

Chimes

The Newsletter of Gary Church
and Winfield Community Church
February 2021



See inside for
details on
**EDUCATE A GIRL /
CHANGE THE WORLD
READ-A-THON
AND
STORYBOOK
NIGHTS**

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Sunday Worship

Livestream at 9 a.m.
at garychurch.org

Recording online later in the morning

Church Office Hours

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



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

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

Normalcy, Never Again

by Rev. Dr. Chris Pierson

So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.
Galatians 6:9

Recently, a friend introduced me to the limited documentary podcast series *It Was Said*. In the podcast, John Meacham, the Pulitzer Prize winning author and journalist, examines ten of the greatest speeches ever given and delves into their historical context. It provides deep insight and clarity to our current crises as a nation and I highly recommend it to you. The podcast includes speeches ranging from Ronald Regan's *Farewell Address*, Edward R. Murrow's *Fights for Free Press*, to the last speech of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Notably absent is Dr. King's *I Have A Dream* speech. I wish it had been included in Meacham's list, if only for the fact that in many ways it is King's most misunderstood and misquoted speech. Meacham's skills and analysis of the speech, and its context, would reveal that King's working title for the speech was not *I Have A Dream* but *Normalcy, Never Again*. Just as King's prescient and last speech before his assassination still stirs the heart and brings chills to its hearers, so too did King's "Dream" that envisioned a bright future.

King knew that his dream could not be accomplished by a return to normal. His dream could not become a reality by maintaining the status quo. Therefore, King reminded America of "the fierce urgency of now," and warned his hearers of "the tranquilizing drug of gradualism." Four times, he used the phrase, "Now is the time!"¹

There is a part in all of us during times of great challenge, I suppose, that just wants to get back to normal. However, that would be to shrink from the challenges before us. Together, we have witnessed and heard not only the cries for racial justice but the deaths of over 400,000 people (and tens of millions impacted) in our nation due to the coronavirus pandemic, only

to be followed by the violent and deadly insurrection at our nation's capitol that resulted in a force of over 25,000 to attempt to prevent further violence and death in the face of threats surrounding the inauguration. We cannot return to the "normal" that brought us to this moment.

Failing to address the root causes of our crises will not bring peace nor lay the foundation for justice. Because Dr. King knew that our struggle was ultimately a spiritual one, not against flesh and blood but principalities and powers, he spoke to those gathered of how they were to conduct themselves in the struggle for justice. He said, "Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred...We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protests to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force."

King frequently spoke of "difficult days ahead." We can face difficult days by drawing upon our faith, by drawing from our spiritual resources, and by turning toward one another rather than on one another. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. Let us sow from the Spirit that we might reap eternal life from the Spirit. *So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith* (Gal. 6:9-10).

¹ <https://www.naacp.org/i-have-a-dream-speech-full-march-on-washington/>



Adult Christian Education and Discipleship

Daily Practices for a Healthy Marriage

Mondays, February 1 and 8, 7 p.m. on Zoom

Looking for insights and tools to make a strong marriage better? Need a road map for repair to a distressed—maybe COVID weary—marriage? Either way, this two-session master class presented by The Heritage Center for Marriage and Family is designed to move you closer to the marriage you want and need.



Dr. Chris Mazzearella and colleagues will coach you on how to grow stronger in the following areas:

1. Incorporate daily habits of attachment to bring about greater intimacy and reduce stress.
2. Experience hope in the face of perpetual problems and gridlock.
3. Leave hard conversations feeling understood and hopeful.
4. Identify when harmless distractions/escapes (digital media, binge watching, alcohol) erode your marital connection.
5. Create a values-driven marriage as a legacy for your children and grandchildren.

Register for this class on the Adult Study Opportunities page of garychurch.org. A donation of \$30 per couple is suggested.

The Amethyst Necklace Book Talk with Author, Sandra Sagehorn

Monday, February 15, 7 p.m. on Zoom

Former staff member Sandra Sagehorn is excited to return to Gary to discuss her new book, *The Amethyst Necklace*. Set in northern Illinois during the latter half of the nineteenth century, the story follows young Mariah Allison as she navigates the uncertainties of the Civil War—and the crucial era that follows—toward a life of self-realization and independence.



While this may be the saga of a particular woman and her family, it illustrates the light of faith shining through a single life continuing to illuminate for generations.

To participate in the Book Talk, contact Carey Williams Bebar at garychurch.org.

Pastor's Lenten Study *Restored: Finding Redemption in Our Mess*

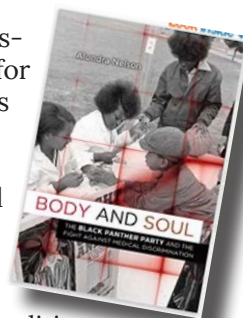
*Mondays, February 22–March 29
7 p.m. on Zoom, led by Pastor Chris*

See page 6 for details.

Anti-Racist Book Club | *Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Fight against Medical Discrimination* by Professor Alondra Nelson

Wednesday, February 24 at 7 p.m. on Zoom

Between its founding in 1966 and its formal end in 1980, the Black Panther Party blazed a distinctive trail in American political culture. The Black Panthers are most often remembered for their revolutionary rhetoric and militant action. In this book, Alondra Nelson deftly recovers an indispensable but lesser-known aspect of the organization's broader struggle for social justice: health care. The Black Panther Party's health activism—its network of free health clinics, its campaign to raise awareness about genetic disease, and its challenges to medical discrimination—was an expression of its founding political philosophy and also a recognition that poor blacks were both underserved by mainstream medicine and overexposed to its harms. The Black Panther Party's understanding of health as a basic human right and its engagement with the social implications of genetics anticipated current debates about the politics of health and race. Register on the Adult Study Opportunities page of garychurch.org.



Worship Talk

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

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



To join by phone:

Dial +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 878 0812 5188

Passcode: 5084125

Women's Bible Study Resumes

*First and Third Wednesdays, 3 p.m.
on Zoom*

The Women's Bible Study that formerly met on Tuesday nights is moving to first and third Wednesday afternoons at 3 p.m. We will begin a new video-based study, *Son of David* by Nancy Guthrie, on February 3.

New members are invited to join us to gain a fresh perspective on Israel's history and God's kingdom, a broader understanding of Jesus as the fulfillment of Scripture, and much more on this incredible journey to see Jesus in the Old Testament! We will be meeting by Zoom until the lock-down orders are lifted. You can purchase your own book on Amazon, or we will arrange to have one sent directly to your home.

This is a wonderful, welcoming, small, close-knit group of women in a study founded over 20 years ago. We have lasted this long because new members have found us each year and helped to carry on the momentum. Women from our congregation and from outside Gary Church are welcome to join. If you are longing to study Scripture with a new group of friends, contact Holly Trueblood through the Church Office.

Ongoing Opportunities

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

Online Fellowship with Gary

Walkers/Talkers

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. on Zoom

Zoom Meeting Tuesdays

ID: 830 6381 7458

Passcode: 7ZL1y6

To join by phone:

Dial +1 312 626 6799

ID: 830 6381 7458

Passcode: 445200

Zoom Meeting Thursdays

ID: 820 5421 1348

Passcode: 6nWP2p

To join by phone:

Dial +1 312 626 6799

ID: 820 5421 1348

Passcode: 940839

Men's Bible Study

Tuesdays, 7 p.m. on Zoom

United Methodist Women Joy Circle

*Third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.
on Zoom*

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers and Beyond)

*First and third Tuesdays of the month
8 p.m. on Zoom and varying formats*

Faith Club: A Women's Interfaith Group

*Second Tuesdays of the month, 7 p.m.
on Zoom*



Listen to a Sermon on the Gary Church Podcast

Have you ever wanted to listen to a sermon again? Or listen to a sermon while you are doing chores? Or did you miss last week's worship because of travel? If so, subscribe to the new "Gary Church Podcast." This short podcast contains the scripture and sermon from each Sunday. Feel free to listen anytime you want or share it with a friend! The Gary Church Podcast is available wherever you get podcasts or at www.buzzsprout.com/1394251.



LENT 2021

AT GARY CHURCH

Repentance: The Inward-Outward Journey

Sermon Series

February 21–March 28

2021 Lenten Devotional

These daily devotionals—written by Gary and Winfield members and friends to offer reflection, encouragement, and call us to action—will be delivered to your email inbox each *Monday through*

Saturday of Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 17.

If you wish to add another email address to your household or to reserve a hard copy, contact the Church Office.

Experience Ash Wednesday Online

Wednesday, February 17, 7 p.m. at garychurch.org

Experience the traditional beginning of Lent in our moving Ash Wednesday Service. The service will be livestreamed from our Gary Church Sanctuary with scripture, preaching, and music along with a virtual Imposition of Ashes.

See the back page for details to pick up ashes at the church on Sunday, February 14.

Pastor's Lenten Study

Restored: Finding Redemption in Our Mess

Mondays, February 22–March 29, 7 p.m. on Zoom
led by Pastor Chris

**This class will not meet on March 8.*

Often we make a mess of our lives and wonder if there is any redemption. This study helps us see our mess through the eyes of Christ to find redemption and restoration. Using Scripture, devotional tools, and the writings of Ignatius of Loyola, John of the Cross, St. Augustine, John Wesley, Evelyn Underhill, and others, author Tom Berlin encourages reflection and meditation through our own brokenness. Only then can we focus on the cross as the place where we truly surrender control, leave our mess, and find redemption. Please purchase the book on your own and register for the class at on the Adult Study Opportunities page of garychurch.org.



Gary Youth 40-Day Lent Photo Challenge

Open to all youth and adults

This Lent, you are invited to share a contemplative view of your life through your phone camera. Each day, you will be sent a text of a word or phrase. When you see something during your day that speaks to the word or phrase, take a picture of it and send it to Pastor Dan at 847-208-8884. There will be a post the next day on the Gary Youth Facebook page and Instagram ([gary_youth](https://www.instagram.com/gary_youth)) of what everyone saw.

Each subject over the 40 days intentionally leaves space for interpretation; there are no wrong pictures. We ask that you try not to include faces as best as you can. Sign up on the Gary Youth page of garychurch.org to receive the daily texts during Lent.



Ring a Bell, Record a Song, Tune Your Fiddle, or Sing Along!

Ring a Bell! (HS-Adult)

The ministry of our bells has been particularly meaningful this year. Handbell ringers prepare their parts for small-ensemble music at home. They meet for a short rehearsal on Sunday at 7:30 a.m., and they lead us in worship during the livestreamed service. (All safety guidelines are observed, including sanitation, face masks, time limits, distancing, and no sharing of instruments or equipment.) Please contact Sharon Schmidt through the Church Office if you are interested in ringing.

Record a Song! (All ages)

Use your musical gifts to praise the Lord and lead our congregation in worship! We invite you to record your vocal or instrumental solo (or family band!) at home. We can incorporate your recorded piece into a livestreamed service. Please contact Jennifer Whiting for instructions for recording and submitting your music (jwhiting@garychurch.org).

Tune Your Fiddle! (All ages: violin, viola, cello, double bass)

Gary Church has many talented string players. You may have heard their sweet sounds during Lessons and Carols on December 20. After that fun experience, we decided to play on the fourth Sunday of every month. Players learn their parts at home and meet for a short rehearsal on Sunday at 7:30 a.m. before leading in worship at 9 a.m. (All safety guidelines are observed, including sanitation, face masks, time limits, distancing, and no sharing of instruments or equipment.) Please contact Jennifer Whiting for more information (jwhiting@garychurch.org).



Three Ways to Sing Along!

Hymns at Twilight

Tuesday, February 23, 7 p.m.

Although congregational singing is not permitted by the Northern Illinois Conference at this time, we can sing God's praise with Kevin Lange at the keyboard during Hymns at Twilight, livestreamed at garychurch.org. The theme for February's hymn-sing is "Wondrous Love." What hymns remind you of God's love for you, our love for one another, or love for our neighbors? We invite you to send song suggestions to the Church Office at office@garychurch.org.

The Brahms Institute for Singers

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

If you love to sing, no doubt you are keenly missing the experience of choir. It leaves a hole that really nothing else can fill. This spring, the Brahms Institute for Singers focuses on self-care for musicians—breathing, posture, keeping the voice moving, and finding strength and peace through great music. All singers are welcome. Please register on the Music Ministry or Adult Study Opportunities page of garychurch.org to reserve your spot and to receive the Zoom link each week.

Virtual Choir for Easter! (All voices)

Singers have been studying their scores at home, learning their notes, and singing to their phones—an odd way to be part of a choir, but so worth it when the final product comes together! Individual recordings are due by March 5 for everyone participating in our third Virtual Choir piece. All voices are welcome. Contact Jennifer Whiting today to join this exciting and inspiring project.



Caroling Ding-a-lings Spread Cheer

What happens when you combine bell ringers in need of making music with congregants in need of some Christmas cheer? You get the Gary Caroling Ding-a-lings! For three afternoons in December, five ringers from Gary's Altar Bells and Glory Ringers took handbells, music stands, and festive head gear on the road, stopping at Gary member's homes to play Christmas Carols. At each stop, members heard 12-bell arrangements of Jingle Bells, O Come All Ye Faithful, Away in a Manger, and We Wish You a Merry Christmas. As we played, it was fun to see neighbors and passers-by stop to listen too. Car horns even joined in as we played at a home on Roosevelt Road. This fun activity brought blessings to those who played as well as those who listened. And isn't that what sharing Christ's love is all about?! Due to rain and scheduling, we weren't able to make it to as many of you as we'd have liked, but we hope to be back next year, jingling our way to your door.

~Nancy Brunner



MISSION *this month*

Greetings ESSE Friends!

The ESSE group (Ecumenical Services for the Elderly) is continuing to care for our participants during the pandemic. We are an adult day care that is normally open 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday serving seniors who need some socialization or care while families work or care for other needs.

The centers in Glen Ellyn, Wheaton, and Warrenville are located in local churches and the ESSE group is supported by many area church congregations.

While the state has mandated that we are currently closed, our seniors are not forgotten. The staff of each site is actively involved with them daily. Remote care includes exercises, activities, games. Weekly deliveries of games, puzzles, and treats help keep them occupied and there is weekly or more frequent communication with the families. Thanks to our director Cathy Davit, grants have been keeping our staff working this entire year.

There is a big renovation project going on at the Glen Ellyn site. State and village inspections required upgrades to the areas ESSE uses, which will take several months. When we are open for our clients, the group is meeting in the lower level of the building—exactly where ESSE started in 1982. More information is available by contacting me through the Church Office. Stay safe.

~ Debby Connor
Gary Church ESSE Representative



Support Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans

This non-profit agency, located in Wheaton at 433 S. Carlton Ave., Wheaton, provides housing, supportive services, and community outreach to help homeless and at-risk veterans and their families achieve self-sufficiency.



An easy way to help them is to shop their Amazon wishlist. Items you purchase will be delivered to MSHV. Find the list on the Mission page of garychurch.org or at <https://tinyurl.com/y5ouvyho>.

Scouting at Gary Church

Scouting at Gary Church looked different than normal during 2020 as so many things did. Our Scouts continued their programs through a combination of virtual meetings, socially distanced outdoor activities, and a few small group in-person gatherings. This approach is expected to continue at least through Spring 2021 as COVID-19 vaccines are administered and in-person activities slowly become more and more possible. Despite these changes and the challenges they brought, our Scouting groups expect a full "recovery" and return to their normal activities as time goes on. If your family is interested in joining a Scouting group at Gary Church, please contact Patrick McClusky through the Church Office for more information.

Gary Church will celebrate scouting and its various organizations on Scout Sunday, February 14.



TOGETHER WITH GOD

*For we are co-workers in God's service;
you are God's field, God's building.*

1 CORINTHIANS 3:9 NIV



Educate a Girl / Change the World

GARY CHURCH MAKES A DIFFERENCE

LIFTING COMMUNITIES THROUGH GIRLS' EDUCATION

This past year, we have witnessed much pain and suffering across the globe and wondered: What can I do to help? How can I make a difference?

In dark times like these, God can open our hearts and minds to new ways of seeing, being, and doing.

When girls attend school, everyone wins. Their lives are more fulfilling and multifaceted gains occur in family health, women's wages, and community welfare.

We believe that Gary Church is being called to participate in an exciting opportunity that addresses a great humanitarian need, while providing an opportunity for us to come together as a church in an impactful way.

Please join the Gary congregation in helping our global neighbors by supporting the education of girls who, in turn, will lift up their impoverished communities.

Prior to the pandemic, 132 million girls did not attend school worldwide. Less than half of girls who start primary school do not enter secondary. Their fate is child marriage, a life of household duties, or worse yet, human trafficking.

This is a human crisis for girls across the globe and COVID-19 has only worsened the problem.

Yet, when girls attend school, everyone wins. Multifaceted gains occur in family health, women's wages, and community welfare. Child marriage and infant mortality rates decline. The girls become teachers, medical professionals and leaders who raise up their communities in many ways.

Why aren't girls educated?

- Gender Discrimination
- Household duties
- Political violence or war
- Child marriage to bring income to the family
- Lack of feminine hygiene products
- Humanitarian crises

The good news is that Gary Church can make a difference by supporting impactful educational programs through UMCOR and Kenya Children's Fund.

EDUCATE A GIRL PROJECT GOALS

Our hopes and prayers are for Gary Church to raise \$4,200 to fund scholarships for five female students:



- **Two Kenyan girls in primary grades** at the Kinyago Dandora School in Nairobi. We will cover one year of tuition, food, and medical care (\$912 cost for both girls) at this Christian school operated by Kenya Children's Fund.



- **Two Cambodian teenagers** in middle school and secondary school, via UMCOR Project 3020791. The one-year scholarships make school possible by covering the cost of school uniforms and supplies (\$320 for both teens).



- **One college student at Africa University**, a Methodist school located in Zimbabwe. The one-semester scholarship will cover tuition, room, and board (\$2,950) through UMCOR Project 3021028. Bishop Tracy Malone serves on the university's Board of Directors.

Gary friends, thank you in advance for helping to change the world by educating girls. Together, we can make a difference!

Project Leaders: Cathy Mousseau and Judy Selby

Project Team: Kim Austin, Carey Bebar, Jennifer Castino, Deb Connor, Heather Jewell, and Beth Orchard

EDUCATE A GIRL / CHANGE THE WORLD READ-A-THON AND STORYBOOK NIGHTS

To help cover the cost of the five scholarships, please consider:

Making a gift through the Gary Church website (select "Educate a Girl") or by sending a check to the church office by March 14.

Participating in the Educate a Girl Read-a-thon through sponsorship or reading. Children, youth, and adults will secure pledges for reading goals. To participate, see the Read-a-thon Bingo Cards found on pages 13 and 14 of this newsletter.

Everyone is invited to attend one or more Read-a-thon Storybook Nights, where church members of all ages will read their favorite books to us. You will find the link to the Zoom meetings at garychurch.org.

Dates

Sunday, February 21 at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 2 at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 9 at 7 p.m.



"I was able to join one of the best universities in Kenya ... I am there taking a Bachelor of Education in Arts. I thank God that the dreams are coming true for me. After my high school I volunteered at the school and it was such an awesome experience."

– **Kentiz, a recent graduate of Kinyago Dandora School**

Thank You

To My Gary Church Family:

Thank you so much for all of the prayers and support. The meals and walker/kneeler are appreciated so much. My ankles are getting better. I do miss seeing everyone but have the comfort of all of the virtual events that have been added. Happy New Year to all.

**Love,
Aileen Termini**

Many thanks to our Gary Church family for the telephone calls, cards, and expressions of condolence on the passing of Reg's brother Fred.

Reg & Barb Heeley

Our Sympathy

Bernard & Susan McGuan on the death of Susan's mother, Maryann Motejzik, on December 26

Pastor Bruce Anderson on the death of his father, Donald Anderson, on January 5

Joe, Pam, Melanie, Jake, Layla, and Samuel Kurtz on the death of Pam's aunt

Susan Wallace on the death of her sister, Janet, on January 11

Sally Hill on the death of her daughter-in-law, Pat Hill, on January 17

Congratulations

Chase, Kelsey, and Emerson Kadlec on the birth of their son and brother, Beckett, on December 2. Grandparents are Tom & Le Kadlec.

Northern Illinois Conference News

Redistricting of the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church

On December 17, 2020 the Cabinet and Bishop Sally Dyck approved the redistricting plan reducing the number of districts (and District Superintendents) in the Northern Illinois Conference from six to five effective July 1, 2021. The Annual Conference voted in favor of the legislation during the November 14 virtual session.

The names of the districts are Lake North, Lake South, Prairie Central, Prairie North, and Prairie South. Gary UMC will be part of the Prairie Central District, and Rev. Jeffry Bross will continue to be our District Superintendent. For additional information, visit nicumc.org.

NIC Interim Bishop

Effective January 1, 2021, Bishop Sally Dyck has retired from her position in the Northern Illinois Conference. A new bishop will be appointed at The North Central Jurisdictional Conference (NCJ) to be held November 10-12, 2021. Until then, retired Bishop John Hopkins (former episcopal leader of Minnesota and East Ohio) will be the interim bishop for the NIC. In response to his assignment to the NIC, he said, "I look forward to overseeing the good work Christ has already begun in Northern Illinois. In this time of COVID-19, racial injustice, and deep cultural divisions, I have faith in the power of God to transform the world through the witness of the church."



New UM Church in our District

Wellspring United Methodist Church launched as a new faith community in Oswego on January 1, 2021. It is the offspring of Wheatland Salem UMC in Naperville. Wheatland Salem has gifted them with people, prayers, blessings, and resources to be a successful United Methodist presence. Now it is our time to provide our blessings by lifting up this new faith community in our prayers.

Educate a Girl / Change the World

Read-a-thon Bingo Card

We are helping our global neighbors by supporting the education of girls who, in turn, will lift up their impoverished communities.

To participate, ask family members and friends to sponsor a square. (Or sponsor a few yourself!) Then, complete as many squares as you can from February 8 to March 14. Track your progress by coloring in completed squares. Collect your donations and submit your payment online or to the Church Office. Be sure to turn in your completed Read-a-Thon Bingo Card to Pastor Carey by email or drop it off in the Church Office by March 14. The adult, youth, and child with the most filled squares + money raised will each receive a prize!

Gary Youth & Adults Read-a-Thon Bingo Card

Read while it's dark outside	Read a book from the Old Testament	Attend Storybook Night on February 21	Select your first book blindfolded	Read a book outside your comfort zone
Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:
Amount:	Amount:	Amount:	Amount:	Amount:
Read a book on your "to be read" booklist for over a year	Google "Kenya Children's Fund" and learn about their work	Read a book released within the last year	Attend Storybook Night on March 2	Read a book from Gary's "Resources for Racial Justice"
Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:
Amount:	Amount:	Amount:	Amount:	Amount:
Read in three different locations	Read <i>Half the Sky</i>	FREE SPACE 	Post a reading pic on social media #GaryChurch	Google "Africa University" and learn about their work
Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:
Amount:	Amount:	Amount:	Amount:	Amount:
Google UMCOR and learn about their work	Read something other than a traditional book	Attend Storybook Night on March 9	Snack and read	Read a book of the New Testament
Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:
Amount:	Amount:	Amount:	Amount:	Amount:
Read about something that makes you smile	Read two different genres	Read a recipe then make it	Make your own challenge	Read in your pj's
Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:
Amount:	Amount:	Amount:	Amount:	Amount:

Educate a Girl / Change the World



Gary Kids Read-a-Thon Bingo Card

Read <i>Chirchir is Singing</i> by Kelly Cunneane	Build a fort in your living room and read in it	Research something that interests you and tell your family about it	Attend Storybook Night on February 21	Read a book from our Gary Kids book recommendation list
Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:
Amount:	Amount:	Amount:	Amount:	Amount:
Read aloud to a sibling	Read a joke then share it with your family	Read a book on animals	Read <i>Malala: Activist for Girl's Education</i>	Judge a book by it's cover then see if you like it
Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:
Amount:	Amount:	Amount:	Amount:	Amount:
Read in three different locations	Attend Storybook Night on March 2	FREE SPACE 	Read about something that makes you smile	Read to your pet (or stuffed animal)
Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:
Amount:	Amount:	Amount:	Amount:	Amount:
Read for 20 minutes	Read something other than a traditional book	Read board game directions then play with your family!	Snack and read	Read a story in the New Testament
Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:
Amount:	Amount:	Amount:	Amount:	Amount:
Write a story then read it aloud to your family	Read your all time favorite book	Read a recipe then make it	Attend Storybook Night on March 9	Read in your pj's
Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:	Sponsor:
Amount:	Amount:	Amount:	Amount:	Amount:

February Youth Activities



Gary Youth will honor Black History Month with an engaging series on racism. Discussion will be based on *This Book is Anti-Racist* by Tiffany Jewell, and each week we will also learn about a black person in history whose name we many not know.

Middle School

Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m.

February 3

Racism 2: Making Sense of the World

on Zoom

February 10

Ash Making

Church Courtyard

February 17

Ash Wednesday

No meeting

February 24

Racism 3: Taking Action/ Keep Growing

on Zoom

High School

Sundays, 6–7:30 p.m.

February 7

Racism 2: Making Sense of the World

on Zoom

February 14

Ash Making

Church Courtyard

February 21

Racism 3: Taking Action

on Zoom

February 28

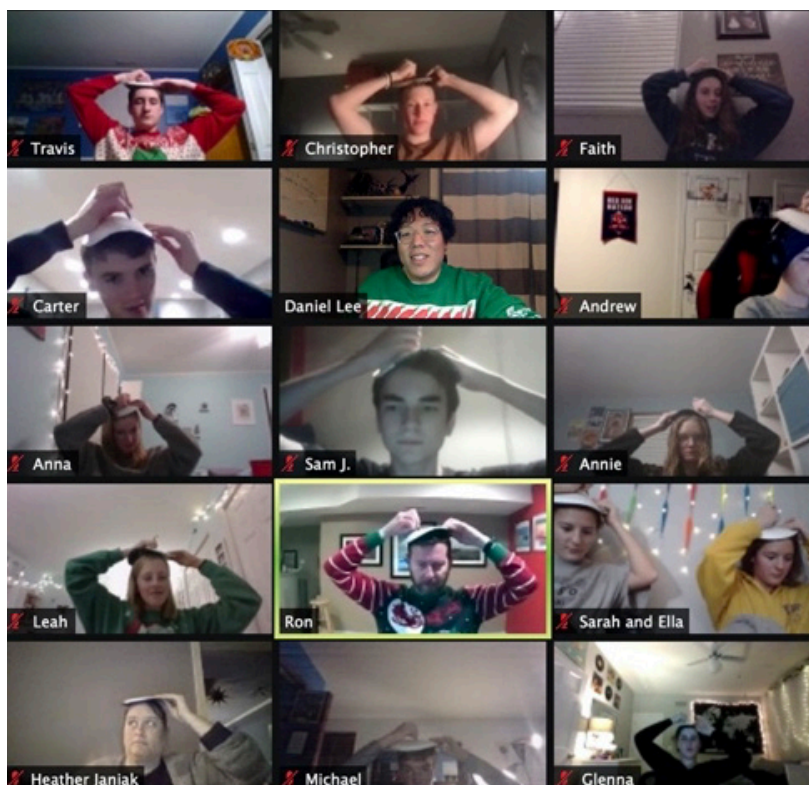
Racism 4: Keep Growing

on Zoom

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



Our virtual Christmas party was filled with real fun. Who knew you could do a white elephant exchange via Zoom. Below, high schoolers create mystery drawings on their heads.





The Culture of Good Ministry

by Daniel Lee

Transformation doesn't happen primarily because specific tasks get accomplished or because of consistently excellent programs. Transformation becomes habitual for a youth ministry when a unique "climate of transformation" is established.

-Mark DeVries, excerpt from *Sustainable*

If you were asked, "What is foundational to good ministry?" what would your answer be? Is it the number of people that are participating? Is it the programming? Is it the knowledge and experience of those running the ministry? Mark DeVries, a well-known youth ministry expert, identifies "climate of transformation" as the foundation to a successful ministry, even above the ministry's vision and mission.

What is a "climate of transformation"? I am still digesting what this means for us at Gary Church here and now, but I am pretty sure I have seen the successful results of it. When Gary Youth hang out together outside of our programming, that is a result of the "climate of transformation." When our youth ask, "Where is *insert name of someone who is absent*?" before we start youth group, that is the "climate of transformation." We have seen it when our youth felt comfortable enough to invite their friends to youth group. I know I experienced it when I was pacing back and forth feeling anxious about preaching my first sermon at Gary Church and Anna Mathis, a youth who was reading scripture that day, encouraged me saying, "We are cheering you on!" There is a climate, a culture of joy, service, mutual caring, welcome, and love.

It has been tough for Gary Youth to not meet in person. However, the longer we gather on Zoom, I see more of this culture that is deeply rooted in the ministry of Gary Youth. Our youth simply enjoy being together no matter what we do. As I see this at work, I grow more and more thankful for the years of Alexa's ministry. I become more and more grateful for God's faithfulness and for the years of faithfulness of our adult leaders like Jane Bilezikian, John-Marc Bilezikian, Ron Austin, Heather Janiak, Aileen Termini, and all of you who have contributed to this culture.

We aim to continue to be faithful to what God has already been doing as we launch our Gary Youth Council in 2021. This group of fifteen is made up of youth, parents, and non-parents who are dedicated to maximizing Gary Church's ministry with our youth. Would you pray for us as we meet and plan for the future of Gary Youth?

Gary Youth 40-Day Lent Photo Challenge

Share a contemplative view of your life through your phone camera. Each day of Lent, you will be sent a text of a word or phrase. When you see something during your day that speaks to the word or phrase, take a picture of it and send it to Pastor Dan. See page 6 for more details.





Hey Parents! Have you been struggling to come up with indoor activities during these pandemic-winter months? We feel ya, and we've got a few suggestions to keep your kiddos entertained and growing in faith until the snow melts (and after that too).

Each week, Gary Kids families can receive our @ Home with Gary Kids email which includes links for a Grow T.V. and Preschool Video, a Bible verse, and an activity. If it's "screen time" in your house, the Grow T.V. videos are hilarious, poignant, and perfect for your elementary-aged student, while the animated Preschool Videos are great for your little ones. The Bible verse and activities are excellent for family-fun-faith-formation. (Say that ten times fast!) Plus, our Real Love Craft Kits will teach your three- to six-year-old to love God with her whole heart! 4th & 5th Grade Fellowship students are invited to a Virtual Painting Party that is perfect for potential Picassos, and Gary Kids of all ages should save the date for our Virtual Valentine's Day Party. Pastor Carey has something sweet in store! Finally, check out our Black History Month book recommendation, *This Is the Rope*, to hear the story of one family's journey during the Great Migration. So, this month, kick back, relax, and let us do some of the heavy lifting. Until we meet again, blessings and be well.

what we're teaching

We are always teaching our kids that we need to love God and love one another, but we often neglect to give them tangible ways to do so. In this series, we are going to examine a few of Jesus' teachings in depth and discover practical ways we can demonstrate our love for God, family, friends, and enemies, too! Our hope is that by the end of this series, every kid will be able to say, because God loves everyone, I can show God's love by being kind, I can show God's love even when it's hard, and that ultimately, love is the best choice!



what's happening

Gary Kids @ Home Lessons

Weekly, sent by email on Friday

Check out these weekly emails with a family-friendly Bible lesson, activity, preschool video, and Grow T.V. video with the hilarious antics of Carll and Cassie!

Take-Home Craft Kits

Delivered to your house and created for children ages 3-6, these craft kits provide hands-on fun and help faith grow at home! This month's craft kits theme is Real Love. The kit will include a lesson about how love is the best choice and remind us that Jesus said to not just love God a little bit, but with our whole hearts!

Gary Kids Virtual Valentine's Day Zoom Party

Sunday, February 14, 10 a.m. on Zoom

All children ages preschool 3's-grade 5 are invited to join Pastor Carey for a special Gary Kids Virtual Valentine's Day Zoom Party! Dress in your favorite Valentine's Day gear and receive a sweet surprise!

Zoom Meeting ID: 895 9462 0620

Passcode: Gary Kids

Gary Kids Zoom Party

Sunday, February 28, 10 a.m. on Zoom

All children ages preschool 3's-grade 5 are invited to join Pastor Carey online where we'll play games, learn about the Bible, and grow in faith together!

Zoom Meeting ID: 895 9462 0620

Passcode: Gary Kids



4th & 5th Grade Fellowship | Virtual Painting Party

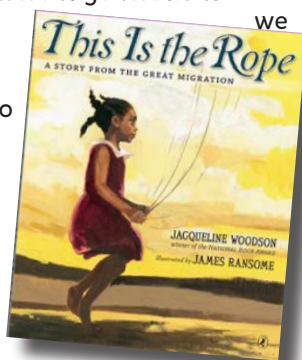
Friday, February 19, 7 p.m. on Zoom

4th & 5th Graders are invited to a Virtual Painting Party led by Pam Keller! Not an artist? No problem. Mrs. Keller is a professional art instructor who will guide us through step-by-step until your masterpiece is complete! Supplies will be delivered to participants' homes before the event. RSVP to Pastor Carey by February 15.



A Recommendation from our Gary Kids Librarian, Sarah Kovac

This month, in honor of Black History Month, we recommend *This Is the Rope* by Jacqueline Woodson. In this book, a jump rope ties together the story of a family who moved north during The Great Migration. Sarah says, "The way the rope connects the different generations reminded me of how we are all connected as Christians in our love for Jesus and our devotion to his teachings."



Question of the Month

Hey parents, what's one thing our church could do to better serve and help you? Email Pastor Carey at cbebar@garychurch.org to share your ideas.

help needed

Gary Kids needs your help!

Could you share your time and talents with us in one of these roles?

- Social Media Chair: Use Grow's Social Media Plan to help our Gary Kids families grow in faith.
- Technology Officer: Help update our technology for Fall 2021.



WinChimes

Winfield Community United Methodist Church

An Affiliate of Gary United Methodist Church

Something You Should Know—New Possibilities

by Rev. Bruce Anderson

Jesus said, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also.

John 12:23-26

I don't know about you, but time certainly seems to pass differently during the COVID-19 pandemic than it does in "normal" time. It seems like it was just Christmas and now here we are with Lent fast approaching. It just does not seem possible.

Lent is a time for self-reflection, repentance, and change. It is a time to reflect on what is true and what we truly value, then make plans to proceed accordingly. As Christians, it is a time in which to examine the example of Christ as God's perfect self-revelation and model for how to live our lives. May we take the 40 days of Lent to evaluate where we have been personally, and as a nation, to decide what things we must repent of and change, and what things need to be nurtured for rebirth and growth.

This will be the first Lent/Easter after the death of my father. We had him cremated, so the relationship with death and ashes is extremely vivid for me this year. I especially need the image of Christ's resurrection and our rebirth right now to sustain me. It is not that I fear death, but the loss of my father coupled with the present darkness that our country has been going through has been wearing on me.

It is important to be reminded that the worst thing is not that last thing, and that God has this. Sometimes it takes the darkness to make us appreciate the light, and really open our eyes to what is going on in our world. We now find ourselves at a place where we look forward to new possibilities in so many areas of our lives.



Winfield Community United Methodist Church

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John Wiggins, Church Administrator
Olive Aliga, Music Director

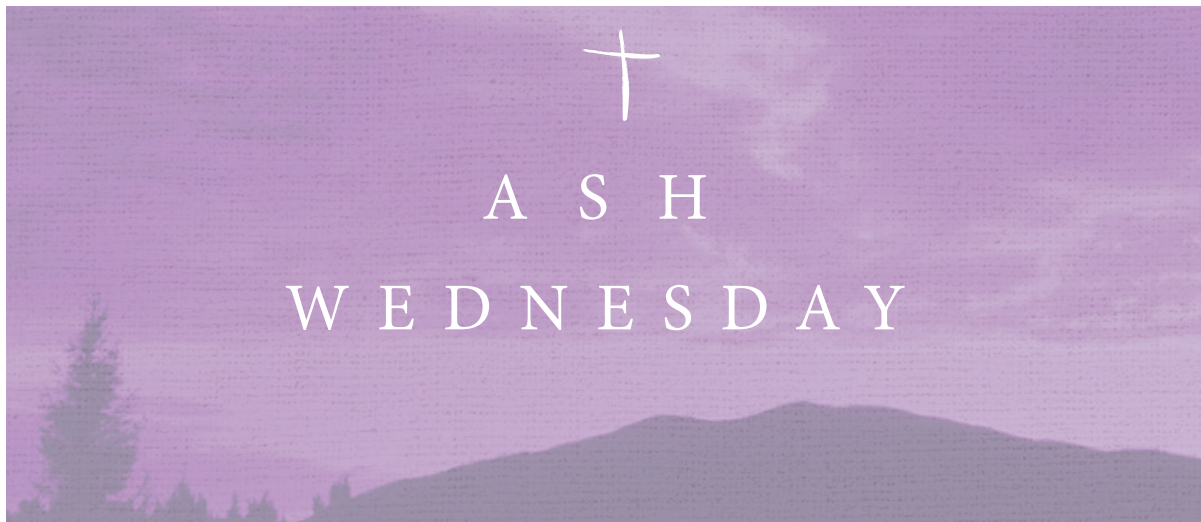


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Experience Ash Wednesday!

Register at garychurch.org to pick up ashes in the
Gary Church parking lot on Sunday, February 14, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

You may then use the ashes for the livestreamed service
on Wednesday, February 17. See page 6 for details.