

Chimes

The Newsletter of Gary Church and Winfield Community Church
February 2020



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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/April *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.

Adult Christian Education and Discipleship

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Why Is 14 the New 24 and 28 the New 18? | Insights from *Growing With*

Through February 23, 10 a.m. in the Anderson Room

If you have a teenager or 20-something in your life, class leaders Janet Mathis, Leigh Ann Gaul, and Carey Bebar invite you to explore that question and so much more in

Growing With: Every Parent's Guide to Helping Teenagers and Young Adults Thrive in Their Family, Faith, and Future. Come find out what “withing,” “faithing,” and “adulting” are all about and how these strategies can help us grow with our teens and 20-somethings rather than grow apart. The material in this book is great, and it's so valuable to talk with other parents! Copies of the book are available in the Commons, but reading is not required for class attendance.



Proposals to General Conference 2020

February 9 and 16, 10 a.m. in the Chapel

The Task Force on Gary Church, United Methodism, and Human Sexuality will offer informal informational sessions (the same session offered two different days) covering the proposals to The United Methodist General Conference 2020, with particular focus on the “Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation.”

Sharing our Stories

February 23, in the Commons

On this special Sunday, our Festival Choir will present *This Is My Story, This Is My Song: A Hymn and Story Festival* during both worship services.

Between services, grab a cup of coffee in Special Blend and look for the questions provided to help those at your table unpack what you heard (or will hear) and share some of your own stories.

LENTEN STUDIES

Transformed: A Series on Peter

Sundays, March 1–April 5, 10 a.m. in the Chapel

Who was Simon Peter? How did this simple fisherman become a favored disciple of Jesus and the rock upon which Christ's church was built? Join clergy and scholars for this six-week Lenten study that explores Peter's transformation and how it reveals the transforming spirit of the gospel available to us all.



Pastor's Lenten Study: *The Passion Play*

Wednesday, March 4–April 8, 10 a.m. in the Anderson Room

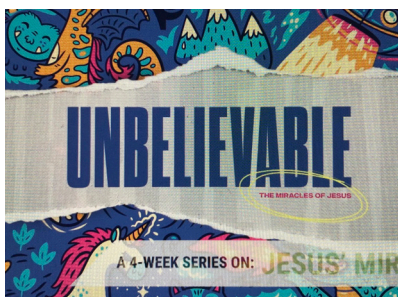
With few exceptions, the Oberammergau Passion Play has been presented by the inhabitants of the village of Oberammergau, Bavaria, Germany every 10 years since 1634. The play is a staging of Jesus' Passion story, covering the final period of his life from his visit to Jerusalem to the journey to the cross. *The Passion Play: Living the Story of Christ's Last Days* by Rob Fuquay, offers a journey to the origins of the Passion Play and helps readers understand how the play has been used both as a ritual of praise and later as a weapon through its anti-Semitic past. Join Pastor Chris for this Lenten study that will help participants feel a sense of connection to the play while **recognizing their own place in the story of Jesus.**



sunday mornings

This month Gary Kids will experience **UNBELIEVABLE: A 4-WEEK SERIES ON THE MIRACLES OF JESUS**

Kids love using their imaginations and playing make believe! It's fun to be creative and play with unicorns, dragons, doll houses, and LEGO bricks. But with all the things in our world that are unbelievable, kids need to know what is real and true. They need to know we can trust God, God's Word, and the incredible real miracles of Jesus. In this series, kids will learn that God did things that seemed impossible and unbelievable, but those things were very real ways of showing us God's power and heart. This series will teach kids that God cares about us when we are sick, Jesus cares about us when we're afraid, Jesus can provide for our needs, and Jesus can do the impossible.



Parent Tip of the Month: Kids love being leaders and doing valuable work. Teach them that leading also means serving others. Give them opportunities to serve and lead both in and out of the home. And let them see you leading by serving others. When you see them serving, affirm and encourage them. God is shaping right now through everyday opportunities of growth.

Resource of the Month: Check out *Love Does for Kids* by Bob Goff and Lindsey Goff Vidulich to help your kids view their faith as an exciting adventure. It is filled with true stories from Bob Goff's life and inspiration just for kids. Kids will be encouraged to do big things for God to make a difference in the world.



upcoming events

My Gym Playdate

Sunday, February 16, 4-5:30 p.m.

Do your littles have cabin fever this winter? Come get those wiggles out at a family playdate at My Gym, 43 E Danada Square, Wheaton. The cost of this event is \$10 per child. Hope to see you there!

Parent's Night Out

Friday, February 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Drop off your children at Gary and enjoy a night out while the kids enjoy supervised play with their church friends. Parent's Night Out is open to children ages 6 month-grade 3. Reservations are required through Gary's Church Office and a donation of \$5 per child is suggested.

4th & 5th Grade Fellowship: FUNTOPIA

Friday, February 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Come for a night of fun with your fourth and fifth grade friends at Funtopia in Naperville. We will meet at and return to Gary. Cost: \$10. Please RSVP through the Church Office by Wednesday, February 19.



SuperStart! Game Changer for 4th & 5th Grade Students

Friday-Saturday, March 20-21

Learn more about this high-energy weekend on the Gary Kids page of garychurch.org. Cost \$85.





Gary Youth Update

Midweek for Middle Schoolers

Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m.
February 5, 12, 19
in the Activity Center

High School Sunday Nights

Sundays, 7–8:30 p.m.
February 9 in the Activity Center
(February 16 is Winter Chill Retreat)
February 23
Word and Table at the Austin's home

Save these important dates
on your summer calendar!

Summer Camp Registration



Middle School MIX Camp
Lake Carlinsville, Illinois
July 27–31 | Cost \$350



High School MOVE Camp
Holland, MI | June 22–26
Cost \$350

Register now for either camp on the Gary Youth page of garychurch.org. For additional information about these camps, visit www.ciy.com/mix or www.ciy.com/move.



Blast Camp

Gary Church | June 15–19
9 a.m.–12 p.m. | Cost \$30

Registration will open March 1 at garychurch.org.

Growing With Parenting

Our latest book recommendation and Sunday School class for parents is *Growing With: Every Parent's Guide To Helping Teenagers and Young Adults Thrive in Their Faith, Family, and Future*. Authors Kara Powell and Steven Argue are from Fuller Youth Institute, the group behind *Sticky Faith* which we have discussed so often. Addressing a fear that many parents experience, a central message of the book is “Growing Up Doesn't Mean Growing Apart.” For parents to embark on a mutual journey with their young people, Powell and Argue explore three strategies:

- “Withing,” a family's growth in supporting each other as children grow more independent
- “Faithing,” the key to empowering teenagers and young adults to grow in their relationship with God and the church
- “Adulting,” equipping young people with the agency they need to thrive in their future friendships and vocations.

To further explore these concepts, pick up the book in the Commons. You can also jump into the remaining Sunday School classes at 10 a.m. in the Anderson Room through February 23.



Broken Together Moves to a New Time

Our youth music ensemble is now rehearsing *Sunday nights*, 5:45–6:45 p.m. all Middle and High School students are invited to sing or play a musical instrument with them. Contact Ellie Pentland through the Church Office.

Gary Variety Show Auditions

Sunday, February 23, 2–3:30 p.m.

The Variety Show on March 8 will kick off our annual Soup & Chili Cook-Off + Auction which will benefit the Gary Youth Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic. Bring a talent to the audition and be part of an amazing night sharing your gifts and supporting Gary Youth!

Variety Show + Soup & Chili Cook-off + Auction



VARIETY SHOW: Get your act together! All are invited to participate in this joyful, intergenerational event spotlighting the many talents of Gary Church! Contact Carey Bebar if you have questions.

Sunday, February 23 at 2 p.m. | Talent & M.C. “Try-outs”

Saturday, March 7 at 10:30 a.m. | Technical Rehearsal

Sunday, March 8 at 4 p.m. | Variety Show!

CHILI COOK-OFF: The Soup & Chili Cook-off and Auction raises funds for the high school summer mission trip to the Dominican Republic. This is an important night of fundraising for students, as proceeds from their auction items will go directly towards paying their individual trips! And the soups and chili at this fun event are delicious.

Sign up in the Commons February 9–March 1 to bring your best recipe and vie for the Golden Ladle award.

AUCTION: We are so thankful for past auction items and are seeking new donations this year to help us reach our mission trip fundraising goals. You can get creative; some of our highest-ticket items are potluck BBQs and hosted dinners, donations from local businesses, travel local and world-wide, and creatively themed baskets. Use of imagination and your own talents is highly encouraged.

Sign up in the Commons February 9–March 1 to donate an item, or contact Jane Bilezikian through the Church Office.

Styrofoam Recycling Ministry - HOURS CHANGING!

As part of our Christian responsibility to care for God's creation, Gary Church has operated a Styrofoam recycling ministry for several years, with the goal to keep this useful but non-degradable material out of our landfills. Increased online purchasing has exacerbated the desire by all to reduce disposal of this material. This resulted in a very big collection right after Christmas, which was taken to the Dart Container Corporation 24/7 public recycling center, 310 Evergreen Dr., North Aurora.

The hours for our bimonthly recycling will change as of the Sunday, February 23 collection to 8:45–9 a.m. and 10–11:15 a.m., still in the same location - the south driveway.



CAN THESE BE RECYCLED IN YOUR CURBSIDE RECYCLING CAN?

Cardboard egg cartons

Clean aluminum foil

Paper towels

Paperback books

Bags that contained flour or sugar

To find out more about recycling in your community, go to your city's website and search "recycling." Or you can go to the Recycling page of garychurch.org to find links to the city and county webpages.

It's important to learn more about what can and cannot be recycled, so you don't contaminate your entire recycling can with one item. Take the quiz above. Answers can be found on your city's website or on a helpful list, created by SCARCE, of items that should not be placed in curbside bins. You can find this list at scarce.org/downloads/curbside-recycling/ or at garychurch.org.

Remember that #6 plastic (Styrofoam) is one of the things you cannot place in curbside recycling, but you can bring it to Gary Church on February 23 and the fourth Sunday of every other month from 8:45–9 a.m. and 10–11:15 a.m.

~Elaine McCluskey and the Styrofoam Recycling Team

In the Footsteps of Paul Greece Tour

September 24–October 2, 2020

Walk in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul and stand where the New Testament church began.

Informational Meeting: Monday, February 24 at 7 p.m. in the Commons



THIS IS MY
Story

THIS IS MY
Song



A HYMN AND STORY FESTIVAL

*with Gary Church's Festival Choir and Orchestra,
Friendship Singers, soprano Aimee Stuart Flunker,
and saxophonist Tom VanKanegan*

Sunday, February 23 at 9 and 11 a.m. in the Gary Church Sanctuary

Women's Retreat **Worry Less Live More**

Friday and Saturday March 13 and 14

COME GATHER WITH OTHER WOMEN OF GARY
AND WINFIELD CHURCHES TO HEAR GUEST SPEAKER
JANE RUBIETTA AND LEARN SURPRISING, SIMPLE WAYS TO
FEEL MORE PEACE, JOY, AND ENERGY.

SEE GARYCHURCH.ORG FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
AND REGISTRATION.

COST IS \$160. SPACE IS LIMITED.

LA SALLE MANOR RETREAT CENTER



United Methodist Women in Mission

February Focus

Craft Circle

The mission of Craft Circle is to participate in crafting for fun and fellowship and then sell their creations twice a year to raise money for mission projects that support women and children. After a successful Christmas Market that raised money for organizations such as People's Resource Center, Christmas Sharing, and Refuge for Women, they are turning their attention to crafting for the Fundaniños Orphanage Fundraiser on May 3.

This group led by Rev. JoAnne Chase welcomes all women who enjoy working with their hands, even if you have never held a glue gun or strung beads together. Circle member Jennifer Ruth explains, "Our members all have different skills and levels of creativity (from none at all, to very accomplished) and we are happy to teach everyone. We choose easy and quick projects that can usually be finished in one session and we try to use materials from nature, recycled materials, as well as supplies that we already own." The meetings are full of laughter, fellowship, sharing, and caring, and everyone learns how to make a wide variety of items, all of which are suggested and voted on by members.

The Circle typically meets the second Wednesday of the month in Gamon Hall from 6:45 to 8:30 p.m. during the months of September to May, with one additional meeting and potluck lunch during the summer from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. They invite all women to the next crafting session on February 12 to make American flags from recycled corks and simple greeting cards—and encourage you to bring family, friends, and neighbors.

MISSION

this month

Make a difference with...

...your gifts and hands-on service

FEED THE NEED! A Feed My Starving Children MobilePack

Saturday, February 15, 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 that helps address the world hunger problem, and we 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.

If you can't be there on February 15, you can make a donation of any amount to cover the cost of the meals Gary Church packs. For only \$88 you can feed a child for an entire year with nutritious FMSC food! Checks should be made payable to Gary Church with FMSC in the memo line.

Learn more about the event at www.feedtheneedillinois.org or contact Kathi Hodges through the Church Office.



CROP Walk - Hosted by Gary Church

Sunday, May 3, 2 p.m.

CROP Walk raises awareness and funds in support of local food pantries and global supply of food and clean water for people in need. Participants from 10 area churches will come to Gary for the walk, and we want to show everyone a warm, energetic Gary welcome!



As the host for the walk, we will need volunteers to help set-up, tear-down, and run the event on May 3—as well as many walkers on our Gary Team!

Sign-up in the Commons will begin in late March, and online sign-up to walk and donate is available now at crophungerwalk.org/glenellynil/garyumc2020.

If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, please contact Judy Selby through the Church Office.

"I walk because I can, because I am able to walk. It is a gift from God to be out in our community raising awareness

for those people near us who are deprived of the resources that they need to thrive. I also treasure this gift because I have been close with those who never could walk as well as those who have lost their ability to walk during their lifetimes with me. I believe when I support the Crop Walk, it helps those who need a little more and helps me show my thanks for all I have been given. *Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act* (Proverbs 3:27). ~Michelle Sweeney

sharing THE STORY in Mission

The People's Resource Center

A Beacon of Help

Imagine for a moment that you are picked up and dropped down in another country, say Burma. You don't know the language or the customs. The climate, geography, and housing are completely different from what you know. It must be the most stressful and frightening experience you can think of. Yet, the Burmese people dropped here in DuPage County smile from ear to ear all the time. They might not understand anything you say, but the smile is ever-present.

The People's Resource Center (PRC) in Wheaton and Westmont has its doors open and the welcome mat out to very many immigrants. I believe over 100 languages are represented on our client roster. We offer food, clothing, literacy classes, mentoring, art classes, and computer classes. Once the language barrier is overcome, we help people study for citizenship.

I think about this situation very often and try to put myself in their shoes and I can't imagine what it must be like. The PRC does a wonderful job of helping the many populations over the hump and getting acclimated to their new lives as American citizens. I am so proud to play a tiny role in the process.

I urge anyone who wants to become a volunteer to consider the People's Resource Center as a place to direct your energy and attention! You can take the first step by checking out the Volunteer page at peoplesrc.org. You will never be sorry, and your life will be ever so enriched for doing so.

~ Mary Landreth



Because of your generosity

An Advent Season Thank You

Gary's Mission work during the holidays was a great success for both the congregation and the recipients. Thanks to the many individuals who worked or contributed to Heifer International, Outreach Seniors Luncheon and, of

course, Christmas Sharing. Specials thanks to our organizers and leaders: Barbara Holmes, Virginia Isgren, Joe Davisson, and Shelly Kenyon. If I have forgotten anyone, please forgive my error. Once again, thanks to all.

To kick off 2020, we focused on three local missions. On January 5 Claudia Marchan, Executive Director of Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors (NI JFON), gave an excellent overview of the program and shared personal knowledge about what many of our newly arrived immigrant neighbors face and the difficulties of dealing with our legal systems. She also gave insight into how we, as individuals, can help through the program. Her audience was very engaged and appreciative of the latest information and opportunities. Our enthusiasm led to volunteers and inquiries about helping NI JFON. We look forward to a continuing relationship with this worthy organization.

On January 12, Dick Riederer and Loraine Nemo of Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) presented the program's history, an overview of what it has accomplished, and what it aims to accomplish going forward. We also were reminded of opportunities to help—including the February 15 MobilePack at North Central College.

Finally, we welcomed our own Judy Selby on January 19 with information about CROP Walk. Gary will be hosting this valuable and fun afternoon on May 3. Judy reviewed the background of the Walk and offered us opportunities to help make this year's Walk a bigger success than ever. So grab your Fitbit and join us there either as a walker or a volunteer.

~Joe Ruth

Singing: “It’s What It Does for My Soul”

Gil Lehman, baritone, Chancel Choir

by Jennifer Whiting

A three-year-old boy stood bravely in front of the tiny congregation at Harmon United Methodist Church to sing his very first solo. This was the beginning of Gil Lehman’s life-long dedication to music. After completing eight childhood summers of Bible school, he received a graduation certificate at a ceremony with pipe organ, piano, and lots of singing.

When Gil was a freshman in high school, his voice had not yet changed. Still a soprano with a lovely tone and high range, he was often invited to sing “Danny Boy.” He chuckles remembering a time he wanted to attend a Harlem Globetrotters’ game, but his music teacher and his father expected him to sing for the PTA meeting. He obeyed!

Gil stayed active in church music through high school, singing when they had enough people to make a choir. He admits that he was “kind of a troublemaker.” He said something that hurt the feelings of his director, Eva Schwab. Gil’s dad, a Mennonite, made him go to her house and apologize. Gil saw her again decades later. He broke down in tears, remembering how he had been unkind to her, but she forgave him freely.

Gil played trumpet in his school band and intended to become a professional trumpet player. He studied with the first chair trumpeter of the ABC Orchestra in Chicago. He graduated from high school in Dixon, IL, in 1944.

He took his trumpet along during his years of service in the Army Air Corps during WWII. He served as a cryptographic technician and played trumpet with the AAC Band in San Antonio, TX. After V-J Day, he reenlisted and went to Italy where he played trumpet with German prisoners of war.

Gil and his longtime friend Lewis Drummond were stationed at a base in Colorado. Lewis became active in the Billy Graham Crusade. A memorable conversation with Lewis helped Gil become “centered on the message of the Bible,” in Gil’s words. He finished his military service in 1946 and continued trumpet studies during his years at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, IA.

This is where a sweet and spunky girl entered the picture. Gil met Lola in a Sunday School class at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church in Cedar Rapids. They both sang in the vesper choir at Coe College. Another cute choir member interrupted this love story, but Gil did come to his senses. He married Lola in 1950.

When Wheaton North High School opened in the early 1960s, Gil directed their choir and band. Having earned his BA in Music, his Master’s in Education Administration, and a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Music Education, he became the Principal of Franklin Junior High.

He quickly realized he missed contact with students, and most of all he missed music. So he went back to teaching. A fifth-grade student once said to him, “Mr. Lehman, I know you teach music for fun, but what do you do for a living?”

The Lehmans came to Gary Church after being members at Aldersgate UMC for 25 years. Gil joined Gary’s Chancel Choir in the mid-1960s and has been a valued member of the baritone section for over 50 years. “Music itself and the feelings that I have while singing” draw him to the choir. “It’s what it does for my soul.”

Gil has decided it is time for him to step back from choral singing, but to those who might consider joining a choir at Gary Church, he says, “You will be accepted in the group and you will enjoy the experience of singing even if you do not have a lot of knowledge of music. You will find a worshipful experience and a very fine musical experience. Music is a powerful and wonderful thing. I have seen



Junior Organ Scholar

Gary students are invited to apply to be a Junior Organ Scholar for a day, an honorary position that combines education, responsibility, and a bit of fun. The Junior Organ Scholar will meet the organist 15 minutes before one of the services for a five-minute introduction to the organ, then during the prelude and according to their ability, turn pages, change stops, or press pistons to assist the music.

Once the prelude is done, the Junior Organ Scholar will join their family in the congregation for worship. Any students ages 9–18 may apply to participate by contacting Kevin Lange, Principal Organist, at klange@garychurch.org. Junior Organ Scholars will participate in worship on the second Sunday of each month as scheduling allows.



Share your time *and* Talents

There are so many ways to be involved in the life of the church! We invite you to take a look at this list of current opportunities and prayerfully consider how you can share your gifts.

- **Carpenters and Electricians** – Upgrades to the AV system in the Sanctuary will begin soon. Dave Mann will lead this project and is looking for people willing to donate their talents to help. For more information or to volunteer, contact Dave through the Church Office.
- **Communion Stewards** – This important behind-the-scenes role includes purchasing and preparing the elements used for Holy Communion each month. Contact the Church Office to learn more.
- **Care Cards** – We share love and support to members of the congregation through our care cards. Help by using your good penmanship to write out the provided messages and then set out the cards on a rotating monthly basis. Contact Jackie Fritz or Barbara Holmes through the Church Office to volunteer.
- **Welcome Ministry** – Teams of friendly folks welcome worshippers on Sunday morning and by following up with guests. Share your gift for hospitality as a greeter or on one of the other welcome teams. Contact Kim Austin at kaustin@garychurch.org.
- **Special Blend** – Our 10 a.m. coffee hour is an important time of fellowship that happens each week thanks to the efforts of numerous volunteers. Support this ministry by hosting, setting up, or cleaning up once a month. Contact the Church Office.
- **Sunday School Teachers/Assistants** – Our 10 a.m. Sunday School hour is filled with amazing kids. Be part of a rotating team helping our older elementary students grow in faith.
- **Wedding Hostess/Host** – This paid position involves working with wedding parties prior to and on the day of the wedding. One of our current wedding hostesses is willing to train someone beginning this summer to take over the role at the end of the year. Contact the Church Office for more information.

Finance Update

We have good news to report! For 2019, giving exceeded expenses by \$26,000. Thank you to everyone who contributed! While giving was \$39,000 below budget, expenses were \$65,000 below budget, partially due to a reduction in conference apportionments. The 2020 budget is at a similar level as 2019. We appreciate the congregation's continued support throughout the year for all of Gary's ministries.

~ **Suzanne Marra on behalf of
The Finance 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 2020 application is open through March 5. For more information and to apply, visit gbhem.org/loans-and-scholarships.



An Update from the Task Force on Gary Church, United Methodism, and Human Sexuality

The "Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation," intended to "preserve" The United Methodist Church while allowing traditionalist-minded congregations to form a new denomination, is the newest proposal for the reorganization of The United Methodist Church. It and the other proposals will be considered by delegates to General Conference on May 5–15, 2020 in Minneapolis, MN. To learn about the various proposals to General Conference 2020, with particular focus on the "Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation," attend one of two information sessions offered by Gary's Task Force:

- Sunday, February 9 at 10 a.m. in the Chapel or
- Sunday, February 16 at 10 a.m. in the Chapel

Additionally, the NIC Exploration Team and NIC General/Jurisdictional Delegation, along with the DCM/Cabinet, are co-hosting conversations around the Northern Illinois Conference. These sessions will cover what is expected to take place at General Conference 2020:

- Sunday, February 2, 3–5 p.m.
River Forest UMC
- Thursday, February 13, 3–5 p.m.
Woodridge UMC
- Thursday, February 13, 7–9 p.m.
Schaumburg: Our Saviour's UMC
- Sunday, February 16, 3–5 p.m.
Rockford: Christ UMC

Links to the "Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation," articles about it, and a chart comparing the various proposals are available at garychurch.org. Additional information can also be found at umnews.com.





On Monday, January 20, Gary welcomed the community by hosting the 30th annual DuPage County Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King. The keynote speaker was Rev. Dr. James Miller, Senior Pastor of DuPage AME Church in Lisle.

Election 2020 Opportunities

The DuPage County Clerk – Election Division is seeking applicants to assist in the election process for the General Primary being held on *Tuesday, March 17*. There are a number of ways to assist: Election Call Center (late January to March 17), Data Entry (late January to March 12), Production Facility (late February to March 13), Election Judging (March 17). Should you be interested in helping with the election process, please contact Charles Walker at (630) 407-5618 or charles.walker@dupageco.org.

The Burning Bush is proud to announce their newest show: **LEARNING FRIDA**

February 2–February 28

In recognition of the upcoming Frida Kahlo exhibit at College of DuPage, this exhibit features the works of several local art students exploring their inner Frida. Show hours are Sundays, February 2 and 23, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.; Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.; or by appointment, 708-705-8669. Join us for the Artists' Reception on Sunday, Feb 2, 1–4 p.m.



Thank You

College Care Packages

Thanks to the efforts of many, about 35 of our college students got a little surprise in the mail at finals time. We're grateful to everyone who donated snacks and wrote messages, to the parents and other adults who came together to pack the boxes, and to UMW Circles for donating the cost of postage. Responses from the students include comments such as these: "It made me happy to know my church family was thinking of me during my time of final exams. I also was glad to read through the cards that members signed and wrote encouraging messages." Another student said, "I really appreciate you all putting in the time and effort and thinking of me with the kind letters. Your gifts will definitely help me get through finals."

Dear Gary Congregation:

We are very grateful for the pastor visits, beautiful prayer shawl, cards, and above all, prayers for Jim's recovery. He is now home, and continuing to improve.

**Many thanks,
Carol & Jim Carr**

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

Congratulations

Jennifer, Andrew & Annabelle Green on the birth of their daughter and sister, Lillian Lee, on December 3. Grandparents and uncle are Paul, Jill & Tom Stoffels.

Baptisms

Emersen Scata, daughter of Joel & Kim Scata, on January 26.

Our Sympathy

Chuck Miller on the death of his father, Jim Miller, on November 28.

The Family of Nancy Thompson. Nancy passed away on November 30.

The Family of George Zidek. George passed away on December 5. A Memorial Service will be held March 14, 1 p.m. in Gary's Sanctuary

Bob & Madge Drake on the death of their dear friend, Bob Bucklin, on December 6.

Hank & Nancy Schwabauer on the death of Nancy's brother, Larry Nixon, on December 12.

The Family of Heidi Brewer. Heidi passed away on December 16.

Joe & Lois Davisson on the death of Lois' father, Wendel Goodwin, on December 26.

Mike & Donna Capra on the death of Donna's father, Paul Kilman, on December 29.

The Family of Marion Lorenz. Marion passed away on January 17.

A New Photo Directory is Coming...

Photography will take place at Gary on May 19-22 and May 27-30. Mark your calendar and watch for sign-up information next month.

WinChimes

Winfield Community United Methodist Church
An Affiliate of Gary United Methodist Church

Sunday Mornings

Adult Christian Education, 9:30 a.m.

Traditional Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.

Children's Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.

Something You Should Know—New Habits

By Pastor Bruce Anderson

We have begun a new year, and we always look forward to new possibilities in the new year. The prophet Isaiah tell us, *Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert* – Isaiah 43:18 & 19, NRSV.

How many of you made New Year's resolutions? How many of you are still keeping them? Do you know why so many resolutions fail? It is because it takes a long time for an idea, or resolution, to become a habit. Research shows that it takes about sixty-six days on average to form a new habit, depending upon the difficulty of the task. One study showed drinking a glass of water after breakfast took about 20 days to become a habit, whereas eating a piece of fruit at lunch took twice as long. Taking on exercise is even harder, and one participant hadn't made it a habit after 84 days.¹ However, being part of a group helps us to remain committed. The group can provide encouragement and help hold us responsible to our commitment(s), if necessary.

Another factor that makes it hard to keep our resolutions is looking back at the past. Focusing on past hurts and disappointments can keep us stuck in the present and make it hard to change in the future. We have a sign in our kitchen that says, *Don't look back. You are not going that way!* Jesus said, *No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God* – Luke 9:62, NRSV.

This year, God invites us to commit to stop looking back at the past and embrace the possibilities God gives us for a new and different future. I challenge everyone to take on the spiritual disciplines of reading the Bible first thing in the morning, maybe with a cup of coffee or tea, and then spending a few minutes in prayer and meditation before breakfast. It can be an uplifting way to start the day.

I also urge us to encourage each other and build each other up. Let us be mindful of what our neighbors are experiencing and help them through it, if we can. That should be what the Body of Christ is about, uplifting each other. *Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ* – Galatians 6:2. Remember, God can help us to do new things, if we allow it, and it is never too late to start.

Winfield UMC will be looking at new possibilities as we plan for our future. We will meet at the church on Saturday, February 8, at 9 a.m. to chart our course, picking up where we left off last year. All are welcome to join in this important activity.

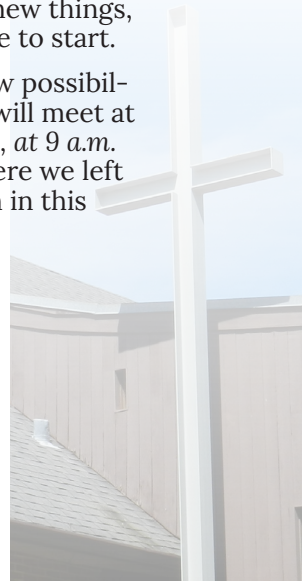
~Pastor Bruce

¹ Jeremy Dean, *Making Habits, Breaking Habits: Why We Do Things, Why We Don't, and How to Make Any Change Stick*, Lifelong Books, Da Capo Press.



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John Wiggins, Church Administrator
Olive Aliga, Music Director





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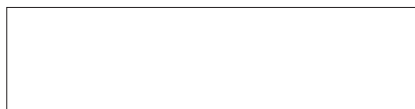
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Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 26, 7 p.m. in the Gary Sanctuary

Begin the season of Lent with this worship service that includes the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. Childcare will be available for children ages 5 and under.