

Chimes



The Newsletter of Gary Church
and Winfield Community Church
April/May 2021



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Sunday Worship

In person at 9 a.m.
(limited to 50, registration required)

Livestream at 9 a.m.

Recording online later in the morning

Church Office Hours

Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
by appointment, 630–668–3100



Ongoing Opportunities

Contact the Church Office for additional information. You are always welcome.

Online Fellowship with Gary Walkers/Talkers

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. on Zoom

Women's Bible Study

First and third Wednesdays, 3 p.m. on Zoom

Men's Bible Study

Tuesdays, 7 p.m. on Zoom

United Methodist Women Joy Circle

Third Tuesdays, 7 p.m. on Zoom

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers and Beyond)

First and third Tuesdays, 8 p.m. on Zoom and varying formats

Faith Club: A Women's Interfaith Group

Second Tuesdays, 7 p.m. on Zoom

Gary Church Podcast (sermon, scripture)

Updated weekly, garychurch.org

Pastor Brian Podcast (prayers, scripture)

Updated weekly, garychurch.org

Submissions for the June *Chimes* newsletter are due by May 15. Announcements for the Sunday bulletin and weekly enews are due each Tuesday at noon. Send all submissions to office@garychurch.org.

Gary and Winfield Churches use photos and videos of adults taken at events, classes, and worship for use in our printed and online publications and in social media unless an individual directs the church not to do so by completing a form available in the Church Office. We use photos or videos of minors only when their parents or guardians have given permission by signing the Gary Kids or Gary Youth registration forms, available on our website.

Resurrection Hope

by Rev. Dr. Chris Pierson

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.
Proverbs 13:12 NRSV

Have you ever truly considered Jesus' disciples and what they must have felt following the crucifixion of their leader? Jesus was the one in whom they had placed their hopes and the desires of their hearts. Three gospels record that on the day Jesus was crucified the sky turned dark. From noon on, darkness covered the whole land.

Surely the disciples must have felt heartsick. Perhaps their heartsickness was felt more deeply because, regardless of their protestations of fidelity to him, they had denied and abandoned him.

Yet, we are told in the gospels, Jesus knew the hearts of all people. He knew beforehand that he would be betrayed. He knew that Peter, the Rock, would deny him not once but thrice before sunrise. They must have been heartsick. Perhaps these heartsick disciples would go back to their old ways of life before they met Jesus with hearts heavy with guilt—hearts sick unto death.

But then as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb and in a portent as great as the darkening of the land, the earth quaked, and an angel of the Lord calmed their fears and proclaimed the Easter message, "He has been raised, as he said." They run to tell the disciples, as they had been commanded, when

the risen Christ meets them on the way (Matthew 28). So, too, does the risen Christ meet the other disciples where they are. In the midst of their doubts and fears, with their feelings of guilt, grief, and despair, Jesus meets them where they are.

Christ was crucified on a tree but becomes a tree of life. In him our desires are fulfilled. "If I be lifted up from the earth. I will draw all people unto me," Jesus said.

**Jesus
knew the
hearts of
all people.**

The Good News of Easter is that Christ still meets people where they are. It doesn't matter what we may have done in the past. It doesn't matter if we have been unfaithful. Christ extends mercy, love and forgiveness to all. Jesus wants to meet you right where you are. Jesus knows your heart and wants to offer new life to you. He wants to transform your sadness to joy, and your doubts and fears into faith.

Our experience may not be like that of Jesus' first disciples, but like them we know what it means to have our hopes deferred and our dreams dashed. We, no less than the first disciples, can experience Resurrection Hope.

During the 50 days of Easter, we invite you to worship with us as we consider Resurrection Hope, the hope of a people forgiven, loved, and freed to experience new life in Christ.



Adult Christian Education and Discipleship



Sacred, A two-part series on Native American spirituality and community

Mondays, April 19 & 26, at 7 p.m. on Zoom

In celebration of Native American Ministries, this two-part series will feature several speakers who will share knowledge about Native American spirituality, culture, and the Native community in Chicago today. See page 15 for details.

Men's Bible Study | The Word of the Lord: Seeing Jesus in the Prophets

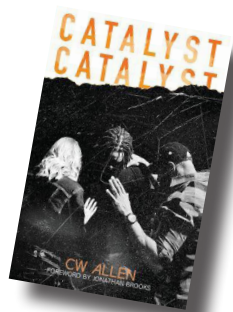
Tuesday nights, April 6 - June 8, 7 p.m. on Zoom

Join the Men's Bible study for a 10-week excursion into the Old Testament and see Jesus in the prophets. Exploring the lives of Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, Isaiah, and others, author Nancy Guthrie reveals how God's earthly messengers - whether chastising or comforting - always point forward to Israel's final redemption and ultimate hope. Contact Clay Watkins through the Church Office for more information.

Anti-Racist Book Club: *Catalyst* by CW Allen

Wednesday, April 28, 7 p.m. on Zoom
led by CW Allen

Imagine God interjecting a great catalyst into our lives that makes us the people God created us to be. God doesn't allow us to be acquainted with true purpose apart from uncomfortable seasoning, and this is exactly what has happened in CW's life.



"CW is a man after God's heart.

In *Catalyst*, CW is real about his pain and the challenges of faith. He is the type of man, leader, and artist that awakens a renewed faith in Christ. *Catalyst* is his fluid journey, from growing up with his mom, who took him with her to buy drugs, to his awaking from just knowing about God, to truly knowing God."

- Pastor Phil Jackson, Founder of The Fire House Community Arts Center, Pastor of The House Covenant Church

To join the conversation with author CW Allen, please purchase the book through the Church Office and register for the Anti-Racist Book Club at garychurch.org.

"Just Mercy" BridgeBuilders experiential learning opportunity in Chicago

Saturday, May 1, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., with optional guest speaker, movie, and discussion
6 p.m.-9 p.m.

BridgeBuilders helps to connect people from different backgrounds to promote a shared understanding of the challenges facing inner-city communities. This special day trip will examine the relationships between communities of color and police, the act of riots, and the Christian response. Participants will experience Woodlawn, enjoy lunch and dinner from local restaurants, and meet guest speakers. BridgeBuilders invites guest to challenge their assumptions, enter into difficult conversations, and wrestle with how Biblical truths can inform their responses to the painful realities of poverty, racism and more.

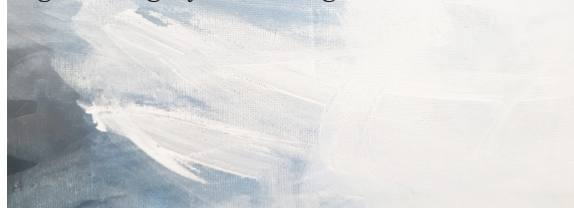
Spots are limited; \$75 per person. Contact Pastor Carey if you'd like to participate. Learn more about BridgeBuilders at sunshinegospel.org/bridgebuilders.

Looking for more anti-racist resources?
Join the Resources for Racial Justice Gary Church Facebook Group.

From Darkness into Light

Mondays, May 3, 10, & 17, 7 p.m. on Zoom

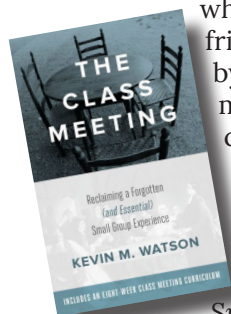
Join Rev. Dr. Richard Wang as we rediscover our creative side travelling from darkness into light through art and music. No experience required to join this three-week offering, as we learn how to open up our mind in creating and experiencing the beauty of sight and sounds through the lens of Genesis 1: 1-5. Register at garychurch.org.



Class Meeting, a small group ministry

*Once a week, starting in June**

Are you looking to deepen your faith and grow in Christian community? The Class Meeting is an opportunity to be part of a group that knows you personally and creates a place where folks pray, laugh, celebrate, forge friendships, and become transformed by Christ together. Join this transformative small group and be part of a community helping each other with their relationship with God and with living out their faith.



Save the date for our first informational meeting on

Sunday, June 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the Gary Church courtyard to discuss the purpose and history of The Class Meeting and how we will meet going forward. We will begin by reading together *The Class Meeting: Reclaiming a Forgotten (and Essential) Small Group Experience* by Dr. Kevin M. Watson. Contact Pastor Brian at bjones@garychurch.org to learn more.

*Specific meeting dates and time will be determined by the participants' availability.

Worship Talk

*Sundays, 11 a.m. on Zoom
facilitated by Rev. JoAnne Chase*

We love the connection created by this group and welcome others to be part of the conversation. Grab your cup of coffee, click on the Worship Talk link on the website, and join the discussion of the morning service.

To join by phone:

Dial +1 312 626 6799
Meeting ID: 878 0812 5188
Passcode: GaryUMC



FAITH CLUB

A Women's Interfaith Discussion Group

The Faith Club brings women of Gary Church together with other women of Christian, Jewish, and Islamic faith to develop community and learn from and about one another. We welcome all women to be part of the enriching discussions planned this spring.

Passover and Ramadan

Tuesday, April 13, 7 p.m. on Zoom

The week of March 27, Jews observed Passover, the holiday celebrating the Israelites' liberation from slavery in Egypt. Ramadan, a holy month of fasting, introspection, and prayer for Muslims, begins on April 12. Our Jewish and Muslim friends will share the importance of these major holidays in their faiths.

Book Discussion of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*

Tuesday, May 11, 7 p.m. on Zoom

This novel by Heather Morris is based on a true-life story of Lale Sokolov, a Jewish man imprisoned at Auschwitz and tasked with inking numbers into the arms of frightened prisoners. The book is described as a "testament to the human spirit and the power of love to bloom in even the darkest places."

If you would like to be part of these upcoming Faith Club conversations for April or May, contact Kim Austin through the Church Office.



Hey Parents! We are excited to cautiously plan some in-person activities and summer camps in addition to our virtual offerings.

Vacation Bible School and BLAST Camp are coming back (yay!)

Monday, August 2–Thursday, August 5
so that volunteers have time to get vaccinated.

VBS campers in grades 1–4 will experience *TREASURED, Discovering You're Priceless to God* and rotate through four stations at Memorial Park, while **four-year-old preschool and kindergarten** participants will enjoy age-appropriate games, stories, and activities in Gary's Children's Ministry spaces and courtyard.



BLAST Camp for grades 5–8 will experience *Mission Olympics* which will take place at Winfield Community Church.



BLAST will meet at Winfield Church, 9 a.m.—12 p.m., VBS will run from 9:30–11:30 a.m. to meet the needs of families with campers in both programs.



Also this summer, we look forward to returning to Pine Lake for another year of **Family Camp**, July 16–18. This fun weekend away will help families grow closer to God and one another through worship and play. While this spring and summer will again look different from years past, we hope these ministries will allow your family to experience the love of God through Christ Jesus and grow in faith.



Grab your calendars, and take a look at all the summer happenings on page 9.

what's happening in April and May

Gary Kids Zoom Party | Rise Up

Sundays, April 11 and 25, 10 a.m. on Zoom

It's time to summit through the story of Jesus—who rose from death and gave us everything we need for our journey. This month, we're learning about how the miracle of Jesus' resurrection strengthens us and changes our relationships in the best way. All children ages preschool 3's–grade 5 are invited to join Pastor Carey online for this fun time of learning and growing in faith.

Zoom Meeting ID: 895 9462 0620
Passcode: Gary Kids

Rise Up Craft Kit

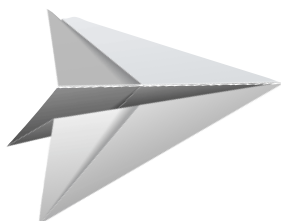
For preschool and kindergarten kids, we will be delivering a fun craft kit right to your doorstep. This month, kids will be learning that we are stronger with Jesus. Rise Up Craft Kits will include a fun eye spy game where we will find the strength Jesus gives us.



4th & 5th Grade Fellowship | Planes & Games

Friday, April 23, at 7 p.m. at Gary Church

Have you ever launched a paper airplane off Gary's balcony? Probably not. But have you ever wanted to? 4th & 5th Graders are invited to a night of paper airplane fun. RSVP to Pastor Carey at cbebar@garychurch.org



Gary Kids Zoom Party | Legacy

Sundays, May 9 & 23, 10 a.m. on Zoom

There is a legacy waiting, for every kid everywhere. The legacy has been handed down like a valuable family heirloom and this month your kids will learn what that legacy is. Be sure to join Pastor Carey for a virtual party with actual fun.

4th & 5th Grade Fellowship | End-of-the-Year Party



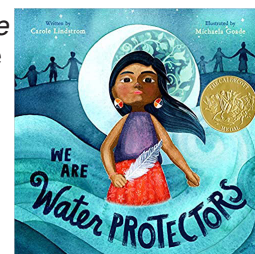
*Friday, May 21, at 6:30 p.m.
at Gary Church*

Let's celebrate with the 4th & 5th Grade Fellowship End-of-the-Year Party with a special invitation to 3rd graders.

resource of the month

A recommendation from our Gary Kids Librarian, Sarah Kovac

This month, we recommend *We Are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom. It tells the story of an Ojibwe girl who is fighting against the Dakota Access Pipeline. It is a fitting book because in April we celebrate both Earth Day and Native American ministries. Use this book to talk to your children about the sacred gift of water and our responsibility to be good stewards of the land.



Check out these pics of our Gary Kids Easter Egg Hunt



What a thrill to fill baskets with eggs. To follow health guidelines, Gary Church volunteers spaced eggs at least six feet apart in Memorial Park.



Simply Free to Be: An Exploration of Mindfulness for Gary Kids & Youth

Mondays, June 14, 21, & 28 at 1 p.m., Warrenville Grove Forest Preserve

Have you heard about mindfulness? What is it? How can it help you? Can it be fun? Join Mary Megan Bagnall in a playful outdoor exploration of mindfulness, offering space where kids and teens are simply free to be. Explore how tuning into the present moment can connect us to our current experience, to ourselves, to each other, and to God.

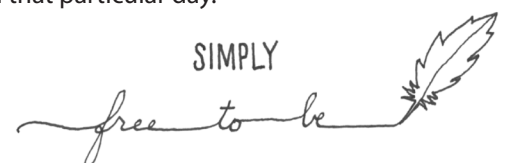
Mary Megan is trained in teaching mindfulness to youth, and she teaches mindfulness as a way to notice what's happening in our experience right now, which is where God is always available to each of us uniquely. Mindfulness is about being fully immersed in the experience God is putting before us, trusting our inner wisdom, and noticing God's presence in it all.

This class is being offered as a three-week series. Each class will include an introduction, practice, discussion, and mindful games and will be tailored to meet the needs of the participants on that particular day.

Class 1: Intro to Mindfulness: Mindful Listening & Seeing

Class 2: Mindful Breathing & Body Awareness

Class 3: Thoughts & Mindful Movement



dreaming of summer

gary kids



June

- June 6 | Move-Up Sunday
 - Kids will be recognized in Worship as they move up a grade.
- June 13 | Gary Kids *Take the Lead* Zoom Party
 - Kids will learn to take the lead from legendary leaders of the Bible like Deborah, Gideon, Samson, and Ruth and see how they can become great leaders too.
- June 18 | Glow Party
 - We're kicking off our summer "Glow Challenge" with a fun night of glow-in-the-dark games and activities.
- June 27 | Sundays in the Park
 - Join Pastor Carey at Northside Park for group devotion and activity, then spend time reconnecting with Gary families at this casual summer Sunday School.

July

- July 11 | Gary Kids *Unusual* Zoom Party
 - Kids will use their imaginations to get to know an unchangeable God who does unexpected things.
- July 16–18 | Family Camp
 - Families will head to Pine Lake Camp in Westfield, Wisconsin to draw close to God and one another.
- July 25 | Sundays in the Park
 - Join Pastor Carey at Northside Park for group devotion and activity, then spend time reconnecting with Gary families at this casual summer Sunday School.

August

- August 2–5 | *Treasured Vacation* Bible School
 - Kids will discover that they are priceless to God. Registration opens to Gary families May 15.
- August 8 | Gary Kids *Promise* Zoom Party
 - Kids will learn about famous figures from Genesis in this series and be reminded of God's faithfulness through the promises that were made.
- August 29 | Sundays in the Park
 - Join Pastor Carey at Northside Park for group devotion and activity, then spend time reconnecting with Gary families at this casual summer Sunday School.

gary youth

Save the dates:

Middle School Stay Camp

Tuesday, June 15 – Thursday, June 17

High School Stay Mission Trip

Monday, July 19 – Thursday, July 22

BLAST Camp

Monday, August 2 – Thursday, August 5



April Youth Activities



Middle School:

*Wednesdays, 7–8:15 p.m.**

April 14:

Ice Cream Outing
at Gary Church

April 21:

Game Night
at Gary Church

April 28:

What does God require of us?
at Gary Church

High School:

*Sundays, 6–7:15 p.m.**

April 11:

SNAP Challenge
at Mariano's

April 18:

Ice Cream Outing
at Gary Church

April 25:

What does God require of us?
at Gary Church

March was Women's History Month and we got to know women that we did not know and amazing women of the Bible. The first woman in history we met was Chien-Shiung Wu. You may recognize her from the new Forever stamps from the U.S. Postal Service. During the Manhattan Project, Wu helped develop the process of separating uranium metal into U-235 and U-238 isotopes by gaseous diffusion. We didn't quite understand what that meant, but we got the gist that she was a very smart nuclear physicist. She was not only a Chinese immigrant; she became a physicist in a time when women were discouraged and often stopped from becoming educated.



One of the female Bible characters we got to know was Jochebed (Moses' mother), and the midwives from Exodus. As you can see from the photo, we used random items from Pastor Dan's house as props to act out the story. Although the Egyptian king commanded that all male infants be killed at birth, these women acted in civil disobedience. They lied and disobeyed the king's decree in order to save lives. Rules exist for good reasons, but sometimes, rules can hurt people or leave people out. We talked about what principles help us decide when we need to break the rules. God calls us to stand against unjust rules.



Youth Council

In March, our newly formed Youth Council met with a consultant from Youth Ministry Institute. Together, we identified Gary Youth's core values and started to develop a ministry strategy. While we will continue to refine and re-word our core values, here is what we have so far:

At Gary Youth, you will:

1. Have fun
2. Be valued
3. Explore the Christian faith
4. Experience family
5. Act through hands-on compassion
6. Keep growing
7. Reach out

Our consultant, Kirsten Knox, also taught us about the stages of student engagement. They are community, visitor, congregation, committed and core. We learned that each of our programs should have a goal of moving our youth from one stage to the next. Kirsten instructed us to be purposeful in everything that we do. We should invest our energy in the programs that are effective in helping our youth grow from one stage to the next. As a Youth Council, our next step will be to form a mission statement and strategically plan for the 2021-2022 program year.

What's next?

In April, in preparation for CROP Walk on Sunday, May 2, Gary Youth will be learning about hunger and what we, Christians, are called to do about it. Did you know that the maximum amount of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) a person can receive in Illinois per month is \$194? That is only \$6.46 a day to spend on food. We want to see what our youth would buy at our local Mariano's for a day's worth of food if they were only given this amount.



May Youth Activities

Middle School:

Wednesdays, 7–8:15 p.m.*

May 5:

Paper Flower Making

at Gary Church

May 12:

Drumming with Tony Asta

at Gary Church

May 19:

Game Night

at Gary Church

May 26:

What is Pentecost again?

at Gary Church

High School:

Sundays, 6–7:15 p.m.*

May 2:

Paper Flower Making

at Gary Church

May 9:

Mother's Day

No Meeting

May 16:

Drumming with Tony Asta

at Gary Church

May 23:

What is Pentecost again?

at Gary Church

May 30:

Memorial Day Weekend

No Meeting

*Please note that in-person events may need to be changed to meet COVID-19 restrictions.

Lenten 40-day photo challenge

We asked our participants, “What have you been learning through this Lenten practice? How has this practice helped you every day?”

Here is what a few of them said:

“This opportunity is giving me time each day to focus on a thought or idea, and I am finding it to be more impactful than I had anticipated. What do I long for? What do I consider ruined? Do I feel hopeful? Considering these kinds of questions has been an interesting and revealing exercise for me. This has also brought me joy. Searching for images has been a fun new adventure each day. I have also found that looking back at images from the past year and beyond has given me a chance to reflect and to be reminded of many happy times gone by. Looking at the videos each day has provided me with a feeling of sharing and togetherness, even as we are sadly so separated.”

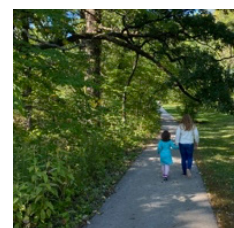
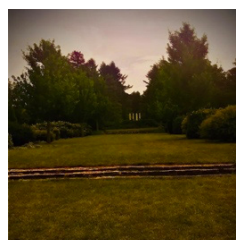
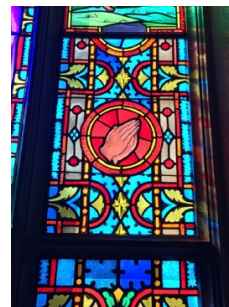
-Kara Calderwood

“I am enjoying thinking about the topic throughout the day and focusing. And then quieting myself for the posting has taught me there are many different images to the same words.”

-Aileen Termini

“I have learned and been reminded about all of the people and places that have impacted my life. I got to reflect on past memories that I have photos of.”

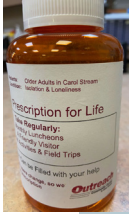
-Madison Westcomb



GARY CHURCH *makes a difference*

It has been over a year of struggle but we may finally be approaching the blessing of a return to some sense of normal with our mission activities.

April-May, Prescription for Life



Help fill the Prescription for Life for older adults living in south Carol Stream. Pick up a pill bottle at the display in the Commons and fill it with spare change (bills and checks are ok too!) before returning it to church by Sunday, April 25.

Isolation, poor access to social services, limited access to shopping and medical visits, lack of community and social connections are just a few things that plague seniors who receive assistance from Outreach Community Ministries Older Adult program. Gary Church and First Presbyterian Church have partnered with the Center to work with the program since 2006. Many of the seniors live on a low annual income with no one to reach out to in the event of an emergency. Your contributions help provide the following services to these seniors:

- Friendly Visitor Program – matching isolated residents with church volunteers who visit once or twice a month.
- Casework assistance – financial assistance, help with prescription plans, social security, Medicaid, and accessing state and county services.
- Social activities – monthly Lunch 'n Learn sessions, transportation to shopping and medical visits, field trips, picnics, movies and more.
- Christmas Party – About 150 seniors participated in the past. For many, this is their only celebration for Christmas.
- Mood and Memory Clinic – providing neuropsychological assessments.

To learn more about the Older Adult Program, contact Linda Hawkins, program director, at 630-260-7600 or Gary member **Barb Holmes** through the Church Office. You can also visit the Outreach website at outreachcommunityministries.org.

April 18, Native American Ministries Sunday

This Sunday will provide us with an opportunity to reflect on the gifts and contributions Native Americans have given to our society and support them in return. Our contributions go to support ministerial efforts for and with Native Americans, including seminary scholarships, native ministries, and Native American Urban Initiatives. See page 15 for the Adult Education opportunity, **Sacred**.



April 26-30, ESSE

Greetings ESSE Friends,

We are open again! Ecumenical Support Services for the Elderly is an adult day care for our seniors. Open 7 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, we provide a safe environment, catered lunch, snacks, activities, exercise and socialization.

ESSE's biggest fundraiser, the annual Pancake Breakfast, has been cancelled, so we are counting on your help with donations to Giving DuPage Days, April 26-30. Go to GivingDuPageDay.org to donate. The generosity of our ESSE friends won us the number one place in fundraising last year. Let's make this year great too.

Thanks again for your support. If you have any questions about ESSE or the giving days, please contact me through the Gary Church Office.

Debby Connor
ESSE representative

#GIVINGDuPageDAYS♥
April 26-30, 2021

Giving DuPage Days is a 5-day online fundraiser to support your favorite charity.

Please go to givingdupageday.org and click on **ESSE** as your preferred charity of choice.

Thank you for your help!

ESSE
Ecumenical Support Services
for the Elderly

CROP Hunger Walk 2021 – Let's Walk to Stop Hunger

May 2, 1 p.m.

Spring has arrived, and the 2021 CROP Walk to End Hunger is fast approaching. Portions of our CROP funds support Wheaton and Glen Ellyn food pantries who provide for families and children in local school districts. CROP also supports global food security issues.



We will start our walk outside at Gary Church, but you are welcome to take different routes or even walk in your own park or neighborhood. I will have a 3-mile walk mapped out for those interested. We will adhere to government and Gary Church Health Team guidelines. This is an opportunity for the Gary family to be together so we hope you will consider taking a walk together.

- Register to walk as part of the Gary UMC Team using the link: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/gary-umc>. Scroll to the bottom and click the "Join The Team" link.
- Donate by check: Make your check out to CWS CROP and send to the Church Office.
- Donate online: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/gary-umc>

You can donate in honor of the Gary UMC team or a specific walker. Send the link to family and friends anywhere in the U.S. who want to help support the CROP walk. Any amount is appreciated—small amounts add up. Donations are welcome through the end of May.

Let's walk to help stop hunger locally and globally. More details about the walk will be provided in the Gary Church e-news. Contact **Judy Selby** through the Gary Church Office with any questions.

May 30, Peace with Justice Sunday

Designated on the third Sunday after Pentecost, our offerings support local and global initiatives for Peace and Justice. Efforts include searching for multilateral solutions to common problems; addressing root causes of violence; prevention of gun violence; peace building in areas of war, violence, or terrorism; and the promotion of international disarmament.

May 30, United Voices for Children

UVC supports a coalition of churches and non-profits that advocate, act for and support legislation on behalf of children, youth, and families.



On Easter, Gary Church collected hundreds of items for the People's Resource Center, Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans and DuPage PADs.

The coming months promise, no matter what, to be active times for Missions and Ministry.

For questions about the many missions Gary Church supports, contact Mission Committee Chair **Joe Ruth** through the Church Office.



GARY CHURCH *makes a difference*

In February, our “Educate a Girl” team called upon the Gary congregation to support this vital mission project, which empowers girls across the world and simultaneously uplifts their impoverished communities. In response, you took full ownership of the project and encouraged others to participate, too.

We are pleased to share that through your efforts, you came together to raise about \$10,000 to fund five, full-year scholarships for female students in Africa and Asia.

You have successfully achieved our original education project goals plus a second semester of college education:

- One-year scholarships for two young Kenyan girls in primary school
- One-year scholarships for two Cambodian teenage girls in middle and secondary schools
- A *full-year* scholarship for a female student at Africa University

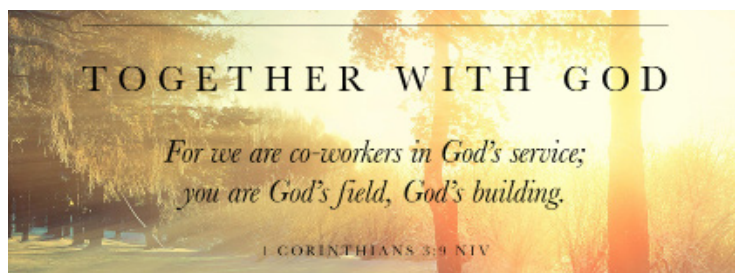
Thank you for giving your time, talents, and gifts to meet the learning needs of girls.

We would like to thank the many youth and adults who participated in the “Educate a Girl” Read-A-Thon, raising funds thru Bingo Card activities and sponsorships. The three Storybook Nights were attended by caring people of all ages, who listened attentively to readings of books and poems relevant to the challenges and benefits of ensuring girls start and stay in school. We are grateful to our excellent Storybook Night readers: Natalie Worniak, Annabelle Tobias, Katie Selby, Eleanor Wang, Mackenzie Webb, Anna Mathis, and Pastor Brian.

A special shout-out also goes to the Gary United Methodist Women Circles that collaborated together to make this mission project successful with their generous support: Craft, JOY, Knitting, and Mary Martha. Thank you, ladies, for “doing all the good you can, by all the means you can...,” as John Wesley encouraged us all to do.

Please watch for our project update in the next edition of the *Chimes*, where we will share more details about the “Educate a Girl” scholarships, the students you have worked so very hard to educate, and our team’s planned use of extra funds raised.

Thank you, again, Gary Church—you are such a blessing!
Cathy Mousseau & Judy Selby
 “Educate a Girl” Co-Chairs



Sacred

A two-part series on Native American spirituality and community

Mondays, April 19 & 26, at 7 p.m. on Zoom

The General Conference of The United Methodist Church affirms the sacredness of American Indian people, their languages, cultures, and gifts to the church and the world, and calls upon the world, and the people of The United Methodist Church to receive the gifts of Native Americans, as people of God. This April we welcome the voices of Rev. Adrienne Stricker, Dr. John Derby, JuniKae Randall, Pam Silas and Jody Roy to learn about Native American spirituality, culture, and the Native community in Chicago today.

- April 19, 7–8:30 p.m., Rev. Adrienne Stricker (Port Gamble S'Klallam), will discuss her work on Native American Ministries with the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church, and will offer an introduction to some aspects of contemporary Native American culture and theology, including the practice of traditional Native American ceremonies and Christian worship. Dr. John Derby (Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate), former Branch Chief for Indian Fellowships & Contracts with the U.S. Department of Education, and JuniKae Randall (Circle of Nations, LLC, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, North Dakota), creator of PBS's "Indian Pride" series, will reflect on the importance of spirituality to Native people.
- April 26, 7 p.m., Pam Silas, Associate Director, Community Outreach and Engagement at the Center for Native American and Indigenous Research at Northwestern University, and Jody Roy (Ojibwe), Director St. Kateri Center of Chicago, will lead a session on the Native American Community in the Chicagoland area, discuss policies and practices that continue to oppress Native people, and share ways to stay connected and grow in knowledge and advocacy.

Register at garychurch.org.



United Methodist Church news

Northern Illinois Annual Conference date announced

The Annual Conference will use a virtual format July 16-17 with Interim Bishop John Hopkins presiding. "Jesus Makes a Way" is this year's theme.

General Conference postponed until 2022

The global gathering is now scheduled for August 29–September 6, 2022, in Minneapolis.

Gary & Winfield to recognize graduates

Please let us know who from the Gary/Winfield church family will graduate from high school, college, or vocational school this year. Contact the Church Office with their name, school of graduation, intended college/degree or other details by Monday, May 10. High school graduates will be recognized in worship later in the summer, and we will list all graduates in an upcoming issue of the *Chimes*.



Musical Opportunities at Gary Church

Sing along

Hymns at Twilight | "A New Creation"

Livestream

Tuesday, April 27, 7 p.m.

Spring is here, and we look with hope toward the end of the pandemic. Beyond this, we give thanks to God for renewal, restoration, and the promise of God's kingdom. Charles Wesley wrote, "Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be. Let us see they great salvation perfectly restored in thee." We invite you to share your favorite songs about renewal. Drop a note to office@garychurch.org, and set aside a peaceful hour to praise the Lord in song with Kevin Lange at the keyboard.

The Brahms Institute for Singers

Thursdays on Zoom, 7 p.m. (HS-Adult)

The Brahms Institute for Singers keeps our voices moving and our musical brains sharp. Please register at garychurch.org to receive a Zoom link each week.

Ring a bell (HS-Adult)

Please contact Sharon Schmidt through the church office if you are interested in ringing.

Record a song (All ages)

Please contact Jennifer Whiting to learn how to record and submit your music (jwhiting@garychurch.org).

Tune your fiddle (All ages: violin, viola, cello, double bass)

We invite string players to meet on the fourth Sunday of every month. Please contact Jennifer Whiting for more information (jwhiting@garychurch.org).

Mike Krueger retires as director of men's chorus

Thank you, Mike, for four years of inspiring leadership. Your musical direction has lifted the hearts of our people, helped us to walk more closely with the Lord, nurtured the fellowship of the chorus, and enhanced our worship services. You honored the cherished traditions of the Men's Chorus while leading them to new heights of musicianship. God bless you as you retire, Mike!



Gary Church's virtual Easter choir shared "Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise." If you missed it (or would like to see it again), please go to garychurch.org.



He Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed!



Singing outside with the carillon, many people especially enjoyed the hymn, "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today."

Cindi Copeland crafts hundreds of cards

Since 2015, Cindi Copeland has made and mailed more than 1,700 cards. Think about that for a moment. That's more than 1,700 envelopes. That's more than 1,700 stamps. That's more than 1,700 handcrafted cards made with care. She sends them to friends and family and members of the church.

During the pandemic, Cindi has expanded her card giving to just about anyone who wants one.

"When the church released the list of graduates last summer, I sent cards to all of them. I also sent cards to everyone in the choir in May, just to let them know I was thinking of them. Most of the cards are for birthdays, but I also send cards for anniversaries, new babies, sympathy, get well, and just because I'm thinking of you."

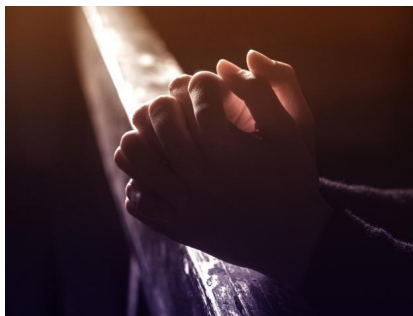
Cindi says she's happy to add your special day to her list. You can contact her through the Church Office. And, if Cindi has inspired you to send cards, please check out who is celebrating major April/May birthdays and anniversaries, listed on page 21.



**Did you know?
Gary Church has
a cards ministry.
If you would like
to be part of this
mission, please
contact the Church
Office.**



If you know of someone or a group of people who are living their faith in a wonderful way, please contact Janet Mathis, jmathis@garychurch.org.



Celebrate the National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 6 marks the National Day of Prayer, and Gary Church can help you start or continue the practice of praying. Consider the following:

The Pastor Brian podcast uses scripture to help guide you in prayer. You can find the Pastor Brian podcast on garychurch.org or wherever you get your podcasts.

In the next edition of the *Chimes*, our "Living Your Faith" feature will highlight a group of people who read the prayer requests each week and pray for people in our community and around the globe. If you have a prayer request or if you would like to receive the prayer requests each week, please contact the Church Office.



Need work done? Gary Youth Stay Mission could help

Do you have a basement or garage that needs to be cleaned out? Rooms that need to be painted? A backyard that needs some grooming?

During the Summer of 2021, our high school youth will still not be able to go away for our mission trip. For this reason, we would like to take this opportunity to see to needs close to home. We are looking for work that we can accomplish between Monday, July 19 through Thursday, July 22.

We at Gary Church believe that God has blessed everyone to be a blessing to others. Therefore, in exchange for this work, we want to ask something of the people we serve as well. What experience can you share with our youth? Can you show some of your family pictures and share something about your life? Can you share a hobby you love with our youth? Can you teach something to our youth? Provide an experience of some kind?

Please contact Pastor Dan at dlee@garychurch.org or 847-208-8884 to discuss your project.

Office help wanted

On occasion, the Church Office needs additional help with various projects and clerical tasks like preparing mailings, scanning documents, etc. If you are interested in volunteering your time and being contacted on an as-needed basis, please contact the Church Office.



Gary Preschool is hiring

We are looking to hire two to three people for our Parents' Morning Out program for two-year-olds. Teachers should have some experience with young children. Ideal candidates would have an educational background in Early Childhood or Elementary Education, but all are welcome to apply. We have two PMO classes we are hiring for: Monday/Wednesday/Friday and Tuesday/Thursday in the morning. Classes run from September to May. Please send an email to Kirsten McCluskey at preschool@garychurch.org to learn more about our open positions.

2021-2022 Registration continues at Gary Preschool and Parents' Morning Out.

Gary Preschool offers options for children 3-6 years old in our 3s, 4s, and Pre-K classes. We also offer care for children as young as 18 months in our Parents' Morning Out program. Classes are filling, so don't delay. Please contact Kirsten McCluskey through the Church Office or by email at preschool@garychurch.org with any questions or to schedule a tour.



Baptisms

Matthew Taylor Krick, son of Jay & Nicole Krick, on February 7

Eliza Lucille Asencio, daughter of Daniel & Angelica Asencio, on March 14

April/May birthdays*

Happy (90+) birthday to:

April birthdays

Anne Courter

Berwyn Fred

Audrey Peterson

Geri Smith

Barbara Vercoe

May birthdays

Dorothy Eddy

Patricia Sullivan

April/May anniversaries*

Happy (50+) anniversary to:

Dick & Nancy Selover

Our sympathy

Nichole, Larry, Kathy, and Maggie LaVanway, and Michelle, Keith, Charleton, and Kelton Westmoreland, on the death of their mother and grandmother, Sue Sturm, on March 1. Services will be held at a later date.

Carol Eaton on the death of her husband, Jim Eaton, on March 23

Mike & Donna Capra on the death of Mike's sister, Maria, on March 26

Pastor Chris & Sandy Pierson on the death of their niece, Katina Golden, on April 2

Jill, Paul, and Tom Stoffels on the death of Jill's mother, Jean Van Metre on April 3

Thank You

My Dear Friends at Gary,

I have had the most amazing of life's privileges working at Gary UM Preschool. All of you have made that possible by your support of the preschool. Aside from family and friends, teaching and being director has been a special joy in my life. God has revealed himself through each person there, from the children and their families to the wonderful teachers to the office staff. My job was made fun and easier through the help and interactions. Watching many of our students grow into teenagers and adulthood has been rewarding.

I want to thank everyone for their cards, messages and for such a loving retirement tribute. I especially thank Karen and Mark Binkerd, Tony Venezia, the Preschool for the altar flowers, and anyone else I have failed to mention.

Dave Brewer used to put inspirational messages in our checks. One that I especially remember was that "if you love your job, it is not work." I loved my job and all whom I have worked with. It was a pleasure serving God in this capacity. Thank you for the opportunity.

**Blessings to all,
Sandy Cline**

Thank you for all the cards and notes from the Care Group!

Ed Ewoldt

Dear Gary Church,

On behalf of the at-risk children and their families in our care, I want to thank you for your support of our programs with your gifts given to Kids Above All by your congregation. I am humbled by your generosity, and thankful for all that you do to help us.

**With all the best wishes,
Dan Kotowski**
President and CEO
Kids Above All

*If we've missed your special day, please contact the Church Office. We'd love to include the date in our records.

Trustees seeking volunteers

Greetings from the Board of Trustees. Our team of nine volunteers—Lois Davisson, Rod Irely, Marty Keske, Jeanetta McClelland, Eric Ostensen, Brooke Oswald, David Plate, Shelley Schilling and Gerald Schmidt—manage the physical and investment assets of the church. We completed several significant projects in 2020 including the installation of a new Sanctuary audio and video system, purchasing a new digital carillon system, replacing the high voltage power supply for the organ blower, and rebuilding the fire water booster pump for the fire sprinkler system. We were also able to complete 39 maintenance work orders.

Our major projects for 2021 include:

- addressing several water ingress issues in the Church and Wesley Center buildings
- correcting the audio dropout issues with the Sanctuary audio/video streaming system
- refinishing the doors on the east entrance of the Sanctuary and courtyard entrance
- repairing potholes in the parking lot and seal coating the asphalt
- repairing the water-damaged wall in Gamon Hall
- painting the walls and trim in Gamon Hall
- completing the remodel of the Gamon Hall unisex bathroom
- implementing modifications to the steam heating system to address leaking
- relocating the Sanctuary AC air handler away from the stained-glass window
- repairing the Sanctuary epoxy floor
- correcting operational problems with the rooftop HVAC unit



Even though much of the work is hired out to contractors, the Board of Trustees still needs individuals from the church to oversee and project manage the work. Many times, the number of projects we can manage at any given time is limited by the availability of volunteers in the church. Do you like to manage projects? Do you enjoy accomplishing tasks? The Board of Trustees is looking for people like you. Consider helping Trustees by being a project manager for one of our projects. If this sounds interesting, and you would like to learn more about how you can get involved, please contact the Church Office or one of our Trustees members.

Helpful tips

Register for worship and classes in one place

On Gary Church's website, you can now look in one place to register for worship, classes and other opportunities. Look for the "registrations" tab at the top of the home page of garychurch.org.

Help needed from Facebook friends

When you like, comment, and share the news on the Gary United Methodist Church Facebook page, you are helping to raise our profile. When posts have "engagement," they appear in newsfeeds. Please go out to Gary's Facebook page and help spread our good news.



WinChimes

Winfield Community United Methodist Church

An Affiliate of Gary United Methodist Church

Faith, hope and love

By Rev. Bruce Anderson

He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?" (Luke 12:54-56)

The seasons are changing. I love it when winter turns to spring with warming weather and budding plants. It is as if nature is giving us a visible reminder of the resurrection! We have just experienced Easter. How do we interpret that event? Do we celebrate with fluffy bunnies and chocolate eggs, or do we feel ourselves renewed and reborn by Christ's gift of salvation? Are we truly changed by it in any way? In the words of Charles Wesley, "Made like him, like him we rise. Ours the cross, the grave, the skies!"

In this time of COVID, this promise of renewal and resurrection is all the more poignant. After all that we have experienced in this past year, or perhaps been unable to experience, we are ready for a change. We are ready for new life. But are we ready for new life in Christ, or just to get back to our old freedoms of movement and gathering? We have been changed by our experiences of the last year, but how have we been changed? How will we interpret this time of imposed separation? Will it make gathering to worship more meaningful? Will it make being in the company of friends and family time more cherished? Or will we merely return to our frantic racing around?

To paraphrase the words of Paul, "now we see in a mirror, dimly...Now we know only in part; then we will know fully, even as we have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:12-13)



Faith, hope and love are needed now more than ever. Faith and hope have gotten us through this last year, and they will get us through the days to come. But how are we with love? Do we love God and neighbor

as ourselves or are we more divided and quarrelsome than ever? How do we interpret this present time? What is most important to us? May we be joined together in the love of Christ that overcomes the cares of the world and love each other as Christ loves us. This year let us be reborn with Jesus as the faithful, loving children of God. For if we are freed in Christ, we are freed indeed. Let us share our freedom together in love of God and neighbor, sharing the grace new life we receive through Christ Jesus with a hurting world.



Winfield Community United Methodist Church

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Rev. Bruce Anderson, Pastor
John Wiggins, Church Administrator
Olive Aliga, Music Director



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Look inside to see what's happening this
summer with activities
for all ages.

