swol & family; Sloop family; J P Muirhead family; Peirce family; Ede Iversen; Len Achtenberg & Steve Livesey; Lillie Joseph; Signe & Charles Morgan; Jaden; the Butler-Del Rio/Charles Family; Betsie Hale; Bruce McFadden; Rafael Rameriz, Jr. family & friends for health, healing & strength; Nicole Guevara, that new job be a blessing; Dave Nagel; Miller/Hahn family; Rose & Tony Norris family; Bev Allen; Minor Merrither; Bernice Edwards (Portals of Glory); James Walls & family; Jack Voigt; Patsy Tichy; Goldie (Maria Barwegen's mother); Pat Braskich; for those afflicted by addictions & mental disorders; holiday peace for our Church and congregations in the surrounding areas.; the homeless, displaced, and hungry. And those ministries that work to serve them; in thanksgiving for our every blessing; for the safety of our Law Enforcement and First Responders, James Walls, Lawrence Walls, Langston Walls, Tony Franchetti; for all teachers and schools; Margaret Walson family & friends; Callie Gentry & family; Bethany Union Church; our 2024 Stewardship Campaign; PEACE in the Israel, Gaza, and Ukraine; Victims of War.

JOIN THE BETHANY UNION FAMILY FOR A SPECIAL CELTIC WORSHIP SERVICE ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21' AT 7P.

From the Transceltic by Alastair Kneale on December 23, 2017: The Winter solstice was seen by the ancient Celts as one of the most significant times of the year. Druids, the priestly class in ancient Celtic society, celebrated the festival of Alban Arthuan (also known as Yule.) The Yule log burnt by the Celts was to counter the darkness of mid-winter when they thought the sun stood still for twelve days and to bring good luck. Many of the burial chambers and monuments scattered throughout the Celtic nations were constructed to capture the full impact of the sun's rays during the solstices.

It was also a time when they ceremonially gathered mistletoe from oak trees for its magical and health-giving properties. (A practice described in the writings of Roman historian Pliny the Elder (Gaius Plinius Secundus AD 23 – August 25, AD 79)). The Holly and ivy were evergreens the Celts considered important to keep evil spirits at bay.



JOHN RUSKIN (1819-1900) WAS AN ENGLISH AUTHOR AND TEACHER AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY. There is a memorial to Ruskin on the shores of Derwentwater in the Lake District. Under a Celtic Cross on the memorial are the following words:

“The Spirit of God is around you in the air you breathe. His glory is in the light you see and in the fruitfulness of the earth and the joy of his creation. He has written for you day by day his revelation, and he has granted you day by day your daily bread.”

Petition to Illinois Senator Bill Cunningham about Climate Emergency (from member Rollin Dix, seeking support of the Fossil Fuel Nonproliferation Treaty (FFNPT) Initiative.

The signers of this petition are asking you to introduce a bill in the Illinois Senate to endorse the Fossil Fuel Nonproliferation Treaty (FFNPT) Initiative. This treaty will directly combat the naked greed of the fossil fuel industry. We can't expect the UN to act because Putin is on the Security Council, and FFNPT is an excellent alternative. Fossil fuel burning and emission of CO2 are causing rapidly rising temperatures around the world. October 2023 was the hottest October in 150,000 years. The Vatican, California, cities of LA, Toronto, London, Paris, and many other entities, and people. The Australian-based FFNPT Campaign Director, Michael Poland, has said the endorsement by the state of Illinois would provide a “HUGE” boost to the campaign. We urge you to visit www.fossilfueltreaty.org for extensive information on FFNPT. Thank you.

There is a copy of the petition in the church office if you care to sign it, otherwise, use this, and have petitioners sign their name and address. Please send the petition with as many signatures as possible to Senator Cunningham at 309-J, Capitol Building, Springfield, IL 62706, or deliver it to the Beverly Area Planning Association office on 99th Street.

Christmas Poinsettias

*Christmas is 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*_____

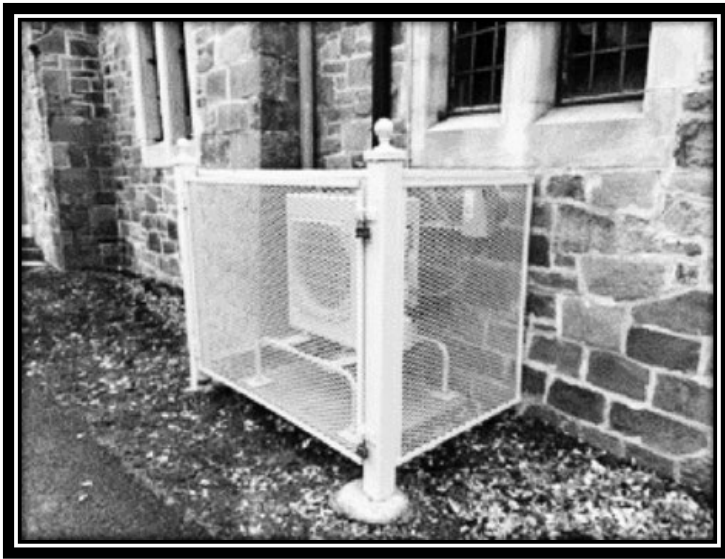
Please return your order form to the Church by December 10th

END-OF-YEAR FINANCE UPDATE

Our 2023 income has fallen short of what was expected. I ask any and all supporters of Bethany Union Church, to please review your giving year-to-date, and if at all possible, make an effort to become current. I have already contacted all people who use our space and park in our parking lot, to do the same. Hopefully, by year-end, we will be much closer to income as projected. As you know, shortfalls at this time of year are very difficult.

Thank you & Merry Christmas,

Chuck Diddia, Treasurer



SAFE & SECURE

Please take notice! Our own John Brooks of Tru-Guard, Inc. has labored and installed protective bollards and secured our new air conditioners from theft or damage. Please see his ad in every Bethany Union Bulletin and Unifier. Hopefully, you or a neighbor can use his services. As you can all see, he will do an outstanding job.

Thank you, John!

Chuck Diddia, House Chair



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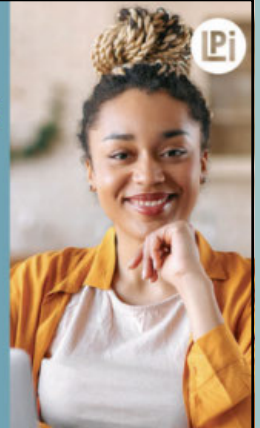


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