

THE HISTORIC BETHANY UNION CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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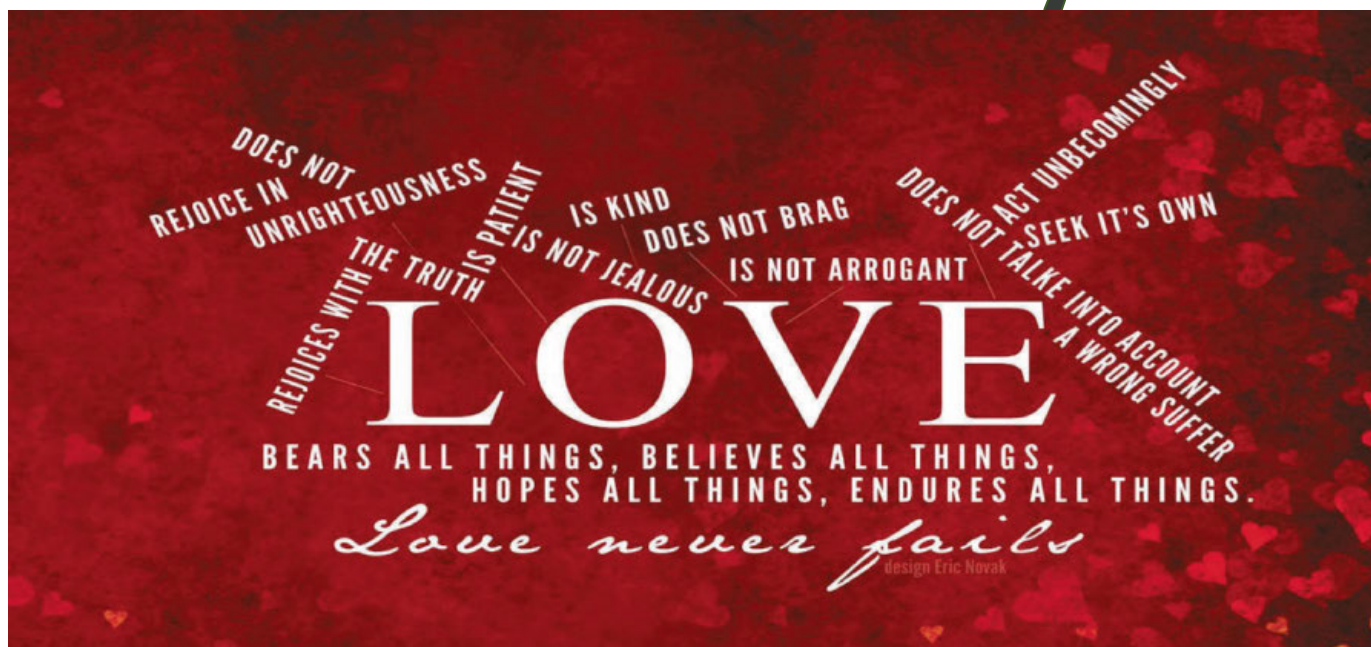
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The Unifier February 2025



Bethany Union Church of Chicago

Worship with us Sundays at 10:30a

In-person, on our Facebook Page, or on our Website www.bethanyunion.com

Dear Ones of Bethany Union,

Grace and peace to you in these Winter months of 2025. We just completed the 153rd Annual Congregational meeting this past Sunday. Nancy Diddia made sure we didn't have empty stomachs and provided us with a wonderful lunch before we jumped into our business. We reviewed the past year's ministry, looked at our finances, and passed a balanced budget for 2025, which is made possible by everyone's faithful stewardship and giving. Attendance was on the shy side for the meeting but reflected our Sunday morning worship attendance. One major goal for this coming year is to increase our worship attendance by having our members come more frequently and by hosting visitors. May we all be faithful.



One of the major discussions centered around the upkeep and maintenance of the facilities. We really miss Chuck in so many ways. We discussed how we would make sure everything is covered. We also discussed our plumbing and pipe issues and how best to ensure we were on top of all things freezing. It is ironic that the very next day, I came into the building to discover a broken water pipe gushing water out in one of the Garth Garden closets. We called Kennedy Plumbing to solve the issue.

As we head into 2025 and our work and mission of living out and sharing the Gospel we do so trusting our Faithful Heavenly Father. Our only concern and calling is to remain faithful to Him, who gives us life and light. Everything else is in His hands. May this edition of the Unifier find you warm, and well, and ever-ready to follow Christ. Come to Church! It is what we do best!

In Christ's love and mission,

+Pastor Larry Cameron

February Calendar of Events



"The 2025 Black History Month theme, African Americans, and Labor focuses on the various and profound ways that work and working of all kinds – free and unfree, skilled and unskilled, vocational and voluntary – intersect with the collective experiences of Black people. Indeed, work is at the very center of much of Black history and culture. Be it the traditional agricultural labor of enslaved Africans that fed Low Country colonies, debates among Black educators on the importance of vocational training, self-help strategies, and entrepreneurship in Black communities, or organized labor's role in fighting both economic and social injustice, Black

people's work has been transformational throughout the U.S., Africa, and the Diaspora. The 2025 Black History Month theme, "African Americans and Labor," sets out to highlight and celebrate the potent impact of this work."

Sunday Messages/Sermons for February 2025

February 2, 2025, First Sunday Holy Communion Message; "What More?" Scripture is Matthew 5:17-29 & Leviticus 19:1-4. Did Jesus come to replace or do away with the Commandments of the Old Testament? Did Jesus ever break any of the laws of God? This message will help us answer what Jesus taught in word and deed concerning the Torah and the Commandments.

February 9, 2025, is Boy Scout Sunday. Troop 607 and Pack 3607 will be with us to celebrate this day and take part in our worship celebration. The message for the day is "Essentials of Forgiveness." The Scripture lessons are Psalm 130:1-8, Colossians 3:12-17 and Mark 11:20-25. We know we are told that we are to forgive one another and that forgiveness is one of the marks of being a Christian. This message will detail how to forgive someone and the steps you can take to put forgiveness into action.

February 14, 2025, Valentines Day



February 16, 2025, the message will be "What is Salvation?" Scripture lessons are Titus 2:11-15, Genesis 32:9-12 and Luke 6:6-11. What are we saved from? How are we saved? What does it mean to be saved? What doesn't it mean? Is it important? Why are we saved in the first place? Answers to these questions, plus many more, will be looked at, and answers from the Holy Scriptures will be looked at as we explore "all things of faith" in this important and central message of the Bible.

February 17, 2025 Presidents' Day



February 23, 2025, the message is "Taking Care of Your Mind." Scripture lessons are Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and Luke 10:25-28. We are told that the greatest commandment, in part, is to love God with all of our minds. Taking care of our mind and seeing to its health and fitness is a part of that calling. This message will explore ways of doing such and being able to love the Lord our God with a healthy, vibrant, and faithful mind.

"And let us take thought of how to spur one another on to love and good works, not abandoning our own meetings, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and even more so because you see the day drawing near." - Hebrews 10:24-25



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Tuesdai B Perry
3	Lawrence Walls
8	Hannah Franchetti
8	Rollin Dix
9	Nancy Diddia
16	Rev Robert Moynihan
17	Delaney Sloop
21	Lorraine Morgan
26	LaTelle Palmer
27	Rosa Bass
27	James Daniel Heniff (1)

Dear Bethany Family,

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the love and support shown to us during our time of loss. The generous donations to the scouts and the church meant so much to us. Thank you, too, for your kindness, prayers, and messages of condolence. Your thoughtfulness will never be forgotten. God Bless You.

Love, Nancy Diddia and Family



CHRIST'S LOVE COMPELS US.

2 Corinthians 5:14, NIV



Dear Members and Friends of Bethany Union Church

As we enter the month of February, a time traditionally focused on love and relationships, it's the perfect opportunity for us to reflect on the greatest love of all—the love God has shown us through Jesus Christ. In a world that can sometimes feel divided and disconnected, we are called to love one another as God has loved us. This month, let's look beyond the Hallmark cards and flowers and consider how we can actively live out love in our daily lives and in our church community.

Let's make a conscious effort to live out this love in tangible ways. Whether it's offering a listening ear to someone in need, praying for each other, and reaching out to those who may be isolated or struggling, we can make a real difference in each other's lives. As we do this, we also honor God's love for us and become a reflection of His grace and compassion in the world.

As we embrace the spirit of love this month, let's remember that love isn't just a feeling—it's a way of living. May God's love continue to guide and inspire us to be a loving presence in His world.

Love and Blessings,
Cheryl A. Diddia-Bernstein
Council Chair

The State of Bethany Union's Scouting Programs

Troop 607 – Mr. Ed Hollinger, Scoutmaster

Please keep Mr. Michael Rudd and his family and friends in your prayers.

The Troop is doing well and meets every Wednesday at 7:30 PM, and the Troop Committee meetings are held on the first Monday of each month.

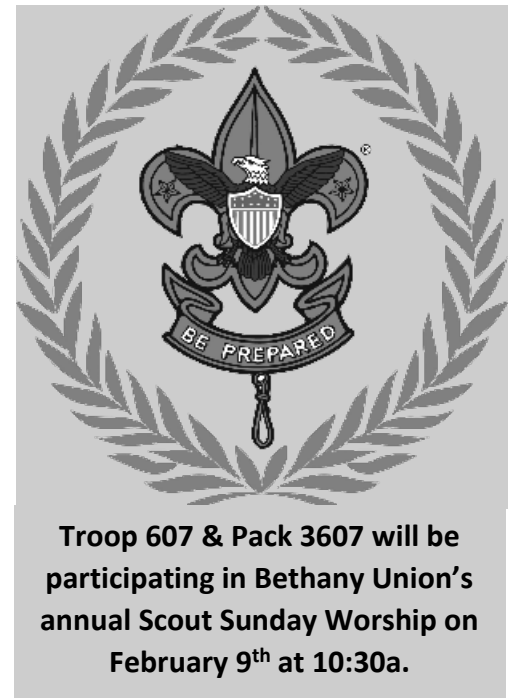
- On February 9th, the Troop will participate in "Scout Sunday" at Bethany Union Church. Scouts will be taking an active role in our worship service.

Pack 3607 – Mr. Michael Crispo, Cubmaster

The Pack Is also doing well, with active young boys in attendance. They meet on alternate Thursdays in the Scout Room and Social Hall with the Cub Pack Committee, which meets monthly.

- On February 11th, the Pack will participate in our "Scout Sunday" celebration
- On February 27th, The Pack will hold their "Blue and Gold" Banquet at 6:00 PM, when awards will be presented to the boys.
- On March 8th, the Pack will hold their Pinewood Derby. Leading up to that event, the Cubs will be getting their cars ready to race.

Bethany Union Church is fortunate to have dedicated leadership in our scouting programs. They are a significant portion of our ministry to the community.



An Opportunity to Give



Those ICCC congregations and individuals who wish to help the relief efforts for the California Wildfires are suggested to give to our ICCC Mission Partner -- Church World Services (CWS). CWS is providing support in the form of CWS Kits and Blankets, technical assistance and information sharing with local partners, as well as offering limited temporary housing for newcomers needing to evacuate. In collaboration with CWS local offices, CWS' Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery team (EPRR) has also assembled and distributed over 200 fire-waterproof "Go Bags" with essential supplies for evacuation for newcomer families. To donate to this relief effort please send your donation payable to the ICCC, with memo "CWS CA Fires," and send to ICCC, P>O> Box 249, Loudon, TN 37774.

Realm of the Impossible

The wonderful thing about praying is that you leave a world of being unable to do something and enter God's realm, where everything is possible. He specializes in the impossible. Nothing is too great for his almighty power. Nothing is too small for his love.

—Corrie ten Boom



... And so we pray... for Bethany Union Church, Pastor Larry & family; for members, friends, and those who share our space will be blessed with health, peace, and love throughout 2025; for serenity for those afflicted by addictions & mental disorders; peace for our Church and congregations in the surrounding areas; for the indigent, homeless, displaced, and hungry, and those ministries that selflessly work to serve them; in thanksgiving for our every blessing; for the safety of our Law Enforcement and First Responders; for all teachers and schools; PEACE in the Israel, Gaza, and Ukraine; for the Innocent Victims of War who have died or who are suffering, homeless, and starving; for good health, peace, and that we all have a safe place to call home.

2024 Annual Meeting Results

As Pastor Larry indicated, the Annual Meeting was successful, with 17 in attendance. The Council leadership will remain as in 2024, with two exceptions: Andrew B Greene is Treasurer, and the House Chair, vacated with the death of Chuck Diddia, will be watched by volunteers, with the assistance of Robert Davis and the Church Council.

All Committee Reports, as was the 2025 Proposed Balanced Budget, were unanimously approved.

Bethany Union Church Community Outreach

Oasis of Hope

Harvest Faith Church

JETY Children Activity Center

TEECH Foundation

The Music Scene

My Crafty Table

Boy Scout Troop #607

Cub Scout Pack #3607

Portals of Glory International

Dynasty Personified

All Saints Mission

Light the Way Dog Training

Envision Unlimited – Foster Care

Several other community organizations find Bethany Union Church convenient and beautiful, whether they need our parking lot, Sanctuary, or Social Hall. We try to accommodate all who call on us.

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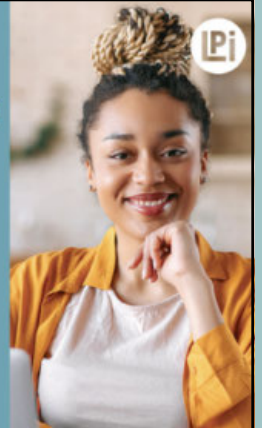
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