



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

September 2026

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Reverend Victor's Visit, September 20th Bill Bohlman, Temple President

On Sunday, September 20, Reverend Victor Ogundipe Jr will join us for the Fall Ohigan service. Reverend Victor received Kyoshi ordination in January and is currently enrolled at the Institute of Buddhist Studies in the Masters of Divinity program.

Reverend Victor will arrive on Saturday to work with Reverend Patti in setting up the altar for Sunday service. On Sunday, Reverend Victor will officiate the Ohigan service. These activities are part of Reverend Victor's Kaikyoshi training under Rev. Patti's direction. The training is an essential part of Reverend Victor qualifying as a resident minister.

Reverend Victor has previously expressed an interest in possibly becoming the next resident minister for BTC. With the small number of Higashi trained minister in North America, Reverend Victor has many options. It is imperative that we show him that we have an engaged sangha that will support him with our presence. Since 2020, and the covid shutdown, attendance at Sunday service has never recovered. Reverend Fred Brenion and a core group of volunteers have made sure that service takes place each week, however, attendance is sparse.

Reverend Victor's visit is an opportunity to show that BTC is a place where people want to hear the Dharma and support the minister. Please make an effort to attend the Fall Ohigan service and show Reverend Victor that BTC is where he can share the Dharma with a welcoming sangha.

Because you give me Buddha's own words each week, thank you!

Rev. Fred Brenion

Every week we do a reading from the *Dhammapada*, the collection of Buddha's sayings. Ours is the only temple that I know that does this. I am so glad that we do. It is a tremendous spiritual gift you give to everyone with this.

I confess I've been well-aware of the *Dhammapada*. I've got several translations, all interesting, thoughtful. I've read them, and when I want something short I'll pick them up. Each week we take a chapter and we read it together responsively, making a world of difference. Each week one of our members picks a chapter, often at random. That person starts with the first verse, and we respond back with the second verse, and so it goes. There is something about this that works. It really feels like the original Sangha that listened and repeated over and over the words of the Buddha. It became a living tradition.

As I listen and recite, I pay attention to what is being said, and every week there is something that speaks to me. I always find something in the words every week that I can use in my Dharma talk. If I can anchor my thoughts into Buddha's then maybe I might have something worthwhile to say in my messages.

So I'd like to encourage you all to read the *Dhammapada* whenever you can. The words of the Buddha are so simple and spoken with pure candor. They stay with you. When I hear the news of the day and get all stirred up I remember Buddha saying, "Hatred is not overcome by hostility...hatred is stilled through non-hostility." Love, not hate is our path. This calms me. It gives me direction. I can't ask anything more from the Dharma.

The Buddha himself said, "Humbly speak the sweet words of the Dharma. Follow the truth of the Way. Make it your own, live it. It will always sustain you." (From XXIV. The Seeker"). Thank you, BTC, for giving me such sweet words every week.

BON ODORI, 2026 at BTC!



**So many people had so much fun doing the Bon Odori at our Obon festival.
Keep dancing in the Bon Odori spirit every day!**

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Scheduled Activities – subject to change

Weekly services – Sundays 11 am - in-person, Facebook Live

Qigong (Chinese exercise) – Tuesdays, 10:30 am

Sunday Meditation – 9 am, 9/13 & 9/27

Thursday Meditation – 7:15 pm, starting 9/10

Asoka Society (social gathering) Saturday, 9/19 1 pm

The above activities are open to the public and free (donations appreciated).

If you are interested in the activities below, please leave your contact information and the group will set up an appointment for you to visit with them.

Iaido (martial art) – Mondays, 7 pm

Kokyo Taiko (drums) – Friday evenings, Sunday afternoons

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

September 2026 Calendar

Events may be canceled or moved:

Check www.facebook.com/budtempchi for the most up-to-date changes.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Qigong 10:30 am	2	3	4	5
6 11 am Monthly Memorial	7 laido 7 pm	8 Qigong 10:30 am	9	10 Meditation 7:15 pm	11	12
13 9 am Meditation 11 am Regular service	14 laido* 7 pm	15 Qigong 10:30 am	16	17 Meditation 7:15 pm	18	19 1 pm Asoka
20 11 am O-Higan service Rev. Victor's Visit	21 laido* 7 pm	22 Qigong 10:30 am	23	24 Meditation 7:15 pm	25	26
27 9 am Meditation 11 am Regular Service	28 laido 7 pm	29 Qigong 10:30 am	30			