

Chimes



The Newsletter of Gary Church
and Winfield Community Church
June/July 2022



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Sunday Worship

In person at 9 a.m.

Livestream at 9 a.m., garychurch.org

Child care available during worship

Recording online later in the day

Church Office Hours

Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

by appointment, 630–668–3100



Gary Church Podcast

(sermon, scripture)

garychurch.org

Updated weekly



Pastor Brian Podcast

(prayers, Christian

conversations)

garychurch.org

Updated monthly

Submissions for the August *Chimes* newsletter are due by noon on Friday, June 24. 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.



Mark your calendar for summer*

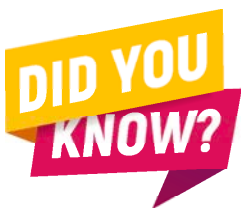
Sunday, June 5	Pentecost and Step Up Sunday
Sunday, June 12	Celebrate Gary Church high school graduates with afghans
Sunday, June 19	Father's Day
Monday, June 20–Thursday, June 23	Vacation Bible School and BLAST Camp
Saturday, June 25–Saturday, July 2	Gary Youth Mission Trip with Appalachia Service Project
Sunday, July 10	Styrofoam Recycling
Thursday, July 14–Sunday, July 17	Family Camp
Wednesday, July 20	Blood Drive
Sunday, July 31	Fifth Sunday Appeal for United Voices for Children
Sunday, August 21	Worship in the Park

*Check out more events for Gary Kids and Gary Youth on pages 6, 7, 14 and 15

Thank you to our new Special Blend coordinator

Larry Blackburn is stepping in to help bring this important part of our hospitality ministry back on Sunday mornings. Larry will organize Special Blend volunteers and maintain our supply inventory, ensuring coffee and treats are ready for everyone following worship. Larry, his wife Diana, and their 11-year-old son Jimmy live in Wheaton and joined Gary in the fall of 2020. They are already busy in the life of the church volunteering with children and youth ministry. Larry and Diana also serve during Special Blend on the second Sunday of the month.

Please welcome and thank Larry as he embarks on his new role, and consider joining him on the Special Blend team. We need more people willing to help during this valuable fellowship time. Our new coffee system makes it extra easy to prepare for Special Blend. We need help to set up, host, clean up and provide baked goods and fruit on Sundays. For more information or to volunteer, visit garychurch.org or contact Larry through the Church Office.



Did you know? Gary Church is a member of the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Wheaton Association. We participate in events like Downtown Trick-or-Treating, Reindeer on Parade and Ice Art Walk as part of these memberships.



DOWNTOWN WHEATON
ASSOCIATION

Kids say the greatest things

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So, Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast."

John 21:9-11 NRSVue

Many years ago, there was a television show titled "Kids Say the Darndest Things." Apparently, the show still airs but the current version pales in comparison to the show that some of us knew and loved. But kids also say some of the greatest things. On Palm/Passion Sunday during the children's message, Pastor Carey asked the kids about Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem riding

Never underestimate the influence that you can have on the life of another — especially those closest to you.

on a humble donkey, "Why would Jesus do something so uncool?" Young Zachary Tobias answered, "When Jesus does it, that makes it cool." It made my day.

As Christians we look to the example of Jesus and his teaching. His life and teaching, and the transforming work of the Holy Spirit can have a powerful life-changing influence on our lives. When Jesus does something such as riding on a donkey rather than a chariot or war horse, showing us the way of humility, or washing his disciples' feet, showing us the way of service and love, he makes it cool. He sets an example for us.



Recently, I came across an interview with world-renowned chef and humanitarian José Andrés. Beyond his many famous restaurants, his commitment to meet the needs of those who hunger in disaster and war-torn areas around the world through his organization World Central Kitchen is inspiring. Andrés immigrated to the United States in 1990 and honed his culinary skills.

A strong believer in the American Dream, his motivation to serve the world's hungry came from seeing the inaction of institutions during Hurricane Katrina. It has led him to places like Haiti and most recently, the Ukraine.

His passion, however, started with his mother and father who regularly cooked delicious meals and extended their table to others. Never underestimate the influence that you can have on the life of another — especially those closest to you. He was also deeply impacted by his faith. Andrés said in an interview "I was raised in a Catholic family that was always helping and feeding people. ... As a little boy going to religious classes, I thought Jesus was so cool. He could do so much like make breakfast for fishermen. Jesus cooked it himself." Never underestimate the power of witnessing about Jesus and the impact that it can have on others — especially our children.



Theologian Frederick Buechner once said, “Vocation is where our greatest passion meets the world’s greatest need.” Andrés has been able to look back on his life and see a “through-line” of a faith that was shaped by his parents’ examples, stoking his passion, and the teaching of the church, through a lay person, or a deacon or a priest that helped his passion become a calling.

We may not all have the kind of global impact that Andrés has with his organization, but we can model for others faith as his parents did. We can teach, lifting up Jesus, in such a way that someone thinks, “Jesus was/is so cool” that they find their vocation — actually, that is our calling.

This year United Methodist Churches in the Northern Illinois Conference are invited to participate in a special offering for Ukraine at the June session of annual conference. I encourage you to prayerfully consider how God may be calling you to give and be a source of hope to people in this war-torn region.

Gary Church supports a variety of local, regional and international organizations, enabling individuals to live their faith through prayer, hands-on work, financial support, donations of needed items, companionship, presence and/or systemic change. We support other causes of the United Methodist Church that allow us to combine our offerings with those of other United Methodists, nationally and globally, to enact change around the world.

Visit the Gary Church website and click on the link for ministry/mission and outreach. Consider how God might be calling you to witness to faith in Jesus Christ through word and action. When you do, remember, it’s the cool thing to do because Jesus made it so.

Christopher L. Pearson



ANCHORED IN HOPE

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

***And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets.
Zechariah 8:5***

Hey, parents! The book of Zechariah talks about kids playing in the streets as a sign of peace and prosperity. Summer is all about play. Whether you're hitting waterparks or roasting marshmallows, we hope you experience the joy of play and know that it is a sign of God's goodness. Happy summer!

what we're teaching

June Series: *Ever After*

Fairy tales are full of fantasy and imagination. We love them because they take what could be real and add extraordinary circumstances. But what if there was a story where the extraordinary circumstances were real? Could a story like this exist? This month, we are going to look at the story of Ruth to see how God truly writes the best stories for us – full of companions, hope, boldness and the knowledge that God is always taking care of us!



July Series: *Up in the Air*

We learn about so many incredible humans – past and present – who have changed the world using their influence, their voice, their dreams, and their passion. Kids might find it hard to relate to these dreamers, though, and ask themselves, “Can God use me for something that grand?” In *Up In The Air*, kids will learn through the stories of Elisha that we can dream big with God, have faith in God, count on God's promises, ask God for what we need and be used by God. The sky isn't the limit anymore ... not with God's promises at work in our lives!



what's happening

Step Up Sunday

June 5

Kids will get to step up to their next grade and celebrate with cake in the Commons after worship.

Summer Playgroup

Offered in June and July at Northside Park on the 1st and 3rd and 5th Wednesday of the month at 3 p.m.

Come enjoy the outdoors and connect with other families. Everyone is welcome! Contact **Graceanne Ryken** at childcare@garychurch.org for details.

Parent's Night Out

Fridays, June 10, July 8 & August 12, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

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

4th & 5th Grade Fellowship Beach Day!

Friday, July 29, 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.



Grab a towel, pack a lunch, and put on sunscreen 'cause we're headed to the beach—Montrose Beach! Extra drivers/adults needed. Contact

Carey Williams Bebar

at cbebar@garychurch.org.



Save the date for Aquaball

Sunday, August 7, 3 p.m.

Is it kickball? Is it slip n' slide? Is it a ton of fun? Yes to all! Gary Kids families are invited to this playful event. Watch the Gary Kids e-mail for more information.



Pine Lake Camp, Westfield, WI

FAMILY CAMP

July 14-17

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

Thursday: Check-in, dinner, campy camp games, campfire, songs and s'mores

Friday & Saturday: Active devotion, free play, creative crafts, campy camp games, campfire, songs and s'mores

Sunday: Worship at the lake, free play, check-out

Accommodations:

- **Retreat center room:** Hotel style with private bath including one queen bed and one twin bed with twin trundle. Cost: \$240 per room + \$45 per person after 2 (family of 3: \$285, family of 4: \$330, etc.).
- **Rustic cabin:** electricity, cold running water, toilet, and 8-10 twin beds (4-5 sets bunk beds). Shared bath house. Cost: \$60 per person. Cabins can be shared by more than one family.

Meals:

Cost: \$110 per person 13+ and \$60 per child ages 3-12

- Thursday: Dinner
- Friday: Breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Saturday: Breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Sunday: Breakfast and lunch

Activity Fee

\$40 per family covers the cost of weekend crafts and activities

Join us for Family Camp this summer!
Register at garychurch.org

"It's so fun!"- **Michael Villanueva**

Family Camp Band

Wednesdays, June 29, July 6 & 13, 5:30-6:15 p.m., Gary Church

Are you attending Family Camp, play an instrument, and/or sing? Join the Family Camp Band and learn the music we'll enjoy around the campfire and by the lake. Offered for adults and youth entering sixth grade and up. Contact **Michael Villanueva** through the Church Office for details.



Monumental/Vacation Bible School

Monday, June 20-Thursday, June 23, 9-11:45 a.m.

Go off-road for a *Monumental* adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the southwest. By exploring God's awesomeness, kids form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead.

Cost: \$30, covers a fun VBS shirt, *Monumental* music, sciency-fun gizmos, and so much more! Register at garychurch.org.

Monumental/Volunteers Rock!

Join the *Monumental*/VBS volunteer team and help give kids a rock-solid foundation for their lives built on Bible truths about God's love. Leaders and assistants needed to shepherd crews, encourage learning and enjoy the fun! Register as a VBS volunteer at garychurch.org.

VBS Volunteer Meeting

Sunday, June 12, 2 p.m., Commons
Monumental/VBS volunteers are encouraged to attend this training where they'll meet the station leaders, learn their crew members and hear about all the fun and meaningful ways we are helping kids form a rock-solid faith.

VBS Decorating Night

Wednesday, June 15, 6 p.m.

Gary Church

Help decorate for VBS and enjoy a slice of pizza!





book recommendation

by Gary Kids librarian, Sarah Kovac



This summer we recommend *Summer Days and Nights* by Wong Herbert Lee. In this book, a girl finds ways to entertain herself on a hot day. It focuses on appreciating the small, yet wonderful gifts – such as sipping lemonade and catching butterflies – that God gives us during summer.

meet our new child care coordinator

Graceanne (Grace) Ryken is pursuing her Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Wheaton College. Before attending Wheaton, she taught with United Christians International-Haiti, interned with Global Partners, and worked with the Waterloo County Health Department and Ethnic Minorities of Burma Advocacy and Resource Center. You might recognize Grace as a barista from My Half of the Sky. As the child care coordinator, Grace will oversee volunteer schedules, supplies, Parent's Night Out, Summer Play-group and general child care needs. She will also be in the nursery most Sundays to greet families and care for the little ones. We are so excited to welcome Grace to the Gary Kids team! If you see her around, please extend a warm Gary welcome.



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, **Christy Grace**, and say "hi" if you see her around.

This fall, Christy joined the Gary Kids team as a preschool Sunday school teacher. Not only that, Christy is this year's *Monumental* VBS Chair! She and her husband Joe are parents to 5-year-old Colin. Christy has been a member of Gary since 2014. When asked why she serves on the Gary Kids team, Christy said, "I want to help share the message of God's bigger-than-we-can-imagine love and call to love one another with the youngest members of our faith community." We think Christy is a true gift to our church and someone you should know.



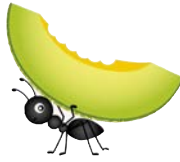
Summer ADULT fellowship

Faith Club Summer Picnic

Sunday, July 17, 1 p.m.

Whether you have been attending this interfaith women's group regularly, haven't been able to come for a while, or have been wanting to be part of the group, you are invited to our summer gathering.

It's a great time to get to know our sisters of Abrahamic faiths. Please bring a dish to share. We'll enjoy the meal together in the shade of Faith Club member Diane Roubitchek's backyard. For the address, please contact **Kim Austin** through the Church Office.



Enjoy game night

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

You too could win (or lose!) this trophy. Play games of bridge, dominoes or anything you like with your Gary Church friends. 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.



Anti-Racist Book Club | Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?

Wednesday, June 29, 7 p.m., Commons
led by Rev. Dwight Stewart

In 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., isolated himself from the demands of the civil rights movement, rented a house in Jamaica with no telephone, and labored over his final manuscript. In this prophetic work, he lays out his thoughts, plans and dreams for America's future, including the need for better jobs, higher wages, decent housing and quality education. With a universal message of hope that continues to resonate, King demanded an end to global suffering, asserting that humankind — for the first



time — has the resources and technology to eradicate poverty. Join the conversation by purchasing the book on your own and registering at garychurch.org.

Worship Talk

Sundays, 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. To participate, find the Zoom code at garychurch.org.

Walkers & Talkers Fellowship

Tuesdays, 10 a.m., Zoom;

Thursdays, 9:30 a.m., Commons

Stop in and chat with this welcoming fellowship group. Contact the Church Office for the Tuesday Zoom code or simply come to the Commons on Thursdays.



Help make Gary gardens gorgeous

Anyone can join the Gary Gardeners team, and in the summer there's always something to do. If you can help with weeding, watering, maintaining/updating planters, general landscaping or various short-term projects, please let **Barbara Wernicke** know through the Church Office.



Create cards

Thursdays, 1 p.m., Heritage Room

Anyone is welcome to drop in whenever you can to create cards. The cards go to people celebrating milestone birthdays and anniversaries. They go to people grieving or sick. And, the cards go to people to simply let them know their friends at Gary Church are thinking about them.



CROP Hunger Walk 2022

The CROP Hunger Walk on May 1 was a great success. Gary Church walkers totaled 17 plus one four-legged friend. The entire multi-church event had 78 participants, and as we write this article, Gary Church is close to reaching its goal with funds yet to be counted.

Representatives of the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry and Wheaton People's Resource Center were on hand to express their gratitude for supporting them as they serve thousands of people with food security issues. Part of the funds raised will also help families around the world.

Thank you, Gary Church for walking and for donating to this important mission!

Judy Selby

Gary Church CROP Walk Coordinator





GARY CHURCH *makes a difference*

Fifth Sunday Appeal for United Voices for Children

On Sunday, July 31, we will collect 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 or through the Church Office.

Educate a Girl/Change the World 2.0

Thank you to everyone who gave to and prayed for the Educate a Girl mission. In the August edition of the *Chimes*, we will share details on the fundraising efforts to provide scholarships to students in Cambodia, Africa and Chicago.

Thank you for giving

Thank you to everyone who gave to the Giving DuPage Days fundraiser for Ecumenical Support Services for the Elderly (ESSE). The nonprofit provides adult day care options that promote the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of older adults and their families. In August, Gary Church will have the opportunity to visit and bring treats. Contact **Deb Connor** through the Church Office for more information.



Give blood this summer

Wednesday, July 20, 2-6 p.m., Commons Gary Church will once again host a blood drive through Versiti, one of the Midwest's major blood centers. For each unit of blood given, up to three lives can be saved. Sign up to give blood at garychurch.org.



Recycle Styrofoam

Sunday, July 10, 8:45-10:30 a.m., South Driveway Bring your Styrofoam to church, and we will recycle it for you. Please separate clean food containers from other Styrofoam. No packing peanuts. If you miss the date, feel free to drop off Styrofoam at Dart Container Corporation, 310 Evergreen Dr., North Aurora.



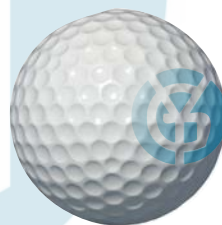
Support 2022 Bishop's Appeal for Ukraine

The 2022 Northern Illinois Annual Conference Bishop's Appeal special offering will go toward Ukraine assistance. While immediate needs are great, the people of Ukraine will also need assistance in the long term. You can give at garychurch.org/give. If you'd like to purchase a T-shirt (like **the Villanuevas** are wearing) in support of the Bishop's Appeal, go to the Mission and Outreach page of garychurch.org.



Gary Youth Mini-Golf Fundraiser

The Gary Youth mission team would like to express our gratitude to all of you who provided auction items, bid on auction items, mini golfed, designed a hole, donated snack items, bought snack items, invited friends and family and prayed for a successful event. We received so much positive feedback; most of which was, "this was so fun!" Because of you, we were able to raise more than \$7,000. Thank you so much for your faithful generosity and support for our youth!



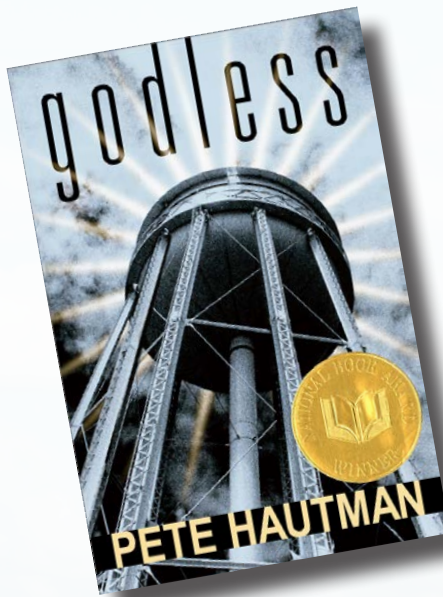


Gary Youth

Book discussion with Gary Youth

Jason Bock is an agnostic-maybe-atheist who decides to invent a new religion with a water tower as its god. He recruits an unlikely group of worshippers: his snail-farming best friend, Shin, cute-as-a-button (whatever that means) Magda Price, and the violent and unpredictable Henry Stagg. As their religion grows, it takes on a life of its own.

This summer, our Middle School and High School youth group will be reading and discussing the National Book Award winner, *Godless* by Pete Hautman.



Book discussion dates

Taco Tuesdays

5–6:30 p.m., Senior High Youth Room

Middle School Youth are invited for tacos, games and discussion! Let us know you if you need a book. Sign up by visiting our Gary Youth page at garychurch.org.

Tuesday, June 14: Chapters 1–6

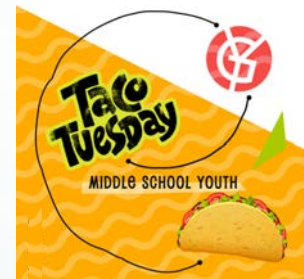
Tuesday, July 5: Chapters 7–12

Tuesday, July 19: Chapters 13–18

Tuesday, July 26: Fun Night

Tuesday, August 9: Chapters 19–24

Tuesday, August 16: Chapters 25–31



Milk Tea Sundays

8:30–10 p.m., Senior High Youth Room

High School Youth are invited for milk tea, games and discussion. Let us know if you need a book. Sign up by visiting our Gary Youth page at garychurch.org.

Sunday, June 12: Chapters 1–6

Sunday, July 10: Chapters 7–12

Sunday, July 17: Fun Night
(time subject to change)

Sunday, July 24: Chapters 13–18

Sunday, August 7: Chapters 19–24

Sunday, August 14: Chapters 25–31



Gary Youth Mission Trip: Sensitivity

At Gary Youth, we want to provide opportunities for our youth to be transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. That's why we are going to Floyd County, Kentucky this summer! Trips like these are critical for the faith development of our youth because of their transformational quality. Mission trips allow our youth to meet people that live differently than they do, see needs in the world with their own eyes, and experience the power of the Holy Spirit working through their hands. That's why even though our mission trip is at the end of June, our preparation happens months before.



Last month, we got together to do some team building work. We also learned about sensitivity when we are engaged in missions. Imagine going into a home in need of much repair and we see a brand-new 60-inch flat screen TV. What are our first honest thoughts? How should we seek to understand? What if the home we are assigned to is littered with garbage? What is our first honest reaction? How can we begin to understand? These types of discussions help us understand poverty more deeply and learn how we can begin to walk alongside those who are suffering without taking away their dignity. We want to learn to do all the good we can without doing harm.

Summer Event Dates*

Move Up Sunday

June 5, during worship service

High School Graduation Sunday

June 12, during worship service

BLAST Camp Training

June 12, 3 p.m.

Summer Kick-off BBQ

Friday, June 10, see Gary Youth page of garychurch.org for details

BLAST Camp

Monday, June 20–

Thursday, June 23

Appalachia Service Project Mission Trip

Saturday, June 25–

Saturday, July 2

Christ in Youth MOVE Camp

Monday, July 11– Friday, July 15

Christ in Youth MIX Camp

Sunday July 31–

Wednesday, August 3

For more information, go to garychurch.org or contact

Pastor Dan

at dlee@garychurch.org.

*All events are subject to change.



Planning to be out of town for Sundays during the summer?

You can still support the mission and ministry of Gary Church while you are gone by setting up a one-time, weekly or monthly online gift using a credit card or bank account. Simply go to garychurch.org/give to establish your giving plan.

You can also give by text at any time. Text the amount you would like to give followed by the word "GARY" to the number (844) 928-1220. If this is the first time making a text gift to Gary Church, there will be some additional instructions to set up a text account. Contact the Church Office if you have questions.



Deb Evans was recognized at the conference for earning PAUMCS certification. She completed a group project plus classes on taxes, giving, ethics, confidentiality, conflict resolution and more. Congratulations to Deb on this achievement!



PAUMCS (pronounced Paw-mex) by Deb Evans

This spring, I had the opportunity to attend the annual conference of the Professional Administrators of the United Methodist Connectional Structure (PAUMCS). I know, it's quite the name, and you are probably thinking, "Who knew?!"

But I am here to tell you that such an organization exists and does so "... to provide administrative professionals a supportive base for community and fellowship and to promote individual growth, professional development, continuing education, and spiritual enrichment."

This year's conference was held at Lake Junaluska in North Carolina and included educational sessions, worship time, a vendor exhibit, networking and more. The theme was "Refresh. Renew. Restore." And I returned home feeling all of that.

I am grateful to the Staff Parish Relations Committee and Gary Church for providing the resources and encouraging its staff to participate in opportunities to further individual growth and professional development. Thank you.



Share your musical talents

Let your musical gifts shine this summer in worship. All ages are welcome. We have openings for musicians in June, July and August. Contact **Jennifer Whiting** at jwhiting@garychurch.org or contact the Church Office to sign up and make a joyful noise.

Scouts BSA girls-only troop

Gary Church is looking to start up a girls-only troop through Scouts BSA. The program is open to all girls between ages 12 to 18 and includes all aspects of scouting that our current boys Troop 35 participates in. If you know anyone interested, please contact the Church Office for more information.



Pastor Carey studying to be deacon

She leads our children's ministry and coordinates our adult education, and now **Carey Williams Bebar** has added seminary student to her to-do list. Gary Church's Staff Parish Relations Committee has officially approved Carey for candidacy for deacon. Carey says, "I am deeply grateful to Gary Church and the Staff Parish Relations Committee for approving my candidacy to be a deacon in the United Methodist Church. As a deacon, I hope to extend the witness and service of Christ's love and justice in the world and equip disciples to fulfill their call to Christian service and ministry." Please pray for Carey as she continues her studies at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary at Northwestern University. She's on track to graduate in 2025.

Congratulations to Carey!



Give flowers for the altar

There are many Sundays open for you to provide altar flowers. 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.

Watch past worship services

Missed a service? Want to see special services from Lent or Advent? Months and months of worship services are available to view on our website. Go to garychurch.org, "Resources," "Worship Services," then choose the service you'd like to watch.



Gary Cares funds available to you

If you or your family are in need, please reach out to **Pastor Chris** or **Pastor Brian** about confidential Gary Cares funds. If you would like to contribute, go to garychurch.org/give.

Congratulations

Anne Courter on the birth of her great-grand-daughter, River Courter, on April 26

Baptisms

Carter Rozwat, son of Ryan and Leslie Rozwat, on May 8

John (Josh) Rozwat, son of John & Laura Rozwat, on May 8

Evelyn Rozwat, daughter of John & Laura Rozwat, on May 8

June/July birthdays*

Happy (90+) birthday to:

Norvis Land
Eileen Hughes
Rona Purpura

June/July anniversaries*

Happy (50+) anniversary to:

George and Linda Masek
Gary and Jeanene Fowler

Our sympathy

Bob and Emily Peinsipp and their family on the death of Emily's mother, Helen Hardman, on April 10

Rich and Pam Cary and their family on the death of Pam's father, Marland Schmitt, on April 21

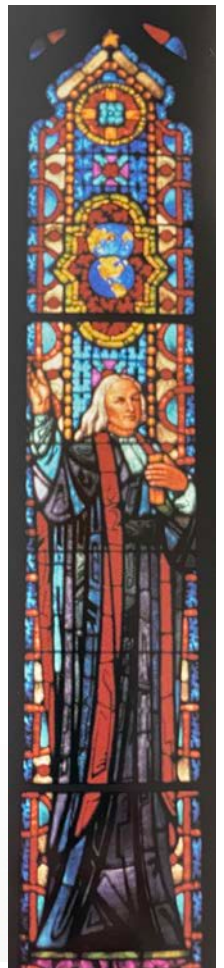
Carolyn Cattron on the death of her husband, Dave Cattron, on May 2. Carolyn and Dave donated pumpkins, gourds and squashes for our Thanksgiving altar for many years.

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



Happy Birthday John Wesley

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, was born on June 28, 1703. He was the 15th child of Samuel and Susanna Wesley. Nine of the Wesley family's 19 children lived past infancy.



WinChimes

Winfield Community United Methodist Church

An Affiliate of Gary United Methodist Church

Freedom

by Rev. Bruce Anderson

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. John 8:36

We are heading into summer, the time of the year when the weather is warm, and we are free to go outside and do the things we like to enjoy in the outdoors. Children are “free” from school, and adults are looking forward to vacations somewhere and being away from work for awhile. The Fourth of July is coming up, when we celebrate our country’s freedom, and life seems a little freer and easier.

Let us freely live out our love of God and love of neighbor.

I have been seeing the word freedom bandied about quite a bit lately, but it lacks definition or context. It is usually implying that some value freedom more than others and that our freedoms are being threatened. But I still wonder what they mean by “freedom.” Freedom from what, or to do what?

Freedom taken to the extreme is anarchy, and there are those for whom there is no freedom unless they can do whatever they want to whomever they want. For me this would not be freedom but lawlessness.

There are others who say that we are already free and who are just fine with the way things are. But for others, they live under a system of established racist policies that seek to advantage some while disadvantaging others. This system means freedom for some and oppression for others. That is not true freedom. As Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote in his letter from the Birmingham jail, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” Truer words were never spoken. We live in a great country with tremendous freedoms, but we still have a way to go until our freedoms can be equally enjoyed by all.

As Paul wrote to the Galatians, Christ has set us free from sin and death, and we must be careful not to fall back into that slavery that is rampant in our unbridled self-centeredness. While Christ has set us free, there are still boundaries within which we must live to enjoy that freedom. Like Israel, there are expectations put upon our lives in order to live as the people of God in Christ. Some will bristle at any sort of restrictions on their lives, but true freedom in Christ requires it. We are to live our lives out of love for God and neighbor. The law of love requires some restrictions on our actions or it is not love. I will voluntarily not do things to hurt someone out of love of neighbor. And I will voluntarily spend some time trying to help someone through the hardships of life out of love of neighbor that also reflects the love that God has for us. In Christ, we are set free to be our best selves.

As we go about experiencing the freedoms of summer, let us freely live out our love of God and love of neighbor, and live into Christ’s commandment that we love one another as Christ loves us. In this way, everyone will know that we are Christ’s disciples, if we love one another. Let us show we are Christians by our freedom to love.



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