

# Chimes



The Newsletter of Gary Church and Winfield Community Church

August 2018



Gary Youth serving with others at SLAM (Students Living a Mission) 2018  
Learn more about their mission trip on page 21.

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## Sunday Worship Opportunities at Gary

9:00 a.m.

Worship Service

Kids' Church begins following Children's Time,  
Preschool 3's-Grade 3

10:00 a.m.

Sunday School for children, youth, and adults

11:00 a.m.

Worship Service

Childcare is available for newborn-2 yrs., 8:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m.



Submissions for the September *Chimes* newsletter are due by August 15. Announcements for the Sunday bulletin and weekly enews are due each Tuesday at noon. Send all submissions to [office@garychurch.org](mailto: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.



You won't want to miss this end-of-summer celebration of shared ministry—of shared opportunities to grow, serve, belong.

#### **Our Mission**

**Grow** in faith, knowledge and understanding of Christ as Lord and Savior

**Serve** our community and the world by sharing time, gifts, talents

**Nurture** one another through worship, fellowship, love

**Demonstrate** our discipleship to Christ

**Proclaim** God's grace and Good News

# One Church, One Family, One Lord

Sunday, August 19, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

## Worship

In one unique service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary, we'll all come together to celebrate and imagine the ways we can serve God this year.

## Ministry Market

We're one church with many ways to live out our mission. Come explore...get excited!



## Potluck

Nothing says church family like a good old fashioned potluck. We'll wrap up this energizing morning by sharing a meal. Please bring a favorite dish, and we'll supply the meat (from *Steamboat BBQ*) and drinks.

# Look for the Helpers

by Rev. Dr. Chris Pierson

I was too old to have had much interest in watching *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood* when I was a kid growing up on the Southside of Chicago. The show debuted in 1968, an inauspicious year to say the least. My mind, for the most part, was on baseball that year. I rushed home each day to try to beat my sister and girl cousins to the television so that I could watch the Cubs (I'm a Sox fan now). It would be wrong though to assume that I and other children my age and younger were unaware of things that were taking place around us.



The show began the year the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Presidential candidate and Senator Robert F. Kennedy were assassinated. Their deaths resulted in the creation of the U.S. National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence by Presidential Executive order. Vietnam War protests and heightened civil

unrest were commonplace. Riots and uprisings lit both passions and cities aflame. My father was a Chicago Police officer at the time of the protests at the Democratic Convention and all the violence that surrounded it. While I do not recall all that was happening in our home, he would likely have been working twelve-hour shifts like other police officers during the convention—including on my birthday.



As revealed in *Won't You Be My Neighbor?*, the recently released documentary that chronicles the life of the Rev. Fred Rogers, we learn of the ways he addressed these issues and the spiritual, psychological, and emotional lives of children during the show. The show helped children deal with tragic events in the news.

**We are called to be the helpers, the compassionate caring people who resist evil, injustice, and oppression as we live both in and under the reign and rule of Christ, Jesus.**

Mr. Rogers said, “In times of community or world-wide crisis, it’s easy to assume that young children don’t know what’s going on. But one thing’s for sure, children are very sensitive to how their parents feel. They’re keenly aware of the expressions on their parents’ faces and the tone of their voices.”<sup>1</sup>

Rogers, reminiscing on his own childhood and upbringing, once wrote, “For me, as for all children, the world could have come to seem a scary place to live. But I felt secure with my parents, and they let me know that we were safely together whenever I showed concern about accounts of alarming events in the world. There was something else my mother did that I’ve always remembered: My mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’ To this day, especially in times of disaster, I remember my mother’s words, and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers—



“Look for the helpers.” It is so easy to get overwhelmed by the division that we see in our society—even in our own families. It is easy to feel besieged every time we turn on the news. We are less likely in those times to “look for the helpers.” We are less likely to realize that there are “many caring people in this world.”

In our baptismal covenant we commit to nurture one another and to surround those persons in our care with a community of love and forgiveness that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We are called to be the helpers, the compassionate caring people who resist evil, injustice, and oppression as we live both in and under the reign and rule of Christ Jesus.

Perhaps that same message needs to be heard afresh today, not just for our children but for us as well: “Look for the helpers.” Be the helpers—the compassionate, caring people in the world that our children and the children of others can look to/for in difficult times.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/look-for-the-helpers/>  
<sup>2</sup> Ibid.



# Adult Christian Education and Discipleship

## Find your Place this Fall!

### Sunday School Classes

#### Great Figures Part II

August 26–November 18, 10:00 a.m. in the Anderson Room, facilitated by Cliff Hill  
This 12-week class is part two of a 24 DVD lecture series with Amy-Jill Levine, Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School. In this engaging study we will encounter vivid portraits of the cast of characters in the New Testament. The point of this exploration is not to inculcate any theology or a particular religious world view, but to take a fresh look at how these figures have been interpreted by both the secular culture and the church, while also raising issues of religious interest. Please plan to be part of this exciting learning opportunity!

#### Jeremiah the Prophet and the Prophetic Message

August 26–September 30, 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel, led by Dr. Michael Graves  
In this class we will encounter the message of the prophets, focusing on various aspects of loving God and neighbor, and exploring how the prophets spoke and acted on hard truths while seeking the welfare of others. We will give special attention to the life and message of Jeremiah, whose courage and struggles in the midst of difficult circumstances bring his story to life for us today. Through Jeremiah we will explore and discuss the character of God, our responsibilities to each other, and what it means to be part of a nation, people, and family.

#### Prison Ministry Series

October 7–November 4, 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel  
This series will explore how we as a society treat prisoners and how important it is for Christians to engage in prison ministry. Several different speakers will share their stories of being part of this transformative process.

### Weekday Discipleship

#### Women's Bible Study

This group meets Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. in the Anderson Room starting September 11 for in-depth study in a caring and supportive environment.

#### Men's Bible Study

This group meets Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. in Commons E starting October 2 for a time of study and fellowship.

#### Devotional Studies

Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. beginning September 13

This weekly group currently uses the daily devotional book by The Upper Room entitled *Disciplines*. All are welcome!

#### Disciple 3

Thursdays from 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. starting October 4

This class covers the second half of Disciple 3, focusing on the New Testament. Anyone who has previously completed Disciple 1 is invited to attend.

#### Faith Club: A Women's Interfaith Book Discussion Group

Thursday, September 13, 6:30 p.m. in the Anderson Room

The Faith Club brings women of Gary Church together with other women of Christian, Jewish, and Islamic faith for book discussion and to learn from and about one another. Join us in September to discuss Sadia Shepard's memoir *The Girl from Foreign*. Shepherd, the daughter of a white Protestant from Colorado and a Muslim from Pakistan, travels to far-off lands to unlock ancient family secrets after learning her grandmother descended from a tiny Jewish community shipwrecked in India two thousand years ago. Please RSVP to Cathy Mousseau through the Church Office.

#### Explore Gary

Sunday, September 16, 10:00 a.m. in Commons E led by Kim Austin

Whether you are new to the church or just ready for new opportunities to grow and serve, join us for this overview of the ministries of Gary Church. Come learn how you can connect within our family of faith.

#### Explore Membership

Sunday, September 23, 1:30–3:00 p.m. in the Anderson Room

If you are considering membership, join the pastors to get better acquainted and discuss what it means to be United Methodist. Contact Kim Austin at [kaustin@garychurch.org](mailto:kaustin@garychurch.org) to register. Participants are also encouraged to attend *Explore Gary* on September 16 at 10:00 a.m.



## Coming this Fall: *The Class Meeting*

By Rev. Brian Felker Jones

Do you find it challenging and difficult being a Christian? Most of us do!

Have you ever wanted to be part of a group of folks who know you personally? A group that not only knows you, but who are Christian friends helping each other with their current relationship with God and living out their faith—in a positive and uplifting environment? The Class Meeting is designed specifically for such a reason!

We invite you to join us at Gary Church in learning more about developing The Class Meeting!

We will begin with Dr. Kevin M. Watson's (from our United Methodist Seminary at Candler Theological Seminary in Atlanta, GA) book *The Class Meeting*.

From it, we will learn the best ways to help each other become more faithful in our life in Christ Jesus as well as develop life-long friendships.

In fact, it is a rediscovery of our Methodist and Gary Church heritage! The Class Meeting was the primary tool to help make disciples of Jesus Christ and help people grow in their faith throughout American history. It is being rediscovered and used by other Christians around the world and the United States to empower people's walk with Christ.

Come join us in rediscovering a contemporary way of being Christian family that helps us grow in faith together through The Class Meeting! Contact Pastor Brian at [bjones@garychurch.org](mailto:bjones@garychurch.org) to let him know you are interested in this opportunity.

As Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke (the first Methodist Bishops, appointed by John Wesley to America) wrote about The Class Meeting:

"We have no doubt, but meetings of Christian brethren for the exposition of scripture-texts may be attended with their advantages. But the most profitable exercise of any is a free inquiry in the state of the heart."

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### Fellowship Groups

#### **Caleb Factor Men's Ministry**

First Saturday of October, December, February, April, 8:00 to 9:30 a.m.

With speakers and fellowship, Caleb provides a supportive network for men seeking to know and follow Christ.

#### **Game Night for Adults**

Meets fourth Friday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Come join adults of all ages for a laughter-filled night of bridge, dominoes, friends, and fellowship.

#### **Gary Gardeners**

Gary members and friends plan and enjoy annual planting and care of the church greenery and landscaping.

#### **Gary Walkers/Talkers**

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 7:45 a.m. Walking, 9:00 a.m. Talking

Join the walkers at 7:45 or just come for the coffee time at 9:00 a.m.

#### **Lunchtime Literary Group**

Fourth Tuesdays at 12:00 p.m. starting in September

Join us for a lively lunchtime discussion of selected current literary works.

#### **United Methodist Women (UMW)**

These Circles are small groups that meet monthly (September–May) to develop a creative, supportive fellowship and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Knitting Circle	Second Tuesday, 7:00–9:00 p.m.
Mary-Martha Circle	Second Saturday, 9:30–11:30 a.m.
Susanna Wesley Circle	Third Monday, 7:00–9:00 p.m.
Joy Circle	Third Tuesday, 7:00–9:00 p.m.
Craft Circle	Various Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.



# The Heartbeat of Gary Kids Pulses on Sunday Mornings

By Carey Bebar

We want kids to experience God's love and build lasting relationships with Jesus all the time. We just talk about it a lot on Sundays!

At 9:00 a.m. Kids' Church and 10:00 a.m. Sunday School, our ministry team provides creative, multisensory teaching that immerses kids in deep Bible learning, helping them to know Jesus personally and grow in relationship with him. This year, Gary Kids will be Digging Into the Life of Jesus. Our DIG IN curriculum will lead kids in walking in Jesus' footsteps from his birth to his resurrection and ascension. On this faith journey Gary Kids will discover that Jesus is a real person—a real friend—who makes a difference in their lives today.

Additionally, on the third Sunday of the month at 9:00 a.m. Kids' Church, Gary Kids will participate in our Helping Hands ministry to learn that God's love is active and generative. Using their helping hands, kids will serve our local, national, and global neighbors in a variety of meaningful mission projects.

Families can look for information about Kids' Church, Sunday School, Helping Hands, and so much more in our weekly email "Gary Kids, This Week." Our ministry team is committed to helping Gary Kids grow in faith in their classroom, home, and world. Join us August 26 as we kick off a new Kids' Church and Sunday School season!

## Third Grade Bible Adventure Class

This fall, third graders will set sail on a ten-week Bible Adventure course to learn to use and grow to love their own personal *Deep Blue Kids Bible*. This Common English Kids Bible is specially designed for elementary students and sounds more like how they talk, read, and write in school, at home, in church, and with their friends. Leaders will use Abingdon Press' *Learning to Use My Bible* curriculum to explore God's word in dynamic and engaging ways. Class meets during Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

### August 26, 2018 | Bible Sunday

Third grade students will receive their Bible during the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service.

### October 21, 2018 | Bible Celebration

The Third Grade Bible class will share some of their new-found Bible knowledge before the congregation during the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service.

## Upcoming Events

### Playgroup

September 13 from 4:00–5:00 p.m.

### Parent's Night Out

September 21 from 6:30–8:30 p.m.



Saturday, September 29 from 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. at Abby Farms (we will meet at and return to Gary Church)

### Trunk or Treat

October 27, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Details on all our Gary Kids Family groups are available at [garychurch.org](http://garychurch.org).







Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this registration form if you do not have one on file from the previous school year OR if you have updates to allergies, special needs, or contact information. Return completed forms to the Church Office or the Sign-in Station on the lower level. Be sure to check in your children at the Sign-in Station each Sunday morning.

**Child's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_  
Allergies or Special Needs \_\_\_\_\_

**Child's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_  
Allergies or Special Needs \_\_\_\_\_

**Child's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_  
Allergies or Special Needs \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Names of adults allowed to pick up my children \_\_\_\_\_

My child/ren will participate in the following:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Kids' Church at 9:00 a.m.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

Choirs and Ensembles

- \_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday evening Good News Ringers at 5:00 p.m. (Grades 3-6) in the Bell Room  
\_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday evening Cherub Choir at 5:50-6:25 p.m. (Preschool 3's - Kindergarten) in the Choir Room  
\_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday evening Friendship Singers at 5:45-6:30 p.m. (Grades 1-5) in the Chapel

**Waiver: Photograph/Video Release for Minors**

I give Gary United Methodist Church and its representatives permission to take photos and video of my child or the child for whom I have legal guardianship (identified below), and use such photographs or video in any and all media products for promotion, art, advertising, editorial or other purpose. This may include but is not limited to newsletters both print and email, posters, brochures, ads, post cards and web pages and Social Media.

I waive the right to see or approve any publications that contain photographs of my child and agree that no compensation is owed to me or my child for the use of such images. I release Gary UMC and its representatives from responsibility for any harm or invasion of privacy that may occur or be produced by taking photographs or video of my child, and from any claims relating to such photographs or video.

I understand that these photos will be in the public domain but no identifying information will be displayed.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I agree to above stated photo release. \_\_\_\_\_ No, I do not agree to above stated photo release.

**Parent's Name, printed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_



### End-of-Summer

**Celebration**—Family Cookout at Winfield, August 20, 5:30 p.m.

### Midweek Kickoff for Middle School

Wednesday, August 23, 7:00–8:30 p.m. In the Activity Center

### High School Sunday Nights Kickoff

Sunday, August 26, 6:45–8:00 p.m.

### Fall Retreat

September 21–23 Lake Geneva Youth Camp

Cost \$175, or get the early registration price of \$155 if registered by August 19! Registration closes September 9.

Retreats are designed to be our biggest relationship and faith-building events of the year. Students do not want to miss out!



Serve Sundays are continuing throughout the school year! Join us on the first Sunday of the month, 3–4 p.m. at Brighton Gardens to serve the seniors by playing bingo together!

## Developing a Faith that Sticks

By Alexa Isaac

Hello Parents! Welcome to our new monthly family letter. Thank you for taking the time to connect a bit more with our ministry.

**You may have heard Pastor Brian or me share that research shows 40–50 percent of students from good youth groups and families will drift from God and the church after high school.** As a youth pastor, I'm not satisfied with that. And I imagine you aren't either as a parent.

Imagine we lined up your child's class, shoulder to shoulder, and then numbered them off as ones and twos. Then we said to the ones, "Congratulations! As you head off to college, your faith will stick with you. You will stay connected to Jesus, to church life, and to spiritual practices like prayer and reading your Bible." But then we turned to the twos and said, "You guys ... eh, as you graduate, you're going to struggle. We know you're part of our church right now, but as you grow up, that won't be the case. Sorry about that."

It would break our hearts, of course.

Here at Gary, we are still continuing to reflect deeply on research from the Fuller Youth Institute about developing Sticky Faith in the lives of our students. **We want your children to develop faith that sticks with them beyond youth group. We desire to help young people follow Jesus for a lifetime, and there are things we can do together to increase the likelihood that will happen.**

Over the coming months, our team will focus on ways we can instill Sticky Faith in the lives of every one of our students. **As a parent, you are essential to this process, and I want to invite you to be part of what we're doing.** Each month, I will include a parent letter introducing one concept from Sticky Faith, along with a question or two about what it means for us here at Gary, with the hope that you will offer feedback. The key to this process is dialogue—I am eager to hear your thoughts and always available for deeper conversations if a particular concept really hits home for you. I'm excited to see what God will do through this process in the lives of our students and families! If you want to learn more about Sticky Faith on your own, you can visit [stickyfaith.org](http://stickyfaith.org).

*Think about that first statistic again: 40–50 percent of students from good youth groups and families will drift from God and the church after high school. How does that number make you feel? If you were to guess, what would you say are some key reasons young people choose to stick with or walk away from faith?*



## Gary Youth Permission Form

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Grade (in the Fall) \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Conditions/Current Medications \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Grade (in the Fall) \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Conditions/Current Medications \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Grade (in the Fall) \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Conditions/Current Medications \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Parents' Email \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Parents' Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

(Student names) \_\_\_\_\_ has/have the permission of the undersigned to participate in **Gary Youth Group and/or Sunday School** events where he/she is driven in a vehicle by someone other than his/her own parent/guardian. This form is effective from August 21, 2018—August 21, 2019. In the event of an emergency affecting the health or welfare of this participant, the sponsors, leaders or adult chaperones have permission to administer first aid and/or transport the individual to the nearest doctor or hospital for further medical attention as deemed necessary. The individual action in response to the emergency will be held blameless. Any medical expenses occurring will be borne by the participant, or parents/guardians of the participant. Insurance afforded by Gary United Methodist Church and Winfield Community United Methodist Church are an excess insurance, over any and all valid and collectible insurance coverage available to or for such person, as expressly named above.

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I agree to above stated release.      \_\_\_\_ No, I do not agree to above stated release.

Health Insurance Carrier \_\_\_\_\_ Group/Policy Number \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Parents should complete this portion of the form for any students in grades 6–12 who participate in any Gary ministries.**

**Photo/Video Release:** I give Gary United Methodist Church and its representatives permission to take photos and video of my child or the child(ren) for whom I have legal guardianship (identified above), and use such photographs or video in any and all media products for promotion, art, advertising, editorial or other purpose. This may include but is not limited to newsletters both print and email, posters, brochures, ads, post cards and web pages and Social Media. I waive the right to see or approve any publications that contain photographs of my child and agree that no compensation is owed to me or my child for the use of such images. I release Gary UMC and its representatives from responsibility for any harm or invasion of privacy that may occur or be produced by taking photographs or video of my child, and from any claims relating to such photographs or video. I understand that these photos will be in the public domain but no identifying information will be displayed.

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I agree to above stated photo release.      \_\_\_\_ No, I do not agree to above stated photo release.

**Communication by Social Media, Email and Texting:** I authorize Staff Members of Gary United Methodist Church to communicate by methods of Social Media, email and/or texting with my child or the child for whom I have legal guardianship (identified above).

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I agree to above stated communication release.      \_\_\_\_ No, I do not agree to above stated communication release.

Parent Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_





### Introducing our NEW Adult Education Coordinator

Our Director of Children's Ministries Carey Bebar has added "Coordinator of Adult Education" to her title. Carey will oversee the Adult Education Committee, which for the past two years has planned adult discipleship. In this role, Carey will help us see an overarching narrative for our teaching. We have a diverse set of offerings on Sunday mornings and throughout the week, but each can push us toward deeper understanding of a theme. Carey brings a fantastic skill set to lead the work of this dedicated volunteer team.



### Welcome Kevin Lange, Principal Organist

We are delighted that organist Kevin Lange joined our church staff on July 15. Kevin brings deep musicianship, a heart for ministry, and a love for hymns and the scriptures. We are grateful that the Lord has called him to share his gifts at Gary Church!



### Calling All Ding-A-Lings!

- Are you in third, fourth, fifth or sixth grade?
- Can you count to four?
- Do you know your right hand from your left hand—at least some of the time?

If you answered yes, then you are totally qualified to join the Good News Ringers. We are looking for a bunch of new hand bell ringers to join us this fall. No previous music experience is necessary. We play in church five times during the school year and rehearse on Wednesday afternoons from 5:00–5:45 p.m. If transportation is a problem, we'll see if we can work out a carpooling solution. This is a super fun and meaningful way for children to participate in worship!

*Please join us for the first rehearsal on Wednesday, September 5 at 5 p.m. in the Bell Room on Gary's upper level. Contact Nancy Brunner through the Church Office if you have questions.*



## Gary Music Welcomes New Singers and Ringers!

Singing and ringing are great ways to connect and serve at Gary Church. Our friendly groups are open to musicians of all ages and all levels of ability. You are welcome to visit any rehearsal just to see if you might like it! Please contact the Church Office or any music director for more information.

- **Chancel Choir** (Jennifer Whiting, director; Kevin Lange, pianist) HS-Adult  
Thursday, 7-8:30 p.m. in the Choir Room beginning August 23
- **Men's Chorus** (Mike Krueger, director; Beth Graves, pianist) HS-Adult, Saturday, 7:45-8:45 a.m. in the Choir Room beginning September 9
- **Celebration Singers** (Jennifer Whiting, director/pianist) Women of all ages, Wednesday, 7-8:00 p.m. in the Choir Room beginning September 5
- **Broken Together** (Ellie Pentland, director; Lesley Sharkey, pianist) Vocal group for grades 6-12, Sunday, 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary beginning September 9
- **Friendship Singers** (Kristen Stetzer, director; Beth Graves, pianist) Grades 1-5, Wednesday, 5:45 p.m. in the Chapel beginning August 29. Please register for this class through the Church Office.
- **Cherub Choir** (Jennifer Whiting, director) Ages 3-5, Wednesday, 5:50 p.m. in the Choir Room beginning August 29. Please register for this class through the Church Office.
- **Altar Bells** (Sharon Schmidt, director) HS-Adult, Wednesday, 6:15 p.m. in the Bell Room beginning August 22
- **Sanctuary Ringers** (Sharon Schmidt, director) Adults, Sunday, 10:00 a.m. in the Bell Room beginning August 26
- **Glory Ringers** (Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal, director; Jill Stoffels, assistant) Grades 7-12, Sunday, 11:00 a.m. in the Bell Room, beginning August 26
- **Good News Ringers** (Nancy Brunner, director; Jill Stoffels, assistant) Grades 3-6, Wednesday, 5:00 p.m. in the Bell Room, beginning September 5. Please register for this class through the Church Office.



## What is MOPS?

Here at MOPS, we gather moms. We believe in the simple but revolutionary idea that remarkable things happen when moms come together. That's why we rally women, in their own neighborhoods, to help them become more brave, kind, and honest, one gathering at a time.

So, whether you are a soon-to-be mom, first-time mom, or seventh-time mom, you are welcome here. Whether you are an adoptive mom, young mom, seasoned mom, foster mom, stepmom or any other type of mom, you are welcome here.

## Our Theme

Every year has a new MOPS theme. This year's theme is:



**FIND YOUR FIRE**

Sisters, this is a year we will tend the fire in our hearts. We will stop inhaling the fumes of our mistakes that tell us we are not enough, not a good enough mom, not pretty enough, not brave enough, not smart enough, not wealthy enough. Instead, we will choose to tend our God-given fire.

We will love our children with an all-consuming love and use our words to warm the world. We will hold the torch up high and shed light on what matters most.

When our homes feel cold, we'll light a fire.

When a friend has lost her spark, we'll fan her flame.

When the world seems dark, we'll be an ember of hope.

In order to do this we will learn to...

**Live expectantly**

**Surrender daringly**

**Breathe freely**

## What to Expect?

A MOPS meeting includes practical teaching through speakers, demonstrations, or videos, followed by small group discussion and creative activities. Plus, there's always food...food you didn't make! But more importantly, you'll get to have honest conversations with other moms who understand the joys and frustrations of motherhood-all while your children are being lovingly cared for by our nurturing MOPPETS childcare staff.

### Brunch

*We can't meet without food and coffee!*

### Curriculum

*Each meeting will have a topic to discuss, a way to serve, a live speaker, or a video provided by MOPS International.*

### Fellowship

*Local mom friends to talk to, laugh with, cry with, share advice with, and relate to. You are not alone!*

### Childcare Provided

*During meetings, your little ones will be cared for by amazing MOPPETS staff, so you can relax and have a whole conversation while your food and coffee are still hot! Nursing infants are welcome in either the nursery or at the meeting.*

### Playdates

*We want to get to know you and your little ones, too! Join us for organized play dates like trips to the park, Cosley Zoo, or the nature center!*

### Mom's Night Out (MNO)

*Sometimes moms need a night out! We try to plan a kid-free activity for moms to just have a girls' night out every month.*

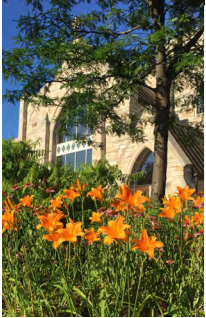


We meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. Our first meeting is September 11, from 9:15-11:15 a.m., and we would be honored to have you join us! Please direct any questions to [wheatonmops@gmail.com](mailto:wheatonmops@gmail.com). Advance registration is required through the Gary Church website to ensure childcare. Please see the MOPS tab at [garychurch.org](http://garychurch.org) for details.



### Thank you to all Gary Church mulching participants!

We marvel at the number of volunteers (both young and mature) who braved 90



degree-plus temperatures. Our Wheaton Gary Boy Scout Troop 35 came through with wonderful Scouts and parents. Church members were also amazing. Virginia Isgren, thank you for supplying water and treats. Church member Rusty Haney (Haney & Sons Tree Service) donated all the fantastic mulch!

*Thank you all for working to keep our church gardens beautiful.*

**Thank you** to everyone who participated in the very successful Bake and Craft Sale on May 6th!

That includes the bakers and the creative artists as well as the buyers, the helpers, the sellers, and those who sent good wishes and prayers –all who contributed in any way!

Your generosity supports the teacher's salary at Fundaniños Orphanage in Guatemala.

*The Missions Commission*



## Finance Update

### Dear Gary Congregation,

Please see a summary below of receipts and expenses as of June 30, 2018. Our thanks to those of you who have stepped forward to help with our fiscal situation. However, our income, as of the end of June, was approximately \$65,000 behind expenses, which were under budget.

When a shortfall like this occurs at this point in the year, the Finance Committee begins to prioritize expenditures. Without an uptick in congregational giving, we are confronting the likelihood of delaying our apportionment payments.

Apportionments support the organizational functions and the global outreach and missions of our denomination.

We take this action very reluctantly, trusting that giving in future months will provide the means to meet this important obligation.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

*Sincerely,  
John-Marc Bilezikian, Chairperson  
Finance Committee*

Giving YTD Actual	Giving YTD Budget
\$401,440	\$470,295
Expenditures YTD Actual	Expenditures YTD Budget
\$466,327	\$480,159



## Missions at a Glance

### August:

Gary's month to provide treats and visits to ESSE (adult day care)

### September 10-14:

Habitat for Humanity work trip to Lafayette, IN

### September 16:

Christopher and Michelle Hays mission focus

### September 30-October 1:

PADS at First Congregational Church, Glen Ellyn

### September 30:

Fifth Sunday Appeal for United Voices for Children

### October 7:

World Communion Sunday Offering

For details on these events contact the Church Office or see [garychurch.org](http://garychurch.org). A full list of the local, national, and international mission organizations that Gary Church supports is also available on our website.

## God Provides

by Judy Grote

**JUNE RTO:** (Radical Time Out). I was disappointed after the June dinner because we had so much extra food we had prepared for the former prisoners and their families. I sent an email to Barbara Mill, Operational Director of Koinonia House. I have to admit I was 'moaning' a little. Barbara sent this gracious reply:

*Judy,*

*I think the count for the evening in question was just around 80 for dinner. That evening we were up against a few graduations and special events. I know it is so very hard to plan because there are so many variables. What I do know is that God always provides!*

*AND—on the nights Gary groups cook, folks are always so pleased with the meal. I can assure you, although there were leftovers that evening, I know for a fact that all of them were put to good use. We have the takeout containers for just such a reason! Because folks really enjoyed that poppyseed chicken dish, the leftovers were all distributed. The raspberry salad was a hit, too. Nothing went to waste.*

*Many of the RTO attenders are single, are under- or unemployed, and appreciate being able to enjoy the leftovers again another night.*

*Thanks for ALL your hard work! I soooooo appreciate your ministry, and the hard work of your friends, too.*

**JULY RTO:** The picture above shows our crew for the summer grilled hamburger meal. Also helping in the afternoon were Judy Leo and Holly Trueblood. *Thanks to all.*

**AUGUST RTO:** Joy Circle will prepare and serve the meal.

*And a reminder...Donations to fund these meals are really appreciated!*

## August Mission Focus: Red Bird Mission School

While Gary Church helps many mission organizations through hands-on work, we support others through prayers and financial gifts. One of the latter is Red Bird Mission School in Beverly, KY, the only K-12 Christian School in this rural, distressed area of Appalachia. Red Bird provides a high quality Christian education to students, regardless of their ability to pay, in a loving Christian environment to help them escape the cycle of poverty to which they are exposed daily.

With support from individuals and churches across the national, Redbird Mission ministries also provide health and wellness, community outreach, economic opportunity, and community housing improvement. You can help in two ways:

- Contribute a monetary gift. Checks can be made to Gary Church with "Red Bird Mission" in the memo.
- Clip Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education from products you already buy. Red Bird receives thousands of dollars from these labels to help fund their school year.

Trimmed labels can be dropped off in the Church Office.

*Your financial contributions can help make a difference in this region of our country with extreme needs.*



## Hello, Church Friends and Family:

August is here, and it is Gary Church's month for visiting and providing treats for the Wheaton site of ESSE (Ecumenical Support Services for the Elderly). ESSE adult day care is open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday–Friday and provides activities and structure during the day so family members and care givers have time off.

The seniors at ESSE love visits from children, music, pictures, stories (telling or reading), or help with games or Bingo—all offering a change in the daily routine. We also provide snacks such as cheese and crackers, fruit, baked treats or anything you would like to bring. Sign up in the Commons or through the Church Office.

Also, save the date for the ESSE Pancake Breakfast: November 10, 2018. More information to follow—watch the Chimes.

Debby Connor  
ESSE Gary Church Representative

## Passing the Volunteer Torch

Earlier this summer, Grace McGuan shared this message with the congregation:

*Six years ago, Gary needed someone to lead Pads. No one was energetically volunteering, and I had always loved the program, so I offered to run it. I was 16, and I was very overwhelmed.*

*But the community here gave me so much support and patience and love, and so many of you donated your time and food to make it happen. Thank you so much for keeping Gary a part of this very important program.*

*I have just graduated from college, and I am continuing to live in New York full-time, making it hard to continue to lead Pads at Gary. We are now in another moment in which we need someone new to lead. My dad will run things this summer, but I would love another young person to take the reins the following years.*

*If there's one thing I learned from working with you for six years, it's that this congregation always shows up and always steps up and always makes it happen. I hope you will continue this legacy.*

Many thanks to Grace and her family as well as to another Gary young adult, Jesse Exner, who has stepped up to lead PADS. Anyone else—young or old—interested in helping Jesse organize our support of PADS on the fifth Sundays of summer months should contact him through the Church Office.





## Thank you

The Giessel family deeply appreciates the warm and caring condolences, help, and presence at the visitation and funeral that so many folks of Gary Church provided as we celebrated Judy's life. We are especially grateful to the members of a former memoir writing group and to the men and wives of the men's Bible Study group.

*To all of you, thank you.*

*Carl*

To each and everyone who called, sent a card or a gift, visited or sent a prayer on my behalf, I thank you. Your love and support during the past six months have meant so much to Gil and me. It is wonderful to be a part of such a caring community.

*Thank you.*

*Lola Lehman*

## Overflowing Joy and Gratitude

First and foremost, thank you for the visits, meals, cards, and calls during my recent hip replacement recovery. All the wonderful support spurred me on to success. A special thank you to Joe Davisson who made my regular deliveries to the People's Resource Center!

We recently delivered 32 pounds of pop top tabs to the Ronald McDonald House at CDH, thanks to all the devoted tab savers. The tabs are sold, and the cash received goes into the General Fund at the house. This amounts to about \$35-40,000 a year, which is no small potatoes! Thank you to all the savers. Keep it up; you're doing great!

*My cup runneth over!*

*Mary Landreth*

Thanks to all for your thoughts, prayers, and food during Alice's recovery.

*Ed & Alice Williams*

## Our Sympathy

Gerry & Sharon Schmidt on the death of Sharon's cousin, Martha Swartz, on June 1

Carl Giessel on the death of his wife, Judy Giessel, on June 10

Mary & Jim Davis, Lindsey Davis, Kelsey & Jeffrey Reich on the death of Mary's mother, Lori Ebbesen, on June 12

Bob, Emily, Susan & Ben Peinsipp on the death of Bob's uncle, Edward Grochecki, on June 16

Jim & Lynn Cohick on the death of Jim's mother, Norma Cohick, on June 17

Dan & June Hurd on the death of June's brother, Merle Baldwin, on June 20

Terry Balke on the death of her mother, Genevieve McInerney, on July 12

The Kolbe Family on the death of Mary Ellen's mother, Mary Louise Lewis, on July 21

Betty Jeppsen on the death of her husband, Ken Jeppsen, on July 27

## Congratulations!

Scott, Gretchan & Chloe Cline on the birth of their daughter and sister, Reagan Kelly Cline, on June 20. Grandparents are Phil & Sandy Cline.

## Baptisms

Penelope and Portia Shetuni, daughters of Brandon & Jaclyn Shetuni, on June 24

Cameron Keske, son of Jeremy & Heidi Keske, on July 29

Declan Kile, son of Evan & Megan Kile, on July 29

August 26 is our next **Styrofoam Recycling Day**. Bring packing materials and rinsed food containers in separate bags to the south driveway from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



## Morning Has Broken:

### Daily Devotionals that Support Us in Prayer and in Life

by Vickie Austin

Back in early spring I shared a devotional written by my friend Jennifer Grant with another friend, fellow Gary UMC member Cathy Mousseau. *Wholehearted Living: Five-Minute Reflections for Modern Moms* is one of several books I read as part of my morning ritual. Cathy and I talked about the power of devotionals and she invited me to present “Morning Has Broken: A Study of Devotions,” a two-part discussion held at Gary Church in May. Participants contributed their own recommendations for the ritual of devotion and here are some highlights of those recommendations.

*The Upper Room* is a classic, available in our own Gary Commons, just left of the office door. For a mere \$2 donation you can pick up the pocket-size (or large print edition) booklet that includes recommended Bible readings, a message from contributors all around the world, a prayer, and a thought for the day. Many of us remember our parents using this guide in family prayer and I confessed to rolling my eyes as a teenager when my dad insisted we sit through the readings, only to carry this devotional in my purse later as an adult.

Bill and Mary Anne Phemister use *The Upper Room* to enrich their spiritual lives as well as their skills in speaking and reading French—they subscribe to *La Chambre Haute*, a six-month version of *The Upper Room*, but in French!

The United Methodist Church has a host of resources tied to the lectionary, available at <http://umcdiscipleship.org/resources/resources-for-daily-lectionary-readings>. Readings tied to our UMC three-year lectionary are available with devotionals and prayers.

Paula Wayland shared a digital resource that she can access on her phone: “Inward Outward,” a resource from Church of the Saviour (sic) in Washington, D.C. You can subscribe to a daily quote (<http://inwardoutward.org/category/daily-quote/>) and a weekly gospel reading interpreted by contributors (<http://inwardoutward.org/category/gospel-reflection/>).

*By Willoway Brook: Exploring the Landscape of Prayer* is a book recommended by Elaine McCluskey. Described by the *Chicago Sun-Times* as “part memoir, part devotional, part field guide,” this book by author Cindy Crosby provides parallels of prayer life against the backdrop of the prairie landscape of Illinois.

Many mentioned our own Lenten devotional, comprised of contributions from the Gary congregation, as a resource that sustains their prayer life. Our superlative music ministry, too, was mentioned as a type of devotional that uplifts our spiritual lives.

Other recommendations:

- *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young
- *The One Year Book of Hymns* by Robert Brown and Mark Norton (Tyndale House Publishers)
- *Devotion for the Beach and Days You Wish You Were There* by Thomas Nelson
- *Wise Words for Boys: 31 Days of Proverbs* by Denia Petruzella
- *The One-Year Devos for Animal Lovers: Cool Things Animals Show Us about Our Creator* by Dandi Daley Mackall
- *The Daily Study Bible* by William Barclay
- Books by C.S. Lewis

Whether you choose early morning to curl up in a corner of your couch with a stack of books and a journal as I do, or you carry the word of God on your phone or in your pocket, the practice and ritual of devotion is time-honored by Christians throughout the world. This summer, try adding this practice or experience other authors. Just reading new authors and their messages can bring new perspective to your prayer life. If you find another devotional you love, or if I missed one that you shared in the class, please let me know and we'll update the list again.

## Holiday BLAST Camp 2018

One of the highlights of this action-packed week for our fifth-eighth grade students was a car wash to benefit PRC.

Thank you to Alexa Isaac, Pastor Brian Jones and the BLAST Camp kids who made the People's Resource Center (PRC) the recipient of their car wash proceeds. I was lucky to participate in this gesture. The kids made almost \$1,000. They divided into groups and we bussed over to Target for a shopping spree. They chose to purchase baby items for the layettes given to all new babies at the PRC. They also purchased items for the birthday bags given to each child ages 1 through 12. Left over dollars bought some food items especially liked by kids. They were amazing shoppers, comparing prices and looking for good bargains! It was a great day for me, the kids and the PRC!

~ Mary Landreth



## Shipwrecked Vacation Bible School 2018

At Shipwrecked VBS, children ages 4–fourth developed new friendships, had tons of fun, and learned that Jesus rescues! This powerful week of Christian education was made possible through the committed efforts of over 90 volunteers. Thank you to all who offered their time, energy, and talents, and an especially BIG thank you to Mary Megan Bagnall, Gary's 2018 VBS Chair!





### **Family Camp 2018**

On July 27–29, 11 Gary families gathered at Pine Lake Camp in Westfield, WI for a time of growing closer to God and each other through nature, worship, and play. This year's weekend theme was "We are FAMILY." Family devotions focused on Romans 12:5, "So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually we are members who belong to one another." During their free time, families enjoyed swimming, boating, hiking, archery, and more! Thank you to all who joined us for this year's event. We look forward to next summer...Family Camp 2019!



### **Gary Youth Mission Trip, Nashville, TN**

In their week working with SLAM (Students Living a Mission), our students joined other teens from around the country in serving the elderly, children, immigrants and refugees in Nashville's neediest neighborhoods, motivated by love of God. Their experience also included vibrant worship services and small group discussions. If you haven't yet seen the video of their week, go to the Gary Youth Facebook page: [facebook.com/garyyouth](https://facebook.com/garyyouth).



## Service of Installation for New Aurora District Superintendent

Sunday, September 16 at 2:00 p.m., Grace United Methodist Church, 300 E. Gartner Rd., Naperville

Effective July 1, 2018, Rev. Jeffrey Boss is the new Aurora District Superintendent within the Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church. Rev. Bross has served as the Associate Pastor at Batavia UMC and then founding pastor of Flowing Grace UMC, which was chartered four years ago. He has served on the Aurora District Committee on Ordained Ministry as well as the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. All are invited to join in welcoming Rev. Bross at this special service and at the dessert reception which will follow.



## An Update on Dementia including Alzheimer's type

*Presented by:*

**Michael G. Mercury Ph.D. Clinical Neuropsychologist**

The Douglas L. Johnson Endowed Chair in Neuroscience  
Director of Psychology  
Director of the Neuropsychology Program  
Co-Director, Neurodegenerative Diseases Center  
Northwestern Medicine Regional Medical Group /Neurosciences  
Northwestern Medicine HealthCare

**Tuesday, August 14, 2018**

**6:00 pm Registration and Refreshments**

**6:15 pm -7:15 pm Presentation and Questions**

**ESSE Adult Day Center**

**515 S. Wheaton Ave. Wheaton**

Join us for an informative presentation. Seating is limited.  
For reservations call (630)260.3773

*Sponsored by*



**Praise  
WORSHIP**

Make a Joyful noise unto the Lord  
Coming back again this Fall—  
watch for dates!

 Winfield Community United Methodist Church



## Something You Should Know

### Baptism

by Pastor Bruce Anderson

Baptism is one of the sacraments of the Christian faith. In our United Methodist tradition, many of us were baptized, but we may not reflect on its meaning all that frequently.

Baptism is a multifaceted act of faith that is meaningful on several levels. This month let's take a closer look at baptism. Baptism is one of two sacraments recognized in the United Methodist Church, the other being holy communion. Baptism is a means of grace given by God in which we are initiated and incorporated into Christ's body, the church. It is not a one-time inoculation against sin that automatically gets us into heaven. It is the start of our spiritual journey in the church in which we are supported by, and in turn support, the congregation as we all grow and mature in our faith. It is the way we are incorporated into God's mighty and on-going acts of salvation for the world. It is the way we are cleansed of our sins and born anew by water and God's Spirit, and initiated into the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As our Baptismal covenant says, "This is God's gift, offered to us without price."

United Methodists believe that infant baptism is just as valid as the baptism of older believers because baptism is God's act in which we participate, and is not something we will ever completely understand, at any age. Jesus said, "Allow the children to come to me, and don't forbid them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to people like these children" (Matthew 9:8). On the day of Pentecost, Peter offered the promise

The congregation promises to nurture the baptized person, and the rest of the members of the congregation, in Christian faith, surrounding them in love and forgiveness.

of baptism without regard to age, saying it is for those present, their children, and those far away (Acts

2:38-41). Later in Acts, we read of Paul and Silas baptizing Lydia and her household, and later their jailer with his entire family (Acts 16), which would include children and probably servants.

During the baptismal act of worship, we renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness and evil and pledge to resist evil, injustice, and oppression. We confess Jesus as our Savior, trust in his grace, and promise to serve him and his church. The congregation promises to nurture the baptized person, and the rest of the members of the congregation, in Christian faith, surrounding them in love and forgiveness. We are then asked to remember our own baptisms, but how often do we do that? Perhaps we are not sure how we would go about doing that, especially if we were baptized as infants.

One way to remember our baptism is every morning, or evening, when we take a bath or shower we can remember the cleansing waters of baptism and recommit ourselves as followers of Christ. We can also remember our baptism when it rains and renews God's earth, as we were renewed in our baptism. And as we rise to start each day we can remember that in our baptism we were raised with Christ and share in his final victory over sin and death. In this way, we can renew our faith with each new day and dedicate it, and ourselves, anew to God as we remember our baptism, and who and whose we are.





**GARY**  
United Methodist  
**CHURCH**

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**United Methodist Church**  
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**B E C O M I N G**

*family*

## **All-Church Volunteer Training**

Sunday, August 12 from 3:00–5:00 p.m. in the Commons

Come learn about our “**Becoming Family**” theme for the new ministry year, get updates and review church policies and procedures, and attend break-out sessions for your ministry area.

## **Sunday School Kickoff**

Sunday, August 26 at 10:00 a.m. throughout Gary Church

We’re beginning a new season of ministry—and this year exploring what it means to be part of the family of God. Classes for all ages resume at 10:00. **Please join us!**