

Chimes

The Newsletter of Gary Church
and Winfield Community Church
October 2021



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Sunday Worship

In person at 9 a.m.

Kids' Church at 9 a.m.

Livestream at 9 a.m., garychurch.org

Sunday School for all ages, after 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 November/December *Chimes* newsletter are due by noon on *Friday, Oct. 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.

Fifth grader living her faith

Lt all started when she was only 7 or 8 years old. Her birthday was coming up, and she and her parents knew she didn't need any more stuff. That's when an idea took root. **Natalie Worniak** asked for donations for Bridge Communities instead of birthday gifts. It felt so good to donate to this non-profit organization committed to transforming the lives of homeless families, that she kept going. She's had lemonade stands, bake sales, and each year, on her birthday, she has asked for more donations.



Natalie Worniak supporting Bridge Communities, with her bake sale items in Memorial Park after Worship in the Park.

You may have seen her bake sale at Worship in the Park this summer. Or, maybe you've seen her GoFundMe page. It may be that you've seen her name as one of Wheaton's Citizens of the Year.

Natalie is now in fifth grade, and she has no plans to stop. She's raised more than \$1,600 this year alone. If you'd like to contribute to Bridge Communities through Natalie, search gofundme.com for "Natalie's Bridge Communities Project." (And, by the way, her 11th birthday is this month.)



If you know of someone who is living their faith in a wonderful way, please contact **Janet Mathis**, jmathis@garychurch.org.

Anchored in Hope

by Rev. Dr. Chris Pierson

The beginning of the book of Revelation is a message to the churches in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) encouraging its hearers to “Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.” Each year, the staff gets together for a retreat and we spend some time really wrestling with how we hear God speaking to us and what we see God doing in the world. Just as important, we seek to discern how God is leading us to be a part of what God is doing, and, what is the Spirit saying to the church, and to Gary Church?

Our last theme was “Together With God: Co-workers in God’s Service.” To be honest, we had no idea what the coming months and years would hold for us. We were stretched in ways that we never expected. The global pandemic enabled us to affirm that “God is with Us” and pushed us to adapt to new ways of being in ministry together. Soon after the start of the pandemic we began to see signs, and placed a sign outside Gary Church that read, “We Are in This Together.” Despite the divisions and inequities revealed during the pandemic, we saw ways that God had been preparing us to adapt to the moment. We struggled to live into the aspiration in the message on those signs and to work together with God leading us.

This year, it was really hard to come upon our theme. What we previously did in one day or overnight took days of wrestling. The horizon before us is constantly shifting. In times like these we all long for some security, a sense of certainty, something that we can hold onto. In Hebrews 13:8 we come across this passage, **“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”**

In times of uncertainty, when we are longing for security and something to hold on to, we are reminded that Christ is unchanging. We are reminded that God’s love for us is unchanging and the oath and the promises of God for us are always true—and in that we have confidence.



ANCHORED IN
Hope

ANCHORED IN *Hope*

The letter—or, better, sermon—to the Hebrews is often cited because of the great roll call of faith. We are given the examples of those who lived by faith—a costly faith. Yet, the writer of Hebrews, even as he lifts up these great people of faith, reminds us that “Faith is the substance/assurance/confidence of things hoped for and conviction of things not seen.” Hope is an essential element of the Christian’s faith journey. This year what we hear the Spirit saying to the church is be “Anchored in Hope.” Hebrews 6 reminds us to “take hold of the hope set before us... be encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure” (Hebrews 6:19).

Nautical themes are ever present in scripture and featured prominently in the life of Jesus and his earliest disciples. The anchor, then, is a powerful Christian symbol dating back to the earliest Christian period. It reminds us of God’s unchanging love and presence revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. We have hope for this life and hope in the eternal rest that God promises to the faithful. Found in the catacombs in Rome, it served as a reminder in difficult and turbulent times, even in times of persecution, that we are a people of hope.

In **Jennifer Whiting’s** Lenten devotional from 2017, she referenced the hymn written “during the terrifying height of World War II” by Ruth Caye Jones. The words remind us, “We all hold onto *something* when we feel afraid.” Its message is still relevant in our own heavy times.

**In times like these, you need a Savior;
in times like these you need an anchor;**

Be very sure, be very sure your anchor
holds and grips the Solid Rock!

This Rock is Jesus, yes, He’s the One;
this Rock is Jesus, the only One.

Be very sure, be very sure your anchor
holds and grips the Solid Rock!

May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace as you trust him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Christopher L. Preeson

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul,
firm and secure. —HEBREWS 6:19

ADULT Christian Education and Discipleship

This October we have wonderful ways to connect with God and each other and continue to add new opportunities. As CDC guidelines continue to change, our plans are changing too. Be sure to watch the weekly e-news for updates on Adult Christian Education and Discipleship as we grow in faith together.

The Book of Acts: The Historical & Archaeological Background

Sundays, Oct. 3 and 10, 9:50 a.m., Chapel, led by Ted Wright

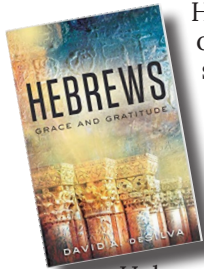
The New Testament book of Acts is a remarkable historical record of the very first Christians. In this two-part series, we will survey the historical context of the book, and some of the major archaeological discoveries which help us to understand the world of the Apostles Peter and Paul and the early Church. Join archeologist Ted Wright for this special Adult Christian Education offering.

Ted Wright is the Director of Epic Archaeology, a ministry devoted to demonstrating the trustworthiness and reliability of the Bible. Ted has spoken on topics in theology, apologetics, biblical criticism and expository preaching. He has participated in excavations in the Middle East and more recently has visited Mt. Ararat. He also leads museum tours at the Oriental Institute of Chicago.



Hebrews: Grace and Gratitude

Sundays, Oct. 17–Nov. 21, 9:50 a.m., Chapel
led by Rev. Dr. Stephen C. Williams



How do we connect God's grace in our lives with the call to invest ourselves in God's mission? Join Rev. Dr. Stephen C. Williams for a six-week series on David deSilva's study, *Hebrews: Grace and Gratitude*.

Author and New Testament scholar David deSilva traces grace and gratitude through the book of

Hebrews, helping us to see the connection between God's grace in our lives and the gratitude we can express for our salvation when we answer the call to invest ourselves in God's mission in the world. In this series, you will discover a bold perspective on the meaning and significance of Jesus' death and resurrection in light of the Old Testament and hear afresh God's call to a life of faithfulness. Participants are invited to attend all six sessions or as they are able. You can purchase the participant guide through the Church Office for \$6.

Worship Talk

Sundays in October, 11 a.m. on Zoom
This virtual coffee hour includes a conversation about the morning's service. We'll talk sermon. We'll talk music. We'll talk worship. Go to garychurch.org for the Zoom code.



Anti-Racist Book Club

#NotYourPrincess: Voices of Native American Women

Wednesday, Oct. 27, 7 p.m., Chapel
led by Michelle Sweeney

Whether looking back to a troubled past or welcoming a hopeful future, the powerful voices of Indigenous women across North America resound in this book. In the same style as the best-selling book *Dreaming in Indian*, *#NotYourPrincess* presents an eclectic collection of poems, essays, interviews and art that combine to express the experience of being a Native woman. Stories of abuse, humiliation and stereotyping are countered by the voices of passionate women making themselves heard and demanding change. Sometimes angry, often reflective, but always strong, the women in this book will give readers insight into the lives of women who, for so long, have been virtually invisible. Participants can purchase the book on their own and join **Michelle Sweeney** for a guided conversation. Register at garychurch.org.



Mama-Ain't-Got-No-Time-to-Read Book Club

Sunday, Oct. 24, 3 p.m., location TBD

Hey Mama, we know that being a mom to little ones leaves little time for relaxing afternoons with a favorite novel. That's why we are offering the Mama-Ain't-Got-No-Time-to-Read Book Club. This monthly gathering will meet to watch a short, informative and inspirational video from MOPS, then discuss the topic. It is a time for fellowship. It is a time for conversation. It is a time for you. Register at garychurch.org



Faith Club: A Women's Interfaith Group

We are excited to continue learning and developing community with our sisters of Abrahamic faiths. All women are invited to be part of these enriching discussions this fall. Meetings will be held in the Gary Church Chapel unless it becomes necessary to meet on Zoom. To be added to the group's email list for updates, please contact **Kim Austin** through the Church Office.

Presentation: Funeral and Bereavement Customs in the Abrahamic Faiths

Tuesday, Oct. 12, 7 p.m., Chapel

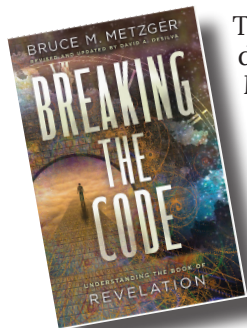
Book Discussion: *The Most Good You Can Do* by Peter Singer

Tuesday, Nov. 9, 7 p.m., Chapel

F ✨ I ✚ H ☾ L U B

Women's Bible Study | *Breaking the Code*

First and third Wednesdays, 3 p.m.
Anderson Room

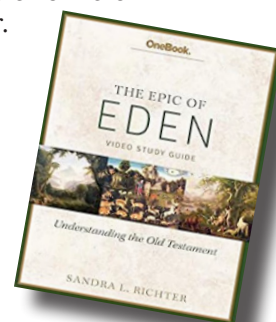


This fall, the Women's Bible Study will dive into Revelation, using Bruce M. Metzger's book, *Breaking the Code*, along with Amplify Media's videos, to help guide the discussion. We'll discuss symbolism, themes, archeology and more. The Women's Bible Study is open to new participants; contact the Church Office to reserve a copy of the book.

Men's Bible Study | *The Epic of Eden: Isaiah*

Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Zoom

Looking for a way to learn about the Bible and connect with other men? Join the Men's Bible Study. This fall, they will explore Dr. Sandra Richter's study, *The Epic of Eden: Isaiah*. Often named the fifth gospel, the book of the prophet Isaiah has more to say about Israel's coming Messiah than any other Old Testament book. This ten-week video study explains Israel's religion and economy, explores the definition and role of the prophets, and helps us to apply the message of this great champion of the faith to our lives today. Participants will gather on Zoom to watch the video and discuss the content. Study guides will be available for \$15 through the Church Office. Go to garychurch.org for the Zoom link.



Class Meetings

See page 15

Contact the Church Office or **Pastor Brian**, bjones@garychurch.org for more information.

United Methodist Women

UMW Circles are small groups that develop supportive fellowship and expand concepts of mission. All women are invited to participate. Most circles meet monthly. Contact the Church Office for more information.

Grief Matters Support Group

Wednesdays through Nov. 17, 10–11:30 a.m.

Commons A

Led by **Jackie Fritz** and **Judy Grote**



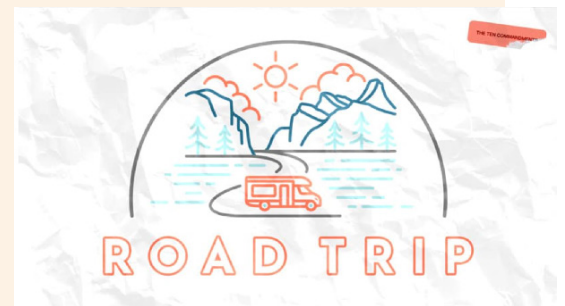
Hey parents! It's that time of year again when the air is getting cooler and the leaves are changing colors. For many, fall is a favorite season filled with apple picking and pumpkin carving. It's a great time to enjoy the beauty and bounty of nature. It is also a great time to talk about the many ways God provides for us.

As your family enjoys autumn classics, take time to notice God's provisions, or come to a few of our fall events and we'll do the work for you.

what we're teaching

October Sunday School series on the Ten Commandments

Have you ever been on a road trip? When we think of road trips, we might think of gas station snacks, singing along to our favorite songs and taking in the sights—but when the Israelites went on a “road trip” of their own through the wilderness, it was a little less glamorous. Okay, it was a lot less glamorous. In this series, we'll introduce kids to some of God's “rules of the road,” from Moses and the Ten Commandments all the way to what Jesus called the Greatest Commandment—to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Together, we'll discover that we can love God and others by putting God first, worshiping God, loving our families and loving everyone.



what's happening in October

Cosley Zoo Pumpkin Fest

Sunday, Oct. 3, 1 p.m., Cosley Zoo

Taking in the beautiful fall colors at Cosley Zoo is a must do! Gary Kids families are invited to see the animals and take in the thousands of pumpkins scattered on the zoo's lawn. Children's rides are also available for an additional fee. This fall outing is perfect for toddlers and preschoolers. Cost is \$7 per adult. Register at garychurch.org.



Helping Hands

Sunday, Oct. 24, during 9 a.m. Kids' Church

All children ages preschool 3s through grade 5 are invited to the Lower Level to use their “helping hands” to help our local, national and global neighbors.





4th & 5th Grade Fellowship Blackwell Forest Preserve Nursery Restoration



Saturday, Oct. 23, 8-10 a.m.

Fourth and fifth grade students are invited to Blackwell Forest Preserve for a special morning caring for God's creation. At Blackwell's native plant nursery, fourth and fifth graders will help to restore biodiversity and function to our native ecosystems by assisting forest preserve staff with various tasks like weeding, watering, collecting seeds, planting plugs and maintaining walkways. They'll not only give the forest preserves a much-needed helping hand but also learn about native plants and how to use them in your own backyard. Participants will need to be dropped off and picked up from Blackwell, but extra adults are needed so please consider staying! RSVP to **Pastor Carey** at cbebar@garychurch.org.

Trunk or Treat

Saturday, Oct. 30, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Gary Church Parking Lot

We are so excited to host Trunk or Treat again this year! This spook-tacular event offers radical hospitality to our community neighbors and creates lasting memories for all involved. We need lots of help decorating trunks and handing out candy.

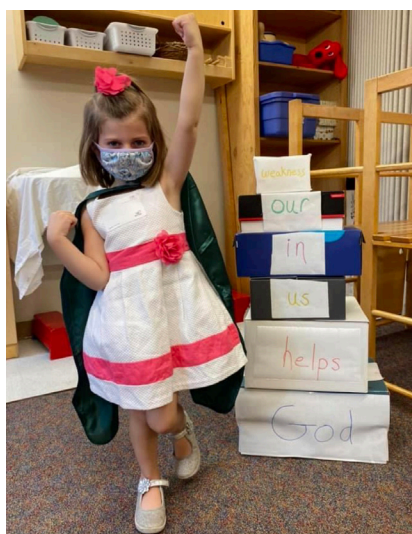
Sign up to decorate a trunk or be a general volunteer at garychurch.org, or just bring your kids, grandkids or neighbor kids in costume to this fun and festive morning.



resource of the month

Book recommendation from Gary Kids Librarian Sarah Kovac

This month's book recommendation is *Snail Crossing* by Corey Tabor. Snail embarks on a literal road trip across a street to eat some delicious cabbage. He runs into several obstacles, including some rude ants. Through his struggles, he shows compassion and kindness, and gets those back in return.





Gary Youth

October Youth Activities

Weekly Gatherings

Middle School

Wednesday, Oct. 6
7–8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 13
7–8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 20
7–8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 27
7–8:30 p.m.

High School

Sunday, Oct. 3
6–7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 10
6–7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 17
6–7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 24
6–7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 31
5–7 p.m.

BLAST Camp

This year's theme came from 1 John 3:18: "Let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions." Each morning, we began by learning about an Olympic hero and a Bible character that exemplified courage, generosity, commitment and faith. Then, we went out into the community to practice these qualities ourselves. Each day, we engaged in mission in our community.

We partnered with Kids Above All to collect school supplies. With the church's help, we collected over \$1,000 worth of school supplies. We also went out to Target to purchase Christmas gifts for families in need. We wrote care cards for 44 of our church members. Through these cards, our church family will feel the love of their church community from the comfort of their home.

During BLAST Camp, our youth learned that there are people in our community with different needs and when they act, they can make a difference. Even when problems seem giant and too difficult, they can take action, big and small. They can even ask others for help. Your support made all this happen. Thank you!



Fall Kickoff

Gary Youth had a strong fall kickoff by committing to help each other experience family at church. We truly are better together.





Weekly Sunday School

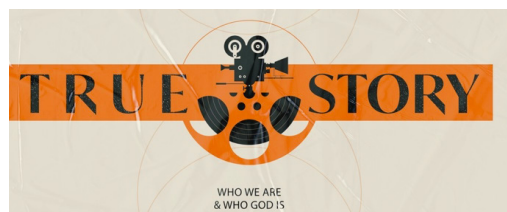
After Worship service, 9:50–10:40 a.m.

- Middle School: Commons E
- High School: Wesley Center



What are we learning in October?

In this series, we'll explore the stories of people like Cain and Abel, Elijah, Naomi, Ruth, Esther, and some of the earliest Jesus-followers in order to see that who we are can best be understood in the context of who God is. When we discover who our Creator is, we can better understand who we were created to be. Because of who God is, we can trust how God has made us, we can do difficult things, we can embrace the unknown, and we can take risks for others.



Halloween Party

Middle School

Wednesday, Oct. 28, 7–8:30 p.m.

Activity Center (in-person)

Let's party! There will be a Halloween costume contest, games and prizes.

Costume Contest: The criteria include originality of costume, creativity, and attention to detail. Extra points if it is a Bible character!

Bigger & Better

High School

Sunday, Oct. 31, 5–7 p.m.

Meet in Parking Lot

Wearing our Halloween costumes, we are going to play Bigger & Better! Basically, we start out with a penny and go to a neighbor's house and say, "Could you trade with us something bigger or better?" Then, we go to the next neighbor with our new item and ask them the same thing, again and again. At the end of the night, the winning team is the one with the most expensive item or items!



AFRICA UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP

The Educate a Girl / Change the World mission project raised funds to support the education of two primary aged girls in Nairobi and five high schoolers in Cambodia—we met those wonderful young people in the June and September *Chimes*. In this issue, we introduce Luxene Ngoie Kakudje, who we are blessed to support through another UMCOR project focused on the education of women.



Luxene wrote this in her application:
 "I trust that God will bless anybody who will be moved to help me get out of this thick cloud".

In the early 1980s, the socio-economic and political needs of the countries of Africa led the African Bishops of the United Methodist Church to devote planning and resources to creating a university accessible to all African students. Located in Zimbabwe, Africa University (AU) began in 1992 and currently has a student population of 3,000 from all over the continent.

Luxene is a young woman from the Democratic Republic of Congo who is beginning a 4-year program in International Relations in the AU class of 2025. Gary Church's support will provide her tuition, room and board for an entire year and part of the second year of her education.

Luxene enrolled at AU with the support of her father (her mother remains in a rural village) and embarked on a 1-year intensive English program this past year to prepare for her AU studies. In the midst of that year tragedy struck, and her father died in an accident. She was stranded in Zimbabwe without support and very close to giving up when she appealed to AU for help.

The AU financial aid committee prioritized Luxene's case to keep her from dropping out of college and confirmation of the Gary UMC scholarship in May of 2021 came at the perfect time to ensure that Luxene would have the financial support to continue. Luxene's education will change her life and she, in turn, will change the lives of others.

Please keep Luxene in our prayers, that God's love will give her strength and the knowledge that she is not alone as she embarks on this education journey.

—Judy Selby, Co-Chair of Educate a Girl

"The faith-driven action and generosity of Gary UMC in journeying alongside Africa University and Luxene is a powerful example of what we can do together in mission. Thank you for stepping up to open the door to a life-changing educational experience for a young woman. Please convey our gratitude and appreciation to the congregation."

—Africa University
Scholarship Team



Christmas Sharing

Mark your calendar for the 52nd year of Christmas Sharing

Friday, Dec. 10–Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021

Christmas Sharing is a Wheaton-Warrenville church and school cooperative effort to help members of our community have a blessed Christmas. We anticipate serving 800 to 1,000 families this year. Gary UMC is one of eight churches that work with District 200 to provide for families in need. This program is of special significance to Gary Church as it was originated in 1969 by the late Bill Davisson, a long-time Gary Church member who saw the need through his work at Franklin Middle School.

Historically, Gary Church provided food, gently used clothing, new and used toys, books, linens, coats, hats, gloves, mittens, socks, pajamas and diapers to our guest families. In order to meet restrictions due to the pandemic in 2020, some adjustments were made, and we were able to provide food and gift cards to our guest families.

Christmas Sharing 2021 is still in the development stages, and details will be released soon on how we expect to proceed. We know we will need volunteers and monetary contributions, with donations of other items to be determined. You can donate at garychurch.org/give.

Fifth Sunday Appeal for United Voices for Children

Sunday, Oct. 31

This Halloween, it's not all about tricks and treats as Gary Church collects a special offering for United

Voices for Children. Your gift will provide support for at-risk children, youth and families in Northern Illinois. You can also give online at garychurch.org/give.



GARY CHURCH *makes a difference*

Our sincere thanks to all our Missions Team members who brought us the latest information from their Mission partners and then made themselves available to answer questions at the Mission Fair at Worship in the Park. Thank you also to all of you who stopped by to chat and see what is new (or new to you) in Gary's mission work. We will be making the informational flyers available around the Commons so you can keep up to date.

GARY CHURCH *makes a difference*

Help UMCOR help others

Afghanistan, California, Congo, El Salvador, Guatemala, Lebanon, Louisiana, Mississippi, the Philippines, Tennessee: all around the world natural and man-made disasters are occurring. Wherever and whenever disaster strikes, UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief) is there to distribute food and personal necessities, help with clean up and rebuilding, supply information and education or simply provide faith-based understanding and moral support. UMCOR missionaries and volunteers bring light to people in their darkest days.



UMCOR cannot do all that they do without the continued, ongoing support of the Methodist community. I know you, like me, are probably being deluged with demands for money, by daily bills, innumerable charities or political demands. If you can find it in your hearts, and budgets, to support your needy brothers and sisters, please do so. We hope you will continue to remember UMCOR, especially in these serious times. You can donate at garychurch.org/give. Thank you for your generosity.

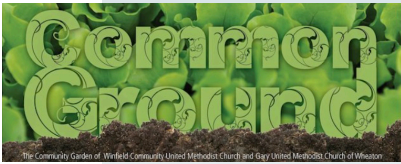
—Joe Ruth, Missions Chair

Common Ground produces for food pantry

As we wind down our work at the Common Ground Garden, we are grateful for another good year.

Starting with the harvest of chard and lettuce in early summer, we have gathered a large amount of squash and zucchini, green beans, onions and tomatoes. Volunteers delivered this produce weekly to the Interfaith Food Pantry at Outreach Ministries in Carol Stream. We still have a crop of brussels sprouts to harvest in the coming weeks.

This year we have welcomed several new volunteers who have helped with the community garden crops and have also grown fresh food for their own enjoyment. There is always room to expand for volunteers. If you want to know more about Common Ground, contact the Church Office to have your message sent to a garden volunteer.



George and Linda Masek volunteer in the Common Ground garden, with daughter Melissa and granddaughter Charlotte.

Join a Class Meeting

Before the pandemic, Gary Church began a Wesleyan small group called "Class Meeting." This summer, that one group has multiplied into over 30 people forming four Class Meetings.

The purpose of the Class Meeting is to provide a place for people who want to know Christ, or know more of Christ, to grow—starting where they are. It is a group which meets regularly and answers this simple question: "How is your life in Christ this week?" We encourage each other and pray for each other in healthy ways. As Christians, we can't live our life in Christ alone. The Class Meeting acknowledges this fact and creates a space where folks pray, laugh, celebrate, forge friendships and become transformed by Christ—together.

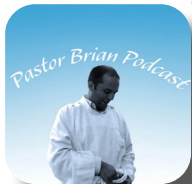
Join us in this journey to follow Christ more deeply through Class Meeting. You can join any of our four groups on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evenings.



Also, a new Class Meeting will begin this October that meets during the day and will be led by **Janet Mathis**. Contact the Church Office or **Pastor Brian**, bjones@garychurch.org for more information.

New look and sound for Pastor Brian Podcast Season 5

As we prayed about the future of Pastor Brian Podcast and heard from folks, a daily or weekly 10-minute prayer did not seem to be where there was the most need. Instead, we will have a monthly conversation with guests. Not only will we feature theologians, scholars, pastors and writers who help others in Christ, but half of our conversations will be devoted to everyday Christians. The old church term is "laity." These are people who are so often overlooked but do most of the ministry of Christ's mission on earth. We hope to highlight these amazing people. I promise you will be inspired, encouraged, caused to think and question, and called to deeper faithfulness in Jesus Christ. But don't worry, we will still pray in every episode, just in a new way.



This month, our inaugural guest will be **Vickie Austin**, President of the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce, Founder of CHOICES Worldwide and member of Gary Church. Vickie works in Business and Professional Services where her mission is to "create a world where people love what they do and do what they love." Vickie will talk about her life, faith in Christ, and career discernment and transition in these pandemic times. You can find us on all podcast platforms, or at garychurch.org.

So come on in, join us for Season 5. And as always—I will look forward to praying with you!

Brian Felker Jones



New photo directory coming soon

In the coming weeks, you'll have the opportunity to sign up to have your picture taken for Gary Church's directory. The dates we're planning photo shoots are Tuesday, Nov. 23, Wednesday, Nov. 24, Saturday, Nov. 27, Monday, Nov. 29 and Tuesday, Nov. 30. Please watch the weekly e-news for more information.

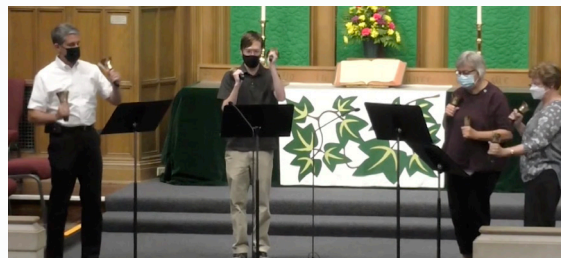
Music groups meet again

Gary Church vocal and bell ministries are back! We will have some limitations, but it's worth the adjustment for the joy of making music together again.

All ensembles will follow protocols specific to each group, including distancing, ventilation, limited time in rooms and mandatory masks. Some groups may move to larger spaces to allow for proper distancing.

Singing and wind instruments present particular dangers for spreading viruses. Therefore, all singers and wind instrument players who want to participate are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and must be willing to share this personal information.

Contact the group's director or **Jennifer Whiting** through the Church Office for the most up-to-date information, including rehearsal dates. You can also find COVID-19 protocols at garychurch.org.



Here is a tentative rehearsal schedule that is subject to change as COVID-19 mitigations are updated.

Singing groups:

Friendship Singers

This class for grades 1–5 is suspended temporarily. Students in grades 3–6 are warmly encouraged to join Good News Ringers for a fun musical experience.

Broken Together (youth ensemble)

Sundays, 2–3 p.m., Choir Room
Grades 6–12

Director: **Ellie Pentland**

Men's Ensemble

Second and third Saturdays, 8–9 a.m.
Choir Room

High School–Adult, tenors and basses
Director: **Phil Roberts**

Celebration Sing-Along

Second and fourth Wednesdays, 7–8 p.m.
Choir Room

High School–Adult, sopranos and altos
Director: **Jennifer Whiting**

Chancel Ensemble

Thursdays, 7–8 p.m., Choir Room
High School–Adult, sopranos, altos, tenors, basses

Director: **Jennifer Whiting**

Share your musical gifts

Musicians of all ages are encouraged to share their instruments in worship. Contact **Jennifer Whiting** for details.

Rhythm, handbell, and instrumental groups:

Cherubs

Wednesdays, 6–6:30 p.m., Choir Room

Age 3–Kindergarten

This group explores music through rhythm and movement, and each child is accompanied by an adult who participates in the class. It's a fun way to spend time with your little one. Please register at garychurch.org.

Director: **Mary Ellen Rahn**

Good News Ringers

Wednesdays, 5:30–6:15 p.m., Bell Room

Grades 3–6

Directors: **Nancy Brunner, Jill Stoffels**

Glory Ringers

Sundays, 11 a.m.–noon, location TBD

Grades 7–12

Directors: **Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal, Jill Stoffels**

Sanctuary Ringers

Sundays, 10–11 a.m., location TBD

High School–Adult

Director: **Sharon Schmidt**

Altar Bells

Wednesdays, 6:15–7:30 p.m., location TBD

High School–Adult

Director: **Sharon Schmidt**

String Ensemble

Rehearsals TBA;

performances on Sunday, Dec. 12

(Lessons and Carols) and Friday, Dec. 24

(Christmas Eve)

High School–Adult

Director: **Jennifer Whiting**

Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor

For our ministry theme "Anchored in Hope" our congregation will learn a new hymn. You can listen to the tune and words by Matthew Boswell and Matthew Papa on YouTube.

Christ the sure and steady anchor
In the fury of the storm
When the winds of doubt blow through me
And my sails have all been torn

In the suffering in the sorrow
When my sinking hopes are few
I will hold fast to the anchor
It shall never be removed

Christ the sure and steady anchor
While the tempest rages on
When temptation claims the battle
And it seems the night has won

Deeper still then goes the anchor
Though I justly stand accused
I will hold fast to the anchor
It shall never be removed

Christ the sure and steady anchor
Through the floods of unbelief
Hopeless somehow O my soul now
Lift your eyes to Calvary

This my ballast of assurance
See His love forever proved
All my hope is in the anchor
It shall never be removed

Christ the sure and steady anchor
As we face the wave of death
When these trials give way to glory
As we draw our final breath

We will cross that great horizon
Clouds behind and life secured
And the calm will be the better
For the storms that we endured

Christ the shore of our salvation
Ever faithful ever true
We will hold fast to the anchor
It shall never be removed

ANCHORED IN *Hope*

CCLI Song # 7045331

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A beautiful Sunday in the Park gathering for Worship and song.



Thank You

Dear Gary Church,

Thank you so much for your cards of care and concern. In July after my seven-hour spinal surgery—cheery cards put a smile on my face—I'm still in the recovery process, but each day is better than the last! Also thank you for our Gary card that was a surprise for our 57th wedding anniversary. Gary Cares!

Fondly,

Donna & John Hamilton

Dear Gary Friends,

Thanks once again for your caring notes, calls and gifts, since my daughter, Mindy, passed away. Your prayers keep me going.

Peace and Love,

Sally Hill

Dear Gary Church Family,

Thank you for the generous "love gift." This pleasant surprise was a reminder of how fulfilling it was to serve our caring and giving congregation and of how blessed I am to remain a member. This fall I am enrolled in a TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) Professional Development series and thought it would be appropriate to use the gift to help cover the cost. I will be reminded of your generosity while taking the classes and will be able to pay it forward when I complete the program and serve English language learners.

With a grateful heart,

Kim Austin

Thank you, Gary Church, for Mia's lovely card and the prayers for her leg to heal quickly. It meant a lot to her, and your support is very much appreciated.

Love,

The LaFratta Family

Congratulations

Allison Kane & Eric Alt who were married in our Sanctuary on Sept. 4.

Dan & Suzy Wible on the birth of their grandson, Landon Park, on Sept. 11.

October birthdays (90+)*

Jim Carsten

Dorothy Reed turns 102 this month.



New Opportunities*

Jan Karowski on her move further north in Illinois

Our sympathy

Joan & Paul Stevens on the death of their son, Jim Stevens, on Aug. 29.

Fred & Becky Wirt on the death of Fred's sister, Martha Davis, on Sept. 1.

Scott & Betsy Boyd on the death of Scott's father, Richard Boyd.

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

Gary Preschool off to great start this year

We have been joined by new and returning families, and it is so great to hear the joyful noises and see the happy faces at school once again. At Gary Preschool, we have a weekly theme. These themes range from Community Helpers to Spiders to Post Office, so there is a lot of variety. We always start the school year focusing first on the child, then the school, next the families, and finally helpers in our communities. It is a wonderful way to learn about our preschool families and to also introduce them to one of our favorite places in the community: Gary United Methodist Church!

One of our goals at Gary Preschool is to encourage our preschool families to see Gary Church as their church home. Preschool families, for example, will receive copies of this publication (hi, preschoolers!) and are invited to join in fun church events, like Trunk or Treat in October or Vacation Bible School in the summer. We aim to show the preschool and the church are a place for families to gather and grow together.

We still have a few spaces available in our Parents' Morning Out classes and in our 3s preschool class. Please contact **Kirsten McCluskey** at preschool@garychurch.org to discuss in greater detail. We would love to have your child join us. One of our greatest ways of finding new families is through word of mouth, so please share our preschool with your family, friends and neighbors with young children.



WinChimes

Winfield Community United Methodist Church

An Affiliate of Gary United Methodist Church

Creation and Stewardship

by Rev. Bruce Anderson



As the new church year begins, we will start looking at the Bible through the lens of the Narrative Lectionary. We will start at the very beginning, the creation story in Genesis. We will then proceed through the patriarchs to the Exodus, all looking at God's provision for Israel, and humanity in general.

It is interesting to note how everything in the Bible is interwoven. Everything is interconnected. It is like the creation. God's creation is interdependent. The land is watered to nourish the plants, which feed animals and humans. Nothing is wasted. Nothing is lost. Dead matter decays to fertilize the soil, which further supports the plants which support animals and humans. It is a dance of interdependence as creation seeks to sustain itself through God's providence.

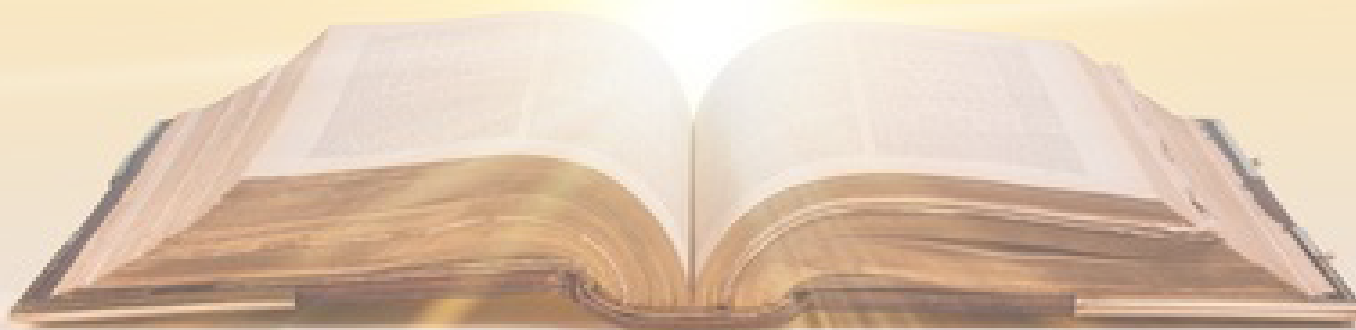
But human sin and selfishness has thrown creation out of balance. The focus has become on how much we can take from nature now, without worrying about how the earth will sustain our future generations. And we see nature responding with increasingly violent storms and fires in an attempt to try to regain balance. It looks like a losing battle, unless humanity steps in to undo the harms that we have been doing. It should be obvious that we

cannot continue to heedlessly strip the planet of its resources while poisoning the environment and expect the earth to continue sustaining an ever-increasing population through less natural means.

God created humanity to be stewards of creation, and we have been allowed to be co-creators of God's good world. We need to begin acting as stewards—as those who care for the environment rather than those who seek to use as many resources as possible for personal gain. The Bible stories are all about relationship and community. We must return to the values of building up community for the good of all if we are going to remain good stewards of God's good gift of creation. And we need to begin as the church, working for social and environmental justice. For we are all equal in God's sight, and part of the goodness of God's creation. Amen.

Then God said "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds"

Genesis 1:11 NIV



Winfield Community United Methodist Church

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

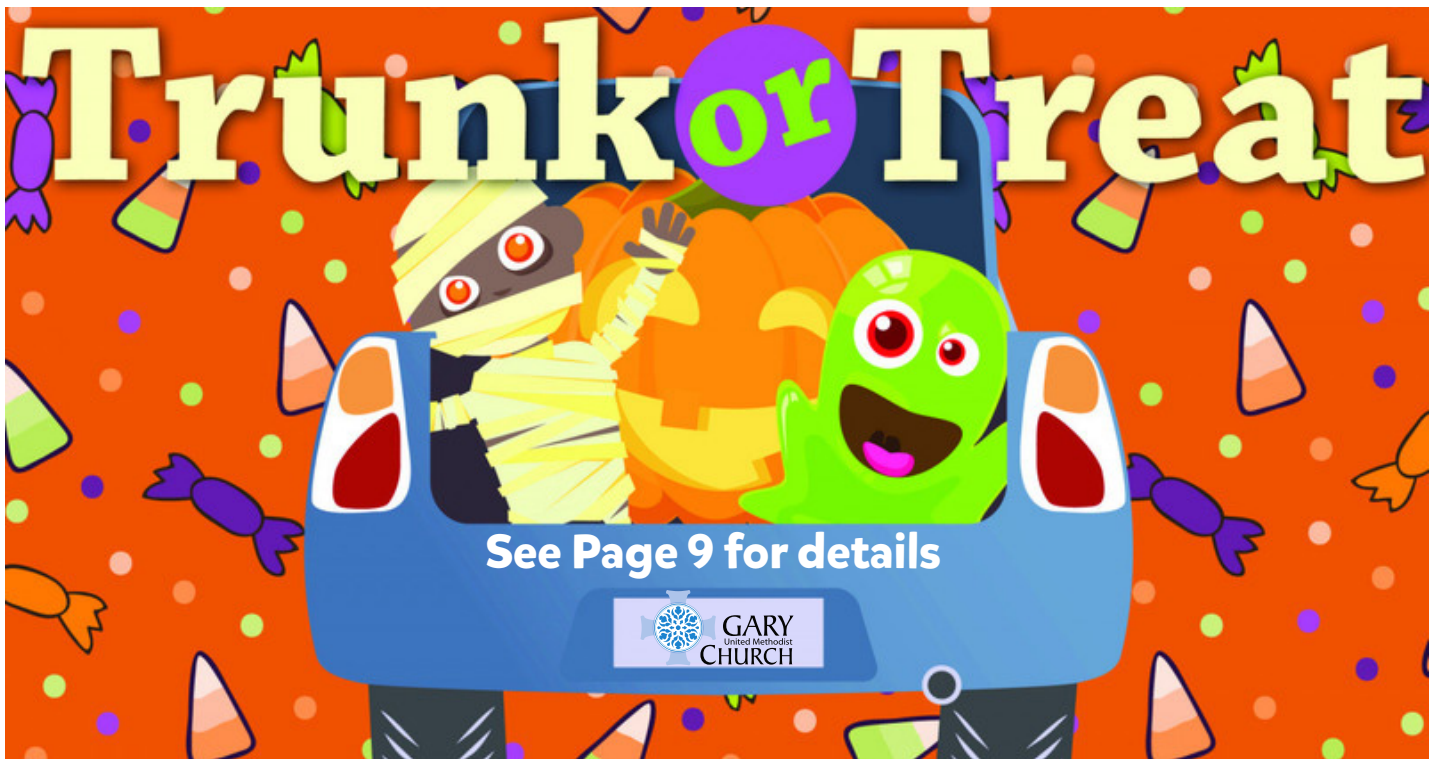


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Saturday, Oct. 30, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Gary Church Parking Lot