

## ADVENT MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

### Heifer Project Alternative Gift Program

Sundays, December 3, 10, & 17, 10:00 a.m.

Donate an animal in honor of a friend or loved one and help families around the world to become self-sufficient. Look for the display in the Commons.

### Christmas Sharing Preparation

December 4–9

Be part of one of our largest mission projects as we make Christmas a little more joyful for local families in need. Help set up during the week, assist families Friday night or Saturday morning, and/or donate some needed items. Details and sign-up sheets are available in the Commons.

### Outreach Community Center's Senior Christmas Luncheon

Friday, December 15

Brighten the season of seniors served by Outreach Community Ministries Older Adults program by donating or volunteering for their annual Christmas luncheon held at First Presbyterian Church, Wheaton. See the display in the Commons.

### Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans

Help a veteran this season by donating a \$25 gift card from a grocery or "big box" store. Cards may be brought to the Church Office no later than Dec. 17.

## Poinsettias for Christmas



Poinsettias are available for purchase to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve. The cost is \$12 per plant. Please fill out the form below and return it to the church office or order online by Sunday, December 10. Plants will be in our Sanctuary for the evening services on December 24 and may be picked up after the 10:00 p.m. service or during office hours.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

I will pick up poinsettia(s) \_\_\_\_\_ I will make the gift of poinsettia(s)  
for distribution among church friends and family \_\_\_\_\_

## FAITHFUL: A JOURNEY TO CHRISTMAS

Gary United Methodist Church, December 3, 2017

*Advent is a time of anticipation, a time to focus our hearts and minds and to remember the stories of our faith. We invite you to join us on this journey as we prepare to celebrate God's wonderful gift of love to the world.*

### Today 9:00 a.m. Kids' Church

**Illustrating Christmas | A Time of Preparation for Christmas Eve**  
Illustrations created today will be featured in the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Worship Service. For those not able to attend, a make-up session will be offered December 10 at 11:00 a.m.

### Today at 10:00 a.m. Gary Prepares for Christmas Sharing

*We come together to prepare for Christmas Sharing—an outreach that calls us to love our neighbor, to trust in the gifts God has given us be a voice of hope and faith in the community, and to boldly follow Jesus and be his hands and feet in the world. The following are opportunities for ALL ages to serve:*

**Families with children grade 2 and under** are invited to gather in the west end of Gamon Hall (lower level) to prepare candy bags.

**Families with children grades 3–5** are invited to gather in the east end of Gamon Hall (lower level) to assist with furniture moving and set up.

**Families with students grades 6–12** are invited to gather in the Commons (main level) to assist with furniture moving and relocating stored items.

**Adults** are invited to gather in the Activity Center (upper level) to set up the food sorting area and relocate food boxes and stored items.

\*Food boxes can be dropped off this morning at the West entrance to the church. Please be sure your boxes are labeled and place them on the orange carts.

#### **Please note:**

The elevator is located near the West entrance of the church building. Please plan to enjoy Special Blend refreshments after the Christmas Sharing set-up is complete.

## SUNDAYS DURING ADVENT

### Lessons and Carols Family Worship Service

December 10, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. worship

In keeping with Gary's theme "Rooted in Trust," our Lessons and Carols service traces the image of trees from the Tree of Knowledge in Genesis to the Tree of Life in Revelation. Our handbells, vocal choirs, readers, and instruments bring their gifts to create a meaningful family worship experience.

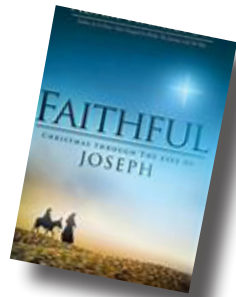
### 10:00 a.m. Sunday School | *Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph* All-church Study

December 10 and 17

Adults in the Chapel, led by Rev. JoAnne Chase

Children and youth in their regular class locations

Absent from much of the biblical narrative, Joseph—the humble carpenter and earthly father of Jesus—never spoke a word, but his courageous actions were crucial to the birth of Christ and God's salvation plan for humanity. Come explore the valuable lessons that Joseph's place in the nativity story contains for all of us.



### 9:00 a.m. Kids' Church

Preschool 3's–Grade 5

**A Shepherd's Tale:** December 17

**Happy Birthday, Jesus!:** December 24

### Caroling in the Commons

December 24, 10:00 a.m.

We will join our voices and sing our favorite Christmas hymns—songs of faith that speak to our hearts as we celebrate the miracle of Christ's birth. *Please bring your favorite treats to share.*

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### 4th & 5th Grade Fellowship | Christmas Sharing Service Project

Tuesday, December 5, 6:00–8:00 p.m. in the Lower Level Lobby

Join us as we help sort new toys for Christmas Sharing at Gary Church.

### Family Fellowship Service Project

Wednesday, December 6, 5:30–7:30 p.m. in Gamon Hall

Let's get together to help with Christmas Sharing. Kids age 5 and up can help sort donated items. Request childcare for those under 5 by emailing [childcare@garychurch.org](mailto:childcare@garychurch.org). Come anytime between 5:30–7:30 p.m. and join us after for ice cream.

### The Elizabethans Performance

Monday, December 11, 7:30 p.m.

Come enjoy an evening of Christmas madrigals and songs of the season. This popular women's singing ensemble is dressed in authentic costumes of the era.

### Gary Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 17, 4:00–6:00 p.m. at the Austin's home

Middle and high school students are invited to our annual White Elephant Christmas party for an afternoon of *Elf*-themed cheer!

### The Longest Night Service

Thursday, December 21, 7:00 p.m. in the Commons

This quiet, meditative worship service makes time for remembering those we are missing this year, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ.

### Wheaton Christmas Art Walk

December 12–24 in downtown Wheaton

Walk through 12 stores, each hosting a fine art piece commissioned to tell the biblical story of Christmas. Docent-led tours begin at noon each day except Sunday from Suzette's Creperie (211 W. Front Street).

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

### Advent Worship

9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Gary Church

10:30 a.m. Winfield Church

### Christmas Eve Worship

4:00 p.m. Family Worship Service

6:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Worship at Winfield Church

7:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Worship

10:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Worship