

Chimes



The Newsletter of Gary Church
and Winfield Community Church
November 2020



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Sunday Worship

Livestream at 9 a.m.
at garychurch.org

Recording online later in the morning

Church Office Hours

Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
by appointment, 630–668–3100



Submissions for the December *Chimes* newsletter are due by November 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.

WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS



Heather Jewell

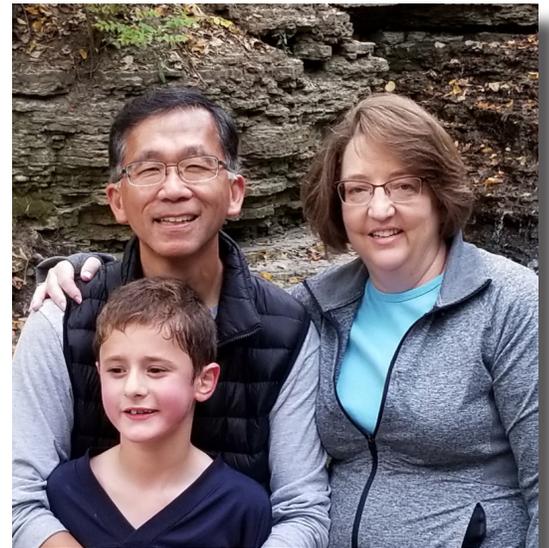
Originally from Wheaton, Heather attended Sunday School here at Gary. For 34 years, she lived in San Francisco and worked in the Bay Area as a preschool teacher. Heather explains that God recently led her back to Wheaton and Gary. You may have read in Heather's *Chimes* article that back in March she began watching our services online and connecting with members of the congregation through Worship Talk. Since moving back to Wheaton, she has continued to engage in virtual classes and has even had the opportunity to meet some folks in person through worship and Joy Circle. Heather continues to work as a preschool teacher, now at Bright Horizons, and says she loves nature. She would like to help with the gardens at Gary and Winfield along with exploring other ways to serve the church and grow in faith.

Her Connections Sponsors are Terri Johnson and Barb Wernicke.

Larry and Diana Blackburn and Jimmy

Larry and Diana Blackburn moved to Wheaton in 2007 from Denver, CO. Why you ask? Larry's job had an opportunity here in Chicago, and at the time Diana's brother and family lived in Naperville. Over the years, they visited Gary from time to time, beginning with sending their son Jimmy to Gary Preschool. They followed Carey Bebar to First Church in Glen Ellyn, and then followed her back to Gary as they were looking for more programming opportunities. Previously, Diana has attended the Women's Bible Study and Larry rang in the bell choir. Since August 2019, they have been attending Gary regularly and look forward to connecting with more people in the congregation. Larry is a cofounder of a start-up company that helps businesses work with their data more efficiently. Diana works part time with DCFS as a Foster Parent Support Specialist, and Jimmy, who is in fourth grade, is a fan of NASCAR and Legos.

Their Connections Sponsors are Caryn and Erich Doering.



We invite you to reach out to our new members to welcome them to our faith family.

The Prayer of Saint Francis

by Rev. Dr. Chris Pierson

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.

~Francis of Assisi

In some ways, I find it amazing that the life and witness of Francis of Assisi (1182–October 3, 1226) still inspires the faithful to a simpler and deeper faith. Francis’ words are found no less than four places in our own *United Methodist Hymnal*. His beloved prayer finds expression on the lips of the devout seeking to serve God and all humankind and his great ode to the glory of the triune God, “All Creatures of Our God and King,” recognizes the cycle of life and calls all creation to praise God. His words continue to resonate deeply with people across denominations centuries hence.

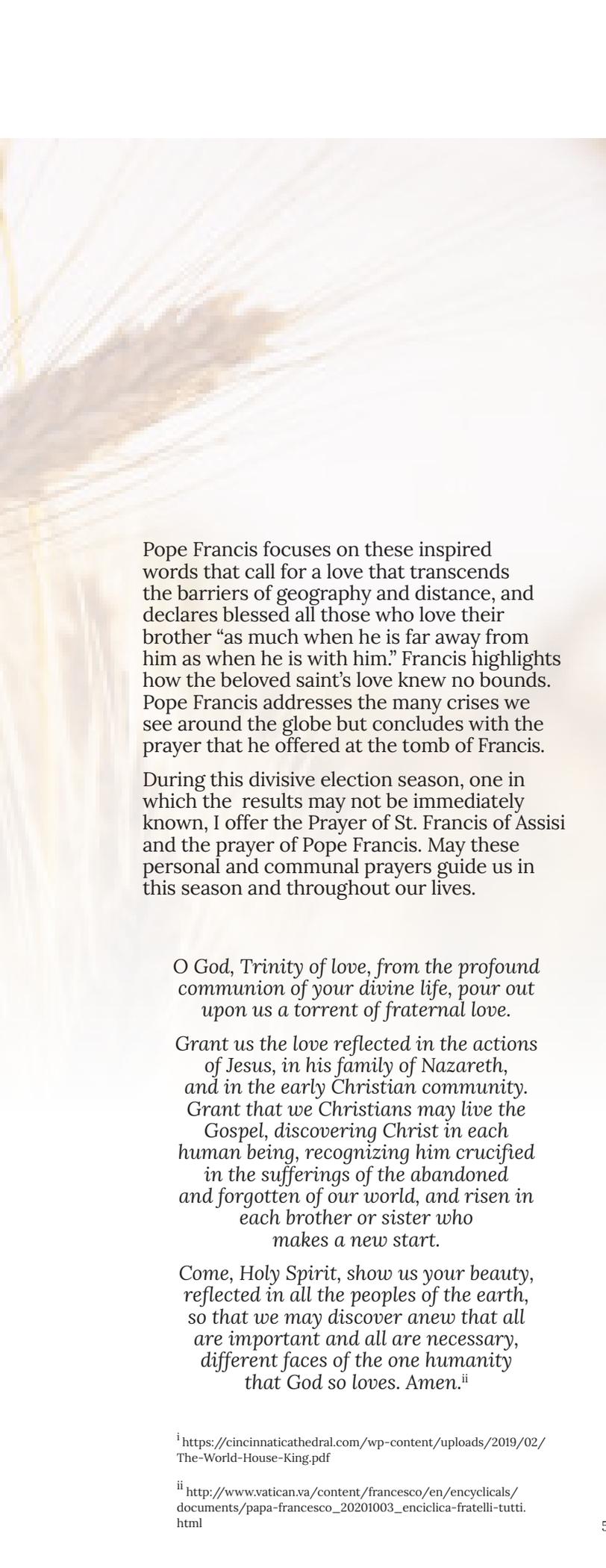
In a world that all too often feels polarized, self-centered, and self-absorbed, his words come as a reminder that there is a better way. It has been lived by people of faith like Francis who heard God’s voice telling him, “Go and repair my house.” Francis took God’s word to literally mean to repair the ruined chapel he stood in. Yet, his work of repairing God’s house could also be interpreted to mean repair or restoring unity among God’s children and repairing God’s great house, the great house we all inhabit.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. also powerfully addressed the theme of the world house. King wrote, “Some years ago a famous novelist died. Among his papers was found a list of suggested plots for future stories, the most prominently underscored being this one: ‘A widely separated family inherits a house in which they have to live together.’ This is the great new problem of mankind. We have inherited a large house, a great ‘world house’ in which we have to live together—black and white, Eastern and Western, Gentile and Jew, Catholic and Protestant, Moslem and Hindu—a family unduly separated in ideas, culture and interest, who, because we can never again live apart, must learn somehow to live with each other in peace.”¹

Our world is crying out for peace now. Our world is crying out for a new way of life—a life committed to serving God and serving others.

This year Pope Francis issued his first encyclical letter in five years and signed it on the eve of the Feast of Saint Francis. Inspired by the words of Francis of Assisi, *Fratelli Tutti* (**all of us, brothers**) is a call to fraternity and social friendships.





Pope Francis focuses on these inspired words that call for a love that transcends the barriers of geography and distance, and declares blessed all those who love their brother “as much when he is far away from him as when he is with him.” Francis highlights how the beloved saint’s love knew no bounds. Pope Francis addresses the many crises we see around the globe but concludes with the prayer that he offered at the tomb of Francis.

During this divisive election season, one in which the results may not be immediately known, I offer the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi and the prayer of Pope Francis. May these personal and communal prayers guide us in this season and throughout our lives.

O God, Trinity of love, from the profound communion of your divine life, pour out upon us a torrent of fraternal love.

Grant us the love reflected in the actions of Jesus, in his family of Nazareth, and in the early Christian community. Grant that we Christians may live the Gospel, discovering Christ in each human being, recognizing him crucified in the sufferings of the abandoned and forgotten of our world, and risen in each brother or sister who makes a new start.

Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty, reflected in all the peoples of the earth, so that we may discover anew that all are important and all are necessary, different faces of the one humanity that God so loves. Amen.ⁱⁱ

ⁱ <https://cincinnatiacathedral.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/The-World-House-King.pdf>

ⁱⁱ http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html

Congratulations

Larry, Nicole, and Kathy Lavanway on the birth of their daughter and sister, Margaret Nancy, on September 28. Grandmother is Susan Sturm.

Our Sympathy

Lora Koch on the death of her mother, Virginia Sechter, on October 9.

Marge Merriman on the death of her husband, Pete Merriman, on September 26. Services will be held at a later date.

Mission statement

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

Moments of Gratitude

Through all the challenges of 2020, our congregation has maintained a can-do spirit and found creative and original ways to support one another and grow together with God.
We are grateful for the ministries that have sustained us and given us hope!

I am grateful for the Pastor Brian Podcasts. Whether listening during morning coffee, exercise routines, or walks around the neighborhood, the familiarity of the prayer, scripture, litany, and benediction has brought me closer to God and been a calming, welcome constant in a turbulent time. I celebrate Pastor Brian and all the podcast guests for being by my side each day.

~Judy Selby

Gary's in-person services have meant a lot to us because of the sense of community in worship they provide. We missed that when services had to be virtual but feel newly enriched and reverent with services in the Sanctuary starting again. All of the church staff make these experiences meaningful.

~Carl Giessel

I am grateful for the new technology, and those who run it, so we can be safe at home and still go to church, Zoom meetings with our coffee group, Faith Club, and Circle. I celebrate with our friends and family all the good, and the bad times, via the phone and computer. I need to keep in touch! I have found hope in talking to some of the young people we know. They seem to understand what is really important and are getting ready to take it on. I try to keep remembering that God is still in charge and he has a plan for each of us, but we all need to step up and do our share also. We are His hands and feet on this earth!

~Virginia Isgren

I am grateful for the extraordinary efforts Jennifer Whiting has put into creating and developing programs and projects to keep the choir connected. We miss singing and miss our choir friends! Jen has found ways we can see each other at our weekly Zoom meetings, virtual recording, "distanced garden party," Brahms Institute. All allowed times to worship, support those who needed it, and learn more about music as worship. These are all things that feed my soul. Thanks and Amen!

~Marsha Woodruff

I am grateful for the talents and service of Tony Venezia, who along with the pastors and church staff, have worked hard to put together meaningful worship services throughout the whole shutdown period.

~Allen Reed

I am grateful for the fellowship we share as Joy Circle members. Meeting together even remotely by Zoom has been important to me throughout this uncertain season. I celebrate God's promise to always be with us! I have found hope and strength in our common faith and our commitment to doing God's work even if only in small ways.

~Suzanne Wible

Worship Talk is a special place and feels, each week, like a visit home. We share our insights and greatly respect one another. God has planted seeds for all of us in Worship Talk to grow, and he provides relationships with others. All are welcome.

~Terri Johnson

Since I am not able to attend in person, I appreciate the livestream worship service, committee meetings via Zoom, Pastor Brian's Podcast, notes from my pen pal, Hymns at Twilight, and phone calls. God is faithful in these unusual days.

~Joyce Fahs

I am grateful for Hymns at Twilight. I miss singing at Gary! I look forward each month to singing along with Kevin's wonderful playing. One month, Melinda and Marty Keske, my daughter and son-in-law, came over to sing along with me. We ended up finding other songs on YouTube and sang for another hour.

I have found hope and strength in Drive-in Communion. I'm grateful our pastors make this sacrament available to those of us who are not comfortable attending in-person worship.

~Virginia Blackwell

The Worship Talk and Pen Pal programs have connected me to new friends and familiar friends whom I have had the opportunity to get to know in greater depth. Using new methods of communication like Zoom and old ways like good, old fashioned letter writing have opened up my world during this time of "hunkering down." I am grateful for these Gary Church programs and my Gary family.

~Karen Binkerd

With controversy surrounding every aspect of our lives, including our denominational differences, the one comfort and eternal constant that involves our personal interpretation of, and communion with, God is the Voice of the Lord, so powerfully brought forth through the Spiritual influence of many composers. I am so very grateful that I can not only immerse myself in the many offerings our exceptional music staff has provided over the years, but can quiet the sirens and temporarily bring peace to my life listening to other awe-inspiring works dedicated to our Lord.

~David Skarin

I am grateful to our Gary family for the example you continue to set in our community. For the ways you show God's love in action, no matter the circumstances. Over the past seven months, I have witnessed unwavering compassion, grace, bravery, and strength radiating from the people of Gary. Thank you for all the big and small ways YOU are the church.

~Jennifer Castino

I am grateful for Gary Kid's church because we did so many fun things during coronavirus. Here are some examples of what we did together (spread apart). We had a picnic outside near a park. There were lots of games we played like a water balloon toss, tag, 4 square, and other fun stuff. I was happy to finally see my friends in person.

We had a movie night at the restaurant named 302 Wheaton and watched *Incredibles 2*. I think we stayed there so late that it was past my bedtime. We also had popcorn and got to color a superhero mask for your eyes. We have Zoom meetings every month which is so fun. I once played a game and won candy! We watch videos and play more awesome games. Those are just the highlights of what we do. I can't wait until we can see each other again.

~Aria Villanueva, grade 4

This time of social distance and new technology has been a good time to be led on an insightful journey through the time of Israel's Judges by Michael Graves. I am also thankful for the tool, Zoom, that can bring together the members of the class for our discussions.

~Fred Wayland

Gary Cares! The more our world of normalcy began to crumble, the more Gary started to RUMBLE. Rising up to tend its flock with Zoom programs, music events, book discussion classes, care missions, circle gatherings, youth fun/teach times, causes me to "tremble" as the old hymn says. I have been a recipient of so much love and caring recently from Gary, that I can't come up with enough adjectives of praise to express my gratitude.

~Sally Hill

I celebrate the Walkers and Talkers group ministry. Twice weekly Zoom meetings have kept us connected. Wonderful daily emails from Nancy Brunner with photos have given everyone and especially those in senior living facilities a window to the world. And the tomato guy has been able to deliver the fruits of his garden to those unable to shop.

~Bob Martin

I am grateful for being able to do activities (like the picnic) because I like playing games with my church friends. God and Jesus have been important to me in this uncertain time.

~Milo Kovac, grade 4

I am grateful that Myra Burgess Micholetti was a part of our chancel choir, and our whole church for so many years. Myra gave of her talents and gifts willingly and generously to the glory of God. On October 8, Myra was the Reader for the Pastor Brian Podcast. I am going to save this, so that if I ever want to hear Myra's calming voice, I can do so.

~Judy Grote



I am grateful for the Men's Bible Study that allows me to fellowship with brothers in Christ. In this uncertain time, we have been able to be there for each other virtually when we can't be in person, which keeps me connected and allows me to grow in Christ. I have found hope and strength in this group because they have supported and prayed for me during my health issues.

~Marion Rybarczyk

Dan Lee explained "Joy" in his sermon on a recent Sunday. It sums up how I feel after making or receiving a phone call, sending and receiving emails, notes, and texts, meeting at a social distance or on Zoom. The creative things individuals, groups, and staff are doing to make a difference gives me hope.

~Phyllis Geyer

I am very grateful for our Faith Club! Coming together with a diversity of women from the three Abrahamic faiths has been important to me throughout this uncertain season. With their strong faiths, generous spirits, and love for community, they inspire me to be a more committed Christian.

~Cathy Mousseau

I am glad to be sending cards for the Gary Church Cares Team. Through sending cards I am able to reach out to people with words of encouragement, caring, and, where appropriate, congratulations for joyous occasions. I thank God for using me to let people know that they are not alone; God is with them.

~Penny Gillen

The Music Ministry is a blessing to me, providing opportunities to enhance my isolated worship. I thank God for all "music-makers" and technicians who provide us with "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs." Hymns at Twilight, in particular, encourages me to think about God, His attributes, and His provision as I "make music to the Lord in (my) heart," according to Ephesians 5:19.

~Mavis Sanders

In this our time of uncertainty, polarization, and too often civic unrest, Gary's Anti-Racism Book Club has offered me the opportunity for personal introspection but more importantly, hopefully personal growth. I am grateful for the Gary folk I have gotten to know virtually who I have not had occasion to connect with before in all my years at Gary. I look forward to continuing on this journey of discovery.

~Stephanie Dalton

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to participate in Chancel Choir's Virtual Choir production of "We Are Not Alone." This provided me the opportunity to connect virtually to my vocal music family from Gary whom I miss greatly!

I am proud of our production, its meaning to each of us as musicians, and to persons of faith everywhere. The level of production and work that Jennifer Whiting put toward the project with her son-in-law (and others) was unparalleled and I am thankful for having been a part of such an amazing experience!

~Teresa Fraker

Unable to fellowship regularly at Gary UMC saddens me. However, I'm grateful for the prayers and support we share. I recently read, "It is Jesus who holds the universe together by the Word of His power, not just the power of His Word." I'm grateful that Jesus holds the power.

~Gerri Gray

The lockdown in March was so abrupt. In April, when I opened the envelope from Gary Church to find a small palm cross, I was so touched it almost made me cry! I am very grateful for the many ways Gary has managed to keep us all connected: folks who make virtual church possible, Zoom meetings of Joy Circle, Drive-In communion and more.

~Eileen Murphy Amlee



Adult Christian Education and Discipleship

Worship Talk

Sundays, 11 a.m. on Zoom
facilitated by Rev. JoAnne Chase

We loved the connection created by this group so much that we brought it back and welcome others be part of the conversation. Grab your cup of coffee, click on the Worship Talk link on the website, and join the discussion of the morning service.



The Power and Challenge of a Girl's Education

Mondays through November 9
7 p.m. on Zoom, led by Cathy Mousseau and Judy Selby

Access to an education is still challenging, if not impossible, for millions of girls around the world. Yet, when girls are educated, entire communities are lifted. Please join us as we explore this impactful social phenomenon.

Kathy Cathey, a volunteer for the Kenyan Children's Fund in Africa will join us to share her witness of this impactful ministry. We will also explore mission opportunities through UMCOR and others that are helping girls around the world become educated and productive. Register on the Adult Study Opportunities page of garychurch.org.



Advent Study | Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes

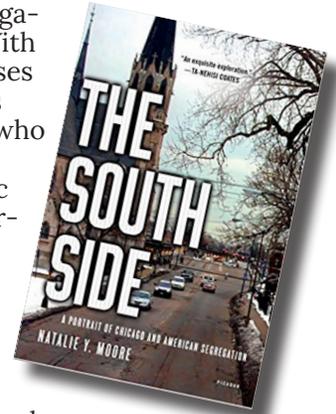
Mondays, November 30–December 21
7 p.m. on Zoom

See the page 13 for details.

Anti-Racism Book Club: *The South Side* by Natalie Y. Moore

Wednesday, November 18, 7 p.m.
on Zoom facilitated by Dr. Christa Tooley

In this intelligent and highly important narrative, Chicago native Natalie Moore shines a light on contemporary segregation in the city's South Side. With a memoirist's eye, she showcases the lives of these communities through the stories of people who reside there. All are invited to read and discuss this authentic and necessary look at the intersection of race and class in Chicago at our November meeting. To join in the conversation, please purchase the book on your own and register on the Adult Study Opportunities page of garychurch.org.



Ongoing Opportunities

Online Fellowship with Gary Walkers/Talkers

Tuesdays and Thursdays
at 10 a.m. on Zoom

Men's Bible Study

Tuesdays at 7 p.m. on Zoom
and in Commons E

United Methodist Women Joy Circle

Third Tuesday of the month
at 7 p.m. on Zoom



MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers and Beyond)

First and Third Tuesdays
at 8 p.m. on Zoom and varying formats



Contact the Church Office for more details and to register.



Hey Parents! We know the holidays are a busy time for you and your family, so let's get straight to the point. Here's everything you need to know about our ministry this month!

what we're teaching

People say music is the universal language, something everyone loves in one form or another, and a way we can communicate shared emotion and experience even across generations, culture, location, backgrounds, and traditions. The book of Psalms expresses much of what we experience and feel today. Because of that, we can learn a lot about God and ourselves in these Psalms.

When kids can claim these five things—I am wonderful because God made me; I am safe because God watches over me; I am confident because God leads me; I am forgiven because God loves me; I am not afraid because God can be trusted—they will be unstoppable in their life with God!



what's happening

Gary Kids @ Home Lessons

Weekly, sent by email on Friday or Saturday

Check-out these weekly emails with a family friendly Bible lesson, activity, preschool video, and Grow T.V. video with the hilarious antics of Carll and Cassie!

Take-Home Craft Kits

Created for children ages 3–6, these craft kits provide hands-on fun and help faith grow at home! Each kit comes with supplies, instructions, and a lesson and *will be delivered to your door at the beginning of the month.*

Grow Together Monthly Meet Up Talent Show

Sunday, November 22 at 2 p.m. on Zoom

Designed for third through fifth graders, this monthly meet-up will focus on Bible stories featured in our Grow curriculum and allows time for older elementary students to hang out and grow together. This month, we're going to show our talent!

Zoom Party | KARAOKE

Sunday, November 8 at 2 p.m. on Zoom

All children ages preschool 3s–grade 5 are invited to a virtual party with actual fun! This month, we're singing karaoke and learning that we can praise God!

Helping Hands Mission Pop Tabs for Kids

Save your pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House! We are collecting pop tabs to support the Ronald McDonald House which enables families to stay close to their hospitalized child and supports the child's health and well-being. *Pop tabs can be dropped outside of the Church Office through November, or contact Carey Williams Bebar to schedule a pick-up.*





tip of the month

When's the last time you told your kid about your journey of faith? Have you ever told them what you thought about God when you were their age, or when you first heard about Jesus? Do you talk with them about who God is to you today? If it's been a while, start that conversation with your kid this month.

Tell them your story of faith for two reasons:

- 1) Because it will help your kid's faith grow.
- 2) Because it will help your faith grow too.



resource of the month

CampKit Fall Edition

Don't miss out on meaningful moments around the table this fall. The CampKit Fall Edition offers you engaging activities, fun table games, and a daily devotional to help you have fun together and start meaningful conversations about faith. We really love surprises, so we don't want to spoil what's inside. But here's a hint at what you'll get:

- CampKit Guidebook, containing 20-day devotional by Kendall Kennedy, activity instructions, coloring pages, and more!
- Craft supplies, including crayons, watercolor paint, and more!
- Science experiment supplies, for in-the-kitchen fun!

Suited for ages 11 and under; kids under 5 may need parent assistance for some activities. Go to campkit.com to learn more!



October Fun for 4th & 5th Grade Fellowship—Pumpkin Painting and Scavenger Hunt

We invite you to celebrate the Advent season!



The Christ Child is wonderfully described as “Son of God, love’s pure light” in the second stanza of “Silent Night.”

As we prepare for the birth of Christ this Advent season, we rejoice in that light, which shines through the darkness, providing undiminished hope for our world.

Advent Gifts for the Congregation

Drive-through distribution on Sunday, November 22, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

We are preparing resources for our congregation to experience Advent “together” even though physically distanced, and to create a special space in your home. Watch for an email message asking if you prefer to pick up your gift, have it delivered to you, or mailed.

Your gift package will also include full details on our Advent and Christmas Eve plans, including:

- A Monday evening online study of *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes* beginning November 30
- Daily Advent episodes of the Pastor Brian Podcast
- Christmas Parties for Gary Youth on *December 16* (Middle School) and *December 20* (High School) in the Activity Center with a possible field trip after Christmas
- A Family Fun Outing
- A Service of Music and Scripture on *Sunday, December 20*
- The Longest Night service on *Monday, December 21*, recorded and available at garychurch.org
- A Virtual Christmas Eve service that will feature music, children, Scripture, and messages of hope, love, joy, and peace
- An outdoor Christmas Eve gathering at the church to sing “Silent Night” together



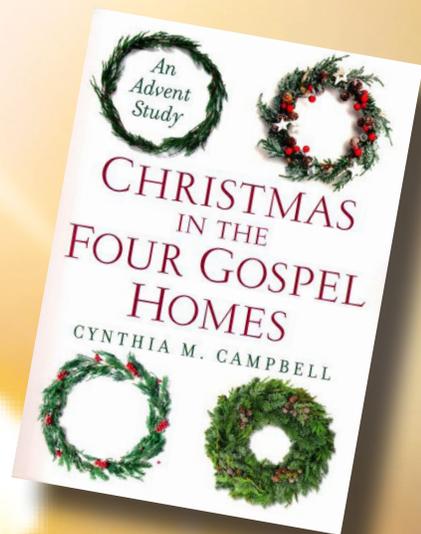
Video Submissions, through November 13

Calling all Gary Kids! We want to hear your version of the Christmas Story in a short video that can be shot at home. Tell us, in your own words, about the birth of Baby Jesus, and we'll take all our Gary Kids videos and make a Christmas Eve Service Special that families can enjoy this year and for many years to come. Check the Gary Kids weekly email for more details, or contact Carey Williams Bebar at cbebar@garychurch.org.

Advent Study | Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes

Mondays, November 30 and December 7, 14, 21 at 7 p.m. on Zoom, led by Carey Williams Bebar

How might a house look for Christmas based on what each Gospel says about it? In *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes*, beautiful illustrations from architect Kevin Burns reimagine each of the four Gospels as a "house," which the church visits at Christmas. In each section, author Cynthia M. Campbell reflects on the distinctive perspective of the birth of Jesus or the incarnation offered by each Gospel. Join Carey Williams Bebar each Monday night in Advent for a creative and inspired discussion on the true meaning of Christmas and the light it brings to every heart and home. To participate, please purchase the book on your own and register on the Adult Study Opportunities page of garychurch.org.



Even though we will not be able to gather in all the ways we usually do, we pray that the radiant beams of "love's pure light" reach into your homes and illuminate your heart.



Gary Youth Upcoming Activities

Middle School

Wednesday, November 4
7–8:30 p.m. on Zoom

Re:Form curriculum

Wednesday, November 11
7–8:30 p.m.

in the Activity Center

Sabbath: Games

Wednesday, November 18
7–8:30 p.m.

in the Activity Center

**Painting Party
with Pam Keller**

Wednesday, November 25

**No Meeting: Thanksgiving
Break**

High School

Sunday, November 1
6–7:30 p.m. on Zoom

Re:Form curriculum

Sunday, November 8
6–7:30 p.m.

in the Activity Center

Sabbath/Games

Sunday, November 15
6–7:30 p.m.

in the Activity Center

**Painting Party
with Pam Keller**

Sunday, November 22
6–7:30 p.m. on Zoom

Re:Form curriculum

Sunday, November 29

**No Meeting: Thanksgiving
Break**

Is the Bible True?

by Pastor Daniel Lee

In the 2020–2021 program year, Gary Youth has taken on a new curriculum called *Re:Form* by Sparkhouse Publishing. Each lesson revolves around hard questions that bring up key issues we all think about in the faith. We want our youth to have the tools to engage the toughest questions as they share their faith with their friends. One of the questions we have explored is “Is the Bible true?”

During the Enlightenment (17th–18th centuries), we entered the age of empirical truth. This meant that truth was measured by a statement’s accuracy in relation to facts—what really happened. What was the exact number? When did it precisely happen? Who were the exact names of the people involved? Our lives today heavily depend on empirical truth. However, although empirical truth is helpful, it does not give the full picture.

Before the Enlightenment, people were less interested in the empirical truth. Instead, they were more interested in capturing the entire scope and feel of the whole story. The way they thought of truth versus how we do can be compared to the difference between a hand-painted canvas and a photograph.

A painter adds lines and shading that tell a fuller story about the subject, creating a rendering that is shaped by the artist’s level of skill and what he or she feels is important to emphasize or de-emphasize. A photograph captures a literal moment in time that really happened. Rather than depending primarily on empirical truth, the truth of the Bible is corroborated by our experience of its truth, the longstanding testimony of the church that God is active in our world—just as the Bible portrays it. What tough questions do you have about faith?



Gary Youth Halloween Party in the Activity Center

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

by Jennifer Whiting

It is the season of thankfulness, and we pause to remember God’s faithfulness to the music ministry during a strange and extraordinary year.

Just two weeks before the pandemic hit, our Festival Choir and Orchestra led us in a celebration of beloved hymns, including Thomas Chisholm’s “Great Is Thy Faithfulness.” We could not have imagined that by mid-March, all services and music rehearsals would be canceled, and with the rest of the world we would enter the unknown.

In this time of separation, we are reminded that the *community* of our choirs and bell ensembles is as essential as the music they produce. Nancy Brunner drove by the home of each member of Good News Ringers to deliver a gift and take a photo. I made fun video lessons for the Cherubs. Chancel Choir met regularly on Zoom to stay in touch, and we created our first virtual choir project, Pepper Choplin’s “We Are Not Alone.” All of our music directors set up phone trees or personally called members of their ensembles. We prayed for one another.

Our church staff quickly pivoted to recorded services, amazing us all with their flexibility and ingenuity. We are deeply indebted to Tony Venezia and his team for their untold hours producing our weekly broadcasts. Out of chaos, a procedure emerged, and the results were remarkable.

Many others stepped forward to share their gifts. Instrumentalists and singers recorded their music at home. Virginia Blackwell resurrected her trove of video recordings, and we synced some of them to audio files I had archived. Reminiscent of Elijah’s flour and oil, the music recordings were precisely enough to carry us through the beginning of September, just before we resumed in-person worship services.

For a congregation mourning the loss of singing, Kevin Lange launched “Hymns at Twilight,” a monthly virtual hymn-sing. The Lord also gave the vision for “The Brahms Institute for Singers,” a weekly Zoom class with internationally acclaimed speakers from around the country. And through it all, Kevin’s ministry at the organ and piano has been our mainstay for Sunday worship.

The great theme of this entire story is our faithful God who provided for our needs long before we knew a pandemic would occur.

Last year, the Trustees purchased a new carillon. Who could have imagined that we would use it to provide musical support for drive-in communion services?

And let’s not forget that the first meetings regarding a new audiovisual system occurred in September 2017. (Yes, 2017!) Through the generosity of the congregation and the vision of the task force led by Tony Venezia, the new AV system became reality exactly when we needed to begin livestreaming our in-person services. We can only stand in awe of a God who could orchestrate these blessings with such perfect timing.

Undoubtedly, the year ahead holds more challenges and unknowns. But we have witnessed the Lord’s love and providence through an extraordinary time. We can be certain of his presence in the future, when together we will sing, **“All I have needed thy hand hath provided; Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!”**



Musical Opportunities at Gary Church

Inviting Your Instrumental Gifts

(All ages) While singing is prohibited by the Northern Illinois Conference, we continue to use our musical gifts to praise the Lord and lead our congregation in worship. If you play a stringed or percussion instrument, we invite you to prepare a piece to share on a Sunday morning. Please contact Jennifer Whiting for more information (jwhiting@garychurch.org).

Altar Bells and Sanctuary Ringers

(HS-Adult) Small-ensemble music for groups of 3-8 ringers using distanced music stands and no sharing of bells. Musicians practice at home, and then meet for a short rehearsal on Sunday at church prior to the worship service. Please contact Sharon Schmidt through the Church Office if you are interested.



Hymns at Twilight

Tuesday, November 24, 7 p.m.
via Gary Church Livestream

See the back page for details.

The Brahms Institute for Singers

Thursdays through December 10, 7 p.m.
on Zoom, HS-Adult

It is not too late to jump into this exceptional opportunity for singers! All are welcome to join. Anthony Quaranta leads vocal warmups, Jennifer Whiting introduces choral anthems, and distinguished musical guests help us discover Brahms' Requiem. Our remaining guest speakers include Dr. Orna Arania (Voice, Northern Illinois University), and Dr. Pearl Shangkuan (DCA, Calvin University). Please register on the Adult Study Opportunities page of garychurch.org.



MISSION *this month*

This time of year, with winter coming on in the midst of a pandemic with rising numbers of cases and continued economic displacement, our minds turn more than usual to needs within our local, national, and international communities. If you desire to help, through financial or volunteer support, please consider PADS, PRC, and UMCOR. Additionally, the needs of our immigrant neighbors and friends have been much in the news the last few years and they are not going away. NIJFON offers an opportunity to help. We will collect special offerings for United Methodist Student Day and the United Voices for Children Fifth Sunday Appeal, and our yearly support for Christmas Sharing, Heifer Project, and Outreach Ministries continues. You'll find details below.

Thanks to the entire Gary Community for your continued support.

~Joe Ruth
Mission Committee Chair



Planting Justice and Harvesting Hope for NIJFON
by Paula Cripps-Vallejo,
NIJFON Development Officer *

Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors (NIJFON) has been blessed with a \$25,000 gift from Berry Memorial UMC in Chicago through the sale of the church's historic building. As Berry UMC seeks to plant the seeds of a new church home in Chicago, they also chose to plant seeds for justice through supporting the mission and vision of NIJFON.

We at NIJFON would like to challenge the 350+ United Methodist congregations here in Northern Illinois Conference to support our shared work for God's justice, through giving to NIJFON. We are setting a goal for all 350+ congregations to raise a total of \$25,000 to match the faithful donation that Berry Memorial UMC gave. We are hoping and trusting that all together our UM congregations can support our vital mission to offer free, high quality immigration legal services to our immigrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking neighbors and selves.

We understand that this has been a difficult year economically for many of our churches and families and invite each congregation to prayerfully give at the level they are able. The work of JFON is more important than ever as there continue to be extreme challenges and difficulties in navigating the immigration process here in the United States....

We know that the \$25,000 given by Berry Memorial UMC are each seeds of justice that bloom in ways that we can see and take root in ways we cannot see as we continue our mission at JFON. We invite you as a fellow Christian in the United Methodist tradition to help us plant even more seeds of justice as work for God's ever coming kingdom of liberation and justice.



**Article originally published in the August 2020 edition of The Reporter, the newsletter of the UMC Northern Illinois Conference. Gary's Mission Committee ask you to be as generous as possible in supporting NIJFON's goals. Contributions can be made at garychurch.org/giving.*

Fifth Sunday Appeal for United Voices for Children

Sunday, November 29

Your giving, combined with that of other United Methodists in the Northern Illinois Conference, supports Kids Above All, MYSI (Methodist Youth Service, Inc.), and Rosecrance.



United Methodist Student Day

Sunday, December 6

Your offering on this United Methodist special day of giving provides scholarships for United Methodist students.

MISSION *this month*

Outreach
Community Ministries

Outreach Community Center

Christmas Peace and a Pillow for a Senior this Holiday Season

This year Christmas is going to look very different for all of us, especially a group of Older Adults living in Southeast Carol Stream. For the past number of years, our church has graciously supported Outreach Community Center's annual Christmas Luncheon for 150 older adults. With your kind donations, we have graced them with a delicious, home-cooked meal, several gifts, and showed them God's love. Due to the pandemic, we are unable gather in person. Instead, we will be delivering a special holiday box meal along with a gift of a new bed pillow, handmade pillowcase, and a touchless door opener/button pusher device to each senior in their apartments on December 18.

Thank you for graciously considering supporting the Older Adults served by Outreach Community Center. Your generous donation will help to provide the holiday boxed meals and gifts. When writing your check to Gary Church, kindly write Outreach on the memo line and mail it to 224 N. Main St., Wheaton, IL, 60187. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me through the Church Office or call Linda Hawkins, Outreach Community Center at 630-260-7600. Thanks so much for your help in providing these seniors a happy Christmas!

~Barbara Holmes

Heifer Project Alternative Gift Program



Looking for different gift ideas this year? Heifer Project makes it possible to give a gift in honor of a friend or loved one and help families around the world become self-sufficient. This

year, you can find the gift catalog at heifer.org/gift-catalog/index.html or contact the Church Office for a list of prices. Gift options range from \$10 for a share of a goat to \$5,000 for a gift ark, and any amount in between. Checks with Heifer Project in the memo can be sent to the Church Office. If the donation is made in honor of or as a gift to someone, cards to send are available from the Church Office. Thank you for supporting Heifer Project!

~Virginia Isgren

Support Christmas Sharing

The city-wide Board of Christmas Sharing has been busy planning the best way to serve our community and keep everyone safe this year. The process of identifying the families to invite will remain the same through the District 200 schools. Guest families will be assigned to the eight participating churches. The December 11 and 12 events will be organized around the distribution of food by the Northern Illinois Food Bank at three sites. Gary will be joining St. John Lutheran and Trinity Episcopal at St. John's location. Some volunteers will be needed at the "drive-by" event. More details are still being developed.

Because we are unable to do our traditional "turn Gary into a department store" event, we would like to give each family a gift card of a substantial amount. Instead of all of Gary's generosity going toward food boxes, coats, diapers, children's pjs, children's books, hats, gloves, scarves and filling special requests, **we need cash!** You can make a contribution on the Gary website—garychurch.org/give. Scroll down to missions where Christmas Sharing is an option.

Thanks to Gary member and educator Bill Davisson, Gary Church gave birth to Christmas Sharing 51 years ago. It has become a tremendous time of love and sharing throughout the entire Wheaton community, but especially at Gary. In past years, all ages and groups at Gary have come together and experienced such joy, love, laughs, and fellowship while working and preparing to welcome our guest families. Please help us to continue Christmas Sharing as a vital service tradition at Gary, especially in this challenging year.

Thank you,
Joe Davisson
Shelley Kenyon

Christmas Sharing

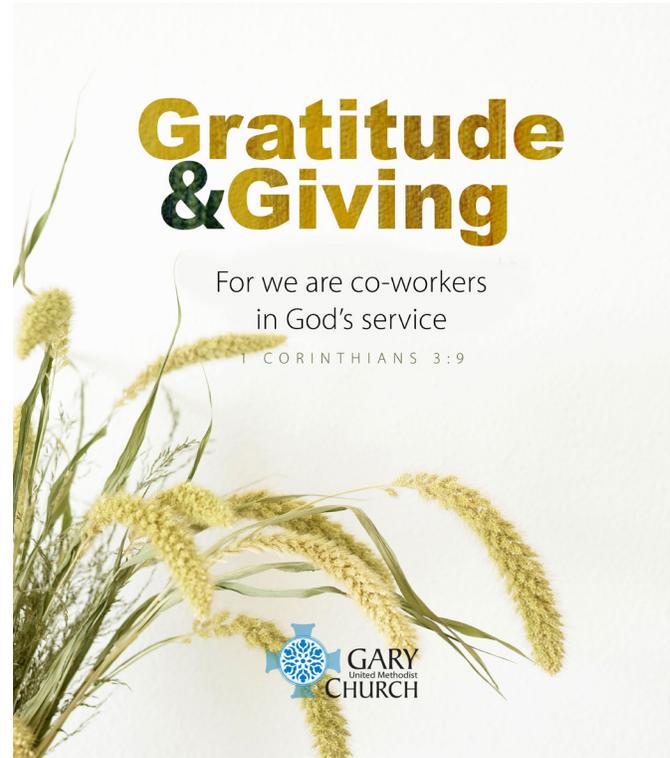


Stewardship Campaign: Gratitude and Giving

November 8–22

“For we are co-workers in God’s service”
1 Corinthians 3:9 NIV

In the midst of the loss and deep grief of this year, there have also been moments of joy, contentment, and gratitude. We are grateful for God’s comforting presence. We are grateful for the ways our congregation, as “co-workers in God’s service,” has continued to support one another and share the love and hope found in Jesus Christ. We approach our annual stewardship campaign and sermon series in this spirit of gratitude, knowing that giving can be an expression of gratitude, knowing that our gifts and service will allow impactful ministry to continue. On Commitment Sunday, November 22, we ask you to consider committing to giving as you are able for the next calendar year.



CARES Act Provisions

We would like to make you aware of two provisions included in the CARES Act that impact charitable giving:

1. For 2020, individuals can deduct up to \$300 of charitable donations, even if they do not itemize their deductions. Normally, one must itemize deductions in order to deduct charitable donations.
2. For 2020, individuals can deduct up to 100% of their adjusted gross income (AGI). Normally, the limit is 60%.

The second point may be of particular interest to people who have a large amount of assets/money, but not much annual income, perhaps someone who is retired. An example would be a retired individual who has \$30,000 of AGI, but this individual has a large sum of money in the bank that accumulated while they were working. Prior to 2020, they would only be able to deduct \$18,000 per year (60% of AGI). But in 2020, they could deduct up to \$30,000 (100% of AGI).

Please note that this is not tax advice. We recommend that you seek guidance from your tax advisor.

~The Finance Committee

Gary United Methodist Preschool



Parents' Morning Out Returns in January

Our Parents' Morning Out program is currently accepting applications for January–May 2021. Please submit an application with a \$50 (reduced) registration fee to the preschool. Class will be held on Monday and Wednesday mornings at 9–11:30 a.m. Families are welcomed to sign up for one or both days. One day per week is \$80 a month and two days per week is \$120 a month. Class size is limited to 10 children with two teachers. Please see the description below for more details on the class structure.

Preschool Registration for 2021–2022 Opens Soon!

With the holidays upon us, it is hard to believe but it is already time to begin preschool enrollment for the 2021–2022 school year. In November, as usual, we begin registration for currently registered preschool families. We have classes available for both three- and four-year-olds. Church families with a child who is 3 or 4 by September 1, 2021 have the opportunity to register between December 2 and January 4, 2021 prior to registration opening up to the public.

We are proud of the reputation we have maintained for over fifty years. We offer a three-year-old preschool class on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, a four-year-old preschool class on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, and a Pre-K class on MWF afternoons. The Pre-Kindergarten class itself is very similar to the AM class, but focuses more on pre-reading skills, while also fostering confidence in the child's learning abilities, social relationships, and general problem-solving skills learned through play. We also offer a fourth day which is an Enrichment Class. Parents may opt for the regular three-day classes or for a four-day program which includes the Enrichment Class on Thursday afternoons. Parents of Kindergarteners may also send their children for the Enrichment class. For questions regarding differences in classes, please contact Kirsten McCluskey, Preschool Director.

We also offer a Parents' Morning Out program for younger children, on Monday–Friday for the 2021–22 school year. Families can register for one, two, or three days a week. Our program opens for children as young as 18 months and is a great way for children to “enter school” and begin to spend some time away from parents or other caregivers. In PMO, children spend most of their time in free play with opportunities to explore art supplies and various sensory materials. There is a group snack time with stories and songs. The children also spend some time playing in our gross motor area, which has large foam blocks, balls, and space to run. The teachers change diapers and assist in potty training, following the parents' directions.

Enrollment is simple. Just return a completed application with a \$100 registration fee, payable to “Gary Preschool.” The registration fee is non-refundable but does include a health and recreation fee. If you would like to schedule an appointment to visit our preschool and PMO programs you may do so by calling the church or emailing Kirsten McCluskey at preschool@garychurch.org.



Gary Gift Cards

It is not too early to start your Christmas shopping! And what easier way then to let Gary Gift Cards do the shopping for you. Gary's Gift Cards is a Gary United Methodist Preschool program that enables you to purchase gift cards for use at local retailers and have them delivered directly to you. We buy the cards at a discount, you buy the certificates for full face value and redeem them for full face value, and the preschool keeps the difference. The profit may not seem like a lot, but every dollar adds up!

If you would like to purchase Gary's Gift Cards, please complete the other side, and return the form and your check (made payable to Gary Preschool) to the Church Office or the preschool by **11 a.m. on December 10**. You may shop online at www.shopwithscrip.com (Enter code: E278BD5913386 for Gary Preschool), drop your check at the church, and have your cards delivered. **Orders will be collected and processed each Thursday from November 1 to December 10.**

Do you need some gift ideas: **For Her:** Macy's, Kay Jeweler, Williams Sonoma, Sephora, Zappos.com **For Him:** Bass Pro Shops, Cabela's, Home Depot, Best Buy, Dick's, BP, AutoZone, Ace **For Teens:** iTunes, Amazon, GameStop, J Crew, Bath & Body Works, Nike **For Kids:** The Children's Place, Disney, American Girl, Build a Bear **For Teachers:** Barnes & Noble, Container Store, Target, Starbucks **For Everyone:** Visa, Starbucks, TJ Maxx, AMC, Ticketmaster, Overstock.com, Wal-Mart For Crafts/Cooking: Michaels, JoAnn Fabrics, Jewel, Shutterfly.com **Business Gifts:** Omaha Steaks, Fannie Mae Candy, Harry & David, Honey Baked Ham **For a night out:** Buffalo Wild Wings, Outback, Chili's, AMC Theatres, Lettuce Entertain You

These are just a few of the hundreds of retailers offered by Gary's Gift Cards! See reverse side for more retailers, or visit www.shopwithscrip.com for a complete list of available retailers! And remember gift cards are not just for gift giving! If you know where you will do some of your holiday shopping, you can buy a gift card to use like a debit card as part of your payment.

The fine print:

All sales are final. Gift certificates and debit cards cannot be returned for any reason, with the exception of a malfunctioning card.

Payment must be made at the time a participant places an order. Checks and money orders are the only forms of payment and should be made to Gary Preschool.

Please do not send cash. Gary's Gift Cards payments are not tax deductible because you receive dollar for dollar value. Gary's Gift Cards does not accept credit cards.

All Gary's Gift Card orders are double-checked. However, it is also the participants' responsibility to verify their order at the time of receipt. Any discrepancies should be addressed immediately. Gary's Gift Cards is not responsible for lost or stolen orders. If Gary's Gift Cards is unable to fill an order due to back orders from our vendor, we will make every attempt to get your certificates or cards to you as soon as possible. In the event your order will not be ready for scheduled pickup, we will contact you.

Gary's Gift Cards Retailers/Order Form

Retailer (Profit) Amount #ordered

Grocery Stores & Pharmacies

Jewel/Osco (4%) \$25 ___ \$100 ___
 CVS (6%) \$25 ___ \$100 ___
 Mariano's (4%) \$100 ___
 Pete's Fresh Market (4%) \$20 ___
 Walgreens (5%) \$25 ___

Restaurants

Applebee's (8%) \$25 ___
 Arby's (8%) \$10 ___
 Buca di Beppo (8%) \$25 ___
 Buffalo Wild Wings (8%) \$25 ___
 Burger King (4%) \$10 ___
 California Pizza Kitchen (8%) \$25 ___
 Cheesecake Factory (5%) \$25 ___
 Chili's (11%) \$25 ___
 Chipotle (10%) \$10 ___
 Chuck E. Cheese (8%) \$10 ___
 Cold Stone Creamery (11%) \$10 ___
 Dairy Queen (3%) \$10 ___
 Dave & Busters (13%) \$25 ___
 Denny's (7%) \$10 ___
 Domino's Pizza (8%) \$10 ___
 Dunkin Donuts (3%) \$10 ___
 Einstein Bagels (10%) \$10 ___
 Honey Baked Ham (12%) \$10 ___
 Jamba Juice (6%) \$10 ___
 Lettuce Entertain You (12%) \$25 ___
 Lou Malnati's (8%) \$10 ___
 Noodles & Co. (8%) \$10 ___
 Olive Garden (8%) \$25 ___
Also good at Red Lobster
 Outback Steakhouse (8%) \$25 ___
 Panera Bread (9%) \$10 ___ \$25 ___
 Papa John's Pizza (8%) \$10 ___
 Pizza Hut (8%) \$10 ___
 Qdoba (7%) \$25 ___
 Rainforest Café (9%) \$25 ___ \$100 ___
 Red Robin (8%) \$25 ___
 Rock Bottom (8%) \$25 ___
 Ruby Tuesday (8%) \$25 ___
 Smashburger (10%) \$10 ___
 Starbucks (7%) \$10 ___ \$25 ___
 Steak n Shake (8%) \$10 ___
 Subway (6%) \$10 ___
 Wendy's (6.5%) \$10 ___

Entertainment

AMC/Loews/Cineplex (8%) \$25 ___
 Century Theatres (4%) \$25 ___
 Regal Cinemas (8%) \$25 ___

Gas & Auto

Auto Zone (8%) \$25 ___
 BP (1.5%) \$50 ___ \$100 ___
 Jiffy Lube (8%) \$30 ___
 Mobil/Exxon (1.5%) \$50 ___
 Shell (1.5%) \$25 ___ \$50 ___

Retail Stores

Ace Hardware (4%) \$25 ___ \$100 ___
 American Eagle (10%) \$25 ___
 American Girl (9%) \$25 ___ \$100 ___
 Bass Pro Shops (10%) \$25 ___ \$100 ___
 Barnes & Noble (8%) \$10 ___ \$25 ___
 Bath & Body Works (13%) \$10 ___ \$25 ___
 Bed, Bath & Beyond (7%) \$25 ___
 Best Buy (4%) \$25 ___ \$100 ___
 Bloomingdale's (12%) \$25 ___
 Brooks Brothers (16%) \$25 ___
 Build-A-Bear Workshop (8%) \$25 ___
 Cabela's (10%) \$25 ___ \$100 ___
 Claire's (9%) \$10 ___
 Container Store (9%) \$25 ___ \$100 ___
 Crate & Barrel (8%) \$25 ___ \$100 ___
 Dick's Sporting Goods (8%) \$25 ___
 Disney (3%) \$25 ___ \$100 ___
 Express (10%) \$25 ___
 Foot Locker Stores (8%) \$25 ___
 Gap (14%) \$25 ___
 Hallmark (4%) \$25 ___
 Home Depot (4%) \$25 ___
 J Crew (13%) \$25 ___
 JCPenney (5%) \$25 ___
 JoAnn Fabrics (6%) \$25 ___
 Kohl's (4%) \$25 ___
 L.L. Bean (16%) \$25 ___
 Lands' End (15%) \$25 ___
 Lord & Taylor (8%) \$25 ___
 Lowe's (4%) \$25 ___
 Macy's (10%) \$25 ___
 Menards (3%) \$25 ___
 Neiman Marcus (12%) \$50 ___
 Nordstrom (4%) \$25 ___
 Office Depot/Max (5%) \$25 ___
 Pottery Barn (8%) \$25 ___
 REI (8%) \$25 ___
 Sephora (5%) \$25 ___
 Staples (5%) \$25 ___
 Talbots (13%) \$25 ___
 Target (2.5%) \$25 ___ \$50 ___
 The Children's Place (12%) \$25 ___
 TJ Maxx, HomeGoods, Marshalls (7%) \$25 ___
 Walmart (2.5%) \$25 ___ \$50 ___
 Williams Sonoma (8%) \$25 ___

Online & Other Services

Amazon.com (2.25%) \$25 ___ \$100 ___
 iTunes (5%) \$15 ___ \$25 ___
 Overstock.com (8%) \$25 ___
 Wayfair (6%) \$100 ___
 Zappos.com (8%) \$25 ___

Travel

Best Western (12%) \$25 ___ \$100 ___
 Budget Car Rental (8%) \$50 ___
 Celebrity Cruises (8%) \$100 ___
 Fairmont Hotels (9%) \$100 ___
 Hilton (2%) \$100 ___
 Southwest Airlines (4%) \$250 ___

Total cards ordered:

Total amount due:

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone:

Pick up (please circle one):

Mail (add \$5)

Preschool

Church Office

Please write checks payable to "Gary Preschool"

Orders are processed each Thursday, starting November 5. Final orders are due on December 10th at 11:00 am.

WinChimes

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

Something You Should Know—Thanksgiving

by Pastor Bruce Anderson

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever. (Psalm 100)

It has been a strange year to say the least. We have endured the COVID-19 pandemic for most of the year, with major changes to our lifestyles and worship. We have been at home more and with others, even those we love, less. Some have gotten really good at being on the computer, and others have gotten better, while some are just now beginning to attempt this brave new world of technological connection. Through technologies such as Zoom, we can see and talk to people around the country and even the world. We can join together for virtual worship from the comfort of our homes. But it is not the same as being together in person. And even in-person worship is different as we are safely distanced and masked. Things have changed.

Another change seems to be the never-ending onslaughts of Mother Nature. In the spring it was rains and flooding. The summer was the hottest ever recorded, and now this fall has been a string of hurricanes, wildfires, and drought. It seems like nature has turned against us.

We are now in November, the month of Thanksgiving, and it may not seem that we have much to be thankful for this year. But if we look with an eye to God's blessings in our lives, we may be able to find more to be thankful for than we think.

I am thankful for the gift of health. While my daughter had COVID, it was a fairly mild case and she recovered in about two weeks. The family was able to gather for shorter periods than usual, and not all at once, but we were able to be together for a while, in a distanced way. And while my father is now in hospice, he is not in a lot of pain and I can be with him each evening. At age 94 he has had a good, long and fairly healthy life, and I celebrate that.

At Winfield UMC we never missed a week of worship, going first to YouTube and now adding in-person and livestreaming over Zoom. We have used the downtime to replace bad sections of sidewalk and half of our parking lot while sealcoating the rest. And we have a new gazebo to use for outdoor worship, weddings, and other activities in the years to come. We also have new grandchildren in the congregation to love and cherish. So we do have things to be thankful for. God is good.



What are you thankful for? I challenge each of you to find a container and write down something each day. Do it at least through Thanksgiving, but try to keep it going through Christmas and into the new year. Then on those days take some out and read them. I bet you will find that there is more to be thankful for than immediately comes to mind.

Soon we will be in the season of Advent, looking forward to the birth of the Christ child, Jesus. This may be the greatest thing of all to be thankful for—God among us. The gift of love and salvation from God to each one of us. If nothing else, we can be glad in that.

P.S. Due to the pandemic our Christmas Eve service will only be online this year. More information will be available on the church website: www.winfieldumc.org.



Winfield Community United Methodist Church
0S 347 Jefferson St. Winfield, IL 60190 • 847-815-3846

Rev. Bruce Anderson, Pastor
John Wiggins, Church Administrator
Olive Aliga, Music Director



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www.garychurch.org

**Winfield Community
United Methodist Church**
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www.winfieldumc.org

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY



Open your hymnal and sing along as Kevin Lange hosts and accompanies this live-streamed event for the whole family. Our theme is “Count Your Blessings,” and we invite you to suggest hymns that express your thankfulness. What hymns remind you of God’s blessings or God’s gifts in your life? Email your song suggestions to office@garychurch.org and plan to join us! (Access the live-stream by visiting garychurch.org, or find the link on our Facebook page.)