

Chimes

The Newsletter of Gary Church and Winfield Community Church
November/December 2019



*Christmas
Sharing
50th
Anniversary
EDITION*

Staff

Rev. Dr. Chris Pierson

SENIOR PASTOR
cpierson@garychurch.org

Rev. Brian Felker Jones

PART-TIME ASSOCIATE PASTOR
bjones@garychurch.org

Rev. Bruce Anderson

WINFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
pastorbrucea@gmail.com

Jennifer Whiting

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
jwhiting@garychurch.org

Kevin Lange

ORGANIST
klange@garychurch.org

Carey Williams Bebar

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES AND
ADULT EDUCATION COORDINATOR
cbebar@garychurch.org

Alexa Isaac

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES
aisaac@garychurch.org

Kim Austin

COMMUNICATIONS AND WELCOME MINISTRIES
DIRECTOR
kaustin@garychurch.org

Deb Evans

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
devans@garychurch.org

Deb Hafner

CHURCH OFFICE
office@garychurch.org

Pam Keller

PRINT COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
pkeller@garychurch.org

Becky Lemna

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
blemna@garychurch.org

Barbara Garlinger

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Kirsten McCluskey

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR
preschool@garychurch.org

Raven Larkin

CHILDCARE COORDINATOR
childcare@garychurch.org

Sunday Worship Opportunities at Gary

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 January *Chimes* newsletter are due by November 20. 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.



Let Us Observe a Holy Advent

by Rev. Dr. Chris Pierson

We are just a few weeks away from Advent and the Christmas season. Each of us has experienced the season as “the holiday rush.” It is a time when we strain our brains to think of and find the perfect gift for our loved ones. It is a time when we strain our wallets, or our credit, to buy the perfect gift, going into debt for the weeks and months to come. It is a time when we search to find the perfect wrapping paper or the perfect card that will bring even a momentary smile or pleasure to the receiver of our gifts. Yet, each year we are reminded that on the spiritual level it is a time of waiting, of expectation, of remembrance and of hope.

***We look anew
for signs of
God’s presence
in the world.***

As Christians during the season of Advent, we are reminded of the sacred story of the promises of God throughout history to send a deliverer. We are reminded to celebrate the coming of the Promised One in Jesus, the word made flesh. We are also called to respond to the voices of prophets of old encouraging us to prepare the way for his coming into our lives and into our world.

During Advent we celebrate that, through Jesus, new beginnings are always possible for all humanity. We celebrate the power God has to transform individual lives and faith communities. And, we look anew for signs of God’s presence in the world; we listen for God who is always at work in ways that can only be perceived through eyes that can see and ears that can hear—through the eyes and ears of faith. This observation can best be accomplished by intentionally hallowing the moments, slowing our pace enough to appreciate the sacredness of God’s presence.

One writer describes Advent as the Janus of the Christian year. Janus was an ancient Roman god of doorways, of beginnings and endings, and the rising and setting of the sun. Ancient coins and statues of Janus portray him as a bearded man looking in two directions—both forward and backward, demonstrating a duality.

While Advent and the Christmas season come at the end of our calendar year, they are the beginning of the Christian year as we move from promise to fulfillment. As Christians we do not pretend that we are unaware of what has taken place in the past through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Instead, we look back in awe at the amazing love of God revealed in Christ, and we look forward to what God shall do—the ultimate triumph of Christ over the power of sin and death that has already begun.¹

As we prepare ourselves this season, let us prepare our hearts to receive the gift that brings not only momentary smiles and pleasure but eternal joy and eternal life. Let us receive the gift of Christ who is the ultimate expression of God’s love for us. Let us receive into our lives the one who paid a debt that we could never repay—the Deliverer, the Promised One, the Savior, the Christ!

Christopher L. Pierson

¹ Soards, Marion L., et al. Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary: Year A--Advent, Christmas, Epiphany. Abingdon Press, 1992.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF *Christmas Sharing*

by Kim Austin

A young boy overjoyed by the gift of socks...

A troubled student whose behavior turned around after receiving a coat...

A mother brought to tears by getting a bike for her son...

Another mother so touched by receiving a beautiful dress for her toddler daughter that she brought it back the next year to share with someone else...

Owners of a store happy to donate food because they were once helped by Christmas Sharing...

Threading through all these stories is the story of a guidance counselor who noticed one of his students was coming to school hungry, found six other families in need, and rallied his church to help them.

Threading through that story is the story of Christmas—of God so loving the world that he sent his only begotten son, a son who would teach us to love our neighbors.

It's a story that is simultaneously 50 years old, 2000 years old, and unfolding right now.

It's a story of our identity as a church, our mission in the world, the story we teach and share with each new generation.

It is the story of Christmas Sharing!

The Early Years

In 1969 when Bill Davisson, Gary member and Franklin Middle School counselor, visited the home of one of his students and realized the boy's misbehavior was likely a result of hunger, he reasoned that there must be others in that situation and went to the county court house to check records. With the help of Gary Children's Ministry Director Freda Nurse, he sought donations for these needy families. For the first years of this new program, the donated food, toys, and clothing items were collected and sorted at Gary and then delivered to 7 families in 1969 and 15 in 1970. Gary member Joe Davisson, Bill's son and a teenager at the time, recalls going with his father to make the deliveries. In the early years, Joe remembers, none of the food boxes looked the same. The volunteers did their best to divide the donations equally, assembling the boxes in what was then the Scout Room on the lower level of the church.

By 1971, when the number of needy families expanded to 32, a new plan was put in place. A letter written in 1975 explains, "In our 1971 meeting we decided to change the format of 'Christmas Sharing' by collecting all donated items and arranging the basement of our church similar to a store... (Families) were invited to shop at the Church and purchase the items they needed at a cost of 5¢ to 25¢ per item. After they completed their shopping, each family was given a box of food that contained a 10 lb. ham."

This format continued throughout the 70's, then became a jar for an optional donation, until eventually the donation option was dropped. Hams were replaced with turkeys when it became clear that many of the guests from other cultural backgrounds did not eat pork. When the need became greater than the number of turkeys the church freezer could hold, grocery gift certificates were given for meat—all with the intention of providing a nice holiday meal for the guests.



December 12, 1984
Daily Journal

Share toys

New Toy donations are collected by Emerson School third graders Brian Chaddock, left, Eric Kniffin and Amy Phillips under the supervision of Bill Davisson. All donations will be turned over to the Wheaton Christmas Sharing program. Davisson is a coordinator for the program and was one of two former teachers who started the program 15 years ago. A new toy for each child in a given family will be packed into food boxes.

Expanding and Growing

In 1974, with Trinity Episcopal Church becoming a second location, Christmas Sharing helped 160 families. As the numbers grew, other churches became distribution sites. By 1984, five locations served 500 families, all from Wheaton Warrenville District 200 and identified by the school social workers. For many years World Relief also helped identify families in need.

At some point, what had been an informal Steering Committee became a more formal Board of Directors. Barb Wernicke, a Gary member who was board president for 6 years explains that in the late 90's and early 2000's the board expanded local connections, adding support of businesses such as Rosati's, who donate meals for our volunteers, to that of long-time backers such as Fellowes, which supplies boxes for food donations. In 2006, Christmas Sharing was granted IRS 501(c)3 status which enabled them to expand fund-raising and gain corporate matching grants. Also in 2006, in the midst of Gary's building renovation and expansion, our Christmas Sharing efforts were housed at First Presbyterian Church, which became an additional site the following year. 2010 was the peak year when 1096 families were served by Christmas Sharing, 194 of those at Gary.

Christmas Sharing Today

Currently, eight Wheaton and Warrenville churches of varying sizes serve over 850 families, more than half speaking a language other than English in their home with 40 to 50 languages represented. Donations collected at each of the twenty District 200 schools are distributed among the churches, and money allocated from the board supplements donations from church members and friends. Each church offers different items to the guests, but all provide food in this program that started with a hungry child. Thus, 50 years later, a "modest effort to help a few needy families at Christmas time" has become an outreach touching the lives of thousands.



One generation commends your works to another (Psalm 145:4)

A tree in the house that won't get decorated until mid-December because Christmas Sharing comes first...

A mother who calls home to have her husband bring over her daughter's coat because it's the right size for a little girl who needs one...

Another mother who challenges her children to donate not just the toys and clothes they don't want, but to give something they like...and children who challenge their mother to do the same...

Two- and six-year-old children of new members helping to line up donated shoes and pick up clothes that fall from the tables...

Threading through all these stories is the true Christmas story, the story of God's love passed from one generation to the next. Barbara Garlinger, a long-time Gary volunteer and member of the Christmas Sharing board, feels that Christmas Sharing has guided the church, which has in turn guided the children who have grown up here. "Who can measure the effect of Christmas Sharing?" asks a *Chimes* article from December 15, 1988. "Hundreds of people in the community (maybe thousands) are involved in the giving of themselves in a variety of ways—and hundreds benefit from the sharing of clothing, toys, and food. It is the most beautiful part of the Christmas season."

sharing
THE STORY



In our 50th year of helping needy families in our community, we invite you to join with God in serving!

Monday–Saturday, December 9–14

Donate food boxes (or money for food purchase). Deliver to church *December 9–11.*

- Sign up to donate food boxes at the display in the Commons or write a check to pay for a food box.
- Pick up a food shopping list and the number of boxes indicated on the list.

Donate new coats, socks, diapers, gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves.

- Take ORNAMENTS from the tree in the Commons that specify sizes, gender, etc.
- Place unwrapped items in bags (include the ornaments) and return them to the Commons by *December 9.*

Donate new toys.

- Take ORNAMENTS from the tree and purchase appropriate toys for the stated ages and genders.
- Place unwrapped items in box by the tree (include ornament) in the Commons by *December 9.*

Donate used toys, sports equipment, and children’s books in good condition, *December 9–11.*

Donate gently used clothing, all ages and sizes, *December 9–11.*

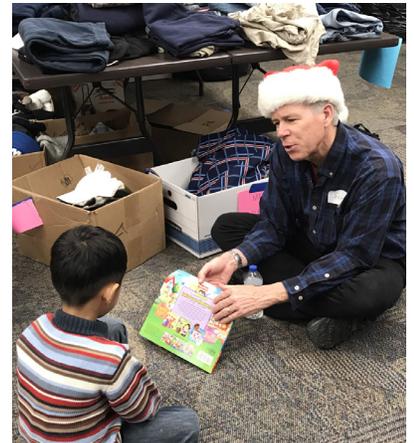
Donate money for “special needs” such as buying new children’s coats, diapers, blankets, etc.

Volunteer

- See the complete list at the display in the Commons and sign-up ASAP to work as many dates and times as possible between *December 9–14.*
- Lots of hands make easy work!

We will not have a housewares area this year but will be posting special requests from our guests on our Facebook page and in the Commons.

Past participants have said that helping with Christmas Sharing is a meaningful experience and a traditional start for their family Christmas celebration. Won’t you join God at work here at Gary and make this your tradition as well?



For more information, please see the Commons display, call the Church Office, or visit the website christmas-sharing.org.

~ Thank you!
Joe Davisson and Shelley Kenyon

Pajama Drive!

November 3–December 1

The Children’s Ministry Team is sponsoring a pajama drive for Christmas Sharing. Donations of new pajamas for all children from infant to high school youth are greatly appreciated. Donations can be placed in the collection bin in the Lower Level Lobby.

Christmas Sharing 50th Anniversary T-Shirts

Gary Youth is selling limited edition Christmas Sharing T-shirts, with all proceeds going toward the purchase of gifts for teens whose families visit Christmas Sharing. Place your order through garychurch.org by *Sunday, November 17*, and then wear your shirt when you volunteer for Christmas Sharing, around town, everywhere you go this Season!

“Sharing a Story” Book Donations

Help build on the theme of Christmas Sharing by “Sharing a Story” and providing each District 200 child grades K-2 in need a brand new book. To facilitate this Christmas giving, a suggested list of books is available at Prairie Path Books in Town Square Wheaton. Prairie Path Books has generously offered a 20% discount for all donated books. In this season of giving, please consider “Sharing A Story.”

Welcoming a New Member!

Mavis Sanders

Born in Minnesota, Mavis Sanders is the eldest of nine siblings. A “PK” (preacher’s kid,) she previously lived in Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, and western Illinois where her father served churches during her childhood and youth. At an early age, she came to faith in Jesus through the example and nurturing of her parents. After Mavis graduated from what became Judson University, her publishing/public relations career took her to Colorado Springs where she worked with former astronaut James B. Irwin. She returned to Illinois, eventually working at Tyndale House Publishers where she retired as corporate publicist. In 2018 when her former church was in a merger transition, she came to Gary Church and has experienced what she describes as “solid preaching, ‘heavenly’ music, multi-generational fellowship and worship, and opportunities to serve.” *Welcome, Mavis!*



New member Mavis Sanders (center) with Connections Sponsors Donna Trieschmann (left) and Holly Trueblood (right).

Pray for Me Campaign Underway for a Second Year

In this last year and a half, we have seen tremendous growth in Youth Ministry, not only in numbers, but in the depth of our student’s growth in Christ Jesus. As I reflected on what made this possible (besides the amazing work of Pastor Alexa and Pastor Carey), I realized something I should have long ago . . . it was prayer and the Pray for Me Campaign! In talking with our students, they felt a tremendous support knowing that every day, as they walk into school (and the many trials and temptations that they find there), someone was praying for them. Someone was lifting their concerns to the Lord. Someone was praying they would be a light in the world. Such prayer encouraged them and transformed them. I always believe in prayer, but it is amazing to see it work in such a tangible way through the lives of our students at Gary Church.

Thank you to our Prayer Champions for doing these two things: praying for their assigned student or family everyday and saying “hi” to them as they walk by at Church.

That’s it! That is all it takes. We are so excited about the relationships through Christ that are already forming this year and will continue to form year after year as we continue this life-changing program.

~ Pastor Brian





United Methodist Women in Mission

The 150-year-old story of United Methodist Women's focus on mission continues here at Gary Church. Through various fundraising efforts, our UMW Circles donate thousands of dollars yearly (over \$10,000 in 2018, for example) to groups such as UMCOR, PADS, People's Resource Center, Fundaniños Orphanage, and Gary Preschool. Additionally, examples of Circles sharing their time to support mission include preparing meals for RTO, volunteering at the Outreach Community Christmas Luncheon, and working together at Christmas Sharing.

November and December provide opportunities for you to help UMW help others by supporting their Christmas Market and by jumping into hands-on service opportunities.

UMW Christmas Market

Sunday, November 17, throughout the morning in the Commons

The annual Christmas Market is a great opportunity to support missions and get some Christmas shopping done! A variety of craft, knitted, and food items will be for sale. One example is hand-painted wood signs created by Craft Circle using 60-year-old barn wood. All proceeds will support UMW mission projects.



November/December Focus Susanna Wesley Circle: All Hands on Deck!

Susanna Wesley Circle invites everyone to help them with their mission project on Monday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the Commons. They will be sorting and hanging up the winter coats that have been donated for Gary's Christmas Sharing program. Everyone can help—even if you aren't able to stand for any length of time. Stay as long as you can. If you will be arriving after 6:30 p.m., contact Deb Hafner through the Church Office by 5 p.m. on December 9.



In other months, Susanna Wesley Circle meets the third Monday and enjoys traditions such as dining at Carol's Garden Restaurant, making Care Cards, and welcoming mission-related guest speakers. This intergenerational circle is for women of all ages who enjoy a time of fellowship and sharing their joys and concerns, as well as as learning about and participating in mission.

Faith Club: A Women's Interfaith Group

Thursday, November 14, 6:30 p.m. in the Commons

All women of Gary and Winfield Churches are invited to join with our friends of Jewish and Muslim faith for a potluck meal and a time of community building.

Caleb Factor Men's Ministry

Saturday, December 7, 7:30 a.m. (note early start time) in the Commons

Gary member Ed Williams will share the guest speaker stage with his four-legged friend Mango. A 3 1/2-year-old Standard Poodle, Mango has been a certified therapy dog since early 2018. Come meet Mango and hear about her weekly visits with Ed to three local Childserv group homes, Wynscape Health and Rehabilitation in Wheaton, and the School of Expressive Arts and Learning in Lombard.

Adult Christian Education and Discipleship

Sunday Morning Classes

Objects of Worship

November 3–24, 10 a.m. in the Anderson Room, led by Rev. JoAnne Chase & Christy Grace

In the third part of this fall's "God" series, we will look at objects of worship and what it means to worship God alone. Out of our understanding of who God is and our gratitude for the gift of new life in Christ, we worship. God expects and commands that we worship God alone. But from the beginning, God recognized that people would be tempted to worship other things, to give priority and devotion to things other than God alone. The prophets Habakkuk and Jeremiah remind us that we will be sorely disappointed when we expect lifeless idols to impart life to us. Our impulse to worship is satisfied only when it is directed toward the living, life-giving God.

Organic Outreach for Ordinary

People: Parts 2 and 3

November 3 and 24, 10 a.m. in the Chapel

Organic Outreach for Ordinary People is a book about using your gifts and talents to naturally share with others the good news. We are all called to tell others about Jesus, but most of the time we feel inadequate, uncomfortable, and a failure at doing so. This book shows you how to pray and love others in ways you may not have thought about before. It equips you to naturally use your gifts and style to share the good news of Jesus Christ. God needs a person like you to bring his love and grace to the world. You and your talents are unique and needed by God . . . God uses ordinary people like us! Book are available outside the Church Office.

Raising Children in a Socially Unjust World

November 10 and 17, 10 a.m. in the Chapel, led by Michelle Sweeney and Carey Bebar

We invite the congregation to engage in courageous conversation about raising children in a socially unjust world. As Christians, we believe it is our duty to confront racism manifested in the world both at a personal and institutional level. In these two sessions, we hope to offer time for members of our congregation to understand the impact of social injustice in the world and arm ourselves with a better personal understanding of how racism manifests in our daily lives, affects our children's views of the world, and our relationships with Christ. We believe these conversations help us acknowledge that racism is real and create healthy spaces for children to understand how to thrive in diverse and complex situations.



We know this can be a complicated and overwhelming conversation. At the same time we know this is part of each of our stories and needs to be shared so we can grow in faith and, as Christians, work together to fight racism and change our world to be closer to God. Copies of Jennifer Harvey's book, *Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children in a Racially Unjust America*, are available outside the Church Office for \$15. Reading the book is recommended by not required for class attendance.

Sharing the Story of Christmas

December 1, 15, and 22 in the Chapel, led by Dr. Michael Graves
In celebrating the joyous and wondrous season of Advent, we will explore the stories of those in Scripture who experienced the first Christmas and reflect on how their stories intersect with the stories God is telling through our lives today. See the Advent insert for more information on this study.





sunday mornings

In November Gary Kids will experience THANKS: A 4-Week Series on the Wilderness at 10 a.m. Sunday School!

“Thank you.” It’s one of the first phrases most of us learn to say, but it’s also one of the most difficult things to say and really mean! That’s true for us today, but it was true for God’s people in the Old Testament too. After they escaped the land of Egypt, the Israelites spent forty years wandering through the wilderness on their way to the promised land. While they wandered, they struggled to remember all of the ways God had provided for them (kind of like we still do today). In this 4-week series, kids will discover that we can thank God for so much—for providing for us, for being God, for giving us wisdom, and for never giving up on us.



PJs & Pancakes Helping Hands Mission

Sunday, November 17, 9-10:50 a.m. in the Lower Level

Children ages Preschool 3-Grade 5 are invited to wear their PJs to church and enjoy a celebratory pancake breakfast after wrapping donated pajamas for Christmas Sharing. Pajama donations can be dropped off in the Lower Level through December 8.

Parent Tip of the Month:

Research shows that kids laugh an average of 300 times a day. The average adult? Only four times a day. If you want to connect more with kids and have more joy and gratitude, look for opportunities to laugh with your kids.



4th & 5th Grade Fellowship: Feed My Starving Children Family Outing

Tuesday, November 19, 5-8 p.m.

During this season of Thanksgiving, we are asking families to give back by serving at Feed My Starving Children in Aurora. Our packing session is from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Families are invited to meet us there at 6 p.m. Fourth and Fifth graders attending without parents will meet at Gary at 5 p.m. and return to Gary by 8 p.m. Sign up at garychurch.org or visit fmsc.org and use the Join Code: 7GNNKE.

Parent’s Night Out

Friday, November 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Drop off your children at Gary and enjoy a night out while the kids enjoy supervised play with their church friends. Parent’s Night Out is open to children ages 6 months-Grade 3. Reservations are required through Gary’s Church Office and a donation of \$5 per child is suggested.

See the Advent insert for details about these December **Gary Kids** and **Gary Kids Family** Events

FOLLOW THE STAR:
Our Sunday morning series



A Gingerbread Christmas

Sunday, December 1, 10 a.m. in Gamon Hall

4th & 5th Grade Fellowship: Christmas Sharing Service Project

Tuesday, December 10, 6-8 p.m. at Gary

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal for 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Sundays, December 15 and 22, 2-4 p.m.



Gary Youth Update

Midweek for Middle Schoolers

Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m.
in the Activity Center
November 6, 13, and 20 (Turkey
Bowl), December 4 and 11

High School Sunday Nights

Sundays, 7–8:30 p.m. in the
Activity Center
November 3, 10, and 17,
December 1 and 8

Gary Youth celebrates the holidays!

Wednesday, November 20,
7–8:30 p.m.

Our annual Thanksgiving
Turkey Bowl takes over
Midweek! Celebrate
Thanksgiving with us
playing ridiculous
Thanksgiving games!

Gary Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 15, 4–6 p.m.
Watch for details about
location.

Stay up-to-date and get reminders about upcoming events!

Follow our Facebook page at Gary Youth
and text "garyyouth" to 95577 to receive
text reminders about upcoming events
and hear about pop-up hang out
opportunities with Gary Youth!

Shifting from a Behavior-Based to a Grace-Based Gospel

Hello Parents!

Over the past year, we have been exploring the research
related to nurturing Sticky Faith in the lives of our students.

The Sticky Faith research from the Fuller Youth Institute
involved over 500 youth group students, asking them about
life and faith after high school. **When asked to describe what
it means to be a Christian, most young people pointed to a
list of behaviors.** They think God will like them better if they
can follow a list of "Do's" and "Don'ts" based on keeping their
sin in check.

Philosopher Dallas Willard called this "the gospel of sin man-
agement." It's the idea that what God really wants from us is
that we would behave better and sin less.

And it's radically different from the true gospel of grace that
Jesus offers.

The gospel of sin management requires you and me—and our
young people—to behave just right. In contrast, the true gos-
pel of grace invites us to **trust** Jesus, and it frames our obedi-
ence to God as a response to that trust.

**Young people don't learn their version of the gospel in a
vacuum.** We teach it to them, either outright or more subtly.
In our church and in our families, we want to be a community
where our students encounter the true grace of Jesus in their
lives. So I invite you to consider that question: How would
you describe what it means to be a Christian? Ask your teen-
ager. Answer it for yourself.

Your sister in Christ,
Alexa



A Note from Staff-Parish Relations

We will miss Alexa Isaac as she leaves
Gary Church to pursue her Master of
Divinity degree. Her last day on staff will
be Sunday, November 24. If you wish to
contribute to a love gift for Alexa,
contributions can be directed to the
Church Office. More details regarding
a celebration for Alexa will be provided
once plans have been finalized.



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

Do you have a favorite hymn that has special meaning to you? We invite everyone—children, students, and adults—to share your stories about your treasured hymns.

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

Please tell us your hymn story. In 100 words or fewer, write about what a hymn means to you. We will publish your stories in the program for our spring music event on February 23, *This Is My Story, This Is My Song*. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, January 15. Please email your stories to office@garychurch.org with the subject line Hymn Story.

Teens Break Age Barrier in Chancel Choir

Of Chancel Choir's 34 members, can you guess how many are teenagers? Six! The health and longevity of every church choir depends upon its youth, and we are blessed to include these terrific students in our ministry of singing: Sarah Rodriguez (16), Ella Rodriguez (16), Nick Graves (15), Carter Gaul (15), Leah Austin (15), and Faith Gaul (13).

We would like to shine the spotlight on two of our newest members. Both of these bright young women have grown up at Gary, and both are involved in many activities here at church and in their schools. Meet Leah and Faith!

Leah Austin is a sophomore at Wheaton-Warrenville South High School. When she is not playing tennis or lacrosse, she is practicing the piano or doing her chemistry homework. She is devoted to Gary Youth activities and loves participating in mission trips and singing with Broken Together. She says a personal invitation motivated her to join Chancel Choir. "I like talking to adults, and it's fun to hear all the conversations. It's really great to be part of a big group like this. You get all this experience, and it's so much fun to sing!"



Faith Gaul is in eighth grade at Edison Middle School. She especially enjoys Gary Youth retreats, and she is excited to be in confirmation class this year. Faith is a cross country runner and plays travel basketball. She likes math and show choir. This student is not shy on any stage! She says, "Since I was little, I have been in every choir that I can! It's really, really fun! And my mom and brother are in Chancel Choir, too, and they were telling me how the community is so exciting and welcoming."

I thought it would be really cool just to try it out. At first it was a little weird, because I was like the youngest person there! But everyone has a smile on their face and enjoys being there. I know that I am going to get to know those people really well, and I think that it will be a fun experience."

Each student who joins Chancel Choir is paired with a mentor who stays in touch, answers questions, acquaints the new singer with procedures, and helps them to feel welcome. Leah's mentor is Marsha Woodruff, and Faith's mentor is Debby Connor. Faith says, "Some people who have been in choir for years can help you along the way, and there are other students, too!"

Is the music too old-fashioned? Leah says, "I love the different kinds of music that we do! Sometimes the songs are more contemporary, and sometimes traditional, and there are some hymns I love. I walk into choir and I don't know what kind of music we are going to sing! It feels really good to be a part of this group and working together. When we sing in worship on Sunday morning it makes me feel happy, especially when you execute a song really well, you feel completed."



Current and former Gary Preschool teachers gathered to celebrate on October 20.

Thank You for Celebrating the Preschool's 50 Anniversary!

It was such a blessing to celebrate the preschool's 50 years with our church members and current and past preschool families. It was especially wonderful to visit with past teachers and alumni.

Thank you to Liesl Mann and Kim Olson for face painting and to Sandy Cline for her fine photo displays and balloon twisting. We appreciate everyone who shared photos of past years. It is so fun to see how much the children of Gary Preschool and Gary Church have grown! Thank you to the Joy Circle for providing the delicious cakes, which were enjoyed by all! Thank you to Carey Williams Bebar and Jen Hart for their help in celebrating the preschool anniversary during Children's Church. To John Olson and Clyde's Donuts, thank you so much for the donation of tasty donut holes. The children in Sunday School sang "Happy Birthday" to the preschool and enjoyed the donuts immensely!

Thank you all for your support these past 50 years. We look forward to many more years!

~ Kirsten McCluskey on behalf of the Gary Preschool Staff

MISSION *this month*

Because of your *generosity*

PADS

On September 29 and the morning of September 30, Gary Church volunteers fed and sheltered approximately 65 guests for DuPage PADS, which offers shelter year-round at various locations, providing both a hot dinner and a hot breakfast as well as a bag lunch. Gary also provided dinner to 4 additional guests. Our volunteers worked extremely hard to adapt and compensate for the difficulties because the hosting church was under construction and we ended up being over maximum capacity. As always, the food was absolutely amazing and many of the guests complemented the meal and expressed their appreciation. I would like to thank everyone (especially the energized and compassionate Gary Youth Volunteers) who donated their time and money, and I look forward to seeing everyone again in the spring!

~ Jesse Exner

RTO

The Missions Commission welcomes Sandy Koropp who, as a new co-leader with Judy Grote, will be taking on extensive responsibilities. Thanks to both Sandy and Judy for leading this effort to provide monthly meals for this ministry!

Thanks also to Pastor Brian and the Confirmation Class for enthusiastically preparing and serving the September meal.

~Joe Ruth

Habitat for Humanity

During the week of September 23, Gary's Work Force traveled to Lafayette, Indiana to put our hands and feet to work for the local Habitat for Humanity (HFH) chapter. This was Gary's 10th year and 14th trip to Lafayette to demonstrate God's love in action and promote Habitat's vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. The group included Joe & Lois Davisson, Bob & Fern Evelhoch, Jamie Geiger, Eric Ostensen, Elaine McCluskey, Dean Savell, Dan & Suzy Wible, Jim Langill, and Bob Trauner.

The team spent the week working on a new home for homeowner Megan Harrison. We painted walls, painted and installed interior doors, baseboard, door and window trim, kitchen cabinets and countertop. We also did some exterior trim work on the porch and siding. The weather was great all week. On Wednesday evening the team had dinner with Doug and Cindy Taylor and homeowner Megan. The dinner was a great opportunity to celebrate Doug and Cindy's recent retirement from Habitat for Humanity of Lafayette. Doug was a founding member of Habitat for Humanity's Lafayette chapter and has been its guiding force for 35 years.

Watch for information about dates to serve in 2020.

~Gerry Schmidt



Make a difference with...

...your gifts

November 9, 7:30–11 a.m., St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wheaton

ESSE Pancake Breakfast

Purchase \$5 breakfast tickets at the door to help support ESSE adult day services.

December 1

United Methodist Student Day

This special offering provides scholarships for United Methodist students.

December 1, 15, 22

Heifer Project Alternative Gifts

Donate an animal to help families around the world become self-sufficient.

December 29

Fifth Sunday Appeal for United Voices for Children

This coalition of congregations and agencies supports children, youth, and families in need.

...your hands-on service

Christmas Sharing

See p. 6 for details on ways to serve.

Outreach Seniors' Christmas Luncheon

Once again, Gary Church is partnering with First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton to host the annual Christmas luncheon for the Older Adults Program at Outreach Community Center. Our church has graciously helped each year with set-up or clean-up, making food, serving seniors at their tables, as well as making financial donations. For many of these seniors, this annual event is the highlight of their holiday season, and for some, their only celebration.

This year's luncheon is Friday, December 20. Approximately 150 seniors will be served a traditional holiday dinner with all the trimmings, enjoy holiday music from Franklin Middle School students, and receive an individual gift of a set of bath towels.

A \$12 donation will provide one older adult a place at the annual Christmas Luncheon table. (Please make checks to Gary with Outreach in the memo.) Watch for the sign-up sheets in the Commons in November.

Thank you for helping “bathe the seniors with love” this holiday season. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Holmes through the Church Office.



Habitat for Humanity Around the World

There are opportunities near and far to participate in Habitat for Humanity's global mission—Everyone deserves a decent place to live. We invite you to consider how you can serve in this impactful ministry. Contact Gerry Schmidt or the Church Office with your questions about getting involved.

- *DuPage HFH*

It has been a busy summer at DuPage HFH. The affiliate started construction on the first 2-unit townhome of a new 27 townhome development project in Hanover Park. Volunteer days are Wednesday through Saturday each week. You can find more information about volunteering at DuPage's website http://www.chicagolandhabitat.org/site/PageServer?pagename=projects_dupage

- *2020 Habitat for Humanity Global Village Trip Opportunities*

Want to learn more about substandard housing around the globe, and what you can do to make an impact? Gerry Schmidt will be leading two Global Village build trips in 2020: Tecpan, Guatemala May 2–10 and Asunción, Paraguay August 2–9. Habitat for Humanity International's Global Village program provides volunteers an opportunity to build homes and experience the local culture in more than 40 countries. No construction experience is required—only an open mind, flexibility, and a desire to work hard.

Connecting at Gary

Explore Membership

Sunday, November 17, 1:30–3 p.m.

If you are considering membership or just want to learn more about the United Methodist Church and the history and mission of our Gary congregation, this class is for you. Come share your questions and get better acquainted with the pastors. Please RSVP to Kim Austin at kaustin@garychurch.org.

Next Steps Lunch

Sunday, December 8, 12 p.m.

Ready to meet more people at Gary, find ways to use your gifts to serve, explore ways to continue your faith journey? Join the pastors and staff for lunch and to explore how you can connect within the ministries of Gary Church. Please RSVP to the Church Office by December 4.

Trustees CORNER

“Pardon our dust” has been the theme for this summer and late fall. We’ve had several projects going on, both planned and unplanned.

A huge unplanned project has been the cleanup and restoration of the Lower Level Lobby after we had two sewer backup incidents in September. Preliminary investigation indicates that the backup was caused by damage to the City of Wheaton sewer line at the corner of W. Wesley and Hale Streets by Commonwealth Edison during the city’s downtown construction project. Because of the sewer back up, we must replace drywall and carpet on the lower level. By the time you read this article, the area should be restored to its original condition. We thank you for your patience during this project.

In the area of planned projects, we installed new carpet in the Sanctuary Chancel and started our third summer of repairs to the limestone exterior, which is nearly complete. The repairs have fixed several lingering water leaks that, over time, have caused damage to the interior plaster walls. Plaster repairs have been completed in the east entrance to the Sanctuary and on the walls surrounding several of the stained-glass windows. We also repaired the water-damaged plaster on the wall in the tower stairwell and repainted the stairwell.



A big behind-the-scenes success this summer was identifying and repairing a foundation water leak in Gamon Hall that has been a lingering problem for several years. After a lot of investigation, Eric Ostensen and Gerry Schmidt identified three small square 1”x1” holes in the foundation wall. We found small remnants of rotted lumber in the holes and we speculate the lumber was used to hold the foundation forms in place when the church foundation was poured back in 1929/30. Over time, this lumber rotted away, leaving holes in the foundation through which ground water could pass. Left is a picture of Eric getting ready to fill one of the holes in the foundation with hydraulic cement.

Please don’t hesitate to contract the Trustees through the Church Office if you have questions or have noticed something that needs to be repaired.

~ Gary UMC
Trustees Committee



Gary Preschool Registration for 2020-2021 Opens Soon!

With the holidays upon us, it is already time to begin preschool enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year. In November, as usual, we begin registration for currently enrolled preschool families. We have classes available for both three- and four-year-olds. If you have a child who will be 3 or 4 by September 1, 2020, you have the opportunity to register between December 2 and January 4, 2020 before registration opens up to the public.

Gary United Methodist Preschool is in its 50th year of service to the surrounding community. We are proud of the reputation we have maintained over the past 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 morning, and a Pre-K class on MWF afternoons. The Pre-Kindergarten class is similar to the a.m. 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 an Enrichment Class. Parents may opt for the regular three-day program or the four-day program which includes the Enrichment Class on Thursday afternoons.

Parents of Kindergarteners may also send their children to the Enrichment class. If you have questions regarding classes, please contact the Preschool Director at preschool@garychurch.org

We also offer a Parents' Morning Out program, which runs Monday-Friday. Families can register children as young as 18 months for one, two, or three days a week. This program is a great way for children to "enter school" and begin to spend some time away from parents or 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. Please return the application with a non-refundable \$100 registration fee by January 4, 2020. If you would like to schedule an appointment to visit our preschool and PMO programs, you may do so by calling the Church Office or emailing Kirsten McCluskey at preschool@garychurch.org.



Gary's Gift Cards

It is not too early to start your Christmas shopping! And what easier way than to let Gary's Gift Cards do the shopping for you. This Gary United Methodist Preschool program 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!

To purchase Gary's Gift Cards, complete the other side and return the form and your check (payable to Gary Preschool) to the Church Office or the preschool by 11 a.m. on Friday, December 13. You may shop online at shopwithscrip.com (Enter code E278BD5913386 for Gary Preschool), drop your check at the church, and have your cards delivered. Orders will be processed each Friday, through December 13.

Do you need some gift ideas?

For Her: Macy's, Kay Jeweler, Williams Sonoma, Bath & Body Works, 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, American Eagle, Gap

For Kids: The Children's Place, Disney, American Girl, Build a Bear

For Teachers: Barnes & Noble, Container Store, Target, Starbucks

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 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, 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 Friday, starting November 1. Final orders are due on Friday, December 13 at 11 a.m.

Trunk or Treat

Thank you to everyone who came out to support Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 26! The hospitality to the community was abundant, the costumes were adorable, and the trunks were spook-tacular!



Walk with Gary in the Downtown Wheaton Christmas Parade

Friday, November 29, 6 p.m.

For the second time, Gary Church will participate in the Downtown Wheaton Christmas Parade, a time-honored tradition on the day after Thanksgiving. Come help invite the community to our Christmas Eve services and share the message that "Jesus is the Light of the World" by walking in the parade. Afterward, we'll enjoy some of the Downtown Wheaton festivities together. To participate contact, Kim Austin at kaustin@garychurch.org



Harvest Fest

Saturday, October 19, Winfield Church held their annual Harvest Fest. It was a beautiful fall, family day and a great time of fellowship, food, tractor rides, games and activities.



WinChimes

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

Sunday Mornings

Adult Christian Education, 9:30 a.m.

Traditional Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.

Children's Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.

Someone You Should Know: Ed Rahe

By Pastor Bruce Anderson

The Rahe's joined Winfield Community United Methodist Church in 1964, shortly after it moved to its new location on Jefferson Street. After a tour in the Army, Ed became an inde-



pendent contractor and his wife Sue was a nurse. Their three children Brian, Eddy, and Kathy were raised and confirmed in the church.

Ed was Chair of the Trustees and also of the Pastor Parish Committee. He notes that while the outside of the church is

much the same as it used to be, the inside has changed quite a bit. He recalls that there used to be wood slats in an inverted "V" pattern and drapes at the front of the church, and an eternal flame burning above the altar that tended to blacken the wall. He said the biggest job he was involved with was working with Pastor Chris Winkler to get the gravel parking lot paved. It took a lot longer than he thought it should because they kept finding problems with drainage on the lot.

He recalled that there was a garden and a chicken coop for the pastor's family who lived just north of the church in what is now the yellow house on Sunnyside. That changed when the parsonage was moved. Some of that space is now used for the Community Garden.

Ed remembers his kids attending the preschool at the church and being involved with them as a narrator in the Christmas and Easter pageants.

He also remembers the visits that were made to their son when he was often hospitalized at West Suburban Hospital, and appreciates the visits that Sue gets at home with her dementia. Ed has been taking care of Sue in their home, with the help of their son Brian, for five years. It is quite the labor of love and devotion.

Ed is quite thankful that the church was able to help them get a new roof for their home. When the patches that the church made were

not enough to keep the water out of their home, the members reached out to people they knew who might be willing and able to help and started a "Go Fund Me" page. John Miller reached out to his connections with the Chamber of Commerce and Rotary and found Israel Martinez, owner of D&M Home Improvements, who had been thinking that it would be nice to honor his brother in the Marine Corps by helping out a deserving veteran with a free roof. Ed, an Army veteran, is the first recipient of D&M's generosity. Ed said that the free roof is "a miracle." There was no way they could have replaced it otherwise. God is still working.



Ed Rahe, long-time member, former Trustee, devoted husband, miracle recipient, and someone you should know.



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

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

The Gift of Generosity

We thank everyone who supported Gary Church this year and look forward to your continued support. If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings or plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to consider our electronic giving options. Set up your on-line giving at garychurch.org. You will need to create a profile if you haven't already. Then you will be able to set up withdrawals from either your checking account or your credit/debit card. You can also opt in to be able to donate by text. If you have questions, contact Deb Evans through the Church Office.

If you are thinking about doing a stock transfer to Gary Church contact Deb Evans through the Church Office. The transfer process is taking seven to ten business days, and in order to count for this year's tax credits, the transfer has to be completed by December 31.

Update from the Task Force on Gary Church, United Methodism, and Human Sexuality

In response to the Special Session of the General Conference, and the subsequent passing of the Traditional Plan, Gary Church established a Task Force on Gary Church, United Methodism, and Human Sexuality. This leadership team includes Greg Perisho, Elaine McCluskey, Eric Ostensen, Michelle Sweeney, James Morris, Carey Williams Bebar, and Rev. Dr. Chris Pierson. The Task Force is committed to providing the congregation with information, discussion

forums, educational opportunities, and resources that allow for transparency and reflection in this time of flux.

Below are summaries and article links from United Methodist News sources that outline three of the many petitions submitted for the denomination's future to be considered at General Conference 2020 which will meet in May. In alphabetical order, these include:

• **The Indianapolis Plan**, submitted by the Rev. Kent Millard and assembled by a group of centrists, traditionalists, and progressives. This plan includes provisions for separating into different denominations depending on views around homosexuality. <https://newmethodism.wordpress.com/>

• **New Forms of Unity**, submitted by the Texas Conference's Bishop Scott Jones. Under this plan, an annual conference could become a self-governing church or join an existing one. Jones first began working on the plan with the Michigan Conference's Bishop David Bard. Bishops do not have a vote at General Conference. www.umnews.org/en/news/two-bishops-offer-plan-for-denominations-future

• **The UMCNext Proposal**, assembled by a group of centrists and progressives. This proposal lifts restrictions related to gay ordination and same-sex weddings, while allowing local churches that disagree to depart and organize into new forms of Methodism. <https://umcnext.com/proposal/>

These three plans were all drafted in the United States. Hard copies of the plans can be found in the Task Force on Gary Church, United Methodism, and Human Sexuality Resource Binder located in the Church Office, or online at garychurch.org under the menu tab.

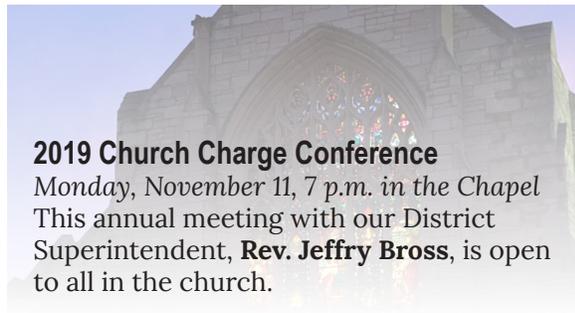
Additionally, a **Special Session of the Northern Illinois Conference** will be held on Saturday, November 16 in Malta, IL and will include a report from the Exploration Team. This team was formed after the June session to explore our future as an Annual Conference, in light of the passing of the Traditional Plan at the UMC General Conference in February. The report will include a draft statement defining who we are and the values we share as a conference. A process for feedback and comments to the Exploration Team will be in place over the next few months so that the team can craft legislation for the June 2020 annual conference. See umcnic.org for additional information.

Thank You

To all my friends at Gary:

I recently received two get well cards signed by so many of you. I might not even mention it, but my association with Gary Church over the years has meant a great deal to me and my family.

Thank you for your prayers and concern.
George Smith



Our Mission

Grow in faith, knowledge and understanding of Christ as Lord and Savior

Serve our community and the world by sharing time, gifts, talents

Nurture one another through worship, fellowship, love

Demonstrate our discipleship to Christ

Proclaim God's grace and Good News

Congratulations

Joel, Kim & Harper Scata on the birth of their daughter and sister, Emerson, on October 2. Grandparents are Pastor Jamie & Sherri Geiger.

Todd & Debra Hafner on the birth of their great-nephew, Thatcher Solomon Kleiss, on October 2, and their niece, Ellerie Rose Hafner, on October 5.

Baptism

Corinne Jeanne Wanner, daughter of Brent & Marla Wanner, on October 13

Kate Elise Figg, daughter of Sean & Dawn Figg, on October 13

Our Sympathy

The Family of Brian McIntosh. Brian passed away on October 1.

Gene & Deborah Green on the death of Deborah's sister, Diahann Witter, on October 12

Bill & Vickie Austin on the death of Bill's brother, Tom Austin, on October 23

Reg & Barbara Heeley on the death of Reg's sister-in-law, Maureen Heeley, on October 23

Charles Harrison, Roberta Valent, Charrisse, and Mark Harrison on the death of Charles' father, Don Harrison, on October 25

Poinsettias for Christmas

Poinsettias are available for purchase to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve. The cost is \$12 per plant. Please fill out the form below and return it to the Church Office by Sunday, December 8. Plants will be in our Sanctuary for the evening services on December 24 and may be picked up after the 10 p.m. service or during office hours.

Name _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

flowers given in honor/memory/other of _____

I will pick up poinsettia(s) _____

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





224 North Main Street
Wheaton, IL 60187
630-668-3100 phone
630-668-8279 fax
www.garychurch.org

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

Nonprofit Org.
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60188
PERMIT NO. 6014

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED
PUBLISHED MONTHLY



Thanksgiving Eve Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

We invite you to gather for a Thanksgiving meal before our worship service. Whether you don't have family in the area, don't have the resources for a meal on your own, or would just like to share a meal with your Gary family, we have a spot for you at our table!

RSVP through the Church Office by November 19, and if you are able, sign up to roast a turkey, bring a side, or help with clean-up. A sign-up sheet will also be in the Commons.

Thanksgiving Eve Service at 7 p.m.

All are welcome at this special service as we come together to give thanks to God for our many blessings.