

Chimes

The Newsletter of Gary Church
and Winfield Community Church
May 2022



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Sunday Worship

In person at 9 a.m.

Kids' Church at 9 a.m.

Livestream at 9 a.m., garychurch.org

Sunday School for all ages, after worship

Child care available during worship

and Sunday School

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 June | July *Chimes* newsletter are due by noon on Monday, May 2. 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.

Hope: The Creative Use of Time

“We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right.”
—Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The above words from Martin Luther King Jr., are timeless. However, while his words are timeless, they are rarely read in their original context. His words about the creative use of time were written to religious leaders from his prison cell in Birmingham, Alabama. King wrote in response to those who viewed his actions of protest as unwise.

Labeled as an outside agitator, some cautioned him to be more moderate in his approach, to be patient. Some attempted to discourage him from stopping to take notice of injustice inequality in Birmingham. His letter was an inspired response to their criticisms of his actions. “We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right.” Many of our beloved letters from the

People express a desire to be seen, to be noticed, to simply share a moment of intimacy with another.

Apostle Paul were penned from prison cells. It has always struck me how the religious leaders who took out an advertisement in the news papers used their time and how King used his time.

How do you use time? Do you use time creatively?

In the gospel of Mark, Jesus was making his way toward Jerusalem. As he and his disciples were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by he began to shout and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Bartimaeus refused to be silent even when the crowds ordered him to be quiet. He continued to cry out to Jesus, giving voice to what many see as a messianic title for Jesus “Son of David” and giving voice to his suffering “Have mercy on me!” What happened next has always made me pause and take note—“Jesus stood still!” Jesus’ standing still was not inaction nor was it ignoring Bartimaeus’ plaintive cries.

Theologian Gustavo Gutiérrez in his book *The God of Life* notes that Jesus, who already has a premonition of his death in Jerusalem, has time to spare for the suffering and hopes of this man.¹ Jesus stands still and takes notice of him, even though Jesus faced his own impending death. Jesus found time to spare to affirm the humanity of Bartimaeus when others would not.

Jesus on his way to his crucifixion on Calvary found time to spare to give hope to one who suffered and was hurting. There is a difference between sparing time and wasting one’s time. Many of the world’s suffering people express a desire to be seen, to be noticed, to simply share a moment of intimacy with another. Those moments can bring hope to the hurting and at the same time remind us that we, too, are seen.

Bartimaeus, on that road outside of Jericho, though visually impaired, has profound spiritual insight that others seemed to lack. He sees Jesus for who he is.

Standing still, Jesus had his disciples call the man to him. He threw off his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus. Jesus used time creatively. Jesus asked Bartimaeus, “What do you want me to do for you?” He engaged in conversation with Bartimaeus, not assuming to know what his needs were. Or perhaps Jesus knew that Bartimaeus may have needed to verbalize his hope for healing.

Did you ever notice that Jesus had those around him, the silencers, be the first to engage Bartimaeus? Jesus calls us to see them not silence them. He calls us to be encouragers, saying, “Take heart. He is calling you.” Jesus models for us how we are to engage those who are suffering. He models a way for us to bring hope to the hurting.

If you are looking for ways to use your time creatively, to spare time to be in ministry with others who are suffering or hurting, Gary Church provides many such opportunities throughout the year and especially during the summer to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. Reach out to the Gary Church staff and mission leaders to learn more.

Let’s not waste our time but use it creatively in ministries that bring hope; knowing that the time is always ripe to do right.



Christopher L. Peerson

ANCHORED IN HOPE

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

¹ Gutiérrez, G. & O’Connell, M (1991). *The God of Life*. Orbis Books

ADULT Christian Education and Discipleship

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

Pedals, Pipes and Pizzazz

Sunday, May 1, 9:50 a.m., Chancel
led by Kevin Lange

Do you want to know how a pipe organ works, and how it makes all those different sounds? You can listen, learn and ask questions about the king of instruments. Discover what the buttons, levers, keys and pedals do. After the class you have the opportunity to play the organ yourself, and brief tours of the organ chambers upstairs are available on request.



United in Mission: Exploring the United Methodist connection and what it means to #BeUMC

Sundays, May 15 and 22, 9:50 a.m., Chapel
led by Fred Wayland



Methodism's founder, John Wesley, recognized the need for an organized system of communication and accountability and developed what he called the "connexion," a network of classes, societies and annual conferences that continue to "enable us to carry out our mission in unity and strength" (Book of Discipline, ¶ 701). As the United Methodist Church moves toward General Conference 2024, we are reminded

of this call to be strengthened and united in our mission to "make disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world." Join us for this two-week series exploring the United Methodist connection and what it means to #BeUMC.

Grief Matters Support Group

Wednesdays through June 15, 10 a.m., Commons

We welcome anyone grieving the death or loss of someone to be a part 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.



Faith Club to create cards

Tuesday, May 10, 7 p.m. at Gary Church

Gary women are invited to an evening of crafting and conversation with our friends of Christian, Muslim, and Jewish faiths. We will be making greeting cards and spending time getting to know one another better. To be added to the Faith Club email list, contact **Kim Austin** through the Church Office.



F ✪ I † H C L U B

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

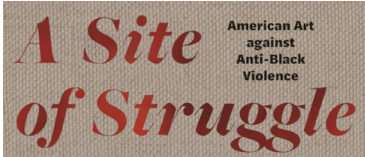
Men's Bible Study

Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Commons E

Anti-Racist Book Club visits “A Site of Struggle: American Art against Anti-Black Violence” Exhibit

Saturday, May 14, 1–3 p.m., Northwestern’s Block Museum of Art

“A Site of Struggle” explores how artists have engaged with the reality of anti-Black violence and its accompanying challenges of representation in the United States. Images of African-



American suffering and death have constituted an enduring part of the nation’s cultural landscape, and the development of creative counterpoints to

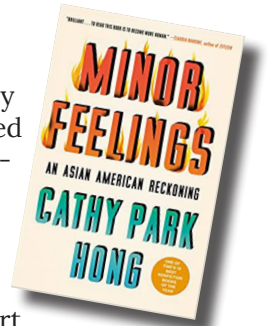
these images has been an ongoing concern for American artists. “A Site of Struggle” takes a new approach to looking at the intersection of race, violence and art by investigating the varied strategies American artists have used to grapple with anti-Black violence, ranging from representation to abstraction and from literal to metaphorical. The exhibition focuses on works created between the 1890s and 2013—situating contemporary artistic practice

within a longer history of American art and visual culture. It foregrounds African Americans as active shapers of visual culture and highlights how art has been used to protest, process, mourn and memorialize anti-Black violence. To attend the museum exhibit and discussion after, register online at garychurch.org.

Anti-Racist Book Club | *Minor Feelings:* An Asian-American Reckoning

Wednesday, May 25, 7 p.m., Commons

Poet and essayist Cathy Park Hong fearlessly and provocatively blends memoir, cultural criticism and history to expose fresh truths about racialized consciousness in America. Part memoir and part cultural criticism, this collection is vulnerable, humorous, and provocative—and its relentless and riveting pursuit of vital questions around family and friendship, art and politics, identity and individuality, will change the way you think about our world. Purchase the book on your own and join the conversation by registering at garychurch.org.



He has Risen!





Hey Parents! We know that May can be a full month with Mother's Day, graduations, end-of-the-year celebrations, spring sports and so much more. As you enter this surprisingly busy month, take a moment to stop and smell some of those beautiful May flowers. They are a part of God's stunning creation, and so are you. Blessings and see you Sunday.

what we're teaching



May Series: The Messengers

How many ways can you send a message? There are so many unique ways. Special deliveries are the best but even better are the messages found in each package. This month, we are going to look at the most important message that was ever sent out and how we are meant to be the ones delivering it. Kids are God's messengers who can share the stories of God's miracles. Get kids involved in helping God's message go everywhere because God delivers to everyone.

what's happening

Parent's Night Out

Friday, May 13, 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 *Encanto* and making crafts. Register ages 2-11 at garychurch.org. Suggested cash donation of \$5 per child.

4th & 5th Grade Fellowship End-of-the-Year Celebration

Friday, May 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Gary Church
All third, fourth and fifth graders are invited to attend a special end-of-the-year celebration where we will welcome next year's fourth graders and "graduate" students in fifth grade.

Last day of Sunday School is May 22

We can't believe it's been a full year of Sunday School! It has been such a blessing to share God's love and nurture life-long relationships with Jesus with your children. Thank you to all our amazing volunteers. **Please join us for popsicles in the courtyard after Sunday School on May 22.** While Sunday School is taking a break for summer, Kids' Church and child care will continue at 9 a.m.

Kelly Park Playdate & Picnic

Sunday, May 22, 3-5 p.m.
Pack some snacks and come to Kelly Park. Parents can hang out and connect while kids play at the park. No registration needed; simply come and go as you please. We'll be there and look forward to seeing you too.

Monumental VBS

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.



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**

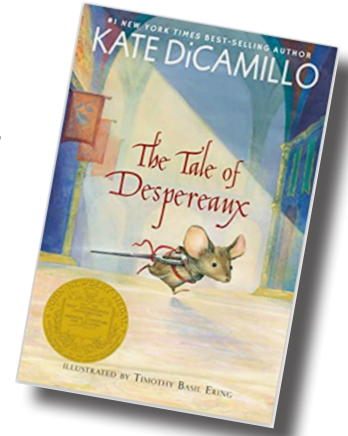
"It's so fun!"- **Michael Villanueva**

book recommendation

by Gary Kids librarian, Sarah Kovac

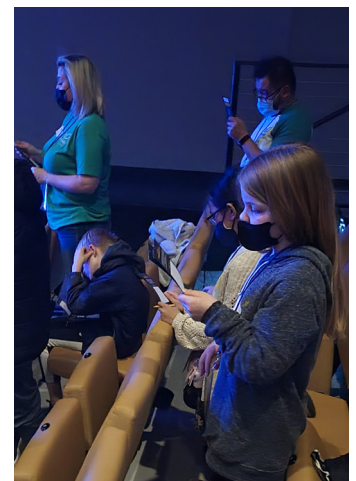
The Tale of Despereaux
by Kate DiCamillo

In this Newberry award-winning book, Despereaux, a tiny mouse, goes on a grand adventure. Fighting prejudice and choosing forgiveness are central themes in this book, which is perfect for reading aloud before bedtime.



Super Start was so fun!

4th and 5th Grade Fellowship students had so much fun at Super Start! This year's theme, "Unlocked," helped kids experience the incredible truth of the gospel message through the excitement and exhilaration of a competitive escape room. Lessons centered on Ephesians 2:4-5, "But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by grace that you have been saved.)" Kids learned that sin separates us from God, but Jesus is the key. We are saved (unlocked) through grace which is an unearned gift, and sent to share the good news with others. Not only did 4th & 5th Grade Fellowship students hear the gospel, they also experienced uplifting worship, enjoyed a lock-in at the church, and were challenged to break free from an ultimate escape room. Fun, fellowship and faith were abundant! Thanks to all who volunteered!





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, **Beth Tobias**, and say "hi" if you see her around.

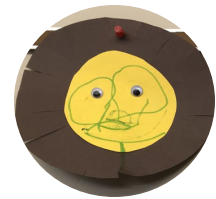
This fall, Beth joined the Gary Kids team as a fifth-grade Sunday School teacher. She leads a wonderful group of students once a month and has also helped at VBS and 4th & 5th Grade Fellowship. Beth and her husband Andy, have four great kids and have been members of Gary since 2014. When asked why she serves on Gary Kids team, Beth said, "I serve on Gary Kids team because I really enjoy spending time with the kids, and I am happy to help support them on their faith journey."

We think Beth is a true gift to our church and someone you should know.



Preschool Chatter

Every day, the teachers at Gary United Methodist Preschool hear a lot from the preschoolers. Often their stories are funny or exciting. Sometimes their stories are sad. Many times, the preschoolers want to share something they've seen or heard about. There are several dinosaur experts at preschool. Another is a snake enthusiast. Did you know snakes do not have eyelids? Many times, the preschoolers wonder why. Why, why, why? The teachers like to wonder with the preschoolers and encourage discovering the answers to their questions. Recently, the 3-year-olds were working on a lion craft and we were chatting about a lion's mane. When I asked why they thought a lion has a mane, one girl shrugged and told me matter-of-factly, "That's just how God made 'em."



2022-2023 Registration Continues at Gary United Methodist Preschool

Gary Preschool offers options for children 3-6 years old in our 3s, 4s, and Pre-K classes. We also offer care for children as young as 18 months in our Parents' Morning Out program. Classes are filling and registration is now open to the public, so don't delay! Please contact **Kirsten McCluskey** through the church office or by email at preschool@garychurch.org with any questions or to schedule a tour.



Seeking Substitutes

Have some free time and enjoy being with children? Gary Preschool and PMO is looking to add to our substitute pool. Substitutes are often scheduled with advanced notice, but there is also a need for last-minute, same-day care. Ideal candidates would have an educational background in Early Childhood or Elementary Education or experience with young children, but all are welcome to express interest. Please contact **Kirsten McCluskey** at preschool@garychurch.org.

Gary & Winfield to recognize graduates

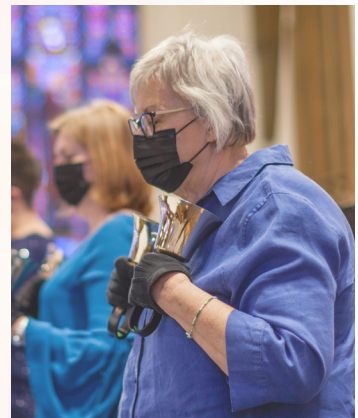
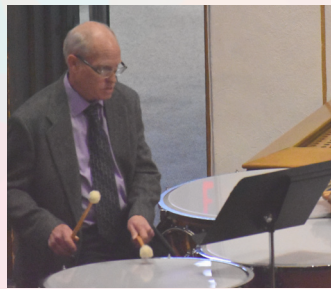
Please let us know who from the Gary/Winfield Church family will graduate from high school, college or vocational school this year by filling out the form on the registrations page of garychurch.org. High school graduates will be recognized in worship at Gary Church on *Sunday, June 12*. All graduates will be listed in the August edition of the *Chimes*.



See Gary Church friends at chorale concert

Friday, May 6, 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 7, 3 p.m., College Church

Hear Gary Church's Altar Bells, plus organist **Kevin Lange**, percussionist **Dave Rush**, singers **Dale Atteberry**, **Cindi Copeland** and **Phil Roberts** as **Jennifer Whiting** directs the Glen Ellyn-Wheaton Chorale. For more information and to purchase advance tickets, go to gewchorale.org.



Sign up to share musical gifts

Let your musical talents shine this summer. You are invited to bring your unique gifts to lead us in worship. All ages are welcome to "play skillfully with loud shouts" (Psalm 33).

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.

Standing ovation for Sharon Schmidt by Jennifer Whiting



Members of the bell ministry surprised Sharon with the gift of a newly commissioned piece, “Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor” arranged by Sondra K. Tucker, dedicated to Sharon for her 37 years of faithful ministry.

Watching **Sharon Schmidt** conduct, you would never guess that when Diane Lewis first invited her to direct handbells at Gary Church, she replied, “I don’t know the hand waving part!” That was 1985. And now, after 37 years of leading the handbell ministry, Sharon is retiring to Lakewood, Colorado, with her husband Gerry.

Sharon’s musical interests began in Ames, Iowa, where her family attended a church that offered kids’ choir and handbells. She says, “I remember sitting in the congregation wanting to be able to sing in the choir, maybe because you got to sit behind the organ, and nobody could see you! I had a strong peer group, and we just decided to join handbells.”

She started ringing in junior high and continued through college. She met Gerry at Iowa State. As newlyweds they lived in Evanston, Illinois, for a year. They found a Methodist church that had bells, and Gerry began ringing, too.

They moved to Naperville in 1983 and looked at several Methodist churches in the area. Sharon says that Gary Church ticked all the boxes with “handbells that rehearsed in the evenings, a pipe organ, and the kind of architecture that I grew up with.”

They joined, and two years later, Sharon began directing Altar Bells, which had about 10 ringers. (She still has the roster!) Some who were with her that first year include **Paula Wayland** (who still rings faithfully), **Deb Hafner, Allen Reed, Helen Riggio,** and “the person who has to keep ringing, **Gerry!**”

To develop her conducting skills, she says, “I kept at it. I went to a lot of workshops and tried to get what training I could. I learned through the years as I observed other conductors.”

The bell ministry owned about four octaves of bells when Sharon came aboard. Over the decades, she facilitated acquisition of more instruments. Through donations and funds raised by the bell concerts, the church now owns five octaves of bells and seven octaves of chimes.

If you know Sharon, it comes as no surprise that she has kept a folder for each year of ministry. In the 1985 folder is the very first piece they played, titled “Antiphonal Sarabande” by Shirley Lewis Brown. At her final concert at Gary on March 20, 2022, she invited alumni ringers to come forward and perform this piece, which they played beautifully. It was a fitting bookend to her rich years of ministry here.

Various bell groups at Gary have come and gone, and Sharon has directed each of them at some point, but she gains the most satisfaction from leading adult groups. She has also mentored other directors and developed a graded program for all ages. Currently, Gary is blessed by the leadership of bell directors **Nancy Brunner, Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal** and **Jill Stoffels**.



When other leaders in the handbell world hear Gary bells, they notice their precision and musicality. Sharon develops a high level of musicianship in her ensembles, and this is part of what attracts people to her ministry. But Sharon says that the most important thing her musicians gain is “the grace that comes from the fellowship and from being able to participate in worship.”

She has been praying and preparing for the ministry’s transition when she leaves in the fall. She says, “I am just thrilled that **Phil Roberts** will continue the program. I hope that people will continue to have the musical outlet that it provides.”

Sharon says, “Looking back over the past 37 years as bell director at Gary, the biggest highlight for me is just the people and how we have stayed connected through the years. Gary Church has been a home and a family for us.”

Sharon, you surely did figure out “the hand waving part” and all the other parts necessary to lead a handbell ministry with joy, faithfulness and excellence. Gary Church thanks you from our hearts.



Sharon’s musical talent, knowledge, and dedication have made me a better musician and kept me excited and inspired to Keep On Ringing. Thank you, Sharon.

~ Mary Ellen Kolbe

Working under Sharon’s leadership is challenging in a good way. Her expectations for Altar Bells are very high. She directs us to focus on musicality, not just ringing the right notes at the correct time. I have improved as a handbell musician in my Altar Bells tenure.

~ Greg Perisho



Sharon was not only a conductor, but a teacher and composer who turned our ringing into beautiful music!

~ Jill Stoffels

To watch Sharon’s last concert, go to garychurch.org, “Resources,” “Worship Services,” then scroll down to “Featured Worship Services.” Click the arrow on the right until you find the March 20, 2022 “Concert of Handbells.”





Gary Youth

Winter Chill: Anchored in Jesus

For this year's Winter Chill we asked, "How do we equip our youth to be anchored in Jesus?" Each worship session, we focused on three "great threats" to being formed in the likeness of Jesus: 1.) inertia, 2.) amnesia, 3.) mañana. In physics, inertia is a property of matter by which it continues in its existing state of rest unless that state is changed by an external force. Likewise, we won't go anywhere in our relationship with Jesus if we don't act. We learned that we should act by relentlessly eliminating hurry from our lives.

The second threat is amnesia; we always forget that God is with us. We must recognize the truth that God is present and working around us even when we don't see it. Lastly, we might not grow in our relationship with Jesus because we like to procrastinate and say, "I'll do it tomorrow!" To counter this, we must put forth the effort to be formed in the likeness of Jesus. Being anchored in Jesus takes work. We came back from Winter Chill reminded and encouraged to slow down, recognize God's presence and put into practice our spiritual disciplines like prayer, sabbath and worship. Thank you for your prayers!



We practiced different spiritual disciplines each day like confession. We each wrote a letter of confession to God. Then, we were reminded of God's grace as we threw them in the fire.



The retreat is also a great time for us to play some Crackabout. Basically, free-for-all dodgeball. Watch out for Anna!



The meals are the best at Winter Chill!



Each youth led the entire youth group in a time of extended prayer with Pastor Brian.



Winter Chill gives us time to just hang out together.

Gary Youth Parents Mini Retreat

Saturday, May 14, 11a.m.–1 p.m., Upper Level

Do you ever feel like you are in a “dead zone” as a parent? When your child was younger, you had some control, but now do you feel like just an observer, financier and prayer warrior? Do you ever wonder, “Will my child be following Jesus on the other side of college or in the job market?” The big question is, “What is a healthy place of influence of parents in the lives of their young adult children in the life of faith?” Parents of Gary Youth are invited to come and learn with **Pastor Dan** at this mini retreat for parents. Lunch will be provided. Please sign up on the Gary Youth page at garychurch.org.

Compass BLAST Camp

Monday, June 20–Thursday, June 23

At *Compass BLAST Camp*, students entering grades 5–8 will be exploring the adventures of the apostle Paul. Just as a compass helps guide travelers, Paul’s letters teach us what it looks like to follow Jesus. Registration ends *Tuesday, May 31*. The \$32 fee includes four days of fun in the sun, T-shirt, snacks and transportation to off-site activities. Sign up by visiting the Gary Youth page at garychurch.org. Want to help? Contact **Pastor Dan**.



What are we learning in May?

When you hear the word “worship,” you might think of a church building, a choir, your favorite worship song, or maybe a special tradition. Worship takes a lot of forms, but sometimes we make the mistake of thinking worship is something it’s not—or, at least, something much smaller than what it really is. In this series, we’ll explore the book of Psalms (worship songs to God) as we discover that worship might be bigger than we ever imagined. Maybe worship isn’t just an anthem we sing, but an anthem we live.



Fall Retreat 2022

As we follow Jesus, we are all called to speak up amid injustice; but too many times, we remain silent. So, how do we find our voice? How do we engage others with whom we disagree? How do we unite? This year’s fall retreat theme is “Jesus, Others, and You,” (J.O.Y.) based on Philippians 2:2, “complete my joy by thinking the same way, having the same love, being united, and agreeing with each other.” We will be working with other United Methodist Church youth groups in the Northern Illinois Conference for this year’s fall retreat! Join us, *Friday, Sept. 23–Sunday, Sept. 25*. Sign up by visiting the Gary Youth page at garychurch.org.

Weekly Gatherings * May

Middle School

Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m.

High School

Sundays, 6–7:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 1

No meeting
(CROP Hunger Walk)

Sunday, May 8

No meeting (Mother’s Day)

Weekly Sunday School

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

Middle School: Commons E

High School: Heritage Room

(Classes end for the summer on
May 22.)

*All events are subject to change.

News to know

Keep Gary Church in your inbox

Each Thursday, Gary Church sends e-news to your email inbox. To help make sure your email continues to accept it, please make a habit of opening it, reading through it and even clicking on links. Over time, if you don't engage with the email, your inbox will learn to filter out anything coming from Gary Church.

Also, be sure to add office@garychurch.org to your contacts list. If you're not seeing Gary Church emails in your inbox, check your spam, junk or bulk folder. If you still can't find emails from Gary Church, please contact the Church Office.



Extra! Extra! Read all about it

Check out "In the News," the newest resource page of garychurch.org. You'll find links to local news stories about Gary Church, the latest weekly e-news and past editions of the *Chimes* newsletter. Go to garychurch.org, then "Resources," then "In the News."



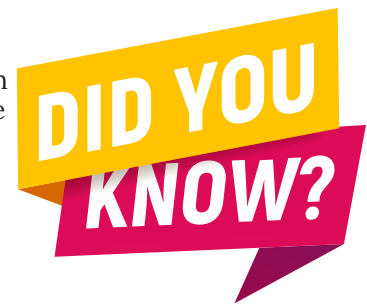
Keep the photos coming

Take a selfie, have the waitstaff grab a group shot—however you find a way to record what's happening in and around Gary Church, we welcome your photos. Send your pictures to **Janet Mathis**, jmathis@garychurch.org, and she might share them on Gary Church's Facebook and Instagram pages or maybe even in another edition of the *Chimes*.



"Did you know?" makes its debut

We're starting a new regular blurb in the *Chimes* called "Did you know?" It might be a fun fact about Gary Church, something you may not know about a Gary Church friend or really, just about anything. This edition's "Did you know?" is this... Did you know that each week Gary Church creates a bulletin with announcements, and you can find it on the home page of garychurch.org?



General Conference rescheduled for 2024

The United Methodist Church has delayed its General Conference meeting for a third time due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. The conference originally scheduled for 2020 was postponed until 2021, then 2022, and now 2024. You can learn more at umc.org.

New name and logo for UMW

United Methodist Women will now be known as United Women in Faith. For 153 years, the group has been a place for Christian women to put their faith into practice. United Women in Faith hopes the new name and logo feels inviting and inclusive. For information about Gary Church's United Women in Faith circles, contact the Church Office.



United Women in Faith



Consider additional giving

Thank you for the support you have continued to provide to Gary Church and our church family's mission. The following is a summary of the budget and actual giving and expenses through March 31, 2022. Giving is running behind budget by more than expenses are, thus we are running at a larger deficit than expected at this time of year (the monthly budget considers that giving is typically heavier towards the last quarter of the year.) We appreciate your continued giving and support for the remainder of 2022, including consideration of additional giving to help decrease the deficit.

January – March 2022	Budget	Actual
Giving	216,142	184,235
Expenses	244,734	233,580
Giving Over/(Under) Expenses	(28,592)	(49,345)

Suzanne Marra
Finance Committee Chair

Celebrate Pentecost with altar geraniums



Pentecost is *Sunday, June 5*, and what a sight it will be to see the altar covered with red geraniums in celebration of the church's birthday. You can purchase geraniums through garychurch.org, and choose whether you take your plants home after the worship service or donate them to be delivered to people who might need a pick-me-up.

Blood drive successful

This spring, for the first time in many years, Gary Church hosted a blood drive through Versiti, one of the Midwest's major blood centers. Thanks to the generous donors, the team collected 17 units of blood. For each unit of blood, up to three lives can be saved. That means Gary helped save up to 51 lives with this event. Watch for more information about how you can participate in our next blood drive coming soon.



Cooperative ministries task force formed

Gary Church has formed a task force to explore the possibilities for cooperative ministries with Aldersgate United Methodist Church in south Wheaton. Composed of several staff and laity, the task force is scheduled to meet with a similar group of people from Aldersgate in mid-May to start conversations around how our two churches might come together in ministry and mission. As our understanding grows in the next few months, more information will be shared at Church Council meetings and in the *Chimes*. If you have questions, please contact **Elaine McCluskey** through the Church Office.

GARY CHURCH *makes a difference*

Mission thoughts

If you are even a casual follower of world news you must, like me, be disturbed by the state of the world. Brutal wars in Ukraine and Yemen, ongoing genocide in Myanmar, humanitarian crisis in South Sudan, famine and climate-caused weather crises around the globe, not to mention our worldwide pandemic. It is so easy to fall into depression and wonder how any individual can make a difference for our brothers and sisters around the world. When this happens, I stop and think that I am not alone in a desire to help. When we, as individuals, put our resources and determination together it is possible to make a difference. Contributions to UMCOR and Church World Service (sponsor of CROP WALK) make a difference domestically and around the world, fighting hunger and helping to fill humanitarian needs while fostering needed development or redevelopment. Inflation has caused rising demands on food banks for assistance, so, closer to home, People's Resource Center and Outreach Community Center can spread your help to others. Immigrants fleeing war, famine and brutal dictatorships can be supported through Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors. These are just a few of the missions we can band together with to support those in need. We have the ability to do as much as we can and leave the rest in God's hands. Donate at garychurch.org/give or through the Church Office.

Joe Ruth
Missions Chair

Still time to give to CROP Hunger Walk

Thanks for supporting the fight against hunger. You can still give to the CROP Hunger Walk



at garychurch.org/give. Please donate by *Sunday, May 15*. Look for photos from this year's CROP Walk in the next edition of the *Chimes*.

Help ESSE through Giving DuPage Days

Monday, May 2–Friday, May 6
givingdupageday.org

Ecumenical Support Services for the Elderly (ESSE) provides adult day care options that promote the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of older adults and their families. ESSE is relying on Giving DuPage Days for financial support this year. Giving DuPage Days, an online fundraiser, hopes to raise more than \$550,000 for 120+ local nonprofit organizations. You can contribute by going to givingdupageday.org or garychurch.org/give.



Help Habitat for Humanity

Monday, May 9– Friday, May 13, Lafayette, Indiana

Join Gary Church's Habitat for Humanity team to refurbish a home for a single mom and her two daughters. The team will paint, build a deck, install vinyl flooring and do repair work. Contact **Gerry Schmidt** through the Church Office if you can help one or more days.

Prescription for Life

Thank you to all who returned their Prescription for Life bottles and donated. If you haven't returned your bottle or want to donate, you can still bring the donation to the office. The seniors supported by Outreach Community Center appreciate your help. If you would like to learn of volunteer opportunities with Outreach, please contact **Barbara Holmes** through the Church Office.



Thousands donated to missions in 2021

Gary Church collected and dispersed more than \$70,000 to global, national and local missions in 2021. People's Resource Center, Feed My Starving Children, Habitat for Humanity, Heifer Project International, ESSE, Christmas Sharing, Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans, CROP Walk, Outreach Ministries, Bridge Communities and DuPage PADS are some of the many missions that received support last year. Gary Church also funded educational scholarships for students in Africa and Cambodia.

If you'd like to contribute this year, go to garychurch.org/give or contact the Church Office.



GARY CHURCH *makes a difference*

In 2021, Gary Church whole-heartedly embraced the power of a girl's education.

Gary's generous giving enabled scholarships in support of eight girls and women attending primary school through university, all of whom are thriving. Thank you to our Gary friends who are making a difference in each of these young lives!

This year, Gary Church is again called to support this impactful mission. To contribute, please make a gift through garychurch.org (select "Educate a Girl") or by sending a check by May 31.

Worldwide, 130 million girls are not in school and more than half of the girls who start primary school do not continue to secondary. Yet, the data is clear that when girls and women are educated, entire communities and countries are lifted. Educated girls make huge positive impacts to the health and education of their families and the world.

The goal of Educate a Girl 2.0 is to raise \$8,000 so we can together expand the program's mission to include:

- **The eight students we supported last year**
- **A low-income college student from Chicago**

How are the eight girls and young women doing?

Primary: Gloria will move to 1st grade and Angel to 4th grade this year at the Kinyago-Dandora School (KDS), located in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya.

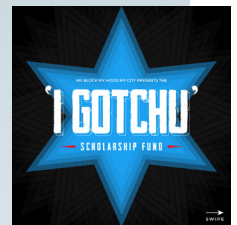
Secondary: In Cambodia, middle schoolers Vicheka, Nisa, Ratha and Suzan and high schooler Sosma are preparing for their national exams. They are very happy to return to school to be with friends and teachers.

University: Luxene completed a year of rigorous English language study and is nearing completion of her freshman curriculum at Africa University, a Methodist school. With an additional donation from a Gary Church member, Luxene purchased a laptop, which is a great help to her studies.

Educate a
Girl / Change the
World



NEW: A scholarship for a female college freshman from Chicago. The "I Gotchu" scholarship is administered by MyBlockMyHoodMyCity to provide tuition and/or wrap-around support. To help ensure success, the program connects each student with a mentor.



Gary friends, thank you for caring for our neighbors and helping to change the world by educating girls! Please watch for more information in Gary's communications throughout May.

Cathy Mousseau & Judy Selby

I know there is nothing that I can do now or even in the future will compare with the biggest opportunity, favor and greatness that you (Gary Church) are for me. Having you on my way it is a miracle and my prayer is God our lord and savior JESUS CHRIST will protect and bless you.

—Luxene, student at
Africa University



Congratulations*

Ben Cary and Natalia George on the birth of their son, Bennett Edward, on Feb. 9. Grandparents are Rich and Pam Cary.

Bettye Montgomery on the birth of her great-grandchildren, Blake Elizabeth Collier on Feb. 25, and Leo Richard Montgomery on March 8.

May birthdays*

Happy (90+) birthday to:

Pat Sullivan

Dorothy Eddy

Our sympathy

The family of David Olson. David passed away on Oct. 5, 2021.

John & Cheryl Kelly on the death of Cheryl's uncle, Richard Pippenger, on Feb. 16.

Bob and Virginia Isgren on the death of their brother-in-law, Art Schnarre, on Feb. 27.

The family of Mike and Thann Miglore. Mike passed away on March 11, and Thann passed away on March 14.

Greg Perisho on the death of his mother, Mary Perisho, on March 18.

Bernard & Susan McGuan on the death of Susan's cousin, Murphy, on March 23

Dale & Colleen Atteberry on the death of their sister-in-law, Linda Cunningham, on March 31.

Joan Stevens on the death of her husband, Paul Stevens, on April 19.

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

Thank you

It has been nine years since Jennifer's first knee replacement and the multitude of surgeries which followed until my current knee replacement. Through them all the Gary family has been there for us with concern, prayers and, yes, meals. We cannot thank each and every one of you enough for your encouragement and support, the love you have shown us. We just want to let you know how much you all have meant to us and offer our heartfelt thanks and blessings.

Joe and Jen Ruth

Dear Gary Church,

Thank you for your generosity. Your gift of \$500 on February 14, 2022, to Feed My Starving Children through the Feed the Need! MobilePack in Naperville is sending 2,083 MannaPack® meals to those around the world who need it most. Hope is greater because of you.

Poverty is complicated, but we know that hunger is fixable—one reliable meal at a time. Thank you for feeding hungry kids.

Until all are fed,

Mark Crea
Executive Director/CEO

Thank you for the good wishes card from the church family and those who took the time to sign the card. I am now recovering nicely, but COVID is still a problem for immunocompromised persons.

Linda M. Kelsey

Thank you for all the cards, phone calls and prayers as I prepared for surgery and during my recovery.

Bettye Montgomery



WinChimes

Winfield Community United Methodist Church

An Affiliate of Gary United Methodist Church

Renewal

by Rev. Bruce Anderson

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

With the promises of Easter and spring, it is a time of renewed faith and hope. I wonder how it might be different this year, what with the problems of COVID-19 seeming to drag on with no relief in sight and the ongoing war in Ukraine. People are just tired, and they are tired of being tired and just ready to move on to something—anything—that would be different, and hopefully closer to the old normal.

Unfortunately, it seems like we will have to make peace with whatever the “new normal” will be. COVID-19 is always going to be in the background. We will become used to it and better prepared to deal with it. A new normal will establish itself. The war in Ukraine, which most of us thought might be over quickly, (at the time of this writing) is dragging on. The loss of life and human suffering, as well as the political and economic effects, create additional uncertainty and concern.

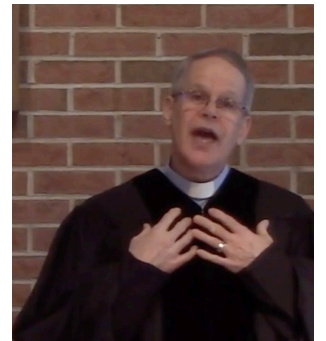
Let’s face it, we like the illusion of control in our lives, and there seems to be less and less of it these days. So, what to do, and what to believe?

If we look to the realities of the kingdom of God, we can find many reasons for hope that may not be readily evident in the world around us. The words above, from Romans, remind us not to be conformed to current realities of the world around us, for the only constant here is change. But if we are able to renew our minds through the word of God, we are able to discern God’s will—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

During Lent we look at our lives and our faith through the lens of the cross. And in so doing we can find comfort that in Jesus’ life, death and resurrection—the worst thing is never the last thing. God’s got this. God’s got us. Somehow, it will be all right. After Jesus’ crucifixion, the disciples were lost. They had lost their Lord, their Messiah, to the brutal might of Rome. Their world had been turned upside down. They understandably feared for their lives and went into hiding with no clue of what the future might hold for them. Whatever it was, was not going to be pretty.

But then three days later the world inexplicably changed again. Jesus rose from the dead. Who does that!? It had never happened before, and they had to readjust their thinking to take in and adapt to this new reality. Jesus was alive! Their savior lived! Glory be to God!

That is the reality that we need to focus on. When everything else around us seems to be shifting and sinking, we can still stand secure on the solid rock that is Christ Jesus. We are not in control, but God is! That is the message of the Good News. No matter what we are facing, God holds us in the palm of God’s hand. Whenever the fears and uncertainty of life threaten to overwhelm us, we need to look to the cross, pick up our own, and follow Jesus. There is hope where there may not seem to be any. We follow a risen savior into God’s future—whatever that may be. All we can do is trust in God’s love and grace and move forward in faith that God has this, so we don’t have to. Glory be to God.



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



Winfield Community United Methodist Church



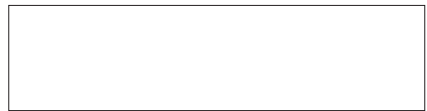
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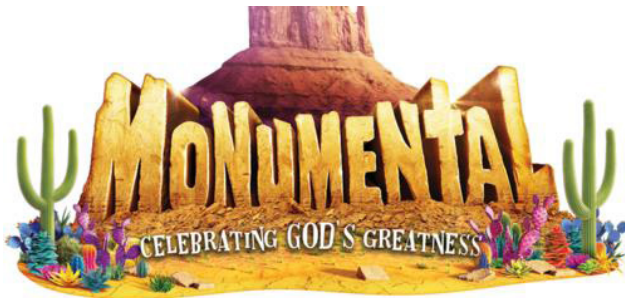
Monumental VBS

Compass BLAST Camp

Monday, June 20–Thursday, June 23

Volunteer and register at garychurch.org

preschool–grade 4



Details on page 6



grades 5–8

Details on page 13