

Chimes

The Newsletter of Gary Church
and Winfield Community Church
August 2022



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Sunday Worship

In person at 9 a.m.

Livestream at 9 a.m., garychurch.org

Child care available during worship

Recording online later in the day

Church Office Hours

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



Gary Church Podcast

(sermon, scripture)

garychurch.org

Updated weekly



Pastor Brian Podcast

(prayers, Christian

conversations)

garychurch.org

Updated monthly

Submissions for the September *Chimes* newsletter are due by noon on *Monday, Aug. 1*. Announcements for the Sunday bulletin and weekly e-news 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.

Christian Conferencing: Another Means of Grace

We have all had the experience of sitting in a meeting and allowing our eyes to surreptitiously glance at our watch or to sneak a peek at the clock on the wall. However meetings are an opportunity not only for people to gather and to conduct business, they can be a source of motivation, bringing people together to accomplish what they could not do alone. They have the potential to inspire, to sustain, and to bring about needed change in a community or organization.

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During the Civil Rights Movement mass meetings served as the space to draw people into the movement, and encourage people toward further activism. Martin Luther King, Jr. once wrote that, "Through these meetings we were able to generate the power and depth which finally galvanized the entire ... community." In these weekly or sometimes even nightly meetings, participants inhabited the familiar genres of the black church: song, prayer and testimony¹.

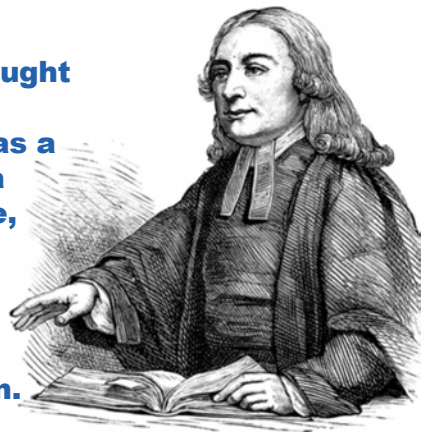
In the Methodist movement, we use the term Christian Conferencing. John Wesley taught that Christian Conferencing, as a practice, was a means of grace, along with searching the scriptures, fasting, prayer and communion.

The week after Pentecost Sunday, I had the opportunity for Christian Conferencing, along with the Gary Church lay members elected to represent us at our annual conference session. It was our first time being able to meet in-person since the pandemic began. I am glad to be able to report back with the reflections from our lay members. Turn the page for stories of hope.

Christopher L. Pearson



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¹ Miller, Elizabeth Ellis, Faithful Genres Rhetorics of the Civil Rights Mass Meetings, 2016

2022 Northern Illinois Conference reflections

Thank you, **Karen Binkerd**, **Rick Conrad**, **Phyllis Geyer**, **Barb Wernicke** and **Pastor Chris**, for serving as Gary Church's delegates at the 2022 Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church. Here are reflections from the annual conference:



"The theme of the annual conference was 'Connected in Christ, Come to the Water.' The highlight of the three-day gathering for me was the Episcopal Address by Interim Bishop John Hopkins. He started his speech by commenting on the importance of Pentecost. He spoke of the energy of the Holy Spirit descending upon the disciples that ultimately created our church. Bishop Hopkins felt that we are on the verge of a 'New Spiritual Awakening.' We are experiencing a New Pentecost that will converge our diverse cultures and connect us in new and exciting ways. It is up to each of us to bring that energy of the Holy Spirit to our church and to those outside of the church."

Barb Wernicke



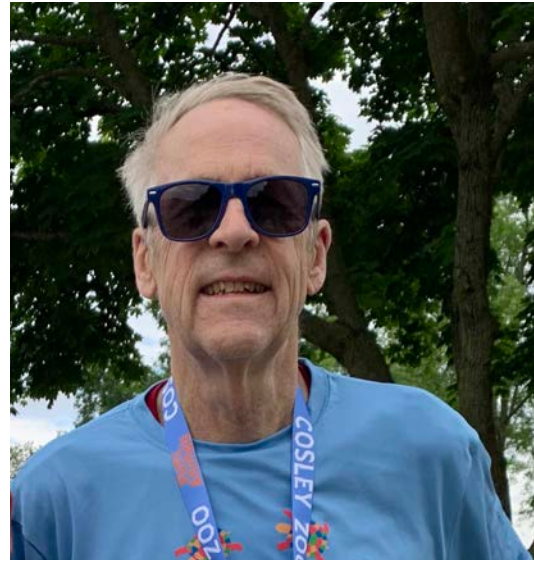


“There were over 600 United Methodist members in attendance representing 352 churches. Throughout the three days of the conference, the message we continued to receive through Bishop Hopkins’ address, the speakers, discussions, and legislative procedures was: We are united in our hope for the transformation of the world through our commitment to Christ.

Eugene Williams, co-leader of the Board of Laity, said that difficulties and messiness is nothing new to the church. He said that we, as a church, have persevered and we must continue to brave the storm. We have so much more in common that connects us than that which separates us. Jesus Christ is the bridge.

My experience of meeting together with members of the United Methodist Church from the five districts of our conference left me with hope and encouragement for our common mission to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.”

Karen Binkerd



“The conference brought everyone together to memorialize past clergy, celebrate retirements, new ordinations, and much more. There were many moving speeches and presentations by keynote speakers. I was particularly impressed with the message from Bishop John Hopkins focusing on church issues and moving forward.

The legislation we discussed covered topics from approval of budget, human rights, Covenant to Build Beloved Community, support for the Christmas Covenant and the Separation Resolution for Local Churches.

A retired pastor from the conference wrote legislation for the Separation Resolution for local churches leaving the Northern Illinois Conference. Its summation was that any local church should be able to leave with all assets, but should potential liability come up, the churches that separated would not be responsible. It makes me proud and hopeful that this was defeated. With the exception of the pastor that wrote the legislation, everyone voted against it. Although there is still much follow up work to be done, as we look at separation, I believe this was a positive step forward.”

Rick Conrad

Musicians get ready for Worship in the Park

by Jennifer Whiting



Remember this beautiful day in August 2021? The sun was shining and we gathered for live worship in the beautiful new bandshell at Memorial Park. What a glorious day!

We invite you to join the music team for this summer's Worship in the Park. Here are the deets:

Who?

You! All instruments and voices are welcome. We have a place for you.

When?

If you can attend **three out of four rehearsals**, please join the team. Rehearsals take place in the Choir Room. The first 45 minutes will be for singers, and the final 45 minutes for instruments and singers combined.

- Thursday, August 4, 7–8:30 p.m.
- Thursday, August 11, 7–8:30 p.m.
- Thursday, August 18, 7–8:30 p.m.
- Saturday, August 20, 10–11:30 a.m.
- Worship in the Park is on Sunday, August 21 at 10 a.m. Call time for musicians at Memorial Park is 8:30 a.m., an hour later than last year. Yay!

What songs?

We will include some favorite worship songs and time-honored hymns, and we will introduce the congregation to “Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me,” by Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson and Michael Farren.

Sign up and share

If you are interested or have questions, just email me at jwhiting@garychurch.org, and let me know:

- **what instrument** you want to play
- or **what part** you want to sing (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass)
- and **which rehearsals** you can attend.

Please share this invitation with other musicians. There's room for everyone at Worship in the Park!

Worship in the Park and Picnic

Sunday, August 21, 10 a.m., Memorial Park

Let's enjoy the last days of summer with a worship service in Memorial Park. Bring a lawn chair or use the theater seating provided. After the service, we'll have fried chicken and lemonade — please bring a salad or dessert to share.

Men's Chorus, handbell ensembles and art

by Phil Roberts

A musician composes and new art comes into being. Music directors take that art and determine how to best communicate it to their ensemble or choir. Rehearsals take place. Repetition of the music resulting in improvements prevail and a narrative emerges through the refined understanding of the union between melody and harmony. Eventually, listeners become the final destination for the art as they consume its message, its music and its meaning for them. And then, the art lives on as a memory.

Last fall I had the opportunity to lead the Men's Chorus. This fall, please consider joining (or rejoining) this strong, dynamic group. We rehearse the second and third Saturdays of each month and sing on the third Sunday. Our first rehearsal will be *Saturday, Sept. 10 at 8 a.m.*



I've recently been given the honor of directing Altar Bells. I will be following an outstanding director, **Sharon Schmidt**. They rehearse *Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.* Please consider becoming a part of this adult ensemble. Our first rehearsal will be *Wednesday, August 24.*

We also have another handbell ensemble that might fit a busier schedule. Glory Ringers rehearse on *Sundays at 11 a.m., starting Sept. 11.* This group includes youth from grades 7 through 12 but is also an excellent choice for adult beginning ringers. It is expertly led by **Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal**.

Additionally, children have the opportunity to ring handbells and develop their team-building and music-making skills. The Good News Ringers is directed by **Nancy Brunner** and assisted by **Jill Stoffels**. This ensemble is designed for grades 3 through 6 and rehearses on *Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.* New ringers will start rehearsals on *Sept. 7.* Returning ringers will begin on *Sept. 21.*

You can contact Kristin, Nancy or me through the Church Office. We look forward to talking with you.

Art is the human expression of creative activity. Come be an artist with us.



*All the earth will worship You,
And will sing praises to You;
They will sing praises to Your name.
~ Psalm 66:4 (Holman CSB)*

Hey Parents! We know your summer has been full of road trips and sleepaway camps. Here's a look at what we're covering this month so you can help your kids continue growing in faith wherever your travels take you.

what we're teaching

August Series: *Famous*

Lots of kids dream about becoming famous ... and why shouldn't they? It sounds awesome to have fans who celebrate your wins with you! On the flip side, it would be pretty tough to have people always watching, even when you're not having the best day. In *Famous*, we are going to talk about a family in the Bible who lived in such a spotlight. Through their stories, kids will learn that no matter our celebrity status, we can make things right, God gives us friends, we can ask for God's guidance, and we can give God what we have. Fame and fans may come and go, but you don't need to be liked by everyone when you're loved by God!



what's happening

Aquaball

Sunday, August 7, 4 p.m., Aldersgate UMC

Is it kickball? Is it slip n' slide? Is it a ton of fun? "Yes" to all! Gary Kids families are invited to this playful event and potluck to follow. Register at garychurch.org.

Parent's Night Out

Friday, August 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Drop off your kiddos at Gary Church and enjoy some well-deserved time away. Each month features a movie, craft, and free-play for kids ages 2- 11. Limit 20. Suggested cash donation of \$5 per child. Register at garychurch.org.

Kids' Church and Sunday School

teacher and assistants needed

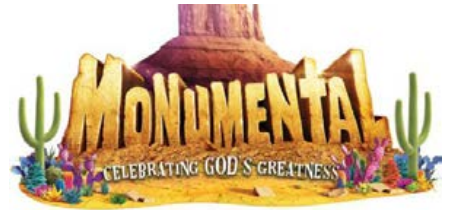
Plans are in the works for Kids' Church and Sunday school this fall! Gary's vibrant children's ministry is only possible through the leadership of volunteers. Please prayerfully consider if you are able to help Gary Kids grow in faith once a month September-May. We kick off our ministry year on *Sunday, Sept. 11*. Contact **Pastor Carey** for more information.





Thank you, **Monumental VBS volunteers!**

We had an awesome time celebrating God's greatness at *Monumental* Vacation Bible School! Over 70 volunteers made this week possible. Thank you to everyone who shared their time, talents and treasures with the children from Gary Church and the local community. Your gift was *monumental*!







Gary Youth

At BLAST Camp this year we explored the teachings of the Apostle Paul. Just as a compass helps guide travelers, Paul's letters guide us as we follow Jesus into the world. The campers learned that LOVE is our direction, we LOVE together, LOVE produces fruit and LOVE changes lives. BLAST Camp also collected school supplies for Kids Above All.



BLAST CAMP '22 COMPASS

BLAST COMPASS CAMP '22





Gary Golf Outing

Sunday, Aug. 14, 1 p.m., Klein Creek Golf Club
Sponsor a hole and/or play a round at the 25th Annual Gary Golf Outing, a fundraiser for the Gary Youth program. For details and to sign up, go to garychurch.org.



August Gatherings

Taco Tuesday

Tuesdays, August 9 and 16,
5–6:30 p.m., youth rooms

Middle schoolers are invited for tacos, games and discussion.



Milk Tea Sundays

Sundays, August 7 and 14,
7–8:30 p.m., youth rooms

High schoolers are invited for milk tea, games and discussion.



Coming soon

Check out the September edition of the *Chimes* as we'll share photos from this summer's Gary Youth mission trip, and we'll let you know all the exciting events happening this fall.

On Sunday, Sept. 11, we will officially kick off our Gary Youth ministry season.

Our Gary Youth Fall Retreat is

Friday, Sept. 23—

Sunday, Sept. 25.

Sign up by visiting the Gary Youth page at garychurch.org.



GARY CHURCH *makes a difference*

Mission focus for August

Our August focus will be twofold: Redbird Mission and School in Beverly, Kentucky and NIJFON, Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors.

The Gary Church community has a long-standing relationship with Redbird and find they are in more need of financial support than ever. COVID-19, bad weather/flooding and a difficult economy put more strain on their resources and funding sources. They can use our continued support to keep open their Senior Center (similar to our ESSE), fund the dental clinic, support their position as a center for public health services and provide for emergency services. In addition to all of this, they need to find further funding for supplies and operating expenses for their food pantry, which has been critically short of supplies for the past months. In addition, the Mission school is seeking to provide school supplies for 100 low-income students. So, anything we can do to help an area sunk in poverty will be sincerely appreciated and put to good use.



NIJFON, supported by The United Methodist Church, works tirelessly to advocate for immigration reform and provide legal and other support services for our immigrant neighbors. They follow God's commandment to care for the stranger among us by providing help to immigrants of all nationalities: Latin American, Caribbean, African, Afghanistan, and I'm sure Ukrainians will soon be added.

Joe Ruth
Mission Chair

Bring treats and visit ESSE

August is Gary Church's month to bring treats and visit ESSE's adult daycare at St. Paul's Church in Wheaton. Look for an ESSE poster and sign-up sheets in the Commons or contact Debby Connor through the Church Office.



Educate A Girl update

Educate a Girl 2.0 was a great success thanks to the generous support of the Gary Church community. While not yet final, it looks like we will meet our goal to support scholarships for nine girls and young women in Chicago and around the world. Look for more information in the September *Chimes* and thank you!



Gary Church to host CROP Walk in 2023



A big thank you to everyone who walked and donated to this year's CROP Walk. Gary's 20 walkers joined with other area churches for a walk around Lake Ellyn. Gary exceeded its goal, contributing \$5,073 to the Wheaton/Glen Ellyn total of \$25,000. These funds will go a long way to help local and global food supplies. Also, keep your walking shoes handy — Gary Church will host the CROP Walk next year and we will need walkers and helpers. Mark your calendar for Sunday, May 7, 2023.



Habitat for Humanity

Even in the heat, Gary Church's Habitat for Humanity volunteers worked to update a home for a single mom and her two daughters in Lafayette, Indiana. They installed flooring and bathroom fixtures, painted and more.



Welcome NEW MEMBERS

Dan and Stacey Lee

Most Gary folks already know our director of youth ministries, **Dan Lee**, and his wife **Stacey**, who is a nurse practitioner. We are thrilled to have officially welcomed them into membership! The Lees stay busy with their dog, Brighton, and are expecting their first child later this summer. In addition to serving our Gary Youth, the Lees are active in hospitality and many other missions and ministries of Gary Church.

Their connection sponsors are **Dan** and **Suzy Wible**.



Christy Claus, Riley and Isabell Hicks

Christy Claus and her children **Riley** (8) and **Isabell** (4) Hicks are already active in the life of Gary Church. Isabell is one of our Cherub Choir members and Christy serves in Children's Ministry. Christy, her husband **Jeremy**, Riley and Isabell live in Winfield. Christy grew up going to Aldersgate UMC here in Wheaton.

Christy's connection sponsor is **Christy Grace**.





Katie Thomas, Rommel Alvarez, Sebastian and Helena

Katie Thomas, Rommel Alvarez, and their children **Sebastian** (10) and **Helena** (7) moved to Wheaton from Urbana last year. Sebastian shares that he is a dinosaur expert, and Helena enjoys painting and drawing. The Alvarez family is already active in Children's and Welcome Ministries.

Their connection sponsors are **Beth** and **Andy Tobias**.



George Roe

George Roe is a Professor Emeritus from the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he taught for over 35 years. He was Director of Ethics for the College of Business and is the author of numerous articles and a textbook on ethics still in use. He has also taught courses at UIC on Roman law and Roman history. His wife of many years passed away three years ago, and he has been a Wheaton resident for over 20 years.

George's connection sponsors are **Fred** and **Paula Wayland**.

If you know of someone who is interested in becoming a member of Gary Church, please reach out to **Jennifer Castino**, jcastino@garychurch.org.

2022 Graduates

Claire Austin, daughter of Ron and Kim Austin, graduated from Marquette University with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Welfare and Justice and minors in Spanish and English. As part of an accelerated program, Claire also completed her first year of law school at Marquette and will return in the fall for the final two years.

Leah Austin, daughter of Ron and Kim Austin, graduated from Wheaton Warrenville South High School and will be attending Ball State University majoring in interior design.

Jack Bianco, son of Rich and Jessica Bianco, graduated from Wheaton North High School and will be attending Eastern Kentucky University majoring in fire protection administration.

Mark Bianco, son of Rich and Jessica Bianco, graduated from Wheaton North High School and will be attending Carthage College.

Sam Cary, son of Rich and Pam Cary, graduated from Wheaton North High School and will be attending the College of DuPage majoring in general studies.

Ashlyn Ebel, daughter of Bob and Melissa Ebel, graduated from the Medical University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science in nursing.

Keaghan Elmiger, grandson of Hank and Nancy Schwabauer, graduated from Oak Park River Forest High School and will be attending the University of Alabama majoring in business.

Carter Gaul, son of Dave and Leigh Ann Gaul, graduated from Wheaton Warrenville South High School and will be attending the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University.

Daniel Janiak, son of Larry and Heather Janiak, graduated from Wheaton North High School and will be attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute majoring in physics and math.

Rachel Janiak, daughter of Larry and Heather Janiak, graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee with a Bachelor of Science with honors in Social Work. Rachel plans to work as an Outreach Specialist at the Benedict Center Sisters Program in Milwaukee.

Caitlin Johnson, daughter of Kim and Perry Johnson, granddaughter of Howard and Esther Nicholas, graduated from Wheaton North High School and will be attending the University of Illinois majoring in business.

Jacob Kenyon, grandson of Don and Shelley Kenyon, graduated from North Forsyth High School in Georgia and will be attending Southern Georgia University.

Logan Kenyon, grandson of Don and Shelley Kenyon, graduated from North Forsyth High School in Georgia, and will be attending the University of Georgia.

Allison Klage, daughter of Mark and Kathy Klage, graduated from the University of Iowa with a Bachelor of Business Administration. Allison will be working as an Allocation Analyst for Kohl's Corporation in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Melanie Kurtz, daughter of Joe and Pam Kurtz, graduated from Wheaton North High School and will be attending George Washington University.

Annie Macabobby, daughter of Peter and Kathryn Macabobby, graduated from Wheaton Warrenville South High School and will be attending Colorado State University majoring in Environmental Engineering.



Grace Macabobby, daughter of Peter and Kathryn Macabobby, graduated from Wheaton Warrenville South High School and will be attending the University of Minnesota majoring in finance and sustainability.

Michael Macabobby, son of Peter and Kathryn Macabobby, graduated from Wheaton Warrenville South High School and will be attending the University of Nebraska majoring in biochemistry.

Christopher Marra, son of Dave and Suzanne Marra, grandson of Howard and Barbara Wonser, graduated from Dublin School and will be attending Point Loma Nazarene University majoring in political science.

Peter Marra, son of Dave and Suzanne Marra, grandson of Howard and Barbara Wonser, graduated from Carroll University with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science. Peter will continue in their physical therapy doctorate program.

Zach Marsico, son of Nick and Kelly Marsico, graduated from Wheaton Warrenville South High School.

Anna Mathis, daughter of Mark and Janet Mathis, graduated from Wheaton Warrenville South High School and will be attending Purdue University majoring in aerospace engineering.

Rachel Newman, daughter of Linda Newman and David Newman, graduated from Glenbard South High School and will be attending the University of Illinois majoring in psychology.

Ethan Phillips, son of Kristin Phillips, graduated from Wheaton Warrenville South High School and will be attending the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point in the fall to study environmental science and forestry.

Ella Rodriguez, daughter of Julie and Eddie Rodriguez, graduated from Wheaton North High School and will be attending the University of Illinois majoring in political science.

Sarah Rodriguez, daughter of Julie and Eddie Rodriguez, graduated from Wheaton North High School and will be attending the University of Illinois majoring in biology and science.

Zoe Rozwat, daughter of Jack and Lisa Rozwat, graduated from Wheaton North High School and will be attending Indiana University, studying retail management.

Hannah Shrigley, daughter of Jeff and Kim Shrigley, graduated from Wheaton Warrenville South High School and will be attending the College of DuPage majoring in business.

Colin Stow, grandson of Hank and Nancy Schwabauer, graduated from Oak Park River Forest High School. Colin has a one-year deferred acceptance to the Miami University of Ohio Farmers Business School, to accept a tender offer from the Texas Jr. Brahmas to play junior hockey.

Leah Thomassie, great-niece of Deborah Fagan and Jeri Barker, graduated from Chalmette High School in Louisiana and will be attending the Delgado Community College veterinary technician program.

Julia Turner, granddaughter of Nancy Turner, graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in economics from Harvard Extension School.

Kate Wanzenberg, daughter of Matt and Anne Wanzenberg, granddaughter of Bonnie Wheaton, graduated from Wheaton North High School and will be attending Wake Forest University, studying psychology, statistics and Spanish.

Kate Winer, daughter of Greg and Monica Winer, graduated from Larkin High School.



Generosity of Arline Hawbecker (1908-1998)

In 1962, Arline Hawbecker joined Gary Church with her husband Ralph, who passed away in 1981. We learned that Arline was a teacher who loved people and gathering with friends. She played golf and wintered in Florida.

As Arline got older, getting to church became more difficult. She was not as present in her later years, but we've been told she still considered Gary Church her church home. It was a place she loved, and she was fiercely loyal to those she loved.

Arline's love and loyalty still shine through.

Before Arline passed away in 1998, she established several charitable remainder trusts (CRT). A CRT is an estate planning tool that provides earnings to a designated income beneficiary, and upon the beneficiary's death, the balance of the trust is distributed to a specific charitable organization identified by the donor.

Arline identified Gary Church as one of the recipients in her CRTs, and Gary recently received a settlement of one of those trusts. The funds are being used to assist with the repair work on the east elevation (see Trustee Corner article below)



Through Arline's generous gift of estate planning, her legacy continues to provide for the mission and ministry of Gary Church today, more than 24 years after her death.

If you would like to learn more about establishing such a legacy at Gary Church through estate planning, please speak with your financial advisor or legal counsel regarding planned giving options available to you.

Try the new giving link

Check out the new giving link at garychurch.org/give. Click on the image and description you want and donate to make a difference in someone's life. You can also choose to pay the processing fee.

Restoration work begins

We are beginning a two-phase project to stabilize and restore the east elevation of Gary Church. The first phase will include resetting the limestone coping, restoration of the mullions as well as repointing the entire façade. We will also be restoring the stone on the inside of the building beneath the balcony. The work will be done by Marion Restoration and is expected to take between 10-12 weeks. There will be scaffolding on both the inside and the outside of the building. Please keep a safe distance from the equipment and materials that will be around the building.

The second phase of the project will include the restoration of the historic stained glass and will start sometime after the completion of the first phase.

Please feel free to reach out to me or any member of the Trustees if you have questions.

David Plate

Board of Trustees Chair



Sign up for Safe Sanctuaries Training



The Northern Illinois Conference is offering Safe Sanctuaries Training either in person or online. All are welcome and all Gary Church volunteers are encouraged to attend one of the sessions to help reduce the risk of abuse in the church. Dates are **Saturday, August 6, 10 a.m.** and **Saturday, August 20, 1 p.m.** Sign up on the registrations page of garychurch.org.



All-Church Training

Sunday, August 28, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary

Learn about the new theme for the year, what's happening in the ministry area(s) you serve, plus all-church policies. Enjoy refreshments from Special Blend and then attend this informative training.



gary preschool news

Registration

Registration continues at Gary United Methodist Preschool! Gary Preschool offers options for children 3-6 years old in our 3s and 4s/Pre-Kindergarten classes. Please contact **Kirsten McCluskey** at preschool@garychurch.org with any questions or to schedule a tour.

Preschool Board needs members

We are looking for church members to join the Preschool Board. This role is ideal for someone who has had a child in the preschool or Parent's Morning Out program or even is an alumnus, although all are welcome. The Board meets three times during the school year in *August, October and April*. Please contact **Kirsten McCluskey** if you are interested.

Help with publicity and scholarships

Gary Preschool needs you! Enrollment has been lower for the past several years due to COVID-19 and the preschool asks for your assistance and generosity. Please spread the word about our program to friends and neighbors. We have been here for over 50 years and want to continue to provide quality care and education for many, many more years. We are also accepting financial contributions to rebuild our scholarship funds and our general financial well-being. Every donation helps. Donations can be made through the Church Office.



Congratulations*

Nic, Michelle, Adalynn and Brandon Younkin on the birth of their niece and cousin, Margaret Rose Brumit, on April 11.

Norm and Olive Aliga on the birth of their grandchild, Lucille Lynn Aliga, on May 15.

Kerry & Naomi (Venezia) FitzGibbons on their wedding in early July.

August birthdays*

Happy (90+) birthday to:

Gil Lehman
Phyllis Bauler

August anniversaries*

Happy (50+) anniversary to:

Bob and Fern Evelhoch
Max and Jane Akerman
Alice and Ed Williams
Barbara and Howard Wonser

New Opportunities*

Andy, Christa, Teddy, Penny and Josie Tooley on their move to Tennessee.

Our sympathy

Bob, Melissa, Ashlyn and Brandon Ebel on the death of Bob's father on May 16.

The family of Audrey Peterson. Audrey passed away on May 18.

Jim Smith on the death of his wife, Geri Smith, on May 21.

Allen and Ellen Reed on the death of Allen's aunt, Elderise Reed Bye, on June 5.

Nic, Michelle, Adalynn and Brandon Younkin on the death of Nic's grandma, Neoma Younkin, on June 14.

Nancy Selover on the death of her husband, Dick, on June 26

Beverly Land on the death of her husband, Norvis Land, on July 11.

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

Thank you

Thank you for your many expressions of concern and assurances of your prayers while I have been dealing with my recent health issues. I was both surprised and deeply gratified to receive your messages. I am feeling better, but still have a way to go before I am back to full health, but your support has certainly helped.

Fondly and gratefully,
Gil Larimer

Grief Matters Support Group

Wednesdays, Sept. 14–Nov. 16, 10–11:30 a.m., Commons A

We welcome anyone grieving the death or loss of someone to be a part of the new session of this group. It is a place where you can be with people who understand how you feel and the pain of your loss. You'll gain valuable tools to help you as you continue on the journey of grief. Please contact the Church Office to let us know you'll be coming.

–Jackie Fritz & Judy Grote



See Facebook posts on website

If you don't have Facebook, but you want to see what Gary Church has posted, go to garychurch.org, click on "Resources" then "In the News." Scroll to the bottom, and you'll find a modified version of Gary Church's Facebook page. On the right of the box, you can scroll to see the posts. We've found this works best on a computer, rather than a phone.

WinChimes

Winfield Community United Methodist Church

An Affiliate of Gary United Methodist Church

Change

by Rev. Bruce Anderson

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. James 1:16-28

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8

**For in him
we live
and move
and have
our being.**

Over the last few years, we have been experiencing changes in our lives at a seemingly unprecedented rate. Our lives were completely disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic that began sweeping the world in 2020. The U.S. has had over 88.5 million reported cases of COVID-19 and over one million deaths. As a result, we had to change our way of life, including how we gathered for worship, did our shopping and met with friends and family. While the availability of vaccines has allowed us to return somewhat to “normal,” we are not all the way there yet and are finding new “normal” for our lives.

We are faced with a war of aggression in Ukraine, and the suffering and resistance of millions of people who live under the threat of violence and dislocation daily. We are also dealing with the world hunger, and energy and supply chain issues that are a result of this unjust war. And we are dealing with inflationary pressures that are affecting our ability to make ends meet.

Our secular world seems to be drawing people further and further apart. We tend to judge others on their secular ideologies, and this seems to have overwhelmed our ability to be unified in the love of Christ for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

The Supreme Court is also moving swiftly to change the established law of the land. For good or for ill remains to be seen, but a lot of people are upset by these changes, which may

again change their way of life. Heraclitus, the Greek philosopher said, “Change is the only constant in life.” And that has certainly proven true throughout the ages. The Bible reminds us that the only unchangeable thing in life is God and God’s will for us.

As the apostle Paul said, “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served



by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history

and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring’” (Acts 17: 24-28).

The word of God is our anchor in this ever-changing world. God is the one constant that we can cling to in life so that we will not be washed away and lose ourselves in the changing tides of life. Let us continue to look to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith to keep our lives steady in these turbulent times, and trust in him to see us through whatever life sends our way.





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Worship in Memorial Park and Picnic

Sunday, August 21, 10 a.m.

Please bring a salad or dessert to share

See page 6 for more details