

Chimes



The Newsletter of Gary Church
and Winfield Community Church
January 2022



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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 February *Chimes* newsletter are due by noon on Monday, Jan. 3. 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.

Caring through cards

Glenn Miller singing in the background, paper cutter slicing through pages, scissors and glue crafting the next card. When the Gary card makers come together, their creative juices start flowing and so does their faith.



"Sometimes when we were creating a card for a certain person, we all would think and talk about them and include a silent prayer to go with it. We hoped the recipients would see the card and realize they were being thought about at Gary Church." –**Virginia Isgren**

It all started years ago in the home of **Jim and Lenna Siens**. Jim would make sure the music was just right, and Lenna would lead the group. Virginia said there were supplies everywhere in their home, even under furniture. Although Jim and Lenna died years ago, they continue to be on the minds of the card makers. The supplies are now in the Heritage Room (church library), and the group remembers Lenna's rule to recycle cards, but always add a new creative flair to each card's design.



"We love being a part of this ministry. When our congregation signs the cards on Sunday morning, we connect in a special way with our members who have a joy, a sorrow, or just need to know we are thinking of them. I know from experience what a wonderful feeling it is to receive a card filled with the names of my friends." –**Nancy Turner**

"Making cards for those who are sick or lonely or are celebrating a birthday or anniversary is just a simple way to say we care about you." –**Jan Aellig**

"They're always just so meaningful. People are so touched by them. It makes them feel warm and appreciated and thought of." –**Jackie Fritz**

Next time you sign your name to the cards displayed on Sunday, think about the love and faith and care that went into making them. And, if that's something you'd like to try, the card makers say anyone is welcome, even if you don't consider yourself to be creative. The group typically meets in the *Heritage Room* on *Thursdays* at 1 p.m. You're welcome to drop in whenever you can. If you'd like more information, contact **Nancy Turner** or **Jackie Fritz** through the Church Office.



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

Happy Epiphany

by Rev. Dr. Chris Pierson

People throughout history and across cultures have celebrated the start of a new year. There is something special, something significant, about the start of a new year.

A new year plants in our imagination seeds of hope—hope that we will experience new possibilities and a bright future. I think this is especially the case when the previous year has been difficult—it is an opportunity to let go of that which was painful for us in the past year. And we see the new year as an opportunity to start new things. We resolve that we will be better people, we will begin healthier habits, we start new diets and new workout routines. The list of possibilities is endless.

If for no other reasons than focusing our minds on turning a new page in our lives and desiring and striving for something better for ourselves and our loved ones, it is a good thing.

I wonder though, if as Christians, we miss out on the richness our faith traditions bring to our understanding and celebration of a new year. Extended time off work allows us the joy traveling and spending time with our loved ones but sometimes causes us to miss out on one of the highlights in our faith tradition—Epiphany.

I was unaware of many Christian seasons and celebrations growing up. Even though we regularly attended worship, the only ones that really registered in my mind were Christmas and Holy Week, with special emphasis on Palm Sunday and Good Friday leading to Easter. The start of the new year, however, was marked by Watchnight Services at church. At home, at midnight, my mother would be on her knees praying and thanking God for bringing us through the year and seeking God's blessing upon us for the new year.

**A new year
plants in our
imagination
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hope.**

But I do not recall much about celebrating Epiphany—though we probably did. In many churches Christmas and Epiphany are all wrapped up in a single story. We need look no further than Christmas pageants. Yet, in the process, Epiphany loses its uniqueness, what makes it so special and significant. Epiphany is always January 6th but celebrated in many traditions on the Sunday closest to the new year. Epiphany actually predates the celebration of Christmas. In parts of Latin America and even in Latino-Hispanic communities in the United States, Epiphany (also known as Three Kings Day) is a very special day and rivals Christmas.



Epiphany celebrates the visit of the magi who brought gifts for the Christ Child, the one whose star they saw rising in the east. Seeing the Christ Child was their great epiphany. It can serve as an epiphany for us as well. The magi “observed,” or saw because they were attentive and open to what God was doing in the world and willing to begin a journey, and to see where God would lead them. Epiphany Day and the season of Epiphany are an invitation to see the new year through new eyes.

A few years ago a United Methodist Women article, written by Yvette Moore, touched on ways that we can learn from our faith tradition. First, Jesus the Christ can be revealed in different ways, places, times and cultures. The journey of the magi likely began well before the shepherds heard the good news. Second, unexpected people can bring unexpected, but needed, treasures. Moore writes, “God spoke to the Magi over 2,000 years ago, and after 30 years of asking, I still don’t know who they were or why God was talking to them. There’s no reason to believe God’s not doing things like this in my neighborhood, our nation and in the world today.” We never know in what ways God may be choosing to bless us through new people and new relationships.

Offer your gifts and worship to God and experience the ways that God will be revealed in your life. Make this year be one of prayer and praise like the magi and my mother—thereby, nurturing the seeds of hope. And as you rise, lift up your eyes to behold the new thing that God is birthing in the world. And like the magi, may your journey be a blessed one.

Happy Epiphany!

Christopher L. Pearson

On Jan. 2, Gary Church will celebrate Epiphany Sunday with the sermon, hymns and a reading from Matthew on the magi.



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

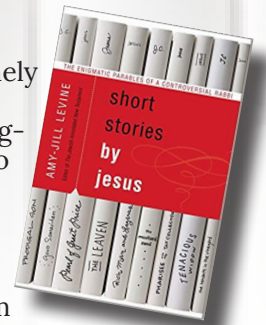
ADULT Christian Education and Discipleship

We have wonderful ways to connect with God and each other in January. Watch the weekly e-news for updates on Adult Christian Education and Discipleship as we grow in faith together.

Short Stories by Jesus

Sundays, January 9–30, 9:50 a.m.
in the Chapel, led by Betsy Boyd

In this wise, entertaining and educational study, Amy-Jill Levine offers a fresh, timely reinterpretation of Jesus' narratives. In *Short Stories by Jesus*, she analyzes these "problems with parables," taking readers back in time to understand how their original Jewish audience understood them. Levine reveals the parables' connections to first-century economic and agricultural life, social customs and morality, Jewish scriptures and Roman culture. With this revitalized understanding, she interprets these moving stories for the contemporary reader, showing how the parables are not just about Jesus, but are also about us—and when read rightly, still challenge and provoke us 2,000 years later. Books available to purchase on your own or from the Church Office for \$14.



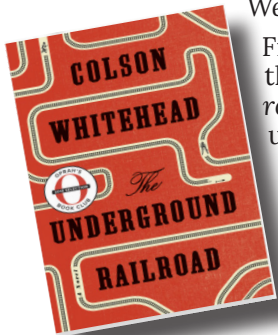
Anti-Racist Book Club

Register at garychurch.org.

The Underground Railroad
by Colson Whitehead

Wednesday, Jan. 26, 7 p.m., Chapel

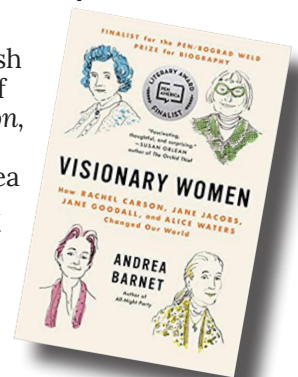
Fiction can be a powerful way to tell the truth. *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead will take us on a journey that explores the suffering caused by slavery. Whitehead uses allegory to reveal the cost of slavery, so that we can see the tracks that bring us through time to where we are today.



Faith Club: A Women's Interfaith Group

Tuesday, Jan. 11, 7 p.m., Chapel

Join other women of Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths for a discussion of *Visionary Women: How Rachel Carson, Jane Jacobs, Jane Goodall, and Alice Waters Changed Our World* by Andrea Barnet. Please read the introduction and chapters 1 and 2 for our January meeting. If you wish to be added to the group's email list, contact **Kim Austin** through the Church Office.



F ✨ I ✨ H C ✨ L U B

ADULT Christian Education and Discipleship

More opportunities

Worship Talk

Sundays, 11 a.m., Zoom

Women's Bible Study

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

Men's Bible Study

Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Commons E

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

Sunday, Jan. 30, 3 p.m.
location to be determined.

Register at garychurch.org



Grief Matters Support Group

Will meet again in the spring. Look to future editions of the *Chimes* and e-news for information.



Class Meetings

various days, times and locations

Contact **Pastor Brian**, bjones@garychurch.org for more information about these small groups.

United Methodist Women Circles

various days, times and locations

Contact the Church Office for more information about these small groups that develop supportive relationships and help missions.

Joy Circle had a "Mums for Missions" fundraiser this past fall. You can find more about this on page 13.



Hey parents! Happy New Year! We can't wait to get started on a new year of ministry with you!

what we're teaching

A DAY AT THE MUSEUM:

A five-week series on Jesus' early life and ministry.

Museums have the unique ability to transform learning—instead of merely reading words on a page, we can experience them through all of our senses. *A Day at the Museum* is all about helping kids interact with the stories of Jesus and connecting them to God. Jesus' life and early ministry helps all of us experience (see, hear . . . even taste!) and follow God in new, tangible and real ways.



what's happening in January

Night at the Museum Parent's Night Out

Friday, Jan. 14, 6:30–8:30 p.m., Lower Level
Drop off your kiddos at Gary Church and enjoy some well-deserved time away. This month, we're watching *Night at the Museum* to work with our Kids' Church and Sunday School January teaching theme. Register ages 2–11 at garychurch.org. Suggested cash donation of \$5 per child.

4th & 5th Grade Fellowship Roller skating Party

Friday, Jan. 21, 7:30–9 p.m., Lombard Roller Rink

Fourth and fifth grade students are invited to Lombard Roller Rink for a fun night of skating with friends. Cost is \$10 per person. RSVP to **Pastor Carey** at cbebar@garychurch.org.



Helping Hands

Sunday, Jan. 30 at 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.



Kids' Church and Sunday School Volunteer Meeting and Luncheon

Sunday, Jan. 23, 11:15 a.m.–1 p.m.

Hey Volunteers! There is no one we'd rather start the new year with than you! We're inviting you to a special Kids' Church and Sunday School Volunteer Meeting and Luncheon to chat about the new year and new Grow Kids platform version 5. Attendance isn't mandatory, but it's strongly encouraged. (We wouldn't want you to miss out on the fun!) RSVP to cbebar@garychurch.org.

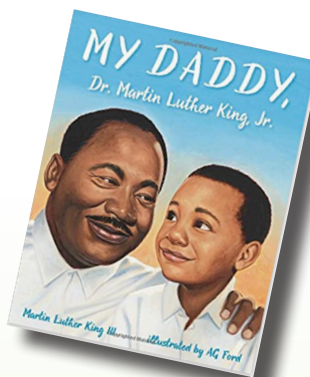




resource of the month

Book recommendation from Gary Kids Librarian Sarah Kovac

This month, we recommend *My Daddy, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.* by Martin Luther King III. In this picture book, the author recalls fond moments with his father and the turbulence of the Civil Rights era. Reading this unique portrait of a legendary man is a great way for your family to mark Martin Luther King, Jr. Day this month.



volunteer of the month

Hey Families! Did you know that we have 38 volunteers on our Kids' Church and Sunday School team? That's 38 different adults sharing God's love with your kiddos. We think that's pretty cool, so each month we are going to celebrate one of our awesome volunteers. Be sure to check out this month's volunteer, **Kim Olson**, and say hi if you see her around.

Kim Olson has been serving in Children's Ministry since 2015. She currently teaches Third and Fourth Grade Sunday School but has been Gary's VBS Decorating Chair, VBS Imagination Station Leader, Craft Kit Creator and Bulletin Board Master (yes, that's the position title.) More than that though, Kim is a kind, generous, and creative spirit as well as one awesome mom.





Gary Youth

January Weekly Gatherings *

Middle School

Wednesdays, Jan. 5–26
7–8:30 p.m.

High School

Sundays, Jan. 9–30
6–7:30 p.m.
(no meeting Jan. 2)

Weekly Sunday School

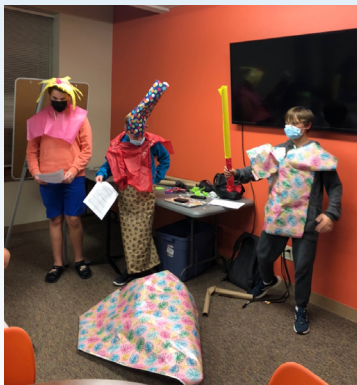
After Sunday worship service,
9:50–10:40 a.m.

Middle School:

Commons E

High School:

Heritage Room



Gary Youth dress up and act out Bible stories

*All events are subject to change

Draw the Circle Wide

by Daniel Lee

The first church I had the privilege of serving as clergy was Cary United Methodist Church in Cary, Illinois. I remember preaching that if we are not actively in a mode of inclusivity, we will be in a mode of exclusivity by default. It's our human tendency to settle at the point of comfort; to make friends with people who look like us, talk like us and think like us. I asked the congregation to look around and see who we are missing during our Sunday worship service. The type of people we don't see are the ones we are probably excluding by not actively including them.

I grew up in a church where the pastor loved to break out into a hymn during and after his sermon. So, after my sermon, I decided to lead the congregation in singing "Draw the Circle Wide" by Mark Miller. This was despite the recommendation of Kathleen, our worship director, who had served there over 40 years. What can I say? I was inexperienced.

We started singing it and Kathleen was as right as anyone could be. That was the worst hymn singing I had ever heard. The worst part about it was that I was the pilot trying to control this crash and burn. It was awkward, messy and embarrassing. I was sure that this would probably be one of my worst pastoral blunders other than the time I took my youth group guys to an R-rated movie. (That is a story for another time.)

During the week, I shared this story with my pastor friends and one of them said something profound to me. She said, "Dan, that was the perfect way to end that sermon because you demonstrated how awkward, messy, and sometimes embarrassing our attempts at drawing the circle wider can be. But the important thing is to keep learning." What she said blew my mind. I had some really wise clergy friends and thank goodness God can use our blunders for good sometimes.

Drawing the circle wider, or diversity, can only help us see clearer who God is and who we are as God's children. For this reason, in November and December, we invited **Diana Blackburn** to teach us about people who are on the autism spectrum. How can we be a youth group that welcomes them and helps them know that they are loved by God? When you see our youth, ask them what they learned. I look forward to seeing how else Gary Youth can draw the circle wider.



Gary Golf Outing

By Bob Martin

Thanks to the generous support of the 20 golfers and 18 hole sponsors of the Gary Golf Outing, \$3800 was raised for the youth programs of Gary Church. A big thank you to the many youth and their parents recruited by **Pastor Dan** for their support on the day of the event. Through their efforts they generated \$500 of the total funds raised. We are anticipating another great event next year for the 25th anniversary edition of this fine Gary tradition. Mark your calendar now for mid-August 2022. We look forward to your continued participation in support of the outstanding youth programs of Gary and Winfield Methodist Churches.



What are we learning in January?

We all have goals! Whether your goal is to raise your grades, learn a new skill, get TikTok famous, change the world, or all of the above, there are things you want to do, accomplish and become. But let's be honest— it's not always easy to achieve our goals. Sometimes it's difficult to even know which goals to set in the first place. That's why in January we'll explore the story of a guy with a seemingly impossible goal and the steps he took to make his goal a reality. His name is Nehemiah, and because of his example, we can learn a lot about goal setting, decision making, leadership and trusting God.



Painting Party with Pam Keller

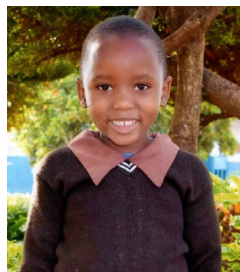
Sunday, January 16, 6-8:30 p.m. (high school)

Wednesday, January 19, 7-8:30 p.m. (middle school)

Painting is a great way to release stress and let out your creative energy!
It's also fun! Drink some sparkling juice, have some snacks, and paint with us!



Thanks to our “Educate a Girl” campaign, Gary Church is educating nine girls this school year. Gloriah and Angel are primary students at the Kinyago-Dandora School in Nairobi, Kenya, and they shared their notes with us:



Dear Gary church #16673

Gloriah, your sponsored child wishes to pass her warm greetings to you and your family. She is fine and of good health and hopes that you are doing well with your family.

She is currently in Nursery and she will be joining Kindergarten in July. Her favorite game is football and she likes colour red. Her favorite food is fish with Ugali. Her best subject is English. She aspires to become a pilot when she grows up and she is five years old.

Gloriah comes from a family of three children and she has one sister and one brother. She loves assisting in doing the house chores. She loves her school because they are given good education.

Gloriah wishes to thank you for your support towards her and may the Lord bless you and keep you safe.

Written on behalf by
Marion

Your sponsored child,
Gloriah

Dear Gary Church, #16673

It is our hope that you are doing fine even under these trying times. Receive a warm embrace from your sponsored child, Angel Adhiambo.

Angel is now in Grade 2 and her favourite subject is Christian Religious Education (C.R.E). She enjoys playing soccer and her favourite food is rice.

Angel loves the school because of their generosity towards the impoverished community. She loves all the teachers and, in her own words, would want you and them to be repayed with the same humungous amount of love.

Thank you for sponsoring her. May God bless you!

Written on behalf by, Victor.

Your sponsored child,
Angel

GARY CHURCH *makes a difference*

Faithful years

The Missions Team, on behalf of all our community partners, want to thank the Gary Church family for your faithfulness. It has been a long and difficult two years of COVID-created disruptions to normal mission activities, but you have stepped up to help those in need. Your continued generosity and hands-on efforts made Christmas Sharing, RTO, CROP Walk and more outstanding examples of Christian love and compassion. Your desire to help our sisters and brothers is the reason missions exists and without you we could accomplish nothing significant.

Now we can hope and pray for a better year and, maybe, an end to COVID-required restrictions and a return to more normal lives and activities. Stay tuned to future *Chimes* and e-news editions as our plans may face quick changes. Here's wishing everyone a joyful, comforting 2022.

May "the grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people."

-Joe Ruth, Missions Chair

Special missions Sundays

Jan. 16 Human Relations Day

Jan. 30 United Voices for Children fifth Sunday appeal

Feb. 13 Scouting Ministries Sunday

Mums make a difference for missions

Joy Circle would like to thank everyone who participated in our "Mums for Missions" fundraiser this past fall. The disbursement of the funds raised will go to the following: Sensory Garden Playground matching fund program, Gary Preschool scholarship fund and plasma car purchase, Outreach Community Ministries senior luncheon program, Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors, Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans women's veterans and house, and a struggling mother in our area. The UMW and Joy Circle mission is to help women, children and families, and these disbursements will accomplish that goal as well as staying within our church and community.

Blessings,

Barb Wernicke and Suzy Wible

Gary Church's Habitat for Humanity team constructed the frame for a house for an Indiana family in need.



Christmas Sharing thanks you

Thank you to all who donated money, participated in dine out events, bought diapers and volunteered at Christmas Sharing. You have made a difference in the lives of District 200 families in need. In the February edition of the *Chimes*, we'll share more detailed information about the event and the families we served. Christmas Sharing collects donations year-round. If you would like to contribute, go to garychurch.org/give.

Music is weird by Jennifer Whiting

Did you ever think about how strange the concept of music is? A bunch of people decide to make noises in odd ways, and somehow we create works of art by setting molecules of air in motion. It boggles the mind!

On a given Sunday morning we might have people clanging round metal objects, and others dragging horse hair across sheep intestines stretched over wooden boxes.

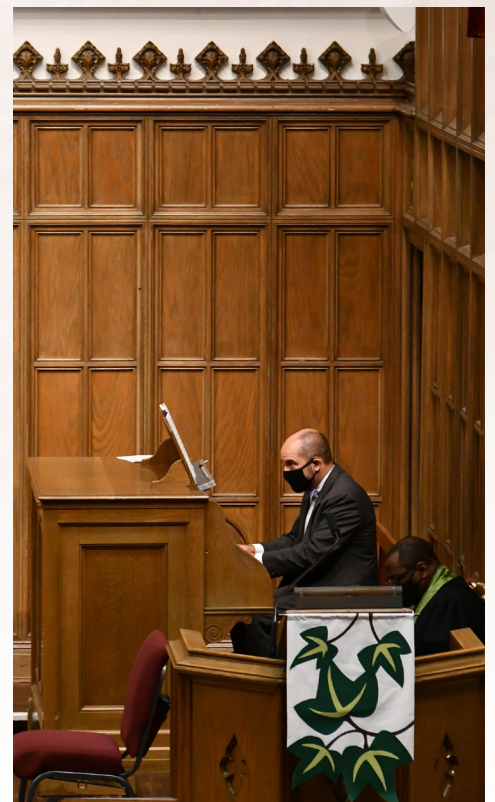
Kevin Lange is pumping massive amounts of air through tubes of different sizes and lengths, and **Dave Rush** is tapping his fingers on dried gourds.

Some folks in matching robes decide to say some words together, but with elonngaaated vowels on different pitches. And then we all make our sounds at the same time and see if it means anything!

It's a bit crazy and quite phenomenal that when we follow a composer's plan, our sounds come together with beauty and meaning beyond words.

Isn't this like God's plan for the body of Christ? There's a "sound" that only you can make, a gift that only you can share, that adds to the symphony of God's plan.

What weird sound does God want me to make with my life today?



Gary Music has a place for you!

All ages are invited to join in the fellowship and fun. Serve our congregation as you share your musical gifts.

All vocal and instrumental groups follow COVID-19 protocols. Please see our website for current information.

*Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the
Rock of our salvation.
Psalm 95:1, NIV*

Singing groups

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**

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.

Rhythm, handbell and instrumental groups

Cherubs

Wednesdays, 6–6:30 p.m., Choir Room

Age 3–Kindergarten

This active group explores music through rhythm and movement, and each child is accompanied by an adult. 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 Grades 7–12, Bell Room

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

Altar Bells

Wednesdays, 6:30–7:45 p.m., Sanctuary

High School–Adult

Director: **Sharon Schmidt**

Share your musical gifts

Musicians of all ages are encouraged to share their instruments in worship.

Contact **Jennifer Whiting** for details.





Thank you to all who have already returned their stewardship cards or online forms for 2022. We appreciate your commitment to sharing your time, talents and treasures with and through Gary Church. Your generosity offers hope to others.

Living Hope Giving Hope

For those who have not yet had the opportunity to return the stewardship card, it is not too late. Contact the Church Office if you need a copy of the card, or you may also complete the form online at garychurch.org.

Give flowers for the altar

Many Sundays are available in 2022 to provide flowers for the altar. If you'd like to give flowers, fill out the form on the registrations page of garychurch.org or contact the Church Office. The cost of the flowers is \$35.



Join the Care Ministry Team

In the last 20 months, the people of Gary Church have worked to create community in new ways through the grace of the Christ. In these pandemic times, the Holy Spirit has empowered us to find new ways to reach out to one another.



GARY CARES

Do you feel the Holy Spirit's call to continue to bless and connect with others who desperately need it in this time? Come join our Care Ministry Team. We personally visit those who desire a personal connection in Christ. Also, if you cannot physically visit because of COVID-19 mitigations, you can still serve. We have many in our congregation who cannot have visits because of safety measures, but would love a phone call. Contact **Pastor Brian** or the Church Office about touching other people's lives through the Care Ministry Team.

Play games with Gary Church friends

Fourth Friday of the month, starting Jan. 28, 6:30–9 p.m., Commons

Join your Gary Church friends for games of bridge, dominoes or anything you like. Must be vaccinated to join in on the fun. Contact **Fern Evelhoch** through the Church Office for more information and to let us know you're coming.

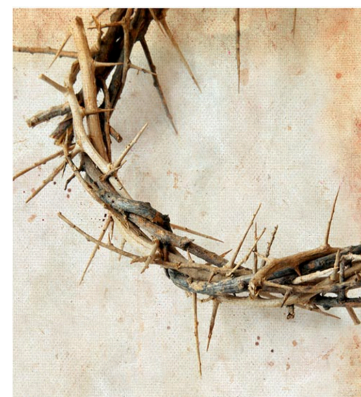


Contribute to Lenten Devotional

We're looking for contributors (both new and returning) for our annual Lenten Devotional. It's a beautiful compilation of personal stories of God at work sent to your email inbox throughout Lent. Take a photo. Write a poem. Draw a picture. Maybe a recent sermon or scripture passage has touched you. Or maybe our theme for the year "Anchored in Hope" has moved you.

We invite all children, youth and adults of Gary and Winfield Churches to share reflections, personal stories and glimpses of God at work in our lives. If you know you'd like to share something, please register at garychurch.org by Friday, Jan. 14.

You're welcome to email your devotional before Friday, Feb. 4 to **Janet Mathis**, jmathis@garychurch.org.



Mark the dates on your 2022 calendar*

- Jan. 16** Human Relations Day
- Jan. 30** Fifth Sunday Appeal for United Voices for Children
- Feb. 13** Scout Sunday
- March 2** Ash Wednesday
- March 13** Gary Youth fundraiser
- March 20** Gary Church Concert of Handbells
- March 27** UMCOR Sunday
- April 10** Palm Sunday
- April 17** Easter Sunday
- May 1** Native American Ministries Sunday
- May 1** CROP Walk
- May 29** Fifth Sunday Appeal for United Voices for Children
- June 12** Peace with Justice Sunday
- June 20–June 24** Monumental VBS (preschool–grade 4)
- June 20–June 24** BLAST Camp (grade 5–grade 8)
- June 25–July 2** Gary Youth High School Mission Trip to Appalachia
- July 14–July 17** Family Camp
- July 31** Fifth Sunday Appeal for United Voices for Children
- Sept. 11** Kickoff Sunday
- Sept. 18** Confirmation Sunday
- Oct. 2** World Communion Sunday
- Oct. 30** Fifth Sunday Appeal for United Voices for Children
- Nov. 27** United Methodist Student Day
- Nov. 27** First Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 24** Christmas Eve services
- Dec. 25** Christmas Sunday

*All dates are subject to change. Please check the e-news for the latest information.

The dates in blue represent worldwide United Methodist Special Sunday celebrations.

Thank You

Thank you all for your message of caring thoughts and for the lovely homemade card. I am deeply grateful for your kind wishes.

Sincerely,
Charlotte Murphy

Gary Gardeners,

Thank you again for keeping our church property looking beautiful! This is our last year of coordinating and heading the Gary gardeners. We will continue to be a part of this wonderful group of friends.

Blessings and love,
George and Linda Masek

A Note from the son of June Hurd after her Memorial Service

Mom always loved this church. May God Bless her and bless Gary United Methodist Church.

John Hurd

Dear Members of Caring Friends,

Thank you so much for the beautiful hand-made cards. Our participants and their families love them.

Sincerely,
Your friends at ESSE Adult Day Services

Thank you to the Gary Church family for the cards and support after my mother passed. You made a challenging time a little easier. It is deeply appreciated.

Mark Mathis

Gary Church,

Thank you for being so kind and welcoming as we join your church family! We look forward to growing with you and for all the memories to come!

Thank you,
Kyle, Andrea and James Oren

Congratulations*

Betty Montgomery on the birth of her great-grandson, James Walter Montgomery, on Nov. 8.

January Birthdays*

Happy (90+) birthday to:

Marge Ostermeier (will be 101 on Jan. 7)

Jim Smith

Barbara Zima

New Opportunities*

Diane Anderson on her move to California.

Our sympathy

Mark & Stephanie Dalton on the death of Stephanie's mother, Genevieve Dineen, on Oct. 23.

Stephanie & Mark Dalton on the death of Stephanie's uncle, Robert Angsten, on Oct. 30.

Mark, Janet, Anna & Jack Mathis on the death of Mark's mother, Lucinda Merrill, on Nov. 1.

Steve Orchard, Beth Kudwa, Liam & Iona on the death of Beth's father, Richard Kudwa, on Nov. 6.

Ben & Amanda Franklin, Benjamin and Brooks on the death of Ben's mom, Kaye.

Pastor Chris & Sandy Pierson on the death of Chris' cousin, Ronald Pierson, on Nov. 14.

John & Bobbi Wheatley on the death of their brother-in-law, Robert Pfahl, on Nov. 16.

Baptism

James Henry Oren, son of Kyle & Andrea Oren, on Nov. 21.

New Members

Andrea & Kyle Oren who joined Gary Church on Nov. 21.

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

WinChimes

Winfield Community United Methodist Church

An Affiliate of Gary United Methodist Church

Happy New Year!

by Rev. Bruce Anderson

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people. Isaiah 43:18-20

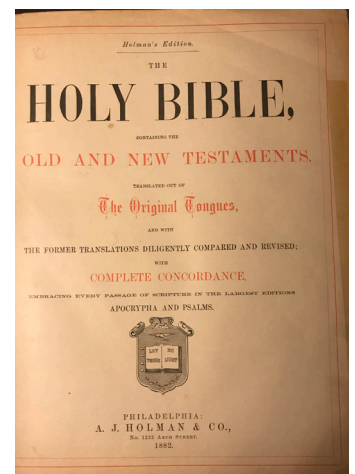
This is a time of new beginnings and new hopes for a new year. Maybe you have made New Year's resolutions. The verse from Isaiah tells of God doing a new thing, making ways in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. We are hoping for a new way through the COVID wilderness and ways to get more human interactions following the COVID desert of isolation.

This year I am planning to do an old, new thing, which is to reread the whole Bible in the year. That breaks down to three chapters a day. I invite you to join me. To make things a little more interesting for me, I will be reading my great-grandfather Rev. Walter Allen's beautifully illustrated 1882 Holman's Edition of the Bible to see if it holds any additional revelations of my family's history for me. Each day I will post a reflection on the day's reading on the Winfield Community UMC Facebook page. I invite you to read along and share your thoughts too!

Let's do it together, and transform our minds, by reading the Bible every day.

What better way to start the New Year than reconnecting with our God through the reading of the Holy Scriptures? So let us "not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:2).

There is a lot from this past year that we would like to move on from, asking God to be at work in healing and transforming ways. Let's do it together, and transform our minds, by reading the Bible every day. May everyone have a happy and blessed new year.



Winfield Community United Methodist Church

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Rev. Bruce Anderson, Pastor
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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Look inside for opportunities for worship,
music, fellowship and more throughout 2022.

