

Chimes

The Newsletter of
Gary Church and
Winfield
Community
Church

February 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 March *Chimes* newsletter are due by February 15. Announcements for the Sunday bulletin and weekly enews are due each Tuesday at noon. Send all submissions to office@garychurch.org.

Gary and Winfield Churches use photos and videos of adults taken at events, classes, and worship for use in our printed and online publications and in social media unless an individual directs the church not to do so by completing a form available in the Church Office. We use photos or videos of minors only when their parents or guardians have given permission by signing the Gary Kids or Gary Youth registration forms, available on our website.

Stepping Out in Faith

by Rev. Dr. Chris Pierson

“Let every step you take upon the earth be as a prayer.” **Black Elk**

This powerful quote from Black Elk of the Oglala Lakota (Sioux) describes a way of living with intentionality—a prayerful and thoughtful process of discernment as one sojourns through life.

In 2018, along with others, I was invited to engage in this type of prayerful walking with members of Gary Church, Rev. Dr. Gene and Deborah Green, as they considered how God might be calling them to step out in a radical way into a new ministry. Gene was thinking of becoming the Academic Dean of NAIITS, an Indigenous learning community (previously known as North American Institute for Theological Studies). Taking this step has meant leaving his tenured position as Professor of New Testament at Wheaton College in order to respond to God’s call. The NAIITS vision or desire is “to see men and women journey down the road of a living heart relationship with Jesus in a transformative way—one that does not require the rejection of their Creator-given social and cultural identity.” Who better than the Greens to step out in faith and walk alongside NAIITS?

That is why my wife Sandy and I have decided to support Gene and Deborah Green in this amazing ministry through our giving and to uphold them in our prayers. It is why I encourage you to prayerfully consider supporting this ministry as well.

Gary Church supports many vital ministries. However, through our participation in Gene and Deborah’s ministry, God has given us a rare gift to support members of the Gary Church family and to bring love, hope, and healing to the historically negative relationship of Indigenous Peoples and the Christian Church.

Learn from Indigenous Peoples by opening our hearts and minds to deep listening.

Through Gene’s ministry, Gary Church has been blessed to hear dynamic voices from the NAIITS community such as Drs. Casey Church, Terry LeBlanc, and Cheryl Bear. We have been impacted by their witness. While we cannot go back in time to undo the horrific abuses imposed on Indigenous Peoples by our forbearers, we can show our love for our Indigenous neighbors around the world by supporting the impactful ministry of NAIITS.

Through the Greens’ ministry, Christ has given us an amazing opportunity to:

- Support the Christian education and leadership of Indigenous Peoples, with a curriculum that respects the gospel and their traditions
- Walk along our Native American, First Nations, and Aboriginal friends to share in their joys and sorrows
- Learn from Indigenous Peoples by opening our hearts and minds to deep listening
- Celebrate in the beauty of Indigenous cultures
- Speak truth by sharing what we have learned with our family, friends, and communities

For more information on ways to support this ministry, see the pledge sheet on the next page.

Christopher L. Pierson





An Indigenous Learning Community



Dr. Gene Green
Academic Dean of NAIITS



Please copy this form
for your records and
return the original to:

Deb Evans
Gary United Methodist Church
224 N. Main St.
Wheaton, IL 60187

If you would like more
information, please
contact Dr. Gene Green at
ggreen@naiits.com.

Gary United Methodist Church
and NAIITS are 501(c)(3) nonprofit
organizations. All gifts are tax
deductible to the fullest extent
permitted by law.

In support of NAIITS: An Indigenous Learning Community,
I/we hereby pledge and agree to contribute the following
donations, made payable to Gary United Methodist Church.
My/our gift(s) will help pay the salary and other expenses of the
Academic Dean of NAIITS.

Donor Name(s) *(stated as you wish to be recognized)*

☐ I wish to remain anonymous

Signature

Date

Second Signature *(if needed)*

Date

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name(s)

Address

City

State

Zip

Cell Phone

Other Phone

Email

MY/OUR GIFT WILL BE (CHECK ONE)

☐ On-going, monthly donation of \$ _____ per month over 3 years,
with the first donation paid within a month's time. The total gift will equal
\$ _____ over the three years. **My monthly contribution will be matched
1:1 by a grant (up to \$12,000/year for all donors combined).**

☐ On-going, annual donation of \$ _____ per year over 3 years, with the
first donation paid herewith. The total gift will equal \$ _____ over the
three years. *Please send me reminders when future payments are due.*

☐ One-time donation of \$ _____, paid herewith.

Checks may be made payable to Gary United Methodist Church.
Please indicate NAIITS in the memo line.

Credit Card transactions may be made through Deb Evans in the Church Office.

Adult Christian Education and Discipleship

Find your Place

Sunday Morning Classes at 10 a.m.

***A Doubter's Guide to Jesus* | A Facilitated Conversation**

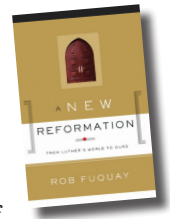
February 3, 10 a.m. in the Chapel

This book by John Dickson is described as “an introduction to the major portraits of Jesus found in the earliest historical sources. Portraits because our best information points not to a tidy, monolithic Jesus, but to a complex, multi-layered and, at times, contradictory figure.” Several Gary members who have read the book will provide an overview and share what they found interesting as well as challenging in the images of Jesus found in the first sources. Books will be available outside of the Church Office for those who wish to read it for themselves.

A New Reformation

Sundays through February 3, 10 a.m. in the Anderson Room, led by Christy Grace

Using the book *A New Reformation: From Luther's World to Ours* by Rob Fuquay, we continue our exploration of Martin Luther and how to embrace reformation in our church and in our life today.



An Informational Session on Human Sexuality and The United Methodist Church

Sunday, February 10 or Sunday, February 17, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. in the Activity Center
See p. 7 for details and additional information related to the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference.

Featured Weekday Classes

Theology + Film

Wednesday, February 27, 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.

Bible Essentials

First and third Tuesdays, February–April, 10 a.m. in the Anderson Room

If you have ever felt a little inadequate when talking about the Bible or have always wanted to know more but aren't sure where to start, this class is for you. We'll fill in the gaps and gain the basics we need to read and study the Bible. Most importantly, we'll be in a safe environment where we can ask questions and gain the essentials we feel we've been missing. Come be part of this new group! Childcare is available by registering through the Church Office.



For information on other weekday classes and fellowship opportunities, see the Events Calendar at garychurch.org.



Come gather with other women of Gary and Winfield Churches to draw near to God through creative prayer, holy listening, and interactive worship. This time at La Salle Manor Retreat Center will enable women to experience the loving presence of God in new ways that they can then take back to their everyday lives.

La Salle Manor Retreat Center is a sacred place for anyone who seeks serenity, a deepened faith, or greater understanding of themselves, in a beautiful natural setting.

The retreat begins Friday evening at 5 p.m. and will conclude on Saturday afternoon around 3 p.m. Accommodations include single rooms (with a sink and mirror), shared bathrooms, linens, and delicious home-cooked meals.

Register at garychurch.org by February 12. The cost is \$145. Space is limited.

2019 Lenten E-Devotional

Encouraging Words and Glimpses of God at Work in our Lives

Lent, which begins on March 6 this year, is a season that invites us to refocus our hearts and be more intentional in our spiritual journey. One of our Lenten traditions is our “self-published” devotional—a beautiful compilation of personal stories or testimonials of God at work in our lives, created by our church family. The devotional is delivered to your email inbox each day of Lent, with hard copies available in the Church Office upon request.

We invite the people of Gary and Winfield Churches—children, students, and adults—to be part of the 2019 Lenten E-devotional by submitting an original reflection that includes the following:

Title: a title summarizing the theme of the message

Scripture: the scripture passage

Message: a 3-5 paragraph written message (personal experience, story of seeing God at work in the world, reflection on the passage’s importance to you, etc.)

or

an original piece of art (photograph, painting, drawing, poem) that reflects the scripture passage

Prayer: a prayer focus for the day

Action: an action step based on the message

Contributor: your name

Themes you might consider include forgiveness, compassion, prayer, presence, dedication, repentance, or our “Becoming Family” theme. Poems contributed to the “Window Reflections” project may also be submitted, along with a related Bible verse, prayer, and action step, to the Lenten Devotional.

Register to contribute at garychurch.org or by contacting the Church Office by February 5. All devotionals should be submitted to Kim Austin at kaustin@garychurch.org by February 15.





A Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church will meet February 23–26 in St. Louis, Missouri. The purpose of this session is to receive and act on the reports from the “Commission on a Way Forward” that examined paragraphs in the Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and explored options to strengthen the unity of the church.

Through resources on our website and at Gary on Sundays in February, our intent is to help the congregation learn about and process the important work of this special session as well as to provide tools needed to evaluate news sources.

How do I find information?

- Go to garychurch.org for links to numerous resources from The United Methodist Church.
- Attend *An Informational Session on Human Sexuality and The United Methodist Church* in Gary’s Activity Center on Sunday, February 10 or Sunday, February 17 from 10 a.m.–12 p.m. (one session offered on two different dates). Childcare will be provided to accommodate the extra time.

What can I do?

- On Sunday, February 24 at 10 a.m. watch the Live Stream of General Conference in the Anderson Room and/or read Scripture, light a candle, and pray for The United Methodist Church in the Chapel.
- Watch the Live Stream at home February 23–26 (link available on our website).
- Pause and pray for our church’s mission and way forward daily from 2:23–2:26 p.m.
- Fast on Sunday, February 24 from sunrise to sunset. (Not recommended for those with medical conditions.)

Where can I find information about the Special Sessions voting results?

- We will post communication from The United Methodist Church on our website when it becomes available.
- The United Methodist News will report from the Conference site and update news both on their website and through their e-newsletters.

Regeneration of Pianos—New Methodist Doctrine?

There is a new sparkle in the sound of our Steinway grand. There is a new gleam in its ebony finish, too.

In the mid-1990s, three families donated the pre-owned 7-foot Steinway Model B “to the glory and praise of God,” honoring the memories of John and Jane Ord, Paul T. Hartman, and Ralph L. Wheaton III. Mr. Wheaton was the great-great-grandson of the founder of the town of Wheaton and the late husband of Gary member, the Honorable Bonnie Wheaton.

In November 2017, Phyllis Geyer expressed to Jennifer Whiting, Director of Music, her wish to give a gift to the music ministry to honor the memory of her husband Robert Geyer. She shared that music was a significant part of Robert’s life and worship here at Gary Church.

Bill Phemister (Professor Emeritus of Piano, Wheaton College), Phyllis, and Jennifer discussed the Steinway, which is nearly 50 years old. For over two decades it served the congregation well with all of its original parts intact. (How many of us at age 50 have all of our original parts intact?!) It was time to replace the rusty strings and the deteriorated pin block, and to do many other repairs inside the piano.

With Phyllis’s generous gift, this ambitious project was undertaken by master piano technician Alan Zajicek. The process of renovating and rebuilding the piano required six months of intense work. The cabinet of the piano was sent to Peotone, IL, to be expertly restored to its original satin finish by Jose Torres.

Alan wrote, “The Steinway piano has over 12,000 parts. I replaced about half of the individual pieces in the entire instrument; I inspected, repaired and aligned all the rest. All the parts have to work together in concert to allow harmonious sounds to emanate from the piano. I’m happy that this lovely instrument once again will provide the next couple of generations at Gary Church inspiring sound that will enhance spiritual growth.”



Bill said, “It is a joy to create beautiful music on this piano. Rebuilding this instrument reminds me of the conversion experience, of being reborn in Christ. The verse for this piano is II Corinthians 5:17, ‘The old is gone, the new has come. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come.’ So this piano has experienced regeneration, and we are all the beneficiaries of that act. It may be an inanimate object, but it has a soul! As a cautionary word, pianos, as well as any musical instrument, want to be loved by everyone, but pianos especially do not want anyone to put anything on top of them, no matter how tempting it might be.”

Our hearts are full of gratitude for Phyllis Geyer, and we are blessed that she chose to honor her husband Robert’s legacy through this gift to Gary Church. Phyllis wrote, “I am thankful to give this gift. It’s not about me, it’s about the musicians, the piano, the staff, and about the future.”

Thanks be to God for this “regenerated” Steinway. May we honor its “piano soul” by making music from our hearts to the Lord, and by being good stewards of such a fine instrument. We receive it from the Lord, and we return it to the Lord with joy, dedicating it again to the glory and praise of God!



Gary Youth Update

High School Word & Table

Sunday Evenings, 6:30–8 p.m.
February 10 at the Bilezikian's
February 24 at the Rozwat's

Midweek for Middle Schoolers

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

Winter Chill Retreat

*Saturday–Monday,
February 16–18*

Gary Youth is going on our winter retreat! Middle and high school students are encouraged to join us as we travel to Conference Point Center in Lake Geneva, WI for a time to get away together. Come worship, tube, play broomball, and chill with us. \$160; register at www.winterchill.info. Cost includes all activities, travel, food, and a Winter Chill shirt.

Summer Camp Registrations Open March 1 at garychurch.org!

June 17–21

BLAST Camp for MS, \$30

June 24–29

HS MOVE Camp, Holland, MI, \$350

July 29–August 2

MS MIX Camp, Carlinville, IL, \$350

Nurturing Faith

By Alexa Isaac

Hello Parents,

Thank you for taking the time to read and think about these Sticky Faith themes together! We believe this philosophy has the potential to help our ministry be even more effective.

I've written about two major research themes so far: the need for a Sticky Gospel and for a Sticky Church where more intergenerational relationships are growing. Today I'm writing about the third major theme: **partnership with families**.

In our youth ministry we want and need to partner with you as parents. According to research, what you do in your family has the single biggest impact on the faith of your children. You get the most hours with them, you are closest to them, and you know them best. We cannot out-teach you or out-influence you when it comes to your kids; we're simply not that good!

At the same time, the church has something significant and unique to offer to your kids. We can offer time with their peers, relationships with other adults, the chance to study the Bible with others, and opportunities to grow through retreats and mission trips.

What we cannot do is create a lasting faith in your child on our own. We are not the dry cleaners. But what does the dry cleaners have to do with youth ministry?

The Fuller Youth Institute talks about the way some parents view the youth ministry like the dry cleaners. Dry-cleaner parents drop their kids off at youth group each week, expecting to pick them up 90 minutes later all clean and pressed. **In other words, those parents have learned to outsource their kids' spiritual development.** Often youth ministries reinforce this idea, because we mistakenly think we're really good at handling spiritual formation for you. This has been our error.

Instead, we want to imagine new ways to partner with you as parents in your kids' faith formation. We want to help empower and equip you to nurture faith in your family.

This month, would you think a bit about what you want this partnership to look like for your family? I'd love to hear from you about that by email, by phone, or in person.

Euchre Tournament

Saturday, February 23, 7 p.m. in the Commons

We're fundraising for Gary Youth by hosting a Euchre tournament, one of our favorite student pastimes while we are on trips. All who know the basics of the game are welcome! Snacks will be provided and we'll be playing for prizes. Tickets: \$20 per person. Sign up by emailing Alexa at aisaac@garychurch.org. Payment can be made through the Church Office or by choosing "Youth Fundraisers" on the giving page of the church website.



Annual Winter Musical

Sunday, March 17, 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Bring your whole family to enjoy the light-hearted humor and poignant drama of *Life of the Party: The Story of Mary and Martha*, presented by Gary kids and youth.

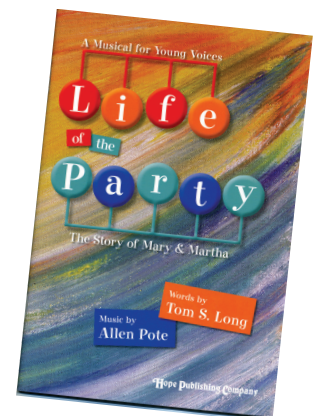
...followed by the Soup & Chili Cook-Off and Auction

Each year Gary Youth hosts a Soup & Chili Cook-off and Auction to raise support for high school mission trip costs. This is an important night of fundraising for students, as proceeds from their auction items will go directly towards paying their individual trips! This year our team will be heading to Alexa's hometown—Kansas City, MO.

You can sign up in the Commons to enter the Soup & Chili Cook-off for the opportunity to win the prestigious Golden Ladle and bragging rights for another year!

Donate an Auction Item

Each year our auction brings in a variety of donations. We are so thankful for all of them but have a need for new auction donations to help us reach our fundraising goals for our trip. If you haven't participated in donating to the auction before, we think this year is the year to do so! You can get creative; some of our highest-ticket items are potluck BBQs and hosted dinners, donations from local businesses, travels local and world-wide, and creatively themed baskets. Use of imagination and your gifting is highly encouraged. If you have an idea of what you'd like to donate, talk to Alexa!





Feed My Starving Children Family Mission

On January 24, Gary Church families packed food at Feed My Starving Children in Aurora, IL.



Upcoming Events

Helping Hands Mission | Book Drive for Bernie's Books

February 3-17

Gary Kids will be collecting gently used children's books to donate to Bernie's Book Bank which provides quality children's books to at-risk infants, toddlers, and school-age children throughout Chicagoland. Bernie's Book Bank donations can be dropped off on Sunday mornings in the Lower Level. For more information about Bernie's Book Bank go to berniesbook-bank.org.

"We believe that books and reading are both the vehicle and the road to a better life." -Bernie's Book Bank

Playdate

Wednesday, February 6, 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, February 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the lower level
Drop off your children at Gary Church and enjoy a night out while the kids enjoy supervised play time with their church friends. 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.



fellowship

4th & 5th Grade Fellowship | PADS Mission

Wednesday, February 20, 6:30-8 p.m.

Fourth and fifth graders are invited to participate in PADS' "Learning Through Lunches" ministry. They will gather at Gary to pack over forty lunches for homeless families in DuPage County. Donations of water bottles, granola bars, and apples are needed.



DuPagePads
The Solution to End Homelessness.

4th & 5th Grade Fellowship Weekend | Super Start!

Friday-Saturday, April 12-13

Registration begins March 1

at garychurch.org. \$85

per participant covers

registration, meals, and a t-shirt.



Together in Mission

People's Resource Center: The Door Is Always Open

By Mary Landreth

Do you need food, clothing, a job, computer classes, a place to create art, or English or Spanish language classes? Do you need classes to get your GED or citizenship? Help is right around the corner! I direct your attention to the People's Resource Center right here in Wheaton, serving all of DuPage County. This wonderful place is here to meet any emergency needs you may have. If we can't help you, we can refer you to the proper place.

The PRC is run by a small but mighty paid staff of knowledgeable, kind people. The bulk of the services are carried out by hundreds of volunteers who give of their time and hearts to offer services. I am one of these devoted volunteers, having been in action for 23 years now. I do intake on Tuesdays and Saturdays and sometimes sub on other days. I talk to the clients and make sure their needs are

being met. In the process, I have made very many new and interesting friends. Most of our clients need the little extra boost to be able to make it. Others have lost a job or a marriage or experienced an unexpected illness which left them in a tight bind. The PRC is just the place to empower them and get them back on their feet.

We have a very successful Job Assistance Program where the client is teamed up with a mentor who walks them through the process of resume, interview skills, and finally a job.

Our computer program is open to anyone in DuPage County and we offer classes in many sites around the county to accommodate transportation needs. If you take one of our classes, you receive a rebuilt computer to keep. How wonderful is that? We have a cadre of retired techies who refurbish used computers, deliver them, and then service them for our clients.

Our Art Studio students create paintings, sculpture, and creative writing. In fact, they are currently presenting an Art Show at Mayslake Center for the public to enjoy.

At times we receive old bikes as donations, and sometimes they are in pretty bad shape. One of our homeless clients overhauls the bikes so we can turn them over to other clients who need a bike to get to work. Transportation is a huge factor for many clients, and a bike is a precious commodity.

In addition, we are able to refer clients to a car repair facility in Naperville that will work with our clients to offer repairs at a reduced rate. It is their contribution to help their fellow man.



Speaking of help, volunteers from the Blackhawks front office, including John McDonough, come several times a year to staff the food pantry for a day. On those days, we all wear our Blackhawk stuff in their honor. Many service clubs and school groups put in their time as well. We cherish our volunteers!

We are supported by grants, local churches, contributions from the community, and fund raisers. In fact, our very own Pastor Chris Pierson attended a holiday luncheon fund raiser and opened the event with a heartfelt prayer. We were treated to a video which told the story of one of our clients who came through our doors in a desperate situation and found the support and direction she needed to achieve independence. We were honored to then meet her and hear her success story in person.

I hope you now have a better picture of the People's Resource Center and perhaps you will decide to volunteer or donate food, toiletries, diapers, or clothing. Perhaps you need one or more of the services offered. The door to the PRC is always open!



FEED THE NEED!



Register for FEED THE NEED: a Feed My Starving Children MobilePack

Saturday, February 16, 3:30-5:30 p.m. at North Central College

We have reserved a two-hour packing session during this fun and fulfilling weekend event, and hope you will participate! Register in the Commons on Sunday mornings or through the Church Office. Children ages 5 and older are welcome to pack with an adult.

The 2019 goal is to pack one million meals in 36 hours, but we need your help. If you can't be there on February 16, you can make a donation of any amount to cover the cost of the meals Gary Church packs. Checks should be made payable to Gary Church with FMSC in the memo line.

You can learn more about the event at www.feedtheneedillinois.com. Contact Kathi Hodges or Audrey Cicmanec through the Church Office if you have questions.



Save the date for CROP Walk: May 5, 2019

This year the walk begins at 2 p.m. at

Grace Lutheran in Glen Ellyn.

Learn more or get a jump on registration at <http://crophungerwalk.org/glenellyn/garyumc2019>.

Savvy Shopping for Christmas Sharing 2019

Now, while stores have clearance pricing, is a great time to buy outer wear, socks, blankets, and kids' pajamas to donate to Christmas Sharing 2019. If you are able to purchase items and store them in your home until mid-October, we would appreciate it.

Prescription for Life

Pick up a special pill bottle on Sunday, March 3 and help fill the PRESCRIPTION for Life for older adults living in south Carol Stream. Fill the pill bottle with spare change (bills and checks are ok too!) and return it to Church on Sunday, March 24.

Isolation; poor access to social services, shopping, and medical visits; lack of community and social connections are just a few things that plague the seniors who receive assistance from Outreach Community Ministries Older Adult program in Carol Stream. Gary has partnered with the Center to provide the following:

- Friendly Visitor Program – matching isolated residents with church volunteers
- Casework Assistance – including financial assistance and help with prescription plans, social security, Medicaid, and accessing state and county services
- Social Activities – Monthly Lunch 'n Learn sessions (started with 8 attendees, now about 70 come), transportation for shopping and medical visits, field trips, picnics, movies, and more reduce social isolation.
- Christmas Party – About 150 seniors participated in this year's Christmas Party, the only celebration of Christmas for many.
- Mood and Memory Clinic – providing neuropsychological assessments



To learn more about the Older Adult Program, contact program director Linda Hawkins at 630-260-7600, Gary member Barb Holmes through the Church Office, or visit www.outreachcommunities.com.

Save Those Pop Top Tabs!

In December, we delivered 26 pounds (13 gallons) of pop tops to the Winfield Ronald McDonald House (RMH). Pat yourselves on the back for saving another round of tabs!



Saving the tabs is an international fund raiser for the houses, and the sale of them brings in about \$40,000 a year to the general fund of each RHM. It is so easy: just save the tabs, leave them on the new missions bookshelf in the Commons, and we deliver them to RMH. When the house's four giant receptacles are filled, the tabs are sold and the money goes into the bank.

Gary does a great job collecting tabs; in fact we have saved over two million tabs since we began this mission. YAHOO! On to three million we go!

~ Mary Landreth

As in all the church committees, January is was the month of change. Lisa Sanstrom, who served on Trustees for many years, ended her term. We want to thank Lisa for her time and dedication to Trustees. We welcomed two new members, Scott Bordner and Marty Keske.

The Trustees Members for 2019 are: Bob Barnes, Scott Bordner, Marty Keske, Keith Nystrom, Eric Ostensen. Brooke Oswald, David Plate, Shelley Schilling, and Gerald Schmidt.

2018 was another busy year for Trustees. The following is a list of the major projects we completed:

- Masonry repairs to the north and south exterior walls of Sanctuary
- Replacement of the roof gutter on south side of Sanctuary
- New driveway aprons to parking lot
- Replacement of several sidewalk sections
- New concrete stairs at north building entrance
- Parking lot seal coated and stripped
- East Sanctuary doors and East Court yard doors refinished
- Update to the lower level Children's area, including painting, wall decorations, new child-size chairs, and new foam play blocks
- New bicycle rack at West Entrance
- Several patch repairs to flat roof membrane
- New digital projector and speakers for the Chapel

In addition to major projects, we complete 66 maintenance work orders. Some of the more significant repairs included:

- Repairs to carpet seams on lower level, main level, and upper level lobbies
- Hot water line repairs in Gamon Hall
- Kitchen coffee maker repairs
- Replacement of exhaust fan motor in the Kitchen Storage closet
- Repairs to the Chapel chairs
- Replacement of several water stained ceiling tiles on upper level
- Repairs to the water damaged plaster walls in Court Yard East Entrance vestibule
- Warranty repair on the Sanctuary air conditioning unit
- Repairs to digital projector in Activity Center
- Trash bin enclosure repairs

In future Chimes articles we will share 2019 areas of focus as we look forward to another productive year. Thank you for your continued support.

~ **Gerald Schmidt**
Chairperson, Board of Trustees

Trustees
CORNER



Welcome Jared Hackworth

We welcome Jared Hackworth as the new Christian Education Coordinator at Gary Church, responsible for assisting with the general operation of Sunday morning Christian Education ministry for children and adults.

Jared is a freshman at Wheaton College currently studying English and Political Science. He grew up in Ohio and was a camp counselor and Sunday School leader during high school. Jared says, "I am excited to be taking on this role and getting to know all of you at Gary Church." On Sunday mornings, you'll see him setting up rooms, helping with AV, offering support to leaders and subbing if needed—generally helping to build relationships and create environments that foster spiritual growth.

New Members

Marion Rybarczyk

A list of locations helps tell Marion Rybarczyk's story: Heidleberg, Germany—where he was born and lived until he was 3; Chicago—where he grew up and graduated from Lane Technical High School; Carbondale—where, after years in the Air Force, he got a BS in finance and then embarked on a career with the federal government; Fort Worth, Texas—where he first joined a United Methodist Church; Carol Stream—where he now resides and commutes to his job as a contract manager for the Veterans Administration at Hines; Oklahoma—where his only son moved last June; and finally, Gary Church—where he has found a new church family and looks forward to getting involved, especially after he retires next year. Marion says, "A lot of the things I liked to do when I was younger are not easy for me, but I know the Lord can still use me in other ways." His Connections Sponsor is Greg Perisho.

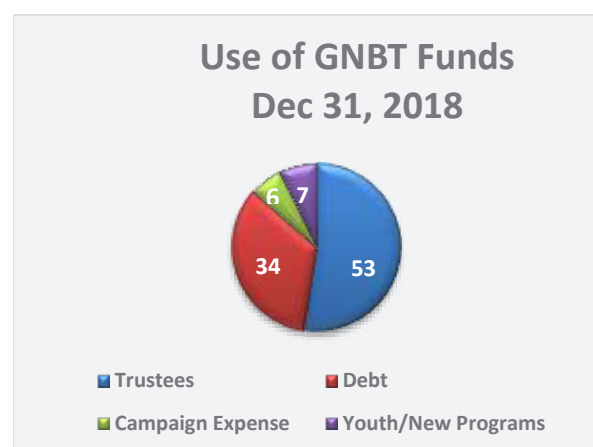


Chad Hill and Libby Phillips Hill Tucker and Sadie

Chad Hill and Libby Phillips Hill and their children Tucker, 10, and Sadie, 5, moved to Wheaton in 2016 from Forest Park. Chad and Libby met in a swing dance class and are both graphic designers and artists. Chad, originally from Lebanon, Indiana, owns a design firm called Django Studios, servicing clients in the automotive, tool, and aviation industries, and he owns a shop in Addison called Hot Rod Chassis and Cycle. Additionally, he paints nose art on restored WWII airplanes and has played guitar for over 30 years. Libby, originally from Des Plaines, is an at-home mom and has been painting in acrylic and doing mixed media art. They found Gary Church through the MOPS group and Cub Scouts, and Sadie attends Gary Preschool. They like to volunteer and jumped right in to helping with Christmas Sharing. Their Connections Sponsors are Mike and Brooke Oswald.



God's Next Big Thing



THANK YOU, GARY FAMILY!

Your GNBT: *All-In* Steering Committee has a wonderful announcement to share with our Gary family. **YOU EXCEEDED OUR FIVE-YEAR GNBT: *ALL-IN* CAMPAIGN GIVING GOAL OF \$1.8M ON DECEMBER 31, 2018!**

Congratulations and blessings for your accomplishment! God and your prayers have been a source of strength throughout this journey. We are grateful for your prayers, gifts, pledges, and talents. Planning for a celebration to commemorate this milestone is underway. We will be able to share more about plans for the celebration in the future. For now, know your love of God, Gary Church, and participation in GNBT has made this accomplishment possible.

WITH DEEP GRATITUDE,

The GNBT: *All-In* Steering Committee

United Methodist Scholarships and Loans

The United Methodist Scholarship and Loan Programs help supplement the financial needs of today's students. Funding for these scholarships and loans is provided through offerings, wills, annuities, and other designated gifts. To apply, a student must be an active, full member of the United Methodist Church for at least one year. Applicants must be pursuing a degree program at any accredited institution with the U.S. and can be pursuing any career. The Fall 2019 application is open through March 7, 2019. For more information and to apply, visit <https://www.gbhem.org/loans-and-scholarships>.



Thank You

Thank you all for your continued support. Through your cards, phone calls, emails, texts, FB posts, books, yummy meals, warm knitted items, rides to and from chemo treatments, and, of course, your prayers, my family has gained the strength needed to fight this dreaded disease.

We are truly blessed to be a part of Gary Church and call it family.

Thank you all.

Jessica, Rich, Jack, and Mark Bianco

Thank you from the family of David Brewer:

Words cannot express the love we felt from our Gary Church family over the last few months and at the memorial service. Thank you to all the people who provided cookies for the reception, the ushers who volunteered their time, and the people who sang the beautiful music pieces. It was truly a celebration of his life and faith. We are blessed to have the support of the Gary Church family.

Much love, Heidi, Katri and Daniel, Krista and Phillip

Members of Monday morning Disciplines,

Thank you all so much for the lovely Christmas poinsettia! Being a part of such a wonderful group of people has truly been a blessing. Your love and support have brought more comfort and joy to me over the years than you will ever know. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for all you have done and for all you continue to do.

Heather Janiak

Dear Gary Church Family,

The outreach over the months of recovery from my fall was overwhelming. The meals, cards, calls, emails, reactions to posts, and visits, along with gift baskets, dog walks, and boundless prayers certainly helped with my healing and progress walking.

**With gratitude and love,
Bobbi Wheatley**

Congratulations

Jay, Nicole, and Riley Krick on the birth of their son and brother, Benjamin Lee, on January 4. Grandmother is Debbie Riley. Great-grandmother is Verla Jefferson.

Our Sympathy

Keith & Terri Nystrom on the death of Terri's father, William Black, on December 20.

The Family of Neal Smith. Neal passed away on January 1.

Reg & Barbara Heeley on the death of Barbara's brother, John Clark, on January 1.

The family of Harry Binford. Harry passed away on January 11. Arrangements are pending.

The Blackwell and Keske families on the death of Melinda's father, Ken Blackwell, on January 21.

Baptisms

Logan James Trieschmann, son of Robin & James Trieschmann, Jr., on December 30

Altar Flowers: If you would like to provide flowers for our altar on Sunday mornings, call or e-mail the Church Office.

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

Gary United Methodist



Gary United Methodist Preschool is Turning 50!

Save the Date! On Sunday, April 28, we will be celebrating our 50th anniversary from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. We will be hosting an open house with tasty treats and fun activities, and welcome all to join in the fun. We are also requesting photos from past years to display. Send your scanned photos to preschool@garychurch.org, or drop off your original photos in the Church Office. (These will be returned to you; please write your name on the back.) Spread the word! More information to come.

Register for 2019-20

Gary United Methodist Preschool is accepting applications for the 2019-2020 school year. We offer three preschool classes: Three-year-old, Four-year-old, and Pre-K. We also have a Parents' Morning Out program for children 18 months-3 years old. Please contact Kirsten McCluskey at preschool@garychurch.org for more information or to schedule a tour.

Scholarship Fund

Gary United Methodist Preschool is seeking donations for our Scholarship Fund. We are enrolling a family in need of a full scholarship for the 2019-2020 school year. Any amount is appreciated!

MOMMIN' IS HARD. WE GET IT.
MOMS NEED MOM FRIENDS.

COME AS YOU ARE.



MOPS & MOMSNEXT

February 12 | Marriage, from the Perspective of our Mentor Moms: Q & A Panel

February 26 | Service Day: Days for Girls

March 12 | "How To Raise Strong Girls (and Boys!) in an Age of [#MeToo](#)" with speaker Jill Richardson

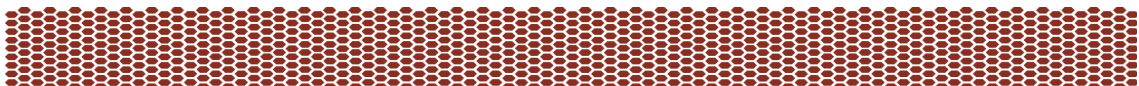
April 9 | Service Day: Baby Shower & Teen Parent Connection Diaper Drive

April 23 | "How to Talk to Your Kids About Death" with speaker Karen Leibold

May 14 | Sisterhood, Closing Meeting

this is motherhood

We meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month from 9:15 to 11:15 a.m. and welcome all moms. Please feel free to direct any questions to wheatonmops@gmail.com. Advanced registration is required through the Gary Church website to ensure childcare. Please see the MOPS tab at garyumc.org for details.



Someone You Should Know

John Wiggins

by Pastor Bruce Anderson

This month's "Someone You Should Know" is somebody you have been introduced to before,



but in a different role. There is a saying in the institutional growth community that each institution has the perfect plan to be exactly where they are. In other words, if you don't do anything different, things will not change. Winfield church is looking to create some change, so we have hired one of our members to work on our behalf.

I would like to introduce John Wiggins as the new Winfield Community UMC Church Administrator. John is working full-time to try to increase the church's presence and visibility in the community. John will be at the church during the week, making it more available for use. This will also make it easier for him to notice, and coordinate, needed upkeep and maintenance items for the church, as well as updating church records.

John will also be the church liaison between Winfield, Gary, and the South Asian Congregation at Winfield.

In this new role, John will be engaging in church outreach. He will be contacting people who have drifted away from the church, and also making contact with new people and non-church members in hopes of generating interest in attending the church. John has already been instrumental in finding space for our Explore God initiative at the Fire Station, and coordinating church use and outreach initiatives with the Village of Winfield.

As a future seminarian, this work will give John a wonderful introduction into the world of church administration and coordination that should be invaluable to him when he begins the work of a pastor. (It ain't all preaching!) We are hoping that John will be able to help our church improve, grow, and make more of a contribution to the community. So next time you see John, say "hi" and welcome aboard to the newest member of the Winfield staff. John Wiggins, Winfield Church Administrator, and someone you should know.



at Winfield Church

Second Saturday of the Month, 5 p.m.

Piano Recital at Winfield Church

Saturday, February 16, 7 p.m.

Anatoliy Torchinskiy, pianist, returns to present works by Scriabin, Piazzolla, Debussy, Ravel, Handel, Bach, Mozart and Chopin in this program at Winfield Community United Methodist Church. Anatoliy is a powerful performer who plays concerts as a solo artist, in chamber music ensembles, as an opera accompanist, and also teaches piano. This will be a wonderful evening of music. Winfield Church is an ideal venue for an intimate concert experience.



Winfield Community United Methodist Church
OS 347 Jefferson St. Winfield, IL 60190 • 847 815 3846

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



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www.winfieldumc.org

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Gary United Methodist Church presents Dan Forrest's

LUX
THE DAWN FROM ON HIGH
LUX

Sunday, March 3, 2019

9 and 11 a.m.

Festival Choir and Orchestra of Gary Church
with guest artists Henriët Fourie and Andrzej Stec

This family-friendly event is free and open to the public.

