

**THE HISTORIC BETHANY UNION CHURCH OF CHICAGO**

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# The Unifier May 2025



The Historic Bethany Union  
Church of Chicago  
Worship with us Sundays at 10:30a  
In-person or on our Bethany Union Church of  
Chicago Facebook Page or on our Website  
[www.bethanyunion.com](http://www.bethanyunion.com)



## FROM PASTOR'S DESK

And Easter continues! The Resurrection Reality is our reality. We are a Resurrection People. To God be the Glory! Amen.

May 2025 comes with us launching a new sermon series entitled, "It's Kinda Like..." Jesus taught us many things, and often he would use a literary device known as a parable. A parable is not a metaphor nor an allegory. It is its own category and functions in a particular manner. When we are talking about things of God, sometimes the best we can do is say "It's Kinda Like..." which is the title for our post Easter Sermon Series. Come and hear the parables of Jesus told in a manner and style that reflects our reality today. Come and explore with us this ancient teaching presented in a whole new way. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come and interact with the teaching of Jesus Christ and stretch and grow in the faith.

May comes and brings us to our 153rd year in Ministry as a Congregation. God is good, and we pray that He will find us faithful as we head into our 154th year.

May also brings Mother's Day, which we will celebrate on Sunday, May 11, and Memorial Day on May 26.

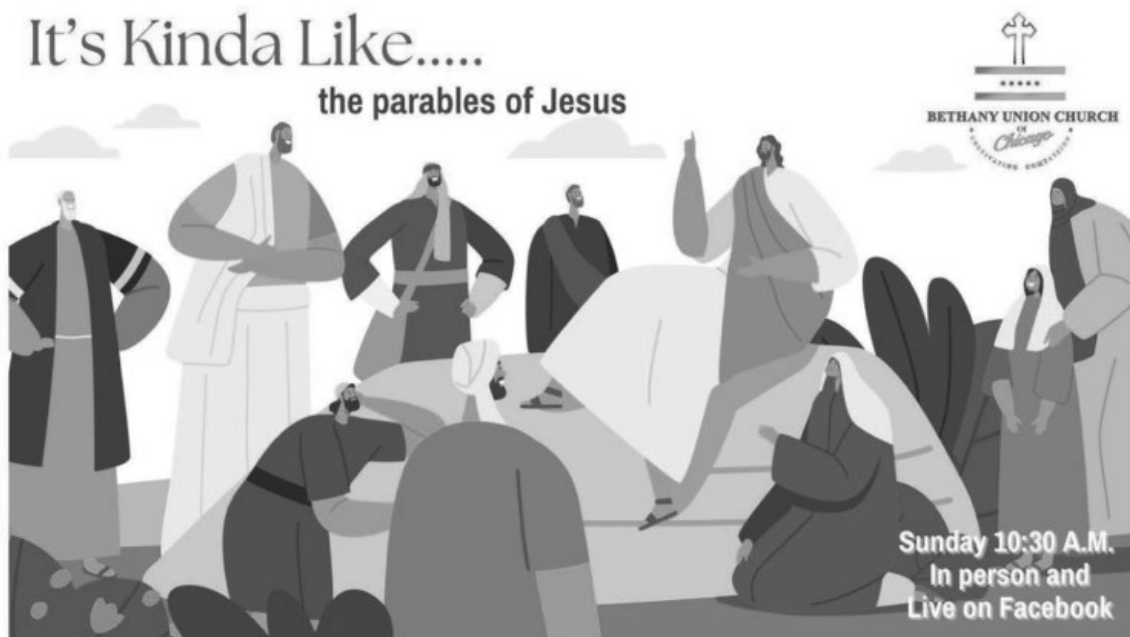
Remember, our baptism and Church membership includes the reality that we bring others to Christ. Invite, invite, invite!

I pray this edition of the Unifier finds you well and in good spirits. Let us continue to seek Him who seeks us in all things. See ya in church to be the Church,

+Pastor Larry Cameron



**BETHANY UNION CHURCH**  
Of  
*Chicago*  
CULTIVATING COMPASSION



# May Calendar

**May 1** is National Day of Prayer

**May 4** is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter, Communion Sunday, and the May Congregational Meeting

**May 5, Bethany Union Church 153<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary, Cinco de Mayo**



**May 11** is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter, Mother's Day

**May 17** is Armed Forces Day

**May 18** is the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

**May 25** is the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

**May 26** is Memorial Day, the Memorial Day Parade. We're taking part in the parade and looking for members and friends of Bethany to walk with us alongside our float and throw candy to the crowd. If you can march or provide donations of wrapped hard candy, please call the church office; we NEED

both!

**May 29** is Ascension Day

## Thank You

Bethany Union acknowledges our supporters, those who advertise in our bulletin and Unifier,

our Community, our vendors, and all who contribute to our church in giving or praying. "May they know their true



## **MAY BIRTHDAYS**

04 Nando Gandara

05 Bethany Union Church 153<sup>th</sup>

08 Darryl Palmer

08 Luis Rodriguez, Jr.

10 Marissa Bingaman

11 Ryan Diddia

22 Langston Walls

25 Kayli Gandara

25 Freddie Carlton

29 Ede Iversen

value, and may their day be blessed.

## **MAY ANNIVERSARIES**

14 Tammy & Jon Sloop

17 Margo & Reginald Clark-M  
Marshall

***Congratulations to our 2025 Graduates! We will provide the details in our June Unifier.*** Please email or contact the church office with the Graduates' names, schools, and, if you'd like, their future endeavors. Also, don't forget to include the proud parents, grandparents, etc.



***And so we pray...*** for Bethany Union Church, for families, for educators and students, for businesses and workplaces, for the Armed Forces, for government; for those in the arts, entertainment, and media fields, for our nation, that through courage, faithfulness, and commitment to shine we all will act as beacons; in memory of those who have given their lives defending us; Pastor Larry & the families of Bethany Union Church; 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; for the safety of our Law Enforcement and First Responders; for lasting PEACE in Israel, Gaza, and Ukraine; victims of gun violence & war, who have died or have been traumatized, left suffering, homeless, and starving; for good health, peace, and that we all have a safe place to call home.

### ***From the desk of Council Chair***

Dear Church Family,

As we step into the beautiful month of May, I find myself filled with gratitude for the renewal that spring brings—not just in nature, but in our hearts and community life as well. The blooming flowers, longer days, and gentle warmth are powerful reminders of God’s creativity and faithfulness.

April was a meaningful month for us, especially as we gathered to celebrate the resurrection of Christ during our Easter service, Palm Sunday, and the Communion Breakfast. Thank you to everyone who worshipped with us. It was truly a celebration of life, hope, and renewal.

Mother’s Day is May 11– We’ll be honoring the mothers and maternal figures in our lives. Let’s celebrate the nurturing spirit God places in so many among us.

As Council Chair, I continue to be encouraged by your faithfulness, generosity, and love for one another. Whether you’re serving in the kitchen, working in the office, attending council meetings, or offering a kind word on Sunday mornings, your contributions make a difference.

Let’s continue to pray for one another, listen for God’s direction, and remain open to the Spirit’s movement in and through our congregation. If you ever have questions, ideas, or concerns, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me. I am here to serve.

With joy and hope,

Cheryl A. Diddia -Bernstein

### **MEMORIAL DAY PARADE: WE NEED YOUR HELP**

Once again, Bethany Union Church will participate in Chicago’s oldest neighborhood Memorial Day Parade on May 27<sup>th</sup>. The parade is sponsored by BAPA and starts near 110<sup>th</sup> St and Longwood Dr and marches north to Ridge Park. Bethany Union will be pulling our float with info about the church. Volunteers will march along with the float and pass candy to those along the way. We need volunteers to march, as well as wrapped candy to pass. We plan to meet in our church parking lot at 9:00AM or 110<sup>th</sup> and Longwood near the Presbyterian Church at about 9:45AM. Please get in touch with the church office (773-779-0123) to let us know if you can help or donate candy. This is a great opportunity to demonstrate who we are and when to join us for worship. Please plan to be with us for fellowship and pride in our ministries.

## OUR SCOUTING PROGRAMS



In April, our Cubs and Boy Scouts participated in the Chicago Council's "Scouting for Food." Their collection was delivered to the Beverly-Morgan Park Food Pantry. (Job well done)! They participated in the District Camporee, learning scouting skills, and participating in a large event was a great opportunity. As we move into summer, plans are being finalized for another trip to the Owasippe Scout reservation. An awards dinner will be held in May to honor advancements, provide camp information, and collect camp fees. In April, the Cub Scouts held their annual Pinewood Derby, which was well attended with fun for all.

## *Our Beautiful Easter Altar*

Our Easter Altar was beautifully adorned with glorious colors of spring and renewal. We are grateful:

In Memory of Fred Carlton given by his Children and Grandchildren

In Memory of Chuck Diddia given by the Van Swol, Sloop, Van Ryke & Stasiak Families

In Memory of Heather Anne Farrell given by the Monica White Family

In Memory of Earl Syler given by Dorthy and Children

In Honor of the Brooks and Orellana Families & In Memory of Family Members who have passed, by Aracelly & John Brooks

In Praise of God given by the Butler-Del Rio and Charles Family

In Memory of Christine Linnerud given by Mark, Lory & Karen

In Honor of Nancy Diddia and In Memory of Charles Diddia by their family

In Memory of Carl & Russell Isabell given by Masie I. Greene

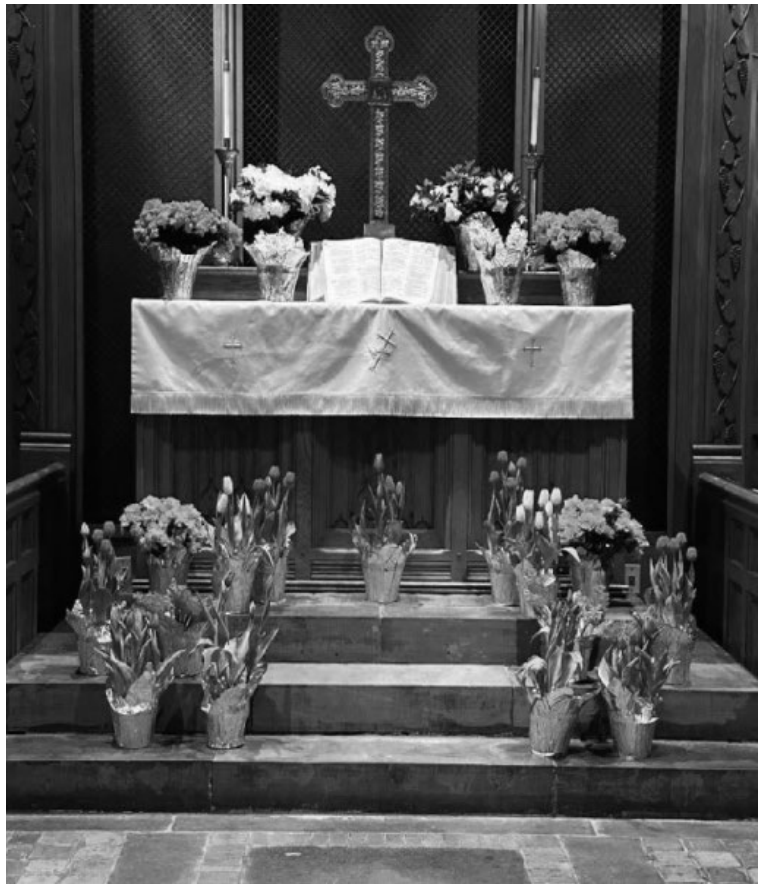
In Memory of Roger and Paula Cameron given by Pastor Larry

In Memory of Chuck Diddia given by Nancy Diddia

In Memory of Maryann Kuerti & deceased members of Bethany Union Church Family given by Terry Peterson

In Memory of Janice Heniff Winski, James & Elaine Heniff, Arthur & Velma Boyens given by Melissa, Arthur & James

In Honor of the Tedesco Mains families, by Dorothy Tedesco



And to those who arranged the altar so beautifully. Thank you. Also note that some of the plants will find a home in our Garden and on the grounds when Melissa Heniff, her boys, and Lorraine Morgan take to gardening one weekend soon.

**Maple Morgan Park Food Pantry**  
**NEEDS YOUR HELP**

During recent months, the need for food among our neighbors has reached it's highest levels since covid. Household visits to food pantry has increase by 30% compared to a year ago.



**OUR SHELVES ARE IN NEED OF:**

- Hot and cold cereals
- Bottled water
- Bottled juices
- Baby formula
- Baby diapers
- Adult diapers
- Canned tuna
- Canned chicken
- Canned salmon
- Condiments
- Corn muffin mix
- Cranberry sauce
- Cake mix
- Pancake mix
- Pancake syrup
- Spaghetti
- Spaghetti sauce
- Pasta
- Stove Top dressing
- Mac and Cheese
- Pork and beans
- Baked beans
- Hormel chili with beans
- Canned chili no beans
- Sloppy joe chili
- Manwich chili
- Spam
- Chef boyardee assorted products
- Boxed sugar
- Boxed mashed potatoes
- Hot sauce
- Milk products
- Snack bars
- Tea bags
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Dentures cleaners
- Bar soap
- Dish detergents
- Kleenex tissue
- Disposable latex gloves (lg & md)
- Wrapped frozen packaged meats

**We are also in need of monetary donations**  
 Donate \$20, \$30, \$40, \$50, \$100 or \$200 to help out with discounted and tax-exempt bulk food purchases from local businesses.

**You can now donate online at**  
[www.maplemorganparkfoodpantry.org](http://www.maplemorganparkfoodpantry.org)  
 or checks, cashier checks and sealed cash envelopes are welcome.

**Make checks payable to:**  
 Maple Morgan Park Food Pantry  
 11030 S. Longwood Dr., Chicago, IL 60643-4012

\*Note: per food guidelines/regulations, non-perishable food items must be sealed, unopened and unused.

**Maple Morgan Park Food Pantry**  
 11030 S. Longwood Drive  
 Chicago, IL  
 773-239-3013

## 2025 BENEVOLENCE TO MAPLE MORGAN PARK FOOD PANTRY CONTINUES

Our ongoing benevolence will be earmarked for the Maple Morgan Park Food Pantry; the Bethany Union Church Congregation's March-April monetary donation was \$400.

The Maple Morgan Park Food Pantry is more than just a food distribution center; it is a pillar of community support and a symbol of hope. Through compassion, dedication, and the collective effort of volunteers and partners, the pantry continues to make a significant difference in the lives of those it serves. A \$20 donation feeds a family for two weeks. The enclosed flyer indicates what they need, in addition to the monetary donations. Please do what you can, and tell them you're from Bethany Union Church.

Please be generous as possible as you prayerfully consider donating to the Maple Morgan Park Food Pantry. The need is great.

Thank you,

Cheryl A. Diddia-Bernstein

### From the ICCC

As a proud signatory and member body of **Church World Service**, ICCC stands with other denominations and faith organizations in resisting policies that dismantle the U.S. refugee resettlement program, endanger asylum seekers, and sow fear and division in our communities. This declaration is described as "an unprecedented moment of moral reckoning," rooted in Scripture and fueled by faith.

The full declaration affirms:

"Together in faith and rooted in love, we resolve to continue in the centuries-old practice of Christian communities walking alongside refugees and immigrants in their pursuit of safety and dignity. We pledge to restore and promote hospitality and welcome to those seeking refuge, regardless of where they are from, how they pray, or what language they speak."

\*\*\*Bethany Union Church, as a member of the ICCC, we support the declaration with all our brothers and sisters.

Lawrence Michael Cameron

**Things to do here at Bethanny Union Church... Just call on our Friends to sign up!**

**From Smith Village-** Caregivers can build a network of support for caring for those with memory loss

Gain insights and learn practical tips about how to become an empowered caregiver during Smith Village's Caregiver Support Group at 6:30pm on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 2320 West 113th Place in Chicago.

During this meeting, Smith Village resident Alice Keane and life enrichment director Bridget Murphy will explore ways caregivers, whose loved ones have dementia or Alzheimer's disease, can take care of themselves. They also will offer guidance about how to build a supportive team and reduce caregiver stress. In addition, Keane will explain how an important, loving relationship may change over time. Both have completed training with the Alzheimer's Association.

"Caregiving is about both giving care and caring for yourself," said Keane. "By adopting a person-centered way of thinking, caregivers make it possible to sustain their essential role."

Murphy added, "We will focus on practical steps to reduce stress and strengthen relationships while caring for a loved one. Our session is full of actionable tips that caregivers can immediately apply to their own life."

This meeting includes videos featuring advice from caregivers and experts, as well as activities to help reduce stress. While those participating are encouraged to share their own experiences, there also is time to ask questions.

These free monthly meetings provide a way for caregivers to share their experiences and to learn from one another. To register, call 773-474-7302. For more information about Smith Village, visit [SmithVillage.com](http://SmithVillage.com).



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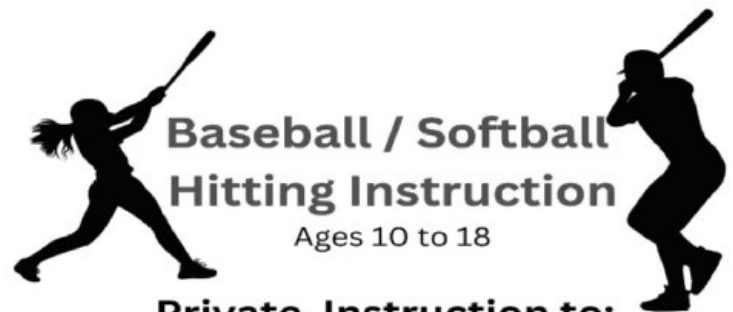
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**Contact: Coach Martin**

**773-217-6035**

**Email: [martinquinones907@gmail.com](mailto:martinquinones907@gmail.com)**

**Sessions meet at Bethanny Union Church  
in the Beverly community**



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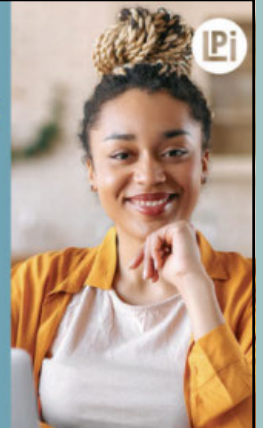
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