

Chimes

The Newsletter of Gary United Methodist Church
March/April 2023



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Chimes VOLUME LXXI, ISSUE III

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Sunday Worship

9 a.m. Sunday Worship

In person

Livestream and recording
later in the day at garychurch.org
Child care available

11 a.m. Sunday Worship

Service of Word & Sacrament

In person

Church Office Hours

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



Gary Church Podcast

(sermon, scripture)

garychurch.org

Updated weekly



Pastor Brian Podcast

(prayers, Christian

conversations)

garychurch.org

Updated monthly

Submissions for the May Chimes newsletter are due by noon on Monday, April 3. 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.

Inspire

The human mind may devise many plans, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will be established.
Proverbs 19:21

It seems, lately, that I just can't stop thinking about calling and vocation. Whether it is passing conversations with students contemplating college and careers or our scripture readings, calling and vocation seems to be at the forefront of my thinking. Before you say to yourself, "I'm retired, I've had a wonderful vocation and career, or this article isn't for me," I encourage you to keep reading. I encourage you, whatever your age, to consider how God is calling you in this moment. The way that you live your life, the daily encounters that you have with others matters not only for you, it matters to them and it matters to the body of Christ.

I encourage you, whatever your age, to consider how God is calling you

A dictionary might define vocation as "a strong feeling of suitability for a particular career or occupation." However, I like Frederick Buechner's definition, "Vocation is the place where our deep gladness meets the world's deep need." Yet, discerning one's vocation or call is often difficult, and we are influenced by many voices within our culture, and there are many legitimate and illegitimate ways to live out one's "call" as a Christian and to be faithful in living as disciples of Jesus.

Recently, I came across an archived article about Leontine Kelly, one of the most inspiring people that I ever had the opportunity to meet. Kelly was the second woman elected to the position of bishop in The United Methodist Church, following Bishop Marjorie Matthews. Bishop Leontine Turpeau Current Kelly was the first African American woman to be elected not only in The UMC but in any major Christian denomination.¹ She was a dynamic preacher. She was approachable, warm and deeply spiritual.

While reflecting on her life, she recalled a moment when as a teenager, a woman asked her, "Young lady, what do you plan to be?" She did not answer the question. "You must plan to be somebody," the woman said, before introducing herself as Mary McCloud of Bethune-Cookman College.

Kelly's call to ministry was rather unique. When her husband, the Rev. David Kelly died, the district superintendent went to her house to let her know that the officers of the church had asked for her to be their pastor. That was not her calling, she insisted. The superintendent and bishop tried to assure her that she had the gifts and graces for ministry. Regardless of their persistence, she responded, "Well, you and the bishop can appoint but only God can call me to ministry, and he hasn't called. I believe in a called ministry." Within a few months, while teaching a class at the School of Christian Missions she did experience a call to ministry "in a powerful way."

When thinking about the story of her life and her call, I was struck by the many people who influenced her response to the call of life; from local YWCA leaders, giants in the civil and women's rights movement, laity in the local church, as well as superintendents and bishops. Each saw something special and offered encouragement and affirmation. Though she considered her call to be one of service and "to the classroom and not the pulpit," it was a community that nurtured her and gave her greater clarity and direction and ultimately God who affirmed her call.

Pastor Brian has often commented on how many of our confirmation students name laity here at Gary Church, such as their confirmation sponsors, as having a big influence on their lives. I encourage you, whatever your age, to consider how God is calling you in this moment. How is God calling you to serve? Are you open to listening for God's voice and plans for you? Are you considering how you might be an inspiration to others to find ways to serve God and God's purposes in the world? You just never know how your words may inspire another to make a difference in the world.



Christopher L. Peerson

¹ Leontine Turpeau Current Kelly - GCAH

ADULT Christian Education and Discipleship

Sunday Morning

Holy Week: A Creative Exploration

Sundays through 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.

*This class will not meet on March 26.



Launch: A Class on Spiritual Habits for Parents and Young Adults

Sunday, March 12, 10 a.m., Commons

led by Beth Orchard

Last class of four sessions, looking at how we can “launch” (or re-launch) our spiritual growth by evaluating (or re-evaluating) these spiritual habits of spending time with God, spending time with others in healthy community, using our gifts to serve and sharing our stories of faith.

Religion in Ancient Rome and the Problem with Christians

Sunday, April 16, 10 a.m., Chapel

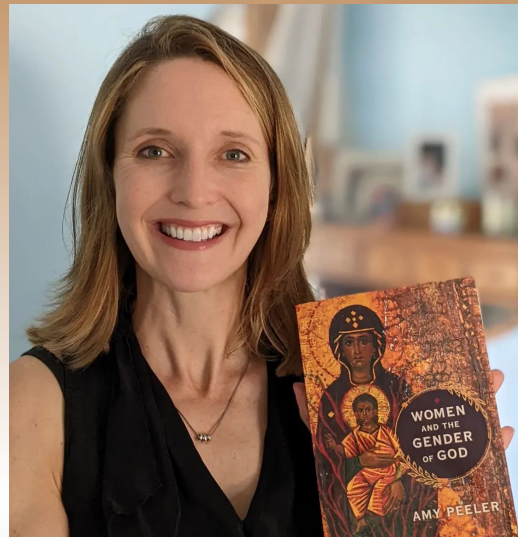
led by George Roe

Pick your favorite inspirational classic religious movie: *The Robe*? *Quo Vadis*? *Ben Hur*? Hollywood has given us a pretty clear picture of what life was like for Christians living in pagan ancient Rome. But is that picture really accurate? (Hint: Remember Charlton Heston as a galley slave in *Ben Hur*? By and large the Romans did not have galley slaves. Galleys, yes. Slaves rowing the galleys, not so much.) So, what is the truth? To understand what happened, we must first understand what religion was like in ancient Rome before Christianity. Was paganism really that far removed from this new so-called Christianity? Was a collision with established Roman society really inevitable? What did the Romans really think about the Christians? Lions? Really? These are some of the issues that will be addressed in this presentation.

Women and the Gender of God

Sunday, April 30, 10 a.m., Chapel

led by Rev. Amy Peeler, Ph.D.



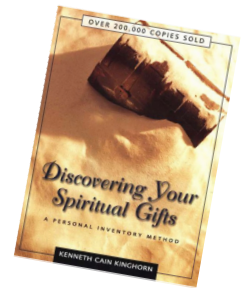
The term “gender” is frequently under discussion, and often those conversations are quite tense. This session invites participants back to a core affirmation of Christian faith: The God of the universe became human to redeem a broken creation. A deep consideration of the Christmas story won't settle all debates, but it will provide some anchoring truths that can aid the church as we navigate these questions. God is good. All humans bear the image of God and that is revealed with greatest clarity in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, a Jewish man born of the virgin, Mary. Join us for a conversation about God's identity and character and the value of every human being as we explore the scriptural accounts of God becoming flesh.

The Rev. Amy Peeler, Ph.D. is an associate professor of New Testament at Wheaton College, an associate rector at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Geneva and the author of multiple books. We will have her books on sale.

Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts

Sunday, April 23, 10 a.m., Chapel

Kenneth Cain Kinghorn's book, *Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts: A Personal Inventory Method* is designed to help Christians identify the specific gifts God has given them. While no Christian possesses every gift of the Spirit, every Christian does have some of God's wonderful gifts. This class will look at spiritual gifts and feature an "inventory" designed to help participants discover the gifts God has given them. A copy of the book can be purchased through the Church Office for \$5.



Weekday Studies and Groups

Lenten Study: *Entering the Passion of Jesus*

Wednesdays, March 1–22, 6:30 p.m.



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 14 for details).

Faith Club: An Interfaith Discussion Group

Tuesday, March 14, 7 p.m., Commons E and Zoom

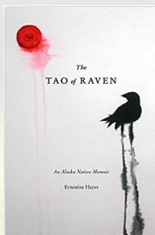
The Faith Club brings together women of Christian, Jewish and Islamic faiths to develop community and learn from and about one another. For details on the March meeting topic, see the e-news or contact **Kim Austin** through the Church Office. We will not have our regular Tuesday night meeting in April because of Ramadan.



Anti-Racist Book Club

The Tao of Raven: An Alaska Native Memoir

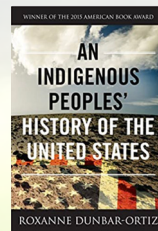
Wednesday, March 22, 7 p.m., Commons led by Carla Lovett



Ernestine Hayes expresses the generations of frustration and anger with obstacles and prejudices still facing Alaska Natives in their own land. This fictional narrative provides an indigenous worldview where all things are connected.

An Indigenous People's History of the United States

Wednesday, April 26, 7 p.m., Commons led by Judy Selby



This book by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz spans more than 400 years of history giving the silenced voices space to share this haunted part of our shared national narrative.

Read the books on your own and register at garychurch.org to join the discussion.

Hey Parents! We've got lots of fun and meaningful events planned throughout Lent and Easter. Be sure to mark your calendars for these special offerings that help faith grow. Blessings!

what we're teaching

In March

Changing Gears

Clank! Beep! Clunk! Kids love robots, especially ones that can transform into something new or have really cool abilities. In this 4-week series from Jesus' ministry on earth, we'll introduce kids to a different story each week that shows us how God's truths never change, but Jesus changes everything – including us. We'll see that we change when we know who God is, our past doesn't change God's love for us, and that Jesus changes how we see things because Jesus can change anything.



In April

Rise & Shine

On a farm, life has a daily rhythm (for plants, animals and people, too). "Life" is what this series is all about, because we're talking about Easter and Jesus' triumph over death! In this 5-week series, kids will explore the stories leading up to and following Easter Sunday. Together, they'll discover we can stick with Jesus even when our days are dark, and that because Jesus is alive, we can spend our days meeting with him, trusting he's there for us, and sharing his love – not just today, but every day.



what's happening

Stellar Vacation Bible School Registration Opens March 1!

At *Stellar* VBS, kids shine Jesus' light! Be sure to register your 4-year-old preschool through fourth grader for this fun and faith-filled camp offered Monday, *June 19–Thursday, June 22* at garychurch.org.



1st & 2nd Grade Sunday School The Lord's Prayer in Movement

Sunday, March 5, 10 a.m.

The first and second grade Sunday School class will welcome Deaconess Catherine Inerra for a special lesson on the Lord's Prayer with movement. Additionally, students will practice the Lord's Prayer each week of Sunday School culminating on *March 19* when they will lead the congregation in the Lord's Prayer during worship. Contact **Pastor Carey** for questions or details.

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.





Parent's Night Out

Friday, March 10 & April 14, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

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.

4th & 5th Grade Fellowship SuperStart! Lock-in

Friday, March 17–Saturday, March 18



SuperStart is the nation's largest pre-teen 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 and activities.) Register at garychurch.org.



Save the date for April's 4th & 5th Grade Fellowship event:

Friday, April 21, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Kids' Church and Sunday School on Spring Break!

Sunday, March 26

Kids' Church and Sunday School leaders are going on "Spring Break." Families are welcome to worship together. Programming will resume on *Sunday, April 2*.



**THE SWEET
SURPRISE OF
EASTER**

Sunday, April 2, 10 a.m.

The Easter story is a storm that ends with a rainbow! All Gary Kids are invited to "taste the rainbow" as they learn about Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, last supper, death, and glorious resurrection during this colorful special event that is sure to be sweet!

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 9, 10:15 a.m. in Memorial Park

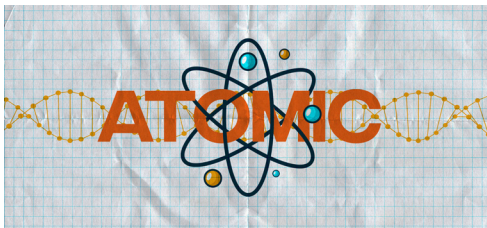
See back page for details.

Winter Chill

At Winter Chill 2023, Gary Youth learned about love; that God is the source of love, love is supposed to be shared, and love is hard but we can do it together with God's help. We had so much fun worshiping, praying and playing together. There was plenty of snow to enjoy too! Thank you for all your prayers and support!



What are we learning in March?



Habits! We all have them, so let's talk about them. Whether you've got good habits (like getting enough sleep or remembering to floss) or bad habits (like biting your nails or checking your phone too often), most of your habits are probably small, tiny, hardly noticeable habits. But over time, those tiny habits can really impact your life, for good or bad. So, what about your spiritual habits? What are the small things you do every day that either draw you closer to God or keep you at a distance? In March, we'll discover some principles from scripture that have the power to help you develop tiny habits that can make a big impact — habits like spending time with God, investing in your relationships, sharing your faith story and worshiping with your life.

What are we learning in April?



If you've ever gone hiking before, especially in the winter, you know that "breaking trail" is something you do when you encounter deep snow that's tough to navigate. When that happens, one hiker usually goes ahead of their group and clears the way so others can follow behind more easily. A trail breaker is someone who goes ahead, who makes a new way and who invites others to follow along behind them. In so many ways, that's exactly what Jesus did for us. He broke a new trail just by existing, but he did so much more than that too. In this April Easter series, we'll be going over the stories of Jesus to discover how he is our trail breaker.



Sunday School

Classes meet 10–11 a.m.

Middle school meets in Commons E on the main floor. We encourage high schoolers to attend the adult education classes in the Chapel.
(No classes on Sunday, March 26 or Easter Sunday, April 9)

Events

Registration begins for BLAST Camp:

Level Up

Monday, June 19–Thursday, June 22

*Registration opens March 1 for students entering grades 5–8! Do you want to be a part of the fun as a leader? Sign up on the youth page at garychurch.org or contact **Pastor Dan**.*



March & April Weekly Gathering

Middle School

Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m.

March 22, Jackbox Game Night, bring your cell phone or iPad

March 29, no meeting, Spring Break

April 5, no meeting, We encourage Gary Youth families to attend Holy Week services

April 19, no meeting

High School

Sundays, 7–8:30 p.m.

March 19, 6:45–8:30 p.m., Escape Room

March 26, no meeting, Spring Break

April 9, no meeting, Happy Easter!

April 16, mini golf fundraiser for Gary Youth, see page 17 for details.

April 23, 6–7:30 p.m. Word & Table: Pastor Dan will take you out for Pho (Vietnamese noodles) and have our discussion back in the youth room.

Jackbox Party Game Night

Wednesday, March 22, 7–8:30 p.m.

Middle School Gary Youth are invited to bring their cell phones or iPads. We will be playing a variety of fun competitive trivia games complete with snacks.



Escape Room

Sunday, March 19, 6:45–8:30 p.m., \$15

The Game Master has kidnapped the mayor! High school Gary Youth are invited to use your wits to solve his board game and video game puzzles and traps. You only have an hour to do it though! Will it be game over for the mayor, or you save him in time? Meet at CluedIn Escape Rooms at 440 Roosevelt Road in Glen Ellyn. Please RSVP by signing up on our youth page at garychurch.org.



GARY CHURCH *makes a difference*



SOUTH SUDAN
Voices of Hope

South Sudan has been the scene of civil war and sectarian violence for almost five decades. Now, in addition to those catastrophes its population faces alternate bouts of drought and flooding along with severe food shortages, likely to get worse because of the war in Ukraine. As of 2018

over 4 million citizens were internally displaced or refugees. The U.N. reported 85% of those refugees were women and children. The U.N. currently reports that out of a population of 12 million, 8.9 million people are in need, with 7.7 million facing acute food insecurity and 1.4 million children malnourished. These are brothers and sisters whose only desire is to raise their children in safety and without want, as many around the world can do.

South Sudan Voices of Hope (SSVOH) was founded in the early 2000's by Kenneth Elisapana, himself a refugee from Sudan. The current efforts of SSVOH are to provide for the basic needs of flood victims, the Internally Displaced and returning refugees. They seek to provide food items for the Confident Children out of Conflict (CCC) orphanage in Juba, South Sudan and finally to complete the building of the Ruth Burugwa Elisapana Vocational Training Center to launch training programs. In addition, they seek to work with government, church and community leaders to find ways to promote internal economic development which would improve the lives of their people. So we, as supporters of the South Sudanese, prayerfully ask you to find it in your hearts to help us financially support these worthwhile efforts.



Donate at garychurch.org. Questions? Contact **Joe Ruth** through the Church Office.

Prescription for Life fundraiser to begin soon

It's time once again for the Prescription for Life collection. Gary Church has partnered with First Presbyterian Church since 2006 to support Outreach Community Center as they help older adults with limited income who are living in south Carol Stream. Isolation, poor access to social services, limited access to shopping and medical visits because of lack of transportation, lack of community and social connections are just a few issues that plague the seniors who receive assistance from Outreach Community Ministries Older Adult program.

Outreach supports seniors with many programs including social activities, a mood and memory clinic, financial assistance, accessing governmental services and the annual Christmas party. We will be handing out prescription bottles on March 19 and collecting them on April 16. You can fill a bottle with your loose change (bills and checks are ok too!), donate online at garychurch.org or write a check. This is one of their main fundraisers, so we need your help. If you have any questions, please contact **Barbara Holmes** through the Church Office. Look for more information in the e-news.



Busy ESSE months coming up

April is Gary Church's month to help ESSE, Ecumenical Support Services for the Elderly. ESSE is at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wheaton and Faith Lutheran Church in Glen Ellyn. We provide day care (7 a.m.–5 p.m.) for our senior citizens and a break for family members. Activities, projects, games, exercise, catered lunch and snacks are provided.

What can I do?

- **Bring treats.** Sign up in the Commons in late March and early April.
- **Visit.** Share music, read a story, lead a craft, help with lunch — all visits welcome. We're looking for a few good men to converse with our gentleman participants — guy stuff, you know! They're surrounded by women — help! No special talent needed.
- **Donate.** Give at garychurch.org/give or through Giving DuPage Days.



May is Giving DuPage Days: May 1–5. Add it to your calendar and please consider donating to help ESSE as this is our only fundraiser. ESSE received over \$29,000 last year and was third in donations given in the county. Let's go for number one this year! Donations go to supporting the programs and participants to keep this needed service going. Details will follow closer to the date: watch your e-news.

Contact **Deb Connor** through the Church Office for more information. Thanks for your commitment to this service!

Applause, Applause

Thank you to all who so generously gave to our People's Resource Center pantry enhancement initiative in January. You really came through with flying colors. Our clients will now be able to add seasonings to their meals, add flavorings to their baking and add zest to their menus. Your wonderful donations are amazing!

Mary Landreth



Recycle Styrofoam

Sundays, April 16, July 16, Oct. 15, 8:45–10:30 a.m., South Driveway

Bring your Styrofoam to church, and we will recycle it for you. Please separate clean food containers from other Styrofoam. No packing peanuts. If you miss the date, feel free to drop off Styrofoam at Dart Container Corporation, 310 Evergreen Dr., North Aurora.



GARY CHURCH *makes a difference*

Thank you, Gary Church, for generously helping girls and young women to achieve life-changing educational goals!

You met the \$7,200 fundraising goal - YAY!! - enabling scholarships for nine students attending primary school through university across the globe.

Because you listened to God's call, we are able to extend the church's scholarships for our students in Kenya, Cambodia and Zimbabwe and provide a new scholarship for a Native American student in Chicago. That's amazing!

The Gary Church community surrounded this mission with energy, interest and love! Much fun was had by all...

- Our **Middle School Youth** raced around the church on an EAG scavenger hunt.
- You heard the sweet voices of the **Friendship Singers** as they sang "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" in Swahili during a worship service. A video of their performance was shared with Gloria and Angel, our young Kenyan students.
- So many of you **baked, bought and ate** delicious baked goods and purchased lovely crafts donated by the Gary Craft Circle at the successful bake and craft sale.
- **Gary Kids** wrote encouraging notes and drew beautiful pictures for our scholarship students.
- Many of you gathered in **Adult Education** to "meet" each of our scholarship students and learn about the need for and great benefits of a girl's education.

Through the education of girls, Gary Church is helping to change lives, strengthen families and empower communities. Many lives are transformed because YOU have decided to actively love, pray for and invest in our neighbors, near and far. Thank you for caring and following Jesus' call to build the Kingdom of God here on earth!

Cathy Mousseau & Judy Selby
EAG Co-chairs



Gary Church hosts CROP Walk 2023

Planning meeting: Monday, March 20, 7 p.m., Anderson Room

Event: Sunday, May 7, check in at 1 p.m.,
walk at 2 p.m., starts and ends at Gary Church Parking Lot

The goal is for Gary Church to welcome at least 200 people from 10 Glen Ellyn/Wheaton churches to walk for the fight against hunger locally and globally. CROP Walk raises funds for and awareness of the ever-present food insecurity issues in Du Page County and around the world. Portions of our CROP funds support Wheaton and Glen Ellyn food pantries to provide for families and children in local school districts. The 3-mile walk will start and end at Gary Church.

Please consider participating in some way:

As a host helper:

Check in, set up, clean up, walk route monitor, other tasks.

Attend the planning meeting on Monday, March 20 and/or let **Judy Selby** know through the Church Office you'd like to help.

As a walker:

Register to walk on Sunday, May 7 with the Gary CROP Team at garychurch.org.

As a supporter:

Make a donation through the CROP Walk link at garychurch.org/registrations, go to garychurch.org/give or send in a check with CROP Walk in the memo. Donations are welcome through the end of May

Wear any Gary Church or CROP Walk shirt you have. Contact **Judy Selby** through the Church Office with any questions.



Use the QR code to register and donate.

Gary Preschool and Parents' Morning Out is hiring

We are looking to hire two to three people for our PMO and Preschool programs. Teachers should have experience with young children. Ideal candidates would have an educational background in Early Childhood or Elementary Education, but all are welcome to apply. We have two PMO classes we are hiring for: Wednesday/Friday and Tuesday/Thursday in the morning. We are also looking for a new preschool teacher to join the 3 and/or 4-year-old classes. Preschool teachers must have an educational background in Early Childhood or Elementary Education. All classes run from September to May. Please send an email to **Kirsten McCluskey** at preschool@garychurch.org to learn more about our open positions. Please feel free to share with others outside of the Gary Church community.

2023-2024 Registration continues at Gary Preschool and PMO

Gary Preschool offers options for children 3-6 years old in our 3s, 4s, and Pre-K classes. We also offer care for children as young as 18 months in our PMO program. Classes are filling, so don't delay! Please contact **Kirsten McCluskey** through the Church Office or by email at preschool@garychurch.org with any questions or to schedule a tour. Do you have a neighbor or friend with a young child? We'd love it if you would spread the word about Gary PMO and Preschool!

Thank you!

The Preschool recently held a Valentine's Day fundraising event and received donations that will go directly to the children. Thank you for your generosity both at the Valentine's Day sale and for all recent donations to the preschool. The teachers are looking forward to replacing dated or faded puzzles and other materials for the children in our Preschool and PMO classrooms.

Help needed for Soup Supper

Wednesdays in Lent through April 5, 5-6:45 p.m. Commons

Soup Supper provides a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, food and faith during Lent. We need help with set up, clean up and providing soup and other treats. Sign up to volunteer and to eat at garychurch.org.



Thank you, Rev. JoAnne Chase and Heather Jewell!

On April 19, 2020, at the start of what would be a years-long pandemic, Gary Church launched a virtual coffee hour where folks could discuss the morning's service (then only offered online) and connect with one another. We called it Worship Talk. After nearly three years of discussion and countless cups of coffee, Worship Talk met for the last time on Sunday, Jan. 29. The Adult Christian Education Committee, as well as those who attended Worship Talk, would like to thank the Rev. **JoAnne Chase** and **Heather Jewell** for leading this wonderful ministry that blessed everyone who logged on.



2023

Holy Week *services*

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, 1753 S. Blanchard Street, Wheaton

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. Gary Church services at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. will also be livestreamed and recorded at garychurch.org.



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

Music begins with silence

by Jennifer Whiting

“Stillness is our most intense mode of action.” – Leonard Bernstein

That quotation hangs on the wall above my desk. It reminds me that one of the most important things I can do is listen.

Before we make a musical sound, things have to happen in the brain. This phenomenon of internal listening is called audiation. We must imagine a sound before we make it. You audiate music all the time. Let me prove it to you.

Sing the first phrase of “Happy Birthday to You,” then stop singing and be quiet. What happens in your mind? You automatically “hear” the next phrase of the song! Musicians learn to hear the music in their minds before they make sounds.

Sometimes I say to my choirs, “Listen louder than you sing.” Besides listening internally, musicians also listen intently to others. Singers constantly listen to one another to match vowel shapes, tune chords, match rhythms, shape phrases and countless other musical details.

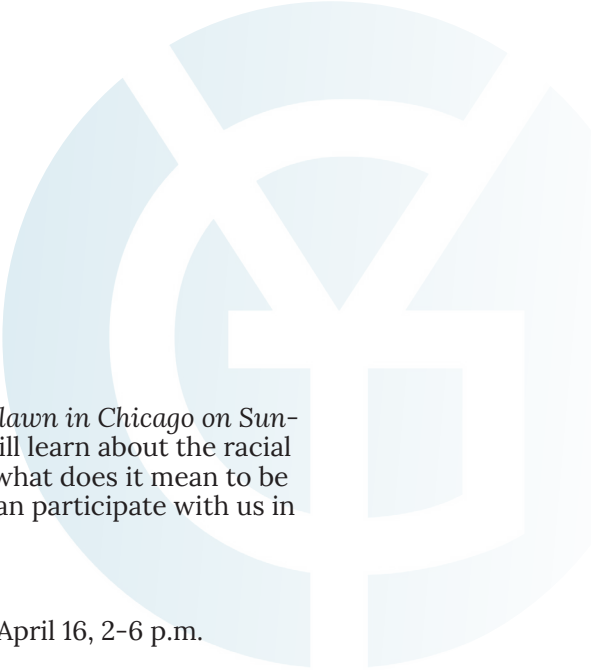
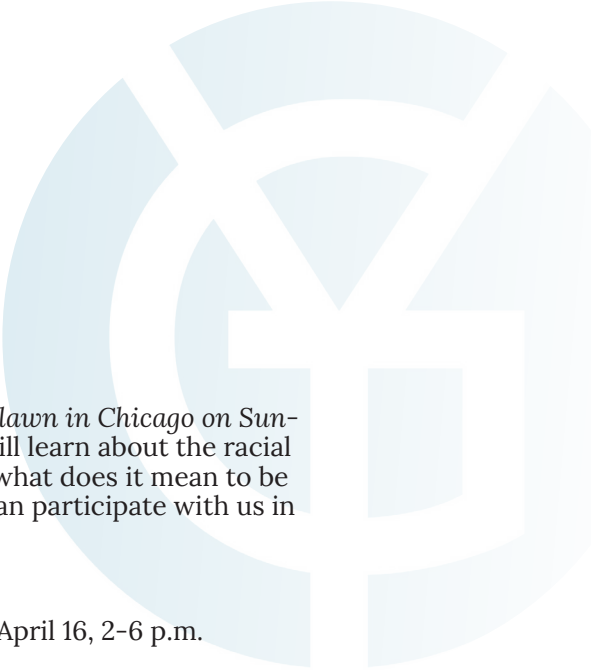
God also asks us to listen.



“Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10 NIV).

Beautiful music happens when we “listen louder than we sing.” How is God asking us to listen today?





Mini Golf and Silent Auction Fundraiser for Gary Youth

Sunday, April 16, 2-6 p.m.

Gary Youth is on a mission!

This summer, our high schoolers are going on a mission trip to *Woodlawn in Chicago* on Sunday, July 23 to Saturday, July 29 to partner with BridgeBuilders. We will learn about the racial history of Chicago, engage in conversations about poverty, and ask “what does it mean to be a just and merciful Christian in the face of racism?” Here’s how you can participate with us in mission:

1. Pray for Gary Youth as we prepare for our mission trip.
2. Save the date of the Gary Youth Mini Golf Fundraiser: Sunday, April 16, 2-6 p.m.
3. Donate item(s) to the Silent Auction.
4. Design one of the 18 holes.
5. Sponsor a hole.
6. Bid on items at the event.
7. Invite family and friends to mini golf!

Online sign-up forms will be posted on the youth and registrations pages at garychurch.org. Proceeds will go towards funding our youth mission trip and other youth events throughout the year. Thank you for your generosity!



Questions? Contact **Pastor Dan** at dlee@garychurch.org

March Birthdays*

Happy (90+) birthday to:

Elmer Wetmore

April Birthdays*

Happy (90+) birthday to:

Barb Vercoe

Joyce Fahs

Anne Courter

April Anniversaries*

Happy (50+) anniversary to:

Dick & Julie Raab

Our sympathy

Paul, Jill, and Tom Stoffels, Jenny (Stoffels), Andrew, Annabelle and Lillian Green on the death of Jill's sister, Linda, on Feb. 7.

Ruth Tremper on the death of her husband, Doug Tremper, on Feb. 10.

Thank you

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! A special thanks to all who sent cards and made phone calls to me during Christmas and on my birthday. They were very much appreciated.

Thank you!
Ed Ewoldt



Many thanks for the dozens of signatures on a Gary Church homemade card in supportive response to my recent injury. I stumbled and fell onto the concrete floor in stepping out of the house into the garage with items in both arms just before Christmas. I literally fell flat on my face. The primary damage to my body was a fractured left wrist plus a bruised ego. I now have a removable cast and am receiving hand occupational therapy. Thank you for your prayers of support and healing.

God Bless!!

Rev. Dr. Fred S. Kelsey
(Retired Methodist Pastor)

Thank You!

Gary Church Family and Staff,

Our deepest appreciation for all your efforts in providing a beautiful memorial service for my dad, James Smith. We will always remember your gifts of kindness and support.

Warmest regards,

Donna Hayes and the family of James Smith

To our Gary Church family:

Madge and I would like to thank you for all your cards, calls, personal notes and words of comfort on the loss of my beloved twin sister, Bonnie Ballard.

Words cannot express how blessed we are to have you all in our lives.

In Christ,

Bob and Madge Drake

Grief Matters Support Group

Wednesdays, April 12–June 7, 10–11:30 a.m., Commons A

We welcome anyone grieving the death or loss of someone to be a part of the new session of this group. It is a place where you can be with people who understand how you feel and the pain of your loss. You'll gain valuable tools to help you as you continue the journey of grief. Please contact **Jackie Fritz** and **Judy Grote** through the Church Office to let us know you'll be coming.



*If we've missed your special day, please contact the Church Office. We'd love to include the date in our records.



Plant sale fundraiser

Aldersgate UMC's 33rd annual plant sale is now in progress. We offer a wide variety of beautiful plants at reasonable prices: 4-packs, individual pots of premium plants and accents, hanging baskets, and patio pots. Profits from the 2023 sale will be used to support the ministries of the merged Aldersgate and Gary Church congregations.

Check out the Aldersgate website (wheatonchurch.com) for ordering instructions, order forms and photos of the plants. The deadline to submit orders is *Sunday, March 19*. Your order will be ready to pick up on *Saturday, May 20 between 11 a.m. and noon* in the Aldersgate Parking Lot (1753 S. Blanchard Street, just north of the Wheaton Park District Community Center and Rice Pool).

Adults and youth are welcome to help with the delivery process on *Saturday, May 20, 8–11 a.m.* This involves unloading the plants and sorting them into individual orders. If you can carry plants around the parking lot, read and count to 18, you are qualified!

Questions? Contact **Linda Tresner** through the Church Office.



Positive vote for merger

The ballots are counted, and the results are in: Gary Church and Aldersgate UMC will merge to form one congregation. We will continue to work through the details of the merger, with a celebration in worship at Gary Church planned for Pentecost on May 28. For more information, go to garychurch.org.





**Easter egg donations needed! Please donate filled Easter eggs by Friday, April 7.
You can drop off donations in the basket near the Sanctuary.**