

# Chimes



The Newsletter of Gary Church  
and Winfield Community Church  
**January 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 February *Chimes* newsletter are due by January 15. Announcements for the Sunday bulletin and weekly enews are due each Tuesday at noon. Send all submissions to [office@garychurch.org](mailto: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.





YOU  
ARE  
HERE

## You Are Here?

by Rev. Dr. Chris Pierson

“Discipleship is a lifelong journey into the abundant life for which we were created. It is a process of continual development through which we grow in maturity (becoming Christ-centered and fully surrendered). ...for a disciple, it is the journey itself that is important” – Phil Maynard

Recently I traveled to meet a couple of clergy colleagues for lunch at Nando's Peri-Peri, one of my favorite restaurants at the Oakbrook Mall. The parking lot was under construction, and the escalator in the parking garage was under repair. Having used a different entrance and a different escalator, trying to find my bearings, I glimpsed the mall directory. It was one of those directories that not only has the location of your choice of destination but is also marked with words and an arrow indicating “You Are Here!” In spite of knowing where I wanted to go, I also needed to know where I was. This is true in our spiritual lives as well—we need to know where we want to go (our goal or our destination), but we also need to know where we are.

As Christians, our goal is to become mature disciples—grace-filled followers of Jesus who put their faith into action. Discipleship is a process. It is a process that requires intentionality—examining where we are on our spiritual journey and opening ourselves to the Spirit's leading, and a community of faith to help us grow to become mature disciples of Jesus Christ. In order to help people on this journey, churches must become more intentional in evaluating where we are and how we can help people on their journey.

Phil Maynard in his book *Membership to Discipleship* has outlined an excellent way for congregations to engage people on their spiritual journey and help us to fulfill our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Maynard points out that many people begin

by **searching**. They are seeking to make sense of our life, asking questions like “what gives my life purpose, joy, and fulfillment?”

Still others are **exploring**. They attend but do not yet belong.

They may not be committed to following Jesus, but they are

wrestling with God's presence in their lives. Others are beginning.

They are **beginning** to understand

and put into practice a new-found faith, are most excited about faith but still have doubts.

Others are **growing**. They are eager to be identified as a follower of Christ, taking personal responsibility for their growing relationship with Jesus, beginning to integrate faith into life in a holistic way and look to Jesus for help. **Maturing** disciples are moving toward surrender of their lives to Jesus. They long to know, love, obey, serve and be with Jesus, and, as disciples, begin to make disciples.<sup>1</sup>

In the next few issues of Chimes, we will be taking a look at these helpful markers on our spiritual journey. I encourage you, as you begin the New Year, to prayerfully discern where you are on your journey and to join us on this journey, as together in this abundant life we seek to become mature “disciples of Jesus Christ” who make disciples for the transformation of the world.

*Christopher L. Pierson*

**We need to know where we want to go, but we also need to know where we are.**

<sup>1</sup>Adapted from *Membership to Discipleship: Growing Mature Disciples Who Make Disciples*, Phil Maynard ©2015

# Adult Christian Education and Discipleship

## SUNDAY MORNINGS

### Sharing the Story Through Mission

January 5, 12, and 19, 10 a.m. in the Chapel, led by the Mission Team

Gary's Mission and Outreach supports a variety of local, regional, and international organizations, enabling individuals to live their faith through prayer, hands-on work, financial support, donations of needed items, companionship, presence, and/or systemic change. Join representatives from Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors, Feed My Starving Children, and CROP Walk to hear the stories of Gary's missions as they work to enact change around the world.

### Growing With: Every Parent's Guide to Helping Teenagers and Young Adults Thrive in Their Faith, Family, and Future

January 5–February 16, 10 a.m. in the Anderson Room

As parents, we often feel the gap between us and our kids widening when they become teenagers and young adults. Maybe it's just that they're growing up. But we fear that gap is a symptom that we're growing apart. Led by Gary Youth parents, this class will explore brand-new research and hear real-life stories from remarkable families. Tailored to teenage and young adult parents, *Growing With* shows us how to close the family gap, giving parents courage to take the next faithful step on a mutual journey of intentional growth that trusts God to transform us all. *Growing With* books can be purchased for \$14.

***Growing up doesn't have to mean growing apart!***

### The Spirit of Methodism

January 26 and February 2, 10 a.m. in the Chapel, led Dr. Jeffrey W. Barbeau

Join Wheaton College Professor Dr. Jeffrey Barbeau as he shares parts of his new book, *The Spirit of Methodism: From the Wesleys to a Global Communion*. Dr. Barbeau will lead a lively conversation about Methodist history in little-known stories about the Wesleys, early American Methodists, and courageous missionaries across the globe. In the second session, he will discuss central Methodist beliefs today, and ask us to consider three core beliefs at the heart of what means to be a Methodist—in any generation, in any part of the world! *The Spirit of Methodism* can be purchased for \$12.



## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Just Mercy Movie Outing

Sunday, January 12, time and location to be determined

Mark your calendar for a group outing to see this powerful and thought-provoking true story that follows lawyer Bryan Stevenson on his history-making battle for justice. Check the enews or contact the Church Office for theater location and time.

### Aurora District Training

Saturday, January 25, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

This day of learning, worships, and conversation is open to all lay leaders. See the next page for complete details.

## MARK YOUR 2020 CALENDAR

Ash Wednesday Services	Wednesday, February 26, 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Variety Show + Soup & Chili Cookoff + Auction	Sunday, March 8
Women's Retreat at La Salle Manor Retreat Center	Friday–Saturday, March 13–14
Easter Sunday Worship	Sunday, April 12, 9 and 11 a.m.
Gary Handbell Concert	Sunday, April 26, 4 p.m.
CROP Walk at Gary Church	Sunday, May 3, 2 p.m.
Confirmation	Sunday, May 17, 9 a.m. worship
Lay Leader Appreciation	Sunday, May 31, 10 a.m.
Vacation Bible School and Blast Camp	Monday–Friday, June 15–19 9 a.m.–12 p.m.
Family Camp at Pine Lake	Friday–Sunday, July 17–19



# REROUTING GPS FOR YOUR CHURCH



Rev. Matthew Krings  
UMC of New Lenox



Rev. Harriette Cross  
First UMC of Wilmington



Rev. Cynthia Anderson  
Batavia UMC



Rev. Mary Zajac  
Baker Memorial UMC



Leah Ostwald  
First UMC of Downers Grove



Rev. Eric Doolittle  
Chaplain, North Central College

**Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 8:30AM to 3PM**

Grace United Methodist Church of Naperville, 300 E. Gartner Rd., Naperville, IL 60540

**A Day of Learning, Workshops, and Conversation for Pastors and Lay Leaders**

## Working Against Racism

A realization that we have been making as a denomination is that it is not enough to simply not be racist. Instead, we must begin to work toward the goal of anti-racism. To do this we need to work to dismantle systemic racism and build antiracist multicultural diversity. In this workshop, we will be examining the systems that lead to racism and looking at ways to engage in being antiracist. One of the ways that we will engage in this is through Community Study Circles. Rev. Matthew Krings and Rev. Harriette Cross will use the study circle model to give participants a chance to share their experiences, to gain awareness of the experience of others, and to come to mutual solutions.

## Using Adaptive Leadership to Revitalize Your Church

People are not attending church or participating the way they used to and the church no longer has a privileged place in our culture – and yet we have greater opportunities than ever to reach new people. But we can't keep doing what we've always done and expecting different results. We need to practice adaptive forms of leadership to chart a course into unfamiliar territory. Join Rev. Cynthia Anderson, Rev. Mary Zajac, and Leah Ostwald to learn about the basic principles of adaptive leadership and to begin working with how adaptive leadership might help your church.

## Blursed Church: Young Adults and Institutional Religion

The numbers are clear - young adult participation in church is on the decline. In an age where religious institutions are shrinking, can we still engage young adults? What are they looking for in their spiritual life? Where are our liabilities that drive young people away? What does the United Methodist have to offer that is unique and potent? Explore these ideas with Rev. Eric Doolittle and a panel of young adults who have different kinds of relationships with the church. Explore demographic trends, real life experiences, and possible shifts in attitudes that might lead us to new ways of being the Church without being trapped by our own structures and institutions.

**Register by January 15 at**

**[www.umcnl.org/calendar/aurora-district-training-event](http://www.umcnl.org/calendar/aurora-district-training-event)**

**Cost: \$15 includes lunch (\$20 at the door)**

**Childcare and Children's Program available for additional \$10**

Financial scholarships are available if needed. Contact Natarsha Gardner at 847-931-0710 ext. 11 for details.



**Northern Illinois Conference**

The United Methodist Church

Aurora District, Rev. Jeffrey Bross, District Superintendent

**CHILDCARE AND CHILDREN'S PROGRAM AVAILABLE!** Nursery care is available for infants through preschoolers. Children from Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to join together and experience the abundant welcome of God, led by Beth Hagemeyer, Director of Children's Ministry at Naperville Community UMC. Just like their parents, they will discuss what it means to be a disciple, what racism looks like, and how to share stories with people they meet. Using children's literature and hands-on activities, we will explore what Latasha Morrison means when she says we are "color brave, color caring, color honoring" children of God. Please indicate children's ages and childcare needs on the registration form.

**WEBSITE CONSULTING AVAILABLE!** Sign-up for a FREE 20-minute session to review your church's website and see how it can be improved. Reserve your spot now!





## sunday mornings

### **This month Gary Kids will experience NOT NORMAL: A 4-Week Series on Jesus' Early Life and Ministry**

Why be like everyone else when we can be wacky, backward, and weird? We can try to blend in and be like everyone else, or we can stand up and stand out. After all, that's what Jesus did! When Jesus showed up, his whole life seemed not-so-normal to most people. From his childhood to his early ministry, it was clear from the beginning that Jesus wasn't like most people. In this 4-week series, kids will examine the early life and ministry of Jesus as they discover that Jesus is not normal, that Jesus is God, that Jesus is perfect, and that Jesus invites us to be not-so-normal along with Him.



**Parent Tip of the Month:** The start of a new year is a good time to start good habits! One of those can be having regular times as a family where you pray and talk about God together. It doesn't have to be structured or scheduled, but planning something simple into your family rhythm, such as prayer before bedtime, or talking about the Bible story on the drive home from church. Plan a time that works for your family and put it on your family calendar!

**Question of the Month:** Since we're starting a brand-new year, we want to know: What's one goal you have for your family this year? Talk about it as a family and post your goal on the Gary Kids Facebook page.



## upcoming events

### **Parent's Night Out**

*Friday, January 17, 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 months-grade 3. Reservations are required through Gary's Church Office and a donation of \$5 per child is suggested.

### **4th & 5th Grade Fellowship**

*Friday, January 24, 7-9 p.m.*

Come for a night of fun with your fourth and fifth grade friends at Lombard Roller Rink. We will meet at and return to Gary. Cost: \$10. Please RSVP through the Church Office by Wednesday, January 22.







## Gary Youth Update

### Midweek for Middle Schoolers

Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m.  
in the Activity Center  
January 8, 15, 22, 29

### High School Sunday Nights

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

January 26, Word and Table at  
the Gaul's

## Winter Chill Retreat

Saturday–Monday,  
February 15–17

Middle and high school students  
are encouraged to join us as we  
travel to Camp Geneva in Lake  
Geneva, WI. Come worship,  
tube, play broomball, and chill  
with us.

Register by February 3. The \$175  
cost includes all activities, travel,  
and food.

*Save these important dates  
on your summer calendar!*

### Registration is open!

#### Middle School MIX Camp

Lake Carlinville, Illinois  
July 27–31 | Cost \$350

#### High School MOVE Camp

Holland, MI | June 22–26  
Cost \$350

Register for either camp on  
the Gary Youth page of  
[garychurch.org](http://garychurch.org). For additional  
information about these camps,  
visit [ciy.com/mix](http://ciy.com/mix) or [ciy.com/move](http://ciy.com/move).



Gary Church celebrated Alexa and Tanner Isaac on  
November 24. They were given love and many blessings as  
Alexa moves on to pursue her Masters of Divinity degree.



## Mission Trip 2020: The Dominican Republic

July 10–18

International trips are an incredible opportunity for high  
school students. We believe there is so much to learn and  
be changed by from the work that God is doing all over  
the world, and we are excited to offer the opportunity for  
students to experience that this summer. This year, we  
continue our partnership with Christ in Youth through  
*Engage*, their international trip  
program. CIY has facilitated inter-  
national trips for over 25 years, and  
students will have the opportunity to continue growing as  
Kingdom Workers under the leadership of CIY.

**engage**

While there is still room for more adult leadership, our  
team leaders are John-Marc and Jane Bilezikian, Aileen  
Termini, and Gerry Schmidt. In addition to many years  
experience leading domestic Gary Youth mission trips, this  
team reflects ample experience in international travel, and  
leading groups (including teens) on international trips.

This trip is open to all students who have completed their  
freshman year of high school. The registration deadline is  
February 1. All of the specifics— including cost, monthly  
pre-trip meeting dates, links to the *Engage* website, etc.—  
are available at [garychurch.org](http://garychurch.org).

We are thrilled to be traveling with *Engage* to the  
Dominican Republic this July!

# *This Is My Story.* **THIS IS MY SONG**

## A Hymn and Story Festival on Sunday, February 23

### **Festival Choir Begins Rehearsals *Thursday, January 9!***

Our Festival Choir and Instrumentalists will present *This Is My Story, This Is My Song* on Sunday, February 23 in our services at 9 and 11 a.m. This family worship time celebrates beloved hymns and their stories. There is a place for you in our Festival Choir! You will be uplifted as we immerse our hearts and voices in great hymns of the faith.

The Festival Choir rehearses on the following Thursdays:

- January 9, 16, 23, and 30 (7:30–9 p.m.)
- February 6 (7:30–9 p.m.)
- February 13 (7–9 p.m.)
- Dress rehearsal, February 20 (7–9 p.m.)

Two excused absences are allowed, but participation in the dress rehearsal is required. Call time on February 23 is 8 a.m. The services end at noon.

Junior high, high school, and adult singers of all experience levels are warmly welcomed! Please register for Festival Choir through the Church Office ([office@garychurch.org](mailto:office@garychurch.org)).

### **Share Your Hymn Story**

Does a favorite hymn hold a special meaning for you? We invite everyone—children, students, and adults—to share your stories about your treasured hymns.

Perhaps a hymn is tied to a significant memory, or a point of growth. Maybe a hymn brought you peace at a difficult time. Hymns are deeply linked to faith, emotions, and relationships. They bring us comfort, enlightenment, assurance, and courage.

Please share your hymn story! In 100 words or fewer, tell us why a hymn is special to you. Please email submissions by January 15 to [office@garychurch.org](mailto:office@garychurch.org) with the subject line “Hymn Story”. Your stories will be published in the program for our spring music event on February 23, titled *This Is My Story, This Is My Song*.







## JANUARY SERMON SERIES | WHO IS JESUS?

Our theme for the year is “Sharing the Story,” and this sermon series tells us about who is at the heart of the story. . . Jesus. Have you ever wondered: Who is this child named Jesus we remember at Christmas? Why do we spend so much time speaking about him? What is so special about Jesus? We will explore four different aspects of Jesus that tell a larger story of who he is for us. Come find out about this child and what the story of God is all about!

January 5	Shepherd   Matthew 2:1–12
January 12	Son   Matthew 3:13–17
January 19	Messiah   John 1:29–42
January 26	Fisher   Matthew 4:12–23



## 2020 *Lenten* E-Devotional

*Encouraging Words and Glimpses of God at Work in our Lives*

**Lent, which begins on February 26 this year, is a season that invites us to refocus our hearts and be more intentional in our spiritual journey.**

One of our Lenten traditions is our “self-published” e-devotional, created by and for our church family. The devotional is delivered to your email inbox each day of Lent, with hard copies available in the Church Office upon request.

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

**Title:** a title summarizing the theme of the message

**Scripture:** the scripture passage

**Message:** a 3-5 paragraph written message

Or

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

**Prayer:** a prayer focus for the day

**Action:** an action step based on the message

**Contributor:** your name

In keeping with our “Sharing the Story” theme, this is a great opportunity to share an aspect of your faith story: how you got involved in a particular mission, someone who has greatly impacted you, a way you have seen God at work in or through a particular ministry or in daily life, etc. Other themes you might consider include forgiveness, compassion, prayer, presence, dedication, or repentance.

Register to contribute at [garychurch.org](http://garychurch.org) or by contacting the Church Office by Sunday, January 26. All devotionals should be submitted to Kim Austin at [kaustin@garychurch.org](mailto:kaustin@garychurch.org) by Wednesday, February 5.

# sharing THE STORY

## Building Bridges: Abraham's Daughters Growing Together in Faith and Friendship

by Cathy Mousseau

Have you ever read a life-changing book? Nine years ago, that happened for my friends and me in a Gary Church book club led by Betsy Boyd. This group was welcoming, educational, fun, and faith-inspiring.

One month, we decided to read *The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew – Three Women Search for Understanding*, which Amazon describes like this: “When an American Muslim woman befriends two other mothers, one Jewish and one Christian, they decide to educate their children about their respective religions.” Mirroring the women in the book, we invited local women of Muslim and Jewish faiths to join our study.

This book and our discussions taught us much about the three Abrahamic religions. We learned about important texts, theologies, traditions, and practices. While this was enlightening, what truly changed us were the women we met in our very own “Faith Club.”

Tayyaba, our Muslim sister, shared, “I have made genuine, lifelong friends, who see me as a fellow faith sister and have blessed me with their love and prayers.”

At first, coming together as strangers, we were all a bit nervous. Some of the women seemed so very different from ourselves. For example, many of us Christians didn’t understand or appreciate the hijabs (headscarves) worn by the Muslims. For me personally, I worried about potential conflicts arising about world politics. Very possibly, the Jews and Muslims had their own trepidations about us, Christians.

As we came to know each other, however, we discovered an important truth: we are much more alike than different, despite our religious differences. Diane, a Jewish friend, recently shared, “I have been gob smacked by the similarities, not the differences, of all our faiths...especially the text of the Torah and the Quran...we are all sisters in faith!” Perhaps the similarities derive from our shared Abrahamic roots. Yet, a lot of our connections come from

our shared humanity. Whether we are Christian, Muslim, or Jew, we hold similar values: raising our children well, family, education, loving one’s neighbors, community, world peace, caring for our planet, and charity for folks in need. We discovered that all of us love our country deeply, but recognize that all nations are imperfect.

Over time, our group has developed a diverse curriculum, including visits to each other’s houses of worship. We primarily study books touching on women and religion. Our discussions work well because everyone respects each other’s beliefs, values, and opinions. Some books have inspired service and fundraising for those in need.

We have become committed to building a community of friendship, love, and support. Every time we meet, we encourage and inspire each other to live more God-filled lives. Mary Anne recently shared how our club has benefited her Christian journey: “Faith Club has broadened my horizons by reading suggested books, listening to spiritual journey stories, and making new friends.”

**Tayyaba, our Muslim sister, shared, “I have made genuine, lifelong friends, who see me as a fellow faith sister and have blessed me with their love and prayers.”**





Faith Club has undoubtedly expanded all of our horizons. Soon after we began meeting, one Gary Church friend confided that she found herself being more open and friendly to the Muslim women she encountered at the grocery store. Lena, our Jewish sister, shared, "I have learned so much from everyone. I also know that I have grown a lot. I love to share our traditions and hear about all my friends' traditions."

In her memoir *Born with Wings*, interfaith activist Daisy Khan says, "The more we share our stories, the more we open ourselves to one another, the more respect and even love can flow between us. Once we see ourselves in the faces of others, we can stand side by side on the basis of our human identity..."

In this troubled world and divided nation of ours, community building across divides has become increasingly vital and empowering. Our Christian friend, Mary Ellen, noted, "This group is a beacon of hope to me in these rough times. I am happy and grateful to be a part of it."

A very important lesson of our Faith Club is that hatred and prejudice can only live in darkness. Whenever possible, we use our voices to dispel the religious myths and prejudices expressed by our friends, families, colleagues, neighbors, and others.

Faith Club has absolutely enriched my life and those of my Faith Club sisters. When we meet face to face with "the other" with open hearts and minds, we realize that tolerance is insufficient. Instead, God calls us to use our gifts to value and appreciate our differences. In the very best of scenarios, when we truly love our neighbors as ourselves, we can develop diverse communities that bring meaning, love, and hope to others, as well as ourselves.

All women are welcome to join our Faith Club. We typically meet monthly from September to May on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Our next meeting is January 7 in the Gary Church Chapel. Please join us as often or little as you can. To receive our schedule of events via email, contact Kim Austin through the Church Office.

### Upcoming Faith Club Meetings

**Book Discussion:**  
***Guantanamo Diary, Restored Version***  
**by Mohamedou Ould Slahi**  
Tuesday, January 7, 6:30 p.m.  
in the Gary Church Chapel

During his 14-year imprisonment at Guantanamo Bay prison, the United States never charged Slahi with a crime. In October 2016, he was finally released and reunited with his family. His diary is not merely a vivid record of a miscarriage of justice, but a deeply personal memoir—terrifying, darkly humorous, and surprisingly gracious.

**Weddings & Marriage Traditions**  
Tuesday, February 4, 6:30 p.m.  
in the Gary Church Chapel

We will learn about wedding and marriage cultural traditions across the three faiths, including the custom of an arranged marriage.



# MISSION

## this month

### Make a difference with...

#### ...your gifts

January 19

##### **Human Relations Sunday**

This United Methodist Special Sunday offering goes to the heart of Christ's church, to serve those living on the margins of society, to heal the broken and save those in crisis. Your giving on this Sunday funds United Methodist services to the "poor, disadvantaged and the underserved," those Christ recognized as the "least of these." Please give generously.

February

##### **People's Resource Center (PRC)**

The PRC is one of Gary Church's Missions for helping our neighbors, providing a food pantry, clothing, education, and training or monetary support to those in desperate straits. Please consider helping with food or clothing donations, monetary donations, or better yet, your time as a volunteer. You can get more information at [peoplesrc.org](http://peoplesrc.org).

#### ...your hands-on service

Thursdays, January 9, February 13

##### **Radical Time Out (RTO)**

This service to the previously incarcerated or families and friends of those currently repaying a debt to society also answers Christ's admonition for compassion to the prisoners. You can lend a hand at meetings or help with food for dinners. See the next page for details.

## Because of your generosity

### **ESSE Adult Day Services**

Many thanks to all who contributed to our Annual Pancake Breakfast. I was glad to see so many folks from Gary Church at the breakfast. Another big thanks to all those who participated in the Silent Auction and placed tickets in the Raffle Baskets or for the TVs. We raised over \$30,000 between donations and the breakfast events.

With much gratitude,

~Debby Connor

Gary Church ESSE Representative

### **Outreach Community Christmas Luncheon**

Thanks so much to all of you who made possible the Older Adults Christmas Luncheon, held on Friday, December 20, at First Presbyterian Church. The commons room was bustling with joy and Christmas cheer! All were fed a warm delicious lunch, listened to a performance by Franklin Middle School, and received a gift of bath towels plus a Jewel gift card. None of this would have been possible without people like you who give and volunteer to serve. The Older Adults program is a partnership ministry between First Presbyterian Church, Outreach Community Center, and Gary Church. For many of these seniors, the holidays are a lonely and sad time of the year, and this Christmas Luncheon is their only holiday activity. One lady put it best by saying that this is the one event of the year she hopes to never miss. Thank you for helping them have a Merry Christmas.

~Barbara Holmes



# sharing THE STORY in Mission

## Saying Yes to RTO

How did Radical Time Out (RTO) go from a mission most of us at Gary had never heard of to one we support each month? It started with a question: "How can we help you?" In 2017, Gary member Judy Grote invited Pastor Chris to lunch with Manny Mill, founder of RTO, thinking Pastor Chris would be interested in learning about this ministry to formerly incarcerated persons and families of those currently in prison. When Pastor Chris asked that question, Manny had an answer: "Could Gary provide a meal for over 100 people once a month?"

Thanks to the leadership of Judy and the efforts of many volunteers, the answer was yes, and we have provided monthly meals since April 17, 2017. Judy says, "I am so very pleased with the way Gary Church embraced the mission. I think it is proof that God is at work here at Gary through our membership and people and that prayers are answered."

### Thanks to Our Supporters

We are so grateful for the groups that provide a meal one month each year. Hats off those who cooked and served: Mary-Martha Circle in March, Joy Circle in August, and Pastor Brian and the Confirmants in October. Thanks also to the Chancel Choir and Class Meeting group for each providing a meal last year, as well as to Kay Berthholdt, Holly Trueblood, and Fern Evelhoch. These ladies have faithfully helped plan and cook when there is not another group in charge.

As for the financial aspect, Judy explains, "Things were initially a little 'shaky.' Then the Mary Martha Circle gifted \$400, which was just what we needed for a firm financial foundation.

Since then the money has increased somewhat, thanks to generous persons who donate regularly and occasionally."

### New Leadership

As we head into 2020, another person has said yes to RTO. While serving the meals and clean-up will continue to be Judy's purview, Sandy Koropp will be in charge of planning, shopping, preparing the food, and transporting it to the Glen Ellyn Bible Church for the months we do not already have groups scheduled. Sandy loves to cook in her own kitchen and invites individuals or groups to come to south Wheaton to help her cook and transport for one of the open months.



### Be Part of the Story

We are grateful for everyone who, through the gift of food, has helped those at RTO experience the love of neighbors and of God. In the new year, you too can be part of Gary's RTO story. Direct your financial contribution to the Church Office. Rally your Gary group to prepare one of the monthly meals and contact Sandy through the Church Office to say, "Yes, I'd be glad to help."



## We Are Their Neighbors

By Gerry Schmidt

Going to a foreign country is exciting and a great way to see how other people live. But often what you see are the tourist areas where everything is nice and updated. On the Habitat for Humanity Global Village trip I led in November of 2019, Rick Conrad, Greg Perisho, and I visited the Nepali capital of Kathmandu but also the rural village of Baluwa in the Panchkhal area, where we saw how others live in Nepal. More importantly, we were able to help two families get new homes after the destruction of the 2015 earthquake. Our team of 21 people of all ages (early 20s to 82) had a variety of skills and experience. We worked with the homeowners and their children, all of whom are currently living in corrugated steel sheds.

At one site, we hauled rocks (large and small), sand, and gravel, as well as mixed concrete to build the house foundation. Materials were hauled in wheelbarrows to bring them close to the site, then in trays (sand, gravel, cement) or by hand (rocks) to the site. The foundation was built in 5 layers. First, we placed large stones in the trenches and mixed and poured concrete over them. The next three layers were large stones with mud mortar. We would put the stones in the trench and then mix water with the soil to place between the voids. The top layer included steel rebar and concrete. At this house, the father, mother, 18-year-old daughter, and 15-year-old son worked with us on all tasks.

At the second house, we built brick walls on a foundation that had been completed by another team. Since there was no room for the building materials to be dropped off at the site, we formed a human conveyer belt and passed the bricks and trays of sand up a hill from the street. We then washed the bricks (nicknamed the Brick Spa) and sorted them according to appearance (nicer surfaces facing out and unattractive bricks for the interior, to be plastered). This house was being built for an elderly couple. The husband was blind and was being taken care of by his spouse and their son, who worked with us the whole week.

In addition to getting to know the homeowners, we were visited by adults and children from the village. They were curious about what this group of Americans was doing, especially as we laughed and had fun. We were the first

## sharing THE STORY in Mission

Habitat team to the area, so they did not know what to expect. But we were able to show them that Americans are their neighbors and care about them, whatever their preconception of us was.

We learned a similar lesson. The Nepali people have the same goals and desires we have: to have a safe home, to take care of their families, and to celebrate life. We saw smiling and laughing young children walking to school. When we showed them their photos, much giggling ensued. On other occasions, we saw parents waiting at the school gates to pick up their children, as well as families and young couples in a park to escape the noise and congestion of the city.



As part of our cultural orientation, Habitat took us to several Hindu and Buddhist temples and monasteries. We learned that both religions accept all religions and don't think any are wrong. In a country that is 80% Hindu, 10% Buddhist, and only 1-2% Christian, we felt very welcomed. You can see pictures of the build on our public Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/GV20859>.

I will be leading Habitat Global Village trips to Guatemala and Paraguay in 2020. Contact me through the Church Office for more information on the chance to experience another culture up-close and live like a local while helping communities that need safe, affordable housing.



## Christmas Sharing 2019

For the 50<sup>th</sup> year, Gary Church has fulfilled the promise of the Christmas Sharing mission. It was a wonderful week at Gary, with all ages hard at work while having a great time of fellowship!

We are thankful for the support of so many. Our two schools, Longfellow and Sandburg, gave us many donations. Gary members and friends signed up to bring in food boxes, and donated large numbers of new hats, coats, gloves, diapers, socks, and teen gifts. The Marines' Toys for Tots program helped us with toys for children. Numerous area business also contributed to the effort, including Rosatti's who donated pizza, Kimmer's who collected donations and provided ice cream, Per Se who helped sort and gave donations, and Wyndemere who held a special drive. Countless volunteers prepared gently used clothes, toys, and linens for our guests. When finished, "leftovers" were passed on to other organizations that assist those in need.

The effort, generosity, and overwhelming love from the congregation continue to be amazing. Christmas Sharing is truly a blessing for our church as well as for our guests.

**Thank you Gary Church!**  
~ Joe Davisson and Shelley Kenyon

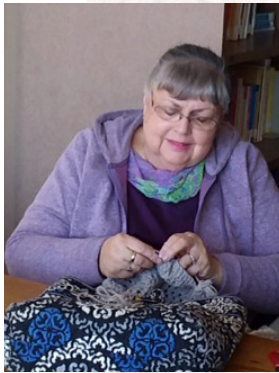




### January Focus Knitting Circle

In 2000 at a UMW summer School of Christian Mission, a seed was planted to grow a knitting group at Gary Church. On one of the resource tables was a handout describing a prayer shawl ministry. I took a copy with me, and, after talking to my friends Ellen Meuch and Priscilla Johnson, we decided to start a group to knit for charity and for people in need of comfort. Including knitters of all abilities and talents, and to not exclude those who crochet, we've spent almost 20 years spanning the globe with our craft!

Within our congregation, we've provided prayer shawls to innumerable individuals, wrapped our high school graduates in afghans since 2012, and most recently provided baby blankets to newborns of our congregation.



We've knit mittens for children at local Head Start programs as well as hats for Christmas Sharing, donated knitted items to PRC and Glen Ellyn Food Pantry, warmed our friends at PADS with cowls, and offered yarn we will not be using to Comfort for Critters, a local group that provides pet blankets to animal shelters.

Through the Mother Bear Project, bears we lovingly knit went to Africa to offer comfort to children impacted by AIDS. Knitting supplies were taken to Guatemala on several mission trips to teach girls

there how to knit, and puppets knit for the children there have travelled with our teams of volunteers in the past. Sweaters donated to OXFAM have kept children on the streets in many countries warm and protected them from hypothermia.

Sales we hold annually give us the ability to support missions such as UMCOR, PRC, our preschool scholarship fund, and the Fundaniños teacher fund. Yarn donated to SCARCE comes our way and keeps our stash supplied.

In keeping with the principals of United Methodist Women, our goal is to support women and children locally, nationally and internationally. Knitting creates community and reduces stress. "When our hands are busy, our mind is at rest," says writer Sara Ban Breathnach. We invite anyone interested to come and learn how knitting can impact your life, and those for whom you may knit! We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. in the Heritage Room and 7 p.m. in the Commons.



### A Thank You from Joy Circle

Our "Mums for Missions" sale was a huge success. The net profit from the sale, along with our other recent fund raising activities, has allowed Joy Circle to provide funds for the following: Gary Preschool tuition assistance, Christmas Sharing pajama project, UMCOR hurricane relief, and the NIC "Bishop's Appeal" to help Illinois farmers facing an uncertain harvest due to extreme weather conditions.

We have also set aside funds for the Green's Colombia seminary mission project and for our RTO meal preparation and serving next August. We are keeping a small amount in reserve to fund unexpected needs. In the summer of 2019, Joy Circle used its carry-over reserve to fund the fees for a counselor to attend our summer youth camp.

So, thank you for your generosity in purchasing the gorgeous chrysanthemums. Not only have you beautified your gardens and homes, but you have enabled Joy Circle to support Christian missions based out of Gary UMC, Illinois farmers, and UMCOR national and international relief efforts.

~Barb Wernicke  
for Joy Circle





# Advent



Leading up to Advent, Gary Kids wore their own colorful and comfy pjs to wrap the pajamas donated for Christmas Sharing. On Thanksgiving Eve, Gary members and friends shared a traditional Thanksgiving meal. The following day, our parade participants lit the streets of downtown Wheaton with the message, "Jesus is the Light of the World."

On Advent Sundays we prepared hearts for the season with A Gingerbread Christmas, an activity for families centered on the true meaning of Christmas, and the stories and music of Lessons and Carols.





## Thank You

Thank you so much, Gary's United Methodist Women Circles, for your recent donations to the Preschool scholarship fund. We are so grateful for your generous contributions and support of our preschool program.

~ **Kirsten McCluskey, on behalf of the staff at Gary United Methodist Preschool**

## 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

Judy Grote on the birth of her great-granddaughter, Camila Raquel Morris, November 9

## Baptisms

Brady Noah Laterza, son of Frank & Megan Laterza, November 24

Isabelle Lin Turnquist Zmuda, daughter of Erin Turnquist-Zmuda & Richard Zmuda, November 17

## Our Sympathy

Terry, Aileen, Sean and Sarah Termini on the death of Terry's mother, JoAnn Termini

Tanner & Alexa Isaac on the death of Tanner's grandfather, Raymond Dick

Phyllis Bauler on the death of her niece, Bonnie Bauler, November 5

The Family of Carmen Bulat. Carmen passed away in November.

The Family of Fairie Vanne. Fairie passed away November 17.

Dale & Colleen Atteberry on the death of Colleen's sister, Shelia Cunningham, November 16.

Rich & Jean Dobson on the death of Rich's mother, Rosemary Dobson, November 27

## Registration for Gary Preschool Continues for 2020-2021

Gary United Methodist Preschool is in its 51<sup>st</sup> year of service to the surrounding community. We are proud of that fact and the reputation which we have maintained in the community.

Preschool registration for fall 2020 is now open to all community members. We offer three preschool classes: a three-year-old class on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, a four-year-old class on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, and a Pre-K class, which meets on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons. We also offer an Enrichment class for our 4-year-old and Pre-K students on Thursday afternoons.

Additionally, children who are 18-35 months old by September 1, 2020 may enroll in our Parents' Morning Out Program. Children are divided into either a younger or older class. PMO provides an introduction to preschool and time away from parents or caregivers. Families may enroll for one, two, or three days on nonconsecutive days (Monday, Wednesday, Friday or Tuesday, Thursday).

If you would like more information about any of these programs or you would like to schedule a visit, please call Kirsten McCluskey through the Church Office or email [preschool@garychurch.org](mailto:preschool@garychurch.org). Classes can fill up quickly, so don't delay!



# 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—Moving into God's Future

By Pastor Bruce Anderson

Happy New Year, everyone. Now that we have celebrated the birth of our savior, and rung in the New Year, it is time to renew our commitment to doing God's work in Winfield.

We are starting some new things at Winfield Community United Methodist Church this year. First, we are assisting four Winfield families whose students are on the school lunch program. This includes a family of six, two families of five, and a family of three people. Each month, we will take enough food to help with weekend and holiday meals for the families. Donations of nonperishable food or monetary support are welcome at the church.

Also on Saturday, February 1 at 6 p.m., we will be showing the film "Beautifully Broken" at the church. This film, sponsored by Compassion International, tells the stories of three families, two in Rwanda and one in the U.S, whose lives are miraculously linked together by God's providence to help them overcome their trials and hardships. If you wish to do so, there will be an opportunity to sponsor a child.



We will also be sponsoring lectures on financial topics one evening a month for anyone interested. Topics will include such things as: Financial Basics (spending and saving), Credit, Credit Safety, Borrowing, Modern Banking, Financial Recovery, and Retirement. Let us know which topics you would be interested in hearing about.

Another initiative is to reinstate the Winfield Growth Committee. The Committee will meet one Saturday morning a month to help chart the future of the church. The first meeting will be at 9 a.m. on Saturday, February 8 at the church. Come help chart the future of Winfield Community United Methodist Church.

May you all be blessed by the grace and providence of the Lord our God in 2020.

~Pastor Bruce



**Winfield Community United Methodist Church**  
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**Rev. Bruce Anderson**, Pastor  
**John Wiggins**, Church Administrator  
**Olive Aliga**, Music Director



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## **30<sup>th</sup> Annual DuPage County Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

*Monday, January 20, 6:30 p.m. in the Gary Church Sanctuary*

This annual event welcomes people of all races, faith traditions, ethnic backgrounds, and economic classes to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on this national holiday.

This year's keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. James Miller, Senior Pastor of DuPage AME Church in Lisle. Dr. Miller, one of the co-founders of the DuPage MLK celebration, has pastored three churches and authored the book *Go Build A Church: Spiritual Administration for Growth*.

All residents of DuPage County are encouraged to join their neighbors at this event.

*The arc of the moral universe is long, but bends towards justice.*  
~ Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

