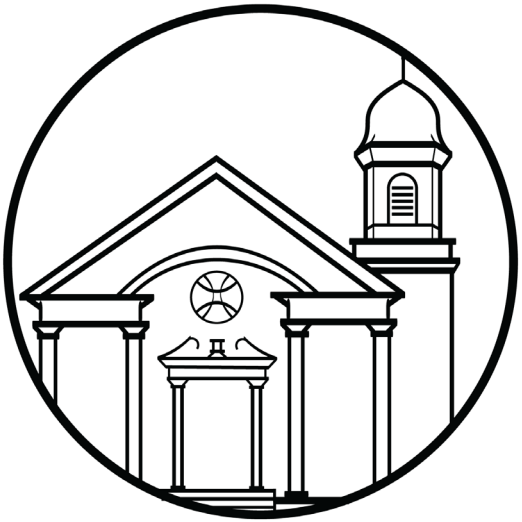
UNION COMBINED PARISH

BETHANY CHURCH PARK OPENING CELEBRATION



DEDICATION CEREMONY

September 19, 2026 at 12:30pm

Bethany Church

100 Cummins Highway, Roslindale, Massachusetts

Pastoral Team

Rev. Dr. Jay Williams, Rev. Nikki Renée, Rev. Kyle Walden,
Rev. Jane Lawrence, Pastor Wonjin Kim

A Blessing for the Bethany Church Park

For generations, this ground has been a place where people have gathered — where prayers have been offered, neighbors have met, and a community of faith has sought to love God and love its neighbors.

Today, we gather with gratitude for what has been, with joy for what is becoming, and with hope for all that is still to come.

We dedicate this park not simply as property belonging to a church, but as a place offered for the life of the community: a place to gather and rest, to play and make music, to meet neighbors and become neighbors.

And so, together, we bless this ground.

For children who will run and play here, for elders who will sit and rest here, and for every generation that will find a place among us:

May this be a place of blessing.

For neighbors we have known for years and neighbors whose names we have not yet learned; for old friendships renewed and new friendships waiting to begin:

May this be a place of blessing.

For music that will fill this air, for laughter shared and stories told, for celebrations, conversations, meals, and ordinary afternoons:

May this be a place of blessing.

For Bethany Church, for Saint Stephen's Church, and for all who have carried these communities through seasons of disruption and change; for the labor, generosity, imagination, and hope that have made this day possible:

May this be a place of blessing.

And for all that we cannot yet imagine–for encounters not yet had, songs not yet sung, and possibilities not yet dreamed:

May this be a place of blessing.

Holy God, you have always met your people in particular places: in gardens and wilderness, beside wells and beneath trees, around tables and along roads. Bless this ground and all who enter it. May there be room here for joy and for rest, for beauty and for play, for community and for solitude. May those who enter as strangers leave knowing themselves to be neighbors. May those who come weary find rest. May those who come searching encounter welcome.

With gratitude for all who brought us to this day and hope for all who will gather here in the days to come:

May this be a place of blessing. Amen.



Gratitude

Our sincerest thanks to the people of the City of Boston for funding the Bethany Church Public Park through the generosity of the Community Preservation Act.

Special appreciation to
Mayor Michelle Wu, Boston City Council,
Councilor Enrique J. Pepén,
the Community Preservation Committee,
the Community Preservation office and its director, Thadine Brown.

About the Bethany Park

This is your Park! For more information and to make reservations, please visit bethanypark.org.

Upcoming Events

Harvest Worship Service
Sunday November 22, 2026 at 10am

Join us back here at Bethany Church for our annual Harvest Festival Worship Service! We will give thanks for the bounty and beauty of the earth during the Thanksgiving season.

About Us

Bethany Church is a site of the Union Combined Parish.
In May 2026, the former Bethany First United Methodist Church merged with the Union Combined Parish, a multisite United Methodist congregation.
For more, scan QR code or visit unionboston.org.