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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

Submissions for the May Chimes newsletter are due by noon on Friday, April 1. Announcements for the Sunday bulletin and weekly e-news are due each Tuesday at noon. Send all submissions to office@garychurch.org.

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

ANCHORED IN HOPE

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

4 P.M. IN THE GARY CHURCH SANCTUARY
DOORS OPEN AT 3:30 P.M.

Presented by the Handbell Ensembles of Gary Church.
A freewill offering will be received.
Palms, Preparation, Passion and Praise

This year we have the first opportunity since 2019 to experience the Palms, the Passion, and the Praise from Holy Week to Easter.

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday with palm fronds in hand and joyous shouts of Hosanna from young and old. Often, in our liturgy and sermons, we make note of the change that takes place as “Hosannas” change to shouts of “Crucify him.”

Yet, the events of Holy Week through Easter offer a much broader perspective for those who engage in a Service of Preparation, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. The scriptures read during Holy Week and Easter reveal that many changes and transformations take place in the lives of Jesus, his disciples, and the religious and political leaders.

Jesus’ own disciples pledge their loyalty only to flee when persecution comes. As Jesus speaks of his passion, the disciples learn what it means to follow him, what it means to be a servant, and they gain a deeper understanding of the true nature of love. They swore that even if they had to die with Jesus, they would never disown him. Yet, one betrayed him, they all fled, and they denied him.

When Jesus was crucified on the cross, Pilate had an inscription written in Hebrew, in Latin and in Greek. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” Then, in a macabre scene, there were those who wanted Pilate to change the wording to read, “This man said, I am the King of the Jews.” Pilate who previously had vacillated and cowed to the pressure of the crowd, answered them, “I have written what I have written.”

In a strange way, the cross—an ugly instrument of death, torture and terror, prefigured the profound truth that Jesus, the Holy One of God, even in his crucifixion, would usher in a new reign in all aspects of life—personal and social. With the early Christian community, we believe that in Jesus of Nazareth the Christ or the Messiah was encountered and God’s reign was made manifest.\(^1\)

The power of death was felt on that day in such a way that one gospel writer could only describe as the sky turning pitch dark when the sun should shine its brightest. Yet, even a cross could not stop the coming reign of God. The cross became a beginning and not an end when Jesus was raised. Easter points not only to new life, but a new community being born. Easter points to limitless possibilities within the reign or realm of God as we encounter the Risen Christ.

One of the most powerful of transformations we sometimes forget is that when these fearful disciples encountered the Risen Christ, they became bold in their faith and their witness—even before the Sanhedrin where Jesus was tried and condemned. As Jesus triumphed over the grave, their encounters of the Risen Christ empowered them to triumph over their fears, to embrace his vision of a better world, a world where we are reconciled to God and one another and share the Good News of his liberating love and salvation.

Please join us at the many opportunities for worship, transformation and fellowship, through Palms, Preparation, Passion and Praise as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and the gift of new and resurrection life in him.

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\(^1\) A Handbook of Christian Theology, Meridian Books, NY, 1958, p. 198.
2022 Lenten special services

Ash Wednesday
March 2, 7 p.m.

Palm Sunday
April 10, 9 a.m.

Service of Preparation
April 12, 7 p.m.

Maundy Thursday
April 14, 7 p.m.

Good Friday
April 15, 7 p.m.

Easter
April 17, 9 and 11 a.m.

Lenten devotionals extended
Thank you to everyone who submitted a Lenten devotional. Some people even wrote more than one! We have devotions for more than 40 days, so you'll continue to receive them in your e-mail inbox for a few days after Easter.

“Anchored in Hope” in ice
We shared our “Anchored in Hope” theme in the Downtown Wheaton Association’s Ice Art Walk.

All services except Maundy Thursday will be in person in the Gary Church Sanctuary, livestreamed plus recorded for viewing at garychurch.org. The Maundy Thursday service will be at Winfield Church.

A place to pray
Throughout Lent, if you need a space to recharge and pray, the Sanctuary and Chapel will be open Monday through Friday, 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. If you’d like to come at a different time, contact the Church Office.

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, 
Hope—Hebrews 6:19
These are wonderful ways to connect with God and each other. Watch the weekly e-news for updates on Adult Christian Education and Discipleship as we grow together in faith.

**What Biblical Writers Can Teach Us about Reading the Bible**

Sundays, March 6–April 10 (no class March 27), 9:50 a.m., Chapel, led by Dr. Michael Graves

The Bible is not only a collection of ancient texts, it is also sacred scripture for the church. How do we interpret the Bible so that we move responsibly from the Bible’s ancient contexts to today’s complex world? This class will focus on how biblical writers interpret prior biblical traditions and apply them to new contexts. Special topics include the balance between community and individual responsibility, the Bible’s view of insiders and outsiders, and the scripture’s teaching on the afterlife. Our goal will be to learn lessons from the biblical writers that will allow us to apply biblical teaching in fresh ways with Jesus as our model. Participants are invited to purchase Dr. Michael Graves’ book, *How Scripture Interprets Scripture*, for $20 through the Church Office.

**Lenten Book Sale**

Sunday, March 6, 9:50 a.m., Commons

This Lent, instead of giving up chocolate, open up a book! Gary’s Adult Christian Education Committee invites you to purchase books and resources from their archived collection. Pick up a copy and deepen your faith through study this Lenten season.

**Faith Club Book Discussion**

Tuesday, March 8, 7 p.m., Chapel

Faith Club brings together women of Abrahamic faiths to learn about and from one another and to build community. Plan to attend this month for a discussion of *A Bigger Table: Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community* by John Pavlovitz. This book “invites readers to envision a church that is big enough for everyone, by holding up a mirror to the modern church and speaking clearly on issues at the heart of the Christian community: LGBT inclusion, gender equality, racial tensions, global concerns, and theological shifts.” Contact Kim Austin through the Church Office to be added to the email list for future updates.

**Spiritual Practices of Jesus**

Wednesdays, March 9–April 13, 7 p.m., Commons, led by Pastor Chris

Luke’s gospel was written to transform. In its original context, readers would have seen a portrait of Jesus as an ideal teacher and king, able to shape his people through exemplary leadership. They would have come to the Gospel expecting to be changed for God’s purposes through the imitation of Jesus’ lifestyle and adoption of his teaching. When today’s readers approach the text in the same way, they can be transformed too.

Pastor Chris’ Lenten Study will center on Catherine J. Wright’s book, *Spiritual Practices of Jesus: Learning Simplicity, Humility, and Prayer*. Wright’s work explores Luke’s portrait of the spirituality of Jesus, focusing on the themes of simplicity, humility and prayer in his life and teaching. After establishing the likely thought patterns of Luke’s first readers, this study considers how Jesus models these three values and then explores how different readers have understood and employed key passages for spiritual formation, beginning with a first-century audience and tracing the reception of these texts in the ancient church.

Demonstrating a theological interpretation of Jesus’ spirituality grounded in church tradition, this accessible class combines New Testament studies and spiritual formation to provide fresh insight into the biblical text. Pastor Chris invites readers to join with Luke’s earliest readers in adopting ancient spiritual practices that reveal that as we individually and corporately imitate Jesus, we live lives of greater authenticity, are oriented toward his kingdom, and are transformed by his manner of life. Participants can purchase the book for $20 through the Church Office and register at garychurch.org.
Anti-Racist Book Club
Wednesday, March 23, 7 p.m., Commons

One Mississippi, Two Mississippi: Methodists, Murder, and the Struggle for Racial Justice in Neshoba County by Carol V. R. George

During Freedom Summer 1964, three young civil rights workers who were tasked with registering voters at Mt. Zion Methodist Church in Neshoba County, Mississippi were murdered there by law enforcement and Ku Klux Klansmen. The murders were hardly noticed. For 41 days the bodies of the three men lay undetected in a nearby dam, and for years afterward efforts to bring those responsible to justice were met only with silence. In One Mississippi, Two Mississippi, Carol V.R. George links the history of the Methodist Church with newly-researched local history to show the role of this large denomination in the county’s murder mystery and Mississippi’s stumble toward racial justice. Buy the book on your own and join the conversation by registering at garychurch.org.

Grief Matters Support Group
Wednesdays, April 20–June 15, 10 a.m. Commons

We welcome anyone grieving the death or loss of someone to be a part of the new session of this group. It is a place where you can be with people who understand how you feel and the pain of your loss. You’ll gain valuable tools to help you as you continue on the journey of grief. Please register at garychurch.org.

Sisterhood of Faith
Saturday, April 30, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.

Celebrate and connect with faith-filled sisters past and present in a morning of fellowship and reflection as we consider the ways the community of women have influenced our faith. Register at garychurch.org. Suggested donation: $15 per person.

Class Meetings
various days, times and locations
Contact Pastor Brian, bjones@garychurch.org for more information about these transformative small groups.

Explore Membership
Sunday, April 24, 9:50 a.m., Chapel

Those considering membership at Gary Church or are new members are invited to get better acquainted with pastors and staff, learn more about what it means to be United Methodist and about the history of our Gary congregation. Contact Jennifer Castino at jcastino@garychurch.org to learn more.

Worship Talk
Sundays, 11 a.m., Zoom
Find Zoom code at garychurch.org

Women’s Bible Study
First and third Wednesdays, 3 p.m. Anderson Room

Men’s Bible Study
Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Commons E

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.

Walk with Jesus: An Ecumenical Journey through the Stations of the Cross
Friday, April 8, 10 a.m.
Carmelite Spiritual Center, Darien, IL

Travel on your own or as a group to the Carmelite Spiritual Center in Darien, IL for a special Stations of the Cross prayer journey. Led by guides from the Society of the Little Flower, this ecumenical experience invites Christians from the faith community to reflect on Jesus’s death and resurrection. Register online at garychurch.org.
Hey parents! In the next eight weeks, you may be looking forward to Spring Break and warmer weather. Truth be told, so are we. But, what we’re really looking forward to is journeying through Lent with you and your kiddos. Join us this season as we draw nearer to Jesus with the stories of his life, death, and glorious resurrection. Blessings and see you Sunday!

**what we’re teaching**

**March: Page-Turner**
Page-turners are exciting books, the kind you don’t want to put down, the kind you would stay up extra late to read. Books are exciting when we can find ourselves in the stories and imagine being a part of the adventure. This month we are going to look at some of the page-turning stories of the Bible. Each of these stories has something valuable to teach us about our patient and powerful God who prepares us to fight temptation and celebrates us, the heroes in our own real-life adventures!

**April: Did you Know?**
Did you know that the largest Easter egg in the world lives in Vegreville, Canada? Did you know that the most popular Easter candy in the world is Reese’s Peanut Butter Chocolate Eggs? There’s a ton of fun trivia around the theme of Easter but the best questions to ask kids are about Jesus. Did you know we can love Jesus more than anything? Did you know Jesus is king over everything? Did you know Jesus is alive? Did you know we can trust Jesus? Whatever their answer, invite kids to go beyond the facts and win the grand prize of knowing Jesus for themselves!

**what’s happening**

**Parent’s Night Out**
*Saturday, March 12, 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 Disney’s *Epic* to coincide with our Page-Turner adventure. Register ages 2-11 at garychurch.org. Suggested cash donation of $5 per child.

**Parent’s Workshop**
*Sunday, March 13, 9:50 a.m., Activity Center*
Did you know that Gary Kids has a strategic plan for helping your kids grow in faith? We do! Come to our Parent Workshop to hear about all about it. (P.S. You are a really BIG part of the plan!)
1st & 2nd Grade Sunday School Leads the Lord’s Prayer
Sunday, March 20 during 9 a.m. Worship
For the past six weeks, first and second graders have been practicing the Lord’s Prayer in Sunday School. On March 20, they will lead the congregation in praying the prayer Jesus taught us to pray. Please join us for this special Sunday.

4th & 5th Grade Fellowship Super Start Unlocked Lock-In
Friday, March 18, 5:30 p.m.–Saturday, March 19, 3:30 p.m.
Super Start is the nation’s largest pre-teen Christian event! Fourth and fifth graders won’t want to miss this year’s tour where they will experience the incredible truth of the gospel message through the excitement and exhilaration of a competitive escape room challenge! Plus, they’ll get to experience Gary Church in a new way when they’re locked in for the night! Cost: $100 (includes the Super Start event, meals, extra activities, and a t-shirt.) Register at garychurch.org.

VBS registration opens April 1
Monumental VBS | June 20–23
Registration for 4-year-old preschool through grade 4 opens April 1 at garychurch.org

Palm & Passion Walk
Sunday, April 10 during Sunday School
Preschool 3s through grade 5 are invited to walk through Holy Week in this meaningful and interactive ministry event.

Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday, April 17, 10 a.m. in Memorial Park
Grab your baskets and head to Memorial Park for a traditional Easter Egg Hunt.

Easter Egg Donations Needed! Please donate filled Easter Eggs by Friday, April 15. Donations can be dropped off in the Church Office.

book recommendation
by Gary Kids librarian, Sarah Kovac
This is the Mystery of Easter by Amelia Richardson Dresser
Once there was a man who loved big enough to change the world...
In this charming retelling of the story of Easter, kids and adults are invited to wonder together about the power of love to overcome injustice and fear. With the gentle refrain, “love God, love yourself and love everyone else,” This is the Mystery of Easter is simply and profoundly told.
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, Caryn Doering, and say “hi!” if you see her around.

Caryn has been a part of the Gary Kids Team since 2016. She has led Preschool Sunday School, helped at VBS, and currently teaches First and Second Grade Sunday School. Not only that, Caryn serves on Gary’s Youth Council, is a PTA president, and is a mom to three great boys! When asked why she serves on Gary Kids (when she has so much going on), Caryn said, “I love being a part of the Gary Kids team because it brings such joy to see the children’s love and faith grow. I feel so lucky to be part of such an amazing kids’ ministry.” We think Caryn’s a true blessing to our church and community, and someone you should know.

Enjoy game night

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

You know you want to win (or lose) one of these trophies! 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.

Gary Cares
Reach Out

At the beginning of the pandemic, we started “Gary Cares” as a way to continue to live out the gospel in these challenging times. We started off Gary Cares by asking, “Would you be willing to call someone at Gary, just to check-in and pray with them?” We called it “Gary Cares: Reach Out.”

“Gary Cares: Reach Out” allowed people to tangibly be Christ’s hands in the world by reaching out to touch another disciple, but over the phone. It was an amazing success! Not only were those who were called touched and cared for, but it impacted the spiritual lives of those who made the call. As we begin this Lenten season (and the two-year anniversary of the pandemic) we want to reach out again.

Would you be willing to call fellow Gary sisters and brothers in Christ? Anyone can be a caller. All you need to do is register at garychurch.org and let us know which week(s) you would like to be a “Gary Cares: Reach Out” caller. Then, Pastor Brian will send you an email with instructions and even a small script if that makes you more comfortable. We hope to make all the calls in Lent, readying ourselves for Easter. Join us as we reach out to ones Christ loves during Lent.
Prison ministries of meals, books and cards

Most of us haven’t had the experience of being incarcerated or having a loved one in the correctional system. We simply can’t know or understand what it’s like.

**Meals**

But Judy Grote has a unique perspective. Judy’s grandson spent some time at the Vienna Correctional Center. When she learned about Radical Time Out (RTO), a weekly meeting in DuPage County of fellowship, Bible study and prayer among people touched by incarceration, she found encouragement, support and understanding.

“Unlike the general population, we know about setting aside one weekend a month to make the long drive to the correctional facility. We know about the waiting, the pat-downs, the walk to the visiting room. We know about spending money at the vending machines. Although the food in those machines doesn’t look very inviting to me, apparently it is considerably better than the institutional food. We know about having our personal property locked up in a locker before we go in. We know about the doors clanging shut behind us.”

–Judy Grote

Judy, along with many other volunteers from Gary Church, help provide and serve dinner at RTO meetings. It’s a ministry that’s touched hundreds of lives over the years with dozens of meals. For more information on how you can help, contact the Church Office.

**Books**

Although Terri Johnson doesn’t have personal family experience with the correctional system, she’s volunteered in many ways for years including leading worship services, collecting Christmas gifts and praying with prisoners. She has so many memories, they could fill a book.

One non-profit she supports is Chicago Books to Women in Prison, out of Ravenswood United Methodist Church. The all-volunteer group distributes paperback books free of charge to incarcerated people nationwide. Prisoners can request books; volunteers fill the orders and write a short note. For more information on how you can help, go to chicagobwp.org.

**Cards**

Terri also makes and sends cards. One year, she received a list of inmates through RTO, and she sent Christmas cards to prisoners in Illinois. She has a pen pal she has written to for a few years, and she says, “it’s a very rewarding experience.” If you’d like to learn more about making cards for prisoners, have the desire to become a pen pal, or you want to talk about the many ways you can make a difference in a prisoner’s life, contact Terri 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.

Look for Phil Roberts’ Lenten Devotional on Saturday, April 2, when he shares a story about a prison handbell ministry.
Painting with Pam
Do you have a passion that you can share with our youth? Let Pastor Dan know. Thanks to Pam Keller for sharing her passion for painting!

Lunar New Year Party
Lunar New Year is one of the most important holidays for Koreans. We wear traditional clothing called “Hanbok,” gather with extended family, make dumplings, play games, and do a traditional bow to parents and grandparents. The best part was, we would get money for bowing. I wanted to bow to everyone! In February, Gary Youth celebrated Lunar New Year together by making Korean dumplings called “mandu” and playing the board game “yutnori.”

Summer Youth Mission 2022
Gary Youth is on a mission! This summer, Saturday, June 25–Saturday, July 2, we will be going to the Appalachia region and partnering with Appalachia Service Project to make homes warmer, safer and drier for families living in substandard housing. We are so excited to see how God will use this mission opportunity to teach us about ourselves, one another, the needs in our world, and how we can be lifelong justice doers. We will be engaging in conversations about poverty throughout the next couple of months and raising funds for our trip. Here’s how you can participate with us in mission:

1. Watch the documentary Poverty, Inc. on Amazon Prime and learn about the difference between justice work and charity. (It’s free if you have prime membership!)
2. Pray for Gary Youth as we prepare for our mission trip.
3. Watch for announcements about our fundraisers and participate! You can also ask the Church Office for ways to give towards our mission trip.
What are we learning in March?

Have you ever been lost? It can be scary to realize you’re not sure where you are or how to get home again, and the same thing is true when it comes to our faith. See, you and I were created to be close to the God who made and loves us. But some of us don’t know our Creator yet. And some of us know Jesus but we wander (or at least we feel) far away from him. In this series, we’ll explore a series of stories Jesus once told about things that were lost and then got found again.

What are we learning in April?

You know that feeling you get when someone makes you a big promise? You probably feel excited, but you might feel a little skeptical too — especially when that promise gets delayed … and delayed again … and again. If you have to wait long enough for something you were promised, you might start to wonder when you’ve waited long enough. Eventually, you might even give up hope. In this series, we’ll meet a handful of people from Scripture who each spent a long time waiting on God.

Weekly Gatherings *

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<th>Month</th>
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<td>March</td>
<td>Middle School: Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>High School: Sundays, 6–7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>High School: Heritage Room</td>
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*All events are subject to change.

Save the dates for BLAST Camp

Monday, June 20–Thursday, June 23

Students entering grades 5–8 will have a blast at this summer camp. Watch the e-news for more details, including registration information.
Great poetry in the hands of a great composer: 
Let All the World in Every Corner Sing 
by Jennifer Whiting

I like to open my hymnal and meditate on great hymn texts. They speak to my soul. As George Herbert wrote, “A verse may find him who a sermon flies.”¹

George Herbert was a 17th-century Anglican poet and priest. His prayer life was the wellspring of his writings. A century later, John Wesley became a fan of Herbert and adapted nearly 50 of his poems as Methodist hymns.² Many of the borrowed poems were from a collection titled The Temple, published after Herbert's death.

Two of Herbert’s texts still appear in our 1989 United Methodist Hymnal. They are “Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life” (#164) and “Let All the World in Every Corner Sing” (#93). Herbert's vivid images and humble devotion invite us into a personal encounter with God. His intimate scenes help us to see God and ourselves in new ways.

Herbert’s title for “Let All the World in Every Corner Sing” is “Antiphon,” which means a responsive reading or song. His original poem appeared with directions for “Cho.” (chorus) and “Vers.” (versical, a short verse sung or spoken by a leader and followed by a response from the people). Here is the poem with Herbert's original spellings and directions.

**Antiphon**

**Cho.** Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing, 
My God and King.

**Vers.** The heav'ns are not too high, 
His praise may thither flie:

The earth is not too low, 
His praises there may grow.

**Cho.** Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing, 
My God and King.

**Vers.** The church with psalms must shout, 
No doore can keep them out: 
But above all, the heart 
Must bear the longest part.

**Cho.** Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing, 
My God and King.

The English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams recognized that Herbert’s “Antiphon” is an ideal text for a choral hymn of praise. He included it as the final, joyful movement of his Five Mystical Songs (a cycle of poems by George Herbert). This year marks the 150th anniversary of Ralph Vaughan Williams' birth, and the musicians of Gary Church will present his setting of “Antiphon” on Easter Sunday, April 17.

¹ From “The Church-porch,” by George Herbert; The Temple, published posthumously, 1633, Cambridge.
Great poetry in the hands of a great composer creates a guided meditation for the listener. Using musical devices to show the meaning of the words is called “text painting.” It’s fun to notice these details in the music.

Let’s look at a couple of ways Vaughan Williams’ text painting helps us to experience Herbert’s text. For instance, Vaughan Williams assigns the words “the heavens are not too high” to the high voices, and “the earth is not too low” to the low voices.

Herbert uses the refrain “all the world in ev’ry corner.” This idea is found in Revelation 7:1a, “four angels standing at the four corners of the earth” (NIV). Of course, the world has no actual “corners,” and this was known in New Testament times.

John Donne famously used this same image in his sonnet, “At the round earth’s imagined corners, blow your trumpets, angels.” (Incidentally, the families of Donne and Herbert were close friends, and Herbert studied the work of Donne. No doubt, George had John’s sonnet in his mind.)

The expression “the four corners of the world” means “to the farthest reaches in every direction, north, south, east, and west.” To amplify this thought, the composer layers one voice upon another, singing “Let all the world, let all the world, let all the world” as though people over the whole earth are adding their voices to the chorus of praise.

Listen for text painting in this phrase, “But above all, the heart must bear the longest part.” The composer prolongs the notes on the word “longest.” While the church is shouting psalms, the poet reminds us that we must prolong God’s praise in our hearts even after we leave the sanctuary.

If you would like to read another poem by Herbert, I recommend “Love III” (Love bade me welcome). It is my favorite.

If you would like to hear Vaughan Williams’ setting of “Antiphon,” you may google Antiphon, Vaughan Williams, Westminster Choir, Joseph Flummerfelt, Conductor. It is a lovely version. Or... just attend Gary Church on Easter morning to hear it!

Better yet, come and immerse yourself in this work of art with us. We begin rehearsing the piece in March, and you are warmly welcome to join!

Singers: Chancel Ensemble meets on Thursdays, 7–8:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. Contact Jennifer Whiting.

Ringers: Altar Bells meets on Wednesdays 6:30–7:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Contact Sharon Schmidt.

Gary Church has music opportunities for all ages and abilities. To find out how you may share your musical gifts, visit garychurch.org/ministries/music-ministries/.
The Missions Committee gives special thanks to Cheryll Kelly for her work on Feed My Starving Children's Feed the Need and to all who supported FMSC in February. We also want to give sincere thanks to Carey Williams Bebar for her work with the special Mission speakers in February.

—Joe Ruth, Missions Chair

CROP Hunger Walk 2022
Sunday, May 1, Check-in at 1 p.m., walk at 2 p.m., Faith Lutheran Church, Glen Ellyn

Spring is around the corner and so is the 2022 CROP Walk to End Hunger. This year we will walk with other Wheaton/Glen Ellyn church communities.

CROP Walk raises funds for and awareness of the ever-present food security issues in DuPage County and around the world. Portions of our CROP Walk funds support Wheaton and Glen Ellyn food pantries which provide for families and children in local school districts.

Register to walk as part of the Gary UMC team and/or donate to the Gary Team or to a specific walker. Go to garychurch.org for the link. You can also write a check to CWS CROP and give to the Church Office. Donations are welcome through the end of May.

If you're walking and have a Gary Love/Hope/Home T-shirt, wear it. A limited number are still available for $20 through the Church Office, and the money goes to the Gary Cares fund.

Let's walk to stop hunger locally and globally. Contact Judy Selby through the Church Office with any CROP Walk questions.

Prescription for Life fundraiser to begin soon

It’s time once again for Prescription for Life collection! Gary Church supports Outreach Community Center as they help the older adults with limited income who are living in south Carol Stream. Isolation, poor access to social services, limited access to shopping and medical visits because of lack of transportation, lack of community and social connections are just a few issues that plague the seniors who receive assistance from Outreach Community Ministries Older Adult program.

Outreach supports seniors with many programs including social activities, a mood and memory clinic, financial assistance, accessing governmental services and the annual Christmas party. We will be starting the Prescription for Life fundraiser soon. In the meantime, you can save your loose change (bills and checks are ok too!) to fill a bottle. You’ll also be able to donate online at garychurch.org or write a check.

This is one of their main fundraisers, so we need your help. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Holmes through the Church Office. Look for more info in a future e-news.

Sign up for Blood Drive
Wednesday, March 9, 2–6 p.m.
Activity Center

You can help save lives by giving blood. Sign up at garychurch.org. Be sure to drink plenty of fluids and eat a healthy meal before giving blood. Photo ID and mask required.
Giving DuPage Days

For five days, an entire county will come together to send a resounding message of hope to our local nonprofit community. We’re inviting everyone to join us for Giving DuPage Days, an online fundraiser with a goal to raise over $550,000 for 120+ local nonprofit organizations serving DuPage County. From May 2–6, we will connect individuals, families, businesses, schools, community and faith groups to celebrate and create awareness for participating charities.

ESSE
Ecumenical Support Services
for the Elderly is once again participating in this wonderful opportunity to raise awareness and funds to support the work of caring for our DuPage neighbors in need! ESSE is a not-for-profit organization that provides adult day care options that promote the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of older adults and their families. ESSE is dedicated to preserving the independence and dignity of individuals experiencing dementia while offering respite for their caregivers.

Giving DuPage Days will be ESSE’s main fundraiser as we are unable to hold our Annual Pancake Breakfast again, so please consider helping ESSE this year. Go to givingdupageday.org and choose ESSE. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support of our mission!

—Deb Connor

Thank you to Lorrie Brand for helping secure a grant from the organization 100+ Women Who Care to support the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans.

—Joe Ruth, Missions Chair

The Educate a Girl / Change the World mission project lifts up girls and young women locally and globally through education. The education of girls and women leads to healthier, more economically stable communities and countries.

Gary Church’s generous response to the first EAG fundraising campaign enabled educational support of eight girls, ages primary school through college, for the 2021-2022 school year. This education will change their lives and, in turn, they will change the lives of people in their communities.

We have featured all of these wonderful girls in recent issues of the Chimes newsletter. Thanks to you, they are thriving and have hope for the future. Luxene, pictured here, is doing well in her first year at Africa University and has expressed her sincere gratitude to the Gary community for believing in her and providing for her education this year.

EAG 2 will be a follow-up campaign to continue our support and add another young woman in the U.S. to this impactful project. Watch for details in the May issue of the Chimes.
Thank You

Norvis and Beverly Land express their sincere appreciation for your prayers, cards, visits and expressions of love and concern while Norvis was in the hospital followed by his recovery at home. Recovery is complete and successful, and he started treatment for bladder cancer on Jan. 31. Thank you again for your prayers.

There are not enough words to fully express our heartfelt thanks for your sympathy, love and support you have extended to us during this time of loss.

The Family of Rogelio (Roger) Pangilinan

I want to thank everyone for their precious cards and gifts that I received as I celebrated my 94th birthday. It was wonderful to hear from so many people at Gary Church.

Ed Ewoldt

To our amazing friends at Gary United Methodist Church,

I am writing to thank you for your most recent gift and for the faithful support your church has shown to us over many years.

In 2021 alone, your gifts provided a meal each and every day for a year to 63 children. What a wonderful blessing.

I hope it makes you all happy to know that since you began your support you have funded 86,250 meals to children and families in desperate need. Thank you for being an answer to prayer.

Gratefully,

Feed My Starving Children

Thank you, proofers

A big thank you to Sharon Schmidt and Barbara Holmes for the hours and hours you've spent proofreading for Gary Church over the years. Sharon and Barbara look over the Chimes (yes, they're making sure I've spelled everything right and this thank you note makes sense), the bulletin, letters and anything else that comes up.

Thank you for your dedication, attention to detail and red pens!

Janet Mathis

Dear Gary Church,

Your church's generosity means even more to us during these unprecedented times. Therefore, we are even more appreciative for your congregation's thoughtful donation to help our families continue to rebuild their lives.

With much appreciation,

Bridge Communities

March anniversaries*

Happy (50+) anniversary to:
Joan & Paul Stevens

April anniversaries*

Happy (50+) anniversary to:
Dick & Nancy Seloover

New opportunities*

Dick & Nancy Seloover on their move to Arizona

Our sympathy

Reg & Barb Heeley on the death of Barb's sister-in-law, Margaret Clark in December

Bob & Fern Evelhoch on the death of their nephew, Allen Leisman, on Feb. 9

*Banh's anniversary to:
*

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

Baptisms

Mila Araceli Espinoza, daughter of Cory Espinoza and Kasie Self, granddaughter of Marion Rybarczyk, on Jan. 23

March birthdays*

Happy (90+) birthday to:
Elmer Wetmore

April birthdays*

Happy (90+) birthday to:
Anne Courter
Joyce Fafs
Mike Miglore
Audrey Peterson
Geri Smith
Barb Vercoe
Draw closer to God

by Rev. Bruce Anderson

Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6:6-9

In reading the Bible this year, we have started with creation and then the story of the family of Abraham that grew into the family and nation of Israel. We have traveled with them through famine, hardship and slavery, then through the Exodus and into the desert of freedom. During Lent we will read stories of the Judges, Ruth and Kings.

The Exodus has remained the central story of the Hebrew people. It tells of God's provision and faithfulness for the Covenant People. Israel was in the wilderness for 40 years learning to trust God. Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness fasting to prepare himself for his ministry. In Lent, we spend 40 days preparing ourselves for the death and resurrection of the Messiah, Jesus Christ our Lord, and learning to trust and walk more faithfully with God.

One of the ways we learn to trust God's goodness and provision given to us in Jesus, is to immerse ourselves in God's story with us in scripture. As we read the Bible, we are continually reminded that God created us, made a covenant with us, forgives and redeems us through Christ and calls us to be part of God's work in the world.

How will you spend the 40 days of Lent this year? Many give something up, sweets, TV or Internet time, or something else they like. Maybe this year we can take something on, like reading the scriptures. Feel free to join me in reading the Old Testament this Lent. It was the Bible that Jesus knew, quoted and spoke from. Or you can just read the stories of Jesus in the New Testament. Either way, I do not know a better way to prepare for Easter than by spending more time with the scriptures to draw closer to God.
Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 17, 10 a.m.
in Memorial Park