

Chimes

The Newsletter of Gary Church and Winfield Community Church
July/August 2021



Staff

Rev. Dr. Chris Pierson

SENIOR PASTOR
cpierson@garychurch.org

Rev. Brian Felker Jones

PART-TIME ASSOCIATE PASTOR
bjones@garychurch.org

Rev. Bruce Anderson

WINFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
pastorbrucea@gmail.com

Jennifer Whiting

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND CHOIR DIRECTOR
jwhiting@garychurch.org

Kevin Lange

ORGANIST
klange@garychurch.org

Carey Williams Bebar

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES AND
ADULT EDUCATION COORDINATOR
cbebar@garychurch.org

Daniel Lee

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES
dlee@garychurch.org

Janet Mathis

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
jmathis@garychurch.org

Deb Evans

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
devans@garychurch.org

Jennifer Castino

WELCOME MINISTRIES COORDINATOR AND
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
jcastino@garychurch.org

Deb Hafner

CHURCH OFFICE
office@garychurch.org

Pam Keller

PRINT COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
pkeller@garychurch.org

Becky Lemna

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
blemna@garychurch.org

Kirsten McCluskey

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR
preschool@garychurch.org

Sunday Worship

In person at 9 a.m.

Kids' Church at 9 a.m.

Livestream at 9 a.m., garychurch.org

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)
Updated weekly, garychurch.org



Pastor Brian Podcast
(prayers, scripture)
garychurch.org
Resumes mid-July

Submissions for the September *Chimes* newsletter are due by noon on August 2. 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.

Summer Sundays



9 a.m. worship
in person and at garychurch.org

Popsicles in the
courtyard
after the service

all ages, it's not just for kids



Difference Makers

by Rev. Dr. Chris Pierson

A recent study reveals that 38.7% of United Methodists read scripture outside of religious services at least once a week, 37.1% look most to “religious teachings and beliefs” when it comes to questions of right and wrong, while 25% participate in prayer groups, scripture study groups or religious education programs at least once a week.¹

One of my spiritual practices over the past several years has been a daily devotional aptly named *Pray As You Go*. It is a daily prayer session designed to go with you wherever you go. Just pop in your ear buds or put on your headphones, and you are good to go. Most days, though, it is the first thing that I listen to in the morning, even before my feet hit the floor.

In a recent episode, the scripture reading was from Jesus’ sermon on the mount (Matthew 5-7). Not the beautiful passage that we have come to know as the Beatitudes, instead they were words that challenge me in my walk as a Christian.

Jesus said: “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile” (Matthew 5:38-41).

The voice asked, “How do you react to this idea?” I began to ponder that question when moments later she asked, “**Does the fact that it comes from Jesus make any difference?**”

The latter question I found more jarring than the former. Is the way that I choose to live my life based on Jesus’ teaching, even his hard teaching? Or do I compartmentalize the more challenging aspects of what it means to be a Christian while holding on fiercely to the comfy, cushy parts of our faith?



The very first words of these verses, “You have heard that it was said, but I say to you,” tell us that Jesus’ teaching is different from what they have known. His teaching moves beyond the familiar and beckons to a new way of living in this world, and indeed points to a new world. Those who follow Jesus are called to a new way of life that is centered in his challenging life transforming and teaching, and his revelation of God’s love for the world. Yet, I have learned that I can only begin to follow him and wrestle with his teaching through his life-transforming presence, through the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit. “Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit” (Zechariah 4:6).

Upon closer look at this passage seen in its cultural context, Jesus was teaching to an oppressed people with little power in occupied first century Palestine. He provided a way of reclaiming one’s power through actions that revealed the unjust brutality of the powerful over those with little power. He sought to bring justice and an end to retaliation. An “eye for an eye leaves everyone blind.” In the verses that follow, Jesus calls for love not only of one’s neighbor but one’s enemies. Jesus knew the transformative power of mature love. Love, Jesus’ way, means a radical commitment to justice.



The hard and challenging teachings of Jesus are exactly what we need to consider most when we are faced with challenges, when people and institutions seek to divide rather than unite, when our impulse is more given to revenge and retaliation than reconciliation and transformation of relationships. It does make a difference that it is different because Jesus’ life, death, rising and presence make a difference. Those who work to follow his teaching are difference makers.

However, a recent study reveals that 38.7% of United Methodists read scripture outside of religious services at least once a week, 37.1% look most to “religious teachings and beliefs” when it comes to questions of right and wrong, while 25% participate in prayer groups, scripture study groups or religious education programs at least once a week.¹

My devotion that morning was a reminder that “Jesus is encouraging people somehow to do more and do better.” Yet, we can only do more and do better through God’s Spirit and our own commitment to seek to do better, and by wrestling with Jesus’ challenging words. When we do, we will see our lives and our relationships transformed.

I invite you to engage in many of the individual or group offerings provided through Gary Church. Subscribe to our weekly Gary Church podcast and/or the Pastor Brian podcast (which resumes mid-July). Sign up for one of our short-term faith formation classes at Gary Church or join one of our new Class Meeting offerings beginning in early/mid-July.

Christopher L. Peerson

¹https://thearda.com/landing/umc/D_1469_4.asp#Profile



Become a Gary Gardener

Next time that you are at church, check out the lovely flower planters on the west, south and east sides of our building and in the Courtyard. They were planted by our creative Gary Gardeners.

We would like to have you join our team. Immediate openings are available. Please contact the church to help with watering. We would also happily accept financial donations.

Call the Church Office if you can help us continue beautifying our gardens.

George Masek volunteers in Gary's gardens.
Contact the Church Office to join the team.



Cutie pie alert: check out Gary's Facebook page

All summer long, we're posting childhood photos of familiar Gary Church faces. Do you recognize these two? We'd love for you to find baby photos and post on the page too.

Go to facebook.com/garyumc.



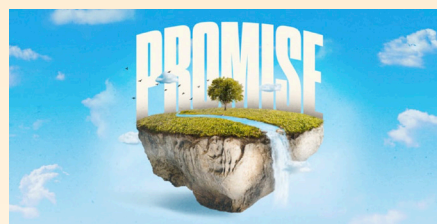


Hey parents! This summer we are welcoming your kiddos back to Kids' Church. Offered at 9 a.m. for 3-year-old preschoolers through third graders, this weekly ministry features games, music, and a special video lesson from our *Grow* curriculum. No need to register in advance. We simply ask that you sign in at our new Gary Kids Check-in Station located just outside the Sanctuary doors. Your children will be escorted to the Lower Level after Children's Time and then brought back to you at the end of the service. Finally, be sure to hit the Courtyard for a delicious popsicle before heading home. This summer is going to be sweet!

what we're teaching



This July, Gary Kids will learn all about David in this four-week series. What is a narwhal exactly? Have you ever spotted a sasquatch in the wild? Can you catch a centaur? Unusual animals are interesting and unique, just like King David's story. It was unusual for David to become a king, and he didn't always get things right, but his story teaches us that God uses unlikely people and gives unexplainable joy. Kids will use their imaginations to get to know an unchangeable God who does unexpected things.



This August, Gary Kids will learn about God's promises in this five-week series. When God first created the world, it was paradise. But it's not always easy for us to imagine a perfect world where nothing needs to be fixed—especially when we hear sad or scary news about the world we live in today. But even though the world today isn't exactly perfect, there's good news! Even though things sometimes go wrong, God's promises can always be trusted. As kids learn about famous figures from Genesis in this series, they will be reminded of God's faithfulness through the promises that were made to them, like God's promises to fix what was broken and to always show us mercy, and that, even though they might sometimes take time to be fulfilled, God keeps all promises—both the promises God made for now and the promises God made for later.

what's happening in July and August



Gary Kids Zoom Party

Sundays, July 11 and August 8, 10 a.m. on Zoom

Not quite ready to be back in person? Still loving church in your pj's? We feel you and we've got you covered. Join **Pastor Carey** every second Sunday of summer for a virtual party with actual fun.

Meeting ID: 895 9462 0620

Passcode: GaryKids

Sundays in the Park

July 25 and August 29, 10 a.m. at Northside Park

A casual summer Sunday School for Gary Kids families.

July 25 | Join **Rev. JoAnne Chase** for puppet stories.

August 29 | Join **Jennifer Whiting** and **Mary Ellen Rahn** to make a joyful noise.



Pine Lake Camp Westfield, WI

Growing closer to God and each other
through nature, worship and play

Register online at garychurch.org

Treasured VBS

August 2–August 5, 9:30–11:30 a.m.



Embark on an epic quest through hidden ruins, ancient caves and dense jungles. At *Treasured* VBS, kids dig into action-packed, faith-filled adventures. They'll discover God's greatest treasure isn't diamonds, gems, or

gold—it's them! Register at garychurch.org. \$30 per participant. Cost covers a fun VBS shirt, a family CD, snacks, sciency-fun gizmos, and so much more!

Volunteer for *Treasured* VBS!

Help kids discover that they are priceless to God by volunteering as a VBS crew leader or assistant. Crew leaders and assistants lead a small group of elementary-aged kids through a variety of hands-on activity stations. There is no preparation required, but a good crew leader is a friend and helper for the kids and station leaders. They ask questions, take kids seriously and encourage them throughout VBS. Join the team and join the fun by registering as a volunteer at garychurch.org.

Treasured VBS Training Meeting

Sunday, July 25, 3 p.m. in the Commons

All VBS volunteers are encouraged to attend this informal training where we will embark on our summer adventure by learning about our *Treasured* stations, crews and daily camp themes.



Kids' Church & Sunday School | Fall 2021



Plans are in the works for a return to 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.

Contact **Pastor Carey** for more information.

Save the date for Kickoff Sunday

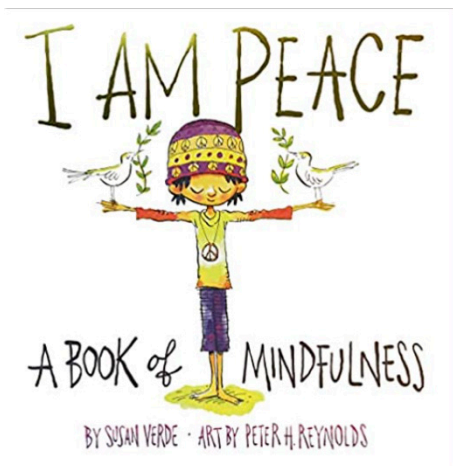
Sunday, September 12

Save the date for Kickoff Sunday when Gary Kids, Youth and Adults return to 10 a.m. Sunday School. **Plus, third and fourth grade Bible students and confirmands will receive their Bibles!**

resource of the month

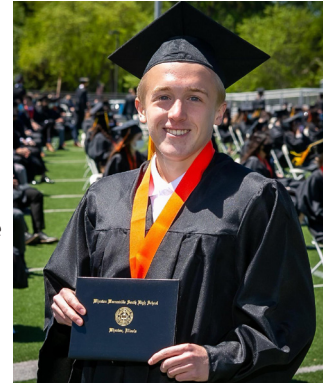
Book Recommendation from our Gary Kids Librarian, Sarah Kovac

This month, we recommend *I Am Peace: A Book of Mindfulness* by Susan Verde. In this book, a child is overwhelmed with worried thoughts. Through breathing and becoming aware of the "here and now," the child finds stillness and comfort.



Meet our New Gary Kids Sunday Morning Assistant, Carson Rewiski

Please welcome Carson Rewiski to the Gary Kids team as this summer's Sunday Morning Assistant. Carson has been attending Gary UMC for 14 years. He was baptized and confirmed at Gary, participated in Gary Youth events, and served in Kids' Church, 4th & 5th Grade Fellowship, and VBS. Carson graduated Wheaton Warrenville South High School in May and will be heading to Ohio State in the fall. If you see Carson on Sunday, be sure to say hi!



4th & 5th Grade Fellowship welcomed third graders and said goodbye to fifth graders at a fun and meaningful end-of-the-year party.



Thank you to the Harrisons

We would like to thank **Michelle and Don Harrison** for serving as leaders of the 4th & 5th Grade Fellowship ministry for the past two years and wish them many blessings as parents of Gary Youth!

July/August Youth Activities



Middle School

Jr./Sr. High room

July

Tuesdays, July 6, 13 & 27
10–11:30 a.m.

Bible Study

August

Monday, August 2–Thursday,
August 5

9 a.m.–12 p.m.

BLAST Camp**

Wednesday, August 18
7–8:30 p.m.

Midweek begins

Wednesday, August 25
7–8:30 p.m.

“**Squad-Up**”: What wisdom does the Bible have to tell us about friendships?

High School

Jr./Sr. High room

July

Monday July 19–Thursday,
July 22

8 a.m.–3 p.m. **Stay Mission***

Sunday, July 25, 8:30–10 p.m.

Bible Study

August

Sundays, Gary Church

August 8 & 15
8:30–10 p.m.

Bible Study

August 22
6–7:30 p.m.

Fall Kickoff

August 29
6–7:30 p.m.

“**Squad-Up**”: What wisdom does the Bible have to tell us about friendships?

Is Pentecost really the church’s birthday?

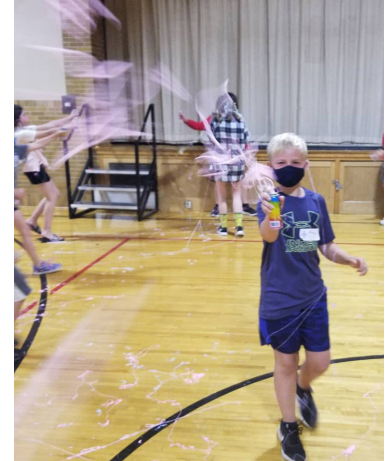
At Gary Youth, we learned that on Pentecost Sunday we remember the day the disciples received a great gift, the Holy Spirit. We blew out candles to see who has the strongest lungs. We read Acts 2 and learned that because of the Holy Spirit, people were able to speak and understand different languages. It was declared that people would “see visions,” “dream dreams” and “prophesy.” We also learned that while it might have been the birth of the church, the gift of the Holy Spirit is not ours alone. The Holy Spirit was given to us to help us share the love of God with others.



* **Gary Youth Stay Mission:** Location: Gary UMC, plus traveling
For grades 9–12, Monday, July 19–Thursday, July 22, 8 a.m.–3 p.m.
Cost: \$40 (Scholarships available) Register at garychurch.org.

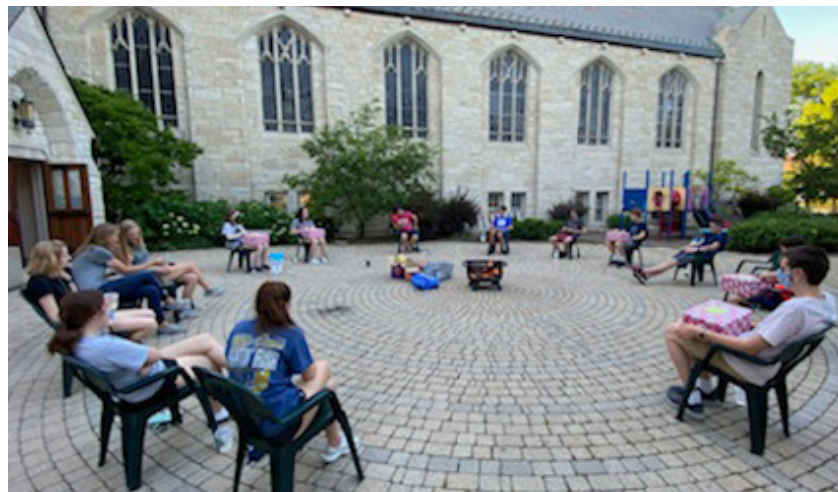
Gary Youth in action

Going to a new grade with people you don't know can be scary. And so, we wanted to give our new youth group members a warm welcome. We prepared boxes of goodies and welcome cards to give to them. At our Summer kickoff, we played name games, shared about our school year and burned some homework to let go of the stress. Our 8th graders shared some pointers about youth group with our new 6th graders such as "Don't miss retreats because you learn a lot and play fun card games." And, "We also prayed for each other." Last but not least, we ended our kickoff with a silly string and water balloon battle.



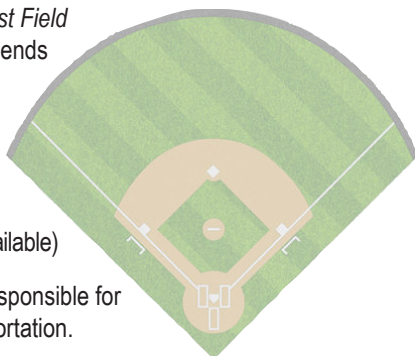
Youth Council update

At our last meeting, the council voted **Phyllis Geyer** and **Carter Gaul** as our chairpersons. In July and August, we will be applying some of the things we learned from the Youth Ministry Institute to strategically plan for the 2021-2022 program year. We would appreciate your prayers!



Schaumburg Boomers Baseball

Location: Wintrust Field
 For all Church friends
 Friday, July 23,
 6:30 p.m.
 Register at
garychurch.org
 Cost: \$9
 (Scholarships available)



Note: You are responsible for your own transportation.

**BLAST Camp: Mission Olympics

Location: Winfield Community UMC
 For grades 6-8
 Monday, August 2–Thursday, August 5
 9 a.m.–12 p.m.
 Register at garychurch.org
 Cost: \$32 (Scholarships available)



Note: Volunteers are also welcome to register.

Wrapped with Love

You might be able to spot a Gary knitter because they often have their latest project on their lap. Needles clicking, prayers weaving into the yarn, hearts pouring into each stitch. They knit prayer shawls for people having a rough time, they knit afghans for high school graduates, they knit baby afghans for brand-new members of the Gary Church family. Really, many of them have knit just about anything, from sweaters to bears and beyond. You can be sure that whatever they knit, if you wrap up in it, you'll be wrapped with love.

Summer sendoff

High school graduates will receive afghans during the worship service on July 25.

“When I’m working on a prayer shawl, I do think about the comfort it may bring—a virtual hug for the suffering, maybe a cushion for someone who is carrying a heavy burden of grief or worry on their shoulders, or a long thread of connection for someone who is leaving the congregation for a new life elsewhere.”

—Holly Trueblood

Ellen Reed says she enjoys knitting afghans and prayer shawls for people she knows who are going through a terrible time. She says, “I hope they feel the warmth and love that goes into it. I hope they feel the arms of God.”

“I hope they feel the arms of God.”

For **Julie Raab**, knitting prayer shawls is very calming and allows her to center in a prayerful manner, while creating something that will bring someone peace and joy. She says, “Although I may not know to whom my shawls are given, I always hope that when they wrap themselves with their shawl that they feel comforted and are reminded that they are loved, and that God is always present in our lives.”

Nancy Brunner says she especially likes to create high school graduate afghans. She says, “I love the thought of sending our church kids out into the world with a blanket from their church, that they can wrap up in when they’re homesick, sad, happy or feel like they need a hug. I like to think of my prayers for them being knit into the stitches, so a little part of Gary Church will be with them in their next chapter of life.”

Bobbi Wheatley says, “We sometimes incorporate the multiples of three with the stitches to imbed the Trinity into the design of prayer shawls and afghans, and we pray for the recipient while knitting as a blessing to a person we may know or not.”



If you would like to be part of the Gary knitters, please contact the Church Office. If you know of someone who is living their faith in a wonderful way, please contact **Janet Mathis**, jmathis@garychurch.org.



Bobbi Wheatley says knitters start on the graduates' afghans in the fall to have them ready in time for the high school graduate summer sendoff.



Ellen Reed says she's knitted more than 300 adult and baby afghans and more than 100 prayer shawls.



Nancy Brunner shows two afghans she made for high school graduates this year.



Jessica Bianco wraps in a prayer shawl she received when she was battling cancer. She says the shawl was "such an act of love."



Dani (Keller) Huppert enjoys her afghan she received when she graduated from high school in 2011.

GARY CHURCH *makes a difference*

Red Bird Mission

Red Bird is our August Mission focus. The mission, clinic and school have been serving the isolated and desperately poor of Central Appalachia since 1921 and have a long-standing relationship with the United Methodist Church. Gary has been supporting their work for over 20 years.

The mission supplies a large array of support services to the population of the mountainous area. Red Bird Mission School is a Pre-K through 12 school that provides quality education in a loving Christian environment. They provide youngsters with the education they need to escape poverty and become successful community leaders for their people. The school can also provide live-in opportunities for students who live too far away to commute.



Red Bird offers their community a full-service dental clinic and a community health nurse, blood mobile services, health fairs, patient education, hearing aid assistance and over 300 home health visits annually. They

offer a craft marketing program and off-site craft fairs to help increase economic opportunity to their area. Their community store offers free or low-cost clothing and furniture, a food pantry and supplies of clean drinking water. They also provide low cost or free groceries to support their clients.

Red Bird works tirelessly through community outreach to care for the needs of the elderly, low income and children of Central Appalachia. Their need for support has increased dramatically through the year of COVID as they try to support the needs of their communities. In addition, the area has been especially hard-hit by the series of severe storms that have ravaged the South this year. So, we would ask that you consider being as generous as possible in your support for them. You can give through our regular Gary Giving channels during the month of August and beyond. You can also help by using AmazonSmile, which has a giving list supplied by Red Bird. It can be found under Human Services in the AmazonSmile Lists. If you desire to create an AmazonSmile account, 0.5% of all your purchases will be donated to Red Bird.

Prison ministries update

There are 28 prisons in Illinois, and at the height of the pandemic, every single prison had COVID-19 cases among the inmates and staff. Things are much better now. I attended a recent RTO (Radical Time Out) meeting, and it was announced that only two prisons (Stateville and Sheridan) still have COVID cases – but only a few. This good news means that visitation has opened up. There is no use of the vending machines for snacks, and visits are for shorter time frames, but still, folks are so happy that they can visit their imprisoned loved one. Denise went to visit her husband. She was disappointed that there was a plastic barrier between them, and it was very difficult for them to hear each other speak. The second time she visited him, the barriers were still in place, but the sound system had been improved. It had been 14 months since she had seen him. It has been 15 months since a mother, Janice, has seen her son. She told me she hoped there are no barriers in the visitation room at his facility. “Judy,” she said. “I just want to touch my son.” If you would like to contribute to RTO, go to garychurch.org/give.

We also extend our gratitude to **Pastor Chris Pierson** for his service to JUST of DuPage, a social service agency and ministry within the DuPage County Jail. JUST stands for Justice, Understanding, Serving and Teaching. Pastor Chris has recently stepped down from the Board of Directors of JUST of DuPage, where he served for more than three years. If you'd like to volunteer, go to justofdupage.org.



–Judy Grote

Help DuPagePads

Our latest news from DuPagePads indicates that their site coordinators are still working on how to move forward to fully resume supporting their clients. To help them in their mission to end homelessness, visit dupagepads.org to donate or see the list of items they urgently need.



ESSE update

Even though ESSE (Ecumenical Support Services for the Elderly) is now caring for some clients on site, we still do not know if Gary may be asked to resume supplying food for their guests. So, Missions will provide any updated information as soon as possible. However, we know they can always use non-refrigerated treats for diabetics. If this is something you would like to contribute for ESSE, please bring treats to the Church Office.



Grief Matters Support Group

Wednesdays, September 8–November 17, 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



How can I keep from singing?

by Jennifer Whiting

Hymns are back

After the benediction, the pastors will allow time for people who need to leave the Sanctuary. We will sing a closing hymn or two with masks on.

Calling all musicians

For our summertime worship music, we invite strings, percussion, keyboards and other gifts to help lead us. All ages are welcome to “play skillfully with loud shouts” (Psalm 33).

Additionally, singers, brass and woodwind players who are fully vaccinated are invited to prepare solos and ensembles.

We have dates open for musicians in July and August. Email or call the Church Office or **Jennifer Whiting** to sign up and make a joyful noise.



We Christians share an irrepressible need to sing. The hymn “How can I keep from singing” became a touchstone for us during the pandemic. Kevin Lange often closed “Hymns at Twilight” with it.

“Pauline T.” is all we know of the author of this devotional poem, published by *The New York Observer* on August 27, 1868. *The Faith We Sing* (#2212) misattributes the lyrics to Robert Lowry. Pete Seeger stripped her poem of its distinctly Christian message and made the song popular in the folk revival of the 1960s.

Yet, one and a half centuries after Pauline’s composition, her words are the best explanation of our keen desire to return to singing. **It is the primary language of Christian worship.**

Pauline T.’s poem is now in the public domain. We sing it through tears of joy!

My life flows on in endless song;
Above earth’s lamentation,
I hear the sweet, tho’ far-off hymn
That hails a new creation;
Thro’ all the tumult and the strife
I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul—
How can I keep from singing?

What tho’ my joys and comforts die?
The Lord my Saviour liveth;
What tho’ the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth.
No storm can shake my inmost calm
While to that refuge clinging;
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
How can I keep from singing?

I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin;
I see the blue above it;
And day by day this pathway smooths,
Since first I learned to love it,
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
A fountain ever springing;
All things are mine since I am his—
How can I keep from singing?

Congratulations

2021 Gary/Winfield Church Family Graduates

Luke Aliga, grandson of Norm & Olive Aliga, graduated from Glenbard South High School.

Brenden Bohmer, son of Jeff & Christy Bohmer, graduated from Wheaton North High School and will be attending the University of Wisconsin majoring in psychology.

Caden Bohmer, son of Jeff & Christy Bohmer, graduated from Wheaton North High School and will be attending the University of Wisconsin majoring in psychology.

Eli Bornstein, son of Dave & Shelley Bornstein, graduated from Wheaton North High School and will be attending the University of Minnesota majoring in political science.

Will Brunner, son of John & Nancy Brunner, graduated with Highest Distinction from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a Bachelor of Science in Physics and Mathematics. He will be attending the University of California-San Diego to pursue a PhD in physics.

Brenna Carey, daughter of Marilyn Carey, graduated from the University of Kansas with a Bachelor of Nursing and a minor in Spanish. She is working at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Ty Carey, son of Marilyn Carey, graduated from Wheaton North High School and will be attending the University of Wyoming majoring in agricultural business.

Ryan Clarke, son of Jim & Kathy Clarke, graduated from Ball State University with a Bachelor of Science in Legal Studies and a minor in Political Science.

Olivia Elmiger, granddaughter of Hank & Nancy Schwabauer, graduated from Indiana University and will be attending medical school at University of Texas Dell Medical School.

Tommy Gorski, son of Tom & Moyra Gorski, graduated from Wheaton Warrenville South High School and will be joining the Air Force.

Ben Graves, son of Michael & Beth Graves, graduated from North Park University with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and a minor in Psychology and from Loyola University, Army ROTC. Ben and his wife Caroline will be moving to Fort Carson, Colorado.

Juan Hafner, son of Todd & Debra Hafner, graduated from Horry Georgetown Technical College with an Associate's degree in Golf and Sports Turf Management. He is working at The Union League Golf Club at Torresdale in Philadelphia.

Cynthia Jansen, granddaughter of Judy Jay, graduated summa cum laude from East Tennessee State University with a Master's degree in Speech and Language Pathology.

John Johnson, grandson of Judy Jay, graduated from Augustana College, with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a minor in Public Health.

Elysse Keske, daughter of Marty & Melinda Keske, graduated from the University of Iowa with a Master's degree in Epidemiology.

Brandon Luna, son of Dionel & Julie Luna, graduated from Northwestern University with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. Brandon will be moving to California and working in the Silicon Valley.

Emily McClelland, daughter of Dale & Jeanetta McClelland, graduated from Wheaton Warrenville South High School and will be attending Iowa State University majoring in biochemistry and minoring in American Sign Language.

Rachel Meyer, granddaughter of Ellen and Allen Reed, graduated from Grayslake North High School and will be attending the University of Minnesota majoring in bioengineering.

Paige Miller, daughter of John Miller, granddaughter of Fran Miller, graduated from Wheaton North High School and is planning on attending college in the fall.

Ben Newell, son of Steven & Laura Newell, graduated from Wheaton Warrenville South High School and will be attending Indiana University Kelley School of Business majoring in finance.

Ellie Phillips, daughter of Kristin Phillips, graduated from Wheaton Warrenville South High School and will be attending the University of Illinois majoring in animal sciences.

Carson Rewiski, son of Mark & Heather Rewiski, graduated from Wheaton Warrenville South High School and will be attending The Ohio State University majoring in business marketing.

Anamaria Schulze, daughter of Jerry & Deb Schulze, graduated from West Chicago High School.

Connor Shrigley, son of Jeff & Kim Shrigley, graduated from Wheaton Warrenville South High School and will be attending Marquette University majoring in finance.

Sean Termini, son of Terry & Aileen Termini, graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering.

Ally Updegrove, daughter of Dean & Bobbi Updegrove, graduated from Glenbard West High School and will be attending the University of Vermont.

Jimmy Vercoe, son of David & Kimberley Vercoe and grandson of Barbara Vercoe, graduated from Wheaton North High School and will be attending Augustana College majoring in neuroscience.

Andy Votava, son of Craig & Margaret Votava graduated from high school.

Olivia Watkins, daughter of Clay & Beth Watkins, graduated from Wheaton Warrenville South High School and will be attending Michigan State University majoring in animal science.

Gary Staff Book Reviews

Reconstructing the Gospel: Finding Freedom from Slaveholder Religion

by Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove

Recommended by Jennifer Castino

Wilson-Hartgrove, a white pastor serving in a historically African-American Baptist congregation in North Carolina, reflects on the history of racism and white supremacy within the American church. In this concise, thoughtful narrative, Wilson-Hartgrove explores his own awakening to the injustices perpetuated and endorsed by American Christianity. He underscores the urgent need to face the past—from racial blindness to systemic abuses of power—and reconstruct the gospel after centuries of distortions by slaveholder religion. Wilson-Hartgrove deftly weaves together his own introspection with examples from scripture and American Southern history to make a convincing argument that “the story of Jesus has been hijacked to serve the opposite of what God wants.” *Reconstructing the Gospel* serves as both informative sermon and call-to-action for every Christian interested in how racial injustice and warped religion undermine the gospel message.

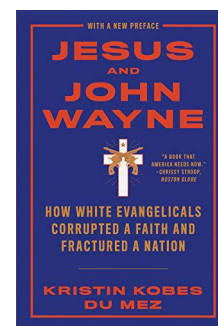


Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation

by Kristin Kobes Du Mez

Recommended by Jennifer Whiting

The title is provocative, but this book summarizes my entire experience of Christianity prior to coming to Gary Church. Kristin Kobes Du Mez reveals the influence of American culture on the development of evangelicalism. She gives a shockingly thorough account of the major influences in my own understanding of Christianity, from Billy Graham to Rousas Rushdoony and beyond.

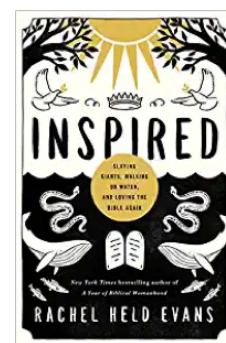


Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again

By Rachel Held Evans

Recommended by Dan Lee

What if someone said, “the only way to learn truth is by reading a science book, history book and a newspaper?” What about poetry? Parables? Choose-your-own-adventure books? We make this mistake every time we read the Bible while not taking into account the diversity of genres present in the Bible. In *Inspired*, Rachel dives into difficult passages and offers commentaries on them intermingling her own modern-day parables, poetry and even a choose-your-own-adventure tale. This book may help you bring back some of the “magic” you have lost when reading the Bible.



Thank You

Thank you for all the cards, meals and prayers sent to us over the death of my brother, Nathan. Our family was deeply comforted by your kind acts and thoughtful words.

Carey Williams Bebar

Sandy and I would like to thank Gary Church for all of the cards and expressions of condolences following the recent passing of our niece Katina Pierson Golden. We felt strengthened by your prayers and your love.

Chris & Sandy Pierson

A huge hug to my Gary family for all the lovely cards, phone calls and prayers during my recovery from a fall and back injury in January. It's a long journey, but I am on the mend!

Love,

Beverly Bassler

I have so enjoyed all the cards, phone calls, texts for my knee replacement surgery. This support is very encouraging in my physical therapy.

"A kind gesture can reach a wound that only compassion can heal." ~ Steve Maraboli

Blessings to my Gary extended family,

Terri M. Johnson

Gary Memorial UMC Friends,

Thank you for your generous support to United Voices for Children (UVC). Your support funds our mission to speak and act on behalf of children and families who lack the voice of an advocate and supports the NIL Child Serving agencies, Rosescrance, MYSI and Kids Above All. You are truly making a difference, and we are so grateful.

United Voices for Children

I would like to thank everyone who donated plastic grocery bags to be used at the childcare center where I work. The collection was a great success. It was a joy to fill the entire back of my car with your bags.



Heather Jewell

We would like to thank Gary Church for the calls, prayers and wonderful cards sent to Logan because of his broken collarbone. He is on the mend, and we appreciate your thoughtfulness and support.

Love,

The LaFratta Family

Thank you

Congratulations

Mike & Donna Capra on the birth of their granddaughter, Vivian Marie Capra, on June 20.
Tom, Melissa & Kinzie Merkle on the birth of their son and brother, Leo Thomas, on June 23.

July birthdays*

Happy (90+) birthday to:

Eileen Hughes
Rona Purpura

August birthdays*

Happy (90+) birthday to:

Gil Lehman

July anniversaries*

Happy (50+) anniversary to:

Gary & Jeanene Fowler

August anniversaries*

Happy (50+) anniversary to:

Bob & Fern Evelhoch
Max & Jane Akerman
Don & Barbara Garlinger
Ed & Alice Williams
Howard & Barbara Wonser

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

Our sympathy

The family of Bev Jones. Bev passed away on May 23.

Nancy Turner on the death of her sister, Carol Pearce, on May 23.

Don, Michelle, Ian and Lyla Harrison on the death of Don's grandmother, Charlotte L. Boal.

Judy Grote, Scott, Katie, Zach & Wes Bordner on the death of Judy's aunt and Scott's grandmother, Doris Tielkemeier, on June 23.



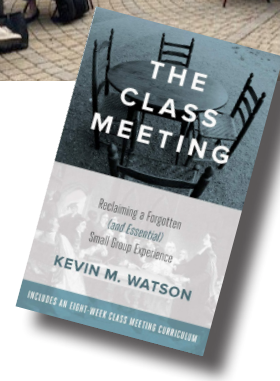
Swing a golf club to support Gary Youth

The 24th annual Gary Golf Outing to benefit our youth programs will be held this year on Sunday, August 15. The golf will be a four-person scramble format at Klein Creek Golf Course located just north of Wheaton. All skill levels are encouraged to participate as everyone can contribute to the foursome's success. The cost is \$125, which includes 18 holes of golf with cart, a meal and refreshments after play. You may also wish to sponsor a hole for the same amount. The first tee time is at 1 p.m. Register at garychurch.org or contact the Church Office to sign up your foursome or let them know you will need to be paired with other golfers.



You can still join Class Meeting

We had a wonderful gathering for Class Meeting, and many people are starting on their journeys. Class Meeting is a small group that laughs, prays and encourages each other in Christ. If you're interested in being part of this wonderful ministry, contact **Pastor Brian**.



Spread the news about COVID-19 clinic

Wednesday, July 14, 3-7 p.m., Gary Church Commons
One-dose J&J and two-dose Pfizer vaccine available
Register at garychurch.org (walk-ins also welcome)



Hymn sing reminder

by John Taylor

Winfield Church is hosting a centennial old-fashioned hymn sing on *Thursday, July 8 from 7 to 8 p.m. on the lawn*. This is the church's sponsorship of the Village of Winfield Centennial Celebration in 2021. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy this special time of fellowship. Light refreshments will be served, and all Gary and Winfield members and friends are invited.



Winfield Sunday altar flowers

Please consider providing altar flowers in August, October or November. The florist provides them on the second Sunday of the month. The cost is \$30 per week. Please sign the altar flower calendar on the narthex table and indicate if the flowers are in honor or memory of a loved one or a special event.

WinChimes

Winfield Community United Methodist Church
An Affiliate of Gary United Methodist Church

Celebrating our freedom

By Rev. Bruce Anderson

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal.

But the word of God is not chained.

2 Timothy 2:8-9

Happy July! This is the month that we celebrate our country's freedom from being an English colony. We also celebrate all the freedoms that we have as American citizens. We are fortunate to be able to worship God as we choose, and to have free access to the word of God without the persecution that people like Paul, or millions of others had, and continue, to face. July is a month in which we remember our freedoms with gratitude.

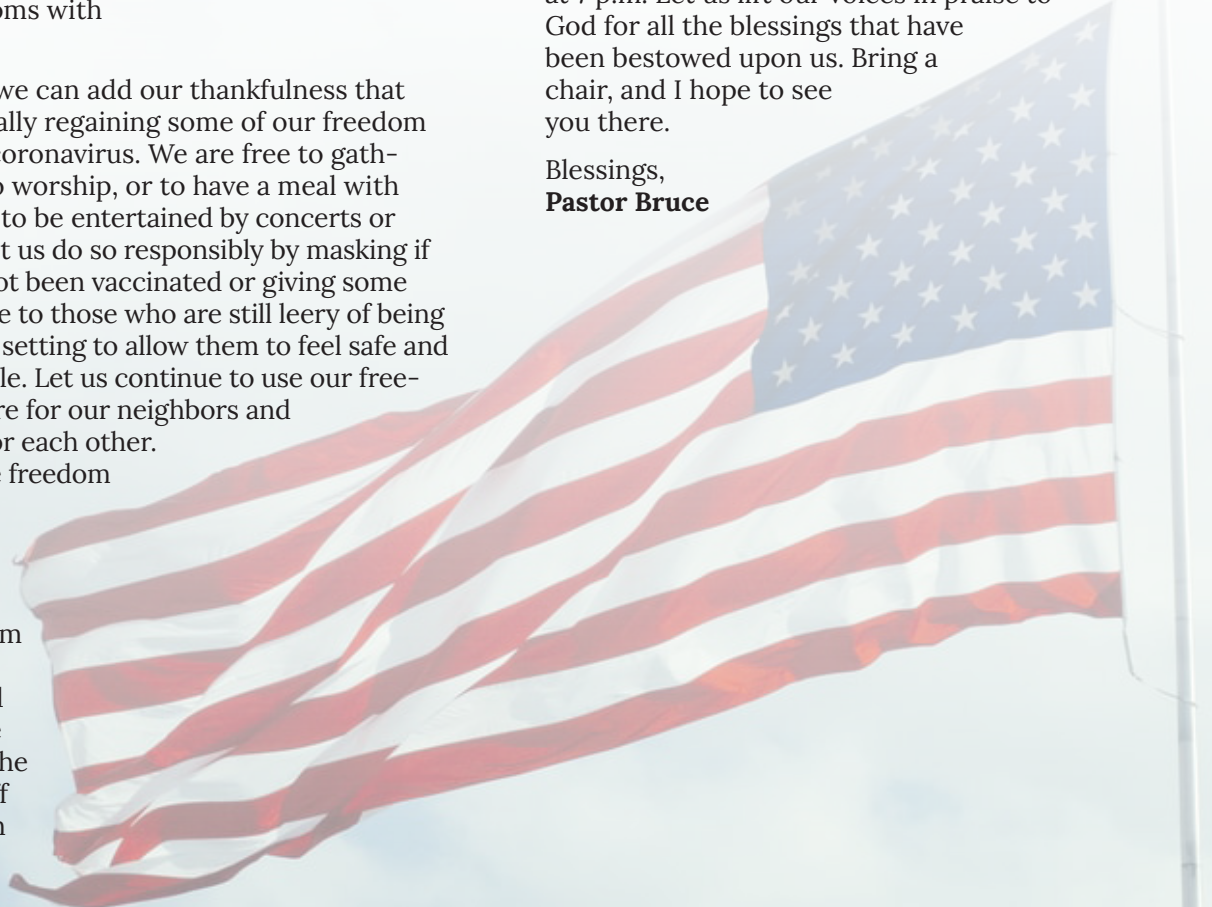
This year we can add our thankfulness that we are finally regaining some of our freedom from the coronavirus. We are free to gather again to worship, or to have a meal with friends or to be entertained by concerts or movies. Let us do so responsibly by masking if we have not been vaccinated or giving some extra space to those who are still leery of being in a group setting to allow them to feel safe and comfortable. Let us continue to use our freedom to care for our neighbors and look out for each other.

That is the freedom that Jesus and the apostles exercised, the freedom to serve others and spread the gospel in the face of stiff opposition

So let us use our freedoms to build up our communities, and the body of Christ, to be bringers of the good news and freedom that we have in Christ Jesus. For if we are free in Christ, we are free indeed. Let us work for equal freedoms for all people in our country and around the world.

I invite you to join us for an old-fashioned hymn sing outdoors at Winfield Church on July 8 at 7 p.m. Let us lift our voices in praise to God for all the blessings that have been bestowed upon us. Bring a chair, and I hope to see you there.

Blessings,
Pastor Bruce



Winfield Community United Methodist Church
0S 347 Jefferson St. Winfield, IL 60190 • 847-815-3846

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



224 North Main Street
Wheaton, IL 60187
630-668-3100 phone
www.garychurch.org

**Winfield Community
United Methodist Church**
Affiliate of Gary Church
www.winfieldumc.org

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CAROL STREAM, IL
60188
PERMIT NO. 6014

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED
PUBLISHED MONTHLY



Worship in the Park

Sunday, August 22, 9 a.m., Memorial Park