

Chimes

The Newsletter of Gary Church
and Winfield Community Church
September 2020



FALL
KICK OFF
edition



Staff

Rev. Dr. Chris Pierson

SENIOR PASTOR

cperson@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

Daniel Lee

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

dlee@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 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 October *Chimes* newsletter are due by September 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.

BE PART OF A NEW SEASON!

Gary Church this Fall

It is a blessing to witness the people of Gary Church reaching out in creative and original ways to our community in the name of Christ! Also, it is encouraging to see the people of Gary Church continuing to find new ways to gather in prayer, scripture, and fellowship throughout the pandemic. Our return to in-person worship on September 13 will not be to our old “normal.” Neither will the return of our ministries of discipleship and spiritual growth in Gary Kids, Gary Youth, or Adult Christian Education. Yet, we are finding new and creative opportunities to grow together with God!

As there will be limits on our building capacity, Gary Kids, Gary Youth, and Adult Discipleship will not be able to meet in person on Sunday mornings. But just because we will not be gathering Sundays at 10 a.m. does not mean we will not meet in other fun, edifying, and creative ways! For Gary Kids and Gary Youth, meetings via Zoom will be supplemented with creative monthly in-person gatherings either outside or in a space that allows for socially distanced seating. Plus, at-home resources will continue to be available for Gary Kids. Our adult studies and fellowship opportunities will be offered in a variety of ways. Likewise, we are finding new opportunities for worship and praise through music and to serve in mission.

We are excited about the ways the Holy Spirit will be calling us to continue to grow together with God. It may be new and different, but we know, that with God, it will be good. We invite you to take a look at what is planned for fall and jump in!

Together With God

by Rev. Dr. Chris Pierson

For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.
1 Corinthians 3:9 NIV

Last year as our Gary Church staff gathered to plan for the year, we participated in a retreat. During our time together we opened our hearts and minds to God leading as we considered our theme for the year. Due to COVID our planning time this year took place through video conferencing. I believe God's Spirit was no less present simply because we were not in the same room, sharing the same physical space.

During our time together things began to crystallize and our theme for this year at Gary Church is "Together with God." Even though we were apart from one another physically, I believe we experience both a sense of togetherness with one another and a sense of togetherness with God.

Our theme is based on 1 Corinthians 3. In this chapter Paul addresses the early Christian community in Corinth who had begun to play their own version of "the name game." It was not the silly, yet fun, game that some of us grew up playing where we created a rhyme by changing the first letter of our name. Their name game was much more harmful. It was harmful to their spiritual growth, it was harmful to their unity, and it was harmful to their ultimate purpose and calling.

These Christians had begun to identify themselves with personalities, saying, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos."



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

TOGETHER WITH GOD

Paul addressed this by stating that when they identify themselves this way, as if they were a part of a cult of personality, they are not being spiritual but behaving according to human inclinations. He then reminded them that both he and Apollos are servants of God, coworkers with a common purpose. Individually, they may plant the seeds of faith and nurture faith in people; however it is God who causes people to grow in faith.

From the first chapters of scriptures, God has chosen to work in and through people. In Genesis we read, “God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply.’” God calls us to bear fruit, to increase in number, to multiply—not to divide. We are coworkers with one another as we allow ourselves to be used by God.

Paul further reminds them and us to not boast about human leaders because all things are ours, not only the apostles and the past, but the present and the future. All belong to us, we belong to Christ, Christ belongs to God (3:23).

In the coming year we will explore ways that we too are being called by God to be servants working for a common purpose. Together, with God, let us set our minds, our hearts, and our hands to fulfilling the purpose to which we have been called. Let us make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

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

1 CORINTHIANS 3:9 NIV

Thank You

Thank you to my Gary family for the cards and notes you sent after my step-daughter Marcia's death. She fought a nearly two-year battle with stage 4 cancer, and I admire her courage and will to live. I will miss her! She stayed with me for a few days in Florida last January, and I'm grateful I had that time with her. I told her to say hello to Dave from me!

Virginia Blackwell

Thank you for the many prayers, calls, and cards received in the passing of my husband, David.

Eleanor Lingo

Congratulations

Bruce, Pam, and Hanna Keller on the birth of their grandson and nephew, Lincoln Jerome Huppert, who was born on July 30.

Our Sympathy

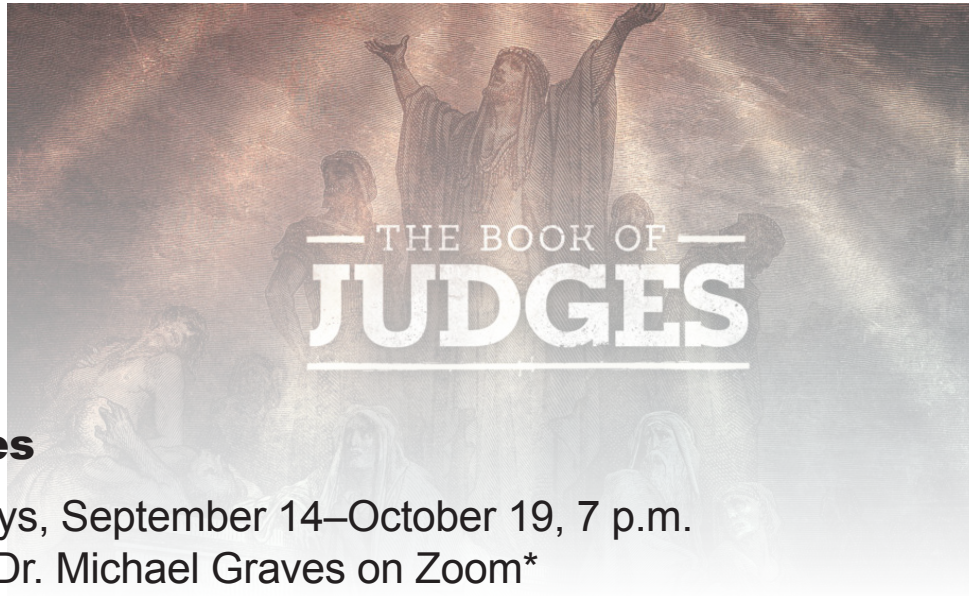
Casey, Judy, Derek, and Mackenzie Webb on the death of Casey's mother, Marjorie Webb, on July 9.

Bruce, Pam, and Hanna Keller on the death of Pam's aunt, Pat Courant, on August 19.

Bud & Melissa Wheaton on the death of Melissa's mother, Marilyn Horner, on August 23.

Adult Christian Education and Discipleship

We all feel the loss of our regular schedule of in-person studies, yet we are committed to providing a variety of ways we can connect, renew energy, and renew hope. Come find your place in these new opportunities, as we continue to walk together in our faith journeys.



Judges

Mondays, September 14–October 19, 7 p.m.
led by Dr. Michael Graves on Zoom*

What happens to God's people when they forget God and pursue their own selfish interests? The Old Testament book of Judges offers a picture of what that looks like. 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.

The book of Judges teaches its lessons through fascinating characters such as Gideon, Deborah, Samson, and Delilah. Please join us for this journey through Judges as we explore and discuss these remarkable characters. The first class will cover chapters 1–3, especially the “Judges cycle” in chapter two and Ehud in chapter three. Everyone is invited to read ahead, but absolutely no preparation is required. Register at garychurch.org.

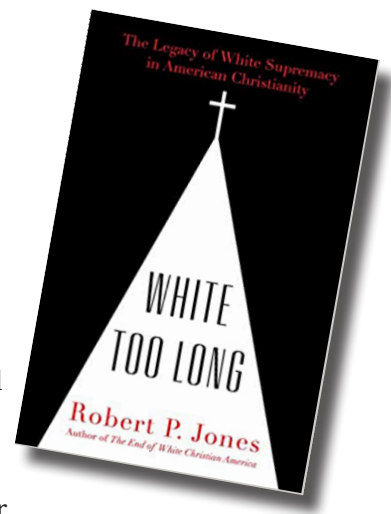
*If you would like to participate but are unfamiliar with Zoom, join Carey Williams Bebar in the Anderson room where she will stream the Zoom class for synchronous in-person learning.

Anti-Racist Book Club

White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity by Robert P. Jones

Wednesday, September 30, 7 p.m.
led by Jennifer Castino on Zoom

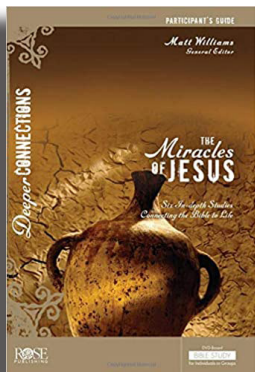
Drawing on history, public opinion surveys, and personal experience, Robert P. Jones delivers a provocative examination of the unholy relationship between American Christianity and white supremacy, and issues an urgent call for white Christians to reckon with this legacy for the sake of themselves and the nation. All are invited to read and discuss this important work at the Anti-Racist Book Club's September meeting. To join in the conversation, please purchase the book on your own and register at garychurch.org.



Men's Bible Study

Tuesdays, 7 p.m. starting
September 8, participate on
Zoom or in person in Commons E
led by Clay Watkins

From the healing of lepers to turning water into wine, many studies focus on how miracles demonstrate God's power. But this study takes it a step further showing how each miracle reveals God's character, the kingdom of God, and God's love for you. Deepen your understanding of the New Testament and build on what you already know with this six-session study, which covers Jesus' most well-known miracles. Each DVD session lasts approximately 30 minutes and offers historical and cultural background information from top scholars and professionals and is designed to accompany the *Miracles of Jesus*



Participant Guide.

All men are welcome and encouraged to attend. If you are interested please complete the survey so we can get the book to you before our first meeting.
<https://bit.ly/GaryMensBibleStudy2020>

Disciple IV

Thursdays, starting October 1
10 a.m. in the Commons

Picking up where the group left off in the spring, Disciple IV *Under the Tree of Life* is the final study in the four-phase DISCIPLE program. The study concentrates on Old Testament Writings, the Gospel of John, the Epistles of John, James, Jude, and finally, Revelation. Please contact Fern Evelhoch through the Church Office for more information.

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 meeting.

All men are welcome to attend this online event.

Get Your Sandals Dusty!

UMM Annual Spiritual Congress - On Line
Saturday, September 19, 2020 9:00am – 12:30 pm

Featured Speakers:

Congressman Danny K Davis
Father Michael Pfleger
Bishop James Swanson
Gil Hanke

Bishop Sally Dyck
Mayor Lori Lightfoot
Rev. Jeffry Bross
George Groves

Moderator: Arnold Rivera

*For more information
and registration:
NICUMM.ORG*





UMW Circles are small groups that develop supportive fellowship and expand concepts of mission. A few of our circles share their September plans—some in person and some virtual. All women are invited to participate. Contact the Church Office and we'll put you in touch with the circle leader.

Craft Circle

Saturday, September 19, 9:30 a.m. in the Anderson Room

We have begun to meet monthly again, wearing masks and maintaining social distance. In August we started part one of a two-part set of projects and will finish these crafts at our September meeting. We are making foil etched, blackened pictures, as well as foil-etched, blackened heart-shaped Christmas ornaments. The Craft Circle is open to all women. If you plan to attend, contact Rev. JoAnne Chase through the Church Office.



Knitting Circle

While we will not be gathering in person for the foreseeable future in light of COVID-19, we remain a “knitted community.” To stay connected, members will be receiving a monthly email beginning in September from circle chair Bobbi Wheatley and are encouraged to “reply all” to share what they are knitting or have learned about knitting all these months at home. If you wish to be added to the email list, contact the Church Office.



Joy Circle

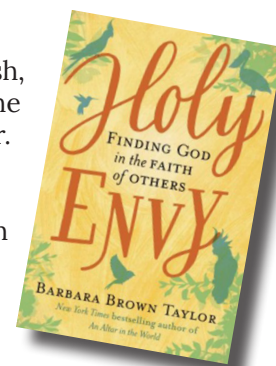
Tuesday, September 15, 7 p.m. on Zoom

Be part of a robust discussion on racial justice, led by Michelle Sweeney. Contact the Church Office for the Zoom link.

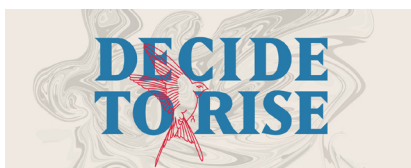


Tuesday, October 6, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

The Faith Club brings women of Gary Church together with other women of Christian, Jewish, and Islamic faith for discussion and to learn about one another. In October we will discuss the highly acclaimed book *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor. An Episcopal priest who became a college religion instructor, Taylor discovered a heartfelt connection to other faith traditions while teaching an introductory class on world religions. Throughout the book, Taylor weaves together stories from the classroom with reflections on how her own spiritual journey has been complicated and renewed by connecting with people of other traditions. The experience ultimately enriches her faith in other human beings and in God.



We welcome new participants to the group for what we expect to be an enriching discussion. If you plan to participate, please contact Kim Austin at kaustin@garychurch.org for a reading guide.



Beginning September 15, First and Third* Tuesday of the month, 8 p.m. on Zoom

Are you looking for a moms group to help you rest, connect, and lean into the loving presence of God? Then look no further! MOPS is a grassroots movement that believes moms are world influencers and that incubating hearts can change the course of history. That's why we connect moms all over the world to a community of women, in their own neighborhoods, who meet together virtually and in person to laugh, cry, and embrace the journey of motherhood.

This year, we want to tell you two things that will change your life if you believe them. First, you are fearfully and wonderfully made. Second, because you are fearfully and wonderfully made, you have work to do, meaningful work that was built into your DNA before you were born. Work that you were made for. Twice a month, Gary MOPS invites you to join with other moms for discussions based on "Decide to Rise" videos and/or outside speakers, and together embrace the truth that you are fearfully and wonderfully made. Mothers of all ages and stages of life are welcome.

Cost is \$31.95 for MOPS International Annual Membership, plus \$30 for Gary MOPS Semester Membership. You can register online at garychurch.org/mops.

Fall Semester Monthly Topics

- September 15 | Decide to Rise
- October 6 & 20* | Tools for Mental Stamina
- November 3 & 17* | Work of Gratitude
- December 1 & 15* | (Un) Planned, A Lesson on Mary

**The format of the third Tuesday will be a rotating calendar of special offerings/activities. This meeting may run longer than one hour. We will also help facilitate connections to allow for outside-of-meeting discussions/relationship building.*

A New Look at Gary Preschool

Gary Preschool will be open for our new school year beginning September 8. It will be an exciting and challenging time! We will be following the guidelines outlined by the Department of Children and Family Services, the County Health Department, and the state of Illinois.

Before the children and parents enter the building, we will check everyone's temperature, as well as administer a health survey that will screen students for possible health issues related to COVID-19. Our teachers will wear masks throughout the day and encourage our students to wear a mask in the classroom. Daily activities will be organized to keep as much distance as possible while still allowing the children to interact in free play. We will spend as much time as possible playing outside on days when the weather cooperates.

Gary Preschool's mission has always been to encourage growth in all areas of a child's life. Although we are facing some new challenges as we head back to school, we hope to know that behind the masks are great big smiles.

One of our greatest challenges is in regard to our budget. Because our enrollment is lower this year due to uncertainty in sending the children to school, we are facing a deficit in income from tuition. There are a couple ways our Gary friends can help: If you know of anyone who is looking for a preschool home, we would be grateful for your recommendation of Gary Preschool. If you don't know a preschool-age child but would like to lend your support, any donation would be appreciated. Thank you for always keeping Gary Preschool students and staff in your hearts and prayers.





Hey Parents! Fall is here. Schools are opening their doors (at least as I write this) and the family calendar is beginning to fill up. Though the rhythm feels familiar, so much is new and unknown. That's true for Gary Kids too. Our fall ministry calendar is full of ways to connect and engage, but this season looks and feels like no other. While a lot has changed to meet the pandemic realities, what has not changed is our mission to help children grow in faith by learning about and experiencing God's love through Christ Jesus. We hope you will join us in our mission, and we pray God's blessing upon you.

Kids' Church & Sunday School

Due to health concerns for children and adult volunteers, we will not hold in-person Kids' Church or Sunday School this fall. However, we will have hands-on, in-person, and virtual offerings each month to keep kids and families connected to God and one another.

Take-Home Craft Kits

Created for children ages 3–6, these craft kits provide hands-on fun and help faith grow at home! Each kit comes with supplies, instructions, and a lesson and can be picked up in the Church Office once a month starting on the first Sunday. Office hours are Monday–Friday, 10 am.–3 p.m. Door will be locked, so call when you arrive.

Zoom Party!

Every second Sunday at 2 p.m.
starting September 13, on Zoom

All children ages preschool 3's-grade 5 are invited to a virtual party with actual fun! We'll play games, sing songs, and pray over joys and concerns. Plus, kids will hear about our monthly Helping Hands mission and enjoy a Christ-centered lesson from Mr. Jared. Check the weekly Gary Kids email for Zoom meeting details.

Grow Together Monthly Meet-up

Every fourth Sunday at 2 p.m.
starting September 27, on Zoom

Designed for third through fifth graders, this monthly meet-up will focus on Bible stories featured in our Grow curriculum and allow time for older elementary students to hang out and grow together.

Gary Kids @ Home Lessons



Weekly, sent by email on
Friday or Saturday

A lot of parents and kids focus heavily on gleaning academic knowledge and gaining meaningful experiences, but teaching kids to pursue wisdom will help them merge those fields and develop better, God-centered decision-making skills. While the wisdom they would need on a daily basis may not be on the scale of Solomon deliberating an argument between two women each claiming to be the rightful mother of a baby, kids will still collect valuable insight about wisdom from such stories. They will first determine wisdom comes from God, and that being wise also has a lot to do with saying the right words and asking the right questions...all of which we can ask of God, who will give them to us because God can be trusted.

Be sure to complete the 2020–21 Gary Kids registration form before participating in our fall events. You can find it on the Gary Kids page at garychurch.org

Third Grade Bible Postponed

After much thought and prayer, we are postponing the Third Grade Bible class. While we hope to be able to offer this milestone ministry in the spring, we know that these are uncertain times. Families will be notified once we are able to safely reschedule. *Please contact Carey Bebar for questions or concerns.*

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.



Saturday, September 26,
7:30 p.m. at Winfield Church

Grab some graham crackers, chocolate, and marshmallows and head to Winfield for a bonfire under the stars. Enhance the fun and get creative with your s'mores! Got peanut butter, toffee, tofu? (Just kidding... don't bring tofu!) Most creative s'more wins a prize! Register online at garychurch.org.



Pumpkin Painting

Saturday, September 19, 1-2 p.m.
in Gary's Courtyard

We'll provide the pumpkins and paint, you provide the creativity! RSVP to Carey Bebar at cbebar@garychurch.org.





Gary Youth This Fall

At Gary Church, we believe that Christian education is a high priority for all of us children, youth, and adults alike. Even as we face the difficulties of gathering in person during the pandemic, we want to provide every opportunity for our youth to grow in love for one another and God. We also recognize that we must do all we can while, first, doing no harm. Holding these in tension, we have made the following decisions for the rest of 2020.

1. No Sunday School

There will be no 10 a.m. Sunday School. All youth Christian education will be rolled into the weekly Gary Youth program.

2. Weekly Zoom Meetings

We will keep the Sunday night (high school) and Wednesday night (middle school) format. Over Zoom, we will play games, have discussions together, and pray for one another.

3. Monthly Events

To provide an opportunity for our youth to occasionally get together in person, we have planned monthly gatherings including Unboxing, Halloween, and Painting parties. We will follow all Health Team guidelines and sign-ups will be required.

4. Curriculum

This year we will be using the *Re:Form* curriculum by Sparkhouse. *Re:Form* provides funny animated short videos that will make youth laugh while presenting solid theology. The youth will choose the topics we will be learning during the kick-off party. Some of the lessons include:

- "Who wrote the Bible, God or humans?"
- "Is God male?"
- "Why should I pray if God doesn't answer all my prayers?"
- "Can I be Christian without going to church?"
- "Is it okay to be angry with God?"
- "Can you accept the theory of evolution and still be a Christian?"

Midweek for Middle Schoolers			
<u>When</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Location</u>
Wednesday, Sept. 16	7–8:30 p.m.	Kick-off Unboxing party	Parking Lot
Wednesday, Sept. 23	7–8:30 p.m.	Re:Form	Zoom
Wednesday, Sept. 30	7–8:30 p.m.	Re:Form	Zoom
Wednesday, Oct. 7	7–8:30 p.m.	Re:Form	Zoom
Wednesday, Oct. 14	7–8:30 p.m.	Re:Form	Zoom
Wednesday, Oct. 21	7–8:30 p.m.	Sabbath	Zoom
Wednesday, Oct. 28	7–8:30 p.m.	Halloween Party	Activity Center

High School Sunday Nights			
<u>When</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sunday, Sept. 13	6–7:30 p.m.	Kick-off Unboxing party	Parking Lot
Sunday, Sept. 20	6–7:30 p.m.	Re:Form	Zoom
Sunday, Sept. 27	6–7:30 p.m.	Re:Form	Zoom
Sunday, Oct. 4	6–7:30 p.m.	Re:Form	Zoom
Sunday, Oct. 11	6–7:30 p.m.	Re:Form	Zoom
Sunday, Oct. 18	6–7:30 p.m.	Sabbath	Zoom
Sunday, Oct. 25	6–7:30 p.m.	Halloween Party	Activity Center

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.

Successful Youth Mission Days

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, students and adults from our church planned to go to the Dominican Republic with Christ in Youth ministry for an international mission trip. When our plans were cancelled, we were very disappointed. However, we took the opportunity to turn our attention closer to home. We asked, "Who are the most vulnerable?"

We decided to partner with our friends from ChildServ, now called Kids Above All (KAA), whose mission is to protect, heal, and educate children and families so they can build better lives. From Tuesday, July 28 through Thursday, July 30, twenty-one of our middle school and high school youth gathered in our parking lot. While wearing our masks and social distancing, we tackled several projects as a team. One big job we had was to beautify our church gardens. We weeded, trimmed bushes, poured soil, and mulched. We also had a few painting projects around the building. It was very hot working in the sun, but we kept our cool. We even wrote "we miss you" cards to our elderly church members.

Ed Williams introduced us to his poodle, Mango, whom he takes on visits to KAA group homes. Catherine Inserra and Lily Stamper, from KAA, came to teach us how to make hand-made Grateful Dead t-shirt face masks. The rock band's merchandise from their cancelled concerts was donated to KAA so that we can make face masks for families in need. We made 98 masks! KAA also asked for help in collecting school supplies. We decided to ask our generous neighbors around the church for help, and they really came through. Believe it or not, we collected over \$1,100 worth of school supplies!

Throughout the week, we learned that if we want to grow in our ability to love others more fully, we can follow three simple rules. First, we must do no harm. Secondly, we must do all the good we can. Finally, we must stay in love with God.



Thank you so much to everyone who donated time, money, and prayers, which have given our youth the opportunity to see that they are not just the leaders of tomorrow but the leaders of today.

~Pastor Dan

Please Scream Inside Your Heart

by Jennifer Whiting



The Fuji-Q Highland amusement park in Japan has a new guideline for roller coaster riders: "Please scream inside your heart!" This may not have been what Paul had in mind when he wrote to the Ephesians, "singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord," but the unusual rule does help reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus.

Screaming, loud talking, singing, and playing the trombone are among the most dangerous activities for spreading viruses through aerosols, even while wearing masks. (Yes, there are special masks and bell covers for trombones!) Because of this danger, we have made the heavy decision to suspend all vocal ensembles, choirs, and congregational singing through the end of 2020.

We will re-evaluate carefully in January, but until then we must ask you to "scream (and sing) inside your heart."

Meanwhile, our music leaders are serving their groups and looking toward the future. Handbell director Sharon Schmidt is planning pieces that can be learned at home and put together with short rehearsals. Organist Kevin Lange offers "Hymns at Twilight" online, instrumentalists share their beautiful gifts week to week, and we are excited to announce The Brahms Institute for Singers.

Gary Handbells for Fall 2020

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 as we start back to in-person worship in September:

Altar Bells and Sanctuary Ringers

(High school-adult): We will play small-ensemble music for groups of 3-8 ringers using distanced music stands and no sharing of bells. Musicians will 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 will be communicated before meeting in person.) This is a great time for new musicians to join, so



contact Sharon Schmidt through the Church Office if you would be interested.

Glory Ringers (grades 7-12): Director Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal will contact musicians regarding possible small-ensemble music as outlined for Altar Bells and Sanctuary Ringers.

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

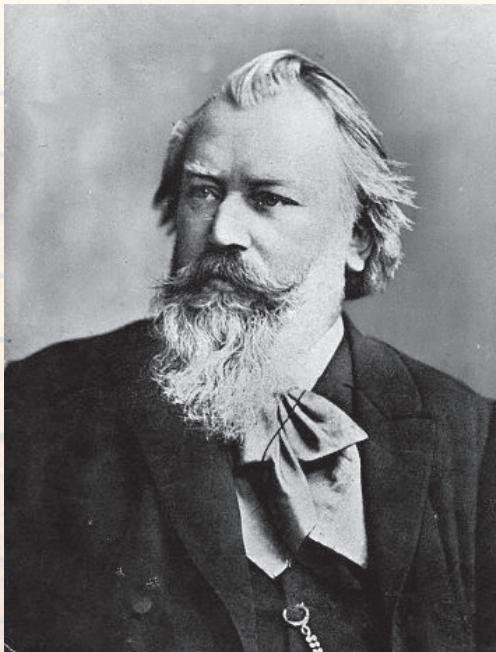
Of course, these plans are subject to revision! We look forward to sharing our gift of music with you in worship either in person or online.

~ Sharon Schmidt,
Director of Handbell Ministries

Hymns at Twilight

Tuesday, September 29, 7 p.m.
on Zoom and Facebook Live

Open your hymnal and sing along at a virtual hymn-sing. Kevin Lange hosts and accompanies this live-streamed event for the whole family. What hymns do you hum or sing when you face a hard day? What songs do you whistle when you are happy? Our theme is “A Melody in Your Heart,” and we invite you to suggest hymns that you carry in your heart every day. Email your suggestions to office@garychurch.org and plan to join us on Zoom or Facebook Live!



The Brahms Institute for Singers

Thursdays on Zoom, 7 p.m., HS–Adult
starting September 1

Do you miss singing together? Do you need to get your voice back in shape? Then this class is for you! All are welcome to join. Each week Jennifer Whiting will lead the class through vocal warmups, introduce choral anthems, and dive into the Brahms Requiem. We will learn about the composer and the structure, text, themes, and fascinating details of this monumental piece. We will sing sections of the music, focusing on pitches, rhythms, text painting, and phrasing. Please join us for a vocal workout and a rich time of study.

Register at garychurch.org to obtain a copy of the music score.

MISSION *this month*

Make a difference with...

...your gifts

September 13

Christopher and Michelle Hays Mission to Colombia

As a professor of New Testament at the Biblical Seminary of Columbia, Christopher Hays provides transformational theological education for Latin American pastors. Described as “the Seminary’s most prolific and creative thought leader,” he has become as well a sought-out speaker to groups of South American pastors and church leaders. The Hays family is also heavily involved in work for Venezuelan refugees and COVID-19 relief. Learn more at haysfamilymission.com. Contributions to support the work of the Hays Family can be made at garychurch.org/giving or by sending a check to the Church Office.

October 4

World Communion Sunday

This United Methodist Special Sunday calls attention to the universal and inclusive nature of the church. Your giving on this day funds World Communion Scholarships and U.S. Ethnic Scholarships. Contribute at garychurch.org/giving or by sending a check to the Church Office with World Communion in the memo.

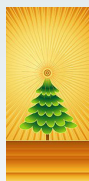
...your hands-on service

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.



Planning for Christmas Sharing

Christmas Sharing will look very different this year, and details are still being worked out. Our priority will be to provide food, and we will probably not be collecting donations of gently used items.

In this challenging time, we appreciate you keeping the program in your thoughts and prayers as we develop a way to meet the needs of our community. We welcome suggestions.

~Most sincerely,
Joe Davisson and Shelley Kenyon

Return to In-Person Worship

Beginning Sunday, September 13, we will have one in-person worship service at 9 a.m. To keep those who attend as safe as possible we will limit the service to 50 pre-registered participants. Please carefully read these guidelines to determine if you will attend or if you will continue to worship at home. If you are in a vulnerable population, we encourage you to watch the service at home. It will be live streamed at 9 a.m. and will be captured, edited, and uploaded for viewing soon after.

Before Attending

- Advanced registration is required at garychurch.org. If you are unable to access the link or have questions, contact the Church Office at 630-668-3100.
- The registration form will include screening questions relating to COVID-19.
- If on the day of the worship service you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, you should remain at home.
- Those returning from travel to any of the CDC identified states with elevated COVID-19 positivity rates should stay home for at least 14 days.
- Bring your mask and be prepared to wear it from the time you exit your car. We will have extra masks available.
- Plan to arrive during the registration period of 8:40–9 a.m. At 9 a.m., the outer doors will be closed and locked.

Upon Arrival

- Only door #5 (off west parking lot) will be open. There you will be welcomed by Greeters and Safety Hosts.
- Before leaving your car, put on your mask. Maintain a six-foot distance from others as you walk to the Safety Hosts' table, near the west doors.
- The Safety Host will take your temperature with an instant-read thermometer briefly pointed at your forehead. Your temperature must be below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit to enter the building.
- The Safety Host will also provide hand sanitizer and a mask if you forgot yours and will direct you to the Greeter just inside the door.
- The Greeter will check your name off the registration list and invite you to go up the stairs toward the Sanctuary.
- Inside the Sanctuary, an usher will take your name and lead you to the seat you have been assigned, safely distanced from others.
- If at any point in this process there is a line, please maintain a six-foot distance from others.
- All exterior doors will be propped open before and after the service.

Return to In-Person Worship

Safety Protocols During Worship

- Doors to the Sanctuary will remain open.
- Worship services will be no longer than 40 minutes.
- Information will be on our new Sanctuary screens since we are unable to use bulletins, hymnals, and Bibles.
- Verbal greetings and other non-contact greetings will replace shaking hands, hugging, or other physical contact.
- Instrumental music as well as new ways to corporately participate with the music will take the place of congregational singing.
- An offering plate on the Welcome Desk or giving electronically at garychurch.org/giving will replace passing the offering plate.
- We will still have a Children's Time which all will be able to see on the Sanctuary screens from the pews, although we will be unable to offer Kids' Church and activity bags.
- Only the Sound Team will be allowed to enter the balcony where the new A/V desk is located.
- Keep personal items with you rather than using coat racks, etc.
- After the service, ushers will dismiss the congregation by rows.
- Upon dismissal, exit the building using the west or Seminary Street doors as directed by the ushers.

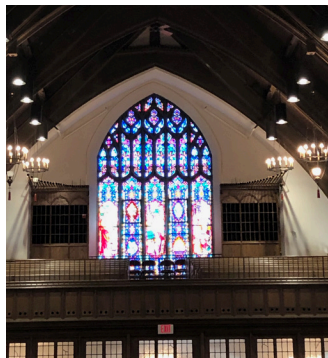
Miscellaneous

- Beverages and refreshments will not be offered and there should be no shared food.
- Restrooms will be available, with entrance doors to bathrooms propped open, where privacy allows. Bathroom surfaces will be sanitized before and after services.
- Water fountains will be closed or disabled.

Programming

- We are unable to safely offer nursery care. Young children are welcome in the Sanctuary. Those over the age of two should wear a mask.
- Due to the challenges involved in providing a safe Sunday School experience for children, youth, and adults, 10 a.m. classes will not meet.
- A variety of virtual and in-person studies and small group opportunities will be available for all ages at times other than Sunday morning.

Worship is going to look a bit different, but God will still be with us and we will still glorify God together...just a little farther apart than usual!



WinChimes

Winfield Community United Methodist Church

An Affiliate of Gary United Methodist Church

Something You Should Know

Hello everyone. Welcome back after whatever break you were able to get this summer. It was certainly a summer unlike those of recent memory, with a lot less traveling and going out for entertainment. Yet, here we are building our new normal.

In a way, we are like Israel during the Exodus—longing for the good old days in Egypt when we knew what to expect. Like Israel in the desert, we must trust in God to provide for our needs and lead us to a new land of promise. What will it be like? We will find out when we get there. While this new journey may seem overwhelming, we can trust in God to see us through.

Before COVID, we had been experiencing what is true nationally: fewer people showing up to worship on Sunday. COVID has brought many changes, including online worship. As the state has eased restrictions, we are fortunate to be able to worship in person on Sunday. We have been averaging twelve people in the church (with plenty of room for more, safely social distanced) and another twelve or so on YouTube. Now we are adding Zoom and there are a couple more worshipping with us that way, and it will get better as we figure out this new (to us) technology. At least we can see Olive live at the piano.

So, all-in-all, we are experiencing more people worshipping with us via these various means than we were before the pandemic. If you have ideas on how to improve the online worship experience, please let me know. It looks like online worship is here to stay, and that may be a good thing as we may reach more people than those who came to church on Sunday mornings.

Things have not been sitting still while we have been mostly away from the church building. We have a new concrete pad and walkway for our new gazebo area. Unfortunately, the parts we got to build the gazebo were from two different kits, so we are having to start over with gazebo

construction. We also have a new sidewalk and have replaced half of our parking lot while seal coating the rest, so things are looking better on the outside.

We were also contacted by the Winfield School district to provide food assistance for a family of four, so we have begun that ministry again along with the start of the new school year.

I will continue preaching from the Narrative Lectionary, which starts us off with Genesis and Exodus. So, we will start from the very beginning, which is a very good place to start. I hope that I will see you soon, either in person or virtually in these coming months.

~ Blessings,
Pastor Bruce Anderson



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



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

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

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CAROL STREAM, IL
60188
PERMIT NO. 6014

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED
PUBLISHED MONTHLY



School Send-off



Sharing messages of hope
for the new school year!

