

Chimes



The Newsletter of Gary Church and Winfield Community Church
November | December 2021



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Sunday Worship

In person at 9 a.m.

Kids' Church at 9 a.m.

Livestream at 9 a.m., garychurch.org

Sunday School for all ages, after worship

Recording online later in the day

Church Office Hours

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



Gary Church Podcast

(sermon, scripture)
garychurch.org
Updated weekly



Pastor Brian Podcast

(prayers, Christian
conversations)
garychurch.org
Updated monthly

Submissions for the January *Chimes* newsletter are due by noon on *Monday, Nov. 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.

All the Good ADVENT

During this season especially, we strive to do all the good we can, by all the means we can, in all the ways we can, in all the places we can, at all the times we can, to all the people we can, as long as we ever can. Advent gives us hope, including opportunities for learning, fellowship, giving, music and worship.



All the Good: A Wesleyan Way of Christmas All-Church Study

Sundays, Nov. 28–Dec. 19, 9:50 a.m., Chapel

Join this Advent journey guided by the practices in John Wesley's means of grace. See details on page 7.

Christmas Sharing

Friday, Dec. 10–Saturday, Dec. 11, various locations

Your opportunity for giving to District 200 families in need begins at garychurch.org/give. Please provide monetary donations by Sunday, Nov. 21. See details on page 17.

Longest Night Service

Tuesday, Dec. 21, 7 p.m., worship in Sanctuary and at garychurch.org
Traditionally held on the winter solstice, the longest night of the year, the service will provide a time to remember loved ones, share our hurting places with God or simply step aside from the stresses of the season.



All the Good: The Art of Advent

Sunday, Dec. 12, 9 a.m., worship in Sanctuary and at garychurch.org
Advent lessons, music and art shape this unique worship experience.



Children's Christmas Pageant

Friday, Dec. 24, 3 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Worship Service, in person and at garychurch.org

Peace, hope, joy and love. You'll experience it all and more in this children's telling of the birth of Jesus.

Christmas Eve Worship Service

Friday, Dec. 24, 8 p.m., in person and at garychurch.org

This traditional service will celebrate Christmas through scripture, sermon, prayer and music.

Silent Night by Carillon and Candlelight

Friday, Dec. 24, 9 p.m., outside with Carillon

Join us as we continue this meaningful event started last year. You're invited to bundle up, light a candle and sing this beloved hymn outside with the Carillon.

I have hope

by Rev. Dr. Chris Pierson

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." —Lamentations 3

As Christians, many of us hold dear our houses of worship. Seeing the expressions on the faces of those returning to in-person worship services at Gary over the past several weeks has been a strong reminder of that truth. While we know that the Church is the people of God and not a building, the importance of sacred space cannot be overestimated.

The people of Israel held dear in their hearts the holy temple in Jerusalem. For them, it was the place where God dwelled, the place where heaven and earth meet. When the temple was destroyed in 586 BCE and the people dispersed to other lands and were held in captivity, their sense of identity and belonging were threatened.

Lamentations, called "Alas!" in Hebrew, only begins to express their sense of loss. The city is described as "lonely" and "bitterly weeping." The pathos expressed in the poetry of Lamentations is remarkable in its description of the loss that has been suffered.

Then, in the middle of the book's five chapters or poems we read, "But this I do call to mind, therefore I have hope: the kindness of the Lord has not ended, God's mercies are not spent. They are renewed every morning—Ample is your grace." Ample is God's grace.

The importance of sacred space cannot be overestimated.

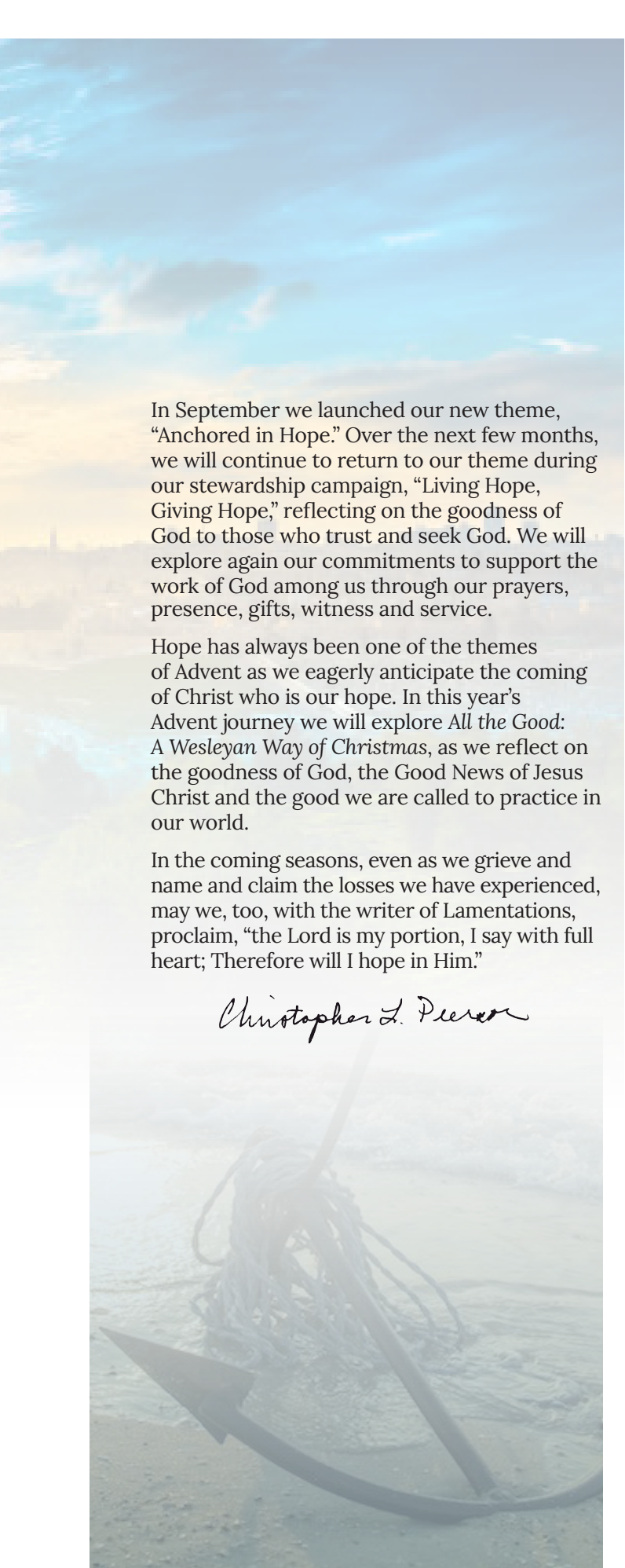
Great is God's faithfulness. Just as the writers of Lamentations expressed their suffering and pain, so too did they reflect on God's faithfulness, goodness and grace, and put their hopes in God.

It is from these words, expressed during their time of suffering and trial, that Christians around the world can now join their voices in manifold witness with all creation singing "Great is Thy Faithfulness" to the God whose compassions fail not.



ANCHORED IN Hope

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



In September we launched our new theme, “Anchored in Hope.” Over the next few months, we will continue to return to our theme during our stewardship campaign, “Living Hope, Giving Hope,” reflecting on the goodness of God to those who trust and seek God. We will explore again our commitments to support the work of God among us through our prayers, presence, gifts, witness and service.

Hope has always been one of the themes of Advent as we eagerly anticipate the coming of Christ who is our hope. In this year’s Advent journey we will explore *All the Good: A Wesleyan Way of Christmas*, as we reflect on the goodness of God, the Good News of Jesus Christ and the good we are called to practice in our world.

In the coming seasons, even as we grieve and name and claim the losses we have experienced, may we, too, with the writer of Lamentations, proclaim, “the Lord is my portion, I say with full heart; Therefore will I hope in Him.”

Christopher L. Peerson

Congratulations

Mark & Stephanie Dalton on the birth of their grandson, Braydon Thomas Dalton, on Oct. 21.

November birthdays*

Happy (90+) birthday to:

Verne Bintz

December birthdays*

Happy (90+) birthday to:

Jeri Nixon

December anniversaries*

Happy (50+) anniversary to:

Phillip & Sandy Cline

Howard & Esther Nicholas

New Opportunities*

David & Teresa Fraker and Logan Fraker on their move to Colorado.

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

Our sympathy

The Krueger family on the death of Linda’s mother, Virginia Swenson, on Sept. 19.

The family of June Hurd. June passed away on Sept. 29.

Joyce Fahs on the death of her brother-in-law, Melvin Fahs on Sept. 23.

Baptisms

Julian Powles, son of Justin & Christine Powles, on Sept. 26.

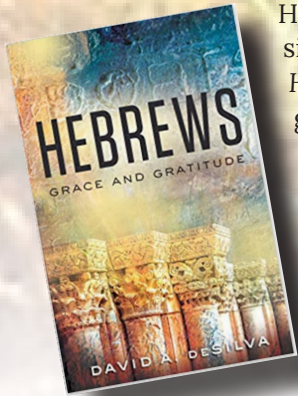
Beckett Kadlec, son of Chase & Kelsey Kadlec, on Oct. 17.

ADULT Christian Education and Discipleship

We have wonderful ways to connect with God and each other this November and December. As CDC guidelines continue to change, our plans are changing too. Be sure to watch the weekly e-news for updates on Adult Christian Education and Discipleship as we grow in faith together.

Hebrews: Grace and Gratitude

Sundays through Nov. 21, 9:50 a.m., Chapel, led by Rev. Dr. Stephen C. Williams



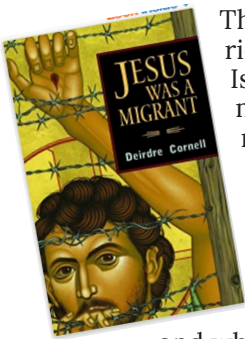
How do we connect God's grace in our lives with the call to invest ourselves in God's mission? Join the **Rev. Dr. Stephen C. Williams** for a series on David deSilva's study, *Hebrews: Grace and Gratitude*. Author and New Testament scholar David deSilva traces grace and gratitude through the book of Hebrews, helping us to see the connection between God's grace in our lives and the gratitude we can express for our salvation when we answer the call to invest ourselves in God's mission in the world. In this series, you will discover a bold perspective on the meaning and significance of Jesus' death and resurrection in light of the Old Testament and hear afresh God's call to a life of faithfulness. Participants are invited to attend all six sessions or as they are able. You can purchase the participant guide through the Church Office for \$6.

Anti-Racist Book Club

Register at garychurch.org.

Jesus was a Migrant by Deirdre Cornell

Wednesday, Nov. 24, 7 p.m., Chapel



The Bible is rich in powerful stories of migrants. The children of Israel were migrants. Jesus was a migrant. The world is filled with migrants and refugees whose dramatic stories are impossible to ignore. America is a country of immigrants. Join the Anti-Racist Book Club discussion on what being a migrant really means, what being a Christian means, and what migrants mean to the spiritual and material growth of a society that welcomes them.

Whose Streets?

Wednesday, Dec. 22, 7 p.m., Chapel

The 2017 documentary film *Whose Streets?* is an unflinching look at how the police killing of 18-year-old Mike Brown inspired a community to fight back and sparked a global movement. Please watch the film and join the conversation.



Parenting Seminar | The Art of Being Present

Sunday, Nov. 14, 3-4:30 p.m., Commons

As parents we are often running from place to place—thinking about the next item on our schedule or checking off the next box on our to-do list. All this inertia can make it hard to be truly present with our kids, spouse, friends or self. Join clinical social worker Sarah Cline as she explores the art of being present.



All the Good: A Wesleyan Way of Christmas

Sundays, Nov. 28–Dec. 19, 9:50 a.m., Chapel, led by Carey Williams Bebar



In *All the Good: A Wesleyan Way of Christmas*, a group of diverse Wesleyan scholars takes you on an Advent journey guided by the practices in John Wesley's means of grace. Each session highlights biblical passages with stories and illustrations. In this class, we will look at preparing the way for God, the impact and significance of prayer, the substance of good works and caring for others, and sharing God's mission to the world. Join **Carey Williams Bebar** in this season of Advent as we await the birth of the Christ child and know God's goodness and love for us. Books will be available for purchase for \$11 starting Nov. 7 through the Church Office.

Worship Talk

Sundays, 11 a.m. on Zoom



Women's Bible Study

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

Men's Bible Study

Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Zoom

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

Sunday, Nov. 28, 3 p.m.,
location to be determined.

Register at garychurch.org.



Grief Matters Support Group

Wednesdays through Nov. 17
10–11:30 a.m., Commons A

Register at garychurch.org.



Class Meetings

various days, times and locations

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

United Methodist Women Circles

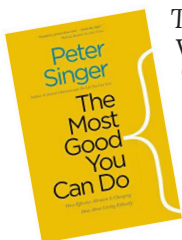
various days, times and locations

Contact the Church Office for more information about these small groups that develop supportive fellowship and expand concepts of mission.



Faith Club: A Women's Interfaith Group

Tuesday, Nov. 9, 7 p.m., Chapel
We will discuss Peter Singer's book *The Most Good You Can Do*. Contact **Kim Austin** through the Church Office for more information.



F ✪ I † H C ✪ L U B

Hey Parents! We know your holiday calendars are filling up. Check out our Gary Kids events and be sure to add a few!

what we're teaching

November Kids' Church and Sunday School series on the prophets

Kids may not be absorbing the news cycle like adults are, but they are experiencing the news cycle through others around them. It's tough to know what news is helpful and what news is true. This month, kids will have a chance to journey with a few prophets—Micah, Amos, Zephaniah, Ezekiel, and Isaiah—to discover news they can count on. *Breaking News* will help them develop a strong identity in an ever-changing world. Kids will learn that when things go wrong, they can choose what's right; when they worship God, they can be sincere; when times are tough, they can count on God; when they are lost, God will guide them, and they can be faithful just like God is faithful.



December Kids' Church & Sunday School Series on Advent and Christmas

Who doesn't love a board game? Waiting for the game to unfold is a part of the fun, but it can be frustrating if kids don't know why they are playing or what they need to be a part of it. In *Wait for It*, kids will learn how to watch for and put their hope in Jesus. Everyone will meet John, Mary, Simeon and Anna—people who waited for a Savior to change their lives. Kids will learn that everyone needs a Savior, that the Savior will change everything, that God will do impossible things and that Jesus is the one they've been waiting for!



what's happening in November | December

THANKS-giving Parent's Night Out

Friday, Nov. 12, 6:30–8:30 p.m., Lower Level
Drop off your kiddos at Gary Church and enjoy some well-deserved time away. Register ages 2-11 at garychurch.org. Suggested cash donation of \$5 per child.

Third and Fourth Grade Bible Presentation

Sunday, Nov. 14, during Worship
For the past eight weeks, third and fourth graders have been learning about our most sacred text. They will share some of their new-found knowledge with the congregation during a special Children's Time. Come show your support for these amazing students.

4th & 5th Grade Fellowship Turkey Shuffle

Friday, Nov. 19, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Activity Center
Fourth and fifth grade students are invited to Gary for a night of fun games and frozen turkeys!





Helping Hands | Pajama Party

Sunday, Nov. 28 at 9 a.m. Kids' Church

All children ages preschool 3s through grade 5 are invited to a Helping Hands Pajama Party. Kids will learn, play and use their "helping hands" to support Christmas Sharing.



4th & 5th Grade Fellowship Christmas Party

Friday, Dec. 17, 6:30–8:30 p.m., Activity Center

Fourth and fifth grade students are invited to Gary for a festive (and meaningful) Christmas party!



Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Sundays, Dec. 5, 12, 19, 2 p.m., Sanctuary

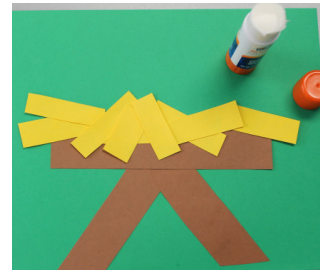
Gary Kids ages Preschool 3–Grade 5 are invited to take part in the classic retelling of the Christmas Story at our 3 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Worship Service.



Merry Market Place

Sunday, Dec. 12, during the Sunday School hour

On this special Sunday, Gary Kids will get to craft the Christmas story as they learn about the birth of Jesus.



resource of the month

Book recommendation from Gary Kids Librarian Sarah Kovac

November's book recommendation is *The Breaking News* by Sarah Lynne Reul. In this book, after a major news event, the adults in a young girl's life become upset and distracted. Although small acts of kindness can't fix everything, she finds that they can make things better. When disquieting issues come up in the news cycle, this book can help start a conversation with your children.





Gary Youth

Weekly Gatherings *

November Middle School

Wednesday, Nov. 3
7–8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 10
7–8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 17
No meeting,
see Turkey Shuffle event

Wednesday, Nov. 24
No meeting,
Thanksgiving Break

High School

Sunday, Nov. 7
6–7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 14
6–7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 21
6–7:30 p.m.
Turkey Shuffle

Sunday, Nov. 28
No meeting, Thanksgiving Break

December Middle School

Wednesday, Dec. 1
7–8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 8
7–8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 15
7–8:30 p.m., Christmas Party

Wednesday, Dec. 22
No meeting, Winter Break

High School

Sunday, Dec. 5
6–7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 12
6–7:30 p.m. Christmas Party

Sundays, Dec. 19 & 26
No meetings, Winter Break

You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only don't let this freedom be an opportunity to indulge your selfish impulses, but serve each other through love. All the Law has been fulfilled in a single statement: *Love your neighbor as yourself.*

Galatians 5:13–14 (CEB)

We all follow rules. Load the dishwasher after dinner! Stop at a red light! Turn in your homework on time! Sometimes, we really don't want to follow certain rules. They feel limiting and restrictive like being locked in a cage. What does the Bible say about rules? At the fall retreat, Gary Youth learned that the Bible makes a counterintuitive argument about God's rules. The Bible teaches us that God's rules actually make us free people. Free to be who God created us to be.

What are the rules that God requires of us? "All the Law has been fulfilled in a single statement: Love your neighbor as yourself." That's right, in order to be "free," we need to "serve" others. That's pretty counterintuitive. We admit that sometimes it is hard to love others when the bumps and bruises in us distort how we see ourselves; as God's beloved children, loved through and through. The Bible tells us that we are God's handiwork, created to be loved and to love.

At the fall retreat, we also had a ton of fun worshipping together, riding on the giant swing, playing ultimate dodgeball, eating s'mores and just being together. We hope everyone can make it to the winter retreat in February.



Left: We took a school bus to the fall retreat. Middle: Potatoes helped us talk about our bumps and bruises. Right: Pastor Brian led us in songs.



The giant swing was super fun. Some of us needed a bit of encouragement to get on it but we all loved it.




Turkey Shuffle
 (Middle School and High School)
Sunday, November 21, 6–7:30 p.m.

Oh yes! We're bowling with Turkeys! The winning team will take home the coveted Golden Turkey!



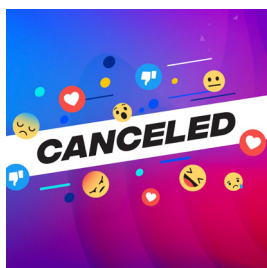
Christmas Party!

Wednesday, December 15, 7–8:30 p.m. (Middle School)
Sunday, December 12, 6–7:30 p.m. (High School)

*More details to come closer to the date of the event!

What are we learning in November?

Sometimes, people on the internet band together to call out, shame or even “cancel” someone. There are definitely times when people or systems need to be called out and held accountable. Other times, we can all be a little too quick to judge each other—online and offline too. In November, we’ll meet a few people from Scripture whose stories show us that humans have always struggled to choose love. God is



challenging us to love people who aren't like us, love people who are in need, love the people we envy and love the people we want to hate.

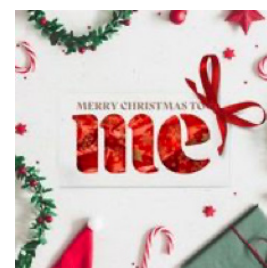
Weekly Sunday School

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

- Middle School: Commons E
- High School: Heritage Room

What are we learning in December?

Another Christmas is almost here, along with the annual onslaught of Christmas music, movies, lights, shopping lists, ads and inflatable lawn ornaments. We all know the Christmas season is supposed to be about generosity, family and celebrating the gift of Jesus . . . but to be honest—how much of your Christmas holiday is actually spent thinking about yourself and what you want? This series will take us back to the very first Christmas—a day that was only possible because of the selflessness, generosity and sacrifice of God and God's people. So, this Christmas, what will you give in response?



Gary Youth Christmas Choir

Wednesdays, Dec. 1–22, 6–7 p.m., Choir Room

All Gary Youth in grades 6–12 are invited to join their voices in celebration. Led by **Jennifer Whiting**, the Gary Youth Christmas Choir will rehearse four times and present their gift of song in the Christmas Eve Family Worship Service. They will prepare “Shepherds Arise” by Dan Edwards. Register at



*All events are subject to change

Grateful *hope*

We have so much to be thankful for. Our “Anchored in Hope” theme for the ministry year reminds us that no matter what, God is with us and God is constant. Thanks be to God.

The tremendous giving spirit of Gary members for Christmas Sharing every year. —**Shelley Kenyon**

What a wonderful surprise to receive a beautiful handmade card filled with congratulations and best wishes from many Gary friends on the birth of our grandson, Landon! We are so blessed to feel the caring support of Gary Church! Thanks so much!
—**Dan & Suzy Wible**

Thank you so much for your cards of love and care for me at this time of missing my brother-in-law Mel Fahs who has gone to his heavenly home. Your prayers encourage and strengthen me.
—**Joyce Fahs**

I'm thankful for the encouragement the Gary family offers day in and day out—for Good News on Sundays and prayers for one another throughout the week...for opportunities for fellowship and growth and giving even when we couldn't be together in person...for the loving hearts of those who led Vacation Bible School and created such a great experience that our Colin continually asks when he can go again. I'm grateful for seven years of Gary being a second home.
—**Christy Grace**

I am very grateful to be a member of Gary Church. I appreciate the pastors who encourage us to live by God's Word and share our love for Christ. In addition, Gary Church offers many opportunities for ongoing Christian education. Currently, I am participating in a Women's Bible Study course on Revelation. The material is excellent, and I love the insights and support from the group.

I am also grateful for Gary Church's numerous missions and ministry projects. It is a joy to serve the community by supporting such missions as Christmas Sharing and People's Resource Center. I am also grateful for our excellent music ministry programs. Gary Church has so many talented musicians!

I am also grateful to Gary Church for giving me the opportunity to express my Christian faith through working with children and youth. Moreover, I enjoy interacting with our office staff and being able to assist with such activities as sending cards and preparing Communion packets.

Finally, I am so grateful for the ongoing love and support my family and I have received from Gary Church. We will always cherish how our church family took care of us when we lost our mother, Dorothy Erhardt. For all these reasons, I love and appreciate Gary Church.
—**Penny Gillen**





We are grateful for modern technology (and the wonderful members who support it) that is allowing us to be members of Gary once again even though we live 900 miles away.
—Deborah Fagan and Jeri Barker, New Orleans



I am immensely grateful to Gary for receiving me back into the congregation in such a wholehearted welcoming manner. I am grateful for everyone I have met and the many opportunities to serve. I'm grateful for the comfort, guidance and challenges given to me by all of the pastors. I am grateful that the positive message of God's redeeming Love that I first learned in Gary's Sunday School 50 some years ago carried me through life and is still the message I hear today.
—Heather Jewell

When I think of Gary Church, I think of "family." The people of Gary are my church family. They welcome me, laugh and cry with me, and demonstrate God's love for me. When I enter Gary Church doors, whether I am welcomed by our greeters on Sunday morning or enter on Monday to begin my morning in preschool, I am grateful for my "second" home.
—Karen Binkerd



I am thankful that Gary Church has been our family for the last 55 years; for the pastors, music and Sunday School teachers, the youth leaders, and the friends that have helped us raise our children to be the solid citizens they are today. I can see, in our eldest son, many of the traits of Danny Keck, who was the youth leader in the 70s. There couldn't have been a better role model. The mission trips the youth went on to Appalachia, an Indian Reservation and other places, helped them to gain a perspective they could never have attained in the suburbs of Chicago. I am thankful for the neighborhood Bible study class that began in 1978, where we made close friends that have remained like family to this day; for the activities that kept Jim and me busy and made us useful after we became empty nesters. I am thankful for those who saw me through Jim's sudden death and helped me carry on. Now that I am in an assisted living facility, my church family is helping me cope with the adjustments I've had to make to get through the ongoing pandemic, and still stay connected. They help me with assistance I need from outside my community, and also assist me in continuing to help those less fortunate, so I can still feel useful in my old age. Everyone should be as blessed as I am.
—Lorrie Brand



Thankful through social media

Throughout the month of November, Gary Church will post on Facebook and Instagram inviting you to share what you're thankful for. Please feel free to express your gratitude to God each time you see a post about thankfulness. In December, look for ways to share peace, hope, joy and love.



The trustees took advantage of the temporary building closure this year to jumpstart some needed repairs.

Here's a summary of some of the major projects we worked on recently:

- Courtyard (Door 2) wood doors refinished.
- Wesley Center basement cleaned up. The north wall has extensive moisture issues requiring reevaluation of the long-term viability of the building.
- Courtyard water runoff topographical study. This will help us better manage the water infiltration issue in the Wesley Center.
- East end sanctuary roof repairs. Slate tile replacement, copper flashing repairs and general water remediation efforts.
- Tuck-pointing and water remediation on the east-facing wall above the Main Street entrance. Extensive joint, mortar, and stonework is needed. We are currently acquiring bids for this work.
- East stain glass window study and repair options explored. The window has obvious glass, glazing and tracery degradation, and we are looking into what options we have to stabilize and preserve this church treasure.
- Modification of the steam heating system to remove the vacuum condensate system to avoid costly future maintenance.
- Parking lot resurfacing, seal coating and line striping.
- New building door security key system.
- Remodeling of the old men's bathroom in Gamon Hall into a unisex bathroom.
- Gamon Hall refresh including painting, ceiling fans repaired and new white boards installed.
- 50 feet of galvanized hot water pipe replaced in the ceiling of Gamon Hall.
- New coffee pot and service equipment purchased.
- Sanctuary epoxy floor repairs in the front of the first few rows of pews.
- Flat roof overflow drains repaired.
- Evaluating current insurance spend and exploring alternatives to this large expense. Our insurance costs are up over 25%!
- Aided Health Team work to evaluate air quality in the building and options for COVID-19 risk reduction.

Thank you to **all** Trustee members who have met regularly and contributed to this extensive list of accomplishments.

Eric Ostensen
Trustees Committee Co-Chair



GARY CHURCH *makes a difference*

Consider giving to others

The holiday season is almost upon us, a time to give thanks for our blessings this past year (or two) and to celebrate God coming into the world through the person of Jesus Christ. As we contemplate and celebrate the season, please continue to consider what you can do for others, whether through monetary gifts to the various Gary Missions or by actively volunteering. There will be extra demands on People's Resource Center for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Christmas Sharing will need our help. Outreach Community Center programs for Christmas will be reaching out to those in need and our isolated seniors. You might consider donating to Heifer International as a gift in the name of someone special. Heifer supplies impoverished communities and families with everything from chicks to water buffalo and a gift in a child's name could be something special when they learn its meaning. You can donate at garychurch.org/give. So, Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year from the Missions team.

—Joe Ruth, Missions Chair

Special offering in November

On Nov. 28, we will have a special offering for United Methodist Student Sunday. This offering helps fund scholarships for students who otherwise might not be able to continue their education. Many of these students go on to serve the church and their communities through missions or ministry. You can donate at garychurch.org/give.



People's Resource Center (PRC) survives the pandemic

The PRC developed new procedures to accommodate clients' needs and maintain safe distancing and safety precautions. No longer do clients enter the building for service and food selection, rather they drive through. According to family size and special needs, groceries and supplies are preselected and put directly into the clients' trunks. This process is still in place and will be for the duration.

Some awesome facts of interest:

- Since the pandemic began (March 2020) PRC distributed 65,000 grocery carts of food.
- In 2021, PRC distributed 46,000 grocery carts of food.
- Empowerment programs served over 5,000 students/job seekers through art, adult literacy and computer training classes and job assistance workshops.
- Social Services helped over 5000 families with referrals and financial assistance.
- 1,000 backpacks were distributed through the Back-to-School program.
- 225 refurbished computers were distributed to clients.

Share The Spirit, the holiday giving program, will be a "drive thru" event in early December at the DuPage County Fairgrounds like last year. The PRC will accept gifts, monetary and gift card donations through Nov. 30. Your contribution can include new books, hats/mittens, family games, grocery store gift cards, retail gift cards, wrapping paper and gift bags. No toys, please. Drop off items in the PRC bin at Gary Church and we will deliver them, or donate directly to the PRC. Monetary gifts can be made at garychurch.org/give.

—Mary Landreth



RTO thanks Gary Church

Several times a year, Gary Church cooks and serves the meal for Radical Time Out (RTO). This past month, former prisoners and their

families were so thankful to feast

RADICAL TIME OUT™

on meatloaf, cornbread, salad and pumpkin bars made with love. If you'd like to help cook or serve a meal, contact the Church Office.



Outreach

Community Ministries

Serve holiday joy to a senior

This year, the Older Adults Program of the Outreach Community Center is hoping to host an in-person Christmas Luncheon at First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton on Friday, Dec. 17 for approximately 125 low-income seniors from south Carol Stream. They will dine on a traditional ham meal with all the trimmings, enjoy holiday music and receive an individual gift. Your donation is greatly appreciated for this event.

Serving a senior for \$12 will provide one older adult of Outreach Community Center a place at their Christmas Luncheon table. This annual event is the highlight for many of these people. For many, this may be their only holiday celebration after more than a year of isolation.

It is easy to donate—

online at garychurch.org/give and click on Outreach or a check made out to Gary Church with Outreach Seniors in the memo line.

If you wish to serve in person at this wonderful holiday event, please sign up at the display table or contact **Barbara Holmes** through the Church Office.

Thank you for joining us to add Christmas joy to a senior's holiday!





Christmas Sharing celebrates 52 years

Friday, Dec. 10–Saturday, Dec. 11

Here comes Christmas...so here comes Christmas Sharing! Church bells will be ringing when eight Wheaton-Warrenville churches greet and assist District 200 families in need. The event, which originated at Gary United Methodist Church thanks to the late Bill Davisson, will resemble the 2020 drive-through version.

We will not host our guests inside Gary Church, but we will work hard to meet their needs. We will be giving gift cards again. Those cards were so appreciated by our guest families. That means we need cash. We were overwhelmed with the generosity of Gary's congregation last year. We need the folks at Gary to do it again. Donations can be given to the Church Office or at garychurch.org/give. If you know of others who would like to donate, Christmas Sharing has a Facebook page with a "donate" button for the general public to assist our efforts.

DONATIONS NEED TO BE RECEIVED BY SUNDAY, NOV. 21

The Northern Illinois Food Bank will supply food that will include protein, dairy, fresh fruit and vegetables and shelf staples. Our site at St. John Lutheran Church will operate as it did last year with guests invited by Trinity Episcopal, St. John and Gary Church. Two other sites will provide service to remaining District 200 families that have been invited to participate. This year our site is planning to add another box of supplies of household products—toilet paper, laundry detergent, etc. Each church participating at St. John will build their own boxes for this and they will be handed out during the distribution on Saturday, Dec. 11.

Details will continue to develop, so watch for Christmas Sharing news in Gary Church publications and sign-up sheets will be coming out too. It is always a special time when all generations come together in the joy of giving to our Wheaton-Warrenville school families. Please help us to continue the Gary tradition of helping our community through Christmas Sharing.

Most sincere thanks,
Joe Davisson and Shelley Kenyon





Stewardship through hope

Our stewardship campaign, **Living Hope, Giving Hope**, shows us we can offer hope to others through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

Living Hope Giving Hope

In November, we will distribute our annual stewardship cards and invite all to give thoughtful consideration of the spiritual gifts and resources that God has provided and how we might be inspired to use them in the life of Gary Church.

The stewardship cards will also be available in an online format that can be found on the registrations page of garychurch.org.

Gifting stocks

Donating appreciated assets, like stocks, is one of the most impactful and tax-advantaged ways to express your generosity. By donating appreciated securities, you can bypass capital gains tax and you may itemize your gift as a deduction, but please consult your personal advisor regarding your specific situation.

If you are interested in making a stock gift to Gary Church, please contact **Deb Evans** in the Church Office. The transfer process may take seven to ten business days. If you are considering making a year-end gift in this way, please plan accordingly.

For other year-end contributions:

- Envelopes must be postmarked by Dec. 31 if you intend to mail your gift.
- Church office hours are 10 a.m.–3 p.m. if you would like to drop off your gift. The office will close at noon on Dec. 31.

Thank you for your generosity.

Gary Church to host vaccination clinics

Working with the Illinois Department of Public Health, Gary Church plans to host two more COVID-19 vaccination clinics. Both Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccines will be available. If you are interested in receiving an initial vaccine or are ready for a booster shot, please plan to come to the Commons on *Wednesday, Nov. 10*, and/or three weeks later on *Wednesday, Dec. 1, 3:30–6:30 p.m.* You can sign up at garychurch.org or simply stop in.



Air Quality in COVID Times

Gary Church's Health Team has worked to minimize the spread of COVID-19 through recommendations by governmental agencies and the Northern Illinois Conference. In addition to vaccinations, masking and social distancing, increased air flow is recommended. The Health Team, along with the Trustee Committee, has learned that the air flow and amount of outside air in the areas of the church that were renovated in 2006, plus the Activity Center, exceed the recommendations. The team is also looking into the air quality of the older parts of the building. As we learn more, we will share that information.



Greg Perisho

Health Team Co-Chairperson

Caring through cards



In the January 2022 edition of the *Chimes*, we will learn about Gary Church members living their faith as they make cards for others. If you know of someone who is living their faith in a wonderful way, please contact **Janet Mathis**, jmathis@garychurch.org.



Sign up for photo session for new directory

You can now sign up to have your picture taken for the new directory at our website, garychurch.org. The dates are *Tuesday, Nov. 23, Wednesday, Nov. 24, Saturday, Nov. 27, Monday, Nov. 29 and Tuesday, Nov. 30*. Families of five or more should sign up for two back-to-back slots to allow enough time for their photo session. Multi-generational families are encouraged.

Families will receive a free 8x10 print of the photo they select for the directory, along with a copy of the directory. Your orders will be ready in time for Christmas gifts.



Gary Gardeners prepare for next season

We have an opportunity for you to serve outdoors with the Gary Gardeners, where you can learn from an expert or complete a youth service project. Or just have fun in the fresh air. We are transitioning from the beautiful fall gardens to the winter landscaping. Join our small but dedicated group of amazing people. Contact the Church Office if you would like to volunteer or donate to the gardens.



Gary gardener Bob Barnes waters in front of the Wesley Center.



Barb Wernicke creates and cares for colorful planters.



The show-stopping hydrangea is just one of the highlights Ida Whitcomb cares for in the shade garden on the north side of the church.

Pastor Brian Podcast Season 5 began last month with a new format and with our inaugural guest **Vickie Austin**. The response has been amazing! Every episode we hope to pray and have a conversation on growing in Christ all around a meal. You will be inspired, encouraged, caused to think and question, and called to deeper faithfulness in Jesus Christ.



The guest for Pastor Brian Podcast Season 5 Episode 2 will be the **Rev. Dr. Chris Pierson**. We will speak about how Chris came to faith in Christ, his upbringing, cross-racial pastorates, and specifically his second week and second sermon at Gary Church—when not only a young minority teenager, but also a police officer, were fatally shot. How does a pastor address these divisive killings with God’s Word? Also, we speak about how those events would characterize the coming years in our society and our ministry as the church of Jesus Christ. We explore ways Christians can bring mourning, discernment, listening and the good news of the gospel into the midst of sin. You can find us on all podcast platforms and garychurch.org.

So come on in, join us for Season 5. And as always . . . I will look forward to praying with you!

Brian Felker Jones



Not too soon for Lenten devotional

We realize Advent hasn’t happened yet, but we also know that inspiration for a Lenten devotional can occur anytime. Take a photo. Write a poem. Draw a picture. Maybe a recent sermon or scripture passage has touched you. Or maybe our theme for the year, “Anchored in Hope,” has moved you. We invite all children, youth and adults of Gary and Winfield Churches to share reflections, personal stories and glimpses of God at work in our lives. If you know you’d like to share something, please register at garychurch.org. You’re welcome to email your devotional any time before Friday, Feb. 4 to **Janet Mathis**, jmathis@garychurch.org.



Snow shovelers needed at Winfield

Winfield Church is looking for volunteers to shovel the sidewalks before worship each Sunday in December, January, February and March. Please sign the sheet in the Winfield Church kitchen or contact **John Taylor**.



Winfield Altar Flowers

Again in 2022, Winfield Church will have live flowers on the altar on the second Sunday of the month. Please sign the sheet in the narthex if you wish to share altar flowers and indicate if the flowers are in honor of or in memory of a family member or special event. The cost is \$30 per month.





Gary Gift Cards

It is not too early to start your Christmas shopping! And what easier way than to let Gary Gift Cards do the shopping for you. Gary's Gift Cards is a Gary United Methodist Preschool program that enables you to purchase gift cards for use at local retailers and have them delivered to you. We buy the cards at a discount, you buy the certificates for full face value and redeem them for full face value, and the preschool keeps the difference. The profit may not seem like a lot, but every dollar adds up!

If you would like to purchase Gary's Gift Cards, please complete the other side, and return the form and your check (made payable to Gary Preschool) to the church office or the preschool by **11:00 a.m. on December 8th**. You may shop online at www.shopwithscrip.com (Enter code: E278BD5913386 for Gary Preschool), drop your check at the church, and have your cards delivered. **Your gift cards should be in by December 15-17th.**

Do you need some gift ideas: **For Her:** Macy's, Kay Jeweler, Williams Sonoma, Sephora, Zappos.com **For Him:** Bass Pro Shops, Cabela's, Home Depot, Best Buy, Dick's, BP, AutoZone, Ace **For Teens:** iTunes, Amazon, GameStop, J Crew, Bath & Body Works, Nike **For Kids:** The Children's Place, Disney, American Girl, Build a Bear **For Teachers:** Barnes & Noble, Container Store, Target, Starbucks **For Everyone:** Visa, Starbucks, TJ Maxx, AMC, Ticketmaster, Overstock.com, Wal-Mart **For Crafts/Cooking:** Michaels, JoAnn Fabrics, Jewel, Shutterfly.com **Business Gifts:** Omaha Steaks, Fannie Mae Candy, Harry & David, Honey Baked Ham **For a night out:** Buffalo Wild Wings, Outback, Chili's, AMC Theatres, Lettuce Entertain You

These are just a few of the hundreds of retailers offered by Gary's Gift Cards! See reverse side for more retailers or visit www.shopwithscrip.com for a complete list of available retailers! And remember gift cards are not just for gift giving! If you know where you will do some of your holiday shopping, you can buy a gift card to use like a debit card as part of your payment.

The fine print:

All sales are final. Gift certificates and debit cards cannot be returned for any reason, with the exception of a malfunctioning card.

Payment must be made at the time a participant places an order. Checks and money orders are the only forms of payment and should be made to Gary Preschool.

Please do not send cash. Gary's Gift Cards payments are not tax deductible because you receive dollar for dollar value. Gary's Gift Cards does not accept credit cards.

All Gary's Gift Card orders are double-checked. However, it is also the participants' responsibility to verify their order at the time of receipt. Any discrepancies should be addressed immediately. Gary's Gift Cards is not responsible for lost or stolen orders. If Gary's Gift Cards is unable to fill an order due to back orders from our vendor, we will make every attempt to get your certificates or cards to you as soon as possible. In the event your order will not be ready for scheduled pickup, we will contact you.

Gary's Gift Cards Retailers/Order Form

Grocery Stores & Pharmacies

Jewel/Osco(4%) \$25 _____
 _____ \$100 _____ CVS (6%)
 \$25 _____ \$100 _____
 Mariano's (4%) \$100 _____
 Pete's Fresh Market (4%) \$20 _____
 _____ Walgreens (5%) \$25 _____

Restaurants

Applebee's (8%) \$25 _____
 Arby's (8%) \$10 _____
 Buca di Beppo (8%) \$25 _____
 Buffalo Wild Wings (8%) \$25 _____
 _____ Burger King (4%) \$10 _____

 California Pizza Kitchen (8%)
 \$25 _____ Cheesecake Factory
 (5%) \$25 _____ Chili's (11%)
 \$25 _____
 Chipotle (10%) \$10 _____
 Chuck E. Cheese (8%) \$10 _____
 Cold Stone Creamery (11%) \$10 _____
 _____ Dairy Queen (3%) \$10 _____

Dave & Busters (13%) \$25 _____
 Denny's (7%) \$10 _____
 Domino's Pizza (8%) \$10 _____
 Dunkin Donuts (3%) \$10 _____
 Einstein Bagels (10%) \$10 _____
 Jamba Juice (6%) \$10 _____
 Lettuce Entertain You (12%) \$25 _____
 _____ Lou Malnati's (8%) \$10 _____

Noodles & Co. (8%) \$10 _____
 Olive Garden (8%) \$25 _____

Also good at Red Lobster

Outback Steakhouse (8%) \$25 _____
 Panera Bread (9%) \$10 _____
 _____ \$25 _____ Papa John's Pizza
 (8%) \$10 _____
 Pizza Hut (8%) \$10 _____
 Qdoba (7%) \$25 _____
 Rainforest Café (9%)
 \$25 _____ \$100 _____ Red Robin
 (8%) \$25 _____
 Rock Bottom (8%) \$25 _____
 Ruby Tuesday (8%) \$25 _____
 Smashburger (10%) \$10 _____
 Starbucks (7%) \$10 _____
 _____ \$25 _____
 Steak n Shake (8%) \$10 _____
 Subway (6%) \$10 _____
 Wendy's (6.5%) \$10 _____

Entertainment

AMC/Loews/Cineplex (8%) \$25 _____
 _____ Century Theatres (4%) \$25 _____

 Regal Cinemas (8%) \$25 _____

Gas & Auto

Auto Zone (8%) \$25 _____
 BP (1.5%) \$50 _____ \$100 _____
 Jiffy Lube (8%) \$30 _____ Mo-
 bil/Exxon (1.5%) \$50 _____
 Shell (1.5%) \$25 _____ \$50 _____

Retail Stores

Ace Hardware (4%) \$25 _____ \$100 _____
 American Eagle (10%) \$25 _____
 American Girl (9%) \$25 _____ \$100 _____
 Bass Pro Shops (10%) \$25 _____ \$100 _____
 Barnes & Noble (8%) \$10 _____ \$25 _____
 Bath & Body Works (13%) \$10 _____
 _____ \$25 _____ Bed, Bath & Beyond (7%)
 \$25 _____
 Best Buy (4%) \$25 _____ \$100 _____ Bloom-
 ingtondale's (12%) \$25 _____
 Brooks Brothers (16%) \$25 _____
 Build-A-Bear Workshop (8%) \$25 _____
 Cabela's (10%) \$25 _____ \$100 _____
 Claire's (9%) \$10 _____
 Container Store (9%) \$25 _____ \$100 _____
 Crate & Barrel (8%) \$25 _____ \$100 _____
 Dick's Sporting Goods (8%) \$25 _____
 Disney (3%) \$25 _____ \$100 _____
 Express (10%) \$25 _____
 Foot Locker Stores (8%) \$25 _____
 Gap (14%) \$25 _____
 Hallmark (4%) \$25 _____
 Home Depot (4%) \$25 _____
 J Crew (13%) \$25 _____
 JoAnn Fabrics (6%) \$25 _____
 Kohl's (4%) \$25 _____
 L.L. Bean (16%) \$25 _____
 Lands' End (15%) \$25 _____
 Lord & Taylor (8%) \$25 _____
 Lowe's (4%) \$25 _____
 Macy's (10%) \$25 _____
 Menards (3%) \$25 _____
 Neiman Marcus (12%) \$50 _____
 Nordstrom (4%) \$25 _____
 Office Depot/Max (5%) \$25 _____
 Pottery Barn (8%) \$25 _____
 REI (8%) \$25 _____
 Sephora (5%) \$25 _____
 Staples (5%) \$25 _____
 Talbots (13%) \$25 _____
 Target (2.5%) \$25 _____ \$50 _____
 The Children's Place (12%) \$25 _____
 TJ Maxx, HomeGoods, Marshalls (7%)
 \$25 _____ Walmart (2.5%) \$25 _____ \$50 _____

 Williams Sonoma (8%) \$25 _____

Online & Other Services

Amazon.com (2.25%) \$25 _____ \$100 _____
 iTunes (5%) \$15 _____ \$25 _____
 Overstock.com (8%) \$25 _____
 Wayfair (6%) \$100 _____
 Zappos.com (8%) \$25 _____

Travel

Budget Car Rental (8%) \$50 _____
 Celebrity Cruises (8%) \$100 _____
 Fairmont Hotels (9%) \$100 _____
 Hilton (2%) \$100 _____
 Southwest Airlines (4%) \$250 _____

Total cards ordered: _____

Total amount due: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Pick up (please circle one):

Mail (add \$5)

Preschool

Church Office

Please write checks
 payable to "Gary
 Preschool"

Orders are due by
 December 8th
 at 11:00 am.



Gary Gift Cards

WinChimes

Winfield Community United Methodist Church
An Affiliate of Gary United Methodist Church

God's faithfulness

by Rev. Bruce Anderson



I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac... Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you. Genesis 28:13a, 15

At Winfield, we are working our way through the Old Testament. We started out with creation, and how God's love permeates everything in creation. Then we moved through the patriarchs to Moses and the Exodus. Throughout the Old Testament we see God's promises and God's faithfulness to the Chosen People, even though they are less than faithful in return. But God always carries through and delivers God's people, although not always in the way(s) they might expect.

We too are heirs of the promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. And we are children of the new covenant in Christ Jesus. We can trust God's promise that, **"I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."** And we remember Jesus' promise, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live" (John 14:15-19).

Whatever we are going through, Christ walks with us, and we are infused with God's Holy Spirit. We are never alone. We are called to be Christ's ambassadors to the world. Letting the world see Christ through us, as we grow more and more Christ-like in our faith. As people in the world look at each of us, do they see us any differently than anyone else? If, like the apostles, we were brought up on charges for being Christians, would there be enough evidence to convict us? I hope so. For those who God calls, God equips. May we be ready to answer God's call by reaching out to those that God sends across our paths, that we might shine the light of Christ into a dark and hurting world.

God always carries through and delivers God's people.



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



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*What joy this season brings, including
opportunities for learning, giving, fellowship,
music, art and worship.*

All the Good
ADVENT



See page 3 for
All the Good
Advent
details