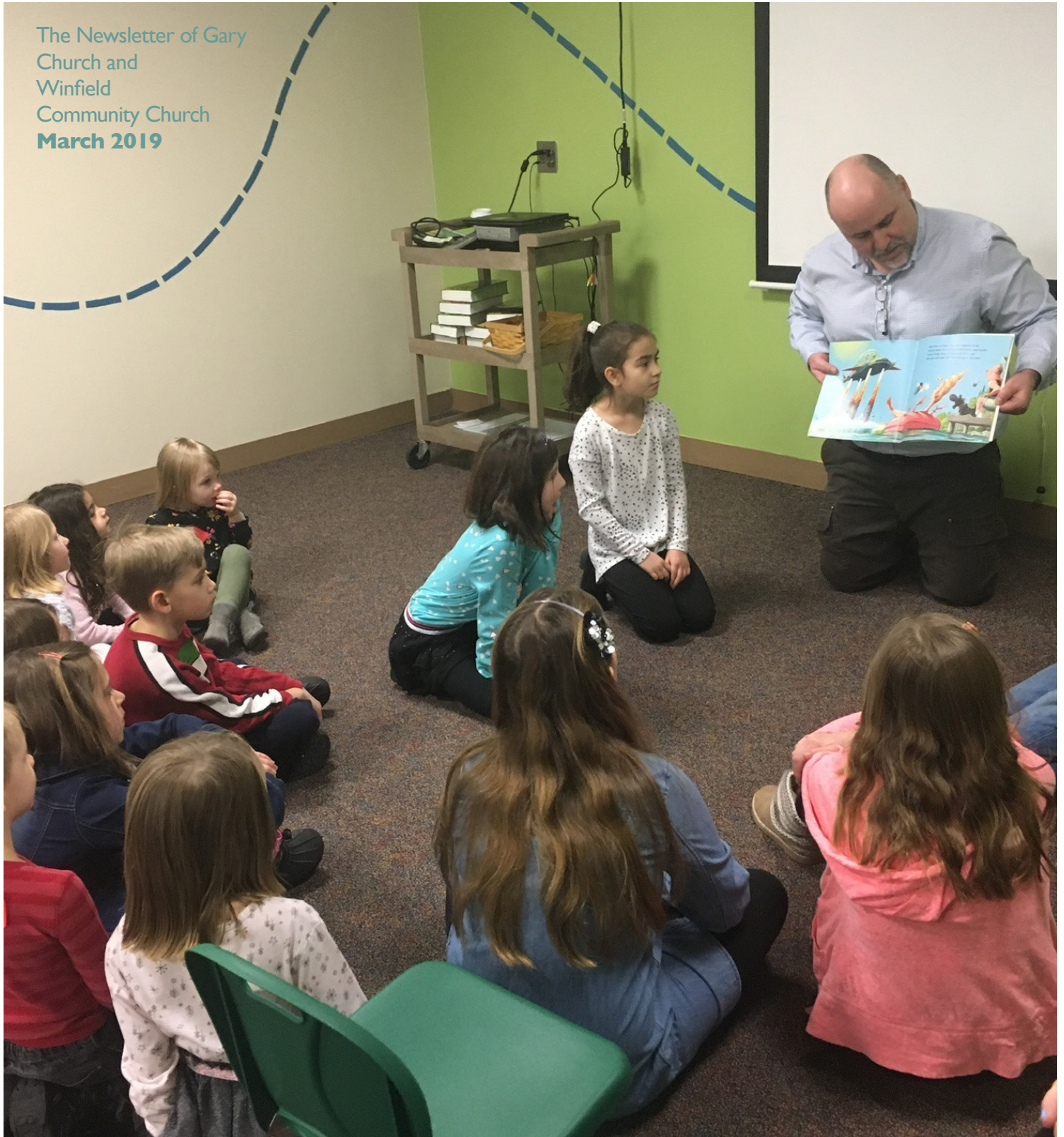


Chimes



The Newsletter of Gary
Church and
Winfield
Community Church
March 2019



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Sunday Worship Opportunities at Gary

9 a.m.

Worship Service

Kids' Church begins following Children's Time,
Preschool 3's-Grade 3

10 a.m.

Sunday School for children, youth, and adults

11 a.m.

Worship Service

Childcare is available for newborn-2 yrs., 8:45 a.m.-12 p.m.



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

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

Temptation

by Rev. Dr. Chris Pierson

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where he was tempted...

Jesus' temptation (Luke 4:1; Mark 1:12; Matt. 4:1) sets the tone for the 40 days of Lent during which we, as followers of Christ Jesus, are invited to journey with him into the wilderness—a place of suffering, challenges, and temptation. During this holy season, we rightly focus on the temptations that Jesus faced in the wilderness. What does one live by? What, or whom, do we worship and serve? In what, or in whom, do we find our security? These are our questions, too.

Lent began in the fourth century as a 40-day period of preparation for baptism which took place during the Easter Vigil. Thus, a time of deep spiritual introspection ends in resurrection hope.

A beautiful prayer found in our United Methodist Hymnal can help us to engage a meaningful and holy Lent: *O God our deliverer, you led your people of old through the wilderness and brought them to the land of promise. Guide now the people of your church, that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.*¹

This simple prayer reminds us that God has always called God's people to journey through the difficult and trying times of life that we might experience God's goodness and God's abundance. During Israel's sojourn there were moments when they longed for past days—days when they “sat by pots of meat and ate their fill of bread.” Even though they had cried out to God for deliverance from slavery and suffering in Egypt, they looked back on that time as a fond memory, something better than it was and something better than their present journey to the land of promise. It was a false memory.

Likewise, all the people murmured against their leaders; they thought their better days were behind them. They would have been happier had they died there in Egypt, so they thought. Perhaps, during this sojourn, they felt abandoned by God and alone.

Yet, God was with them. Always! God heard their cries for deliverance and came down to deliver them. God gave them water from a rock. God gave them meat. And, God gave them bread from heaven. God gave them guidance both day and night.

As God's people, they wrestled with questions of identity and they wrestled with their relationship with God. Later, they could affirm that God was with them, but during the challenging times it was not evident.

Like the people of Israel during their years of wandering, and like Jesus with his temptation in the wilderness and agony in Gethsemane, the questions before us are of identity and where we place our ultimate loyalty. These questions disturb our complacency, and that I believe can be a good thing. As we journey through life, answering these questions incorrectly, or failing to address them at all, leaves us in the wilderness—a spiritual wasteland. God calls us to a land of promise as God's children. God calls us, the church, to be an Easter people even though we face many challenges during our life's journey.

During this Lenten season we offer many opportunities for you to experience God's presence, places where you will find bread for your journey. One of these opportunities is the Pastor's Lenten Study using the book *The God We Can Know: Exploring the “I Am” Sayings of Jesus*. These sayings help us to know God through Jesus. Getting to know God also means getting to know ourselves. This **six-week study** will meet **Wednesday evenings from 7-8 p.m. beginning March 13**. You do not have to read the book to participate, but you'll get more out of the session if you put more into it. Video clips will feature Rev. Rob Fuquay during his time in the Holy Land. It is also good preparation for those who will travel to the Holy Land with Pastor Chris and Carey this spring. Childcare is available for those who request it through the Church Office.

Christopher L. Pierson

¹ Adapted from the United Methodist Hymnal



Lent 2019

2019 Lenten E-Devotional

These daily devotionals, written by Gary and Winfield members and friends, will be delivered to your email inbox each Monday through Saturday of Lent. This creative resource will offer reflection, encouragement, and call us to action.

All who currently get our weekly enews will receive the Lenten E-Devotional. To add other addresses for your household, request not to receive the devotional at a certain email address, or to reserve a hard copy, contact the Church Office.

Ash Wednesday Services

Wednesday, March 6, 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the 40-day period of preparation for Easter. Both our morning and evening services will include the imposition of ashes. We particularly encourage middle and high school students to attend at 7 a.m. and will provide transportation to school. Simply notify the Church Office of students attending. At the 7 p.m. service, we will celebrate Holy Communion. Childcare will be provided for the evening service when requested through the Church Office.

Lenten Studies

Sunday Morning Lenten Study: *Forgiveness*

Sundays, March 10–April 14, 10 a.m. in the Chapel

Forgiving others and humbly asking for forgiveness are central disciplines for all Christian believers. Lent, a time to reflect on our Christian journey, is an appropriate season to deepen our understanding and practice of forgiveness. Using Marjorie J. Thompson's book *Forgiveness*, we will explore this topic as Christian people in community. Books can be purchased for \$10.

Pastor's Lenten Study | The God We Can Know: Exploring the "I Am" Sayings of Jesus

Wednesdays, March 13–April 17, 7–8 p.m. in the Anderson Room

The Gospel of John records several declarations of Jesus known as the "I Am" sayings. These sayings help us to know God through Jesus. Join Pastor Chris for this study by Rev. Rob Fuquay that helps us form an answer to the most essential question in the Christian faith, "Who do you say I am?" To request childcare during this study, contact the Church Office.

Communion During Lent

We will celebrate Holy Communion at the 11 a.m. service each Sunday during Lent, beginning March 10 and continuing through Palm Sunday, April 14. At the 9 a.m. service, Communion will continue the first Sunday of the month with the exception of March 3.



Easter Plants

Plants are available for purchase to decorate the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday, April 21. The cost is \$15 per plant. Please fill out the form below and return it to the Church Office by Sunday, April 8. You may also email your order to office@garychurch.org. Please be sure to include the information below in your email. Plants may be picked up after the 11 a.m. service on April 21 or during office hours the week of April 22.



Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Flowers given in honor/memory of/other _____

_____ I will pick up plant(s).

_____ I will make the gift of plant(s) for distribution among church friends and family.

Adult Christian Education and Discipleship

Find your Place

Explore Gary

Sunday, March 17, 10 a.m. in Commons E
Whether you are new(er) to the church or just ready for new opportunities to grow and serve, join us for this overview of the ministries of Gary Church. Come learn how you can connect and build friends in faith.

Explore Membership

Sunday, March 24, 1:30–3 p.m.
in the Anderson Room

If you are considering membership, join the pastors and others newer to Gary to get better acquainted and discuss what it means to be United Methodist. Contact Kim Austin at kaustin@garychurch.org to register. Participants are also encouraged to attend Explore Gary on March 17 at 10 a.m.

Thanks to the team of presenters who facilitated the Informational Sessions on Human Sexuality and the United Methodist Church. See garychurch.org for links to information about the Special Session of the UMC General Conference.

Grief Support Group

Wednesdays, beginning March 6, 10 a.m. in Commons A

If you or someone you know has lost a loved one, you are welcome to be part of a grief support group at Gary Church. This group provides a place to be with people who understand how you feel and the pain of your loss. You'll gain valuable tools to help you as you continue on the journey of grief. Contact Gary's Church Office to let us know you'll be coming.



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

B E C O M I N G

The Small Group Way

by Kim Austin

It was Beverly flipping through her prayer notebook—filled with weeks, months, probably years of prayer requests from the group—and asking Susan how her sister is doing after the surgery she had a while back that inspired me to write about the Monday morning devotional study group. As usual, everyone was gathering—in and out of the kitchen for coffee and tea, filling a plate with the cake Bob brought that week, Ellen and Nancy pulling out knitting needles, everyone unpacking various editions of the Bible, including “The Message” on Allene’s iPad, and our current study book, *Disciplines*, a title not too far from what originally brought us together—Disciple. This group is actually a compilation of several Disciple Bible Study groups. After each finished Disciple 1, the prerequisite for Disciple 2–4, they merged with the group before them. And when we ran out of Disciple studies, we moved on to something else, losing a few people along the way and gaining others, so that we are now a group of about 14, male and female.

We know a lot about each other, largely through those prayer requests with which we end every meeting—and have seen each other through sorrow and joy. We share personal updates, discuss past sermons or church events as well as current events—sometimes on topic, often times not. We can even anticipate the reactions some in the group will have to the week’s lectionary and devotional readings.

In other words, we originally came together because we wanted to learn more about the Bible but somewhere along the way we became more than a study group.

We found that the Bible wasn’t our only teacher, nor our only source of wisdom and strength.

Somewhere along the way we became more than a study group.

Within the group we found role models for living out faith; we found guidance and support. You might even say we have become like family.

Many of you reading this are likely nodding your heads and thinking, “Yep, that’s just like my (you fill in the blank) group at church. I became part of that group to (again, you fill in the blank—maybe to make a difference in the community, share my love of music, learn more about a certain topic) and got so much more. I have grown with and through those in my group.”

But are there some readers who haven’t had this experience within the church? One of our devotional readings led our group to ponder this and decide, “Sometimes finding the right group takes putting yourself out there and being vulnerable.” It does indeed take a certain amount of bravery and initiative to be the new person in a group or to start a new group. It takes commitment to decide to make discipleship a priority. But says our Monday class, “When you get involved and become part of some kind of group, you get the gift of helping others and being helped within that group.” So to anyone considering Bible Essentials or The Class Meeting, attending a UMW circle, or joining choir, just to name a few possibilities, our Monday morning devotional study group would say, “Jump in!” There’s someone like Beverly waiting to add your prayer requests to her list and a family within a family to walk beside you on your faith journey.





What's a choir for, anyway?

by Jennifer Whiting

Isn't the congregation the true choir of the Methodist Church? Why do we even have choirs? Are they performers, or are they worship leaders? Here are a few thoughts.

- A choir supports and amplifies the preaching of God's word.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. Colossians 3:16

- A choir serves the church. It is not for entertainment, and it is not an outlet for personal musical preferences.

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. Hebrews 13:15

- A choir sings to the Lord, to one another, and to the congregation.

Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord. Ephesians 5:19

- A choir helps the congregation to learn new songs.

Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth! Psalm 96:1

- A choir inspires joyful singing in the congregation—a great Methodist tradition. *I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises. Hebrews 2:12*

- A choir offers music to God on behalf of the congregation (a priestly function), sometimes with more advanced music than the congregation can sing.

Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy. Psalm 33:3

- A choir offers a collective prayer and invites us to pray in our spirits.

He who sings, prays twice! (That's not in the Bible, and St. Augustine did not say it, but I still like it!)

- A choir offers a doorway to transcendence. Artful music helps us to touch something beyond our present reality and speaks with eloquence beyond words.

Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent. (Also not in the Bible, but a perceptive thought from Victor Hugo).

- A choir is authentic and vulnerable in gathered worship. We receive a deeply human gift when a choir shares personal testimonies, intimate sorrows, and deep joys.

We have spoken freely to you... and opened wide our hearts to you. II Corinthians 6:11

- A choir provides an entry point into the community and life of the church.

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. Romans 15:7

- A choir is a "small group" of support, accountability, service, learning, and spiritual growth for children, students, and adults!

Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds... encouraging one another. Hebrews 10:24–25

- All musicians of Gary Church reflect the beauty of God's holiness—from the tiniest Cherub to the most seasoned singer, from the newest bell ringer to the most accomplished musician. This is the central reason we bring beautiful music into our acts of worship.

Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
I Chronicles 16:29

What do you think? What does a choir mean to you?

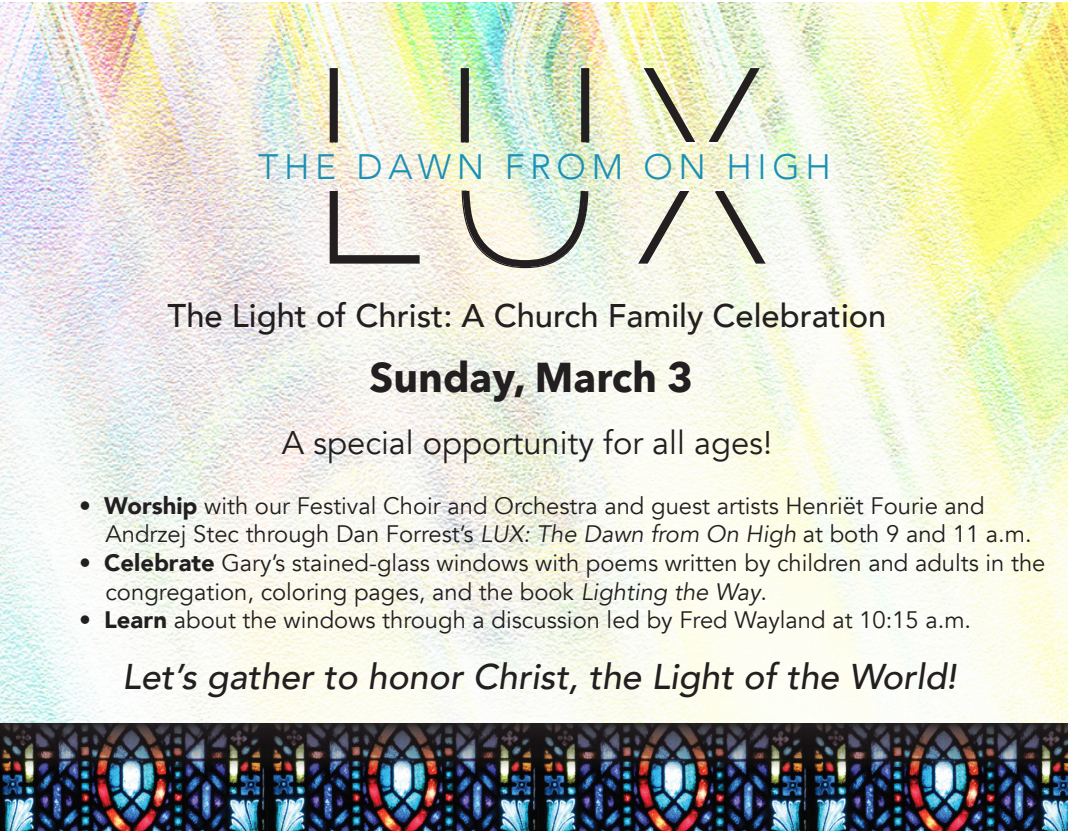
Lent is a wonderful season to try out a choir or a bell ensemble for a short time, just six weeks! Chancel Choir is preparing beautiful literature for March and April, concluding with Beethoven's glorious "Hallelujah" from Christ on the Mount of Olives for Easter Sunday. Please join us!

Handbell Jeopardy Answers: Joyous Jubilee | Amen Siakudumisa | Hallelujah | Crosswind

The question: What are the possible titles for the 2019 Gary Handbell Concert?

Only one will be chosen—watch for publicity starting next month. In the meantime, mark your calendar for 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 28.





LUX

THE DAWN FROM ON HIGH

The Light of Christ: A Church Family Celebration

Sunday, March 3

A special opportunity for all ages!

- **Worship** with our Festival Choir and Orchestra and guest artists Henriët Fourie and Andrzej Stec through Dan Forrest's *LUX: The Dawn from On High* at both 9 and 11 a.m.
- **Celebrate** Gary's stained-glass windows with poems written by children and adults in the congregation, coloring pages, and the book *Lighting the Way*.
- **Learn** about the windows through a discussion led by Fred Wayland at 10:15 a.m.

Let's gather to honor Christ, the Light of the World!

Musical + Soup & Chili Cook-off + Auction

Sunday, March 17, 4 p.m.



Bring your whole family to enjoy *Life of the Party: The Story of Mary and Martha*, presented by Gary kids and youth. Then stay for the Soup & Chili Cook-off & Auction—to benefit the high school summer mission trip to Kansas City.

Tickets for the cook-off are \$10 per person or \$20 for a family. Sign up in the Commons to enter your best soup and/or chili.



Auction Donations

We are still collecting donation items. Gift certificates to restaurants, shops, etc., are always bestsellers. Do you have a favorite restaurant or organization you might ask to donate something of this nature? Contact Alexa at aisaac@garychurch.org for a tax-exempt donation request letter. Thanks in advance for your support!



Helping Hands Mission for Bernie's Book Bank

On February 17, Gary Kids sorted and donated books for Bernie's Book Bank to be distributed among at-risk infants, toddlers, and school-age children throughout Chicagoland. Way to go kids!



Upcoming Events

Playdate

Wednesday, March 6, 4-5 p.m. in the Activity Center

Come play with us! This is a great way to socialize with other parents while your little ones play. Snacks will be provided.



4th & 5th Grade Fellowship | Giant Games

Friday, March 8, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Fourth and fifth graders are invited to participate in a night of GIANT Games! Come play and eat at Gary Church.

Helping Hands Mission

Sunday, March 17 during 9 a.m. Kids' Church

On the third Sunday of the month, children Preschool 3-Grade 5 use their helping hands to serve our local, national, and global neighbors in a variety of meaningful mission projects.

Parent's Night Out

Friday, March 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

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

Register now!



Awesome Worship | Fun Overnight | Ninja Warrior Mania

April 12–14

Summer Camp registration is open at garychurch.org.

Children entering
Preschool 4's–grade 4
are invited to Roar VBS.

At ROAR, kids
will explore God's
goodness and
celebrate a ferocious
faith that powers them
through this wild life.



Blast Camp is an
action-packed week of
service, small groups,
and fun for students
entering grades 5–8.

Adult and high school
volunteers can register
on our website.

**Blast
Camp
2019**

Monday–Friday, June 17–21, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.



CIY Camps

These are more than just another conference or camp; they are an empowering experience for students. We know that our students are uniquely and wonderfully made and have so much to contribute to our church and community in the here and now, not just in the future. CIY knows this too and partners with us, speaking truth over their identities so that students will come home able to transform the mountaintop experiences of camp into Kingdom work at home. Seriously, you need to get your kids there.

Registration is on the church website and will close when spots are filled. Space is limited, so make sure you register quickly!



June 24–29 | HS MOVE
Camp, Holland, MI
\$350



July 29–Aug 2 | MS MIX
Camp, Carlinville, IL
\$350



Gary Youth Update

High School Word & Table

Sunday Evenings, 6:30–8 p.m.

March 10 at Shane's Deli

March 31 at the Austin's

Midweek for Middle Schoolers

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

We are THRILLED to have CYI camp options for both middle and high schoolers this summer! See page 12.

Sharing Your Spiritual Journey

By Alexa Isaac

Hi Parents,

One of the great traditions of the church throughout time has been to share our personal stories with one another. Whether we call that our story, testimony, or spiritual journey, we tell each other about how we have (and at times have not) seen God working.

Sharing these stories encourages other people, helping them to articulate things about their own lives or to know that they are not alone in their experience.

The same is true with your kids. They need to hear about your spiritual journey even, and perhaps especially, if it has been challenging. The team at Fuller Youth Institute found that hearing from a parent was particularly powerful for a young person.

Do your kids know your testimony of how you became a follower of Jesus? Do they know why you still follow Jesus today? Knowing that narrative can strengthen your kids' own narrative of faith. Even if you aren't sure about your own relationship with Jesus right now, being honest with your son or daughter can open doors to explore faith together.

This month, I invite you to share more about your faith with your child. If you don't know where to start, maybe on the next car ride together you could just finish this sentence with them: "Have I ever told you how I decided to follow Jesus?" Then tell them.

Let me know how it goes!



Together in Mission

Helping out our Seniors at ESSE

Hi Everyone!

Spring will soon be here and April will also arrive, which is our month to help at ESSE (Ecumenical Support Services for the Elderly). The senior citizens attending ESSE (a day care which is open Mon–Fri from 7 a.m.– 5 p.m. at 3 sites: Glen Ellyn, Wheaton, and Warrenville) enjoy a day filled with activities, companionship, games, food, and fun. We add to the enjoyment by bringing treats, or visiting, helping with games, or presenting a small program. Dog and kid visits are always winners! They appreciate music, someone reading a story, or presenting vacation pictures.



For more ideas on how YOU can help our seniors, look for me in the Commons (usually near a poster with more information) during March and April and sign up to bring a treat or visit.

~ Deb Connor
ESSE Representative

CROP Hunger Walk Set for Sunday, May 5

Registration at 1 p.m., Walk at 2 p.m.



Join us on the 2019 CROP Walk for the Fight Against Hunger. You can help by donating anytime and/or walking with us on May 5. The 3+ mile walk starts and

ends at Grace Lutheran Church in Glen Ellyn and passes by beautiful Lake Ellyn.

Go to www.crophungerwalk.org/glenellyn and choose GaryUMC2019 as your team to sign up or donate. In April, we will also have donation and walker sign-up opportunities in the Commons.

For more information, check out the Glen Ellyn/Wheaton CROP Walk page above, or contact Judy Selby through the Church Office. Last year was a great turn-out for Gary. Let's meet and exceed last year's donations and walkers!

UMCOR Sunday

Sunday, March 31

This United Methodist Special Sunday covers the operating costs of UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) which allows this relief arm of UM Global Ministries to offer assistance when disaster strikes. It allows UMCOR to funnel earmarked donations directly to the designated project.

To contribute, make your check payable to Gary Church and notate UMCOR Sunday.



Missions at a Glance

March 3–24: "Prescription for Life" collection for Outreach Community Ministries Older Adult Program

March 14: Mary Martha Circle prepares and serves dinner for Radical Time Out

March 31: UMCOR Sunday Special Envelope

March 31: Fifth Sunday appeal for United Voices for Children

April: Gary Church's month to serve at ESSE Adult Day Care

For details on these events contact the Church Office or see garychurch.org. A full list of the local, national, and international mission organizations that Gary Church supports is also available on our website.

Together in Mission

FEED THE NEED a Success



Thanks to everyone from Gary who participated in the February Feed My Starving Children MobilePack at North Central College. During six packing sessions, over 5,000 volunteers packed 1,330,992 meals. That's enough for 3646 kids from around the world to have one nutritious meal a day for an entire year.

What's with All the Labels?

You may have seen that every light switch and electrical outlet in the church has been labeled, and wondered what those labels mean. Those labels were placed by my team as part of my Eagle Scout project. Before the labels, resetting a tripped breaker or disabling a circuit that needed repair was a time-consuming process. It could take a long time to

find the breaker within the dozen panels located everywhere from the Boiler Room to the Activity Center stage. My project involved locating every switch and outlet in the church, identifying the breaker panel and circuit that controlled it, and labeling it. Now, resetting a tripped breaker



is quick and easy. For example, if you see the label LP-2-#25, LP-2 is the name of the Upper Level breaker panel outside the bell room, and #25 tells you the light is on circuit 25. We also created a document that shows the name and location of all breaker panels, which can be found on the bulletin board across from the Office.

I wanted my Eagle Scout project to benefit the church as a way to give back for all of the support that it has given to Troop 35 and me. I hope you find it helpful. I would also like to invite everyone to join me in the Sanctuary on Saturday, March 16 at 5 p.m. for my Eagle Court of Honor. A reception in the Commons will follow. All are welcome.

~ Eric Brunner

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

FINANCIAL APPEAL

Dear Gary Congregation,

Last year we relayed the message that the loss of church members resulted in an unanticipated decrease in giving. We made a year-end appeal in an attempt to reduce the impact of this on our church operations. Many of you responded with sacrificial giving. That generous response averted the need to either make adjustments that could have negatively impacted the functioning of some of our departments or allow other commitments to go unmet. Instead, we were able to fund programs fully and meet all of our commitments, including apportionments.

However, in spite of our expenditures coming in under budget and the aforementioned year-end push, we received \$38,542 dollars less in giving than we spent. A small cash surplus at the beginning of 2018 that was created by strong year-end giving in 2017 (probably resulting from changes in the tax code) allowed us to absorb the shortage on a one-time basis.

The chart below includes data for January of 2019. While January is typically a low giving month, these numbers are lower than expected and reflect a continuation of last year's problematic trend. One way to approach this issue is to attempt to reduce our costs further. To that end we will be approaching the Conference regarding reducing our apportionment amount.

The other piece of the puzzle has to do with income. If every family or individual that gave last year were to give \$100 more this year, it could prevent a recurrence of the gap between what we received and actually spent in 2018. We know that an increase of \$100 is out of reach for some, and there are those who have come upon hardship and might not be able to give what they did last year. That means that some of us will need to consider doing more.

Please take some time to think on this matter and consider what you can do to help. Your Finance Committee, staff, and Trustees work hard to make sure that everything that you give works as hard as possible for the Kingdom. Each dollar counts.

January 2019	
Giving YTD Actual	Giving YTD Budget
\$57,324	\$67,106
Expenditures YTD Actual	Expenditures YTD Budget
\$86,405	\$92,267

~ Sincerely,
Finance Committee

Gary United Methodist Preschool is Turning 50! Save the Date!

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



Another Disciple Bible Study Completed!

Last month, the nine-member Thursday morning Disciple Bible study group finished Disciple 3. That's no small feat. Beginning with Disciple 1, which covers the entire Bible in one year, this group has been reading and discussing together for many years. A few of the group members shared their thoughts on the experience.

Fern Evelhoch, one of the facilitators of the group, said she appreciates the friendly, safe place that has developed among our members and the small group atmosphere has encouraged each and everyone to open up and share their ideas relating to our scripture study.

Deb Connor, also co-facilitator, has really appreciated that everyone will read and study, then thoughtfully answer the questions in the class guide. Also, members have really helped lead the group, esp. since she broke her leg.

Karen Hendrickson said she appreciates learning about the Bible in companionship with a group eager to learn and with much to share. The group is friendly, lively, smart and this makes learning about the Bible fun. It is safe place for her to explore her faith and beliefs.

Addressing the question of what it means to be a Christian in the modern world, Joe Ruth said, "This question has probably been reflected on by many people in many forms. The Disciple program offers a method to begin answering this very important question. Our Disciple group spent time reading through and pondering the Old Testament, Gospels and Letters of the Apostles to better understand the origins of our faith. At the same time, we have grappled with how the lessons we have learned can and should apply to our life today."

"The guided lessons also present questions we might not have thought to ask ourselves about how we can live out our Christian faith. The group gives us a safe place to question what we thought we knew and understood and to exchange ideas and opinions about today's Christianity and its sources. Our small group allows us to have fun looking at our preconceptions and opinions. It also allows us to grow closer together in Christian fellowship and mutual support. We have learned, and continue to learn, what it truly means to be a follower of Christ."

In October, this group will start Disciple 4 and welcomes anyone who has completed Disciple 1 or Disciple Fast Track to join them. Those wishing to begin the Bible study journey should watch for new class opportunities in the fall.



Thank You

Hello all! This is Josh Keske, and I just wanted to say my Eagle Scout Project was a success! Thank you to all who donated any medical equipment. It is very much appreciated. The medical equipment is available for use, so feel free to stop by the Church Office and ask for whatever you need. I am expecting my final conference for Eagle Scout in the spring. But I couldn't have done it without all of your help. Thank you!

Josh Keske

Thank you to everyone that wished me a happy 98th birthday. The handmade card with all the names will be kept. I have been blessed to have such friends.

Marge Ostermeier

Our Sympathy

The Glatzhofer Family on the death of Natasha's father on January 31 and aunt on February 1

John, Jen, Colton & Adrianna Hart and CJ & Kate Werner on the death of John's mother and CJ's grandmother, Patricia Ann Gordon, on February 8

The Family of Ruth Boltz. Ruth passed away on February 11

Celebrating a Milestone

On Sunday, March 10, we will celebrate reaching the \$1.8 million goal of the God's Next Big Thing Allin Campaign. Although the campaign continues until the spring of 2020, the campaign committee wishes to mark this important milestone and invites everyone to enjoy cake during the 10 a.m. hour.



Praise
WORSHIP

Make a Joyful Noise
unto the Lord

Second
Saturday
each month
5 p.m.

at Winfield Church

Something You Should Know: Winfield Community United Methodist Church

by Pastor Bruce Anderson

Community Church in Winfield began as an interdenominational fellowship of Protestants that met in a room at the Public School. It was led by students from Wheaton College or North Central College, or sometimes by one of the members. For any of you that are wondering, yes, Billy Graham preached at Community Church while he was a student at Wheaton College.

Like many congregations, Community wanted their own church building. Construction began in June of 1938 at the corner of Beecher Street and Summit Drive. Members and friends of the church did the construction work. The first service was held on Christmas Day, 1939. The church was officially dedicated on May 26, 1940, led by Pastor Paul Whaley.

Community Church was led by pastors from different denominations over the years. Rev. William Danker, an Evangelical Lutheran pastor, led the church in the early 40s. Dr. William Heinmiller, a professor at North Central College, led the church until 1950. He was followed in 1951 by another NCC professor, Dr. Milton Bischoff, who taught Bible and religious education. At some point in the association with North Central College, the congregation became affiliated with the Evangelical United Brethren Church (EUB). This affiliation was made official in 1959 as Winfield Community Church joined the Illinois Conference of the EUB Church. As the congregation was from such varied background, Dr. Bischoff suggested the church follow the Wesleyan tradition of openness and inclusivity. Quoting John Wesley, "In essentials, unity! In non-essentials, liberty! In all things, charity!" Words that are needed now as much as ever.

Over the years the church grew, and either an addition or a new church was needed, as

double worship services were being held, along with double Sunday School classes held in the church basement, public school, and church parsonage. Ground was broken at the current site on October 13, 1963, and the first service was celebrated on August 16, 1964, with Rev. Lew Allbee presiding. The building was consecrated on September 6 of that year.

In April of 1968 the EUB joined with the Methodist Church to form the United Methodist Church. Winfield Community UMC continued growing, reaching a high point of 320 members in 1977. In 1988 the church voted to become a Reconciling Congregation, one that welcomes all people regardless of sexual orientation.

In the late 80s and early 90s the church faced a series of challenges that rocked the congregation, leading to a sharp decline in membership. It would not be until 1996 that the church would be able to begin paying its apportionments in full again. In 1997 the church joined in ministry and mission with the South Asian United Methodist Church. In 1998 Winfield and Gary UMC became affiliated churches that we are today, with Chris Winkler becoming pastor.

Through the years, Winfield has had a faithful core group that has kept the church going and continued its mission. The "faithful remnant" is a core Biblical concept that continues to play out at Winfield Community UMC, and we look forward to seeing what the future holds for our church, with some innovative possibilities on the horizon. As Karl Barth said, "We do not know what the future holds, but we know the One who holds the future in divine, purposeful hands." Thanks be to God!



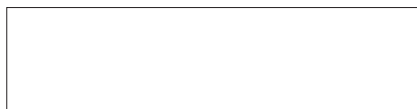


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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED
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A graphic for Ash Wednesday featuring a large, dark, textured brushstroke in the shape of a cross. The text "ASH WEDNESDAY" is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the cross, and "March 6" is written in a similar font below it. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape with a body of water and distant hills under a hazy sky.

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 6

7 a.m.

**A worship service with
the imposition of ashes**

The church will provide transportation to school for middle and high school students. Simply notify the Church Office of students attending.

7 p.m.

**A worship service with the
imposition of ashes and
Holy Communion**

Childcare will be provided when requested through the Church Office.