

THE HISTORIC BETHANY UNION CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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Time Sensitive Materials

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The Unifier March 2024



The Historic Bethany Union Church of Chicago

Worship with us
Sundays at 10:30a
In-Person or Facebook Live

Facebook Recordings are posted to both our Facebook Page and Website library - bethanyunion.com for viewing at a later time.

www.bethanyunion.com

Dear Ones of Bethany Union,

Greetings and salutations as we head into the month of March 2024. The month comes with five Sunday opportunities to worship and celebrate our faith together. In March, we have several extraordinary Sundays, including Girl Scout Sunday on March 10, 2024, when we recognize and celebrate with our Bethany Union Girl Scout Troop as they participate in our worship service.



Towards the end of the month, we celebrate Holy Week 2024, beginning with our All-Church Family Holy Week Communion Breakfast on Saturday, March 23, 2024. In the past, this was an event that only included the men of Bethany Union. Beginning this year, the Communion Breakfast, as a special inaugural celebration of Holy Week, will be open to the entire church: women and children, as well as men. The event begins promptly at 8:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary, where we celebrate with a Service of Holy Communion and then move into Fellowship Hall for a fellowship breakfast and Holy Week program. This is a joyful and delightful way to usher in Holy Week, and I pray we all take advantage of this gathering and participate.

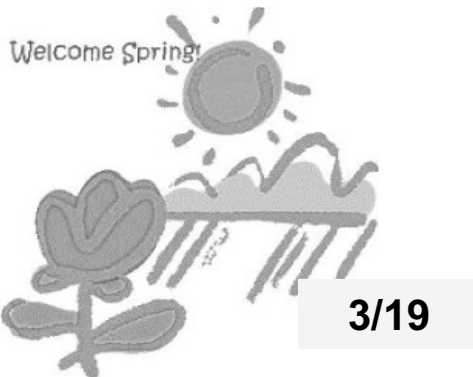
We then begin Holy Week with our Palm Sunday celebration on Sunday, March 24, 2024. We will recall and re-member our Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem with the waving of Palm branches and shouts of hosanna to our King. This is all in anticipation of Resurrection Sunday on March 31, 2024, when we go to the tomb to discover that he is not there! The Sanctuary is adorned with Easter flowers, and the cross is draped with a white linen cloth, reminding us of the burial clothes left in the grave. This is the pinnacle of our Christian year and of our faith. It is all about the Resurrection - His and ours. Come and worship and participate in the timeless story of our salvation. He is alive!

Blessings and joy to all,
Pastor Larry Cameron

***PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR...**

- March 3, 2024 - 3rd Sunday in Lent, Communion Sunday, Congregational Meeting after Fellowship
- March 10, 2024 - **Daylight Saving Time begins.** 4th Sunday in Lent, Girl Scout Sunday
- March 16, 2024 - Training for the Center for Community Engagement and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Support will be held in Pastor's Office 10a-12:30p
- March 17, 2024 - 5th Sunday in Lent, St Patrick's Day
- March 19, 2024 - Primary Election Day, First day of Spring
- March 23, 2024 - All Church Lenten Communion Breakfast
- March 24, 2024 - Palm Sunday, Beginning of Holy Week
- March 28, 2024 - Maundy Thursday
- March 29, 2024 - Good Friday
- March 31, 2024 - Easter Sunday

*There are April & May Events you'll want to check out later in this Bulletin.



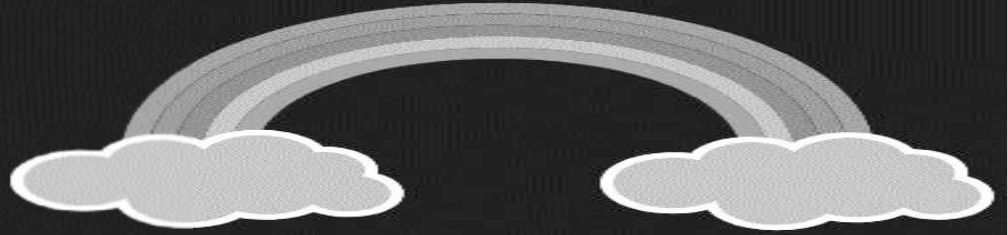
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March Milestones

Birthdays

- 11 Quinn Avery Bingaman
- 18 Dorothy Syler
- 19 Mark Linnerud
- 22 Aracely Brooks
- 25 Toi Ann Bailey
- 30 Joan Rumel



Our **GIRL SCOUT TROOP #20117** commemorates the Girl Scouts' 112th Birthday on March 11. The organization promotes friendship, innovation, and empowerment among millions of girls nationwide. Girl Scout Sunday will be held on March 11th. The Troop conducts their monthly meetings at Bethany Union on the second Saturday of the month. The annual cookie sale is in progress now, so be sure to purchase your cookies on March 11th!

HOUSE UPDATE

Thankfully, so far this winter (minimal snow) we have only had to pay one snow removal bill. Please pray with me that that trend continues till we find spring. So far, other than paying some significant heating bills, we have experienced only two maintenance issues. One is that after waiting way too long, we have had the floors in the kitchen and social hall professionally stripped and waxed. This was long overdue and has made a significant improvement in appearance. The other issue is that we had a craftsman repair and caulk both showers in the Howe House. That work was finished on Feb 26th. The shower in the master bedroom has been leaking, and now we are confronted with having some drywall replaced on the kitchen ceiling and having it repainted. We will wait a bit on that to make sure that there are no more leaks.

Chuck Diddia

TREASURER UPDATE

The first two months of 2024 have been quite typical. We have had a couple of maintenance issues; some significant heating bills, insurance payments, building use income shortfalls, and cashflow issues. So far, in 2024, it has been necessary to withdraw \$17,000 from our Vanguard investment account to meet cash flow needs. I cannot overemphasize the importance of staying current with your financial commitments if you have made one. We are very fortunate to have this fund to fall back on when needs arise. We are looking forward to better days and improved cash flow. On a brighter note, Andrew Greene, our Treasurer-Elect, has been spending time with Terry Peterson and me, getting familiar with the routines and processes associated with the Treasurer's office. He'll be soooo ready in 2025!

Chuck Diddia

OUT WITH THE OLD IN WITH THE NEW

For the last several years after we held our successful “Men’s Communion Breakfast”, I would be approached by some people in our congregation asking why just men? Other than years of tradition, I can think of no reason. So, here we go! On Saturday, March 23rd, the day before Palm Sunday, we will be holding our first “All Church Lenten Communion Breakfast”. This is a wonderful way to begin Holy Week with prayer, singing, communion, and breakfast. Please mark your calendars to attend on 3/23/24 at 8:00AM, and either call the church office or sign the list in the social hall during fellowship so we prepare enough food. The Communion service will take no more than 30 minutes, which is followed by breakfast, fellowship, and about 10 minutes of film to begin our Road to Easter. You should be on your way home before 10:00AM fed both spiritually and nutritionally. Please plan to attend and spread the word. Thank You!

Chuck Diddia

REMINDER: ON MARCH 10TH WE RETURN TO DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME.



Training for the Center for Community Engagement in Substance Abuse and Mental Health Support will be in the Pastor’s Office, having been rescheduled to Saturday, March 16, 10a – 12:30p. Bethany Union Church is the initial site for this program where the “Illinois Faith and Recovery Collaborative seek to support and empower the work faith communities are doing to support individuals and families by providing information, training, toolkits, and networking opportunities.” The class is taught by TEECH Foundation’s Director, Rev. Dr. Karen White. Sign up using the Connection Card or let the church office know by email or call.

THE HISTORIC BETHANY UNION CHURCH'S ANNUAL LEGACY LECTURE CELEBRATING OUR 152ST ANNIVERSARY MAY 4TH & 5TH!

In 2022 Bethany Union Church celebrated its 150th year of service here in the Far Southside of Chicago by inaugurating an Annual Legacy Lecture series that would bring a guest lecturer to Chicago from elsewhere to share and inform the Christian community with a message from an "other" to highlight and demonstrate the importance of being available to listen to other voices, not necessarily our own, on issues and topics we might not otherwise notice. The Legacy Lecture Series was established to celebrate Bethany Union's 150+ years of championing Religious Education in the community setting.

This year we will have a musical program, and guest speaker on Saturday, May 4th; on Sunday, May 5th, the guest speaker will preach during our 10:30a Worship Service.

You'll recall Rev. Starlette Thomas (Raceless Gospel) initiated our series in 2022, followed by Rev Brandee Jasmine Mimitzraiem in 2023.

Keep your eye on the Anniversary Bulletin Board, as it will be an ongoing update.

Lawrence Michael Cameron

INTRODUCING DR. CANDACE LAUGHINGHOUSE OUR 2024 LEGACY LECTURE SPEAKER



Dr Candace Laughinghouse began her personal transformation by theological education from the Candler School of Theology (MDiv), Duke Divinity School (ThM) and Chicago Theological Center (PhD) with a pedestrian interest in the Black church. Her transformation into anti-speciesist ecowomanism forged beyond any particular religious denomination, thus allowing her to experience a consciousness of God and of herself as the Imago Dei. In the power and knowledge of this transformation, she continues to evolve into this newness of caring for creation by highlighting shared oppressions and indigenous perspectives as a more authentic theory and praxis in social justice that includes all of Creation. Dr. Laughinghouse's work within interfaith projects, lectures and writings inform her research and energizes her to understand that while humans may be culturally different, we are elementally identical as we breathe the same air.

As such, Laughinghouse is an emerging leader in eco-justice and animal justice to save the planet, our families, and humanity's future quality of life. She currently teaches at St. Augustine's University and is a recipient of various consults and teaching fellowships. Dr. Laughinghouse also serves on the board of the Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society, the Black Religious Scholars Group, the Culture and Arts Foundation, Minding Animals, inc., and recently contributed to an online lectionary centralizing farm animals through CreatureKind. Her greatest commitment and accomplishment is her three young daughters and raising them in the awareness of God's love for all Creation.



EASTER FLOWERS, NOT MUCH TIME!

Please consider purchasing to beautify our sanctuary for Easter Sunday. Complete the order form and return it to the church by March 17th. Thank you.

Resurrection Day Plant Sale 2024

*Please add to the beauty of our Sanctuary this Easter.
Just fill out this form and return to the Church office
by March 17, 2024.*

_____ *Hyacinths* \$25.00

_____ *Tulips* \$25.00

_____ *Azaleas* \$29.00

Total Number of Plants _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____

In Honor of _____

In Loving Memory of _____

Given By _____

Do you wish to take a plant home? Yes _____ *No* _____



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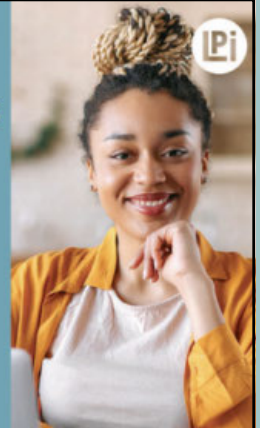


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