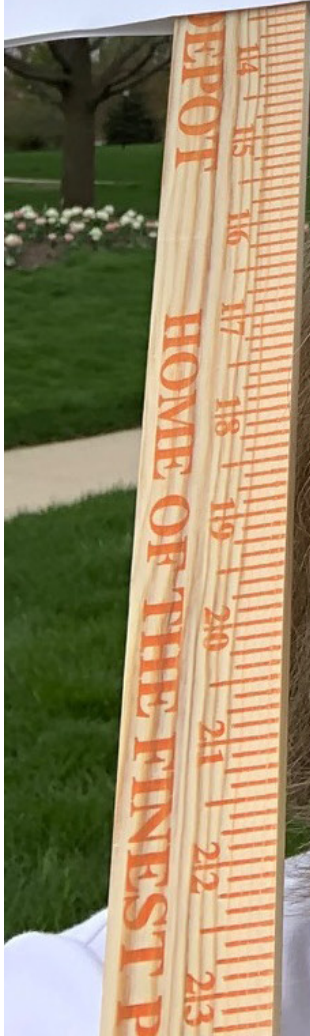


Chimes



The Newsletter of Gary Church
and Winfield Community Church
June/July 2020



Staff

Rev. Dr. Chris Pierson

SENIOR PASTOR

cperson@garychurch.org

Rev. Brian Felker Jones

PART-TIME ASSOCIATE PASTOR

bjones@garychurch.org

Rev. Bruce Anderson

WINFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

pastorbrucea@gmail.com

Jennifer Whiting

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

jwhiting@garychurch.org

Kevin Lange

ORGANIST

klange@garychurch.org

Carey Williams Bebar

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES AND

ADULT EDUCATION COORDINATOR

cbebar@garychurch.org

Daniel Lee

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

dlee@garychurch.org

Kim Austin

COMMUNICATIONS AND WELCOME MINISTRIES

DIRECTOR

kaustin@garychurch.org

Deb Evans

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

devans@garychurch.org

Deb Hafner

CHURCH OFFICE

office@garychurch.org

Pam Keller

PRINT COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

pkeller@garychurch.org

Becky Lemna

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

blemna@garychurch.org

Barbara Garlinger

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Kirsten McCluskey

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

preschool@garychurch.org

Raven Larkin

CHILDCARE COORDINATOR

childcare@garychurch.org

Sunday Worship Opportunities at Gary

Sunday Online Worship Service
available each week at 8 a.m. and after



Submissions for the August *Chimes* newsletter are due by July 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.

COVID-19 Update

Our building has been closed and face-to-face activities have been suspended for nearly three months. While we celebrate the ministry that has continued—maybe even expanded in the ways we have stayed connected to our mission, to one another, and to God—we all wonder how long this will last. When will we be able to return to in-person worship and small group meetings?

The honest answer is that we really don't know. What we can tell you is that the health and safety of our congregation are of utmost importance and the first of John Wesley's three principles, Do No Harm, guides us. With that in mind, we intend to follow the directive of Bishops Sally Dyck and Frank Beard to honor the regional and phased-in plan of Restore Illinois, which Governor J.B. Pritzker has outlined for us, and to utilize the guidelines provided by the Northern Illinois Conference's ReTurn Team.

While we are in Phase 3, our building will remain closed and we will continue online worship and alternative ways to be in ministry. At the same time, our own newly formed Health Team will begin to plan a path forward, determining changes necessary to safely allow people in the building and how we will implement those changes. When our region can move to Phase 4, which allows a maximum of 50 people to gather, this team will carefully consider our own local and congregational context to determine what this will mean for us. We will continue to prioritize the health and safety of the congregation, staff, and community—knowing that what may be allowed may not be beneficial. At some point, it may be the case that we hold small worship services while others continue to participate at home through streaming.

We are truly saddened by this time away from one another and recognize that uncertainty about when and how we will return adds another level of burden. Yet we remain steadfast in hope. As we wait, we remain committed to Wesley's two other rules—Do Good and Stay in Love with God—finding new ways to express God's love to others and to grow in faith as we worship at home.

~ Gary Church Pastors and Staff

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9



Growing

by Rev. Dr. Chris Pierson

How do we grow in our relationship with God and one another? How do we grow in our own understanding of God's unconditional love toward us and others? These questions could be considered basic. However, they are in reality questions we should continually ask ourselves individually and as a community. Growing is defined as "having or showing life." Growing is also defined as "springing up and developing into maturity." Do our lives show signs of life and vitality?

During this season of "sheltering in place" (not my favorite term), one of the few things that I have been able to do more frequently is to walk through my neighborhood and, as I walk, to reflect more upon questions such as these.

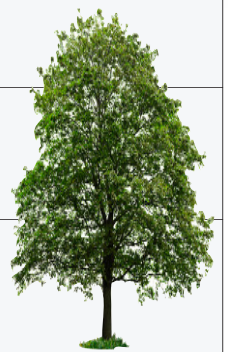
The coronavirus pandemic has taken over 100,000 lives, unemployment is at levels unseen since the Great Depression, and our lives have been disrupted in ways that many of us have never experienced in our lifetime. This disruptiveness has snapped us out of our routines.

It has also caused me to be more observant, to notice things that can easily be off my radar, such as the homes I have passed on my walks without really seeing until now, and beautiful paths that I have never taken. It has caused a greater awareness of the inequities in our society and exposed vulnerabilities in things such as our food supply and our health care infrastructure. At one level, it seems ridiculous to be thinking about "growing" in such a time as this. Shouldn't we just think about "surviving"?

However, to grow also means that we are able to grow in some place or situation. I believe that God calls us to grow especially in the place and situation in which we find ourselves. I believe that God calls us to be vessels of God's unconditional love toward others in times like these. I believe that we are enabled to do so when we are rooted in an understanding of God's love, empowered by God's Spirit, and can be vessels of the grace and love of God shed abroad in our hearts, even in times like these.

DISCIPLESHIP: AS SYSTEM & STRUCTURE (adapted from the work of Phil Maynard)

	Searching	Exploring	Beginning	Growing	Maturing
Worship	Searching for something more.	Learned about Gary or invited by a friend to attend worship. Attend more frequently.	Begin to attend worship regularly; becoming more aware of God in each day.	Attend worship regularly and begin to recognize daily moments of worship.	
Community	Searching for genuine community.	Begin to feel drawn to these followers of Jesus and feel warm acceptance by them.	Begin to feel a sense of belonging within the church family; offer hospitality to others in everyday life.	Feel connected within the church family; begin to look for ways to love, accept, and relate to others in the same way the church and God lovingly welcomed you.	
Spiritual Practices	Wonder about the Bible and if there are ways to experience God.	Feel drawn to the story of God's love and begin to explore prayer and scripture.	Begin to pray and read scripture regularly; open to God and to learning with others through a class or study.	Explore other spiritual disciplines in addition to prayer and reading scripture; draw closer to God on a daily basis; feel safe to ask questions in a study or class.	
Generosity & Service	Wonder if there is more to life than making money and selfish gain.	Begin to give and to try a service project at church. See other people making a difference in the lives of others and seek to be part of that.	Begin to give intentionally of money, time, and talents; understand Christ's invitation to serve others and learn about opportunities at Gary to use your gifts.	Try tithing your resources, time, and talent to God through Gary's ministries; aware of and exploring ways share your gifts, talents, and passion.	
Christ-Like	The life and teachings of Jesus are intriguing.	Explore the life of Jesus on your own by reading the Bible and attending your first Bible study or Sunday School class.	Make the decision to follow Jesus and be actively involved in the church; seek to become like Jesus and serve others.	Begin to daily apply the teachings of Jesus in everyday life.	



Some of our most trying times in life have been the times when we have grown the most. Growing pains are not only physical; they can be spiritual as well.

One of my spiritual practices each day during the stay-at-home order has been turning to the writing of Henri Nouwen for my daily devotional reading. One of the great gifts that the late priest, writer, and theologian left to the Church was a profound understanding of God's unconditional love. It is a powerful legacy born of his personal struggles in life, but it is also a fruitful legacy. He continued throughout his life to grow, especially in his understanding of God's unconditional love.

God calls us to grow especially in the place and situation in which we find ourselves.

In his book *Making All Things New* Nouwen writes, "Friendship, marriage, family, religious life, and every other form of community is **solitude greeting solitude, spirit speaking to spirit, and heart calling to heart**. It is the grateful recognition of God's call to share life together and the joyful offering of a hospitable space where the re-creating power of God's Spirit can become manifest. Thus all forms of life together can become ways to reveal to each other the real presence of God in our midst."

In these few brief sentences Nouwen captures the human longing and desire for love and community. He writes that God's Spirit has the power to create new life, to draw individuals together, and to build and sustain community (beloved community). I believe this is also true even though we are physically separated from one another.

With online worship now available to us throughout the week, not only in a specific hour at a specific place at a specific time, we are able to worship more regularly rather than needing to choose due to life's demands for our time. Perhaps we even begin to recognize daily moments of worship, which is an important step in growing in faith.

I have also observed that, in such a time as this, people have been creative in finding ways to create, build, and sustain community. People have been connecting within the church family through phone calls, social media, and video conferencing, and have found ways to celebrate milestones and markers in one another's lives—all sure signs that growing continues.

People have also begun to look for ways to love, accept, and relate to others in the same way the church and God lovingly welcomed them. Perhaps, in such a time as this, you have found yourself wrestling with the same questions that I have and been willing to voice those questions in your family or through one of our many online groups at Gary Church.

Perhaps you have found yourself more willing to tithe of your resources, time, and talent to God through ministries of Gary Church and are exploring ways to share your gifts, talents, and passion. As you have done these things, you have shown signs of growth and wrestled with these basic yet important questions even if you didn't verbalize them out loud.

As we also seek to grow in our spiritual practice, one of the great gifts of our own Wesleyan heritage and legacy as Methodists is our understanding of individual and communal acts and our understanding of works of piety and works of mercy.

Works of piety and spiritual disciplines for individuals include reading, meditating and studying the scriptures, prayer, fasting, regularly attending worship, healthy living, and sharing our faith with others. While the coronavirus pandemic has severely impacted our ability to share regularly in the sacraments due to health care concerns, our refraining from them are actually a sign of our love towards others. It is a different type of accountability to one another. Communally, we are still able to break the bread of life as we participate in Bible study and raise the cup of salvation as we share together the good news of Jesus Christ and God's unconditional love.

Finally, works of mercy continue among us as we do good works, visiting the sick through phone calls, caring for the spiritual needs of those in prison, feeding the hungry, giving generously to the needs of others, and seeking to address the root causes of societal inequities and injustice.

As we do these things, we show the ability to adapt and grow even in a time such as this. In doing these things we are growing to be more Christ-like and the real presence of God is in our midst.

Christopher L. Peerson

MISSION *this month*

We all look forward to the possible changes June and July will bring to the world and our families. The weeks of COVID-19 lockdown and social distancing have made life seem to be in a state of suspension and stasis. However, the Missions that Gary supports have remained active (while following appropriate social distancing and CDC guidelines). The needs our Missions address have only grown with over forty million Americans out of work and an estimated over 300 million worldwide who may be facing dire famine due to the effects of COVID-19 and warming climate. Below is what some of our Missions, with your support, are doing for our brothers and sisters.

Church World Service is reaching out to communities, especially immigrants, that are without jobs, benefits, or government assistance to provide COVID-19 education, assistance with childcare, and support for rent and food needs. Domestic and global groups are also receiving education as well as hygiene kits, blankets, emergency cleaning supplies, and aid with food security.

Feed My Starving Children is still packing and shipping meals to fight global hunger even though they have had to suspend their Food Pack events. They have found a way to, at least temporarily, mechanically process and package food, shipping six million meals in March and April.

Habitat for Humanity suspended their volunteer builds during the lock down but continues supplying housing. Their professional staff, using proper PPE, distancing, and hygiene, continues to build and repair homes.

Heifer Project continues their worldwide efforts to promote food security and independence by providing livestock in impoverished communities as well as PPE, cleaning and hygiene supplies, and staple foods.

Justice For Our Neighbors, both in Illinois and nationwide, is supplying legal assistance to our immigrant communities. Their lawyers are working to secure safe working conditions for the many immigrants in essential jobs, particularly in the meatpacking industry.

Outreach Community Ministries continues to service clients' needs by phone or with a properly protected meeting. They also continue to serve the elderly by organizing shopper helpers to make shopping trips for those at risk who are homebound.

PADS is supplying emergency in-place shelter, food, and support for the homeless at a cost of \$175,000 to \$200,000 per month, largely covered by community giving and individual donations.

People's Resource Center is focused on food needs of the jobless or under-employed. They also work to supply emergency financial assistance when necessary. They currently need our donations of food, toiletry/paper goods, and financial support.

Radical Time Out (RTO) meetings for the formerly incarcerated and families of those currently in prison continue via Zoom every Thursday at 6 p.m., with as many as 70 participants. Concern for inmates continues as the virus is a series threat in contained places. When dinners resume they will be at Compass Church in Wheaton.

Red Bird Mission continues serving the impoverished of Appalachia, supplying over 90 families with food through their school's lunch program and addressing medical needs through their clinic. They have urgent needs for sanitizer, disinfectants and wipes, large nitrile gloves, masks, size 5 and 6 diapers, and baby wipes. See rbmission.org.

UMCOR Global Ministries is working worldwide to support vulnerable populations affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. They are specifically offering financial grants of up to \$20,000 for communities in need of health, food, water, sanitation, and hygiene assistance.

These are only some of the ministries that are supported by you through your Gary contributions. Individually, we can have only small impacts on the crisis, but together with the rest of our Christian friends, we can provide significant support worldwide. Please continue to help as much as you can as the effects of the pandemic continue.

~ Gary Missions Team

Crop Hunger Walk 2020 “Separate but together”

Gary Walkers and Supporters, congratulations on a very successful hunger walk that brought in much needed funds to help address the ever increasing local and global need for food. Gary brought in \$8000—a record over the last 10 years!

Equally important, we had over 70 people and pets walking everywhere from downtown Wheaton to living rooms to DuPage neighborhoods to walking trails.

Many of you took the time to engage family, friends, and even Boy Scout troops to donate and join the walk. Reaching out in this way had a major impact to our contribution, increasing the number of people who will get help. Several of you brought in over \$500.

Also, your passion, energy, and love lifted up so many—each other, our families, me, and even passersby who saw our CROP signs and gave us a wave or thumbs up!

1 Thessalonians 5:11 says, *Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.*

Thanks to Pastor Chris, the Gary staff, and to all of you who walked and supported this mission!

~ Judy Selby
Gary CROP Coordinator





a guide to ways we are staying connected

Take a look at what's new (and continuing) for summer!

Sunday Online Worship

8 a.m. and after at garychurch.org

Worship Talk

Sundays, 10:15 a.m. via Zoom through June 28 (with meeting link available at garychurch.org)

Conversation about the service and sermon

Walkers and Talkers

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. via Zoom,

Conversation and community-building, open to all

Men's Bible Study

Tuesdays, 7 p.m. via Zoom through June

Chancel Choir Chat

Every other Thursday, 7 p.m. via Zoom for current and former choir members

Joy Circle

Tuesdays, June 16 and July 21, 7 p.m. via Zoom

A virtual gathering to check in and stay connected, open to all women

Pastor Brian Podcast

Daily, available wherever you get your podcasts

Gary Kids@Home Lessons

Weekly, sent by email on Thursday or Friday

Past lessons available at garychurch.org/home-with-gary-kids

Gary Kids Science & Faith Devotion

Wednesdays, 2 p.m. live in the Gary Kids Facebook group

Cherub Choir Chat With Ms. Jennifer

Available at garychurch.org/home-with-gary-kids

Videos with music and activities for young children

Gary Youth Midweek

Wednesdays, 7 p.m. via Zoom for middle school students

Gary Youth Sunday Nights

Sundays, 7 p.m. via Zoom for high school students

Facebook.com/garyumc

Connect in our Gary Kids, Gary Youth Parents, and Adult Christian Ed groups

Contact the Church Office for passwords for Zoom meetings or to be added to email lists.

Prayer requests can also be made through the Church Office.

The Condemnation of Blackness Book Group

Join Michelle Sweeney in reading *The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime, and the Making of Modern Urban America* by Khalil Gibran Muhammad. Chronicling the emergence of deeply embedded notions of black people as a dangerous race of criminals by explicit contrast to working-class whites and European immigrants, this fascinating book reveals the influence such ideas have had on urban development and social policies. Participants can purchase the book in hard copy, audio book, or e-book anywhere books are sold. Contact Michelle Sweeney through the Church Office by Saturday, June 20 to sign up. Those interested will be contacted to establish a time for discussion.

sharing THE STORY

Gary's Zoom meetings have been a Godsend during this time of pandemic and have provided a connection with the church for me. I appreciate the opportunity to get to know the participants and hear their thoughts. Hearing about other's faith, the hope they find, their strengths and weaknesses greatly adds to my daily life. The wisdom many of the participants have shared has been very enlightening.

Many participants have shared what they have done during quarantine at home. I have heard from others and found myself focusing more on God's gift of nature and birds. When others share this on Zoom, it inspires me to better appreciate every bit of nature.

During *Chancel Choir Chat*, we watched ministry, LIVE, as Deb Connor was making masks. Terry Balke sang a beautiful chant from a group of Buddhist monks and nuns. I watched the video the other night. It brought me God's peace and hope. The choir is often busy at church, preparing music for services. Zoom has allowed us to slow down and converse with one another. It has been a fruitful experience.

Worship Talk on Zoom, led by Rev. JoAnne, helps us to dive deeply, together, into the meaning of the sermon for that day. Rev. JoAnne helps us reflect on areas we may have never thought of. I do find this aids our attempt at understanding what is going on in the world. After each call, I get out my photo directory and try to find photos of all those participants from that week. This helps me get to know the members. Seeing faces on Zoom, reminds us that we are NOT alone. God is always with us. This is a statement that seems so very simple, but we all need to remind ourselves of this.

~Terri M. Johnson

The Gary Walkers and Talkers have been meeting on Zoom at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, our regular gathering time. For me, this was easy to do as I was already getting our first grader and preschooler grandchildren set up on their daily Zoom calls. The Zoom calls are particularly nice because we can see each other and seeing helps us tend to each other's needs. I'm especially grateful that Allene Harding was able to be a part of these calls, and we knew that when she stopped attending that time for her was short.

Through Zoom we have been able to see former members of Gary—Helen Riggio, Sanford and Sandra Leake, Anne Courter, and Dennis and Mary Beemer, and that has been fun. We've been very appreciative of Deb Evans for setting up these calls and for Cary Bebar for continuing the coordination. We always welcome new members. Just let Deb or Carey know to put you on the Zoom list. Consider joining us!

~Allen Reed





Hey dads, stepdads, grandpas, brothers, and dad-figures.
Happy Father's Day! Thank you for all you do to love, guide, and father the kiddos in your life. You're incredible.

what's happening

Here's what's coming up in our ministry . . .

Fourth Sunday Zoom Party

June 28, July 26, August 23, 11:15 a.m.

We miss you, Gary Kids! We miss hearing your stories, seeing your faces, and learning about God's great big love with you! So, we're hosting a monthly Zoom party! Join us on the fourth Sunday of the month to share joys and concerns, play games, and connect with God and one another! Check the Gary Kids email or website for the Zoom meeting link.

Facebook Live God and Science Devotions

Wednesdays at 2 p.m. in June

Faith and science have a lot in common. Both can be messy, explosive, and mysterious. Kids question both, test both, and ponder the wonder of things that, at first glance, might not make much sense. In the process of learning about science, kids are quickly captivated, embarking on their own discoveries. So goes faith: Once kids get a taste of our intriguing, real-deal God, they just can't get enough.

Join Pastor Carey on Gary Kids Facebook page each Wednesday in June for hands-on science experiments that helps kids discover how their faith connects with the wonders of God's amazing universe. Look for details in the Gary Kids email and the Gary Kids Facebook page.

Rocky Railway VBS Cancellation and Online Resources

As previously announced, due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, a summer with so many unknowns, and the safety and health of our participants and volunteers being of the utmost importance, we have had to cancel Gary's *Rocky Railway VBS* and *Mission Olympics Blast Camp*. We know that VBS and Blast are loved by kids and adults alike and we will miss seeing all the ways God is working in the lives of campers and volunteers. We grieve this loss with you; yet we also know that God is ever active in our lives, connecting us to God's self and one another even as we stay home.

Though we know VBS can't be replaced, we want to continue to nourish your child's faith at home this summer. We will be posting videos and devotions on our Gary Kids Facebook page *the week of June 15-19*. Additionally, we will have the *Rocky Railway Music Videos* and *Kid Vid Cinema* flicks on a VBS Resource Page at garychurch.org. We hope your family will take a look!

Family Camp Cancellation

We regret to inform you that due to the current pandemic, this year's Family Camp is cancelled. We look forward to gathering at Pine Lake July 17-19, 2021.

what we're teaching



Gary Kids @ Home June Series | IN THE BEGINNING

From the very tops of its mountains, to the deepest depths of its oceans, planet Earth is pretty incredible—and none of it was created by mistake! On the very first page of the Bible, we see that our planet, galaxy, and universe were all created with love and care by the same God who loves and cares for each of us. In this five-week series through the story of creation, kids will discover that the **Bible tells God's story, God created the whole world, God created us in His image, and sin separates us from God.** Check-out the Gary Kids @ Home weekly email for lessons that include a Bible story, discussion questions, and activity. (Plus, check out the "Hey Parents" section for a little word of encouragement for all you parents out there!)

tip of the month

Hooray! You made it through another school year! And this year, that was especially challenging! We know parenting in this new normal can be stressful and anxiety-inducing. This month, here's our tip for you. Take a deep breath. And another. Know that you are loved. We're with you and we're for you. You're a great parent.



Helping Faith Grow at Home



resource of the month

In the book *What Every Child Should Know About Prayer*, best-selling author Nancy Guthrie and much-loved illustrator Jenny Brake team up on this biblical theology of prayer for children. Nancy explains in child-friendly language what prayer is, how and why we should pray, and the things we can pray about. There is a Bible verse for each topic, and a prayer for children to make their own. This book will introduce children to the gift of prayer and will encourage them to enjoy speaking to their father God.

Gary Preschool News

Registration continues for the 2020–21 school year. Gary Preschool offers options for children 3–6 years old in our 3s, 4s, and Pre-K classes. We also offer care for children as young as 18 months in our Parents' Morning Out program. Classes are filling, so don't delay! Please contact Kirsten McCluskey through the Church Office or by email at preschool@garychurch.org with your questions or to schedule a tour through FaceTime or Zoom.

We are looking for church members to join the Preschool Board. This is ideal for someone who has had a child in the preschool program or even an alumnus! The Board meets three times during the school year in August, October, and April.

The Preschool is collecting donations for our scholarship fund. We have been blessed by previous donations to be able to provide for several families during the 2019–2020 school year and hope to be able to continue supporting the needs of community families. Every donation helps! Donations can be made through the Church Office.





Gary Youth

Zoom Meetings Continue in June

Midweek for Middle School
Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

High School Sunday Nights
7 p.m.

Contact the Church Office for Zoom IDs and passwords.

Sign Up for Text Alerts!

Text “garyyouth” to 95577 so we can keep you posted on plans as they develop!

Olympic Moments on the Gary Youth Facebook Page

As you know, we have had to postpone Mission Olympics Blast Camp until 2021—just like the Japan Olympics. But we’ll still be thinking about you the week of June 15–19 when we would have been gathering up in the gym for Blast Camp and want to give you a little something fun to watch. Be sure to check out our Gary Youth Facebook Page every day that week for Pastor Brian’s favorite YouTube Olympic moments. And we want to see your backyard Olympic games, so pull out those ideas we sent you last month and post your pictures.

Greetings!

Cancel! Postpone! Zoom! Cancel! Postpone! Zoom! Rinse and repeat.

I don’t know about the rest of you but right now, I...am...tired. I am tired of cancelling plans, postponing them and most of all, Zooming. I am tired of holding onto hope that a trip I had planned could possibly work out, only to have it get cancelled, postponed, or announced that it will now become a video conferencing event. Stacey and I have tickets to see *Evan Hansen*, a musical, in July for our ninth wedding anniversary. Now, we are holding very loosely to the hope that we will actually get to see it.

I have been really looking forward to MOVE camp and the mission trip to the Dominican Republic. These kinds of trips are a gold mine for youth directors. We get to spend consecutive days and nights with the youth. The only adults the youth will have to depend on will be their youth director, me, and a handful of the other youth leaders. A week together like this is worth years in youth ministry relationship building. It’s gold! Yet, cancel... postpone... This is not the way I imagined starting at Gary UMC as the new director of youth ministries.

Then, I keep coming back to the word “hope.” Jeremiah 29:11 says, “I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope.” Let’s be clear, this doesn’t mean this was God’s plan. Why would God want to cancel the programs that have impacted the faith of our youth so much? This also, doesn’t mean that we sit on our hands and leave it to God like God is a genie in a bottle. We leave some things to God, but we keep listening for the ways God is moving, right now, in our midst. At my first church appointment as a clergy, our senior pastor used to say, “Work like it depends on us and pray like it depends on God.” We pray to God to deliver us from Zoom, but we still have to go on conference calls and do our part.

I want us to claim that having to cancel these events really stinks, but we continue to listen to God speaking to us. We, meaning me and other leaders, who love our youth, are working hard to regroup and plan a new experience for our students. We are aiming to learn about and serve our local community. We do not know exactly what it will look like, but please pray with us as we find out what good plan God has for us!

Pastor Dan

Why Can't Einstein Make a Three-Point Turn? Dream Analysis in Time of Pandemic

By Jennifer Whiting

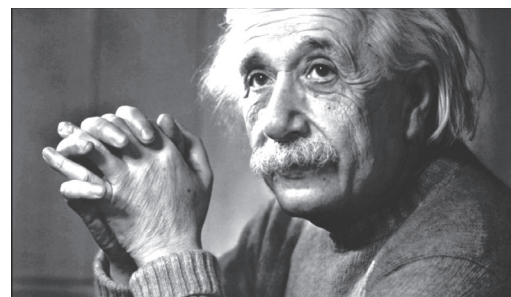
I am not sure why we are having more vivid dreams since the pandemic began. Maybe we're just getting more sleep, which is a good thing. At the risk of being tedious, I would like to share a recent dream, first because it's mildly entertaining, second because it's geeky, and third because it has a Bible verse in it (so, you know, it's spiritual).

I dreamed I discovered a brand-new choral setting of Psalm 122, which begins, "I was glad when they said unto me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'"¹ It was an exciting piece and I could hardly wait to introduce it to the Chancel Choir.

I was dressed up and on my way to a carefully engineered, socially-distanced choir rehearsal. It was a gorgeous afternoon and my car was parked on the street. I was singing the piece and carrying my music when who drove by but Einstein! He smiled at me through his open window and white moustache, but as he passed, he heard me singing "Let us go into the house of the Lord" and saw the music scores in my arms. He was outraged!

He tried to whip around and stop me from leaving, but he was struggling with the three-point turn! I jumped in my car and sped away.

The dream ended like a cliffhanger. What was my plan to keep everyone safe at rehearsal? Who composed the new setting? And most importantly, why couldn't Einstein make a three-point turn?!



Friends, I invite your armchair analysis. Here is my stab at it.

Fear. I fear for the safety of my singers. I worry about whom to trust. I apparently worry about being judged by Einstein. (I didn't have a chance to tell him I follow the scientific evidence and theories about the pandemic.)

Impatience. Not gathering at church has been wise, but it has not been easy. I miss my singers. I miss making music. Like you, I miss the warm fellowship and vibrant worship at Gary. But the griefs and losses are real. The danger is real. Jesus' admonition "Love your neighbor as yourself"² must continue to be our guiding principle.

Hope. The lovely new tune, the beautiful day, and the approaching choir rehearsal all reveal optimism. The song text is prophetic. "Let us go into the house of the Lord" declares a settled hope that we will be together again to worship, to fellowship, and to sing!

Meanwhile, we wait. We give our fears to the Lord, and we pray for patience. "It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord,"³ even when you're being chased by Einstein. After all, he can't even do a three-point turn.

¹ Psalm 122:1, English Standard Version

² Matthew 22:39b, New International Version

³ Lamentations 3:26, New International Version

Make a Music Video for Summertime Worship!

During our online worship services, we have sung along with the Jones and Villanueva families, and the Austin sisters accompanied by their dad. The Rodriguez sisters warmed our hearts with cello and viola, the Mathises rocked a mother-daughter clarinet duet, the Keske quartet dazzled us with handbells, and John Plate held us spellbound with marimba!

During the summer, we need more musicians to help lead us in worship. We invite you to make a video to lead a congregational hymn, a children's Sunday school song, or a praise chorus. Or you might want to play a sacred or classical piece on your instrument. It could be any hymn or sacred song that is familiar and comfortable for you. Your creativity is welcome!

If you would like to jump into this at-home project, please contact Jennifer Whiting at jwhiting@garychurch.org for tips for filming with an iPhone and details for submitting your video.



Changes in Confirmation 2020

One of the things I appreciate about this time is that it is causing me, the entire Gary Staff, and our congregation to re-think ministry. We are re-evaluating everything from priorities to the way ministry is accomplished. This is certainly true concerning Confirmation. As you probably know, Confirmation Sunday was to be on May 17, 2020. Per our state stay-at-home orders that, sadly, was unable to happen. However, we will have Confirmation Sunday as it has been rescheduled for September 20, 2020.

Although we were not expecting this a year ago, this change excites me! By placing Confirmation Sunday in the Fall, it allows us to look at Confirmation as a launch into ministry throughout high school and beyond...not a graduation! I want to thank our new Youth Director, Pastor Dan, for helping the staff start thinking about it in this way. Additionally, it will still enable time for me to meet individually with Confirmands over the summer as, hopefully, strict social distancing policies are relaxed. Also, it will give us time as a Confirmation class to meet more throughout the summer via Zoom and with a podcast that I have made exclusively for our Confirmands. This change may become a permanent part of the Gary Confirmation schedule.

Thus, I cannot wait to celebrate with the Confirmands and you on *Sunday, September 20* as they promise to follow Christ as Lord and Savior. It will be a blessed day!

~ Pastor Brian



Upgrades to Sanctuary Audio and Video Complete!

One blessing associated with the COVID-19 stay-at-home order is that we have been able to complete installation of the new audio and video systems. While contractors were employed for much of the work, your Trustees and other church members contributed labor that reduced the project cost.

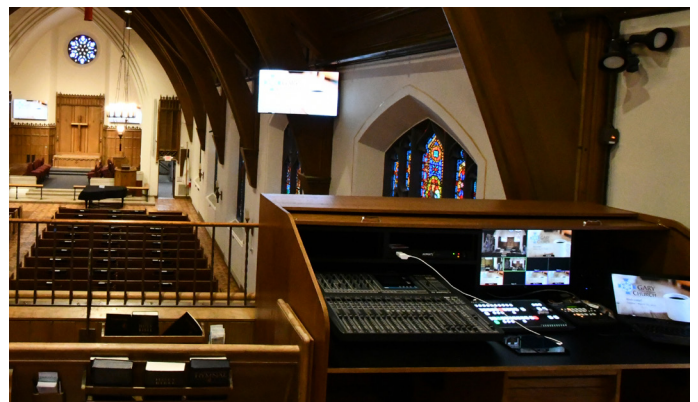
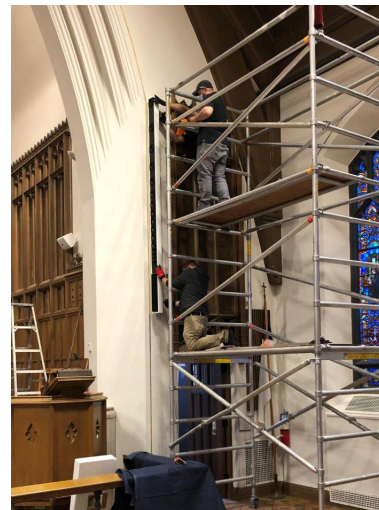
The project started with installing additional AC power for the monitors, speaker array, and control console. Gerry Schmidt and Eric Ostensen were able to save over \$14,000 from the first bid by finding unused circuit breakers and identifying existing conduit for the project. Since we moved the control desk from the rear of the main floor to the front of the balcony, Eric and Gerry cut down two balcony pews to accommodate the new desk. The pair also removed the old speakers from the ceiling of the Sanctuary, saving several thousand dollars. Be sure to look up the next time you enter the Sanctuary!

Dave Rush patched all plaster after the infrastructure work was completed. Our custodian Mike Capra took advantage of the scaffolding and tall ladders to clean and condition the woodwork in the chancel area. Mark Binkerd established a new secure LAN for the Sanctuary that will be used exclusively for the audio and video. He also configured a tablet that can be used for some of the functionality of the control console in a portable format.

AVI, our contractor for the new audio and video systems, started removal of the old audio system and installation of the new systems on Monday, May 4. Final system testing and tuning were performed on Friday, May 22. Two overview training sessions for the existing audio team also occurred that day. The audio and video systems have many capabilities that may take our team a while to fully utilize. If you are interested in becoming part of the audio or video teams, please contact the Church Office, Tony Venezia, or Dave Mann.

The system was originally designed to support live streaming in the future. However, given the current restrictions on large gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic and uncertainties of the coming weeks, we are currently working on integrating this enhancement sooner rather than later. This feature requires a special interface to a streaming service as well as an upgraded internet connection that can support the large upload requirements for streaming video. We anticipate this work to happen yet this summer.

~ Greg Perisho
Church Council Chair



Our Gary/Winfield Church Family Graduates

Sam Bornstein, son of Dave & Shelley Bornstein, graduated from the University of Iowa Tippie College of Business with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Business Analytics.

Corrin Bottom, daughter of Eric & Melanie Bottom, graduated from Wheaton Warrenville South High School and will be attending Illinois State University majoring in biology.

Asha Boyd, daughter of Scott & Betsy Boyd, graduated from DePaul University with a Master of Science in Nursing.

Ty Boyd, son of Scott & Betsy Boyd, graduated from Kenyon College with a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry.

Audrey Cicmanec, daughter of Chris Cicmanec & Kathi Hodges, graduated from Wheaton North High School and will be attending the University of Illinois majoring in architecture.

James Diddams, son of Stan & Margaret Diddams, graduated from Wheaton College with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Art History, and Economics and minors in math and political science. In August, he will be a fellow with the John Jay Institute near Philadelphia, PA.

Ethan Doman, son of Matt & Lisa Doman, graduated from Glenbard South High School and will be attending the University of Illinois majoring in biology.

Erica Emmerick, daughter of Eric & JoEllen Emmerick, graduated from Wheaton Warrenville South High School.

Grace Emmerick, daughter of Eric & JoEllen Emmerick, graduated from Wheaton Warrenville South High School.

Rosemary Halenza, daughter of Doug & Tammy Halenza, graduated from South Dakota State University with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and a minor in physics.

Melissa Hansen, daughter of Rob & Rowena Hansen, graduated from Wheaton Warrenville South High School.

Charrisse Harrison, daughter of Charles Harrison & Roberta Valent, graduated from Columbia College with a Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design.

Mark Harrison, son of Charles Harrison & Roberta Valent, graduated from Horry Georgetown Technical College with an Associate Degree in Turf Management. He is working at Union League Golf Club, Cape May Court House, NJ.

Noah Hill, grandson of Sally Hill, graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and a minor in Spanish.

Dani Huppert, daughter of Bruce and Pam Keller, graduated with a Master of Science in Nursing with a specialty in Nursing Informatics. She works at University of Wisconsin Employee Health in Madison, WI.

Aaron Hurd, grandson of Dan & June Hurd, graduated from the University of Indiana Law School and has been hired by a law firm in Minnesota.

Jacqui Hurd, granddaughter of Dan & June Hurd, graduated from Emory University as a nurse practitioner. She will be working at Wellstar Medical Group in Atlanta, GA.

Matthew Janiak, son of Larry & Heather Janiak, graduated from Wheaton North High School and will be attending Illinois Wesleyan University majoring in music performance (tuba studies).

Haley Kenyon, granddaughter of Don & Shelley Kenyon, graduated from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Science in Avian Biology and Biological Science.

Elysse Keske, daughter of Marty & Melinda Keske graduated from the University of Iowa with a Bachelor of Arts in Public Health. She will be going to graduate school at the University of Iowa studying epidemiology.

Emma Koropp, daughter of Dave and Sandy Koropp, graduated from the University of Chicago with a Bachelor of Arts in Biological Sciences with a Specialization in Ecology and Evolution

Matt Marsico, son of Nick & Kelly Marsico, graduated from Wheaton Warrenville South High School and is planning to make a future in the trades.

Brian Maurer, son Myron & Marilyn Maurer, graduated from the University of North Carolina Asheville with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. He will begin a doctorate program in developmental psychology research at the University of North Carolina Greensboro.

Hagan Maurer, son of Myron & Marilyn Maurer, graduated from Drake University with a Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing.

Payton Miller, daughter of John Miller, graduated from Wheaton North High School and will be attending the University of Alabama.

Avery Papievis, son of Brett & Lisa Papievis, graduated from Wheaton North High School and will be attending the College of DuPage studying to be a social studies teacher.

Ben Peinsipp, son of Bob & Emily Peinsipp, graduated from Augustana College with a Bachelor of Arts in Marketing. He will be become a full-time Marine this fall.

John Plate, son of David & Cindy Plate, graduated from Butler University with a Bachelor of Music, Percussion Performance. He will be attending graduate school at the University of Maryland.

Lauren Pollock, great-niece of Don & Shelley Kenyon, graduated from Concord High School and will be attending Indiana University.

Kayla Sutcliffe, granddaughter of Don & Shelley Kenyon, graduated from Indiana University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Will Wanzenberg, son of Matt & Anne Wanzenberg, graduated from Wheaton North High School and will be attending the University of Florida studying sustainability studies.

Rebecca Winer, daughter of Greg & Monica Winer, graduated from Larkin High School and will be attending Purdue University majoring in pharmacy.



What We're Reading

Our staff offers these recommendations for your summer reading.

Beyond Hashtag Activism: Comprehensive Justice in a Complicated Age

by Mae Elise Cannon

Rev. Chris Pierson: When I was asked by the Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon and the folks at InterVarsity Press to write a review for her book *Beyond Hashtag Activism: Comprehensive Justice in a Complicated Age*, I was honored. Her wisdom, clarity, and integrity are evident throughout this book.

In *Beyond Hashtag Activism*, the Rev. Dr. Mae Cannon sounds a clarion call to Christians and faith communities to engage in biblically grounded, Christ-centered, ministries of justice to address the critical domestic and international crises of our day. This book will both challenge and inspire readers and congregations to act in strategic ways that are effective in taking on the challenges that cause many to feel powerless. Cannon provides ways that we can connect with others who are putting their faith into action and reminds us of the danger of what happens when we fail to act. *Beyond Hashtag Activism* calls for thoughtful reflection and action and at times calls us to repentance and reparation. This is a resource that should be placed in the hands of every person who asks, "What can I/we do?"

*Watch for details on an opportunity to discuss this book and it's challenging and timely topics such as Biblical Justice and the Gospel, Poverty, Race, Gender, and Twenty-First Century Divides.

The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas

Carey Bebar: I heard about *The Hate You Give* at an anti-racism conference I attended a while ago, but hadn't quite gotten around to picking it up as young adult fiction isn't exactly my wheelhouse. I was wrong to delay. This book should be in everyone's wheelhouse. Written from the perspective of Starr Carter, a black teenage girl who witnesses the police shooting of her childhood friend, *The Hate You Give* centers on racism, activism, and identity. While the narrative certainly has a young-adult feel (dealing with issues like school friends to boyfriends to fashion), its engrossing storytelling provides a fresh perspective to young adults and not-so-young adults who grapple with police brutality and systemic inequality. ***This book contains mature language and themes not suitable for young readers.***

American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins

Pam Keller: I love reading books that have been recommended by friends, especially when their taste in great reads is similar to mine. I couldn't put this book down from the moment I started it. It is intense and tugs at your heart throughout. It is a fantastic novel. The owner of a small bookstore in Acapulco and her young son are forced to flee Mexico and become migrants. They meet countless people on their journey to the United States. *American Dirt* is full of heartbreak, adventure, and despair, but if I say too much more, I will be spoiling the story. I highly recommend this book; the story will stick with you.

Only the Lover Sings: Art and Contemplation by Josef Pieper

Jennifer Whiting: During these days of quiet separation, I returned to a small classic entitled *Only the Lover Sings: Art and Contemplation*, by Josef Pieper, the 20th-century German philosopher who championed Thomas Aquinas.

He writes that we were created to “celebrate a feast.” “If love is absent, there can be no feast.” If there is no feast, there is no song, because “love alone knows how to sing.”

He contends that all of the arts are “necessary for man, almost more necessary than his daily bread”—poignant and hopeful words in a time when our singing has been silenced.

The Selected Poems of Wendell Berry by Wendell Berry

Rev. Brian Jones: Over the years, I’ve come to love and appreciate the Psalms. I adore them so because they are poetry. Sometimes prose cannot reach the full depth and truth of God—only poetry. Thus, my book recommendation this summer is *The Selected Poems of Wendell Berry*. Mr. Berry is a world-renowned artist, poet, writer, and farmer in Kentucky. He is a poet and writer who is a Christian and writes about a myriad of subjects. You will find delight, humor, and mourning in his poems...especially about faith in Christ.

What is the Bible? by Rob Bell

Daniel Lee: Let’s be honest, while there are parts of the Bible that we would all agree is divine, other parts seem primitive, outdated, barbaric...very human. For example, remember when Abraham attempts to sacrifice his son Isaac? God provides a ram in the end, but child sacrifice? What do we do with that? *What is the Bible* reminds me that God truly doesn’t waste anything. Rob Bell guides his readers through the transcendence of the Bible while addressing head-on the humanness of it. This book will motivate you to dive deeper into scripture.

The Book of Rosy: A Mother’s Story of Separation at the Border

by Rosayra Pablo Cruz and Julie Schwieter Collazo

Kim Austin: This book just became available on June 2, but my book club had the opportunity to read an advance copy. The story of both a woman who makes the grueling journey from Guatemala to the U.S. border to seek asylum, only to be immediately separated from her two sons, and of a woman in New York who channels her outrage at the family separation policy into a grassroots organization to help Rosy and other mothers, this harrowing tale gripped us, challenged us, and generated much rich discussion. One particularly astute comment stands out to me: the title, *The Book of Rosy*, must be an allusion to the biblical “Book of Ruth.” This is indeed a story of loss and of hope, of responsibility, and of loving-kindness—one that challenges us to redefine family.



Wear “Gary Cares”

Just before we were told to stay home, I approached some of the Gary Cares team with a question, “When was the last time we had a Gary t-shirt?” Sure, we have had some great Christmas sharing shirts, but it has been several years since we had a universal GUMC shirt. Several ideas for shirts with catchy phrases came to mind, but when I sifted through a lot of the fluff and stuff it seemed to come down to three simple but powerful words: home, hope, and love. When I think of Gary Church, the image that also comes to mind is the Rose Window and Cross in our logo. So, with the help of my Photoshop savvy husband (I am more of the pencil and paper person), we created these three logos for the front of new Gary t-shirts:



and added “Gary Cares” for the back.



Look for more details and ordering information soon!

~ Liesl Mann

Thank You

Lola loved Gary so much, and I have had the wonderful experience of finding out how much Gary loved her. Your cards and many expressions of caring and praying to Lola's memory have helped me and our family to feel so blessed in this time of loss. I am forever grateful.

Gil Lehman

Congratulations

Ivan & Kathy Kane on the birth of their grandson, Elliot Matthew Morlock

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

Our Sympathy

Gerry & Sharon Schmidt on the death of Sharon's aunt, JoAnne Cook, on April 23

Bob & Diane Martin on the death of their nephew, Thomas Martin, on May 2

Christy Kallinger, Jaxon and Elliana Jusk on the death of their husband and father, Mike Jusk, on May 11. Their extended family includes Mark, Kathy, Erin, and Allison Klage, who are Christy's uncle, aunt, and cousins, respectively.

Joyce Fahs on the death of her sister, Joan Orewiler, on May 20

The family of Allene Harding. Allene passed away on May 30.

WinChimes

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

Something You Should Know—"Back to Normal"

By Pastor Bruce Anderson

Everyone is looking forward to getting "back to normal" when, among other things, we can return to church to worship together. I know that I am. But what will "normal" be after sheltering in place? Unfortunately, it will not be what "normal" was before COVID-19.

The new normal?

We will probably need to keep the recommended six feet distance between people or family units. Fortunately, that should not be a problem for us at Winfield; we have the space to do this. YOU will have to decide whether or not you are comfortable doing so. It is ok to continue to worship online until you are comfortable. We may not be able to sing together, as the recommended singing distance between people is a much larger 16 feet because singing projects our breath much farther, as does preaching. Perhaps we will hum along with the piano rather than singing for a while. The same goes for singing in the choir. It will be a very risky activity for both the choir members and the congregation.

We will probably need to take the offering in a different way because we don't want everyone passing and handling the plate as that could also transmit the virus. Should the outside door be left open so people don't need to touch the handle? What about passing out bulletins? The same goes with communion. We will need to change the way we do communion because the common cup will not be safe. And the congregational favorite of coffee hour will probably also have to go on hiatus for a while because standing close together to talk and share food and drink will also be risky, not to mention shaking hands. We will also need to sanitize the building between uses. Yes, the new normal will probably not seem very normal at all.

The silver lining from sheltering in place is that we are getting more views online than we had people at church before the pandemic. We are getting about 10 more views a week compared to the average number of people in the pews. Because of this we will continue to have our services online in some fashion. There may be people who cannot attend church that will still want to watch the service online, and even some who can. I know that Marie and Gary Chezem have been joining us online. (Gary thinks Marie knows the alto line to every hymn every written.)

Phyllis Tickle, in her book *The Great Emergence*, states that roughly every 500 years the church cleans out the attic and has a rummage sale, getting rid of what is no longer useful. Five hundred years ago we had the Great Reformation begun by the questions of Martin Luther. Five hundred years before that was the Great Schism when the Eastern Orthodox and Catholic Churches split East from West. Five hundred years before that was the Fall of the Roman Empire and the Christian Church councils that helped to define our Christian beliefs. And five hundred years before that was birth of Jesus, followed by the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. At each of these great religious shake-ups the church had to redefine and reorganize itself. Perhaps now is the emergence of online worship and taking Christianity outside the walls of the church into the virtual world. We will have to wait and see exactly what emerges from this new time of challenge and opportunity for the church.

So, what will be the new "normal?" We don't really know yet, but it is unlikely to be anything like the old normal, at least for a while. Stay tuned to discover, or invent, what "normal" will be with us.



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



224 North Main Street
Wheaton, IL 60187
630-668-3100 phone
www.garychurch.org

**Winfield Community
United Methodist Church**
Affiliate of Gary Church
www.winfieldumc.org

Nonprofit Org.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

CAROL STREAM, IL

60188

PERMIT NO. 6014

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED
PUBLISHED MONTHLY



G A R Y C A R E S

Gary Cares Food Drive

Gary member Tony Asta is organizing a food drive to benefit local residents particularly hard hit by the current economic downturn. Food will be collected on *Saturday, June 20, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. outside of Gary* and distributed on *Saturday, June 27*. Those in need of food will be able to register for a voucher prior to this date.

Anyone wishing to contribute may contact the Church Office for a list of needed food items (similar to the Christmas Sharing grocery list but shorter). An option to make a monetary donation will also be available through the

Gary website. We hope to serve 100 to 150 families. Please watch for additional details and plan to be part of this effort to care for our community.

