

Chimes

The Newsletter of Gary Church and Winfield Community Church
September 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

Recording online later in the day

Sunday School after worship (starting Sept. 12)

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 October *Chimes* newsletter are due by noon on *Wednesday, Sept. 1*. Announcements for the Sunday bulletin and weekly enews 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.

Meals with Meaning

When you learn about Gary's Meals Ministry, you know there's something special cooking. Each person we spoke with has a story to tell. Sure, there are favorite recipes—a roast, lasagna, chili, salmon, homemade applesauce, fresh-baked cookies. But, when you dig a little deeper, you learn that the meals come from a place of understanding, of empathy. You see, each cook we spoke with had a reason to start making meals for others.



Virginia Blackwell often cooks meals straight from her garden.

Sometimes the cooks in the Gary Meals Ministry make meals for people they don't know. Virginia says, "It's a nice way to meet people." And sometimes they cook for someone nearing the end of their life. No matter who they cook for, Susan says, "It brings me joy that I can do this for people in need."

For **Susan McGuan**, it all started nearly 30 years ago. She had suffered a miscarriage, and she had informed the church that she and Bernard weren't going to be able to attend the Church Council meeting. That's when **Bob** and **Carol Barnes** brought over a meal. Susan says she was "so touched by their thoughtfulness and generosity." From then on, Susan has been making meals for others. "I think about the struggles people are going through. I think about how Jesus took care of people."

I think about how Jesus took care of people.

Fern Evelhoch was undergoing treatment for breast cancer 10 years ago. She and Bob received meals for months. She thought, "I've got to pay this back. I was so grateful for the help. It was nice to know that so many people cared."

For **Virginia Blackwell**, it was 12 years ago when her husband was dying. She had 8-10 people in her house at any one time, and when Gary Church called to offer meals, her stepdaughter answered the phone and didn't hesitate to say yes. Virginia says, "I was so grateful, I said this is something I can do. It's a way to give back. And I like to cook, so that part's easy."

Jennifer Ruth has cooked for the Meals Ministry for many years, and she's also been a recipient after many surgeries. She says receiving a delicious meal means so much. She says when she cooks for people, she "always remembers the gratitude of those who receive them."

Would a meal or more help you? Here's something to think about. Susan says, "I feel awkward asking for help, because I like to help people. But, if you don't give people the opportunity to help you, they miss that experience." Virginia says, "The people who do this, this is not a burden to them. They enjoy it. Take advantage of it."



If you could use a meal, or if you'd like to cook for someone in need, please contact the Church Office. If you know of someone who is living their faith in a wonderful way, please contact **Janet Mathis**, jmathis@garychurch.org.

Pencil that in

by Rev. Dr. Chris Pierson

**Trust in the
promises of
Christ's strength,
peace and
presence.**

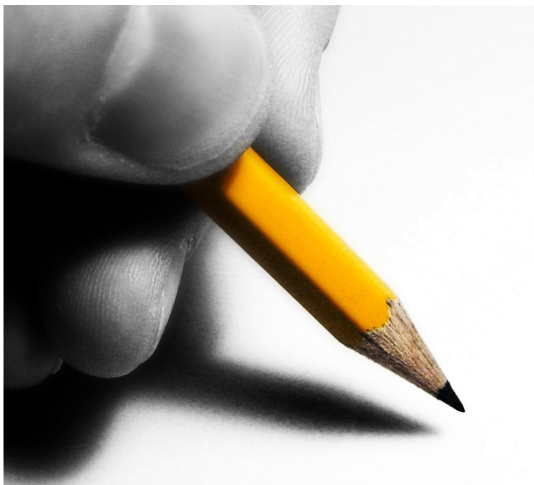
At our annual Gary Church planning meeting, our meeting where we place items on the calendar for the upcoming year, I lamented to our staff that my notebook was full. It was a wonderful gift, called the Evernote Book, that I received from Dick Wisdom, our former district superintendent. It was amazing! It allowed me to take notes in ink on the special paper, scan the document, and save the information in the cloud and on other digital devices—pretty cool. There was a sense of comfort in the sense of permanency and security that came with using that method.

Over the past year, I have found that at staff meetings we have more frequently said to one another, “Pencil that in.” The sense of comfort that we all desire, the deep longing for security, and a sense of permanency are casualties of the coronavirus pandemic.

In a strange twist of fate, when I ordered a new Evernote Smart Notebook, I was surprised when it arrived. Instead of being the size of a journal like the previous version, it was 3.5 x 5.5 the size of an index card. So I am returning it.

In its place, I have ordered a device that will allow me to organize my notes and make my plans for the future much like the previous notebook. However, this comes with a new feature. It still uses ink, and a special kind of pen, but it allows me to wipe the pages and reuse them. I kind of see it as a metaphor for the times that we are living in—a way of saying, “Pencil that in.”

Comfort, security and permanency while often experienced as blessings are not biblical themes. Anyone who has experienced tragedy or trauma in life knows how quickly and delicate and ethereal they can be. Our biblical faith calls us not to comfort and security but contentment—not fear but faith.





The apostle Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, “I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need.” He acknowledges the breadth of human experience and proclaims, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” What remains constant is Christ strengthening us in our difficult moments as we journey through what oftentimes feels like wilderness. Likewise, rather than permanency, Christ offers us peace and God’s presence—“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”

As we approach another ministry season here at Gary Church, we will continue to worship in a variety of ways; we will have many opportunities for fellowship, learning and spiritual formation, small groups, and many opportunities to serve Christ and our neighbors through generous acts of love and giving. The work of God at and through Gary Church continues as we trust in the promises of Christ’s strength, peace and presence. Throughout this edition of the *Chimes*, you will see many opportunities

for people at every stage of life to be strengthened in your life journey. I invite you to look them over, “pencil them in” and commit your way to the way of Christ, our companion and guide.

Christopher L. Preese



Sundays in September

Pencil these events in your calendar:

Bike to Church Sunday

Sept. 5

Enjoy the last weekend of summer with a bike ride to church. Park your bike at the Gary Church bike rack.

Kickoff & Bible Sunday

Sept. 12

At 9 a.m. worship, 3rd/4th grade Bible students and confirmands will receive Bibles. Plus, Sunday School starts again for all ages after 9 a.m. worship.

Bring a Friend to Church Sunday

Sept. 19

All children, youth and adults alike are encouraged to bring a friend to church on Sunday. Enjoy the worship service and Sunday School together.

Styrofoam Sunday

Sept. 26, 8:45–10:15 a.m.

See article on page 13.

Adult Christian Education

It's that time of year when we're so excited to get started with new classes and Bible studies, fellowship opportunities and more. We're planning for some wonderful ways to connect with God and each other. 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.



Special Blend & Worship Talk

Sundays in the Courtyard after 9 a.m. worship

Have you missed gathering after worship and chatting over a cup of coffee? We have too. That's why in September, we are honoring this sacred time of fellowship and including an opportunity for learning from each other. The Worship Talk team will provide conversation questions on each table for anyone interested in starting their own "worship talk."



Anti-Racist Book Club | *How to Be an Antiracist*

Wednesday, Sept. 29, 7 p.m., Gamon Hall

The Anti-Racist Book Club is returning this fall with Ibram X. Kendi's book, *How to Be an Antiracist*.



"Antiracism is a transformative concept that reorients and reenergizes the conversation about racism—and, even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. In this book, Kendi takes readers through a widening circle of antiracist ideas—from the most basic concepts to visionary possibilities—that will help readers see all forms of racism clearly, understand their poisonous consequences, and work to oppose them in our systems and in ourselves."

If you would like to participate in the conversation, please purchase the book on your own and register at garychurch.org.

ation and Discipleship

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

Book Club

Sunday, Sept. 26, 3 p.m., location to be determined

Hey Mama, we know that being a mom to little ones leaves little time for relaxing afternoons with a favorite novel. That's why we are offering the *Mama-Ain't-Got-No-Time-to-Read Book Club*. This monthly gathering will meet to watch a short, informative and inspirational video from MOPS, then discuss the topic. It is a time for fellowship. It is a time for conversation. It is a time for you. Register at garychurch.org



Grief Matters Support Group

Wednesdays, Sept. 8–Nov. 17, 10–11:30 a.m., Commons A

Led by **Jackie Fritz** and **Judy Grote**

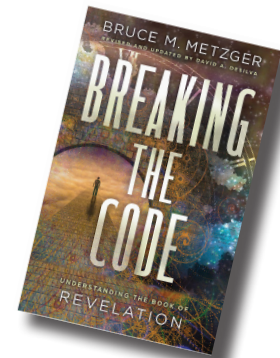
We welcome anyone grieving the death or loss of someone to be a part of the new session of this group. It is a place where you can be with people who understand how you feel and the pain of your loss. You'll gain valuable tools to help you as you continue on the journey of grief. Register at garychurch.org.



Women's Bible Study | *Breaking the Code*

First and third Wednesdays, 3 p.m., Anderson Room starts Sept. 15

This fall, the Women's Bible Study will dive into Revelation, using Bruce M. Metzger's book, *Breaking the Code*, along with Amplify Media's videos, to help guide the discussion. We'll discuss symbolism, themes, archeology and more. The Women's Bible Study is open to new participants; please contact the Church Office to reserve a copy of the book.



Walkers & Talkers Fellowship

Tuesdays, 10 a.m., Zoom; Thursdays, 9 a.m., Commons

Stop in and chat with this welcoming fellowship group. Walkers & Talkers meets on Zoom on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and in person on Thursdays at 9 a.m. Contact the Church Office for the Tuesday Zoom code or simply come to the Commons on Thursdays.



Hey parents! We know being a parent isn't always easy. From dinner battles won with chicken nuggets, to sticky backseats and unidentified smells, to story times that end when you fall asleep, parenting is not for the faint of heart. We want you to know that we feel your struggle and are here to help. One of the ways we can help is by partnering with you to guide your children on their faith journey. Actually, this is one of our favorite things to do. That's why this fall we are excited to return to Sunday School, Kids' Church, 4th & 5th Grade Fellowship, family events and more; but mostly, we are excited to see you again... even if you're running late and forgot to have breakfast.

what we're teaching

September Sunday School series on Moses and the Exodus

An important part of childhood is learning which grown-ups you can trust. The very first phone number most kids tend to learn is an emergency number because it's important to know who to call when we need help. In this series, we'll help kids see that they can always call on God for the things they need. As kids hear the story of Israel escaping slavery in Egypt (and what happened afterward), they'll discover that God helps us when we're helpless, helps us in our weakness, helps us when we're in trouble, and will even help us help others. God is the help we need—always!



what's happening in September

Kickoff Sunday

Sunday, Sept. 12

Calling all Gary Kids, preschool 3s through grade 5: We are opening classes and returning to Sunday School after 9 a.m. worship! Be sure to complete a Gary Kids registration form at garychurch.org and join us each week to grow in faith.

Third & Fourth Grade Bible

Sundays, Sept. 12–Nov. 14, after 9 a.m. worship

On Sunday, Sept. 12, Gary Church will give each third and fourth grade child a Bible during 9 a.m. worship. This is an important event in a child's Christian Education, as well as the life of our church. With the presentation of these Bibles, we pray children come to realize more fully the importance of the Bible as an integral part of their life. To help students become more familiar with their new Bible, a Third and Fourth Grade Bible Class will be taught during Sunday school after 9 a.m. worship. Contact **Pastor Carey** for more information.

Friend Fest

Sunday, Sept. 19

Bring a friend to Sunday School and get an ice cream sundae. Ok, you'll get ice cream even if you don't bring a friend, but you'll have more fun if you do!

Helping Hands | Red Bird Mission

Sunday, Sept. 26 at 9 a.m. Kids' Church

All children ages preschool 3s through grade 5 are invited to the Lower Level to use their "helping hands" for Red Bird Mission, the only K-12 Christian school in this area of Appalachia that provides high-quality education regardless of students' ability to pay.

4th & 5th Grade Fellowship Candy Apple Crazy

Friday, Sept. 17, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Fourth and fifth grade students are invited to Gary's Courtyard for some candy apple fun! We'll make, eat, and enjoy candy apples, play games, and learn about the sweetness of God's love. RSVP to **Pastor Carey**.





tip of the month

It's not always easy to know how to help kids spend time with God on their own, in an age-appropriate way, but here are a few ideas:

- Make sure your child has a Bible they can understand. We use the *Deep Blue Kids Bible* for our third graders but also love Sally Lloyd-Jones' *Storybook Bible* for preschool and kindergartners.
- Teach them a simple way to pray. We like the Five-Finger Prayer which helps children know who to pray for. Thumb: those who are closest to you; Index Finger: those who instruct you; Middle Finger: those who lead; Ring Finger: those who are weak; Pinky: yourself.
- Play kid-friendly worship songs at home. We love our *Treasured VBS CD*, but you can also find Kids Worship Music on Spotify or look for *Listener Kids* videos on YouTube.



Reminder to update Safe Sanctuary commitment

The congregation of Gary United Methodist Church is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all who participate in the ministries and activities sponsored by the church. It is part of our baptismal covenant to those who have been commended to our care.

On a regular basis, we ask those within our congregation who interact with our children, youth and vulnerable adults to complete a form agreeing to abide by Safe Sanctuary policies. Being the intergenerational congregation that Gary Church is, nearly everyone falls into this category. If you need to update your form, or you need to complete a form for the first time, please visit garychurch.org or contact **Deb Evans** through the Church Office.



Gary Youth

September Youth Activities

Fall Retreat

Middle School
and High School

Friday, Sept. 24–
Sunday, Sept. 26

Register at garychurch.org.

Weekly Gatherings

Middle School

Wednesday, Sept. 8
7–8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 15
7–8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 22
No Meeting (Fall Retreat)

Wednesday, Sept. 29
7–8:30 p.m.

High School

Sunday, Sept. 5
No Meeting (Labor Day)

Sunday, Sept. 12
6–7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 19
6–7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 26
No Meeting (Fall Retreat)

Chase Mann's going away party

When we heard that the Mann family was moving to Michigan, we had to let Chase know he will always be one of us, Gary Youth. We got ice cream at Kimmer's one last time together and shared our best memories of our shenanigans with Chase. Each of us also brought him a gift that we knew Chase would like (mostly candy). We also gathered around him and prayed for him. We are sad he is leaving us, but we also know that God goes with him and his family. We prayed that God would help them find a new church family who will love them as much as we do!



Gary Youth Stay Mission 2021

This year, since we were not able to travel on our normal mission trip, we stayed close to home to serve our own community. On day one, we spread flyers around the Gary Church neighborhood to invite our neighbors to help us collect school supplies for Kids Above All and did some much-needed cleaning in the youth room. On day two, we visited with **Holly Trueblood**. She shared with us how she came to be a disciple of Jesus. We got to serve her by weeding and clearing out overgrown bushes on her property. On day three, we practiced the Sabbath. Kathrine Inserra, a Deaconess from Kids Above All, started our day off with a meditation using the prayer labyrinth in our church Courtyard. We also had fun bowling at Fox Bowl. On our last day of stay missions, we helped **Pastor Carey** prepare VBS kits, organize Sunday school supply cabinets, and finished off the day by collecting school supplies from our neighbors. They really came through for us!



Each day, we explored what it means to “Arise” together based on Ecclesiastes 3:1 (ESV), “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” This past year, we experienced what it was like to refrain from doing many of the things we love and treasured. It was hard for all of us. Even when things started to lighten up, we found ourselves entering a new “season” each day, week and month. It has been exhausting in every “season.” Nevertheless, God is always working, bringing resurrection in us and in the world around us. Knowing this helps us embrace the value in every part of life, even the hard parts.





Youth Council update

In the month of August, our agenda was to explore a four-year plan for Summer missions for our high school Gary Youth. In order to be of one mind, we discussed the following questions:

- What is the purpose of short-term missions?
- What is poverty?

What is the purpose of short-term missions? When we go on short-term missions, while we do accomplish important work, the real mission field is inside of us. We believe that our goal in going on short-term missions is to help our youth come back and apply what they experienced in their everyday lives. How can they live out justice when they go to school, when they meet new people, when they receive their first paycheck or become a teacher? Making actual change in the world takes more work and engagement than one short-term mission trip, but it can be an important piece of the big picture, a life-long commitment to do no harm, do all the good we can and stay in love with God.

What is poverty? Most times when we think of poverty, we immediately think of a lack of material needs. While this might be true in some cases, the cause of poverty may also be a lack of knowledge, oppression by powerful people and even personal sins. There is more than one type of need out there. This means that what we do while on mission trips can and should vary. We can use our gifts to educate, do social justice work, teach and preach and, of course, provide material resources. As a council, we decided that we want our youth to experience all of these types of missions. And so, while we don't have the exact details yet, we decided:

First year (2022): Construction

Second year (2023): International

Third year (2024): Racial Justice/Chicago

Fourth year (2025): Environmental Justice

GARY CHURCH *makes a difference*

I hope you all got to share in Christopher Hays' guest sermon in June. If not, you can find it on garychurch.org. We hope you will continue to support Chris' mission work as he

is a wonderful example of the Christian ideal in the modern world. Chris is also making an extremely important impact with his work.

In October, you'll have a chance to support World Communion Sunday and United Voices for Children through special envelopes.

Missions also wants to thank all of you who have stepped up to support our mission efforts. We hope you will continue to think and act for our neighbors, near and far, in the uncertain times of the last year and as we look ahead to the coming years. Thank you!

Joe Ruth
Missions Chair



Save the date for Church Conference

The 2021 Prairie Central Church Conference (Aurora) for Gary Church is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 8. All are welcome to attend.



Walk with Winfield for "Good Old Days" parade

Join our friends at Winfield Community United Methodist Church for the Good Old Days parade on Sunday, Sept. 12. Gather at Winfield Community UMC at 1 p.m., and enjoy walking to celebrate the centennial of Winfield. Contact **Fran Miller** through Gary's Church Office to participate.



Health Team updates: check weekly e-news

As of the printing of this edition of the *Chimes*, Gary's Health Team has updated the following mask policy:

In keeping with recently-updated CDC masking guidance which recommends that everyone, including fully-vaccinated individuals, wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas with substantial and high transmission, we strongly recommend that everyone wear a mask while inside the church—in the Sanctuary and all other parts of the building. Also, consistent with the governor's announcement that masks will be required in schools, we require that masks be worn on the Lower Level when children are present and during indoor gatherings with youth.

Please remember maintaining social distance and staying home with any type of cold-like symptoms reduces transmission. Please continue to self-monitor, take a step back from the person next to you, and stay home if not feeling well.

As governmental guidelines and mandates continue to change, our plans and mitigations will also change. The weekly e-news, which Gary Church emails to you on Thursdays, is the best source for up-to-the-minute news and updates. If you haven't seen the e-news in a while, please check your spam folder. If you need to update your email address, please contact the Church Office.



Gary Church now on Instagram

Do you love to scroll through photos on Instagram? Follow [garyunitedmethodistchurch](https://www.instagram.com/garyunitedmethodistchurch).



Christmas wreaths on sale now

Gary Church's Troop 35 is selling Christmas greenery now *through Sunday, Oct. 10*. This is the troop's only fundraiser, which helps to fund campouts, equipment and more. To order, check out the troop website, 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. If you have questions, you can contact **Janet Mathis**, through the Gary Church Office.

Styrofoam recycling is back

Sunday, Sept. 26, 8:45–10:15 a.m., South Driveway

This ministry helps us live out our faith by keeping non-degradable polystyrene out of landfills. Please separate rinsed food containers from packaging materials—that's the way the center requires us to deliver them. No packing peanuts.

If you have a large quantity saved up, please consider taking it to the recycling center yourself— it's open 24 hours/7 days a week at 310 Evergreen Dr., North Aurora. Or contact **Elaine McCluskey** through the Church Office for assistance.

We plan to schedule another collection event soon, and we'll share details in upcoming editions of the e-news and *Chimes*. Thanks for caring for God's creation and living your faith in this very tangible way.



SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN CAMBODIA

The Gary Church community is supporting the education of two primary school-aged girls and several high school and college-aged women in Cambodia and Africa. You met Glory and Angela, who attend primary school in Nairobi, in the *June Chimes*. In this edition, you will meet the wonderful young women in Cambodia.

Cambodia

Cambodia, situated between Thailand and Vietnam, is home to the Khmer people. The country, while beautiful and thriving in some areas, is not without its challenges. Cambodia has experienced invasion and oppression throughout its existence; particularly devastating was the late 1970s when 25% of the population, including most of the country's educated population—professors, journalists, doctors, students, lawyers, etc.—died at the hands of a brutal dictator. Consequently, the country's citizens—especially rural females—have struggled to rebuild economically, socially and intellectually. The education of young women plays a key role in the lives of these individuals as well as the country.

UMCOR Project

Gary's contribution of \$1000 will support five students. This UMCOR project increases the

chances that these young women will succeed in school by providing uniforms and supplies, extra classes in math and English, books (students must pay for their books if they are to take them home for study) and money for internet (they are currently schooling remote due to COVID-19). These young women are from rural provinces with parents that are farmers, pastors, home makers and, in some cases, single parents struggling to support the family.

While these girls have different circumstances, they are all trying to keep going in the face of a second year of COVID-19 impacted education. All five are dealing with unstable internet and difficult study conditions in small homes among siblings, as well as missing their friends. They know that if they give up now, they will become like their neighbors—most of whom have quit school and work in factories.

In their applications, the students each expressed gratitude for the support from the Gary community and ask that we pray for them in their studies, pray for their wisdom and strength and pray for the end to the COVID-19 situation that keeps them away from friends and teachers.

Please keep Suzan, Sosma, Nisa, Vicheka and Ratha in your prayers, that God's love will give them strength and resolve as they continue the next year of their education. Please also pray for the UMCOR project leaders— Andrew Lee and his team in Cambodia—who are dedicating their lives to furthering the education of women.

—Judy Selby, Co-Chair of Educate a Girl



Hem Ratha, grade 9
Ratha's dream is to be a soldier.



Seik Nisa, grade 9
Nisa's dream is to become an accountant.



Soum Vicheka, grade 10
Vicheka wants to become a doctor so she can help her family and others when they get sick.

Sok Sosma, grade 12
Sosma wants to be a tour guide so she could tell the world how beautiful Cambodia is.

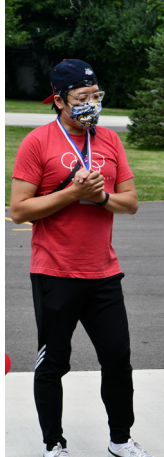


Seak Suzan, grade 10
Suzan's dream is to become a medical doctor.



Summer fun

Enjoy these photos from Family Camp, VBS and BLAST Camp.



Happy 70th anniversary to Norvis and Beverly Land

They say their relationship with God, surrounding themselves with church friends and kissing each other good night (and good morning) have contributed to their long marriage.



Norvis and Beverly Land on their third date.

September anniversaries*

Happy (50+) anniversary to:

Bob & Carol Barnes

George & Grace Smith

Bob & Diane Martin

John & Donna Hamilton

Norvis & Beverly Land

New Opportunities*

David, Liesl & Chase Mann on their move to Michigan

David, Shelley, Sam, Alex & Eli Bornstein on their move to Wisconsin

Our sympathy

Linda, Rachel & Lucas Newman on the death of Linda's father, Richard Lucas, on April 7 and Linda's mother, Bonnie Lucas, on June 28.

The family of Berwyn Fred. Berwyn passed away on June 30.

Michael, Richelle, Aria & Christian Villanueva, and Roger & Rachel Pangilinan, on the death of Richelle's uncle and Rachel's brother, Eliezer del Mundo.

Lorrie Brand on the death of her brother, Lonnie Wolf.

Charlie Harrison & Roberta Valent, Charrisse & Mark on the death of Charlie's mother, Charlene Harrison, on July 14.

Michelle, Nic, Adalynn & Landon Younkin on the death of Michelle's grandfather, John Cotton, on July 29.

Gerry & Sharon Schmidt on the death of Gerry's mom, Alice Schmidt, on July 29 and Gerry's uncle, Oswald (Ossie) Schmidt, on July 25.

Sally Hill on the death of her daughter, Mindy Hill

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

Thank You

The family of Bev Jones would like to thank her Gary Church family for all of the expressions of sympathy and support after her recent passing. We appreciate the love and friendship shown over the many years she and Dad were members at Gary.

Ellen Prignano

Thank you for all the phone calls, cards and prayers that I received after my gallbladder surgery. I am recovering and am looking forward to getting back to worship and seeing everyone.

Pat Davisson

Dear Friends,

I appreciate your cards and messages at the death of my Aunt Doris. My mom was the oldest of six children, and Doris was the youngest of those six. As it turned out, Doris was only 9 years older than I am. She was blessed with children, grandchildren, and she was blessed with eight great-grandchildren. The youngest, a girl named Kinsley, turned 1 year old on the day that Doris died. Praise God for the cycle of life!

**Sincere thanks,
Judy Grote**

Thank you all for the cards, phone calls and prayers concerning the death of my younger brother, Lonnie. Being unable to attend his service in New York State, it was a comfort to have the love and support of my Gary Church family. As I have often told my family, joining Gary Church 54 years ago was one of the wisest decisions that Jim and I ever made.

Lorrie Brand

Thank you to the Gary Gardeners

A big shout out to a handful of workers in the Gary Gardeners group. They have weeded, watered, planted and trimmed. Many hours have been devoted to beautifying our church gardens. Please consider joining the Gary Gardeners. Contact the Church Office if you can help.

Thank you so much for your generous donations to World Relief the past few weeks. The items that the congregation gave will be put into welcome kits for refugee families who recently settled in the U.S. These donations are crucial for World Relief's mission of refugee resettlement and meeting the tangible needs of refugees as they make the difficult transition into a new culture and community. Again, thank you so much for your generous support, it is greatly appreciated.

Claire Austin

Missions wants to give a heartfelt shout out and thanks to **Claire Austin** for her work organizing and implementing the July supply drive for World Relief's Refugee Welcome Kits. The drive was a resounding success due not only to Claire's efforts but also to everyone who chipped in and provided badly needed supplies.



WinChimes

Winfield Community United Methodist Church

An Affiliate of Gary United Methodist Church

Sing a new song to the Lord

By Rev. Bruce Anderson



O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Psalm 96:1-6

The psalmist tells us to sing a new song to the Lord and to tell of his salvation to those we meet day by day. ("Day by Day" coincidentally being a hit song from the musical "Godspell".) We recently did that at Winfield Community UMC as part of Winfield's Centennial celebration. We held an outdoor hymn sing at our new gazebo that attracted over 50 people from around the area, including two village trustees and a retired pastor, to raise their voices in praise to God. For almost an hour people called out their favorite hymns to be sung, led by **Marty** and **Melinda Keske** and accompanied by **Olive Aliga** on the keyboard, and lifted their praise to God in song. It was wonderful to be able to gather again as the people of God and lift our voices in praise.

Singing was central to the worship of Israel, as it is central to our United Methodist worship, which is why 150 psalms have been memorialized in the Bible. King David wrote 73 songs of praise that have come down to us. But he could be considered a slacker next to the 6,300 hymns credited to Charles Wesley, according to Wikipedia. Singing praise to God was the first thing Moses and the Israelites did after escaping Egypt through the Red Sea. Music has the power to heal and to take us beyond the limits of our physical selves, lifting us a little closer to heavens, whether we are making it or just listening to it. It is one reason that I like to include a psalm in each of our worship services.

Music has the capacity to lift us beyond our individual, ordinary corporal finitude in ways that help us touch the infinite and transcendent. It can lift us out of our ordinary world for a short time to commune our soul with God so that we can understand that no matter the situation of our lives, that we are not alone. We are spiritually connected to the God of the universe across time and space. It is nice to lift our voices to God in song in praise to express our feelings; and something that we can do on our own as well as in community. So, keep a song in your heart and God's praise on your lips even when, if not especially when, life gets hard. It is a great way to lift our soul and our mood beyond ourselves as an offering to God. The hymn sing was so well received that, by popular demand, we will do it again on at least an annual basis.

Blessings,
Pastor Bruce



Winfield Community United Methodist Church

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Kickoff Sunday **September 12**

At 9 a.m. worship, 3rd/4th grade Bible students and confirmands will receive Bibles. Plus, Sunday School starts again for all ages after worship.