

Chimes



The Newsletter
of Gary Church
and Winfield Community Church
October 2022



Staff

Rev. Dr. Chris Pierson
SENIOR PASTOR
cpierson@garychurch.org

Rev. Brian Felker Jones
PART-TIME ASSOCIATE PASTOR
bjones@garychurch.org

Rev. Bruce Anderson
WINFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
pastorbrucea@gmail.com

Jennifer Whiting
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND CHOIR DIRECTOR
jwhiting@garychurch.org

Kevin Lange
ORGANIST
klange@garychurch.org

Carey Williams Bebar
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES AND
ADULT EDUCATION COORDINATOR
cbebar@garychurch.org

Daniel Lee
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES
dlee@garychurch.org

Janet Mathis
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
jmathis@garychurch.org

Deb Evans
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
devans@garychurch.org

Jennifer Castino
WELCOME MINISTRIES COORDINATOR AND
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
jcastino@garychurch.org

Deb Hafner
CHURCH OFFICE
office@garychurch.org

Pam Keller
PRINT COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
pkeller@garychurch.org

Becky Lemna
ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
blemna@garychurch.org

Mike & Donna Capra
CAPRA JANITORIAL

Grace Ryken
CHILDCARE COORDINATOR
childcare@garychurch.org

Kirsten McCluskey
PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR
preschool@garychurch.org

Sunday Worship

9 a.m. Sunday Worship
In person

Livestream and recording
later in the day at garychurch.org
Child care available

11 a.m. Sunday Worship
Service of Word & Sacrament
In person

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 Nov./Dec. *Chimes* newsletter are due by noon on Monday, Oct. 3. 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.



Love

IS THE DIRECTION

Beloved, let us love one another,
for love is of God; and everyone who loves
is born of God and knows God.

—1 JOHN 4:7

Love Is the Direction

Choosing a theme each year that will guide much of our preaching and teaching can be an arduous task. It is challenging because we attempt, through prayer and contemplation, to discern how the Spirit is speaking to Gary Church.

We seek to answer the questions, “How is God speaking to us?” and “What is God asking of us?” These are questions that command our attention. What is God asking of us in this moment and time? What is God asking of us in our particular context? Only when we wrestle with these questions can we begin to discern what the Spirit is saying to us as a church. After much struggling, even stepping away and giving ourselves more time, we believe that this year God is trying to communicate a clear message, “Love Is the Direction!”

We are to love one another as Christ loved us.

At first glance it might seem simplistic, perhaps even naïve. Yet when we understand the difference between what some call “love” and the biblical concept of love, we realize both the blessing and the challenge of loving one another.

In his Nobel Prize acceptance speech in 1964, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke of the misunderstanding and misinterpretation of the concept of love, which he said is “so readily dismissed by the Nietzsches of the world as a weak and cowardly force.”



Drawing a clear distinction, King said, “When I speak of love I am not speaking of some sentimental and weak response which is little more than emotional bosh. I am speaking of that force which all of the great religions have seen as the supreme unifying principle of life. Love is somehow the key that unlocks the door which leads to ultimate reality.”

King, ever the preacher, then turned in his speech to the text from 1 John 4, “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.”

What a blessing it is to be called God’s “Beloved” or “God’s Dearly Loved Ones.” It is also a challenge because we are called to love one another. Yet, that love, is not mere human love or warm sentiments toward another, but something that emanates from God through God’s beloved to others. We are to love one another as Christ loved us. Love is a powerful force that derives from God. As John would write, “Love is of God” and “God is Love.” The very essence and nature of God is love.

When John calls the community of believers “Beloved” and calls us to love one another, he uses the word **agape**. In his book, *Strength to Love*, King would write, “Agape is understanding and creative, redemptive goodwill for all. An overflowing love of God which seeks nothing in return, *agape* is the love of God operating in the human heart.”¹ It is a love that should define not only who God is but who we are as God’s children and how we ought to love.

This type of love holds the power to transform us as individuals, to strengthen us as a congregation, and to even transform the world. Yet, we can only love this way when we abide in God — when we keep focused on Christ at the center of our lives and our community, and follow the direction God is leading us. I believe “Love Is the direction.”

Christopher L. Pearson

¹King, Martin Luther. *Strength To Love*. Fortress Press, 1963.

ADULT Christian Education and Discipleship

Paul, the Apostle: The Gospel, the Messenger, and Adaptability

Sundays through Oct. 16, 10 a.m., Chapel
led by Dr. Gene Green

In this study, we will witness Paul's radical conversion, hear his divine commissioning and trace his early journeys as told by Luke in the Acts of the Apostles.



Kids Above All's efforts to treat and reduce violence

Sunday, Oct. 23, 10 a.m.
Chapel

Dan Kotowski, President & CEO of Kids Above All, will share the organization's mission to place the safety and well-being of all kids above everything else and how members of the community can get involved to help young people who have experienced violence, poverty and injustice build better lives.



Linden Oaks Presents "Adolescent Mental Health"

Sunday, Oct. 30, 10 a.m., Chapel

In these times, addressing mental health in adolescents is more important than ever. Check the e-news for details about this class.



Launch: A Class on Spiritual Habits for Parents and Young Adults

Sundays, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Jan. 15, Feb. 12, 10 a.m.
Commons, led by Beth Orchard

Whether you've been attending church since you were a kid or you're brand new, you probably have some ideas already about what it takes to grow spiritually. The problem is that we all struggle sometimes to figure out how to continue growing — and how to do it in a way that works for us now. If we're not careful, we can end up with a relationship with God that worked when we were kids or new to our faith but is no longer transforming or challenging us like it could be. For these four sessions, we'll see how we can "launch" (or re-launch) our spiritual growth by evaluating (or re-evaluating) these spiritual habits of spending time with God, spending time with others in healthy community, using our gifts to serve and sharing our stories of faith.

Faith Club Writing Workshop

Tuesday, Oct. 11, 7 p.m., Commons E

We are excited to host a writing workshop with Faith Club member and multiple award-winning author and journalist Tayyaba Syed. Whether you have experience as a writer or not, come learn how to bring your thoughts and creativity to pen and paper, and improve your writing skills with Tayyaba's tips and tricks. We will work on writing prompts and some visual exercises as well. Please bring writing supplies or a laptop with you. Contact **Kim Austin** through the Church Office for more information.



F ★ I + H C ★ L U B

Volunteers needed

Gary Church is partnering with Aldersgate United Methodist Church to help continue their tutoring program. The program has been providing reading and math support to multilingual learner students from Lincoln Elementary School for almost 15 years. The program was suspended in March 2020 due to the pandemic. It will restart this fall on *Tuesdays from 6:30–7:30 p.m., at Aldersgate UMC, 1753 S. Blanchard St. in Wheaton.* Tutors will work with students on homework completion, as well as reading and math skills. If you are interested in volunteering, please register at garychurch.org. For more information, contact **Becky Venezia** through the Church Office or aldersgate.wheaton@gmail.com.



Hey Parents!

Have you ever wanted to talk to your kids about Holy Communion but struggled to find the right words, or not really understood it yourself so you avoided the conversation? Holy Communion, also called the Lord’s Supper and Eucharist, are all names for the sacrament celebrated by United Methodists. The names, though different, highlight various aspects of this holy meal.

“*The Lord’s Supper* reminds us that Jesus Christ is the host and that we participate at Christ’s invitation. [...] The term *Holy Communion* invites us to focus on the self-giving of the Holy God which makes the sacrament an occasion of grace, and on the holiness of our communion with God and one another. [...] *Eucharist*, from the Greek word for thanksgiving, reminds us that the sacrament is thanksgiving to God for the gifts of creation and salvation.”¹

To learn more about our holy meal, please join us for *This Holy Mystery: A Family Event Exploring Holy Communion* on Oct. 2. Blessings and see you Sunday!

what we’re teaching

October Series: *Big and Small*

A five-week series from the Old Testament on Job

Do you ever stop and think about how big God must be? God created this whole world, all of the planets, and stars in the sky . . . God is really big! Knowing God is big can make us feel small and inconsequential. But the truth is, even the small things are a big deal to God. The story of Job will help everyone realize that even though we are small, God listens to our big feelings, God sees the big picture, God cares about every small problem, and we can also be a big help in small ways.



¹ *This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion*, The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church, Nashville, TN, 2004.

what's happening

This Holy Mystery: A Family Event Exploring Holy Communion

Sunday, Oct. 2, 10 a.m.

Holy Communion is one of two sacraments in the United Methodist Church and is open to all who respond to Christ’s love, regardless of age or church membership. But what is this Holy meal, how do we receive it, and what does it mean? Join **Pastor Carey** for an exploration of *this Holy Mystery* that invites us to Christ’s table.



Clocktower Mini Golf & Ice Cream Family Outing

Sunday, Oct. 2, 3 p.m., Clocktower Mini Golf followed by Kimmer’s Ice Cream

Come out for a fun day of fellowship with Gary Kids families! Families are asked to cover their own cost at the event sites.

Children 15 & under:
\$4 (R)/\$5 (NR)
Adults 16+: \$5 (R)/\$6 (NR)
Seniors 60+: \$4 (R, NR)
R=Wheaton Resident;
NR=Wheaton Nonresident





Parent's Night Out

Friday, Oct. 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

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



4th & 5th Grade Fellowship Churchill Woods Restoration

Saturday, Oct. 22, 8:30-11 a.m.

4th & 5th Grade Fellowship students are invited to Churchill Woods Forest Preserve in Lombard for a restoration workday which includes an orientation, a safety talk and a hands-on natural areas management project led by a Forest Preserve liaison. RSVP to **Pastor Carey** at cbebar@garychurch.org.

Helping Hands | Trunk or Treat Outreach Cards

Sunday, Oct. 23, during 9 a.m. Worship



Kids will use their Helping Hands to make welcome cards for Trunk or Treat, one of our most spook-tacular outreach events!

Trunk or Treat

Saturday, Oct. 29, 10-12 p.m., Gary Church Parking Lot

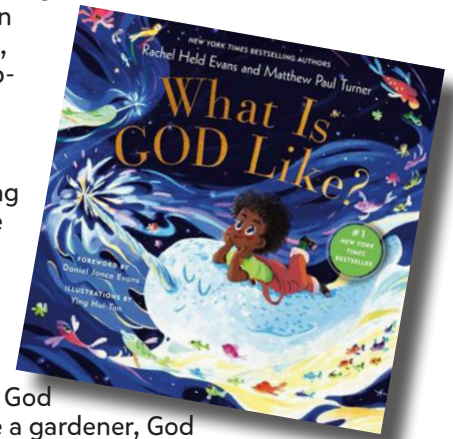
Trunk or Treat offers radical hospitality to our community neighbors and creates lasting memories for all involved. Last year we saw close to 1,000 people, which means we need many hands to make this event spook-tacular. Join in the fun by decorating a trunk, being a general volunteer or donating candy. And be sure to invite your kids, grandkids and neighbors to this fun community outreach event!



book of the month

What is God Like? by Rachel Held Evans and Matthew Paul Turner

Children who are introduced to God, through attending church or having loved ones who speak about God, often have a lot of questions, including this ever-popular one: *What is God like?* The late Rachel Held Evans loved the Bible and loved showing God's love through the words and pictures found in that ancient text. Through these pictures from the Bible, children see that God is like a shepherd, God is like a star, God is like a gardener, God is like the wind and more. God is a comforter and support. And whenever a child is unsure, *What Is God Like?* encourages young hearts to "think about what makes you feel safe, what makes you feel loved, and what makes you feel brave. That's what God is like."





Gary Youth

Love Is the Direction

by Dan Lee

What is God's love like, the love that we are supposed to move towards? When I think about God's love, I am reminded of the old Sunday school song I learned as a kid. "Deep and wide, deep and wide, there's a fountain flowing deep and wide..." (Now, you might be singing it all day. Not sorry!) God's love is deep and wide like a fountain; it always goes deeper and wider.

Like what **Pastor Chris** preached this summer, the story of the Good Samaritan is not just about helping someone in need — checking it off the list so to speak; it's about asking, "who is my neighbor?" And if we are human, we have had to remind ourselves that that someone who we'd like to avoid like the plague is also our neighbor who God calls us to love. God's love moves. It moves deeper and wider.

And there is this guy, named Jesus, who embodied what that love should look like for us. He didn't just preach it, he lived it, he fulfilled it. If Jesus taught us anything through his life, witness, crucifixion and resurrection, he taught us that love is not simply an inner assurance of God's loving presence, but love expresses itself in concrete acts of love, (and here's the kicker...) even towards those who seek to betray, deny and even kill us. Love thy enemy, remember?

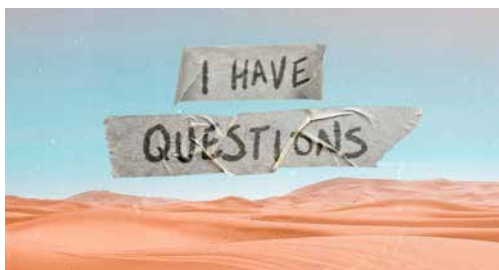
The loving embrace of God results in a life lived in love, even in the face of people we have difficulty loving and embracing, even those who hate us, those who we love to hate on, those we forget that even exist in our world because "out of sight out of mind." There are always more people we should learn to love. God's love goes deeper and wider and God doesn't leave us to go there on our own.

This year, the direction we want to focus on as we keep growing in love is acting through hands on compassion. We are going to go out and serve others, calling our youth families to do it together. We are going to experience a bigger family; learning to, "be like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose." We are going to do this by partnering with other United Methodist youth groups. We will keep growing and learning about systemic racism and how we can be anti-racist through our summer mission. Of course, all this while having a ton of fun.

Thank you so much for your prayers and all the other ways you have given yourselves to our youth. Please continue to pray for Gary Youth as we move towards love this program year.



What are we learning?



Let's face it, life isn't easy. In times of loss, grief, pain or doubt, it's normal to have questions — and it's okay to ask them. If you've ever tried to make sense of your circumstances, or wished life didn't have to hurt so much, or wondered why God won't fix what you're going through, you're not alone. In this month's series, we'll hear about a few people from scripture who know exactly what it's like. We'll explore hard questions you thought you weren't allowed to ask, like "When people are hurting, where is God? When I'm hurting, why does God feel far away? If God is good, why do bad things happen?"

Sunday School 10–11 a.m.

Middle School: Commons E

High School: Heritage Room

October Weekly Gatherings

Middle School:

Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m.

Oct. 26: Halloween Party

High School:

Sundays, 7–8:30 p.m.

Oct. 23: Halloween Party

Oct. 30: No meeting

A Halloween-themed invitation graphic. At the top, there are silhouettes of flying bats on the left and a large full moon in the center, surrounded by smaller bats. Below the moon are four jack-o'-lanterns with glowing faces. The background is a dark orange and black gradient with silhouettes of bare trees. The text is centered and reads: "You're invited to a spooktacular HALLOWEEN PARTY JOIN US IF YOU DARE". Below this, there are two event locations: "Gary Youth Middle School" on Wednesday, October 26, 7-8:30 p.m., and "Gary Youth High School" on Sunday, October 23, 7-8:30 p.m. A dashed orange line separates the locations from the event details. The details include: "Let's party! Meet in the Activity Center for some Halloween fun. There will be a costume contest, games and prizes. COSTUME CONTEST: The criteria include originality of costume, creativity, and attention to detail." At the bottom center is a circular logo with a stylized 'G' and 'Y' inside.

You're invited to a spooktacular
HALLOWEEN
PARTY
JOIN US IF YOU DARE

Gary Youth Middle School
Wednesday, October 26, 7–8:30 p.m.

Gary Youth High School
Sunday, October 23, 7–8:30 p.m.

Let's party! Meet in the Activity Center for some Halloween fun.
There will be a costume contest, games and prizes.
COSTUME CONTEST:
The criteria include originality of costume, creativity, and attention to detail.



Stay Connected - You can stay connected with the latest Gary Youth news in four ways.

- 1.) Visit garychurch.org and navigate to our youth page.
- 2.) Receive weekly Gary Youth emails.
- 3.) Visit us on Instagram ([gary_youth](https://www.instagram.com/gary_youth))
- 4.) Facebook (Gary Youth).

GARY CHURCH *makes a difference*

The lazy days of summer are past, and fall is in the air. Now our attention will turn to all the fall and winter holidays, with children anticipating Halloween and families planning for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Soon enough we will be hearing about Christmas Sharing, the Outreach Christmas luncheon and Heifer International gifts. During all the excitement it will be important to not forget all those around us in need with continued support of all our current mission partners.

- **Joe Ruth**
Missions Chair

Special giving

Oct. 2, *World Communion Sunday*

Oct. 30, *United Voices for Children*

ESSE thanks you

Thank you to all who brought treats or visited ESSE's adult day care in August. **Deb Fagan** and **Jeri Barker** visited from New Orleans and shared fun glasses; **JoAnne Chase** brought smiles with her puppets. Gary Church's next month to provide snacks and visits is April. If you'd like to know more about ESSE, contact **Deb Connor** through the Church Office.



Winter Clothing Collection Drive

Month of October, bin near Sanctuary

Gary Church, along with the Downtown Wheaton Association, Wheaton Community Relations Commission and the People's Resource Center, are partnering for a winter clothing collection drive this October. Please donate gently used and new winter clothing for all ages in the bin near the Sanctuary. The bin will also be available outside at our Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, Oct. 29.



Give the gift of life and donate blood

Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2-6 p.m.

Gary Church will once again host Versiti Blood Center of Illinois for a blood drive.

To donate, please register at garychurch.org/registrations.

We are looking for a couple of people who might be willing to serve as greeters — welcoming guests to Gary Church and directing them on where to go, etc. If you might be interested in being part of this team, please contact **Deb Evans** in the Church Office.



Recycle Styrofoam

Sunday, Oct. 9, 8:45-10:30 a.m., South Driveway

Bring your Styrofoam to church, and we will recycle it for you. Please separate clean food containers from other Styrofoam. **No packing peanuts.**

If you miss the date, feel free to drop off Styrofoam at Dart Container Corporation, 310 Evergreen Dr., North Aurora.



RTO

A “thank you” photo collage from Radical Time Out for the meal Gary Church volunteers prepared and served.



We would like to thank the amazing women of Gary United Methodist Church in Wheaton for preparing a delicious dinner and serving it to us at RTO this evening. We are so thankful for each of you and your generosity and kindness!



Thank you Scouts!

Gary Gardeners would like to thank Troop 35 for distributing 19 yards of double ground mulch. Scoutmaster Jim Fiorato led the scouts in placing the mulch around the entire building, along the courtyard, in the parking lot natural habitat, and along the parking lot perimeter. The entire landscaping now has a fresh look. Visit our website under Ministries and click on the Boy Scout Troop 35 link to check out the photos of the scouts in action.

Barb Wernicke

Music ministry = spiritual formation by Jennifer Whiting

At a staff meeting we were talking about our ministry theme verse, 1 John 4:7. Pastor Chris sang the word “Beloved,” and I immediately knew where he was headed. I jumped in and we sang a spontaneous duet of a Sunday school song we had both learned many (ahem, many) years ago.

*Beloved, let us love one another,
For love is of God,
And everyone that loveth
Is born of God and knoweth God.
He that loveth not [clap, clap, clap]
Knoweth not God, for God is love.
Beloved, let us love one another.*

Then we pointed at each other and sang the last phrase,

First John four, seven and eight!

And then, of course, we fist bumped.

That song is deep in my brain and deep in my heart. A Sunday school teacher put it there. Music teachers, ministers of music and choir directors have placed countless treasures into my soul. The Holy Spirit brings them to mind when I need them most.

Christian music not just an add-on to worship. It is not a filler. It is not entertainment. It’s as essential to Christian growth as preaching, as formative as Sunday school and as foundational as confirmation.

Music lives quietly in our deepest memories. It shapes our theology and reminds us God is near. It carries us through dark times and directs us when we lose the way. It nurtures thankfulness and helps us praise God. It is a storehouse of love and strength.

Music ministry = spiritual formation.

What songs live deep inside you? How do they help you live your faith? Join the conversation at Gary United Methodist Chancel Choir on Facebook.

Chancel Choir welcomes all high school and adult singers. Join them on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. in the Choir Room. You will find a warm welcome. For more information, please contact **Jennifer Whiting** at jwhiting@garychurch.org.

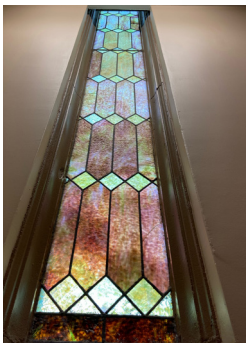
The Men’s Chorus welcomes all tenors and basses. Join them on Saturday mornings at 8 a.m. in the Choir Room for friendly fellowship and hearty singing. For more information, please contact **Phil Roberts** through the office at office@garychurch.org.



Lighting the Way

by Bobbi Wheatley

Prior to the pandemic the History and Records Committee was busy at work organizing all the paper records the church maintained from its earliest beginnings in 1853 when we began as class meetings for a Methodist circuit rider who would come to Wheaton. Our first church building was established in 1860 to be followed by an enormous church built in 1900 on the present site. It was the largest



building in DuPage County and was a gathering place for all kinds of county events as well as Sunday worship. It burned to the ground in 1929. Construction of our present building began quite quickly and was dedicated in 1930. In the stairwell on the east side of the building that heads to the Upper Level you can find a stained-glass window that was rescued from the fire by a neighbor and gifted to the congregation.

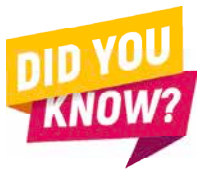
Not only did we discover items including newspaper articles, hand-written documents and countless photographs, but there were also some commemorative pieces of china and a framed piece of stained glass that was gifted to the church after the Lighting the Way building campaign that spanned from 2003-2004 successfully ended. This was the beginning of major renovations to the beautiful building in which we worship and host countless events weekly. One of the things our committee worked on was to have that amazing piece of stained glass installed somewhere.

We had chosen a window where it could be hung however the cost of having this done was prohibitive. Our work and ideas came to a screeching halt when the pandemic hit, and our building was closed.

Fast forward to last March. An unexpected text pinged on my cellphone. It was a photo of the beautiful stained-glass lantern inspired by the Christ the Light of the World window. (You can find this window dedicated in 1954 on the north side of the sanctuary.) The window was suspended exactly where we suggested!

That piece of our committee's unfinished business was complete. It was **Gerry Schmidt** to the rescue! He constructed the scaffold needed to reach the window where the commemorative glass now hangs. **Deb Evans** assisted in spotting Gerry when he climbed up to hang it and to see that it was hanging exactly straight before he climbed down. Gerry skillfully did what we, the committee, hoped to accomplish. The bonus is that the back lighting on the glass at night makes the lantern glow in the darkness.

Be sure to look at both stained glass lanterns, old and recently installed and take note: on the darkest of days and into the night, the Christ the Light of the World lantern appears to be lit as does the second glass lantern facing west, beautiful reminders to let our light shine!



October is Fire Prevention Month

- Gary Church has a complete fire alarm system with sprinklers and 32 fire extinguishers as well as a fire suppression system in the kitchen. All systems are inspected on an annual basis.
- If you are in the church when there's a fire, find the nearest safe exit and evacuate the building. Gary's meeting spot is Memorial Park.
- In case of a fire, do not use the elevator. Those unable to do stairs should go to one of the "Areas of Refuge" located in Stairwells B and C and use the safety button labeled "Push for Help" to reach firefighters for rescue.



Worship in the Park



Worship in the Park



Confirmation Class of 2022



Sign up for ALICE Training

Tuesday, Oct. 11, 7 p.m., Chapel

The Wheaton Police Department is offering an ALICE (Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate) Training at Gary Church. This training will include a presentation and practical exercises that will help teach individuals and groups how to proactively handle the threat in a violent encounter or active shooter event. All are welcome to attend. Register through garychurch.org.



Wreath sales end soon

Gary Church's Troop 35 is selling Christmas greenery through Sunday, Oct. 9. This is the troop's only fundraiser, which helps to fund campouts, equipment and more. You can order online at wheatontroop35.org. When you order, you can choose a scout to give credit to, and that scout will be the one to deliver to your door during Thanksgiving week. Scouts also plan to sell in person in the Commons during Special Blend on Sunday, Oct. 9.



Popcorn sale

Sunday, Oct. 9, Commons

Cub Scout Pack 335 will be selling popcorn to help pay for scout activities.



Restoration Update

We have made significant progress on the stabilization and restoration of the east elevation of the building:

- New stones for rebuild/replacement have been delivered.
- The large capstones on the east side have been reset with new drip edge.
- Capstones on the south side have been removed and a drip edge is being installed.
- Started rebuilding the northeast top corner.
- Cutting and chipping mortar moving along and mostly done.

Once the outside has been completed, we will also be restoring the stone on the inside of the building beneath the balcony. There will be scaffolding on the inside of the building. Please keep a safe distance from the equipment and materials that will be around the building. Please feel free to reach out to me or any member of the Trustees if you have questions.

David Plate

Board of Trustees Chair

Trustees
CORNER



October birthdays*

Happy (90+) birthday to:

Jim Carsten

Dorothy Reed

Our sympathy

Jane Akerman on the death of her husband, Max Akerman, on Aug. 17.

Eric, Michelle and Genevieve Matzke on the death of Michelle's father, Frank, on Sept. 8.

The family of Carol Carr. Carol passed away on Sept. 18.

Thank you

Thanks so much for the wedding anniversary card as well as the get well card for Grace that were signed by many from the Gary Church family. Thanks also for the prayers and pastoral visits. The love and care we have received from our church family has really meant a lot to both of us.

George and Grace Smith

Happy 103rd, Dorothy Reed!

Dorothy Reed is the oldest member of Gary Church, and this October she will celebrate her 103rd birthday. She says she has no special secret to longevity, but she'll tell you she eats well, is generally positive and only takes two pills a day. She says with a laugh, "I'm a good girl." She will also tell you she doesn't exercise, and she enjoys red wine. "You have to live it up while you're living, that's my motto."

You have to live it up while you're living.

Dorothy has outlived her husband and two sons. Her mother lived to 105; her dad to 92. Her mother told her the toughest thing about living so long is you outlive all your friends. Dorothy can attest to that. But, she finds joy in watching out her window as children walk to school.

Dorothy has no real plans for her birthday this year, other than she'll tell you she plans on breathing. You might surmise that a sense of humor has served her well. **Happy birthday, Dorothy!**



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

Remembering the Saints

If you've lost a loved one in the last year, please let us know at garychurch.org. Please share their name, relationship to you and date of death by *Monday, Oct. 24*. We will honor them on *All Saints Sunday, Nov. 6*.



Camerata Chicago Chamber Orchestra

Haydn Cello Concerto in C Major

Saturday, Oct. 1, 3 p.m., College Church

Gary Church members receive a 25% discount with coupon code GUMC through the website cameratachicago.org.



Natural gas costs impacting church

Through Aug. 30, Gary Church has paid Nicor Gas \$11,141. That's more in eight months than we have paid for the entire previous year(s). To help address the increase, the church implemented a program- mable system for the boiler with the help of **Gerry Schmidt** in 2021. It has helped, but costs continue to rise.

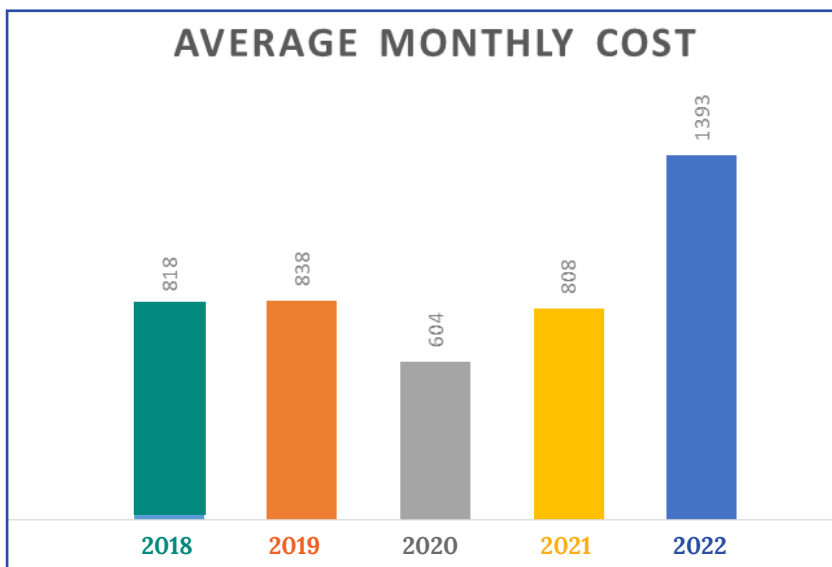
2018 = \$9,810 (average monthly cost \$818)

2019 = \$10,052 (average monthly cost \$838)

2020 = \$7,253 (average monthly cost \$604)

2021 = \$9,691 (average monthly cost \$808)

2022 thru August = \$11,141 (average monthly cost \$1,393)



How can you help?

In the coming weeks, Gary Church will launch its 2023 stewardship campaign. We encourage you to prayerfully consider how you might be inspired to use your spiritual gifts and resources in the church. For a list of ways to volunteer, go to the “Get Connected” link on the registrations page of garychurch.org.

Many ways to give

- Visit garychurch.org/give
- Text the amount you want to give followed by the word “Gary” to 844-928-1220
- Give in the offering plates on Sunday
- Drop off your gift to the Church Office, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
- Mail a check to 224 North Main Street, Wheaton, IL 60187

WinChimes

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

A new thing by Rev. Bruce Anderson

Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.
Isaiah 43:18-19

Summer is over and we are getting back into our routines. But that does not mean that new things are not going on. At Winfield Community United Methodist Church, months of preparation have led us to finally begin negotiating with First UMC of West Chicago about a possible merger.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, our attendance has been about half of what it had been and our giving is down substantially. There-

as one thing prepares to end, another is preparing to be born and grow

fore, our church is no longer viable for the long term. We formed a Futures Committee to look at possible merger partners and they determined that First UMC is the best match to continue our missions and ministries to western DuPage County. The Administrative Board concurred that we should pursue discussions with West Chicago.

We are beginning discussions to look at how a new combined church would be able to increase our work for God's kingdom. Both the Winfield and First UMC congregations have gifted and dedicated members who are working to spread God's good news gospel in our communities. We are hoping that by combining our forces a new church entity can be created that is greater than the sum of its parts to build on our commitments to God's kingdom vision. So, as one thing prepares to end, another is preparing to be born and grow so that God can do a new thing in western DuPage County.

We will keep you informed of how the discussions and planning are progressing. In the coming months, there will be meetings in each congregation and meetings between both congregations to make plans. Our hope is that plans will be ready for a vote at our Church Conference, scheduled for Nov. 28 at 7 p.m. Stay tuned to see how this new thing will develop, with God's help.



In the meantime, our ministries continue. We are collecting hats, gloves and scarves to be distributed to underprivileged children in our schools. Donations can be made at the church, or through **Fran Miller**, and will be blessed and distributed in late October. Please make your donations by Oct. 16 and give the gift of

warmth this winter. Thank you.



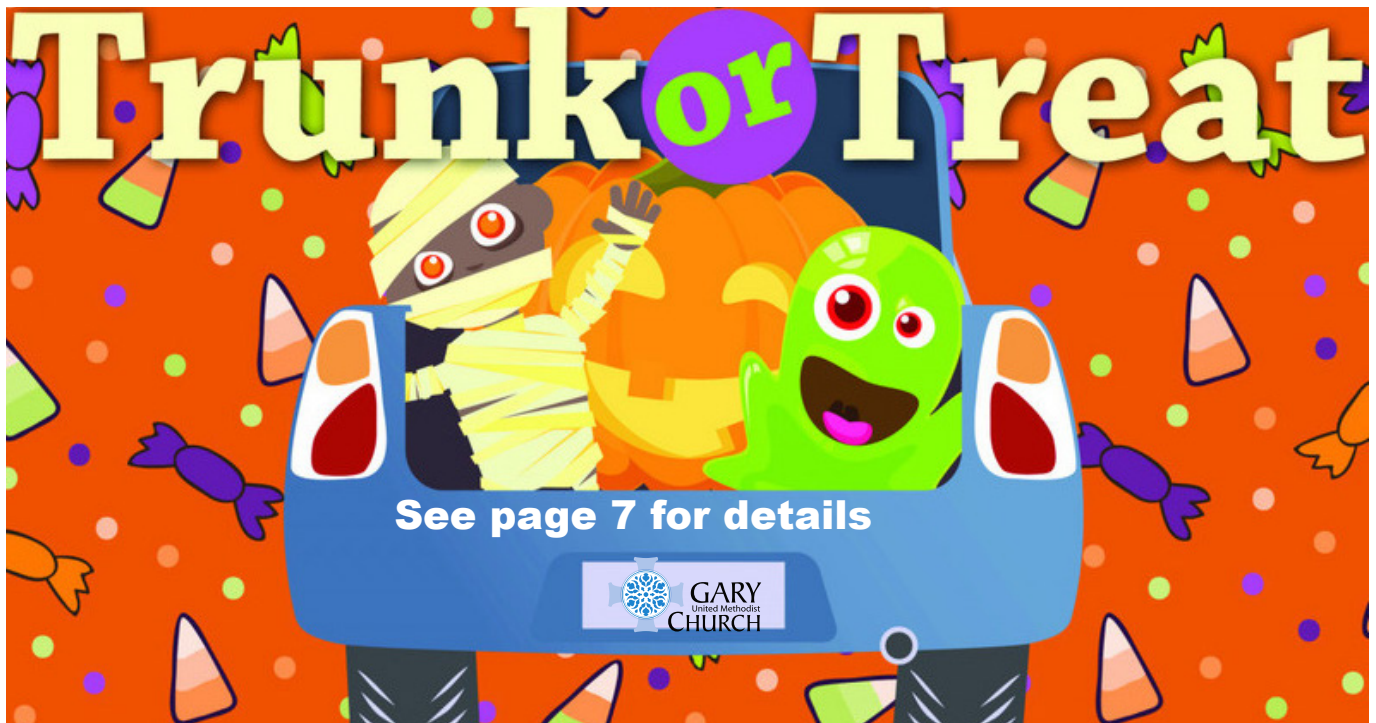


224 North Main Street
Wheaton, IL 60187
630-668-3100 phone
www.garychurch.org

**Winfield Community
United Methodist Church**
Affiliate of Gary Church
www.winfieldumc.org

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CAROL STREAM, IL
60188
PERMIT NO. 6014

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED
PUBLISHED MONTHLY



Saturday, Oct. 29, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Gary Church Parking Lot, 224 N. Main St., Wheaton

Kids come in costume, get tons of candy and vote for the best trunk

Part of Downtown Wheaton Association's Trick-or-Treating