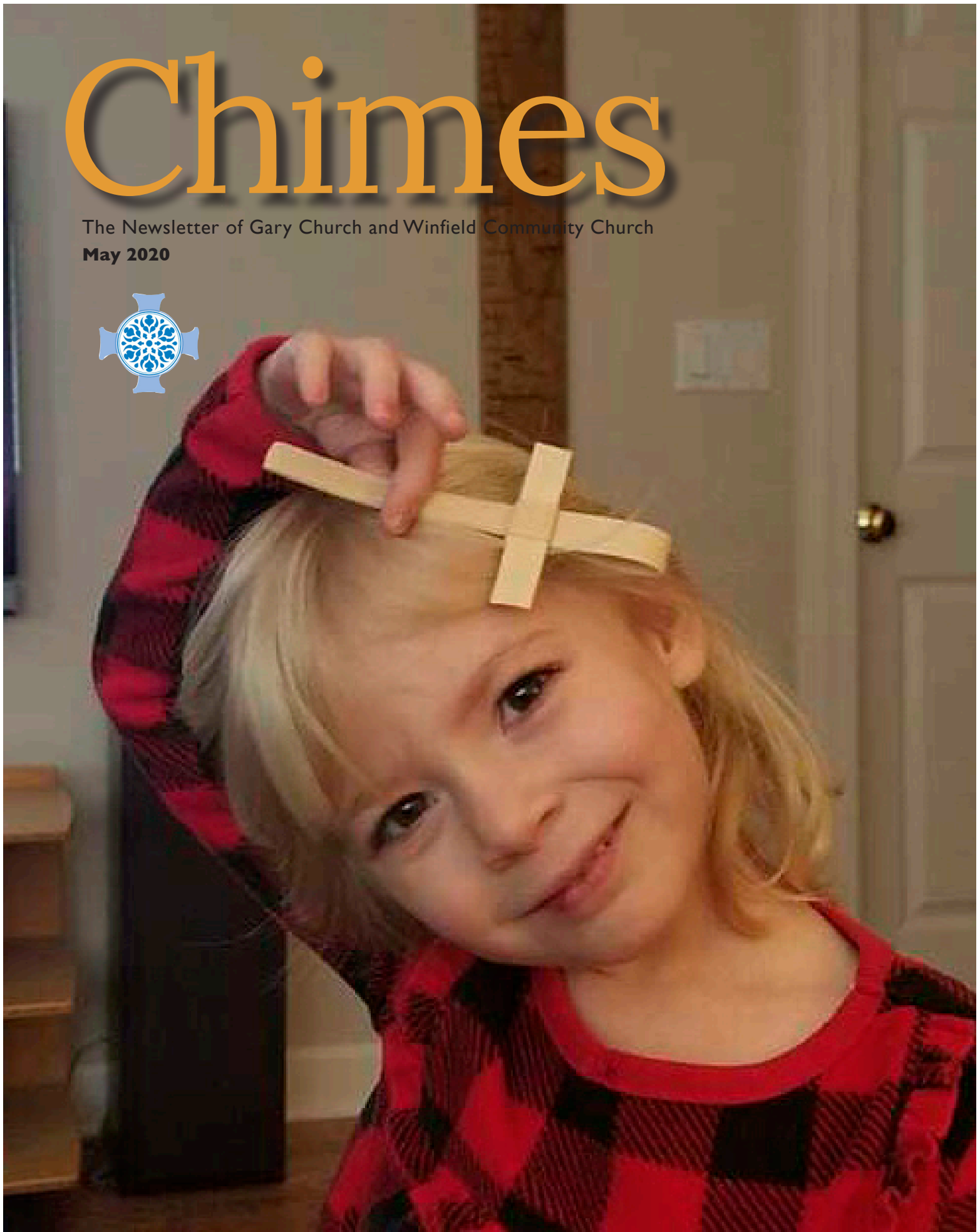


# Chimes

The Newsletter of Gary Church and Winfield Community Church  
**May 2020**



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**Sunday Worship Opportunities at Gary**

Sunday Online Worship Service  
available each week at 9 a.m.



Submissions for the June/July *Chimes* newsletter are due by May 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.

# sharing THE STORY

## How to Do Everything Differently

by Jennifer Whiting

Rob and I eagerly loaded up the Country Squire station wagon with borrowed camping gear, food, and one toddler for an affordable summer adventure. We arrived in Door County just in time for biblical swarms of insects. Mayflies were everywhere. Up our noses. In our eyes. Gnats formed tornadoes above our heads and followed us wherever we went. I tied a bonnet on Catie's little head and stuffed cotton in her ears to keep out the buzzing mosquitos.

Then it rained. And rained. The old tent leaked, and we woke up in puddles every morning. Catie was continually covered in mud. I had to manage all the responsibilities I had at home, but my tools were gone—no running water, appliances, or roof to keep out the rain. I longed for our washing machine and warm beds. It was much harder to be a mom in the woods!

Gary Church was thrown into a similar situation on March 21 when Governor Pritzker wisely imposed the stay-at-home order in Illinois. Suddenly, we had to figure out how to “do church” without our familiar tools. The organist had no organ, the preachers had no pulpit, the teachers had no students, and the conductors had no choirs! Worse yet, we were beginning to grasp a truly frightening situation filled with loss and fear and suffering, compounded by necessary separation from one another.

Henri Matisse said, “Creative people are curious, flexible, persistent, and independent, with a tremendous spirit of adventure.” These attributes have unfolded before our eyes through our leaders and congregation during this dark time. We have witnessed the rise of new systems and strategies for every ministry: Zoom meetups, Facebook Live devotionals, an Easter caravan, “Gary Cares” phone trees, text giving, Worship Talk, a reimagined Crop Walk, the Pastor Brian Podcast, and countless other innovations! New tools. Determination. Courage.

One shining example of flexibility and problem-solving is Tony Venezia's heroic work in producing our weekly worship videos. What a gift these virtual services have been, and what a timely response to the church's need! Tony's untold hours and perseverance are known only to the Lord.

Kudos to everyone who has adapted creatively, forged collaborations, overcome learning curves, and embraced new methods. Through you, our community stays connected, and our kingdom work continues. You honor the Lord in this spirit of grace and cooperation.

It takes patience, communication, and experimentation to figure out how to do literally everything differently. Stripped of our familiar tools, we are stretched and forced to grow. The fruit of these labors will astound us in the coming years, in ways we never could have imagined.

Though the technologies are new, the acts of kindness and love are timeless. Thank you for remembering those who are lonely, depressed, facing illness, or grieving. Thank you for praying for one another. Thank you for delivering groceries and sharing toilet paper. This is the gospel in action!

We will emerge from these woods into a different “normal,” and our toolboxes will be fuller. We will be better equipped to serve the modern world than ever before, and with a deeper appreciation for how precious it is to be together.



# Beginnings

by Rev. Dr. Chris Pierson

*In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth... Genesis 1:1a*

There is perhaps no more appropriate word to describe our spiritual journey than “Beginning.” The Bible begins with the book of Genesis. It is a book of Beginnings (the meaning of the Greek title). As one writer puts it, “This first book of the Bible presents the origins of everything except God.”


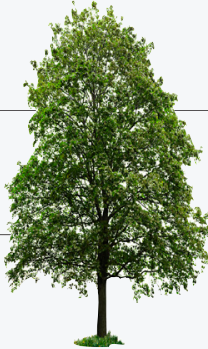
“Beginning” describes not only a fixed point in time or space but also a process. Thus, some translate the opening verse of the Bible to also mean “when God began to create.”

Think of all the beginnings in your life: your first breath, your first cry, your first words or communication, your first expressions of joy or laughter, your first steps. They were at a fixed moment in time but you were also in the process of creation, in the process of becoming, and becoming more mature.

This is no less true in our spiritual lives. In our journey of discipleship, we begin to attend worship regularly. We begin to become more aware of God each day. We begin to feel a sense of belonging within the church family; just as we offer hospitality to others in everyday life.

Hopefully, this also leads to beginning spiritual practices. We begin to pray and read scripture regularly seeking understanding in our relationship with God and one another. We begin to open ourselves to God more fully and to learning with others through a class or study. First Peter 2: 2–3 states it rather strongly, *Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.* Our first taste of something truly good.

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

	Searching	Exploring	Beginning	Growing	Maturing
<b>Worship</b>	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		
<b>Community</b>	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.		
<b>Spiritual Practices</b>	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.		
<b>Generosity &amp; Service</b>	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.		
<b>Christ-Like</b>	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.		

**The first book of the Bible presents the origins of everything except God.**

We also begin to practice generosity and service. We begin to give intentionally of money, time, and talents and we understand Christ's invitation to serve others and learn about op-

portunities to use your gifts. Attending an "Explore Gary" or "Next Steps" class can help us find ways to share our talents and connect with others. There are so many opportunities for Bible study and fellowship at Gary Church, not only on Sunday mornings between worship services but throughout the week.

Even during the Coronavirus pandemic, we have begun to provide opportunities online for worship, study, and fellowship. You'll find a list of these offerings on page 7.

Yet, our "beginnings" are all for a purpose. We seek to become more Christ-like. In humility we begin to follow Jesus. It is why all of the other spiritual practices become so important. We read and pray about becoming more like him as we learn more about what he is like. We begin to try to pattern ourselves after him—his openness to being with others, his willingness to offer himself to and for others.

Yet, we must always remember, "A thoroughly Wesleyan understanding of God's creation never loses sight of the essential goodness of creation and everything in it, including human beings." The first words of the Gospel of John use the very same words as the book of Genesis: "In the beginning." John writes, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...all things came into being through him, and without him nothing came into being." So too, we read, and "the Word became flesh and lived among us" (John 1:17). Jesus took on flesh that he might be a first, that he might bring a new beginning—a new creation, first fruits, and that we might become more like him. And so, through God's grace, let us begin!

*Christopher L. Peerson*

# Adult Christian Education and Discipleship

## Women's Retreat:

### **Worry Less, Live More**

On March 13 & 14, Gary women gathered at La Salle Manor Retreat Center to learn how to leave behind worry and truly live more. Led by guest speaker Jane Rubietta, this weekend retreat helped participants experience joy and rest in the moment-by-moment pleasure of a God who delights in us.

We would like to thank all who attended, and especially the Women's Retreat Planning Committee: Holly Trueblood, Donna Trieschmann, Kara Calderwood, Betsy Boyd, and JoAnne Chase.



## Worship Talk

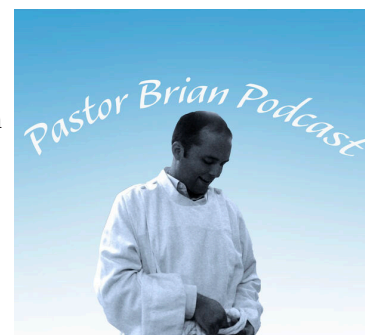
*Sundays at 10:15 a.m. via Zoom*

Are you loving Gary's online worship service but missing the community connection after? (You know, that time when we sip coffee and discuss the service.) We're missing it too. That's why we've started Worship Talk. Offered via Zoom, this virtual coffee hour includes a facilitated conversation with Rev. JoAnne Chase about the morning's service. We'll talk sermon. We'll talk music. We'll talk worship. To participate, visit [garychurch.org](http://garychurch.org) and look for the "Worship Talk" tab. So grab your coffee, click on the link, and join in.



## Pastor Brian Podcast

During this time of turbulence, disruption, and anxiety, the Pastor Brian Podcast provides a way for us to stay connected as a community and with God. During Season 1, we will be learning about prayer by participating in prayer together. Each 10-minute episode includes a scripture reading, reading of a Psalm with a small section to sing, and a led prayer called a Litany. You use the podcast in a variety of ways: as a family with a speaker in the middle of your table, in your car stereo during your lunchbreak, with ear pods before you go to bed at night, etc. Subscribe anywhere you get your podcasts (Apple Podcast, Spotify, Google Podcast, and many other platforms) or at [964906.buzzsprout.com](http://964906.buzzsprout.com) and join Pastor Brian for daily prayer!





## a guide to ways we are staying connected

### **Sunday Online Worship**

9 a.m. at [garychurch.org](http://garychurch.org)

### **Worship Talk**

Sundays, 10:15 a.m. via Zoom (with meeting link available at [garychurch.org](http://garychurch.org))

Conversation about the service and sermon

### **Gary Kids @Home**

Weekly Sunday School lesson sent by email on Thursday or Friday

### **Gary Youth Sunday Nights**

7 p.m. via Zoom for high school students

### **Men's Bible Study**

Tuesdays, 7 p.m. via Zoom

### **MOPS and MOMSNext**

Second and fourth Tuesday of the month at varying times via Zoom

### **Gary Kids Devotion**

Wednesdays, 12 p.m., live in the Gary Kids Facebook group

### **Gary Youth Midweek**

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

### **Cherub Choir Messages**

Music activities for children in preschool and kindergarten sent by email on Wednesday or Thursday

### **Chancel Choir Chat**

Thursdays, 7 p.m. via Zoom for current and former choir members

### **Pastor Brian Podcast**

Daily, available wherever you get your podcasts or at [964906.buzzsprout.com](http://964906.buzzsprout.com)

### **Facebook.com/garyumc**

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

### **Stories of Hope: E-Devotional**

Reflections written by congregation members sent by email twice a week

**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.**



## Gary Youth

### Zoom Meetings

We invite all middle and high school students to meet Pastor Dan in our weekly Zoom meetings:

### Midweek for Middle Schoolers

*Wednesdays at 7 p.m.*

### High School Sunday Nights

*7 p.m.*

Contact the Church Office for Zoom IDs and passwords.

### Text Updates

To receive text updates from Gary Youth, text "garyyouth" to 95577.

### MIX and MOVE Camps

We received a message from CIY saying that, whether we get to load up and travel or not, middle school MIX and high school MOVE Camps will be happening in some form this year. They are working to create an experience that will fit whatever our lives may look like this summer.

We will keep you updated as we hear more and will provide additional opportunities to register for those who have not already once we have the details.

## We welcome Daniel Lee, our new Director of Youth Ministries!

Dan comes to Gary Church from Christ UMC in Rockford, IL where he has been Associate Pastor and Youth Director since 2018. Prior to that, he was Associate Pastor at Cary UMC in Cary, IL. Dan has a B.A. in psychology from the University of Illinois and graduated with a Master of Divinity degree from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in 2012. He and his wife Stacey have a goldendoodle named Brighton. In his free-time, Dan likes to play basketball, practice pottery art known as Kintsugi, and travel to Japan.

Having gained a wealth of experiences in his previous roles, Dan discovered his passion for youth ministry. He feels that too often we say that youth are the leaders of tomorrow when in reality they are the leaders of today. Dan adds, "The purpose of youth ministry is to provide our youth opportunities to discover the gifts God has given them for today. Youth ministry is also a ministry of the entire church. Therefore, I see another major role of the director of youth ministries as empowering the church to be involved in ministering to the youth."

Dan will begin on a part-time basis, and during the pandemic will be ministering online with youth and meeting with staff. He will join us full time in mid-June. We look forward to all that Dan will bring to Gary Youth and to the entire Gary Church family!





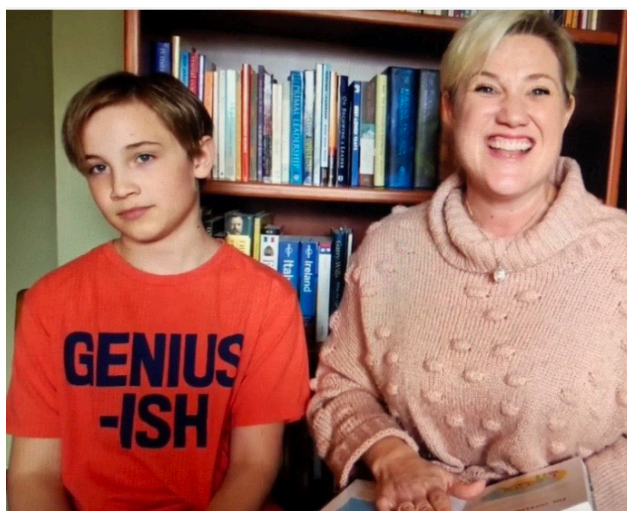
## Hey Gary Kids Families,

You've made it to May! Which means you figured out e-learning, Spring Break, Easter, Zoom (lots of Zoom), and ways you hadn't known before to connect with friends and family; and you've done it all from the (forced) comfort of your home. We know it hasn't been easy; some of it has been down-right hard, but you've hung in there and done a great job.

As we settle into this "new normal" with its challenges and joys, we want to let you know that we're here for you—here to support and encourage while you help faith grow at home. The two big ways we are connecting with your family are through weekly emails and our Gary Kids Facebook group. If you are not receiving the emails or aren't part of the Facebook group, please let us know and we'll get you set up. Of course, we understand that you have a lot on your plate right now, so no hard feelings if it doesn't work for you. We simply want to be "there" (a socially distant "there") during this challenging time.

We are praying for you. We are praying for your family. And finally, we are cheering you on.

Blessings and be well,  
**Carey Williams Bebar**



## @ home with gary kids this May!



This month our weekly devotions will focus on the early church in a series called TRUE STORY. Everyone loves a story about a big adventure, don't they? The best stories are stories of life change, big dreams, dramatic rescues, and journeys to far-away places. Those adventure stories are even better when they're true stories! In this four-week series, we'll follow the true story of the early church. Kids will imagine they are explorers and adventurers as they hear the stories of Saul's conversion, Peter and Cornelius, Peter's escape from prison, and Paul and Barnabas' missionary travels. By the end of this series, kids will learn and remember that **Jesus changes lives, Jesus loves everyone, Jesus gives us freedom, and Jesus helps us share His story.**

Plus, look for an explorer fact and bonus activity each week.

## gary kids facebook page

We LOVE seeing your pics and posts on Facebook! From stained-glass windows to Palm Sunday Parades to simple walks through the park, they are the stuff that connect and uplift and we love seeing them all! Also, be sure to check out the Live Devotions on Wednesday at 12 p.m, and add your Joys & Concerns to our Friday string.



**Helping Faith Grow at Home**

# MISSION *this month*

Spring is here, a time of rejuvenation and celebrating life. Unfortunately, it is now also a time of sadness and hardship for many, as well as uncertainty for all. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected us all, but some more harshly than others—minorities, immigrants, the incarcerated, the elderly, the homeless, the recently unemployed, and the working poor. Obviously, the social lockdown has put many of our usual Missions activities on hold while we wait for information from the organizations we support. Some have already developed new coping ideas such as the virtual Crop Walk or PADS housing their clients in currently empty hotel rooms. But need isn't going away and will only grow as disease and a flailing economy go on and as the virus effects spread more heavily into the underdeveloped world.

There is much we, as a Christian community, can still do for others. It starts by seeing to the needs of our friends and neighbors who may be unable to go out or fully care for their own needs. You can join the Gary Cares team to help those we can identify who are in need. If you did not walk or contribute to the Crop Walk, you can still donate as the proceeds will go to help feed our local community as well as others worldwide. You can check the following websites for ways to join their efforts or contribute financially, either through your Gary giving or directly to the organizations.

Church World Service - [cwsglobal.org](http://cwsglobal.org)

CROP WALK - [crophungerwalk.org/glenellynil/garyumc2020](http://crophungerwalk.org/glenellynil/garyumc2020)

ESSE - [esseadultdaycare.org](http://esseadultdaycare.org)

Feed My Starving Children - [fmsc.org](http://fmsc.org)

Habitat for Humanity - [chicagolandhabitat.org](http://chicagolandhabitat.org)

Heifer International - [heifer.org](http://heifer.org)

Just of DuPage - [justofdupage.org](http://justofdupage.org)

Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans - [helpaveteran.org](http://helpaveteran.org)

Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors - [nijfon.org](http://nijfon.org)

Outreach Community Ministries - [outreachcommunityministries.org](http://outreachcommunityministries.org)

PADS - [dupagepads.org](http://dupagepads.org)

People's Resource Center - [peoplesrc.org](http://peoplesrc.org)

Radical Time Out - [koinoniahouse.org/events/rto/rto.php](http://koinoniahouse.org/events/rto/rto.php)

Red Bird Mission - [rbmission.org](http://rbmission.org)

UMCOR Global Ministries - [umcmmission.org](http://umcmmission.org)

Thanks from all of us on the Missions team for all you can do to help in the name of Christ.

**~Joe Ruth**

Missions Committee Chair

*sharing*  
THE STORY 



Planning has begun for the 12th year of the community garden at Winfield Community UMC. While we cannot yet schedule the time when transplants will be available for us to plant, we are beginning to prepare the garden, using social distancing principles, and allocating the raised beds for families and food pantries.

If you are interested in joining our group, having a raised bed for your family, and helping provide food for the food pantry, contact Fred Wayland through the Church Office.



### **Masks Available!**

Hi from the sewing room at Deb's house. I have been busy at my machine making masks for friends and family. When I was given some money for them, I thought, "I don't want to profit from this situation." What could I do? I decided to donate any money to the Gary Church Care Ministries, so I am making them available at a suggested \$5 per mask. (Masks are available to all regardless of your donation.)

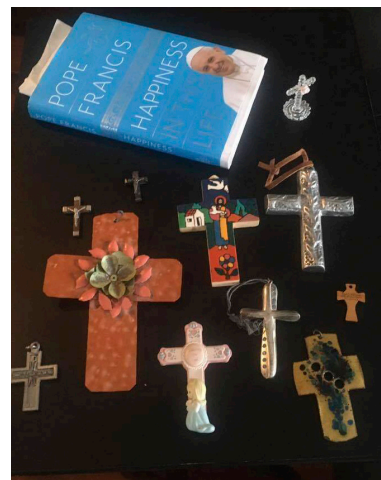
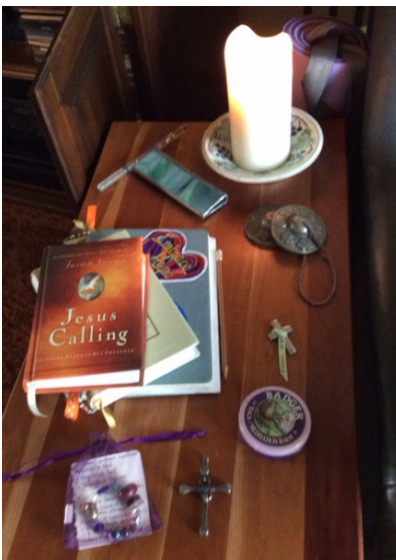
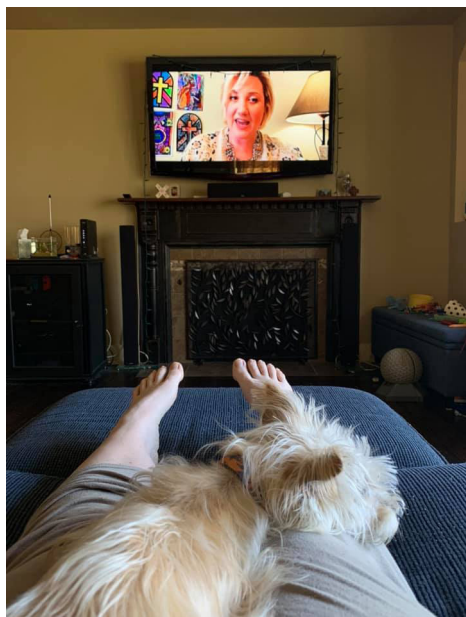
If you find you need a mask and would like me to make one or several, please contact me through the Church Office. The masks have a wire inside for over your nose, a pocket for a filter, and are tied. I have fabric in many designs and colors.

Here is a picture of some of the masks that are finished and ready to go to a new home!

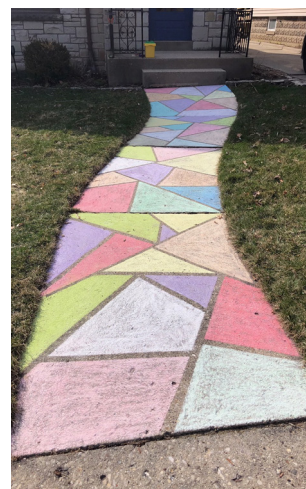
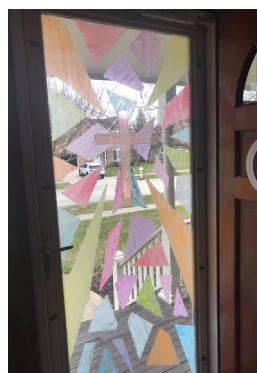
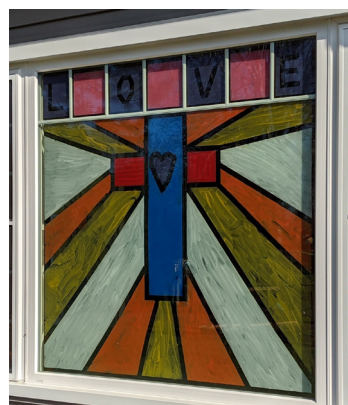
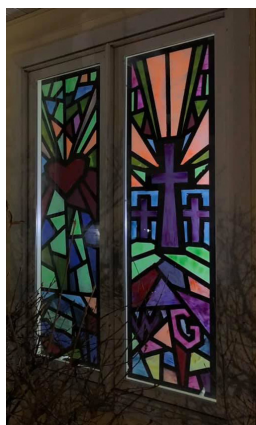
**~Debby Connor**



# How Gary Families Do Church at Home



Thanks to all the Gary families who helped shine the light of Christ with our stained glass art project.



"The Resurrection brings light and life into our dark world. It illuminates all of us with hope and joy and peace. It is a new day and a new life in Christ. That is Easter."

~Pastor Carey Williams Bebar

## A Dream Come True for “Flygirl”



Plan to tune in to the show “American Ninja Warrior Junior” on Friday, May 15 at 5 p.m. Central Time on Universal Kids channel to see one of Gary’s very own students compete. Emme Smith, daughter of Shauna and Kelly and sister of Rowan, is a seventh grader at Franklin Middle School. She was one of 48 kids in her age group selected to compete on the show from over 14,000 applicants.

Emme has watched “American Ninja Warrior” for several years, but her participation began when she was looking for a place for her 11th birthday party and settled on Ultimate Ninjas Chicago. “It was so much fun!! I begged my parents to sign me up for classes and when Ultimate Ninjas Naperville opened, I started taking classes and fell in love with the sport,” explains Emme. “For the past two years, I’ve been training and competing locally, regionally, and nationally.” Preparing to be part of “American Ninja Warrior Junior” included training three to four times a week at Ultimate Ninjas, working on her skills at home, and entering as many competitions as she could.

When asked about her experience on the show, Emme describes, “It was a dream come true. At the beginning I felt very nervous because the set was so big and there were so many super talented ninja athletes competing. I was super excited, though, and I just tried to balance the excitement and the nerves and just go out and do my best.” Emme’s ninja name is “Flygirl,” chosen because it’s also the title of one of her favorite books and because she loves flying through the air and catching the next obstacle. She also enjoys the support the athletes show each other. “Ninja is all about falling and getting back up. It’s great to come off the course to a giant group hug from all of your friends,” says Emme.

We look forward to cheering on “Flygirl” Emme on May 15 and send her a big virtual hug from all her Gary Church friends!

“Flygirl” t-shirts are available for \$20 each. Contact the Church Office if you would like to purchase one.





### **Quarterly Statements**

Statements for the first quarter of 2020 have been mailed out. If you have not received yours or have any questions about information on your statement, please contact Deb Evans through the Church Office.

### **Variety of Ways to Give**

During these new times of virtual worship and gatherings, you may be wondering how best to make a contribution to Gary Church. There are several options for you to consider in making a gift, three of which are highlighted here:

**1. Online Giving** – An option at Gary Church for nearly two decades, members and guests can give online. Donors can set up a regular weekly or monthly contribution or just a one-time gift. Giving options do change to reflect current opportunities like Special Sundays or mission opportunities, i.e. UMCOR Sunday or Fifth Sunday appeals for United Voices for Children. Simply go to [www.garychurch.org/give](http://www.garychurch.org/give).

**2. Text-to-Give** – Launched at Gary Church this past fall, text-to-give offers donors an even easier way to make a contribution. On a cell phone, text the number 844.928.1220. Enter a dollar amount followed by the word “GARY.” The first time you do this, there will be some additional instructions, but once that is set up, you can text a gift at any time. In addition to the general operating “GARY” fund, there are a limited number of additional text-to-give options. Simply text the word “FUND” to the number above and the current list of available funds will be sent to you. For example, you can text “50 GARY” to make a \$50 contribution to the general operating fund or “100 MISSION” to donate \$100 to the general mission fund.

**3. Checks** – Mail a check to Gary Church, 224 N. Main St., Wheaton, IL 60187. Please note any specific designations in the memo line.

### **NEW Deduction for Charitable Contributions**

To help alleviate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress has enacted the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). Among its many provisions is a new deduction for charitable contributions for those who do not itemize and an increase on the allowable deductions for those who do.

Taxpayers who do not itemize may now deduct up to \$300 in cash contributions to a 501(c)3 charitable organization, such as Gary Church. This is considered a universal “above-the-line” deduction, meaning it will simply be listed as an adjustment to income on the first page of the Form 1040.

Additionally, for taxpayers who do itemize their deductions, the CARES Act has increased the allowable deduction for this year only. For 2020, itemizers will be able to deduct contributions up to 100 percent of their adjusted gross income (AGI). Thus, for example, if your AGI is \$100,000, you may deduct \$100,000 in charitable contributions and wipe out any income tax liability.

*Please note that this is not tax advice. We are simply sharing the information. Please consult with your tax advisor for additional information.*



## United Methodist Women in Mission

Our series on the mission and ministry of United Methodist Women concludes with a focus on another of our Gary Circles. All of our circle members have missed their monthly meetings during this time of social distancing. While some circles have tried Zoom calls and others have checked in with one another via email, everyone looks forward to a time when they can gather in person again.

In the meantime, we remind you that you can stay informed via social media and email on the UMW action areas bringing women across the world together to work on shared goals. Follow United Methodist Women on Social Media:



Sign up for email messages under the News tab at [unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org):

Social Action Alerts (occasional email alerts)

Monthly UMW newsletter

### May Focus: **Mary-Martha Circle**

The Mary-Martha Circle has been an integral part of Gary Church's United Methodist Women circles for many years. Their programs have included presentations on church ministry and mission programs, resources for senior citizens, book reviews, and community organizations such as the Ronald McDonald House and People's Resource Center. The group has also worked in the used toys area of Christmas Sharing and prepared baked goods for the Fundaniños Orphanage fundraisers in May. The circle prepares and serves dinner for Radical Time Out once a year and a luncheon in the spring for seniors at Outreach Community Center.

The group also enjoys working on craft items which are sold at the Christmas Market to raise money for organizations such as People's Resource Center and Outreach Community Center. The circle is glad to have been able to financially support organizations that are helping vulnerable members of the community during the COVID-19 crisis. In past years at their May meeting, the members have had a lot of fun bidding on auction items and raising funds for their mission projects.

When it is safe to do so, the Circle will resume their meetings on the second Saturday of the month in the Commons from 9:30 to 11:15 a.m., September to May. The circle co-chairs Nancy Turner and Penny Gillen, along with all the circle members, welcome newcomers when they are able to meet again.



*A few circle members and Pastor Chris serving at RTO in 2018*



## 2020 UM General Church Meetings Postponed

In addition to affecting local churches, the coronavirus pandemic has led to the postponement of general, jurisdictional, and annual conference meetings. Additional information is available at [nicumc.org](http://nicumc.org) and [umnews.org](http://umnews.org).

*Q: Has a new date been set for the General Conference of The United Methodist Church, which had been scheduled for May 5–10, 2020?*

A: The new proposed dates for General Conference are August 31–September 10, 2021 in Minneapolis, MN.

*Q: What is happening with the proposals regarding the future of the UM Church that would have been discussed?*

A: The debate will be delayed until General Conference can meet.

*Q: When will the NIC Annual Conference that had been scheduled for June be rescheduled?*

A: The Annual Conference Committee is working closely with the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center and Hotel on new dates, possibly in the fall. Once those are confirmed, they will be shared.

*Q: What will happen with the North Central Jurisdictional Conference scheduled for July 15–18 in Fort Wayne, Ind.?*

A: The North Central Jurisdictional Conference has also been postponed and will likely take place in 2021 after General Conference.

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## Mental Health Needs During COVID-19

This extended period of social distancing is likely to have an affect on our mental health. We call your attention to two local organizations that can provide help and encourage you to share this information with others who may need it.



**NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) of DuPage** is offering support groups and peer counseling through video/telephonic conferencing during the COVID-19 crisis, for individuals & families/friends of those living with a mental illness. If you have any questions about online support or other resources during this time, please contact Patty Johnstone at [p.johnstone@namidupage.org](mailto:p.johnstone@namidupage.org) or 630-752-0066 x 205.



**Central DuPage Pastoral Counseling Center** is a non-profit agency that provides affordable mental health counseling for individuals, couples, and families. They are currently accepting current, former, and new clients for telehealth sessions. You can reach them at 630-752-9750 or learn more at [cdpcc.org](http://cdpcc.org).



## Stay Connected through the **shelbynext** Membership Portal

We're excited to announce the new online member portal for Gary Church members and constituents that includes a membership directory which is much like the printed version, but available on your computer or downloadable as an app for your tablet or smart phone. This will enable you to easily look up phone numbers and email addresses for church members.

During the first week of May, the Church Office will send an email to all members and constituents of Gary Church who are over the age of 18\* and have a valid email address on record. This message will include a link to access this secure site using a unique username and password.



LOGIN

USERNAME

PASSWORD [Forgot Password?](#)

LOGIN

This username and password can be used to access the membership directory via the weblink provided, the downloaded app, or through the church's website under "Account Access."

Additionally, Gary members will be able to edit their own individual profile within ShelbyNext:

**Update Information** - Under the EDIT tab, members can provide updates to their personal information on record. These updates are reviewed by the Church Office prior to going live.

**Add a Photo** - Under the EDIT tab, you can upload a photo of yourself and members of your family.

### Erastus Gary

PROFILE EDIT GIVING ACCOUNT



Erastus Gary

Male  
217 yrs (04/30/1802)

Profile Visibility

#### Contact Info

PHONE (HOME) 630-555-3253

#### Address

303 W. Wesley  
Wheaton, IL 60187

#### Family



PRIMARY  
Erastus Gary  
217 yrs



WIFE  
Susan Gary  
216 yrs

**Adjust Visibility Settings** – Members can determine what information other church members can see. For example, if you would prefer not to have a secondary email address visible to anyone besides the Church Office, you can control that. To access visibility settings, click on the three dots to the immediate right of your name on the PROFILE page and then click on PROFILE VISIBILITY. Slide the markers for various components of your record.

Visibility settings can be adjusted from the web version of Shelby. If using the Shelby app, please contact the Church Office to assist in setting your profile visibility.

**VISIBILITY SETTINGS**

Configure who can view your information by using the selector below.  
 Leaders can still view contact information if the church allows them to edit your record

Personal Information	Group Leaders	Group Members	Directory
Address 303 W. Wesley, Wheaton, IL, 60187	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Address 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Home Phone 630-555-3253	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cell Phone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Work Phone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Primary Email	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Access Your Giving Record** – Using this password-protected system, members will be able to see a history of their giving and print a statement of giving at any time. Next year at tax time, don't worry if you cannot find the year-end statement that was mailed, you can print one yourself.

Please watch for your username and password in early May. If you do not receive any information by May 15, please contact the Church Office.

We hope this new tool will serve as a simple way to stay connected with other members of Gary Church especially during these challenging times of self-distancing. However if you prefer using the paper directory and have misplaced yours, contact the Church Office for a new copy.

Please note that portrait sessions for a new printed photo directory that had been planned for May have been postponed.

*\* Children under 18 years of age (or those still in high school) will be listed as part of their family's record, but no additional contact information for children will be included.*



### Recognizing Graduates

With the absence of traditional ceremonies this year, we are especially eager to recognize those in the Gary/Winfield Church family who are graduating from high school, college, or vocational school.

Please contact the Church Office with the graduate's name, school of graduation, intended college/degree, or other details by *Monday, May 11*.

We will list all graduates in the **June/July Chimes** and recognize high school grads during worship at a later date.

### Thank You

My family and I are in awe of how Gary has come to our aid. You've been such a loving support through our time of need; I am still overwhelmed.

*We thank you and love you back with all our hearts.*  
Sally Hill

Thank you to all the thoughtful and generous family of friends at Gary Church for their prayers, cards, kind thoughts, gifts, food, visits, phone calls, and shared talents. Also, thanks to the Circles that helped at the luncheon after Don's service.

*We are so grateful.*  
Judy and the Leo Family

### Congratulations

Gene & Deb Green on the birth of their granddaughter, Tovah Sophia Bailey-Green, daughter of Christi & Joshua Bailey-Green, born on March 26.

### 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

Paul, Jill, & Tommy Stoffels on the death of Paul's mother, Jan Stoffels, on February 28.

John & Cheryll Kelly on the death of Cheryll's mother, Barbara Hronec, on February 28.

Gary & Jeanene Fowler on the death of Gary's brother, Jim Fowler, on March 2.

Judy Leo on the death of her husband, the Rev. Don Leo, on March 9.

Mike & Marlene Ashby on the death of Mike's mother, Willa Ashby, on March 18.

Gil Lehman on the death of his wife, Lola Lehman, on March 21. Services will be held at a later date.

Wendy Anastasia on the death of her father, Emil Holland, on March 31.

Gerri Gray on the death of her brother, Gene, on April 7.

Eleanor Lingo on the death of her husband, David, on April 8. Services will be held at a later date.

The family of Dixie Hawthorne. Dixie passed away on April 8. Due to the ongoing world health crisis, private services were held.

Pastor Brian, Beth, Gwen, Sam, Tess & Zeke Jones on the death of Pastor Brian's grandmother, Ann Gleo Jones, on April 11.

## Storybook Variety Show

Thank you to all 18 Variety Show acts and our emcees Chase Mann, Carter Gaul, and Maggie Bebar for sharing their gifts with Gary Church on February 23 for our Storybook Variety Show. Those in the audience laughed, they cried (from laughter), but mostly, people came together to celebrate and delight in the joy of shared talents—gifts from the creator! We look forward to next year's show!

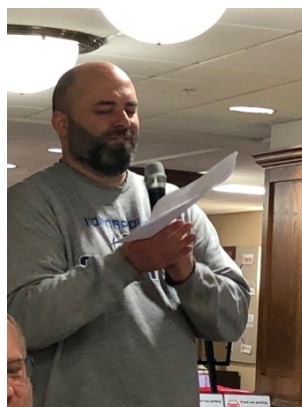


**Variety Show**  
**+Soup & Chili**  
**Cook-off**  
**+ Auction**



## Gary Youth Chili Cook-off + Auction

The joy continued in the second half of the evening with over \$12,000 raised for the Gary Youth mission trip. The Golden Ladle award winners and many others provided a delicious assortment of soup and chili recipes for the crowd to sample. The friendly competition in the live bidding, with Pastor Brian and Alexa Isaac as auctioneers, made for many laughs. Thank you to everyone who donated items to both the live and silent auctions. We appreciate your commitment to Gary Youth.



# WinChimes

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

## Something You Should Know

By Pastor Bruce Anderson

*He (King Nebuchadnezzar) took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia, to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had made up for its sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept sabbath, to fulfill seventy years. 2 Chronicles 36: 20-21 (NRSV)*

We seem to be living in Old Testament times: plagues, unwise rulers, ignored prophets, fear of foreigners, huge disruptions to the way we live and our society operates. It could be right out of Kings or Chronicles. We seem to be experiencing our own little exile, right here in our homes, where we are forced to stay away from each other and from our neighbors.

As I write this, Governor Pritzker has just extended the stay-at-home order through April. As you are reading this, we have celebrated Holy Week and Easter in our homes, unable to gather for worship. This will not be read until May, so I am not sure if life will be back to something like “normal,” or not. (I guess I am not much of a prophet.) But during this time of “exile,” I think we have gained a better appreciation for what Israel went through during their time in Babylon.

We look forward to being able to return to church, to being able to be the gathered people of God again in our church, as the Israelites looked forward to gathering at the Temple in Jerusalem for the Passover. During our time at home, we have had to adapt to a strange new reality. Our fellowship time has had to come over the phone or the computer. We have had to find new ways to spend our time, to get work done and entertain ourselves. There has also been time to connect in ways that can be difficult in the normal rush of our lives. I have seen entire families out walking around the block instead of just individuals with dogs. There have been moments of peace in the middle of the challenge.

For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile. Jeremiah 29:10-14 (NRSV)

Like the captives of the Babylonian Exile, we too will be set free from our shelter-in-place order and life will return to normal. We will be able to return to our churches to worship. We will be able to go shopping and get together with friends without fear. Like Israel in exile, we just have to keep our faith and trust in the Lord. There is no situation that God cannot redeem. God can bring blessings out of tragedy; we just need to look for them. Unlike Judah, we will not have to wait seventy years for our release (with luck it will not be more than seventy days), but we can look to the stories of the Exile to learn a few things about living in difficult times and remaining faithful to God and to ourselves.

**We just have to keep our faith and trust in the Lord.**



*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:4-9 (NRSV)*

How we handle difficult times depends a lot on our perspective on life. Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians while he was in prison, not knowing what his future held. Yet he was able to exhort his friends in the Philippian church to “Rejoice in the Lord always.” Let us

do the same and look for the little blessings that God sends us every day. And let us look forward to the day when we can return from our isolation to our churches and make a joyful noise unto the Lord as the gathered people of God once more.



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**Olive Aliga**, Music Director



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# BEATITUDES

FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

BLESSED ARE THOSE  
WHO STAY INDOORS



FOR THEY HAVE  
PROTECTED OTHERS

BLESSED ARE THE  
UNEMPLOYED AND THE  
SELF-EMPLOYED



FOR THEIR NEED OF  
GOD IS GREAT

BLESSED ARE THE  
CORNER SHOPKEEPERS



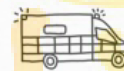
FOR THEY ARE THE  
PURVEYORS OF SCARCE  
THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY  
DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL  
WORKERS



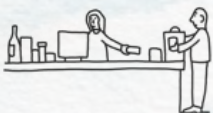
FOR THEY ARE THE  
BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL  
THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE HOSPITAL  
WORKERS, THE AMBULANCE CREWS,  
THE DOCTORS, THE NURSES, THE CARE  
ASSISTANTS, AND THE CLEANERS



FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US AND  
THE GRAVE, AND THE KINGDOM OF  
HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS

BLESSED ARE THE  
CHECKOUT WORKERS



FOR THEY HAVE PATIENCE AND  
FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF  
OVERWORK AND FRUSTRATION

BLESSED ARE THE  
REFUSE COLLECTORS



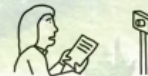
FOR THEY WILL SEE  
GOD DESPITE THE  
MOUNTAINS OF WASTE

BLESSED ARE THE  
TEACHERS



FOR THEY REMAIN  
STEADFAST AND  
CONSTANT IN  
DISTURBING TIMES

BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH  
WORKERS; THE DEACONS,  
PRIESTS AND BISHOPS



FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING  
PRESENCE IN A HURTING  
WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO  
SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD

BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE  
PARENTS,



FOR THEY ARE COPING  
ALONE WITH THEIR  
RESPONSIBILITIES AND  
THERE IS NO RESPITE

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO  
ARE ALONE,



FOR THEY ARE CHILDREN OF  
GOD AND WITH HIM THEY  
WILL NEVER BE LONELY

BLESSED ARE THE  
BEREAVED,



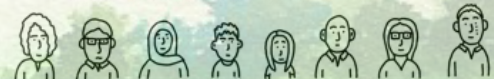
FOR WHOM THE WORST HAS  
ALREADY HAPPENED. THEY  
SHALL BE COMFORTED

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO  
ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR  
ABUSERS



FOR ONE DAY-WE PRAY-  
THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY

BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS;  
ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE; ALL WHO  
WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY



MAY YOU KNOW COMFORT. MAY YOU KNOW CALM. AND MAY THE  
GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND  
THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN