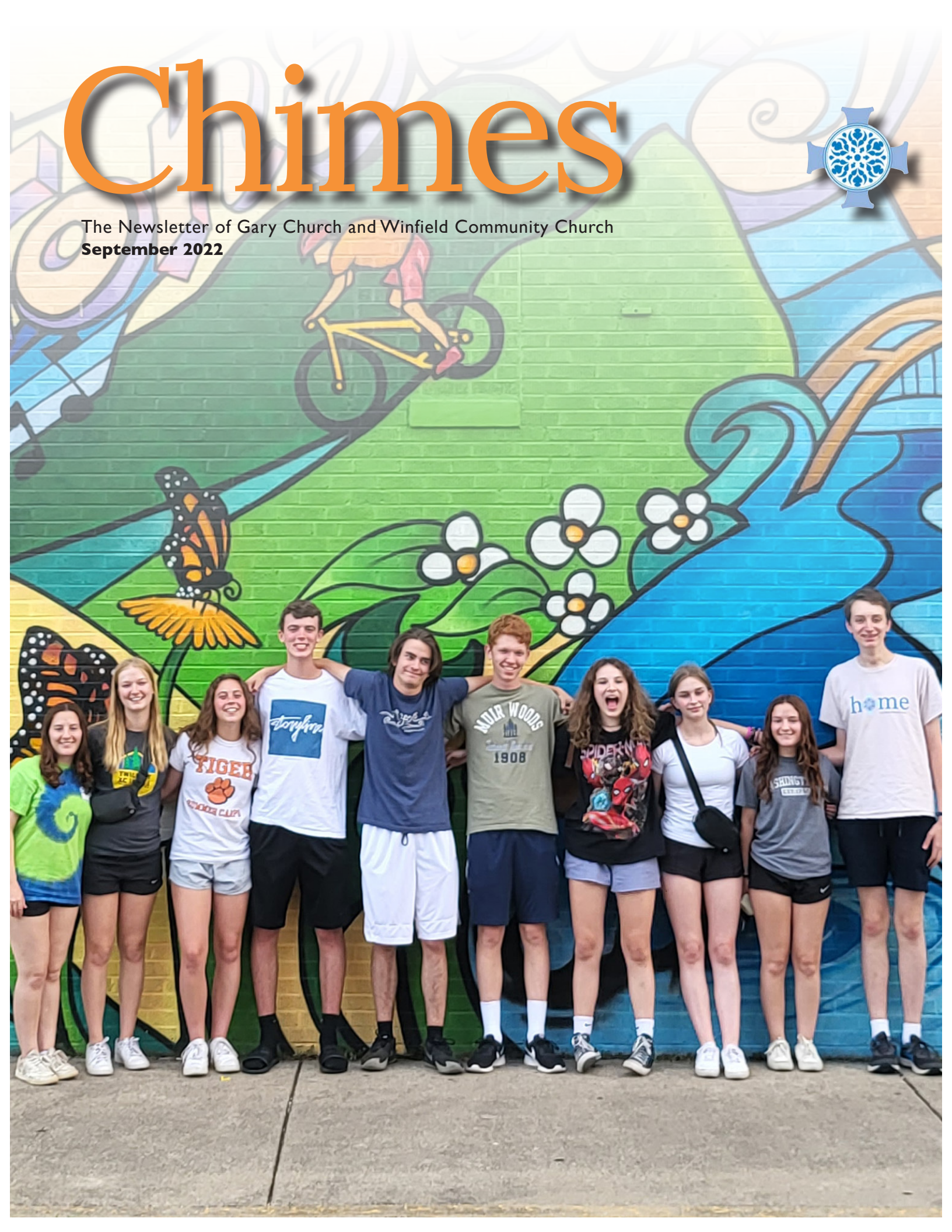


Chimes



The Newsletter of Gary Church and Winfield Community Church
September 2022



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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, starting Sept. 11

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 October *Chimes* newsletter are due by noon on *Thursday, Sept. 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.

Connected In Christ: What's Your Story?

This year at annual conference our theme was “Connected in Christ: Come to the Water.” We were reminded that what truly connects us to one another is our relationship in and through Christ. We are connected in Christ. But what does that mean?

I believe that our relationship in and through Christ is what distinguishes the church from any other institution and this unique relationship is different from any other relationship that we have.

Author and speaker Brené Brown once offered a definition of connection that resonates

Owning our story can be hard but not nearly as difficult as spending our lives running from it.

deeply with me. Brown said, “I define connection as the energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard, and valued; when they can give and receive without judgment; and when they derive sustenance and strength from the relation-

ship.” Authentic community and connection go hand in hand. We desire and seek the freedom to be our authentic selves when we are with one another.

In my many years of pastoral ministry, I have come to deeply appreciate individual's strong desire to belong to authentic community. People have a desire to experience connection with God and with others. Yet, people wonder: Can I share my story with others? Can I be vulnerable with others and others with me? Will I be judged by others because of my weaknesses? If others knew my story, would I still feel valued and loved?

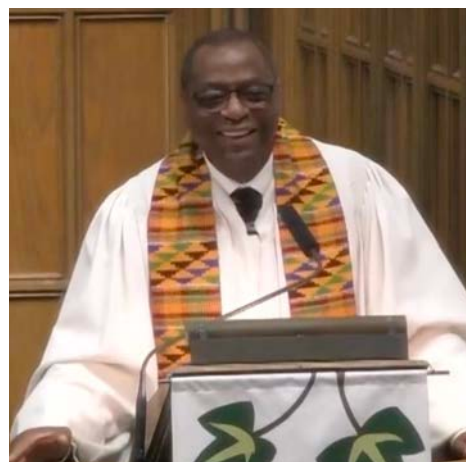
Each of us might answer these questions differently. For me, I believe that when we truly keep “Christ at the center” of our relationships we can become increasingly more open to sharing our story and, when we come to understand our status in Christ, we see ourselves and all of our relationships through new eyes.

While Brown speaks of “energy,” we as Christians speak of the power of the Holy Spirit and the presence of Christ. The story of Pentecost is the story of the Holy Spirit creating community. The Spirit rested as tongues of fire on people and gave them power to speak of the marvelous deeds of God and enabled those gathered to hear in their own native languages of God's deeds of power. The Holy Spirit is a creative power within the lives of Christians but even more so within Christian community.

Yet, the willingness to risk and be vulnerable remains a challenge. Most of us have experienced being burned before — and I don't mean by the power of the Spirit.

However, I would also agree with Brown, who suggests, “Owning our story can be hard but not nearly as difficult as spending our lives running from it. Embracing our vulnerabilities is risky but not nearly as dangerous as giving up on love and belonging and joy — the experiences that make us the most vulnerable. Only when we are brave enough to explore the darkness will we discover the infinite power of our light.”

One of the most amazing experiences I have witnessed of being connected in Christ was strangely among a group of Christians at the Riverbend Correctional Facility in Nashville, Tennessee. These brothers in Christ had stripped themselves of pretense and risked great vulnerability because of their understanding of who they were in Christ. Who we are in Christ is our true status — not our past, not our mistakes, not our sins, or even our crimes. “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being” wrote the Apostle Paul (2 Cor. 5:17). In Christ, we are truly seen, valued, loved and strengthened for new ministries of reconciliation.



My prayer for Gary Church is that we will increasingly become a place where all feel seen, heard and valued; where we can give and receive without judgment; and where, when we share our story, we derive sustenance and strength as we discover our connection in Christ.

Christopher L. Pearson

ADULT

Christian Education and Discipleship

Paul, the Apostle: The Gospel, the Messenger, and Adaptability Sundays, Sept. 11–Oct. 16, 10 a.m., Chapel led by Dr. Gene Green

Like the mythical character Odysseus in Homer's *Odyssey*, the apostle Paul was the quintessential adaptable man ("Tell me, O Muse, of the adaptable man who travelled far and wide..."). While zealously hunting down followers of Christ, he encountered the risen Jesus who charged him to spread the good news of God's salvation. In this 6-week 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*. Paul crosses cultural boundaries, adapts to unexpected realities, and offers hope, healing, and salvation to people who truly need God's good news — both then and now. The question Paul puts to us is how can we serve Christ and remain faithful to the gospel as we adapt and respond to the personal, social, religious, philosophical, and political matrices of our time. Far from being a musty message about some vague figure from the distant past, Luke's telling of Paul's service to Christ reverberates with thunderous messages for our day.

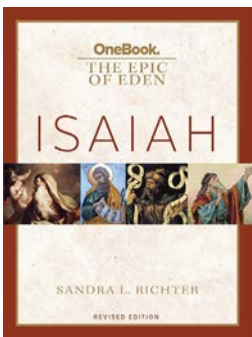


Women's Bible Study | *The Epic of Eden: Isaiah*

Wednesdays, 3 p.m., starting Sept. 7
Anderson Room

Often named the fifth gospel, the book of the prophet Isaiah has more to say about Israel's coming Messiah than any other Old Testament book. Brilliant, courageous, uncompromising, this prophet declared that the year of the Lord had come, and God's people needed to either step up or stand down. Indeed, when Isaiah spoke, kings trembled.

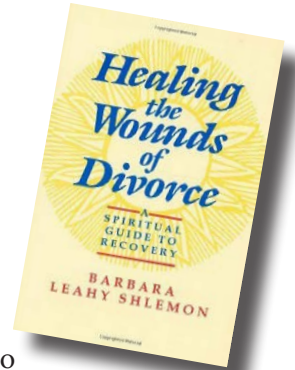
This fall, Gary's Women's Bible Study will examine Dr. Sandra Richter's *The Epic of Eden: Isaiah*, a 10-week study that explains Israel's religion and economy, explores the definition and role of the prophets, and helps us to apply the message of this great champion of the faith to our lives today.



Divorce Support

Second and fourth Wednesdays
5:45–6:45 p.m., Anderson Room
starting Sept. 14.

Are you going through or have recently gone through a divorce? Divorce Support offers a place to share, connect and heal. Each session will explore a chapter in *Healing the Wounds of Divorce: A Spiritual Guide to Recovery* by Barbara Leahy Shlemon and creates a safe space for participants to work through the painful experience of divorce in a caring and supportive community. Child care is available. For more information or to register contact **Carey Williams Bebar**, cbebar@garychurch.org.



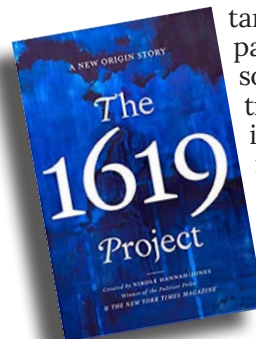
Anti-Racist Book Club | *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story*

Wednesday, Sept. 28 & Oct. 26*
7 p.m., Commons

The New York Times Magazine's award-winning "1619 Project" issue reframed our understanding of American history by placing slavery and its continuing legacy at the center of our national narrative. Nikole Hannah-Jones' book substantially expands on that work, weaving together 18 essays that explore the legacy of slavery in present-day America with 36 poems and works of fiction that illuminate key moments of oppression, struggle and resistance. The essays show how the inheritance of 1619 reaches into every

part of contemporary American society, from politics, music, diet, traffic and citizenship to capitalism, religion and our democracy itself. To join the conversation, purchase the book on your own and register at garychurch.org.

*We will discuss chapters 1–8 in September and 9–18 in October.



Men's Bible Study update

Tuesdays, 7–8:30 p.m., starting Sept. 13
Anderson Room, plus on Zoom

The Men's Bible Study is a great time for men to get together for learning, discussions and sharing our joys and concerns as we pray for one another.

The dates below are tentative and could change based on other events at Gary Church:

Sandra Richter's *Epic of Eden: Jonah*
Sept. 13 – Nov. 1

Sandra Richter's *Epic of Eden: Ruth*
Nov. 15 – Dec. 20

Matt Williams' *The Gospel of John*
Jan. 3 – March 21

If you are interested, please contact **Marion Rybarczyk** through the Church Office.

Grief Matters Support Group

Wednesdays, Sept. 14–Nov. 16, 10–11:30 a.m.
Commons

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

–Jackie Fritz & Judy Grote



FAITH CLUB

Faith Club Field Trip

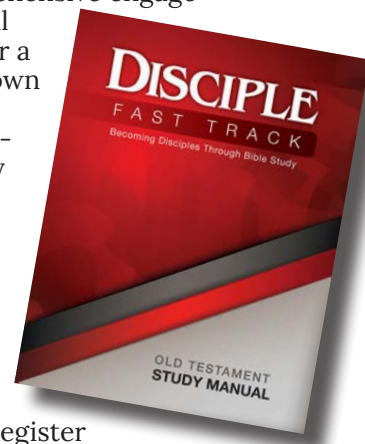
Saturday, Sept. 17
leave Gary Church at 10 a.m.

Faith Club is kicking off the fall season with a field trip to St. George Byzantine Catholic Church, located at 720 Rural Street in Aurora. Our guide will be the priest, Father Fred, who will show us the remarkable icons on the walls, windows, screens and ceilings. The tour begins at 11 a.m., so carpools will leave Gary Church at 10 a.m. All women of Gary Church are invited to join our sisters of other Abrahamic faiths for this exciting opportunity. To be added to the email list, contact **Kim Austin** through the Church Office.

Disciple Fast Track: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study

Thursdays, 7 p.m. starting Sept. 15
led by Rev. Dr. Jamie Hanna Williams

Studying the Bible is essential to becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ. *Disciple Fast Track*, an adaptation of the original, best-selling Disciple Bible Study, provides a viable option for busy people seeking comprehensive engagement with the entire Biblical text. The group will meet for a total of 24 weeks, broken down into two 12-week sessions. Each *Disciple Fast Track* session will be based on weekly reading, engaging videos and thoughtful discussion. Participants will have the opportunity to take a spiritual gifts assessment and determine meaningful ways they can serve and live out their discipleship commitment. Register online at garychurch.org.



Learn more about "Class Meeting"

Sunday, Sept. 18, 6:30 p.m., Commons

Recently in her sermon, "Roots and Walking Shoes," **Pastor JoAnne Chase** spoke about being in a spiritual dry-spell after the pandemic. She shared that she found a fresh expression of growth in joining a "Class Meeting." Many have felt this renewal through these Wesley small groups. We invite you to join a Class Meeting as well!



The purpose of The Class Meeting is to provide a place for people who want to know Christ, or know more of Christ, to grow... starting where they are! It is a group which meets regularly and answers this simple question: "How is your life in Christ this week?" We encourage each other and pray for each other in healthy ways. As Christians, we can't live our life in Christ alone. The Class Meeting acknowledges this fact and creates a space where people pray, laugh, celebrate, forge friendships, and become transformed by Christ...together!

Join us in this journey to follow Christ more deeply through Class Meeting! Our groups decide together when and where to meet. Last year, our one Class Meeting multiplied into five! New Class Meetings will start in October. Contact the Church Office or **Pastor Brian** (bjones@garychurch.org) for more information.

Service of Word & SACRAMENT

Starting on Sept. 11
Sundays in the Sanctuary
11 a.m.



Gary Church will now offer the Service of Word & Sacrament. Listen to the word of God through scripture, prayer, a sermon and hymns. Each Sunday, you'll experience either the sacrament of communion or baptism. All are welcome to this informal and intimate weekly service held in person in the Sanctuary.

Gary Church will continue offering a 9 a.m. worship service in person in the Sanctuary, complete with Kids' Church and child care, plus livestreaming and recorded worship at garychurch.org.

Bike to Church Sunday

Sept. 4

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



Save the Date

Gary's Annual Charge Conference

Monday, Nov. 14, 7 p.m.



Welcome Team Spotlight: **Ushers**

Featuring an interview with **Michael Graves**, usher team leader

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, there are instances of the verb “to usher” as early as 1596. Though our congregation doesn’t go back quite that far, ushers have long been a vital part of every worship service at Gary Church. What does “ushering” mean here at Gary? Our ushers welcome people into the sanctuary, guide visitors, answer questions and assist with tasks from lighting candles to collecting offertory. We are grateful to our usher teams for helping everything run as smoothly as possible on Sunday mornings.

Michael Graves, who leads our usher team on the second Sunday of each month, shares how he came to serve on the Welcome Team as an usher:



Why did you first start ushering?

I first started serving as an usher because I enjoyed being at church and wanted to find a way to be helpful. The idea of being an usher was especially appealing because I noticed that many of the people who served as ushers were not my age — at the time, I was younger, and most of the ushers were older. I liked the idea of getting to know people at church who were different ages and had different life experiences. I still really love this, getting to serve with people who are older, and now getting to serve with younger people, too.



What do you enjoy about ushering?

Being an usher is fun. All the real pressure to be highly organized and brilliant falls on the pastors, staff, musicians and others. This is a chance for me to run around Sunday morning, smile, be friendly, and be helpful in simple ways. No matter what you do during the week, if you love people, enjoy being friendly, and just want to be helpful, being an usher is great.



Why should people consider joining an usher team?

Serving as usher is good for you and good for the church. For the person who is serving, it is a great way to get to know your fellow ushers, and generally to meet more people at church. It also feels good to contribute something to all the wonderful ministries that take place on Sunday. The church needs ushers to help create a friendly environment for everyone, to perform various tasks behind the scenes, and to make sure the building is clean and safe. I encourage anyone interested to consider serving as an usher.

Ushers serve on set teams once each month, on the first, second, third or fourth Sundays. Our usher teams are looking for new members of all ages to join them this fall! To join an usher team or sign up to be a substitute usher, please contact the Church Office.

Hey Parents! It's that time of year again when leaves turn from green to red, school buses dot the roadways, and pumpkin spice everything is featured on grocery store endcaps and drive-thru menus. Welcome, fall! For Gary Kids, fall means a return to 10 a.m. Sunday School, 4th & 5th Grade Fellowship, family events and so much more. Check out all our upcoming offerings to join in a new year of ministry that will share the love of God with children and nurture life-long relationships with Christ Jesus. Blessings and see you Sunday!

what we're teaching

September Series: *Choose Your Own Adventure*

A 4-week series on Psalms & Proverbs

Did you know that every day is full of adventures that we get to choose? Some adventures are small, like choosing which book to read. Others are bigger, like deciding how to react when a family member makes us upset. It's not always easy to know what is best but there is hidden treasure you can take into every choice: wisdom. Wisdom is a valuable gift that helps people choose what's best. Together we can choose wisdom, by not choosing sides, choosing our words carefully, choosing to do good and choosing God!



what's happening

Kickoff Sunday

Sept. 11

Calling all Gary Kids, preschool 3s through fifth grade: We are opening classes and returning to 10 a.m. Sunday School! Be sure to complete a Gary Kids registration form at garychurch.org and join us each week to grow in faith.

Third Grade Bible Class

Sundays, Sept. 11–Nov. 13, 10 a.m. during Sunday School

On Sunday, Sept. 11, Gary Church will give each third-grade child a Bible. This is an important event in a child's Christian Education journey, 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 lives. To help students become more familiar with their new Bible, the Third Grade Bible Class will be taught during the 10 a.m. Sunday school hour. Contact **Pastor Carey** for more information.



Parent's Night Out

Friday, Sept. 9, 6:30–8:30 p.m., Lower Level

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 Kickoff Party

Friday, Sept. 16, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Fourth and fifth graders are invited to a kickoff party at the church featuring games, food and fun! RSVP to **Pastor Carey** at cbear@garychurch.org.

Helping Hands | People's Resource Center Layette Drive

Sunday, Sept. 25, during 9 a.m. Worship

The People's Resource Center provides layettes (infant care kits) to clients who are about to or already have a baby. For our September Helping Hands mission, Gary Kids will assemble PRC layettes. Donations of diapers, wipes, onesies, sleepers and bibs are needed and will be accepted throughout the month.



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.

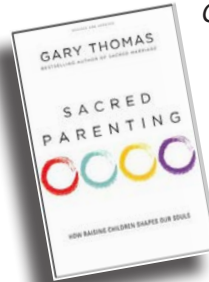


book of the month

Looking for resources to help faith grow at home? Check out our **Book of the Month** for parents and kids.

Book of the Month for Parents

Sacred Parenting: How Raising Children Shapes Our Souls by Gary Thomas

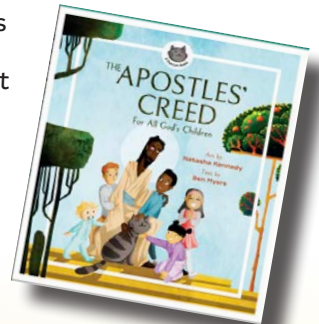


Parenting is complicated. The lessons we teach (and lessons we learn) are not always what we expect. There are many resources that discuss how parents change their children, but *Sacred Parenting* turns the tables to talk about how God uses children to change their parents.

Book of the Month for Kids

The Apostles' Creed: For All God's Children by Ben Myers

Join FatCat, the friendly feline, as he learns the traditional text of the Apostles' Creed – the earliest summary of the apostles' teaching. Through the Creed, children can encounter the God of the Bible who creates, redeems and sanctifies. Enjoy vibrantly-illustrated scenes of Jesus's life and search for FatCat on every page!



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!



Gary Youth

Welcome Back!

We are so glad to be back for another exciting year of Gary Youth! We strive to make Gary Youth a place that is welcoming for all youth. We have weekly Bible studies, field trips, game nights, retreats and mission trips that will help us grow in relationship with God and each other. Make sure to register with us by filling out the participation form on our youth page at garychurch.org.

What are we learning?



When Jesus was on earth, he had a lot to say about love, but not everyone loved him. Instead, Jesus' opponents hated him, attacked him, and saw him as extreme, dangerous and revolutionary — a radical. And they had a point! The things Jesus taught about loving God and loving others challenged the status quo and changed the world forever. That's pretty radical. In this series from the book of James, we'll look at the ways Jesus invites us to love according to his revolutionary example.

Sunday School

Classes meet starting Sept. 11 at 10 a.m. Middle school meets in Commons E on the main level. High school meets in the Heritage Room on the top level.

September Gatherings

Middle School

Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m., youth rooms

Sept. 7, no meeting
Sept. 14, Fall Kickoff with ice cream
Sept. 21, no meeting (Fall Retreat)
Sept. 28

High School

Sundays, 7–8:30 p.m., youth rooms

Sept. 4, no meeting
Sept. 11, Fall Kickoff with ice cream
Sept. 18
Sept. 25, no meeting (Fall Retreat)

Fall Retreat

(Middle School and High School)

Friday, Sept. 23 through Sunday, Sept. 25



Gary Youth will be going to Lake Geneva Youth Camp in Geneva, Wisconsin for a weekend of fun and worship! This year's fall retreat theme is "Jesus, Others, and You," (J.O.Y.) based on Philippians 2:2, "complete my joy by thinking the same way, having the same love, being united, and agreeing with each other." We will be working with other United Methodist Church youth groups in the Northern Illinois Conference for this year's fall retreat! If you would like to register, please contact **Pastor Dan** at dlee@garychurch.org.

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)) or
- 4.) Facebook (Gary Youth).



Gary Youth Mission Trip

Gary Youth and adult volunteers traveled to Floyd County, Kentucky this summer to serve with the Appalachia Service Project. At one house, they built stairs and installed siding. At another, they built a porch and ramp and installed a door, plus worked underneath the house to keep it dry and free from animals. For more information about the Appalachia Service Project, go to asphome.org.



Wednesdays are MUSIC days for Gary Kids

We are excited to offer three fun music groups for your kids this fall. Please register your ringers and singers through garychurch.org.

Good News Ringers

Students entering grades 3–6 will have a great time with friends growing their musicianship and ringing handbells with **Nancy Brunner** and **Jill Stoffels**.

- **Rehearsals:** Wednesdays, 5:30–6:15 p.m., Bell Room
- **Ring in worship:** Sundays, Oct. 23 and Dec. 11, 9 a.m., and Saturday, Dec. 24, 4 p.m.
- **First rehearsal:** Wednesday, Sept. 7 for new ringers; Wednesday, Sept. 21 for returning ringers

Cherub Choir

Children ages 3 through kindergarten will have a blast with **Mary Ellen Rahn** in Cherub Choir. Adults participate with their little ones in this interactive class, exploring music together and learning about God's love through singing, rhythm and movement. Kids must be 3 years old before Sept. 7 to join.

- **Rehearsals:** Wednesdays, 6–6:30 p.m., Choir Room
- **Sing in worship:** Sundays, Oct. 2, Nov. 20 and Dec. 11, 9 a.m., and Saturday, Dec. 24, 4 p.m.
- **First rehearsal:** Wednesday, Sept. 7

Friendship Singers

Children entering grades 1–5 will have fun singing and learning about music with **Jennifer Whiting**. They will focus on developing their singing voices, making music with friends, and praising God in worship.

- **Rehearsals:** Wednesdays, 6–6:45 p.m., Chapel
- **Sing in worship:** Sundays, Oct. 16, Nov. 27 and Dec. 11, 9 a.m., and Saturday, Dec. 24, 4 p.m.
- **First rehearsal:** Wednesday, Sept. 7

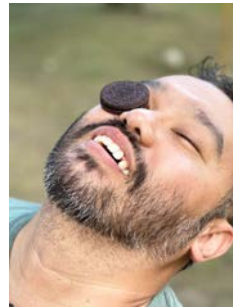
Reach out to **Jennifer Whiting**, **Mary Ellen Rahn**, or **Nancy Brunner** to learn more about music opportunities for your children (jwhiting@garychurch.org). Please register for Cherub Choir, Friendship Singers and Good News Ringers at garychurch.org. We can't wait to make joyful noises with Gary Kids!





Family Camp

Gary Church families grew closer to God and each other this summer through nature, worship and play at Pine Lake United Methodist Camp in Westfield, Wisconsin.



GARY CHURCH *makes a difference*

People's Resource Center News

July 28, 2022 was a red-letter day at the People's Resource Center. We reinstated indoor intake for the first time since March 2020 when COVID-19 shut the doors. During the pandemic, the PRC made all kinds of adjustments to be able to maintain service to our clients. We initiated a drive-through, where the clients never left their cars. Their order, according to family size, was taken and then deposited in their trunk and off they went. Our hours were decreased a bit, but we carried on.

Currently we are serving approximately 430 clients per week. We are open Tuesdays and Saturdays, 9–11 a.m. and Wednesdays, 5–7:30 p.m. We are having trial indoor intake on Thursdays, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. If all goes well, we will go back to the indoors in the fall. The clients will return to personal shopping, which will make them very happy.

Volunteers are welcome!

Go to the PRC website, peoplesrc.org, to become involved.

Current donation needs are:

Diapers, sizes 4, 5 and 6
Personal hygiene items
Cleaning supplies.

Mary Landreth



Educate A Girl update

You met the church's \$9,400 fundraising goal which will provide life-changing scholarships for nine female students attending primary school through university, across four countries.

Our new "I Gotchu" scholarship, through the impactful MyBlockMyHoodMyCity (M3) non-profit in Chicago, was awarded to Marnisha, an 18-year-old graduate of the Excel Academy-Southwest in Marquette Park. She plans to pursue a nursing career. Gary Church's scholarship will help Marnisha with college tuition and fees, while M3 supports her with one-on-one mentorship.

Gloria (1st) and Angel (4th) will continue at the Kinyago-Dandora School (KDS) in Nairobi, Kenya. Not only does this scholarship provide schooling, food and clothing, but also birthday gifts for the girls. Typically, KDS students purchase clothes, small toys and food for their families with their birthday money.

In Cambodia, Vicheka, Nisa, Ratha and Suzan will continue in their middle/high school studies supported by our scholarship money for uniforms, books and extra classes (such as English). Because Sosma has graduated high school (YAY, Sosma!), our 5th Cambodia scholarship will be awarded to a new candidate who will soon be identified.

Luxene is beginning her sophomore year at Africa University after a much-deserved summer break.

All of our scholarship recipients received decorated bookmarks, notes and cards of encouragement prepared by our Gary Kids and congregation. These special gifts are yet another way you are reaching out to support the girls and young women as they grow in their faith and their education.

These girls' and young women's lives are being transformed because YOU – Gary Church – continue to actively support and invest in our neighbors across the globe. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Cathy Mousseau & Judy Selby

By supporting the education of girls, Gary is changing lives, families and communities.

Thank you, Gary Church, for generously supporting girls and young women in their quest to achieve their educational goals through the 2022 Educate A Girl mission project.



GARY CHURCH *makes a difference*

Donate to PADS

One of Gary's Missions focuses for September will be collecting for DuPage PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter). As PADS has moved away from using revolving sites for sheltering the homeless to using more permanent facilities, their needs have changed. So, in September we will be asking for donations of the below listed items to help support our homeless neighbors.



Food: Single-serving meals such as noodles, soups (no tomato please), pork & beans, and cereal. Single-serving snacks such as granola bars, microwave popcorn, fruit snacks, trail mix, meat sticks, cookies and crackers.

Clothing: New summer clothing, underwear and shoes/sandals for men, women, boys and girls. Onesies for babies.

Diapers: Size 5/6 pullups, newborn diapers and size 5 diapers.

Toiletries: Full-size body wash, shampoo, conditioner, tearless body wash/shampoo for children and deodorant.

Disinfecting/cleaning supplies: Full-size antibacterial cleaning sprays, plant-based cleaning products, 13-gallon garbage bags, dish soap, microfiber cleaning cloths and wet cleaning pads.

Paper products: Toilet paper, paper towels, paper plates, paper bowls, paper cups, clamshell disposable hinged 8x8 3-compartment paper containers (microwaveable) and napkins.

Gift cards for basic needs: \$10, \$20 and \$30 Walmart, Aldi, Ross, Walgreens, Dollar Tree, Target, Buy Buy Baby and gas stations.

Radical Time Out (RTO) update

Before the pandemic, meals were served at Radical Time Out every Thursday evening. Since we resumed having meals in September of 2021, there is just one meal a month, usually on the first Thursday evening of each month. Although before COVID-19, we prepared one meal every month, now there are occasionally other groups who want to participate in the planning, preparing and serving of a meal. So, Gary Church isn't responsible quite as often as before.

Thanks to **Sandy Koropp** and her cooking crew for preparing the August meal and **Judy Grote** and her crew for serving that meal. Here is the schedule for the next two months:

- Sept. 1: **Sandy Koropp** and her cooking crew will prepare the meal; **Judy Grote** and her crew will serve the meal
- Oct. 6: JOY Circle will plan, prepare and serve the meal.

Radical Time Out is a support group for people who have been in jail or in prison, and for the families of inmates who are currently incarcerated. Also, a van full of individuals who reside at Wayside Cross Mission in Aurora is in attendance most weeks. Presently, we usually serve at least 80 people.

After the meal, there is a program with an opening prayer, announcements, singing and then there is usually a sermon by Manny Mill, the founder of Koinonia House Ministries.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Judy Grote



Financial update

Thank you for the support you continue to provide to Gary Church and our church family's mission. The Finance Committee update on the church's financial results for the first seven months of 2022 is shown below as a summary of the budget and actual results through July 31, 2022.

<u>January – July 2022</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Giving	508,590	478,703
Expenses	571,352	538,461
Giving Over/(Under) Expenses	(62,761)	(59,758)

Giving is less than what we expected this time of year, so we are operating at a slightly larger deficit than what we budgeted (the monthly budget considers that giving is typically heavier towards the last quarter of the year). The actual timing of expenses can vary from the budget – we do expect actual expenses to approximate budget, especially considering the level of inflation. We appreciate your continued giving and support for the remainder of 2022, including consideration of additional giving to help decrease the deficit and meet all of our obligations.

Suzanne Marra
Finance Chair

Restoration work continues

We are continuing to work on the stabilization and restoration of the east elevation of the building and have made significant progress. The project will be completed in two phases. The first phase will include resetting the limestone coping, restoration of the mullions as well as repointing the entire façade. We will also be restoring the stone on the inside of the building beneath the balcony. Marion Restoration expects the work to take between 10-12 weeks. There will be scaffolding on both the inside and the outside of the building. Please keep a safe distance from the equipment and materials that will be around the building.

The second phase of the project will include the restoration of the historic stained glass and will start sometime after the completion of the first phase.

Please feel free to reach out to me or any member of the Trustees if you have questions.

David Plate
Board of Trustees Chair



gary preschool news

Gary Preschool to begin new school year

Gary Preschool is excited for a new school year! We will soon be joined by new and returning families and we are looking forward to having joyful noises and happy faces at school once again. At Gary Preschool, we have a weekly theme. We always start the school year focusing first on the child, then the school, next the families, and finally our communities. It is a wonderful way to learn about our preschool families and also to introduce them to one of our favorite places in the community: Gary United Methodist Church!



One of our goals at Gary Preschool is to encourage our preschool families to see Gary Church as their church home.

Preschool families, for example, will receive copies of this publication (hi, preschoolers!) and are invited to join in fun church events like Trunk or Treat in October or Vacation Bible School in the summer. We aim to show that the preschool and the church are a place for families to gather and grow together.

We still have space available in our 3s preschool class. Please contact **Kirsten McCluskey** at preschool@garychurch.org for more information. We would love to have your child join us! One of our greatest ways of finding new families is through word of mouth, so please share our preschool with your family, friends and neighbors with young children.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



Did you know you have access to devotionals all year long?

You can find both *The Upper Room* and *Our Daily Bread* devotionals in the rack to the left of the Church Office.

You can give the suggested \$2 donation in the box above the devotionals or through the Church Office.

Congratulations

Dan and Stacey Lee on the birth of their daughter, Mina Soo Hyun Lee, on Aug. 14.

September birthdays*

Happy (90+) birthday to:

Bettye Montgomery
Charlotte Murphy
Anna Patch

September Anniversaries*

Happy (50+) anniversary to:

Bob and Carol Barnes
Donna and John Hamilton
Bob and Diane Martin
George and Grace Smith

New Opportunities*

Gerry and Sharon Schmidt on their move to Colorado.

Our sympathy

Joe, Lisa, Damon and Roger Sanstrom on the deaths of Joe's sister, Sue King, on July 12 and their niece and cousin, Amy Carol, in July.

Sally Hill on the deaths of her sister-in-law, Glen Bridges, on July 17, and her daughter-in-law, Gerry Hill, on July 18.

Ruth Kimball (former Gary member) on the death of her husband, Art Kimball, on July 27.

Jeff Bartle on the death of his wife, Pam Bartle, on July 31.

Janet Ostermeier, on the death of her mother, Marge Ostermeier, on Aug. 6.

Thank You

Here I am again, thanking Gary for your calls, prayers and support in yet more trials in my family. Will do my best to keep out of the bad news page at Gary from now on!

Many Blessings,
Sally Hill

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

WinChimes

Winfield Community United Methodist Church

An Affiliate of Gary United Methodist Church

Return

by Rev. Bruce Anderson

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought, it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Summer is over, along with most of our vacations, and school has begun again. Fall will soon be here. This is the time when people return to church more regularly, and church life gets back to “normal,”

We know that God holds us through all circumstances and walks with us.

such as it is these days. It is good to get back into our regular routines, but there are always new things to take in and get used to, and new people to meet and get to know.

Throughout the changing seasons of our lives, we can trust God will be faithful as we remain faithfully connected to God. If we are not rooted in God, we have no source of spiritual nourishment or companionship and can drift aimlessly through life. But for those whose trust is in the Lord, we need not fear change, for we are rooted in the promises of God, and will be able to bear good fruit for God and one another.

We can make it through times of drought without becoming anxious, because we know that God holds us through all circumstances and walks with us. So let us sink our roots deep into the faithful promises of God to be with us, and to accompany us through all the challenges and seasons of life. Whatever life brings, we know that God has it covered, and we can face it with our full faith and trust in God.

Thanks be to God, who is ever faithful, even in times of difficulty and change. Amen.



Winfield Community United Methodist Church

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



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Service of Word & SACRAMENT

Starting on Sept. 11
Sundays in the Sanctuary
11 a.m.

