

Chimes

The Newsletter of Gary Church and Winfield Community Church
October 2020



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Sunday Worship beginning September 13

In person at 9 a.m.
(limited to 50, registration required)

Livestream at 9 a.m.

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 November *Chimes* newsletter are due by October 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.



Together With God

by Rev. Dr. Chris Pierson

“We can hear God’s voice most clearly when we are quiet, uncluttered, undistracted—when we are still. Be still, be quiet, and then you begin to see with the eyes of your heart.” ~Archbishop Desmond Tutu¹

The gospels share a simple yet often overlooked story. We are told that Jesus often withdrew to lonely places (the wilderness) to pray. We desperately need those moments of stillness if we are to grow and to perceive God’s voice.

One spiritual practice that has been a gift in my life, especially during the coronavirus pandemic, has been my morning devotions. It is time set apart together with God and God’s word, and the reflections of Christian writers.

Sometimes those moments are just what I need, providing comforting and inspirational words. Then there are those times when my devotional hits me in a way I didn’t expect, and I am confronted by questions or topics that I’d rather avoid. I am compelled to look at those areas of my life where my walk with God and my treatment of others is less than what God would desire for me.

As I continue to grow and mature in my faith I have come to understand that I need those times when I am lovingly confronted as much, if not more, than those times when I am comforted. Though now in these times, I suspect, we could all use a bit more comfort. We grow in those moments of stillness and we grow when we can be honest with ourselves about where we are in relationship with God, with ourselves, and with others.

When Jesus returned from the wilderness he was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. He went to the synagogue, the gathering place, and said, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

If Jesus needed those moments so that he could hear God’s voice, so do we. Likewise, we need to seek opportunities to come together with God’s people and share our struggles, visions, dreams, and calling (whether we gather in person or online). Gary Church is not perfect. Yet, it is a wonderful place to grow in our relationship with God and with others. Look in the pages of this newsletter for the many opportunities to grow, look for the many opportunities to be co-workers with God and others, and look for the many opportunities we have to be sent to impact and transform the world around us.

¹ Desmond Tutu, *God Has A Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time* (New York, Doubleday, 2004), page 100



TOGETHER WITH GOD

*For we are co-workers in God’s service;
you are God’s field, God’s building.*

1 CORINTHIANS 3:9 NIV

Adult Christian Education and Discipleship

Judges

Mondays, through October 19, 7 p.m. on Zoom, led by Dr. Michael Graves

The Old Testament book of Judges offers a picture of what it looks like when people forget about God and pursue their own selfish interests. Overall, Judges tells the story of Israel's downward spiral into disaster, although there are also moments of faith. God emerges as patient with Israel, and yet committed to seeing them learn to trust and obey. Please join us for this journey through Judges as we explore and discuss remarkable characters. Register on the Adult Study Opportunities page of garychurch.org.



The Power and Challenge of a Girl's Education

Mondays, October 26–November 9
7 p.m. on Zoom, led by Cathy Mousseau
and Judy Selby

She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying... But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:39-41

Martha was frustrated because the cultural norms of her day expected women to be busy in the kitchen rather than learning at Jesus' feet. Fast forward two thousand years to today when 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. We will examine the barriers to a girl's education, the economic and social motivations to improve the situation, and review examples of powerful Christian efforts that are making a difference.

Kathy Cathey, a volunteer for the Kenyan Children's Fund in Africa will join us November 2 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.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."
~Nelson Mandela



Worship Talk Resumes

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

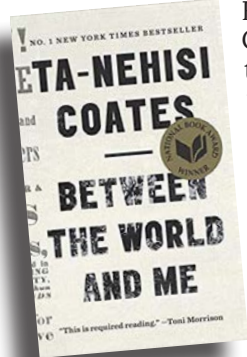
We loved the connection created by this group so much that we're bringing it back and welcome others be part of the conversation. Grab your cup of coffee, click on the Worship Talk link on the website, and join the discussion of the morning service.



Anti-Racism Book Club: *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Wednesday, October 28, 7 p.m.
on Zoom

In a profound work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation's history and current crisis. All are invited to read and discuss this Pulitzer Prize Finalist at the Anti-Racist Book Club's October meeting. To join in the conversation, please purchase the book on your own and register on the Adult Study Opportunities page of garychurch.org.



Online Fellowship with Gary Walkers/Talkers

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.
on Zoom

If you are craving a connection to Gary friends, you are welcome to participate in these casual conversations that allow participants to grow closer as a community of faith. Contact the Church Office for a link to the Zoom meetings.

Men's Bible Study

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

Our study of *The Miracles of Jesus* continues. All men are welcome to attend for study and fellowship. Contact Clay Watkins through the Church Office to register.



United Methodist Women Circles Calendar

Craft Circle

Wednesday, October 7, 1–4 p.m.
in the Anderson Room

Making ornaments from vintage sheet music

Susanna Wesley

Monday, October 19 at 7 p.m.
Enjoying a time of fellowship

Joy Circle

Tuesday, October 20, 7 p.m. on Zoom
Continuing discussion of racial justice
and identifying tangible actions for
advancing the cause

Knitting Circle

monthly email messages
Staying connected by sharing projects and ideas

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact the Church Office.



Happy October! While your kids are busy planning their best costumes for Halloween, we hope you take a second or two this month to trick-or-TREAT yourself (maybe with an extra nap or your favorite snack?) because you are an incredible parent.

What We're Teaching



This month, we are going through the major events in the life of prophet Elijah, all of which are nothing short of amazing! Elijah's ministry took place during turbulent times for God's people—so much so that Elijah felt utterly alone at times. Sometimes he was literally alone. But God's presence and power with Elijah throughout those times is undeniable. Through these stories, kids will discover how amazing it is that God takes care of us, God knows what's best for us, God speaks to us, and all in all, God does SO MANY amazing things!

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 Kassie!

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 that can be picked up in the Church Office once a month starting on the first Sunday.

Zoom Party | KAHOOT

Sunday at October 11, 2 p.m. on Zoom

All children ages preschool 3's–grade 5 are invited to a virtual party with actual fun. This month, we're playing KAHOOT and learning that God knows what's best for us!

Helping Hands Mission Pop Tabs for Kids

Save your pop tabs! We are collecting them 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 off outside the Church Office through November, or contact Carey Williams Bebar to schedule a pick-up.

Grow Together Monthly Meet-up

Sunday, October 25, 2 p.m. on Zoom

Designed for third through fifth graders, this monthly meet-up will focus on the Bible stories featured in our Grow curriculum, and allow time for older elementary students to hang out and grow together. This month, kids wearing Halloween costumes will get a treat delivered to their home!



Spook-tacular Scavenger Hunt!

Saturday, October 17, 1-3 p.m.

Fourth and fifth graders are invited to a Spook-tacular Scavenger Hunt in Downtown Wheaton! We will meet at and return to Gary. RSVP to Carey Williams Bebar at cbebar@garychurch.org.

family fun events

Gather. Play. Pray. We know that virtual meet-ups are not the same as in-person gatherings. That's why each month we are hosting in-person events for families. Limited to 50 participants and compliant with our Health Team policies, these monthly offerings let families gather, play, and pray together.



Apple Picking at Jonamac Orchard

Saturday, October 10, 11 a.m.

Nothing says fall like apple picking and pumpkins! Gary Families are invited to Jonamac Orchard, 19412 Shabbona Rd, Malta, IL for this Family Fun Event which includes a Corn Maze, Jumping Pillow, Hayrides, Cider House, Barn Yard Play Area, U-Pick Orchard (+\$15 per ½ peck bag of apples, up to four people may pick per bag). Plus, you will get a special Apple Lesson on the Trinity from Pastor Carey! Cost is \$5 per person for general admission. Apple pecks can be purchased onsite. Jonamac Orchard's COVID-19 restrictions apply. Registration is limited. See the Gary Kids page of garychurch.org.

Mini Golf Mayhem

Saturday, November 21, 2-4 p.m.



Looking for an event that is socially distanced, fun, and indoors? Come to Mini Golf Mayhem for 18 holes of pure joy! Socially-distanced throughout Gary Church, this family friendly event will include games, prizes, and a little church approved competition! Registration for your tee time will be available soon at garychurch.org. Price of entry is a suggested donation of \$20 per family for Christmas Sharing.

Design a Hole for Mini Golf Mayhem

Missing this year's Trunk or Treat and want to find a use for all that creative energy? Design a hole for Mini Golf Mayhem! You can use literally anything you have! Design ideas include Breakfast in Bed, Where's the Baby, Splish Splash, and more. Sign up to design a hole on the Gary Kids page of garychurch.org. Prizes awarded for the best holes!



Gary Youth Upcoming Activities

Middle School

Wednesdays

October 7, 14, 21

6–7:30 p.m. on Zoom

Re:Form curriculum

October 28

6–7:30 p.m.

in the Activity Center

Halloween Party

High School

Sundays

October 4, 11, 18

6–7:30 p.m. on Zoom

Re:Form curriculum

October 25

6–7:30 p.m.

in the Activity Center

Halloween Party

While these are our plans right now, we leave it open for changes. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Daniel Lee at dlee@garychurch.org.

Before participating, complete the 2020–21 registration form at garychurch.org/ministries/gary-youth.

We Are in This Together!

by Pastor Daniel Lee

Golf Outing

At Gary Church, we are doing youth ministry together! On Sunday, August 30, twenty-nine golfers and seventeen hole sponsors teamed up at this year's Golf Outing at Klein Creek Golf Club. It was a beautiful day to have some fun golfing with friends and family to fundraise for a great cause.

Together, we raised over \$4,000! Praise God! Every dollar helps us provide quality programming for our youth so that they have every opportunity to discover how much God loves them and equips them to be Christ's ambassadors in our world. Thank you, golfers, hole sponsors, and organizer Bob Martin for supporting Gary Youth!



Unboxing Party

As we prepared to launch Gary Youth 2020–2021, we wanted to make our first youth group extra special. We asked Gary Church to help us buy delicious snacks and other needed supplies for our youth to enjoy. We posted these items on Amazon Wishlist and in less than two weeks, all the items were purchased! We are so grateful for your generosity and willingness to reach out and lift up our youth as they begin this school year.

They were so happy to receive their favorite snacks. I heard, "Yes! I got three bags of Gold Fish Crackers," "I love Swedish Fish," and "Sea Weed?" (Yes, we threw in a seaweed snack.) Gary Youth feels all of your love. We are so grateful for your partnership as we disciple our youth in God's love. Thank you! Oh... and we ended our night with some fireworks.



A Question that Must be Answered

by Jennifer Whiting

The sun is setting, and I pull my chair up to the computer desk at home. I click on the Zoom link and wait eagerly to join Kevin Lange's "Hymns at Twilight." I open my well-worn hymnal and try to sing the familiar tunes and sweet lyrics while Kevin leads us. His artful interpretation brings out the meaning of every verse.

"Thro' all the tumult and the strife" (the piano rumbles), "I hear the music ringing" (treble notes play like bells), "It finds an echo in my soul" (the piano answers with an echo), "How can I keep from singing?"

Hearing great truths set to great poetry and seeing the dear faces of my Gary family in their little Zoom squares, I imagine sitting in that glorious sanctuary, immersed in the fellowship, the resonance, the harmony of voices and hearts and minds.

I miss the sympathetic vibrations. I miss the overtones. I miss the physical feeling of unity in Christ when we synchronize our breathing and shape our phrases together. With these longings, emotion rises in my throat. My voice shuts down and I cannot sing. I can only listen. I imagine this happens to many of you, too.

When you are unable to sing, there is a tender gift in belonging to the body of believers. They keep singing for you. They hold forth your song when you can't. *Because we are one body, their singing is also your singing.*

And on another day when you are able to sing, when the throat is clear and the emotions are joyful and the voice is flowing, you might hold forth a song for someone else. That's how it works.

Kevin wrote to me about the hymn "How Can I Keep from Singing?" He says, "It poses a question that must be answered. And if Paul and Silas could sing in chains in prison after being beaten, surely, we can sing while staying closer to home than usual. But there is a sweetness in communal song that wraps our souls with strength and purpose, and I am eager for the occasion we can return to congregational song."

And that is why we close every "Hymns at Twilight" with "How Can I Keep from Singing?" The poetry "finds an echo" in our souls, especially these days when we are forbidden from singing together. When it is safe to do so, we will join our voices again. We need one another, and we need to sing. We are just more keenly aware now.



My life flows on in
endless song;
Above earth's lamentation,
I hear the sweet, tho'
far-off hymn
That hails a new creation;
Thro' all the tumult
and the strife
I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul—
How can I keep
from singing?

~ Attributed to Pauline T.,
published by Robert Lowry
(1869)

Musical Opportunities at Gary Church



Gary Handbells

Our Bell Directors have been carefully watching the recommendations for gatherings and the guidelines from Gary's Health Committee. Based on that information, here are the plans for each of the Gary Handbell Ensembles this fall:

Altar Bells and Sanctuary Ringers (HS-Adult):

We play 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. (Strict guidelines for sanitation, face masks, time limits, and distancing are in place for in-person meetings.)

This is a great time for new musicians to join, so contact Sharon Schmidt through the Church Office if you are interested.

Glory Ringers (Grades 7-12):

Director Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal will contact musicians regarding possible small-ensemble music as outlined above for Altar Bells and Sanctuary Ringers.

Good News Ringers (Grades 3-6): This group is on hiatus until further notice.

All of these plans are subject to revision. We look forward to sharing our gift of music with you in worship either in person or online.

~ **Sharon Schmidt**
Director of Handbell Ministries

Hymns at Twilight

Tuesday, October 27, 7 p.m.
via Gary Church Livestream

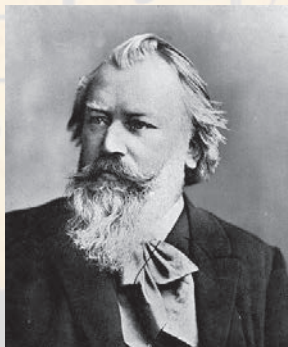
Open your hymnal and sing along as Kevin Lange hosts and accompanies this livestreamed event for the whole family. Our theme is "Together with God," and we invite you to suggest hymns that express your fellowship with the Lord. What hymns describe God's love for you? What songs remind you of God's nearness? Email your song suggestions to office@garychurch.org and plan to join us! (Access the livestream at garychurch.org, or find the link on our Facebook page.)



The Brahms Institute for Singers

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

It is not too late to jump into this exceptional opportunity for singers! Anthony Quaranta leads vocal warmups, Jennifer Whiting introduces choral anthems, and distinguished musical guests help us discover Brahms' Requiem. Our remaining guest speakers include Jane Eaglen (soprano, New England Conservatory), Dr. Bill Phemister (Emeritus, Wheaton College Conservatory), Dr. Eric Johnson (DCA,



Northern Illinois University), Dr. Orna Arania (Voice, Northern Illinois University), and Dr. Pearl Shangquan (DCA, Calvin University). Please register on the Adult Study Opportunities page of garychurch.org to reserve your spot, borrow a music score, and receive the Zoom link each week.

THE SAVING GRACE OF WORSHIP TALK

"What is the Holy Spirit calling you to do?"

Rev. JoAnne offered this question as homework early on in Worship Talk, the weekly Zoom meeting that focuses on fellowship and the week's sermon.

I was joining in from San Francisco where I had lived for 34 years. But about a year or so ago a voice came into my head that said, "LEAVE! NOW!!" This voice was not mine, it made no sense, would require me to sacrifice my own plans for my future, and would be costly. So, while deep inside I recognized this voice as the Holy Spirit, I denied it. This denial began to eat at me and I suddenly recalled, and longed for, a familiar Rose Window. I discovered that I wanted to return to Wheaton, my hometown, and Gary United Methodist Church where I had attended Sunday School many years ago. Denial was becoming more difficult.

When family business unexpectedly brought me to Wheaton in December of last year, I visited Gary and found myself telling those who greeted me that I wanted to return and was being called back. In my mind I had no idea how I would do it. Three months later COVID arrived and all of our lives were changed. In frantic search of something familiar, I went to Gary's website, began to watch the services online, and learned about Worship Talk. I could be there virtually! I could join in conversation with others from Gary!

Rev. JoAnne and the whole group welcomed me in, and then one week came the question... "What is the Holy Spirit calling you to do?" There could be no more denial. "I'm being called back to Gary" was the only way I could respond.

With that I received immediate support and encouragement from everyone in the group. "When will we see you? How are your plans coming?" And although I had few plans, the vision began to take form. One week I wasn't feeling well and didn't join Worship Talk. That next week I received cards in the mail saying I was missed and they hoped I was well and were sending their prayers. The virtual became tangible and I knew I had to take a leap of faith because I had so many people—and God—to catch me. I gave away most of my belongings and got on a plane. Long-time friends let me stay with them, and in no time at all God's grace provided me with a job, an apartment, and a car.

Today I returned to the sanctuary at Gary. The chimes rang out their greeting, I took in the sight of the Rose Window, and I joined in fellowship with familiar faces from Worship Talk. Through Rev.

JoAnne's ministry and the welcoming support and prayers of the Worship Talk group I am indeed Home. *Thank you all. God bless you.*

~ Heather Jewell



MISSION *this month*

If your household is like ours, you are being overwhelmed with requests for your support by mail, on the phone, in emails and the internet in general, plus the constant flood of bad news from all media. It would be surprising if this did not create numbness and an urge to indifference towards all the troubles in the world, but we need to remember all the human faces behind these stories and requests. The pandemic, economic crisis, and building natural catastrophes around the world are increasing displacement, hunger, illness, loneliness, and despair in our brothers and sisters around the world. It is important that those of us who are more fortunate do not forget them.

You can help in person through the Gary Cares Ministry, or go online to check what you can do for Pads, PRC, or Outreach Ministries. If you have the financial means to help, go to garychurch.org/give or look on the Mission and Outreach page of garychurch.org for more information on how to help our various missions. Christ bid us to remember those who are hungry, thirsty, strangers, prisoners, sick or in need, and to care for them (Matthew 25:37-40).

~Joe Ruth
Mission and Outreach Chair

Make a difference with...

...your gifts

Red Bird Mission

October is not a month when we normally consider our support for Redbird Mission in Beverly Kentucky, but Appalachia coal country has been hard hit by the dual pandemic and economic crises. Our friends at Redbird did extensive renovations and adaptations to their clinic in order to deal with COVID-19 cases, but they have continuing needs for PPE and medical supplies. They also continue to require food support for families in their remote valleys. In addition, the region can also expect to face severe weather issues, as they have for the last several years. So if you can find it in your hearts (and pocketbooks) to send them support through Garychurch.org/give, the text giving function, or checks sent to the Church Office, you will bless not only Redbird but their clients and yourselves.

~Joe Ruth



ESSE Centers Open!

The ESSE (Ecumenical Support Services for the Elderly) family is happy to let you know that all three of our centers are open again to provide day care for the seniors. Open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m, the centers in Glen Ellyn, Wheaton, and Warrenville are complying with the state mandates for safe care with masks being used, social distancing, and cleaning routines.

Having kept our participants busy with weekly calls, activities, and video exercises, we are excited to welcome them back to in-person activities, games, lunches, and many of our usual program elements with some modifications. To keep up with what is happening you can visit ESSE's Facebook page at ESSE Adult Day Care.



Please note: The Annual Pancake Breakfast usually held in November has been cancelled. To help ESSE, you can donate through the church or bring in some treats for our seniors. If you would like to provide baked treats, fruit, or other snacks, please contact Nancy Berrie directly at 630-260-3773 to select a date.

If you have questions about the ESSE program, please contact me through the Church Office. Thanks everyone for your continued support!

~Debby Connor
ESSE Representative

MISSION *this month*

...your hands-on service



Habitat for Humanity Mission Update

Our annual Habitat for Humanity mission trip to Lafayette, IN is set for **October 26-30**. We usually work Monday morning through Friday noon, and you are welcome to come for the whole week or just a day. HFH of Lafayette is going to be starting a new home in mid-October which should work out well with our scheduled work week.

No construction experience is required, and there are tasks for all. Come join the fun and learn some new home construction skills.

Please contact Gerry Schmidt or the Church Office if you have any questions or are interested in joining this mission trip.



Christmas Sharing

While the mission of Christmas Sharing—providing assistance to local families in need at Christmas time—will not change, this annual community outreach will be significantly different this year. All eight participating churches will work together to use the Northern Illinois Food Bank to provide food for eligible families from Wheaton Warrenville School District 200. Using a drive-by process, food will be distributed at three sites. Gary Church will team up with St. John Lutheran and Trinity Episcopal to help at the St. John site.

The city-wide Christmas Sharing Board has determined this is the safest and best way to meet the needs of community families this year and keep everyone involved as safe as possible. How can we help? Gary Church will be collecting monetary donations to pay for the Food Bank services and to add gift cards for the families. Some volunteers will be needed on Friday evening and Saturday morning, December 11 and 12 to load cars as guests pass through at St. John Lutheran. We will provide more details soon for serving our neighbors this year and will look forward to a time when we can welcome everyone back to Gary and all the fellowship that allows.

~Shelley Kenyon and Joe Davisson
Christmas Sharing Co-Chairs

For we are co-workers in God's Service
1 Corinthians 3:9 NIV

Congratulations to Barbara Garlinger and Deb Hafner !

Both have been part of the Church Office staff for 25 years.



Deb joined Gary Church in 1986 and began working in the Church Office in September of 1995, leaving her previous job as a proofreader. Beginning with answering the phone, waiting on people who came into the office, and preparing the newsletter and bulletin, her duties have evolved over the years and now include working on financials among other things. Many of her responsibilities involve working one-on-one with the congregation, which Deb feels is one of the best parts of her job. Soon after she began, the church upgraded its technology to include networked computers and an electronic membership program; however, Deb recalls initially keeping track of membership information on a Rolodex. As things changed over the years—different mission focuses, building projects, technology upgrades—Deb muses that the people have stayed the same, always loving and caring. At Gary, Deb also plays in Altar Bells, teaches Sunday School, and co-chairs the Susanna Wesley Circle. She and her husband Todd have four sons, A.J., Ben, Manuel, and Juan. “The people make church like home,” explains Deb, “The connections within the church have been a blessing to my family.”



Barbara and her husband Don joined the church in 1969, and Barbara became the Membership Secretary in March of 1995, replacing Lorrie Brand who had just left the position. Her role includes registering attendance, keeping records of marriages, births, and deaths. She also requests transfers for those coming in, facilitates transfers for those leaving, and reaches out to members who have not been participating in the life of the church. Barb remembers beginning all of this on an ancient computer, so that what she now does in a couple hours once took a couple days. Barbara expresses that it has been a joy to be in the office and get to know people. She feels a strong connection to so many in the congregation through keeping records of weddings, births, and baptisms, as if she were celebrating with them. Barbara was a faithful JUST of DuPage volunteer for many years, leading a women's Bible study, and has been an integral part of Christmas Sharing. Barbara and Don have four children: Peter, Martha, Sarah, and Amy and two grandchildren. Barbara says, “Over the years we have done just about everything there is to do at Gary and loved every minute”.

Please join us in thanking Barbara and Deb for 25 years of service!

A Meaningful Day for Our Confirmands



Confirmation Class of 2020

Zoe Bohmer

Sam Calderwood

Faith Gaul

Delaney Ingbreton

Mia LaFratta

Chase Mann

Jay McClelland

Andrew McCluskey

Lucas Newman

Sydney Schilling

Natalie Snyder

Sponsors

Phyllis Geyer

David Ourada

Anna Ifft

Elizabeth Pietras

Christie Grace

Alex Hoshino

John-Michael Bilezikian

Joe Ruth

Katie & James Morris

Michelle Younkin

Pam Keller

Congratulations to the 2020 Confirmation class who, although four months later than originally planned, reaffirmed, of their own volition, their baptismal calling on September 20.

Thank you to their Sponsors for walking alongside them in their faith journey this past year.

Opportunities to Serve at Gary

Join a Gardening Team!

Are you willing and able to help keep our church gardens beautiful? The Gary Gardeners need your help! Volunteers are encouraged and welcomed to team up with an experienced Gary Gardener. Each team will be working in a designated area. We are encouraging individuals, families, Scouts, MOPS, youth, church groups, Bible studies, etc. to show your support by volunteering. Please contact the Church Office to indicate your willingness to assist our Gary Gardeners. And, as always, your donations are important and necessary to maintaining our beautiful garden areas. We are so grateful to the volunteers who watered during the summer heat and drought. We praise the Lord for the much-needed rains!

~Linda and George Masek



Join the Gary A/V Team

You have seen our new A/V equipment in action on Sundays! If you are interested in learning how it all works and serving on the team once or twice a month, contact Tony Venezia or Dave Mann through the Church Office. You would be part of an important ministry that makes it possible for many to continue worshiping at home! This is an excellent opportunity for family teams who are interested in serving together!



ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE
of the Northern Illinois Conference

Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebration

An Invitation to Teens and Young Adults to a Virtual Learning, Fellowship, and Worship Experience

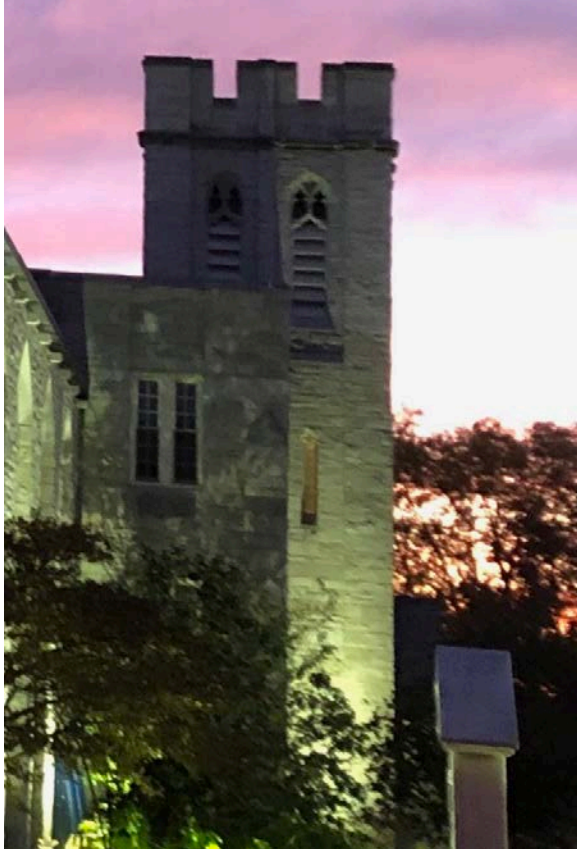
Monday, October 12, 1–2:30 p.m.



The Northern Illinois Conference Anti-Racism Task Force and the Committee on Native American Ministries are jointly planning three events in the coming school year (2020-2021). This is part of the Task Force's Justice Generation initiative which involves United Methodist teens in a year-long service-learning/action journey promoting racial justice.

United Methodist teens and young adults are warmly invited. More information and registration are available at umcnic.org/calendar/indigenous-peoples-day-celebration. Space is limited.

The Carillon Bells are Ringing



After nearly two years of silence, Gary's carillon was replaced by the Trustees in March. Three times a day—9 a.m. (8:50 on Sundays), 12 p.m., and 6 p.m.—hymns ring out to downtown Wheaton. In discussing the carillon and learning that it plays regularly throughout the day, several Gary members suggested it as an opportunity for meditative contemplation. An excellent idea for our own spiritual discipline practices!

Congratulations

Bettye Montgomery on the birth of her great-grandson, Shepard Allen Collier, on August 3.

Our Sympathy

Gil Lehman on the death of his wife, Lola Lehman, on March 20. Services will be held on October 10, 11 a.m. at Gary Church. Contact Hultgren Funeral Home to register. Space is limited. Services will be live-streamed on Gary's website

Gene & Deb Green on the death of Gene's brother, Charles Green.

Ida Whitcomb on the death of her husband, John Whitcomb, on September 10. Services were private.

Jim, Kathy, Zach, and Ryan Clarke on the death of Kathy's brother-in-law, Ermit Finch, on September 12.

Marge Merriman on the death of her husband, Pete Merriman, on September 26.

Voting Resources

The League of Women Voters of Glen Ellyn is offering timely information about voting. The League is a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government for all citizens.

Important dates to remember:

October 18 - Last day to register online

October 19 - Early voting begins at the Election Authority

October 29 - Last day to request a mail-in ballot

November 2 - Last day of early voting

November 3 - ELECTION DAY (state holiday in Illinois). Mail-in ballots must be postmarked by TODAY.



Voting is your SUPER POWER.

-  **Register to Vote**
Address changed? You can register or check your registration status at illinoisvoterguide.org.
-  **Explore Your Ballot**
Before you vote, get informed at illinoisvoterguide.org.
-  **Vote!**
 - Option 1: Vote by Mail**
Apply now for your mail-in ballot. See QR code and website URL to right.
 - Option 2: Vote Early**
Vote at certain locations during the time leading up to Election Day. See QR code and website at right for locations.
 - Option 3: Vote on Election Day**
November 3, 2020, is now a state holiday. Check your polling site at QR code/website on right side of page.

How to scan a QR Code
Hover your cell phone camera over these images to reach website

 lwvge.org  info@lwvge.org  [lwvglenellyn](https://www.instagram.com/lwvglenellyn)  [@LWVGE](https://twitter.com/LWVGE) 

LEARN. ENGAGE. JOIN. VOTE.

Many additional resources are available on the LWV of Glen Ellyn website: www.lwvge.org. The Wheaton League of Women Voters also offers many resources at www.wheatonlwvil.org.

Please note that Gary Church is a polling place. To minimize exposure, the building will be closed for other uses on November 3, and the entire building will be closed on November 4 for cleaning.

WinChimes

Winfield Community United Methodist Church

An Affiliate of Gary United Methodist Church

Something You Should Know | God's Promises

by Pastor Bruce Anderson

Promises, promises! We have heard them all before and are sometimes skeptical when we hear them. A lot of how a promise is received depends upon our history and relationship with the one who is making the promise. Has the person been trustworthy, completely untrustworthy, or somewhere in the middle?

This year the Narrative Lectionary takes us on a biblical tour of God's promises. We look at how God fulfills God's promises, even when covenants are broken and humanity is less than faithful to our part of the relationship. We started in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve, and then follow the promises to Abram and Israel, going on to God's word through the prophets, and finally culminating in the birth of Jesus.

The Bible is full of accounts of God's faithfulness. How is it then that we are so often reticent to trust our cares and concerns to God? The current times in which we live are so filled with fear and uncertainty around so many things (including a global pandemic) that we should be going to God daily, or perhaps multiple times a day, in prayer for comfort and direction, as Jesus did. Yet, in typical human fashion, we would rather trust in our own strength and abilities. We don't need to do that!

1 Peter 5:7 tells us to "Cast all your anxiety on [God], because he cares for you."

The psalmist reminds us: "O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever" (Psalm 107:1).

And Paul assures us in Romans: "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Many hymns also remind us of God's faithfulness: "A Mighty Fortress is Our God," "O God Our Help in Ages Past," "Standing on the Promises of God," and "God Will Take Care of You" to name a few.

Even though we live in troubling and trying times, God is with us and will never forsake us. God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. If we look back over our lives, we are able to see the many places and ways that God has sustained us and given us strength to persevere. Our own personal histories with God should be enough to convince us that God is faithful and steadfast in God's promises. With God's help we can overcome anything because God can redeem any situation.

As the days continue to cool and shorten as we proceed through fall toward winter, let us put our faith and hope in God to deliver us to the promise and hope of spring. No matter how dark things may seem, sin and evil do not have the final word. The last word is God's, who tells us through Jesus, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid" (John 14:27).

Let us always rely upon God's faithful promises and face trials of the world in faith and hope.



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TOGETHER WITH GOD

Be Part of a New Ministry Season at Gary Church!

We are finding new and creative opportunities to grow together with God! It may be different, but we know that, with God, it will be good. Come find your place!