



Gary United Methodist Church

224 N. Main St., Wheaton, IL
www.garychurch.org

Sun., Dec. 1, 2019

ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES

The Longest Night Service

Tuesday, December 17, 7 p.m. in the Commons

This quiet, meditative worship service makes time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ in the midst of a season full of celebration and activity. If you or someone you know is struggling to feel the joy of the season or could use time to step aside from the hurried pace to remember departed loved ones, please join us for this special evening of worship.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Tuesday, December 24

- 4 p.m. Family Worship and Christmas Pageant
- 6 p.m. Traditional Worship at Winfield Church
- 7 p.m. Traditional Worship with music from the Chancel Choir
- 10 p.m. Traditional Worship and Holy Communion with music from soloists and instrumentalists

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 by Sunday, December 8. Plants will be in our Sanctuary for the evening services on December 24 and may be picked up after the 10 p.m. service or during office hours.

Name _____

Phone _____ email _____

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 _____

Gary Church in Mission

United Methodist Student Day: Your gifts today on this UMC church-wide Special Sunday provide more students access to scholarships and loans they need. Use the envelope in the bulletin to donate.

Christmas Sharing, Dec. 8-14: Be part of this mission as we come together with other area churches to serve the needs of over 800 families in Wheaton/Warrenville District 200. Families will receive boxes of food, new clothing, and will be able to select from donated items (clothing, toys, linens). There are many ways to help:

- **Sign up** in the Commons to volunteer your time. We especially need help on Sat., Dec. 14.
- **Take an ornament** from the tree in the Commons and purchase the new item indicated.
- **Donate money** to purchase food boxes.
- **Bring gently used** clothing, toys, and linens to Gary, Mon.-Fri., Dec. 9-12.
- **Purchase a book for a student (Kindergarten-Grade 2).** A list of suggested books is available in the Commons and at Prairie Path Books, Town Square Wheaton.
- **Kimmer's Kares:** Place an order in the Commons today and Sun., Dec. 8 for cakes and pies, and Kimmer's will donate a portion of the sales.
- **Portillo's:** Plan to dine at Portillo's, 235 E. North Ave., Glendale Hts. on Thurs., Dec. 5, 5-8 p.m. Coupons are available in the Commons. Show your coupon when ordering and they will donate 20% of the sales.

Faith in Action: Sun., Dec. 8, 10 a.m. at Gary. The people of Gary Church, from the very youngest to the oldest, will come together to prepare and set up for Christmas Sharing. All ages will have the opportunity to serve and make a difference.

Heifer Project Alternative Gift Program: Today and Sundays, Dec. 15 and 22 in the Commons. Help families around the world become self-sufficient by donating an animal in honor of a friend or loved one.

Outreach Community's Senior Christmas Luncheon: Fri., Dec. 20. A \$12 donation will provide an older adult a place at the luncheon. For many, this will be their only holiday celebration. Make your donation payable to Gary and note Outreach on the envelope. Volunteers are needed to help bake, set up, and serve. Sign up in the Commons.

Gary Kids and Gary Youth

Gary Youth Weekly Meetings: *High School Sunday Nights*, tonight and Dec. 8. *Midweek for Middle Schoolers*, Wednesdays, Dec. 4 and 11. All meetings are 7–8:30 p.m. in the Activity Center.

4th & 5th Grade Fellowship: Tues., Dec. 10, 6–8 p.m. in the Lower Level Lobby. Help sort new toys for Christmas Sharing at Gary Church.

Rehearsals for 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Service Pageant: Sundays, Dec. 15 and 22, 2–4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Children ages Preschool 3–Grade 5 are invited to take part in the classic retelling of the Christmas Story.

Upcoming Opportunities

Next Week's Lectionary Readings: We invite you to include these readings in your devotion times. Readings for next week are Isaiah 11:1–10, Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19, Romans 15:4–13, and Matthew 3:1–12.

Advent Study Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph will be on Mondays, Dec. 2 and 16, 10 a.m. at Winfield UMC. Books are \$15. Contact Gary's Church Office to make arrangements to get a book.

Lunchtime Literary Group: Tues., Dec. 3, 12 p.m. in the Anderson Room. Pack a lunch and join us to discuss *The Long Haul* by Finn Murphy.

Caleb Factor Men's Ministry: Sat., Dec. 7, 7:30 a.m. in the Commons. Gary member Ed Williams will share the stage with Mango, his certified therapy dog.

Camerata Academy Concert: Sat., Dec. 7, 7 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Wheaton. This concert features concerti classics with young virtuoso musicians. Tickets can be purchased at cameratachicago.ticketleap.com or at the door. Cost: \$15.

Next Steps Lunch: Sun., Dec. 8, 12 p.m. Ready to meet more people at Gary, find ways to use your gifts to serve, explore ways to continue your faith journey? Join the pastors and staff for lunch and to explore how you can connect within the ministries of Gary Church. RSVP to the Church Office by Wed., Dec. 4.

Morten Lauridsen's Lux Aeterna will be presented on Fri., Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m. at Wheaton College's Edman Chapel. Gary Church has purchased a group of tickets at a cost of \$22.50. Contact the Church Office if you would like to purchase any of them.

Burning Bush—An Outreach of Gary Church

Now Showing: *Rites of Passage* through Dec. 22. Local artists share their perspectives on pivotal points in our lives. Join us for an Artists' Reception on Sun., Dec. 8, 1–3 p.m.

For more information visit www.garychurch.org or the Chimes newsletter.

SPECIAL EVENTS DURING ADVENT

Lessons and Carols: Sharing the Story of Christmas

Sunday, December 8, during 9 and 11 a.m. worship services

The story of Christmas, the birth of God's Son, is a centerpiece of the Bible. Our Lessons and Carols service draws upon stories from *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, by Sally Lloyd-Jones. We invite you to hear excerpts from this winsome book, sing carols, and hear music from our vocal choirs and bell ensembles, as we prepare our hearts for the season of Christ's birth!

Here We Come A-Caroling!

Sunday, December 15, 3–5 p.m.

Everyone is invited to sing Christmas carols for a few homebound members of our Gary Church family! No need to sign up or rehearse. Just gather in the Sanctuary at 3 p.m. We will warm up our voices, discuss our route, and hop into our sleighs, errr, cars! We will be back at the church building by 5 p.m.

Gary Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 15, 5–7 p.m. at the Austin's house

Middle and high school students are invited to our annual White Elephant Christmas party. Join us for a time of Christmas cheer!

Christmas with the Elizabethans

Monday, December 16, 7:30 p.m. at Gary Church

This madrigal group performs in traditional Elizabethan dress and sings both sacred and secular Christmas music. This annual event is sponsored by the United Methodist Women. Join us for refreshments in the Commons after the 45-minute program. Donations of small knitted items (gloves, hats, scarves) will be collected for People's Resource Center.

