

THE HISTORIC BETHANY UNION CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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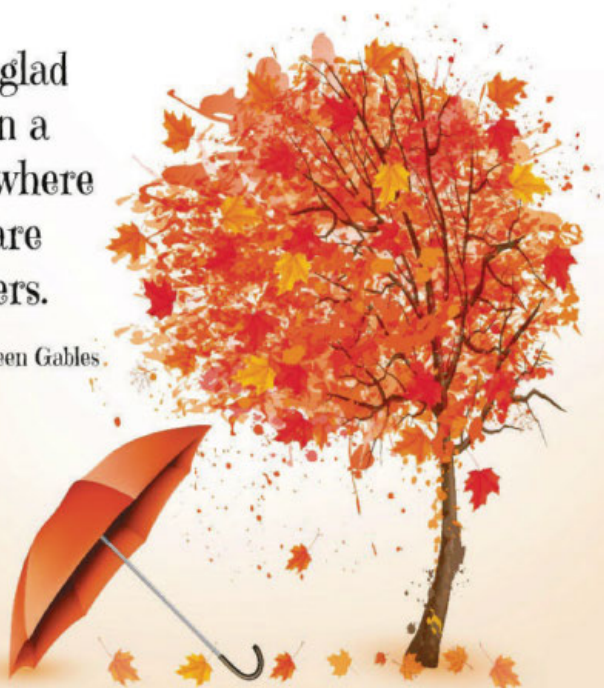
DO NOT DELAY

Address Correction Requested

The Unifier October 2025

I'm so glad
I live in a
world where
there are
Octobers.

Anne of Green Gables



**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**

Hello, Dear Ones of Bethany Union!

Fall greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ! I love the Fall. Always have. It is my favorite season (although every season we are alive is my favorite too). I love the change of the days and the crispness in the air. Love the change in color on the trees. I love everything about it. God, in His marvelous wisdom, gave us the changing of the seasons. I believe it reminds us of the number one truth of reality which is that everything changes but God.

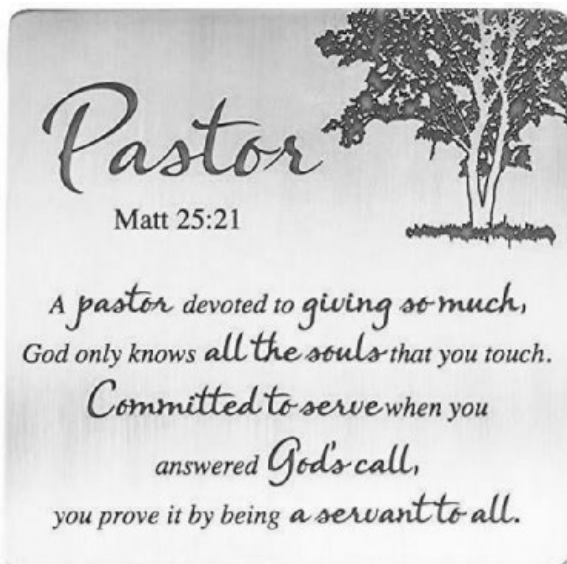


As we slide into Fall, I pray you are well and encouraged in the Lord. I also pray you will be with us in Sunday morning worship. Bethany Union Church just cannot be out done when it comes to warmth, kindness, fellowship, music, and the hearing of the Word of God. Your presence adds to this wonderful mix and helps make the worship even more special as our offering to God. So, if you have fallen out of the habit of coming on a weekly basis let me pray with you that the Holy Ghost will fill you with every good intention and mobilize those intentions to get you here every Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.

We will continue exploring and rightly dividing the Sermon on the Mount each Sunday of Fall. These are inspirational, encouraging, and challenging words for our lives and our living. There has not been a more masterful piece of prose written in the human language. Come and learn, relearn, and grow in the knowledge of what is eternal and right and true. Something we all need more of in these exasperating and chaotic times.

We will see you in Church as we be the Church of Christ Jesus our Lord!

+Pastor Larry Cameron



IN HONOR OF PASTOR LARRY'S 12TH ANNIVERSARY AND PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH, CONSIDER: **WE DON'T CHANGE THE MESSAGE; THE MESSAGE CHANGES US.** You may not like all your pastor's sermons or newsletter columns. But instead of complaining, ponder that something may rub you the wrong way because God is trying to change you. Keep an open mind and heart.

OUR OCTOBER CALENDAR

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 12:00P-2:00P BLESSING OF PETS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 10:30A – World Communion Sunday

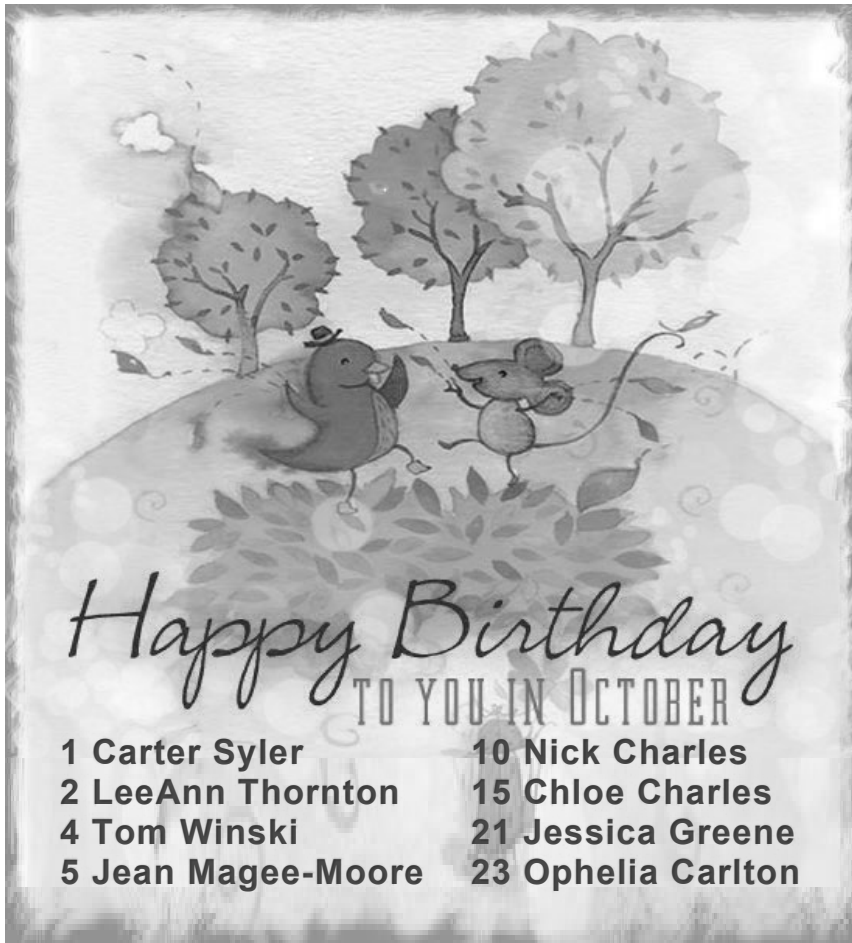


CONGREGATIONAL MEETING during Fellowship. Members are encouraged to participate in the business of Bethany Union Church as we care for and grow our campus and ministry.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 10:30A - Pastor Appreciation Day

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 10:30A -

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 10:30A.



1 Pastor Larry &

Bethany Union Church

26 Ellen & Curt Villanova

The Historic Bethany Union Church and The All Saints Mission of

Chicago Invite You to Our

BLESSING OF PETS

October 4, 2025



1750 W 103rd St.
Chicago, IL 60643
12pm - 2pm

Please join us for our
1st Annual Pet
Blessing. Pastor
Larry and
Br. Benedict will
bless each pet.

If you don't have the
pet with you, bring a
picture. If you don't
have any pets, a
stuffed animal is
fine.

This ceremony is
happening all over
the country in
memory of St.
Francis of Assisi, who
is the patron saint of
pets.

Looking forward to
meeting your pets
(and their owners)!

FROM YOUR COUNCIL CHAIR

Autumn Greetings,

October is a month of transition—cooler mornings, colorful leaves, and the quiet reminder that change is part of God's beautiful design. As we move deeper into fall, I'm reminded of how our church, too, is always growing and changing—not in who we are at our core, but in how we respond to the needs of our community and God's call.



This season often brings a sense of reflection. We look back on what we've done together this year—worshiping, serving, praying, and growing—and we begin to look ahead to what's next. It's a natural time to pause and give thanks for the many ways God is at work among us.

October is also a time when we begin to talk about **stewardship**—not just as a financial obligation, but as a spiritual practice. Stewardship is about honoring what God has entrusted to us: our time, our talents, our resources, and our love. It's about asking, "How can I respond to God's generosity with my own?"

This year, as we reflect on our ministry together, I invite each of us to prayerfully consider how we can support and strengthen the mission of our church. Whether it's through a pledge, volunteering, or simply showing up in the sanctuary on Sunday or watching online, we each have something vital to offer.

Thank you for the countless ways you contribute to our church family. Your faith, kindness, and commitment are what make our community so vibrant and strong.

May this season fill you with peace, purpose, and gratitude.

Cheryl A. Diddia-Bernstein

Council Chair

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2026

We will begin our 2026 Stewardship Campaign during the first week of October. We must find a way to increase our pledged, non-pledged, basket, and building use income. Otherwise, we will deplete our Vanguard account beyond recovery. There is no reasonable way to reduce expenses and continue our ministry, service to the community, and maintain our properties. A letter with a giving card will be mailed to members, friends, and those who use our property. Pray that our efforts will be successful, and we can continue our ministry of love and compassion.

SCOUT TROOP 607 UPDATE

Troop 607 has been terribly busy planning their meetings and activities for the coming year. They hit the ground running, naming Olivia Patch Stevenson, Scoutmaster. The Troop has been fortunate to have strong and dedicated Scoutmasters, most recently Earl Syler, Michael Rudd, and Dr. Ed Hollinger, and Scoutmaster Stevenson has been right there with them, ensuring that Troop 607 won't miss a step in the transition. Be watching this area for Troop events.

HOUSE NOTES

Bethany Union Church was in a season of necessary repair and beautification, and thanks to the generous members, former members, friends, and volunteers, the work has been completed successfully. The work in each case was with vendors with whom Chuck Diddia had established a dynamite working relationship. Each welcomed the opportunity to work with Bethany Union Church.

We covered this before, but refinishing the two sets of doors from outside into the Sanctuary, was done to preserve and refresh the wood, for many more seasons of sun and weather beating on them. The cost: \$2,000 – donations \$1,500. The work was done on time by our neighborhood friend, **Chris Johnson**, who has done several jobs for Bethany Union Church, a member, and friends.

Our slate roof over the Sanctuary had several areas that were failing, potentially causing damage to the inside of the building. The cost: \$12,200 – donations \$11,750. Todco Roofing Company did the work out of New Lenox, who knows our building well.

Then there was our brick wall in the parking lot. It was disintegrating with age. **A&R Concrete Construction** came to our rescue. They rebuilt the entire wall in addition to doing work on the Bethany Union Church front entrance and planters. The cost \$4,500.

Our thanks to **Rev. Dr. Karen White and her TEECH Team**. They are instrumental in keeping our Church campus clean and orderly. Without a full-time custodian, our facility would be sorely lacking. The TEECH Clients are also taught the same respect for our building. They wash floors, dust pews, vacuum, service the washrooms, and ensure our hallways are welcoming. Outside, they perform daily maintenance to keep our property safe and beautiful.

And last but not least, the **Bethany Union Giants**, who volunteer to do the sometimes small, sometimes monumental, but always important things that keep Bethany Union Church beautiful, safe, and strong. They are priceless!



IMPACT MESSAGE FROM MARIO BUTLER-DEL RIO!

The Chicago Marathon is Sunday, October 12, 2025, 🏃👍😊! I am running for Team Ronald McDonald House Charities.

For anyone considering the impact their donation might have on @rmhc, here is something to consider...

\$100 provides one night for a family to stay close to their child, receive a warm meal, a place to relax and recharge so they may be doing their best when making medical decisions, and be by their child's side. Our team is on target to provide 20,000 of those nights with your generous support! Now that's impact!

Bethany Union's generous members and friends will be sending over \$300 to this charity in Mario's name.



We give thanks and praise!

For our **Pastor Larry**, as he celebrates his 12th Anniversary with Bethany Union Church, for a closer walk with God each day; for Bethany Union **Church Council and Leaders**, that they may have wisdom as they lead and serve the congregation; for the **Worship Services**, that they may be times where people surrender to the Lord; for the **Hospitality Team**, that they may be blessed as they help create a welcoming environment; for the **Stewardship Campaign 2026** and the team, that they steward the church's resources carefully; for our church buildings, that they would be places where people meet Jesus and grow in Him; for our ministry to those in crisis or grieving, that we may effectively and compassionately communicate the great love and peace found in Jesus;



for **Herbert Schmutzler, Sr.**, who passed away on September 5, 2025, at the age of 90. Herbert's early years were spent in an orphanage in East Germany. As a young man, he began pursuing his dream of immigrating to the United States in search of a better life. In 1957, through the sponsorship of Church World Service, he arrived in America, where members of Bethany Union Church in Chicago warmly welcomed him and helped him find work. Mr. Schmutzler never forgot Bethany Union, staying in touch through the Unifier and prayer.

For our members who are **sick, homebound, in pain or in need**, that they know the love and support of their Bethany Union Family; for our **Church Website**, that it would be helpful to both the new visitor and the church family member; for our **Online Ministry**, that we would be faithfully spreading the Gospel online and encouraging people in Christ; for our **Church Volunteers** that they would be strengthened in their walk with the Lord and blessed in their service; for our church to experience revival in Jesus Christ; for our **Fine Arts Scholarship Program**, that its outreach is successful.

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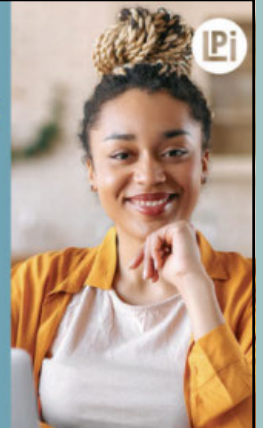
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