Submissions for the March/April Chimes newsletter are due by noon on Wednesday, Feb. 1. Announcements for the Sunday bulletin and weekly e-news are due each Tuesday at noon. Send all submissions to office@garychurch.org.

Gary Church uses 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.
Finding God in Lent

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, marks the beginning of the season of Lent. For many Christians throughout the world, the season of Lent is a time of deep introspection in preparation for the celebration of Easter. The outward mark of ashes is not merely a reminder that we are dust and to dust we shall return, but displays a deep desire to return to God, to grow closer to God, to find God in Lent, if you will. And, each of us is invited to take that inward journey; whether we are marked with ashes or not, whether we seek to observe a Holy Lent or not, as we prepare for Easter. And here at Gary Church many opportunities will be provided to help us to prepare ourselves spiritually for the great celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus, the Christ.

In that sense, it models the origins of the season that was a time of penitence and fasting for those new to the Christian faith (converts) prior to their baptism on Easter.

However, spiritual disciplines can and should have an outward focus as well. The prophet Isaiah reminded the people of Israel who experienced living in captivity in Babylon that God chooses a different type of fast. It is a fast that goes well beyond my social media fast, though that was a good practice for me. And it goes beyond fasting during my mid-day meal, though that practice was good for me as well.

"Is not this the fast that I choose: to lose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?" (Isaiah 58:6-7 NRSV).

Addressing the evils of injustice, oppression, hunger, homelessness and human vulnerability is not what we immediately think of when we consider observing a Holy Lent. These mark an outward-focused journey that examines how our actions might benefit others and ultimately benefit us as well in our spiritual journey.

The prophet turns poet and suggests that when we do these things we ourselves will experience a different type of new life; “Then, your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly.”

He promises that God will both go before us and follow after us as our vindicator and rear guard. In other words, God’s got your back. We will experience an intimacy with God. Isaiah writes, “Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, ‘Here I am’” (Isaiah 58:8-9).

Throughout this issue look for worship and mission opportunities that can help you with both your inward and outward journey as we together prepare to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday, April 9.

Christopher L. Pearson

Ash Wednesday
Feb. 22, 7 p.m.
Worship in Sanctuary or at garychurch.org
Community Connection
Sundays, Feb. 5–19, 10 a.m., Chapel
Gary Church supports a variety of local, national and international organizations, helping people live their faith through prayer, hands-on work, financial support, donations of items, companionship, presence and/or systemic change. See page 13 to learn more about what missions we will explore in this adult education series.

Holy Week: A Creative Exploration
Sundays, Feb. 26–April 2*, 10 a.m., Chapel
Can a coloring page convey Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, or are watercolors able to capture his anger when clearing the temple? What were the flavors of the last supper? How has Christ's trial and crucifixion been portrayed in the theater, and what can a hymn teach us about his resurrection? Get answers to these questions and more as we deepen our scriptural understanding of holy week through creative media like children's art, painting, cuisine, theater and music.

*Lenten Study: Entering the Passion of Jesus
Wednesdays, March 1–22, 6:30 p.m.
Gary Church
Together with members of Aldersgate UMC, we will read and discuss Amy-Jill Levine's thought-provoking study *Entering the Passion of Jesus*. Levine takes us from Palm Sunday to Good Friday, helping us discover new meanings and challenges in the scriptures that impact our lives as disciples of the one who rose from the tomb on Easter morning. *Pastor Daniel Cochran* from Aldersgate will facilitate this study. Books can be found on the resource bookshelf outside the Church Office. Cost of the book is $12.

Arrive early and share in fellowship over a hot bowl of soup, served in the Commons beginning at 5 p.m. (see page 10 for details).

Faith Club: A Women’s Interfaith Discussion Group
Tuesday, Feb. 14, 7 p.m., Commons E and Zoom
Let’s enjoy a night of poetry. While some poetry speaks directly of faith, other poems that are not overtly religious can reflect our beliefs and values. We invite you to share a poem that speaks to you as a person of faith. The poem can be sacred or secular, long or short, one you authored or a classic — anything that touches your heart, mind or soul. The Faith Club brings together women of Christian, Jewish and Islamic faiths to develop community and learn from and about one another. Contact *Kim Austin* through the Church Office to be added to the email list.
Anti-Racist Book Club | Call Us What We Carry
Wednesday, Feb. 15, 7 p.m., Commons
led by Michelle Sweeney

Amanda Gorman recited her poem “The Hill We Climb” and made viewers collectively get lost in wonder at the Presidential Inauguration of Joe Biden in January 2021. This newly-updated collection of poems includes her iconic inauguration poem plus additional timely works that capture the pain and sorrow of our past wrapped with the hope for our future of what we can become. Read the collection on your own and register for the conversation at garychurch.org.

Read ahead for Anti-Racist Book Club

The Tao of Raven: An Alaska Native Memoir by Ernestine Hayes
Wednesday, March 22

An Indigenous People’s History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz
Wednesday, April 26

Prairie Central District Leadership Training

Choose two classes:
- Staff Parish Relations Committee Workshop
- Connecting Money to Mission
- Don’t Give Up on Evangelism and Outreach but Don’t Invite Them to Church
- The New Landscape of Christian Education
- Loving God and Loving Ministry: Things I Wish Someone Had Told Me Earlier

Register online at garychurch.org

LAITY CONVOCATION 2023

Northern Illinois Conference Laity Convocation
Saturday, Feb. 11, 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Register online
www.umcnic.org/calendar/laity-convocation-2023

Online and three in-person options
Hey Parents! We pray that this Valentine’s Day month you are surrounded by love—the love of family, the love of friends and most of all, the love of God. Blessings and see you Sunday!

**what we’re teaching**

**How To...**
The internet helps us learn how to do so many things! From new skate tricks and viral recipes to helpful hacks, there’s a “how-to” for almost everything. But is there a tutorial video for how to follow God? This four-week series is kind of like that—thanks to some tutorials from Jesus! Each week, we’ll focus on one of Jesus’ teachings from the Sermon on the Mount as we learn “how to” make a difference, love our enemies, share with others and pray.

**what’s happening**

**Parent’s Night Out**
Friday, Feb. 10, 6:30–8:30 p.m., Lower Level
Drop off your kiddos at Gary Church and enjoy some well-deserved time away. Register children ages 2–11 at garychurch.org. Suggested cash donation of $5 per child.

**1st & 2nd Grade Sunday School**
**The Lord’s Prayer**
Sunday, Feb. 12, 10 a.m.
“One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray’” (Luke 11:1). From that simple request, Jesus gave his disciples and all who follow him the most beautiful and foundational prayer of our faith, the Lord’s Prayer. First and second grade students are invited to learn about the Lord’s Prayer on Feb. 12 during the Sunday School hour. Students will then practice the Lord’s Prayer each week of Sunday School in February and March, culminating on March 19 when they will lead the congregation in the Lord’s Prayer during worship. Contact Pastor Carey for questions or details.

**Ash Wednesday for Kids**
Wednesday, Feb. 22, 6:30 p.m., Lower Level
What is Ash Wednesday and why is it important? Join Pastor Carey for a special Ash Wednesday lesson for kids. After the lesson, families are invited to attend the Ash Wednesday service.

**4th & 5th Grade Fellowship**
**UMCOR Service Party**
Friday, Feb. 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Commons
Fourth and fifth graders are invited to learn about the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), work in mission by creating UMCOR Hygiene Kits and enjoy a fun night with friends (a.k.a. a party!) RSVP to Pastor Carey at cbebar@garychurch.org.
Helping Hands
Sunday, Feb. 26 at 9 a.m. Kids’ Church
All children ages preschool 3s through grade 5 are invited to the Lower Level to use their “helping hands” to serve our local, national and global neighbors.

This Holy Mystery: A Family Event Exploring Holy Communion
Sunday, March 12, 10 a.m.
Holy Communion is one of two sacraments in the United Methodist Church and is open to all who respond to Christ’s love, regardless of age or church membership. But what is this Holy meal, how do we receive it, and what does it mean? Join Pastor Carey for an exploration of this Holy Mystery that invites us to Christ’s table.

Children’s Book of the Month
God’s Dream by Archbishop Desmond Tutu
Archbishop Desmond Tutu has a vision of God’s dream, which he shares here with the youngest of listeners. It involves people who reach out and hold each other’s hands, but sometimes get angry and hurt each other – and say they’re sorry and forgive. It’s a wish that everyone will see they are brothers and sisters, no matter their way of speaking to God, no matter the size of their nose or the shade of their skin. Aided by vibrant artwork evoking such images as a rainbow and a sharing circle, Tutu offers the essence of his philosophy, a wisdom so clear that even the smallest child can understand.

Register for the SuperStart! Lock-in
Friday, March 17–Saturday, March 18
SuperStart is the nation’s largest preteen Christian event! Fourth and fifth graders won’t want to miss this year’s performance when they’ll control the show as they experience the unscripted comedy of a world-class improv troupe all while gaining a Biblical foundation for navigating unscripted emotions. Plus, they’ll get to know Gary Church in a new way when they sleep over at a classic youth lock-in! Cost: $100 (Cost includes the SuperStart event, meals, extra activities and a T-shirt.) Register at garychurch.org.

Save the dates for Gary Kids Summer!
All this snow on the ground has us dreaming of summer!
• Stellar VBS | June 19–22
• Family Camp | July 20–23
Gary Youth shows gratitude by serving others

What’s one of the best ways to show our gratitude towards God? It’s to serve others. In November, Gary Youth families joined together to pack meals at Feed My Starving Children in Schaumburg. Together with other youth, we packed 33,692 meals! We had so much fun, and it was rewarding. One of our Gary Kids even prayed for all the food we packed. He did great!

Christmas 2022

We had fun celebrating Jesus’s birthday with pizza, cocoa, games and exchanging gifts. This year, we added two more Christmas parties for the young adults of Gary Church. We had one party before our Wheaton College students left for break and another for college students returning home. Thank you, Gary Church, for your support, which makes all of this possible. Special thanks to Kim Austin, Kathryn Macabobby, Leigh Ann Gaul, Carla Lovett and Jennifer Castino. And thank you to our middle school Sunday school class for decorating our youth room!
What are we learning in February?

Have you ever been hurt so badly by someone that you desperately wanted revenge? When we’re treated cruelly or unfairly, it’s natural to want justice. But what does “justice” really mean? Is it only about handing out consequences and punishment to the people who have wronged us? Or could it be about something more? How do we balance forgiveness and grace with truth and consequences? There’s someone in the Old Testament of the Bible whose life has a lot to teach us about justice. In February, the story of Joseph will help us see that justice is love in action and that, when we’re wronged by others, we can hold on to hope, trust that integrity can withstand injustice, and learn to practice justice that restores what’s broken.

Events

Register for Navigating a College Search During a Changing Landscape
Sunday, Feb. 5, 12:30-1:30 p.m., Youth Room, lunch will be provided

College is now the second-largest purchase families make after investing in their home. Applying and getting into right-fit colleges has become more difficult after the pandemic and test-optional landscape.

Come learn from a subject matter expert, Heidi King, who speaks nationwide on the college process. Hear about the current college application and acceptance landscape that will greatly enhance your understanding of the college process, reduce anxiety and position your child for success.

Find out how to build a right-fit college list, get a behind-the-scenes view of how financial aid really works, hear about the new 2023 FAFSA updates and be empowered with actionable strategies to save thousands of dollars and tips for working with your teenager on a stressful and emotional process.

An absolute must-see for parents with students in grades 9-11. Visit garychurch.org to register.

Save the dates

Mini Golf Fundraiser for Gary Youth
Sunday, April 16, 2–6 p.m.

Gary Youth’s mission trip will partner with BridgeBuilders to serve others in Woodlawn in Chicago on Sunday, July 23 to Saturday, July 29. Support our youth missionaries and enjoy 18 holes of pure joy! Spread throughout Gary Church, this family-friendly event will include prizes and a little church-approved competition. Also, come and check out dozens of auction items to bid on and snacks available for purchase. We need auction items and hole designers. Look for signups in the coming weeks!

BLAST Camp
Monday, June 19 – Thursday, June 22
Keep your eyes open for registration to begin! If you are available to help, or have questions,
Devotionals still needed
Forty days of Lent means 40 devotionals. We invite all children, youth and adults to share reflections, personal stories and glimpses of God at work in our lives for our electronic Lenten Devotional. Here’s a format you may choose to follow:

- Title
- Scripture
- Reflection on the scripture
- Prayer
- Action

Or, maybe you have a photo or poem or artwork you’d like to share. Really, anything goes. Please submit your devotional to Janet Mathis at jmathis@garychurch.org by Friday, Feb. 3.

Soup Supper
Wednesdays in Lent, Feb. 22–Apr. 5, 5–6:45 p.m. Commons
During the season of Lent, we will gather together for Soup Supper. It was such a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, food and faith during Advent, that we decided to enjoy it again during Lent.

Also, we are seeking some masterful soup makers who might be willing to share their culinary talents for these gatherings. If you have a favorite recipe you’d like to share — or a new one you would like to test out — we’d love to try a taste.

Sign up for Soup Supper and/or to provide soup at garychurch.org.

Help “Gary Cares: Reach Out”
At the beginning of the pandemic, we started “Gary Cares” as a way to continue to live out the gospel in these challenging times. We asked, “Would you be willing to call someone at Gary Church, just to check in and pray with them?” We called it “Gary Cares: Reach Out.”

“Gary Cares: Reach Out” allowed people to tangibly be Christ’s hands in the world by reaching out to touch another disciple, but over the phone. It was an amazing success. Not only were those who were called touched and cared for, but it impacted the spiritual lives of those who made the call. As we begin this Lenten season, we want to reach out again.

Would you be willing to call fellow Gary Church sisters and brothers in Christ? Anyone can be a caller. Simply sign up on the registrations page of garychurch.org. Then, Pastor Brian will send you an email with instructions. We hope to make all the calls in Lent, readying ourselves for Easter. Join us as we reach out to ones Christ loves during Lent.
Ash Wednesday
Feb. 22, 7 p.m.

Palm Sunday
April 2, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Service of Preparation
Tuesday, April 4, 7 p.m.

Maundy Thursday
April 6, 7 p.m., Aldersgate UMC

Good Friday
April 7, 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday
April 9, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

All services except Maundy Thursday will be in person in the Gary Church Sanctuary, livestreamed plus recorded at garychurch.org.
Merger with Aldersgate UMC of Wheaton

A Vital Partnerships Task Force of Gary United Methodist Church and Aldersgate UMC members have recommended a merger between our two congregations. Congregational votes will occur on Sunday, Feb. 5 (details below). The intent of the merger and basis for voting is described in the Plan and Agreement for Merger you can find at garychurch.org and in print in the Church Office. Key elements of the merger are:

- The merger will enable our congregations and ministries to grow stronger and serve others in ways that we cannot as separate congregations. The pastors will lead development of a merged congregation vision and mission statements.
- Our congregations will merge as Gary Memorial United Methodist Church at the current Gary Church facility. The Aldersgate facility will be sold.
- With a positive vote of both congregations (a 2/3 vote of the majority of members present at each congregational vote is required), detailed planning will occur through May, when a celebration of our joining together is anticipated on Pentecost, May 28. The legal and business merger would be effective June 1, 2023.

In-person merger vote
Sunday, Feb. 5, 11 a.m., Sanctuary

Gary Church members are invited to a special church conference meeting with our District Superintendent to vote on merging with Aldersgate UMC. Only members of Gary Church may vote, and the vote must be in person. If you're unable to attend, you may share your voice with the Church Office, and your comments will be read aloud in the meeting before the vote.

Aldersgate members will vote earlier in the morning. The Service of Word & Sacrament will resume on Sunday, Feb. 12 at 11 a.m.

Special Blend – Hosts Needed

Do you like to serve others by serving snacks and coffee? We're looking for people to help with either set up of coffee and snacks before the 9 a.m. service or clean up after the Special Blend hour between services. No long-term commitment – select the Sundays you want to help, or just be a substitute when the regular hosts aren't available. We also need people to provide snacks. You can sign up on the registrations page of garychurch.org or contact Larry Blackburn through the Church Office. You can also find him by the coffee most Sundays!
Adult Education Missions Classes

Now is an opportunity to learn new information about our mission partners and what they and we do to feed the hungry, house the homeless and help the unfortunate. We will have several adult classes featuring speakers from our mission partners to update all of us on their service to others on Sundays at 10 a.m. in the Chapel:

- **Feb. 5** – Feed My Starving Children (World Mission)
- **Feb. 12** – DuPage PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter)
- **Feb. 19** – Redbird Mission (Beverly, Kentucky)

Please attend to learn the latest information on these important missions.

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Register for Blood Drive

**Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2–6 p.m., Commons**

Every day, Versiti Blood Center of Illinois needs more than 540 blood products to meet hospital demand. What we collect will help people in our community. Register to give blood at garychurch.org/registrations.

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Save the date for FMSC

**Feb. 18–19, North Central College**

Over the years, Gary Church has funded 92,500 meals for Feed My Starving Children — let’s add to it! Watch the e-news for more information about the mobile packing event in February at North Central College.

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Scout Sunday

**Feb. 12**

Let’s celebrate scouting ministries in worship and during Special Blend.
Educating Girls —
A World of Opportunity

Donate at garychurch.org

It’s not too late for you to support Educate a Girl.

Please help Gary Church provide scholarships for nine girls of all ages, throughout the world. **EAG needs your support to fully accomplish our $7,200 fundraising goal! Will you please make a gift today?** Donations will be accepted throughout February.

Thank you for making a difference for girls, for families and for communities.

**CROP WALK 2023**

Sunday, May 7, 1 p.m. check in, 2 p.m. walk

3-mile walk will start and end at Gary Church

Gary Church will welcome 10 Glen Ellyn/Wheaton area churches to walk together to fight hunger locally and globally.

**How can you participate?**

- Please consider being a host helper for check in, set up/clean up, route monitors, etc. Contact Judy Selby or the Church Office to help with hosting.

- Register to walk with the Gary Church CROP Walk Team and/or make a donation through the CROP Walk link at garychurch.org.

- Checks made out to CWS CROP are also welcome.

Let’s walk to stop hunger locally and globally! Contact Judy Selby through the Church Office with any questions.
Christmas Sharing success

Thank you to everyone who donated money, provided diapers, packed boxes, moved boxes and helped on the day of Christmas Sharing. Here’s Christmas Sharing at the St. John Lutheran Church location by the numbers:

- We invited 257 families (1,178 people, which includes 685 children)
- 91% came (235 families)
- Delivered gift cards to all 22 families who weren’t able to attend
- 25 large families (seven or more family members) received $150 gift cards
- All other families (232) received $100 gift cards
- All leftover food, boxes of cleaning supplies and diapers were given to the People’s Resource Center.

Please consider volunteering to help organize Gary Church’s participation in Christmas Sharing in 2023. Contact Joe Davisson or Shelley Kenyon through the Church Office to learn more about this fulfilling opportunity to help District 200 families in need. We hope we can return to hosting this year!

Mums for Missions designates funds

JOY Circle of the United Women in Faith (UWF) had another successful sale with our Mums for Missions fundraiser this past fall. Our circle has designated the following ministries and programs to receive funds as a result of this effort: Gary Preschool, DuPage PADS, Educate a Girl, Justice for Our Neighbors, Community Outreach, Kids Above All and UMCOR. The UWF is dedicated to helping women, children and families, and the profit from the fundraiser will benefit those people within our church, our local community, our nation and our world. Thank you to all who purchased mums this year and to our office staff and volunteers who set up the online order form, promoted the fundraiser, did the unloading, sorting and delivery. It was a tremendous team effort.
Preschool Chatter

by Kirsten McCluskey

The preschool director’s office is connected to the classroom, which means I often overhear bits and pieces of conversations as the children chat with each other. Recently, after finishing the snack-time prayer, the children had a brief conversation about God. One child said, “God always watches us.” Another responded, “Yes, He's even in China! He's everywhere all at the same time.” The conversation continued with children wondering just how that was possible and if God was with us at preschool right that moment. A child, confident and sure, pronounced, “God is always here with us” and then added, “What are we having for snack again?” From religious pondering to graham crackers in a blink of an eye, that's preschool for you!

Substitutes and volunteers
We are looking for substitute teachers. A substitute teacher would need to have a background in education (or at least a few classes in education or related to children), as well as complete a background check and paperwork. Often substitutes are scheduled ahead of time, but there is an occasional need for last-minute substitutes.

We are also looking for classroom volunteers. Volunteers would be special visitors to our classrooms to read a book, perform a puppet show, help with a craft or share a talent. Volunteers would need to have a completed Safe Sanctuaries Covenant and background check through Gary Church. If you can help, contact Kirsten McCluskey at preschool@garychurch.org.

Help replace preschool puzzles; receive a valentine
On Sunday, Feb. 12, come visit the Preschool Board and staff in the Commons between services. We are collecting donations to replace faded puzzles and other materials in the preschool. With a gift of $20, you can help the preschool replace a puzzle. As a thank you for any level of donation, you will receive a preschooler-made card to give to a loved one for Valentine's Day or just because!

Thank you to everyone who donated children’s books to the December Book Drive. The books will be placed in new and existing play spaces that assist children and family members during tough times. The play spaces work alongside local social service agencies to help those in need. I never counted all of the donated books, but your contributions filled the entire back of my car!

With Gratitude,
Heather Jewell
GARY CHURCH FESTIVAL CHOIR AND CHAMBER ORCHESTRA PRESENT

DAN FORREST’S
REQUIEM FOR THE LIVING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023
9 & 11 A.M.

WITH GUEST ARTISTS

Michelle Arezyzaga
soprano

Faye Seeman
harp

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
CHILD CARE OFFERED FOR INFANTS THROUGH KINDERGARTEN AT 9 A.M.
February Birthdays*

Happy (90+) birthday to:

Ed Ewoldt
Beverly Land

Baptism

Mina Soo Hyun Lee, daughter of Dan and Stacey Lee, on Jan. 8.

Thank you

Thank you to all who worked on the new member directory. It is beautiful. As someone who worships online, it’s so nice to see all the faces of members and families. I really appreciate having this handy reference.

Deborah Fagan

Our sympathy

Dan, Stacey and Mina Lee, Ho Young and Young Ja Lee on the death of Ho Young’s sister and Dan’s aunt, Myuny Sook Lee, on Dec. 9.

Bernard and Susan McGuan on the death of Bernard’s cousin, Carolyn Garrett Cline.

Paul, Kara, Sam and Audrey Calderwood on the death of Kara’s uncle, David McMahan.

Gerry and Sharon Schmidt on the death of Sharon’s mother, Laura Cook.

Jackie Fritz on the death of her sister-in-law, Judy Wathen, on Jan. 4.

Howard and Esther Nicholas, Kim, Perry, Caitlin and Nick Johnson on the death of Howard’s step-mother, Marjorie Nicholas on Dec. 28.

Bob & Madge Drake on the death of Bob’s twin sister, Bonnie, on Jan. 11.

Mike and Donna Capra on the death of Mike’s cousin, Nicola Capra on Jan. 16.


Gary Church has had as many as 150 groups using the building. Before you plan your meeting or event, be sure to contact the Church Office to see if space is available.

Email office@garychurch.org or call 630-668-3100.

*DID YOU KNOW?*

Love is the direction

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. —1 John 4:7

*If we’ve missed your special day, please contact the Church Office. We’d love to include the date in our records.
To Members and Friends of Gary Church,

Twenty-four years ago, Pastor Ed Taveirne of Gary Church had an idea about a carpenter he knew who was interested in entering the ministry. So, an affiliation between Gary Church and Winfield Church began and Chris Winkler began his journey to attend North Central College and then Garrett Theological Seminary. Chris served Gary/Winfield and then other seminary students came to Winfield before retired pastors became our ministerial leaders and finally Pastor Bruce served as our pastor. Our attendance and finances required us to make a decision about our future, and we have decided to merge with First United Methodist Church of West Chicago.

The members and friends of Winfield Church want to say thank you to Gary Church, its members, pastors and especially the office. Sharing this ministry and mission over the years with Gary Church has been a positive result for Winfield, and we believe for Gary Church as well. Sharing worship opportunities, youth ministries, the scouts using our grounds, the Common Ground Garden, BLAST Camp and many music opportunities have benefited both our congregations. This affiliation of our two congregations has allowed both churches to grow and share the mission of serving our community and in making disciples for Jesus Christ. The love of Gary Church is very much appreciated and welcomed by Winfield Church and will never be forgotten. We thank you Gary Church.

With love and gratitude,

The Members of Winfield Church
Wednesdays in Lent
Feb. 22–Apr. 5
5–6:45 p.m.
Gary Church Commons
Soup Supper
See page 10 for details