

# Chimes



The Newsletter  
of Gary Church  
and Winfield  
Community Church  
**April 2019**



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### Sunday Worship Opportunities at Gary

9 a.m.

Worship Service

Kids' Church begins following Children's Time,

Preschool 3's-Grade 3

10 a.m.

Sunday School for children, youth, and adults

11 a.m.

Worship Service

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



Submissions for the May *Chimes* newsletter are due by April 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.



# *During Palm Sunday and Holy Week*

we mark significant moments of the last week of Jesus' earthly life as we prepare ourselves for the miraculous joy of his Resurrection on Easter.

Come share in the events of this week as we walk with Jesus and experience this season's message of love, hope, and transformation.

**April 14**

## *Palm Sunday*

### **Gary Church**

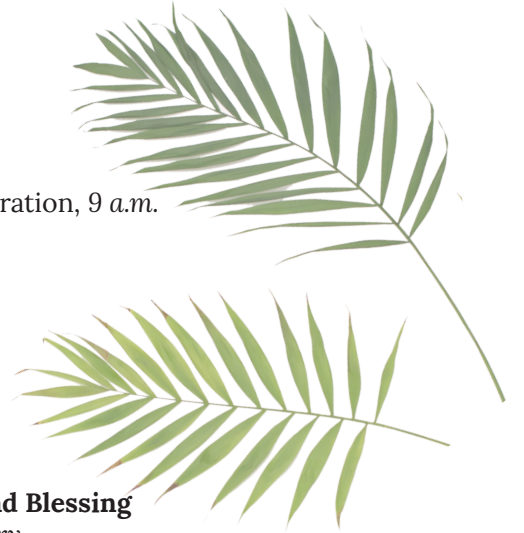
Worship, 9 & 11 a.m.

Procession of Palms and Kid's Church Celebration, 9 a.m.

Lenten Study: Forgiveness, 10 a.m.

### **Winfield Church**

Worship, 10:30 a.m.



**April 15–19**

## *Holy Week*

### **Along the Way: A Service of Preparation and Blessing**

Tuesday, April 16, 7 p.m. in the Gary Sanctuary

Immerse yourself in the events and emotions of Holy Week through music, prayer, and drama. Several unnamed women from Jesus' life, Peter, a priest, and Judas will share their accounts in this family-friendly service.

### **Maundy (Holy) Thursday Service**

Thursday, April 18, 7 p.m. at Winfield Church

This service is a remembrance of the Last Supper when Jesus washed the feet of his Disciples, showing them, and us, the meaning of humble Christian service and love.

### **Good Friday Service**

Friday, April 19, 7 p.m. in the Gary Sanctuary

This worship service will include scripture, prayer, and music—providing a time for reflection and turning our focus toward God. Childcare is available when requested through the Church Office.



## *Celebration of the Resurrection*

### **Worship at Gary Church**

9 & 11 a.m.

Services are family friendly; childcare is available for infants–4 yrs old.

### **Special Blend Fellowship**

10 a.m. in the Commons

### **Easter Egg Hunt**

10:15 a.m. in Memorial Park (across from Gary's parking lot)

### **Worship at Winfield Church**

10:30 a.m.

Service is family friendly; childcare is available.

**April 21**

# *Easter Sunday*



# The Christ of Experience

by Rev. Dr. Chris Pierson

*The death of Jesus is for us nothing if we have not died with him; the resurrection of our Lord is for us nothing if we have not been raised with him.*

~Emil Brunner



The season of Lent, a time of preparation for Easter and the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus, is for me a time to delve deeply into great Christian writers and to ruminate upon their reflections on the matters at hand. This year, I ordered a copy of *Bread and Wine: Readings for Lent and Easter*. The day that it arrived was during the “Polar Vortex.” The book had been forced into our mailbox and the only way to get it out was to take it out of its packaging while it was still inside the mailbox. Anxious to begin reading, I took the book inside the house only to discover the book at some point had become wet and was frozen solid.

One of the meditations that stood out was *The Christ of Experience* by E. Stanley Jones. He writes, “The early disciples had little ritual but a mighty realization. They went out not remembering Christ, but experiencing him. He was not a mere fair and beautiful story to remember with gratitude – he was a living, redemptive, actual presence then and there. They went out with the joyous and grateful cry, ‘Christ lives in me!’ The Jesus of history had become the Christ of experience.”

As we gather each Easter morning to celebrate the risen Christ, we loudly proclaim a Paschal greeting, “Christ is Risen” and the people respond, “He is Risen indeed!” It is both acclamation and affirmation. It is a bold claim and an affirmation of faith that resounds through history and for Christians interprets and reinterprets all of history. We proclaim that death is not the end and that life conquers.

Yet, as Jones points out, the early Christians also proclaimed, “Christ lives in me!” He notes that some have suggested that the early Christians conquered the pagan world because they out-thought, out-lived and out-died the pagans.



# he is risen indeed!

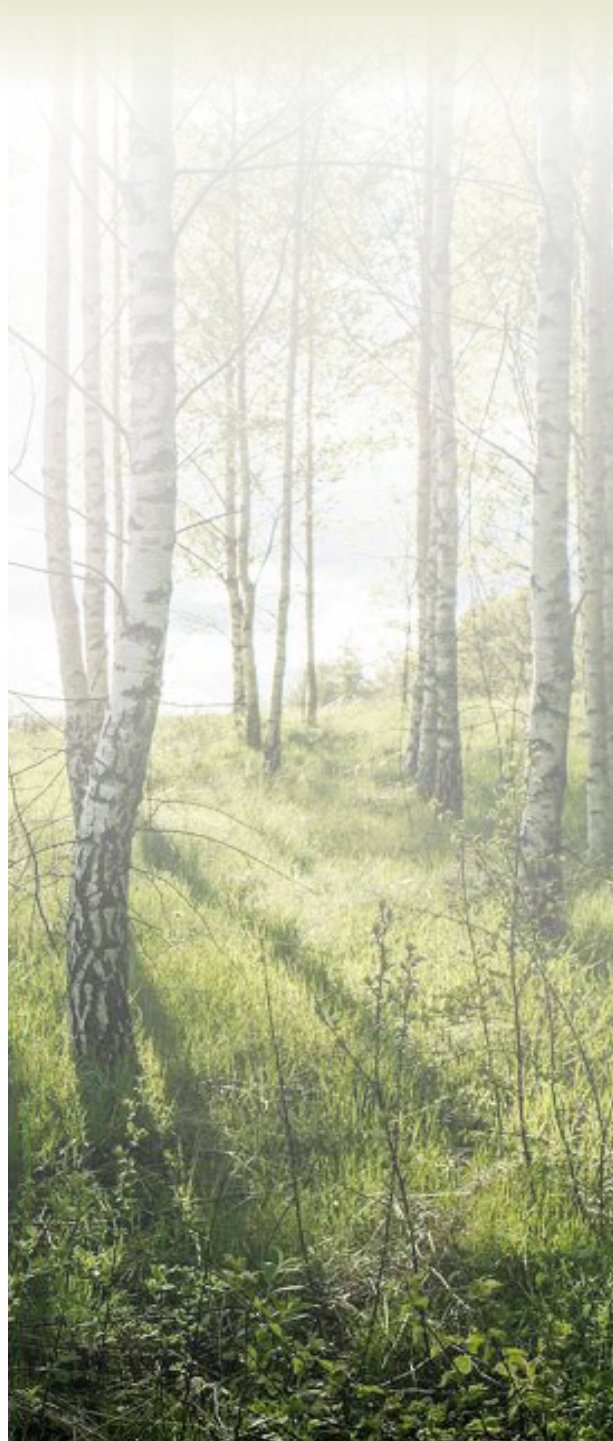
But that was not enough; they out-experienced them. As important as the great affirmations and theology of our faith may be, and they are, our lived experience of the Risen Christ is also essential to how we bear witness in our world—how we speak of the faith that is in us.

After Jones received his call to preach the gospel, he preached his first sermon, believing he was to be “God’s lawyer and to argue God’s case.” He began on a high note but lost his direction. After several excruciating moments he finally blurted out, “Friends, I am very sorry but I have forgotten my sermon!” He started down the steps leading from the pulpit in shame and confusion—feeling a total failure. As he was about to leave the pulpit a Voice seemed to say to him, “Haven’t I done anything for you?” “Yes,” he replied, “You have done everything for me.” “Well,” said the Voice, “couldn’t you tell them that?”

Standing in front of the pulpit, he said, “Friends, I see I cannot preach, but I love Jesus. You know what my life was in this community – that of a wild, reckless young man – and you know what it now is. You know he has made life new for me...” We all struggle in our lives to be faithful followers of the Christ. Still the experience of Christ, believing that he has done “everything for us” can be expressed by the new life we show because of our experience of and with him.

As we gather this Lenten season and Easter, may each of us affirm our faith in Christ and experience new life in him so that others may say as they did to Jones, “I wish I could find what you have found.”

*Christopher L. Pierce*



## *Extend an Easter Invitation*

An inspiring message of hope in the Resurrection of Jesus...

Powerful and uplifting music...

A welcoming community gathered together...

The delight of children with Easter baskets in hand...

This is Easter at Gary Church. This is a day to share with others—a time to invite others to join us in celebrating the Risen Christ. The list below offers some suggestions.

1. When you are done reading the Chimes, pass it on to a friend, neighbor, or relative along with a simple invitation.
2. When you talk about what you did over the weekend, remember to share that you were at Gary Church.
3. When you talk about what you will do for Easter, remember to share that you will be at Gary Church.
4. Forward the e-news to a friend with a note like, “I thought you might be interested in\_\_\_\_. I’m planning to go. Would you like to join me?”
5. Think about what you really like about our church (or specifically about the Easter service). Then think about who might like that too and tell them about it.
6. Send a note to someone you’ve noticed hasn’t attended church lately or has stopped coming to your small group to say you hope to see them.
7. Check the Gary Church Facebook page often and share special events with your Facebook friends with a note saying you plan to attend and inviting others to join you.
8. Post on social media about a Gary Church event you attended. Include pictures.
9. Tell a family with children about our huge Easter Egg Hunt in Memorial Park—and invite them to attend.
10. If you have invited a friend to church who did not respond, invite him/her again. Research shows it can take as many as ten “asks” before someone will accept an invitation to a church event.

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### **Easter Plants**

Plants are available for purchase to decorate the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday, April 21. The cost is \$15 per plant. Please fill out the form below and return it to the Church Office by Sunday, April 7. You may also email your order to [office@garychurch.org](mailto:office@garychurch.org). Please be sure to include the information below in your email. Plants may be picked up after the 11 a.m. service on April 21 or during office hours the week of April 22.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Flowers given in honor/memory of/other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up plant(s).

\_\_\_\_\_ I will make the gift of plant(s) for distribution among church friends and family.



# Adult Christian Education and Discipleship

## Find your Place

### Sunday Morning Classes

#### Lenten Study: Forgiveness

Sundays through April 14, 10 a.m. in the Chapel

Forgiving others and humbly asking for forgiveness are central disciplines for all Christian believers. Lent, a time to reflect on our Christian journey, is an appropriate time to deepen our understanding and practice of forgiveness. This Lenten study will use Marjorie J. Thompson's book, *Forgiveness*, to look at our understanding of this concept as Christian people in community. Books can be purchased for \$10.

#### Many Ways to Pray

Sundays, April 28, May 5, May 12, 10 a.m. in the Chapel, led by

Rev. Dr. Jamie Hanna Williams

Come experiment with different ways to pray and explore listening to God through visual images, dreams, and the ancient prayer of Examen.

Visual images can help us see what's going on in our lives and what God wants us to understand. We will use *visio divina*, the practice of focusing on a photograph or work of art, to unlock meaning and listen for God's voice. Some have said that a dream is a window into the soul. We will learn practices to help us remember our dreams and then explore what they might be telling us about ourselves, others, the world, and God. The ancient prayer of Examen was part of the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola. Through the prayer of Examen we will discover a gentle way to examine our hearts before God and receive God's grace and love. Please join us!

#### Navigating Our Digital World

Sundays, April 28–May 26, 10 a.m. in the Anderson Room

Feel like your kids are drowning in a sea of new questions, apps, and devices? Want to talk about digital media more with your kids, but aren't sure how? Help is here.

Join Alexa Isaac to explore *Every Parent's Guide to Navigating our Digital World*, published by Fuller Youth Institute. This practical resource helps you think and talk differently about digital media, as you learn from inspiring and creative parents like you who navigate these ever-changing waters day after day.

Topics we will discuss include:

- How to teach your kids to use social media responsibly.
- How to handle the tough stuff: inappropriate sharing, bullying, and porn.
- How to set limits on when, where, and how much you use devices in your family—without isolating your kids from their friends.
- How to make digital media a force that knits your family together rather than ripping you apart at the seams.

"My favorite thing about this book is that it doesn't take a doom-and-gloom approach to technology. It recognizes the bad parts AND the good parts, providing a road map for the future." ~Jon Acuff, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Do Over*

### Fellowship Groups

#### Caleb Factor Men's Ministry

Saturday, April 6, 8 a.m. in the Gary Commons

We welcome Tony Venezia, Gary member and Professor in the Motion Picture/Television program at College of DuPage. Tony will share three short films he created entitled *Crucifixion*, *The Resurrection*, and *Redemption*. Join Tony and other men of Gary and Winfield Churches for this viewing, interesting discussion, and time of fellowship.

#### "You're Invited" College Lunch

Sunday, April 7, 12:30 p.m. in the Anderson Room

Are you an undergraduate college student? New to Wheaton or long-time resident? Wondering how to balance living as a Christian on campus or at home while attending church? Join Pastor Chris for a light lunch as we discuss what it means to "walk in the ways that lead to life" at your current stage of the journey. Please RSVP to Carey Bebar at [cbebar@garychurch.org](mailto:cbebar@garychurch.org), and add any dietary restrictions.

#### Theology + Film

Wednesday, April 24, 7 p.m. in the Chapel



Come be part of this group that views classic and contemporary films through a theological lens to deepen our faith and better understand the world we inhabit.

For information on other classes and fellowship opportunities, see the Events Calendar at [garychurch.org](http://garychurch.org).

## To Clap or Not to Clap: *Toward Thoughtful Responses in Worship*

by Jennifer Whiting

Week to week, the director of music receives feedback from the congregation. What an honor to serve the Lord through music and to know that worshippers leave the Sanctuary differently than they entered. It is my constant prayer that our congregation is strengthened, comforted, encouraged, and uplifted, and that Christ is exalted through our music. I am grateful that people feel free to express their thoughts to me, both their blessings and their concerns.

The complaint I receive more frequently than any other (second only to “Who picked that hymn?!”) is “I wish people wouldn’t clap in church!” Recently, a man sitting behind me tapped me on the shoulder and said, “I never know if I’m supposed to clap!”

We can all relate to his confusion. It is difficult (even frustrating) to know how to respond in worship, because our cultural behaviors influence our worship behaviors. We might clap because it is a habit, or maybe because we are not comfortable with silence. Other times, clapping is the most natural and joyful response in worship!

### **In our secular culture...**

We are consumers.  
We value entertainment.  
We express approval through applause.

But cultural norms do not always serve us well in holy worship. To further complicate matters, music in worship does have some characteristics in common with performance. In order to communicate the message effectively, church musicians must strive for excellence in musical technique, unified ensemble, sensitive interpretation, and a host of other concerns. A well-rehearsed presentation allows the congregation to enter the meditation without distraction.



Even so, church music is an act of worship, not a performance, and it should point our hearts to God. This still is not enough information for us to decide whether clapping or another response is best. Let’s look at two examples.

The Credo movement of Robert Ray’s *Gospel Mass*, “I Believe in God,” is an energetic celebration of our core beliefs. Clapping is a natural musical element of this piece, and more clapping at the end of it makes sense in this context. This anthem offers an opportunity for rejoicing in unity, and I will never forget the exuberant moments we shared in May, 2018.

Indeed, the Psalmist commands us to clap! “Clap your hands, all peoples!” (Ps. 47:1, ESV). Applause can show vitality, engagement, appreciation, and support. People sometimes clap because they are happy or rejoicing.

On the other hand, Morten Lauridsen’s “O Magnum Mysterium” is one of the most ethereal and reverent pieces in the modern choral repertory—a profound contemplation of the mystery of Christ’s incarnation. When this piece ends, the sacred silence should be honored and not disturbed. This space for meditation is a rare gift in today’s world.



Scriptures also command silence. “Be still, and know that I am God” (Ps. 46:10, ESV). Silence shows a reverent spirit.

Silence honors the flow of the service and does not disrupt the Holy Spirit’s work in the gathered body of Christ. Silence opens us to hear God’s leading.

So, what is a practice that feels comfortable and natural for our congregation? Can we honor the created moments within our worship services, whether solemn or celebratory? I would like to offer a principle as well as a few questions.

**Let’s begin by assuming the very best about one another.** This is how we operate in a culture of grace. “In humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others” (Php. 2:3–4, NIV).

**We need wisdom to discern when clapping or silence is best.** These questions might help us.

- Which response honors the work of the Spirit in the room in this moment? jubilation? prayer? contemplation? celebration? reverence? repentance? a verbal “Amen”?
- Does my response show that I care about my brothers and sisters seated around me?
- Does my response draw attention to God, or to “performers,” or to myself?

**In a culture of grace...**

We are worshippers of God.

We value Christ above all else.

We think of others ahead of ourselves.

We assume the best motives in one another.

We choose thoughtful ways to respond during worship.

Whether we clap or do not clap, our aim is to exalt the Lord.



Our Festival Choir and Orchestra exalted Christ through Dan Forrest’s *LUX: The Dawn from on High* on March 3.



## Upcoming Events

### Playdate

*Wednesday, April 3, 4–5 p.m. in the Activity Center*

Come play with us! This is a great way to socialize with other parents while your little ones play. Snacks will be provided.

### Parent's Night Out

*Friday, April 26, 6:30–8:30 p.m.*

Drop off your children at Gary Church for supervised play time and enjoy a night out. Parent's Night Out is open to children ages 6 months–grade 3. Reservations are required through the Church Office and a donation of \$5 per child is suggested.

### 4th & 5th Grade Fellowship Weekend | SuperStart!

*Friday–Saturday, April 12–13*

*Awesome Worship | Fun Overnight*

*| Ninja Warrior Mania*

Register at [garychurch.org](http://garychurch.org).

Cost: \$85



**Registration is open for participants and volunteers at [garychurch.org](http://garychurch.org).**

Children entering  
Preschool 4's–grade 4  
are invited to Roar VBS.

At Roar, kids  
will explore God's  
goodness and  
celebrate a ferocious  
faith that powers them  
through this wild life.



Blast Camp is an  
action-packed week of  
service, small groups,  
and fun for students  
entering grades 5–8.

Adult and high school  
volunteers can register  
on our website.

**Blast  
Camp  
2019**

**Monday–Friday, June 17–21, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.**



### **Palm Sunday Parade & Celebration**

*Sunday, April 14 during 9 a.m. Worship and Kids' Church*

All children Preschool 3's-grade 5 are invited to participate in a Palm Sunday Parade during the singing of the opening hymn. We will meet in the Narthex before 9 a.m. Worship. After Children's Time, Gary Kids will celebrate "Hosanna in the Highest" with a special Palm Sunday Celebration in the Lower Level Commons.



Growing closer to God and each other through nature, worship, and play  
Pine Lake Camp, Westfield, WI



# 2019 Winter Musical + Soup & Chili Cook-off + Auction

## Thank you, Melinda and Ellie!

On March 17, Gary Youth and Gary Kids joined forces to present *Life of the Party: The Story of Mary and Martha*, directed by Melinda Keske and Ellie Pentland. After serving alongside Lisa Henderson on the first musical in 2012, *Rescue in the Night*, this duo took over as co-directors, each bringing creativity and enthusiasm to this ministry.

*Life of the Party: The Story of Mary and Martha* was their last musical together. We would like to thank both Melinda and Ellie for their many years of faithful service! Thanks also to the sixteen children and students in the cast for sharing their talents.



Following the Musical, Gary Youth hosted the 2019 Soup & Chili Cook-off and Auction to raise funds for their high school summer mission trip to Kansas City, MO, where they will partner with Youth-Works. **Thanks to the local businesses and church members who contributed to the auction, those who participated in the cook-off and/or attended the dinner, and our incredible auctioneer Pastor Brian, Gary Youth raised over \$11,000 for their summer mission trip!** The auction is always so much fun, and this year was no different. It takes a village to pull off something like this—so thank you, thank you, thank you Gary Church!

**A special thanks goes out to the following businesses who supported our auction:**

- Tasting DeVine • Houlihan's • Cozymel's • Pinwheel Toys • The Hen House of Wheaton







## Gary Youth Update

### High School Word & Table

*Sunday Evenings, 6:30–8 p.m.*

April 14 at the Mathis home

April 28 at the Macabobby home

### Midweek for Middle Schoolers

*Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m. in the Activity Center (no meeting last Wednesday of the month)*

### Camp registrations are open at [garychurch.org](http://garychurch.org)!

June 17–21 | BLAST Camp, \$30

June 24–29 | HS MOVE Camp, Holland, MI, \$350

July 29–Aug 2 | MS MIX Camp, Carlinville, IL, \$350

**Our summer calendar is available in the Commons. Be sure to pick up a copy!**

**Want to receive updates?**  
Text “GARYYOUTH” to 95577. Sign up for email at [garychurch.org](http://garychurch.org).

## Celebrating Milestones

By Alexa Isaac

Dear Parents,

Here at Gary Youth, we’ve been exploring the Fuller Youth Institute research themes together for a while. I’ve passed along the three major research themes that came from their Sticky Faith project (a grace-based gospel, intergenerational worship and relationships, and ministry partnership between the church and the home), but some other aspects of their research also can be helpful for us. So, over the next few months, I want to share those with you.

As you were growing up, you probably had certain milestones that were significant to your journey. Perhaps it was when you were allowed to stay home alone or when you got your driver’s license. Or they might have been public milestones like graduating from high school or college. If you were raised in a church, perhaps you experienced milestones like being baptized, confirmed, or presented a Bible at a certain age.

These rites of passage do a lot of things for us as we grow up. They teach us about character, like the way learning to drive can teach responsibility. They also shape our identities; we are who we are in part because of our experiences. Take Communion, or the Lord’s Supper, for example. Each time we participate in it, we are shaped to be part of the people of God, connected to all Christ followers for the past 2,000 years.

**Adolescents need milestones and rites of passage to help them form their faith identity.** We want to brainstorm what we can celebrate together in the lives of our students so that they can be taught and shaped by the community of the church. Moments like family meals, birthdays, first jobs, or a new school year can serve as a milestone or rite of passage, if your family allows it to be one.

If you have any special milestones in your family, will you share that with me? We’d love to collect stories to pass on to others!



### Styrofoam Recycling Update

Mark your calendar for the next collection date on *Sunday, April 28* from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the South Driveway. Please bring rinsed food containers in one bag and solid packing materials in another. We are unable to collect Styrofoam peanuts; please take them to UPS. Thank you for supporting this ministry!



## Finance Update

### Dear Gary Congregation,

As an update to last month's letter from the Finance Committee, we wanted to thank you for your continued generosity. Giving in February was slightly above January giving; however, it was \$7,000 below our expenses for the month. We appreciate your help in working towards closing the deficit as we continue through the year. Please take some time to think on this matter and consider what you can do to help.

We did receive good news when Pastor Chris' letter to the Northern Illinois Conference requesting a reduction in our apportionments received a positive response. Our annual apportionments, which were \$113,000 in 2018 and projected to be \$120,500 in 2019, were recently reduced to \$80,000 for 2019. Thank you Pastor Chris!

We also want to remind you of the opportunity to make your contributions through electronic giving. There is a link on the church's website to set up electronic giving, and it's a very easy process. If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office.

Your Finance Committee, staff, and Trustees continue to work hard to make sure that everything that you give works as hard as possible for the Kingdom.

~The Finance Committee

### Follow-up to 2019 Special Session of the General Conference of the UMC

Following General Conference's passage of an amended version of what is known as the Traditional Plan in February, the situation remains fluid. In late April, the Judicial Council will rule on whether the plan is constitutional or unconstitutional for violating parts of the Book of Discipline. In June at the Northern Illinois Annual Conference, there will be discussion of the General Conference and the Judicial Council ruling. When the General Conference meets again in May 2020, new petitions will likely be debated. During this time, our pastors and leaders of our Informational Session continue to be open to your questions and concerns, and we will update the Special Session page on our website as new information becomes available.



### 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

# Together in Mission

## CROP Hunger Walk

Just a Few Weeks Away –  
Sunday, May 5, Registration at  
1 p.m., Walk-Off at 2 p.m.



Join us on the 2019 CROP Walk for the Fight Against Hunger! The 3+ mile walk starts and ends at Grace Lutheran Church, 493 Forest Ave. in Glen Ellyn and will pass by beautiful Lake Ellyn.

Register to walk and donate to the Gary team at [www.crophungerwalk.org/glenellynil/garyumc2019](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/glenellynil/garyumc2019) or in the Commons on Sundays in April.

For more information, check out the Glen Ellyn/Wheaton CROP Walk page above, or contact Judy Selby through the Church Office. Last year was a great turn-out for Gary. Let's meet and exceed last year's donations and walkers!

## CROP Walk Fundraiser at Chipotle

Tuesday, April 23, 4–8 p.m. at Chipotle, 2119 W. Roosevelt Road, Wheaton Mention CROP and 50% of every purchase will be donated to the Wheaton/Glen Ellyn walk!

## Missions at a Glance

**April:** Gary Church's month to serve at ESSE Adult Day Care

**April 7:** UMCOR Special Envelope

**April 11 & May 9:** Gary provides dinner for Radical Time Out

**April 27 & May 18:** DuPage Habitat for Humanity workdays

**May 5:** Fundaniños Guatemala Bake and Craft Sale

**May 5:** CROP Hunger Walk

For details on these events contact the Church Office or go to [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.

## Bake and Craft Sale for Guatemala

May 5, 8:30 a.m.–12 p.m. in the Commons  
Join us for the Gary Church Mission Commission's annual bake and craft sale to raise funds for a teacher's salary at Fundaniños Orphanage in Guatemala. Gary bakers, put this date on your calendar to share your baking skills for this worthy fundraiser. Please bring baked goods before the 9 a.m. worship service on May 5, or drop them off in the Gary kitchen the preceding day and mark them for the bake sale. Contact Judy Leo through the Church Office if you have questions. The Craft Circle will also be selling hand-made items which would make great gifts for Mother's Day.

## Project Night Night at Winfield Church

Winfield UMC youth are collecting monetary donations again this year to make packages for homeless children under the age of 12. Each package must contain specific items (a book, a stuffed animal, and a security blanket) which will be purchased with the donations received.

Project Night Night donates over 25,000 Night Night Packages each year to homeless children who need childhood essentials to create security and increase exposure to high-quality literacy materials during their time of upheaval. By providing objects of reliable comfort, Project Night Night reduces trauma and advances the emotional and cognitive well-being of the children they serve.

Every child who receives one of these packages leaves the shelter owning a book which encourages reading and family bonding, a security blanket which can be cuddled, and a stuffed animal which can become a cherished friend. Last year, Winfield UMC youth donated 37 packages to PADS and Family Shelter Service. This year, their goal is to exceed that number.

Donations can be made to Winfield UMC. If your donation is by check, put "Project Night Night" in the memo line.





## Together in Mission



### Habitat for Humanity Around the World

There are many opportunities, near and far, to participate in Habitat for Humanity's global mission—*Everyone deserves a decent place to live*. We invite you to consider how you can serve in this impactful ministry. Contact Gerry Schmidt or the Church Office with your questions about getting involved.

### DuPage HFH

Join us for Saturday work days on **April 27 and May 18** with our local affiliate. Dupage HFH has finally received approval to begin a new 27 townhome development in the Greenbrook Tanglewood neighborhood of Hanover Park. The first foundations of this multi-year project should be ready in May. The affiliate also has home rehab projects around DuPage County.

Other opportunities with DuPage HFH include:

**April 27:** DuPage Human Race. This 5K Run/Walk fundraiser at Esplanade at Locust Point in Downers Grove celebrates and raises awareness for 60+ DuPage charity organizations.

**May 4-11:** DuPage HFH Spring Women Build.

**September 19:** Liberty Mutual Golf Tournament

**October 7:** World Habitat Day and Executive Build

For more information on these events go to [www.chicagolandhabitat.org](http://www.chicagolandhabitat.org) and click on the events tab.



### Habitat for Humanity of Lafayette, IN.

We will be returning to Lafayette, IN this year for two HFH mission trips, tentatively set for **May 13-17 and September 23-27**. No construction experience is required. Come join the fun and learn some new home construction skills.

Have you ever thought about riding your bike to raise money for Habitat for Humanity? If so, consider joining the annual Cover Indiana Bike Tour, sponsored by HFH of Lafayette to raise funds and awareness for their program. Experience some of the best backroads in Indiana for a cause—affordable homeownership through Habitat for Humanity. This year's ride is **May 4-10**. Can't get away for the whole week? Consider joining just the first three days of Cover Indiana and ride from Lafayette to Linton, IN. Perhaps we can put together a Gary team!



### 2019 Carter Work Project

The 2019 Habitat for Humanity Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project will be hosted by Habitat for Humanity of Nashville from **Sunday, October 6 to Friday, October 11**. This amazing project brings people from around the world together to build homes and hope. Registration is expected to open in April. Like last year, Gerry will be organizing a crew of Gary Church members and friends to participate. If you're interested, let Gerry know through the Church Office NOW, as registration fills up quickly!



## Habitat for Humanity Global Village Trip – Kavre, Nepal,

Want to learn more about substandard housing around the globe, and what you can do to make an impact? Join Gerry Schmidt on a Habitat for Humanity Global Village build trip to Nepal, **November 1–12, 2019**. Global Village is one of Habitat for Humanity International's programs that provides volunteers an opportunity to build homes and experience the local culture in more than 40 countries. No construction experience is required—only an open mind, flexibility, and a desire to work hard. You can find more information about Gerry's trip at Habitat's website:

<https://www.habitat.org/volunteer/travel-and-build/global-village/trips/gv20859>



## Successful HFH Global Village trip to Santa Ana, El Salvador

In early March, Gerry Schmidt led a team of eight volunteers from the USA to Santa Ana, El Salvador on a HFH Global Village trip to help build a home for a Salvadoran family in need. The team spent the week working side-by-side with the partner family, Nelson and his fiancée Katherine. The team worked hard mixing concrete for the house foundation, removing excess dirt, and beginning to build the concrete block walls. They also had the opportunity to experience the local culture, eating traditional Salvadoran foods like pupusas, empanadas, and tamales, talking to the locals, exploring Mayan archeological sites, and visiting a girls' home and a school for K to ninth grade in Santa Ana. Gerry says, "I found El Salvador to be a beautiful country with friendly and proud people. I hope to be able to return some day with another Global Village team."



## Thank You

Our heartfelt thanks to Pastor Chris and Pastor Brian for their hospital visits and prayers; also, for all of the cards, phone calls, and delicious food that was hand delivered to our home during my five surgeries this past year. We feel truly loved and blessed by all of the folks at Gary Church.

Your Sister and Brother in Christ,  
**Sharon Blanchard and David Ranken**

Thank you to everyone for their prayers, calls, visits, and cards while I was in the hospital and rehab. I am looking forward to being in church again and seeing everyone.

**Pat Davisson**

## Congratulations

Chase & Kelsey Kadlec on the birth of their daughter, Emerson Jane Kadlec, on February 24. Grandparents are Tom & Le Kadlec.

Phil & Krista Reid on the birth of their son, Calvin David, on March 8. Grandmother is Heidi Brewer.

## Our Sympathy

Judy Grote, Scott, Katie, Zach, & Wes Bordner on the death of Judy's uncle and Scott's grandfather, Francis Trielkemeier, on February 25.

Clay, Beth, William & Olivia Watkins on the death of Clay's mother, Lynne Watkins, on March 2.

Mark, Kathy, Erin & Allison Klage on the death of Mark's grandmother, Norma Klage, on March 7.

The Family of Gloria Sprincz. Gloria passed away on March 14. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, April 27, 10:30 a.m. in Gary's Chapel.

Ed Ewoldt on the death of his brother-in-law, Thomas Grove, on March 14.

Duane Amlee & Eileen Murphy Amlee on the death of Eileen's sister, Jeannie Murphy Mittal, on March 19.

Gary & Jeanene Fowler on the death of Gary's brother, Bob Fowler, on March 21.

## Baptism

Benjamin Lee Krick, son of Jay & Nicole Krick, on February 24, 2019.

## A note from Gary Preschool:

The festivities for our 50th anniversary have been postponed until fall. We look forward to celebrating with you then. Please watch future *Chimes* publications for details.

Gary United Methodist





## Something You Should Know: Wesleyan Unity in Christ

by Pastor Bruce Anderson

In looking back over the recent events of our special General Conference I have been reflecting on the teachings of Jesus and John Wesley. Both taught love, compassion, and acceptance, which seem to be in short supply in our society these days. As Paul exhorts us,

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus (Philippian's 2: 1-5).

Clearly that is not happening. Or, as our founder John Wesley said, "If there [is] a difference of opinion, where is our religion, if we cannot think and let think?"<sup>1</sup> Zero of two is not a good start, especially for those who purport to represent Christ. Jesus' whole ministry was about reconciliation and inclusion. His healing miracles reunited people with their friends, families, and communities. Matthew tells us:

And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners." (Matthew 9:10-13).

And we are all sinners, in need of God's grace.

Paul also tells us, "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive" (Colossians 3: 12-13).

John Wesley set forth directives in *The Character of a Methodist* that we would be wise to remember in these troubled times:

THE distinguishing marks of a Methodist are not his opinions of any sort. His assenting to this or that scheme of religion, his embracing any particular set of notions, his espousing the judgment of one man or of another, are all quite wide of the point. Whosoever, therefore, imagines that a Methodist is a man of such or such an opinion, is grossly ignorant of the whole affair; he mistakes the truth totally. But as to all opinions which do not strike at the root of Christianity, we think and let think. So that whatsoever they are, whether right or wrong, they are no distinguishing marks of a Methodist. By these marks, by these fruits of a living faith, do we labour to distinguish ourselves from the unbelieving world from all those whose minds or lives are not according to the Gospel of Christ.

But from real Christians, of whatsoever denomination they be, we earnestly desire not to be distinguished at all, not from any who sincerely follow after what they know they have not yet attained. No: "Whosoever doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." And I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God, that we be in no wise divided among ourselves. Is thy heart right, as my heart is with thine? I ask no farther question. If it be, give me thy hand. For opinions, or terms, let us not destroy the work of God. Dost thou love and serve God? It is enough. I give thee the right hand of fellowship.<sup>2</sup>

In the days to come, may we remember who and whose we are, and live accordingly.

<sup>1</sup> John Wesley, "The Lord Our Righteousness," preached at the Chapel in West-Street, Seven Dials, Sunday, November 24, 1765.

<sup>2</sup> From the Thomas Jackson edition of *The Works of John Wesley*, 1872.



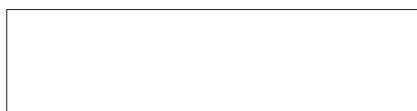


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A C O N C E R T O F H A N D B E L L S

# CROSS WIND

Sunday, April 28, 2019

4:00 P.M. IN THE GARY CHURCH SANCTUARY  
DOORS OPEN AT 3:30 P.M.

Presented by the Handbell Ensembles of Gary Church.

A reception will immediately follow the concert and a freewill offering will be received.