Submissions for the September Chimes magazine are due by noon on Tuesday, Aug. 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 at garychurch.org.
Worship in the Park and Picnic

Sunday, Aug. 20, 10 a.m., Memorial Park (note time and location)
Let's enjoy the last days of summer with a worship service in Memorial Park. Bring a lawn chair or use the theater seating provided. After the service, we'll have fried chicken and lemonade — please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Special Blend: Mina Lee's Dol Party

Sunday, Aug. 13, 10 a.m., Commons
In Korean culture, a baby's first birthday is a big event known as a “doljanchi” or “dol.” It symbolizes the survival of the infant through the critical first year of life. During the “dol,” a ritual is done called the “doljabi,” which consists of several items placed on a mat, each symbolizing a different path or career the child might take in the future. These items typically include a book (for scholarly pursuits), a stethoscope (for a future in medicine), a microphone (for a career in the arts or entertainment), a ball (for sports), and money (for wealth). Mina Lee will crawl and reach for one of these items. During Special Blend, Gary Church is invited to guess what item Mina will choose and a special winner will receive a prize!

Register for August blood drive

Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2–6 p.m., Commons
Each time you give blood, you could save up to three lives. Register for the August blood drive at garychurch.org, and tell your friends. Also, please mark your calendar for our last blood drive of 2023 on Wednesday, Nov. 29.

All-church training

Sunday, Aug. 27, 2 p.m.
Learn about the new theme for the year, what’s happening in the ministry area(s) you serve, plus all-church policies.

Newly-imagined 11 a.m. service

Begins Sunday, Aug. 27
Thank you to the Worship Visioning Team for looking at how we worship. You may notice some tweaks to the 9 a.m. service, and you'll want to try the new 11 a.m. service. The team reviewed all aspects of worship, including accessibility, technology, style, flow and more.

Faith Club: A Women's Interfaith Group

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m., Gary Church and on Zoom
We will kick off the fall season with a discussion of Great Souls: Six Who Changed the Century by David Aikman. The conversation will focus on three of the “great souls” explored in this book: Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela and Elie Wiesel. The book is available from used book sources such as thriftbooks.com. To be added to the group’s email list, contact Kim Austin through the Church Office.
Love Your Enemies?

During my devotional time one afternoon I came across a moving story on the podcast Our Daily Bread. The story is about a man named Dan who endured beatings every day from the same prison guard. However, Dan was also a Christian. People sometimes talk about “jailhouse conversions” but Dan was a committed Christian, a lifer, and he felt compelled to show love to the very guard who beat him each day.

Before the ritual beating was about to take place one morning, “Dan, said, ‘Sir, if I’m going to see you every day for the rest of my life, let’s become friends.’ The guard said, ‘No Sir. We can never be friends.’ Dan insisted and reached out a hand.”

According to the story “the guard froze. He began to shake, then grabbed Dan's hand and wouldn't let go. Tears streamed down his face. He said, Dan, my name is Rosoc. I would love to be your friend.” The guard didn't beat Dan that day or ever again. I wonder if that is what it was like when Paul was imprisoned and converted his jailer (Acts 16).

Having spent time with the incarcerated in prisons and juvenile detention facilities in five states and two countries, I have seen the power of the gospel at work in people's lives. I have seen people come to a deep and profound faith that shames my own. I have even witnessed unbelievable faith in people who are sentenced to life in prison and those sitting on death row.

Dan’s story may seem like a fairytale to some, or to the cynic — a display of self interest. However, it has played itself out on the national and international stage as well. I have witnessed people discover the humanity in the other; feel compelled to show love to another.

The late Nelson Mandela, who was imprisoned for 27 years in South Africa because of his protests against the system of apartheid, saw something different about Paul Gregory, one of his prison warders. He befriended him, and when Mandela was inaugurated as the nation's president after his release from prison, he invited his prison guard to his inauguration. He also invited the prosecutor who sought the death penalty in his case.

What was different about Gregory was that while others tortured Mandela, Gregory was always “courteous” and a “soothing presence.”

The podcast episode was called Heaping Coals on Enemies (Proverbs 25:21-22). The contributor suggests that this phrase may reflect an Egyptian ritual in which a guilty person showed repentance by carrying a bowl of hot coals on his head. I must admit that this sounds a lot better than love your enemies. To love one's enemies is hard.

Each time that I wrestle with that difficult concept and command of Jesus, I find myself going back to the words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in his book Strength to Love. It is a book that I find I must read again and again (as evidenced in the photo) because I find it so hard to do on a practical level.

“We shall never be true [children] of our heavenly Father until we love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.”

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
In this great work, leaning heavily on Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, King offered this radical concept even as a way to bring liberation and transformation not only to individuals but to change systems of oppression. He posits the practical “how to” love your enemy and theoretical “why” we must love our enemies. In addition to the chain reaction of evil — hate begetting hate, wars producing more wars — we must be broken or we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation. King stated another reason that we must love our enemies is that hate scars the soul and distorts the personality ... we often think of what it does to the person hated. But hate is just as injurious to the one who hates ... it is like an unchecked cancer, it corrodes. We have all witnessed it in the lives of others and in our own lives when we are unable to forgive, let alone love our enemies.

Finally, again, drawing from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, King reminds us that we shall never be true [children] of our heavenly Father until we love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.

**Consider:** What if in learning to love our enemies we are becoming more truly like God and at the same time more truly ourselves?

**Contemplate:** Read Matthew 5:43-48

**Pray:** Pray for those persons and situations that come to mind.

**Act:** Reach out your hand in forgiveness or reconciliation with another.

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**Coming forward for communion**

Starting Sunday, Aug. 6, you will be invited to come forward to the front of the Sanctuary for communion. You'll receive a piece of cubed bread and an individual cup. Fellowship cups and gluten-free options will also be available. And, if you're not able to come forward, communion stewards will serve you in the pew.
Music groups for everyone

This fall is an exciting time for music ministries. Singers, ringers and instrumentalists of all ages will lead us in worship throughout the year, and the newly-designed 11 a.m. service offers opportunities for contemporary music. We invite you to join a group that is right for you!

Singing groups:

Cherub Choir
Wednesdays, 6–6:30 p.m., Choir Room
Age 3–Kindergarten
This group explores music through singing, rhythm, and movement. Each child is accompanied by an adult who participates in the class. Register at garychurch.org.

Friendship Singers
Wednesdays, 6–6:45 p.m., Chapel
Grades 1–5
Director: Jennifer Whiting

Men’s Chorus
Second and third Saturdays, 8–9 a.m., Choir Room
High School–Adult, tenors and basses
Director: Phil Roberts

Chancel Choir
Thursdays, 7–8 p.m., Choir Room
High School–Adult, mixed choir
Director: Jennifer Whiting

Handbells and instruments:

Good News Ringers
Wednesdays, 5:30–6:15 p.m., Bell Room
Grades 3–6
Directors: Nancy Brunner | Jill Stoffels

Glory Ringers
Sundays, 11 a.m.–noon, Bell Room
Grades 7–12
Directors: Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal | Jill Stoffels

Altar Bells
Wednesdays, 6:15–7:30 p.m., Bell Room
High School–Adult
Director: Phil Roberts

Singers/instrumentalists for 11 a.m. service
Thursdays, 6–7 p.m., Chapel
High School–Adult
Directors: Pam Connor | Lynda Goldberg

Share your instruments and voices
To explore sharing your gifts in worship, contact Jennifer Whiting at jwhiting@garychurch.org.

Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre;
Sing praises to God with a harp of ten strings.
Sing to the Lord a new song;
Play skillfully with a shout of joy.
~ Psalm 33:1–2
The merger of Aldersgate UMC and Gary UMC into one congregation has included many events and activities during 2023 – an overwhelming vote on Feb. 5 by each congregation to join into one worshipping body serving God’s kingdom, several missional and fellowship activities in the spring including a Lenten study and flower sale, a first worship service as one on May 21, and a joyous Pentecost celebration that welcomed back former pastors. Pastor Daniel Cochran’s appointment as Gary Church associate pastor was effective July 1.

The physical merger of our possessions and business aspects is also occurring, but on a different timeline. Thanks to many hands, one large truck was able to move Aldersgate items to Gary on June 10, and many more hands continue to find places for those items in the building. As stated in our merger documentation signed with the Feb. 5 vote, the intent was to merge our business and legal activities on July 1, but this was delayed to simplify the sale of the Aldersgate facility. It is anticipated that this could be concluded by the end of the summer.

**Contribute to dessert potluck**

*Sunday, Aug. 6, 10 a.m., Commons*

Let’s officially welcome Pastor Daniel Cochran with lots of sweet treats! Bring a dessert to share for this special fellowship time.

**Bethel Christian Church**

If you have recently come by Gary Church on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon, you may have noticed some extra activity. Bethel Christian Church, a small congregation that was previously using Aldersgate UMC for their worship services, is now using space at Gary. Please make every effort to welcome Bethel to our building.
Gary Youth are leaders

Did you know that our youth are already leaders in our community? I want to tell you about two of our Gary Youth who are amazing leaders.

Kristin is a junior at Wheaton Warrenville South, who will be a drum major for the Tiger Marching Band in the 2023-2024 school year. As a drum major, Kristin will not only be guiding the band through intricate formations, tempo changes and musical nuances, she will be setting the example for her peers through her dedication and teamwork. Cheer her on when you see the Tiger Marching Band during high school football games or during a parade!

You might be familiar with the name Madison if you have read her entries in Gary Church’s Lenten devotionals. She is a sophomore at Wheaton Warrenville South. Madison has her own baking business. She bakes amazing baked goodies like cupcakes and cakes. Have a party that needs some sweet delicious baked creations? Let Pastor Dan know, and he can get you connected!

Gary Church Golf Outing

Sunday, Aug. 6, first tee time at 1 p.m.
Klein Creek Golf Course

The 26th annual Gary Golf Outing to support our youth programs will be a four-person scramble format. All skill levels are encouraged to participate as everyone can contribute to the foursome’s success. Visit garychurch.org under “registrations” or contact the Church Office to sign up for your foursome or let them know you will need to be paired with other golfers. The cost is $125 (adults), $90 (youth) which includes 18 holes of golf with cart and a meal and refreshments after play. You may also sponsor a hole for $125. We look forward to seeing you there for a fun afternoon!

Fall Retreat 2023: Behold

Friday, Sept. 29–Sunday, Oct. 1, We will leave at 4 p.m. on Friday and return by 1 p.m. on Sunday.

We will be joining other United Methodist youth groups at Lake Geneva Youth Camp in Wisconsin for a weekend of worship, fun and nature! The theme is “Behold.” Even though we don’t always recognize the presence of God, God is always with us. Our guest speaker is Melissa Meyers, senior pastor of Batavia UMC. The cost is $180 with a deposit of $30 at registration. Our cost includes our transportation and snacks. Scholarships are available. Visit garychurch.org to register! Registration closes on Sept. 1.

Save the dates:

Sunday School Kickoff:
Sunday, Sept. 10

Middle School Gary Youth Kickoff:
Wednesday, Sept. 13

High School Gary Youth Kickoff:
Sunday, Sept. 10

Confirmation Sunday:
Sunday, Sept. 17
Who knew that video games can teach us about growing in our faith? Check out all of the things we learned and put into action each day at BLAST Camp.

On Monday, we learned we level up in our faith when we remember what God has done through the game Splatoon. We can build an Ebenezer to help us remember. We can build a monument, we can come together to worship, we can also remember what God has done for us by serving others. We made tie dye shirts, painted rocks, and we helped design boxes for Phil’s Friends, an organization that delivers support and hope to individuals and families affected by cancer.

On Tuesday, we played real life Super Mario Kart and learned we level up in our faith when we work together! We spent the day at Lincoln Marsh playing team games.

On Wednesday, we learned God is the ultimate Minecrafter and we level up in our faith when we care for God’s supremely good creation! At Blackwell Forest Preserve, we helped maintain the nursery where many of the plants at Blackwell begin their life. We also spent the day doing a scavenger hunt and learned that there are two creation stories in the Bible.

On Thursday, we learned that we level up in our faith when we recognize that God will never stop loving us. Like the birds in Angry Birds will stop at nothing to get their babies back, nothing will separate us from God’s love. We spent the day packing care packages for Kids Above All. These boxes will go to babies during their Week of the Young Child in the fall. We also prayed for all the care packages and school supplies we collected and ended our week with a pool party!

Thank you, Gary Church, for your prayers and support! Thank you to all the youth and adult leaders who made this week fun for all our campers.
Hey Parents! Happy August! Can you believe a new school year is almost here? You’re probably busy trying to enjoy the last few moments of summer before breaking out those backpacks. We are too! Of course, we’re also gearing up for a new year of ministry for you and your kiddos. Be sure to check out some of the save-the-dates for fall. (Then go back to your beach read.) Blessings and see you Sunday!

What We’re Teaching

August Series: Wonder-FULL
From the Northern Lights to the Great Barrier Reef, our world is full of so many incredible wonders! In this four-week series, we’ll explore the natural wonders of the world while learning from the book of Psalms about how all of God’s creation is evidence of how wonderful our Creator is! Each week, we’ll invite kids to worship because of all the “wonder-full” things God has done by putting their hope in God, asking for God’s help, remembering what God has done and living for God!

Kids’ Church and Sunday School Teacher and Assistants Needed
Plans are in the works for Kids’ Church and Sunday school this fall! Gary’s vibrant children’s ministry is only possible through the leadership of volunteers. Please prayerfully consider if you are able to help Gary Kids grow in faith by serving on the Kids’ Church or Sunday School team.

Kids’ Church leaders serve once a month in a special worship service designed for preschool through third grade students. Sunday School leaders volunteer every other month, for an entire month, to guide a class through the morning’s lesson and activities. Both programs help kids build lasting relationships with other kids, adult leaders, and (most importantly) Jesus. Contact Pastor Carey for more information.

Save the dates

- All-Church Training:
  Sunday, Aug. 27, 2 p.m.

- Kickoff Sunday:
  Sunday, Sept. 10, 9 a.m. Kids’ Church and 10 a.m. Sunday School

- 3rd Grade Bible Sunday:
  Sunday, Sept. 10, 9 a.m. Worship

- 4th & 5th Grade Fellowship Kickoff:
  Friday, Sept. 15, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

- Trunk or Treat:
  Saturday, Oct. 28, 10 a.m. –12 p.m.

What’s Happening

Picnic in the Park
Sunday, Aug. 13, 10:30 a.m., Northside Park
Pack a picnic and meet up at Northside Park for some relaxed church fellowship. No need to register, simply grab your checkered blanket and join in the fun!
Thank you, Stellar VBS Volunteers

We had an awesome time shining Jesus’ light at Stellar VBS! Over 70 volunteers made this week possible. Thank you to everyone who shared their time, talents and treasures with the children from Gary Church and the local community. Your gift was out-of-this-world!
Vacation Bible School raised $550 for Gary Church’s *Educate a Girl/Change the World* mission. Campers had a big incentive to exceed their goal: Christy Grace volunteered to have a bucket of water poured on her head, and Carter Gaul volunteered to have twinkies smashed in his face! Thank you to the campers and Christy and Carter for raising funds for scholarships for girls around the world. Read more about *Educate a Girl* on page 15.
It’s National Make-A-Will Month

No matter what your “estate” includes, everyone needs a plan. Having a legal will is a powerful way to steward your resources and protect yourself and your loved ones. In a will, you can select who receives assets and property, appoint guardians for young children, leave directions for digital assets, identify caretakers for pets, describe funeral preferences and more.

Despite the importance of having a will, nearly 65 percent of American adults do not have one. To encourage more Americans to create a will, August has been designated as National Make-A-Will Month.

Three reasons to create a will:

1. Protect yourself and your loved ones. Having a will, regardless of your socioeconomic status, can save your loved ones from stress and uncertainty after your passing. It can prevent a complicated legal process.

2. Manage distribution of your assets. A will clearly regulates the process of transferring ownership of assets. It also allows you to define who will manage the process.

3. Establish a lasting legacy. A will is an opportunity for you to define your legacy on your own terms and create a lasting impact through the organizations that are important to you.

If you already have a will in place, it is important to review it every couple of years and update it with any new assets or changes to your wishes.

This August, please consider writing or updating your will to safeguard your loved ones and support the causes you care about. You can contact your attorney to learn more or research other resources for doing so.

If you would like to learn more about including Gary Church in your will, please contact the Church Office. If you have already included Gary Church in your estate plan, please let us know that as well so we can be sure to thank you.

Help keep buildings safe

We have recently had instances of individuals loitering around our buildings. Please watch out for people who try to follow you into the building. If there is someone you don’t recognize trying to enter the building, please introduce yourself and ask if you can be of assistance. If they are attending a meeting, please let them in and help them find the location if they are unfamiliar with the building. Also, if you are hosting a meeting, please make sure someone from your group is at the door to let attendees into the building. In addition, please double check to make sure the doors latch behind you and are locked when you leave the building. We are also looking into additional security cameras.

We all need to work together to make sure Gary Church is a safe place for everyone to worship and work. Please feel free to contact me or any member of the trustees if you have questions.

David Plate
Board of Trustees Chair
Support Red Bird Mission

Our August mission focus is Red Bird Mission. The Mission has a long history with the Methodist Church and with Gary in particular. It was founded to provide a school and services for the isolated and impoverished peoples of Eastern Kentucky’s coal mining country. Today they have created an internationally-recognized Christian School with an outstanding STEM curriculum while maintaining a focus on responsible citizenship and true Christian values.

The Mission also focuses on the problems of the adult communities and their families, now providing retraining, particularly in IT fields, for unemployed or underemployed adults. They also support the development of local businesses, especially for those that can have an online presence. They provide the area a full-time dental clinic and partner with area health services to provide regional care to all, especially the infirm and elderly. They provide community services and have been a focal point for community reconstruction after multiple weather-related disasters. They are an outstanding example of what Christ-based compassion can look like.

You can contribute to Red Bird Mission at garychurch.org. And, watch the e-news for more information about how you can help. To learn more about Red Bird Mission, go to rbmission.org.

Joe Ruth

Christmas Sharing needs you

Christmas Sharing is Saturday, Dec. 9, and we anticipate we will continue to work with the Northern Illinois Food Bank to provide food to our guests at the St. John Lutheran Church location. We also envision that Gary Church and Trinity Episcopal Church will open their doors to our guests, and we will consider providing kids’ coats and toys. We anticipate other items we will provide to our guests will include diapers, sundry items and gift cards which will be distributed at the food drive-thru.

In the meantime, we are looking for volunteers to manage the toy and coat distributions. Gary Church will need many volunteers to make this all happen. If you can help, contact Shelley Kenyon or Joe Davisson through the Church Office.

Grief Matters Support Group

Grief Matters Support Group
Wednesdays, 10 a.m., starting Sept. 6 for nine sessions, Commons

We welcome anyone grieving the death or loss of someone to be a part 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 register at garychurch.org or through the Church Office.
The 2023 Gary Church mission year kicked off in a big way with the Educate a Girl/Change the World fundraising campaign. The 3-year-old mission is close to the hearts of the Gary Church community who joyfully provide life-changing educational opportunities for girls and young women.

Because of you, Gary Church, 10 girls and young women from vulnerable communities will attend school across the globe this year. You are making this possible with your generous donations and other contributions that have raised over $10,000 for this impactful mission.

This month, we welcome you to learn more about the church’s newest scholarship recipient, Aaliyah Begay.

**Aaliyah Begay Breaks Down Barriers for Native Women**

by Beth Orchard

Aaliyah is a Navajo/Kewa Pueblo college student, studying advertising and marketing at Columbia College in Chicago. She loves to dance in the Black Hawk Performance and Dance Company, winning awards across the country. She lives with her parents and brothers in Chicago.

“I want to inspire other young Indigenous girls to get an education and to go on and be proud of who they are.”

Aaliyah Begay

Through her love of indigenous culture, with parents who encourage and sustain a desire to embrace and share her heritage with others, this determined young woman is thriving at college. She received straight As in her first semester of college and perfect attendance.

“My goal in life is to have a good education and to never forget my culture. I say this because a lot of indigenous people didn't get to go to college or even get to finish high school, but I got to,” she shared.

Aaliyah loves to inspire others through dance and education as she travels across Indian country to powwows. Recently, she showcased her Native American dance in the Disney Marvel series, Echo, expected to premiere later this year.

With her strong voice, Aaliyah plans to encourage the hearts and minds of Indigenous kids while also serving others. Supported by her education at Columbia, she plans to use her voice to “let the world know Native Americans are still here.”

Cathy Mousseau, co-chair of Educate a Girl, is amazed by the drive and determination of Aaliyah. “Congratulations to Aaliyah on all her hard work and dedication and sharing her gifts and talents with others! We are inspired by your good work and will continue to follow your progress.”

With your continued support of the Educate a Girl scholarship fund, Gary Church can help Aaliyah achieve her dream of a college education and career helping Native women and girls thrive.

**American Indian Association of Illinois**

Gary Church met Aaliyah Begay through the American Indian Association of Illinois (AIAI). The AIAI is an urban educational non-profit that provides scholarship assistance and many other services to those interested in attending public, private and tribal schools in Chicago and throughout the United States.

The organization celebrates American Indian culture, language and tradition through its programs and services—supporting native excellence one success story at a time. AIAI was founded in 2007 by Dr. Dorene Wiese to help improve the lives of American Indian people through learning.

Judy Selby, co-chair of Educate a Girl, said, “Many thanks to Dr. Gene Green who connected Educate a Girl with Dr. Wiese. She graciously worked with us to identify Aaliyah who we are excited to embrace and support!” To learn more about the AIAI and ways to support our Native American sisters and brothers, please visit: www.chicago-american-indian-edu.org.

The leaders of Educate a Girl would like to take this opportunity recognize the native Potawatomi people who lived on the land where the city of Wheaton, including Gary Church, now resides.
After Pastor Chris became our senior pastor in 2016, I learned that he was very interested in prison ministries. “He should meet Manny Mill,” I thought to myself. Manny is the head of Koinonia House Ministries. One of the projects of Koinonia House is Radical Time Out (RTO), which I have been attending sporadically for quite a few years. At RTO a meal is served, and then there is a program: announcements, singing and often a message by Manny. RTO is not a church, but it sure feels like one. The meetings are for people who have been or will be in jail or prison, but most of all they’re for family members of the incarcerated. It is a support group for the broken-hearted family members who have loved ones that have gotten in big-time trouble.

I arranged a lunch get together at the restaurant Manny considers his office, Egglectic. There were six people present. Towards the end of the lunch, Pastor Chris turned to Manny and said, “Is there anything we can do for you?” Manny responded, “Do you think you could provide a meal for us once a month?” I was surprised!

Later, after some discussion, we decided we could. I gave a little talk in church. Kim Austin designed a sign-up page which was inserted in the bulletin. Congregants could sign up to help cook, serve or give money to support the project.

The congregation responded, and we served our first dinner at RTO on Apr. 27, 2017.

Things evolve and change, and at our 34th dinner on Jan. 9, 2020, Sandy Koropp replaced me as the head meal planner, shopper, cook and food deliverer. I continued in charge of the servers, and overall head of the project. Our circles have been a big help, too, and it was the Mary Martha Circle that provided the 36th meal on March 12, 2020. Well, you know what happened right after that. COVID-19 caused shut downs, including RTO dinners. There were no dinners for 17 months. Joy Circle got us started again, on Sept. 2, 2021, by serving a wonderful assortment of makings for sandwiches and a wide variety of salads.

Mary Martha Circle was the group that provided our 50th dinner on May 11, 2023.

Our biggest dinner so far was on June 1, when at our 51st dinner, Sandy and her crew prepared enough food to serve 138 people.

Thanks be to all of you for your support, and thanks be to God. If you’d like to learn more about how you can serve, contact me through the Church Office.
**Habitat for Humanity**
This summer, Gary Church’s Habitat for Humanity crew worked on two houses next door to each other in Lafayette, Indiana. A mother with seven children and a mother with three children will live in the homes. Gary’s crew painted, installed siding and more. If you’d like to learn more about Habitat for Humanity, contact Lois Davisson through the Church Office.

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**Walk the Labyrinth**
by Bobbi Wheatley

Always a winding path, the earliest labyrinth was on the Greek island of Crete. Subsequently one traces its path east to India, north to Europe and west to North America. The earliest Christian use was by monks in 1205 at Chartres Cathedral in France. Christians to this day make pilgrimages there to see this famous labyrinth and hope to walk its well-worn stones.

We can go the Gary Church Courtyard where a labyrinth of stone provides a place for reflection and meditation. A labyrinth has one way to enter and you leave retracing your steps. The entrance is on the east side directly in line with the gate to enter the Courtyard from Main Street. Take time to pause reverently before entering following the path slowly to the center, allowing space for your thoughts to surface. Be still once you arrive at the center, taking time to pray, reflect or meditate. One will often turn to face all four directions, pausing at each, circling from west to south to east and finally north. Gazing up at the stained glass of the Sanctuary directly ahead is the Christ the Good Shepherd window. When ready to exit, trace your steps back to the entrance. May your experience bring you peace.

And, thank you to Lois Davisson and Julie Raab and everyone else who has weeded and cleaned the labyrinth this year.
Thank you
Gary Church Family,

Words are inadequate to express our gratitude and thanks for all of the prayers, cards, love and support that you have given us during my husband Todd’s long battle (2 years, 8 months) with the side effects of Covid-19 and after his death on May 30. We are very appreciative of all you have done to help us through this difficult time.

In Christ,  
Debra Hafner and family

I’d like to send a huge thank you to everyone who provided prayers, well wishes, cards and care packages during my recent illness — with an extra special thanks to fellow staff members and several volunteers who took on extra responsibilities during my recovery. Your kindness and generosity are very much appreciated and make me so grateful to be a part of the Gary family.

Thank you!  
Deb Evans

Dear Friends,
Thank you so much for all the cards, hugs and messages of condolence following the unexpected death of my brother, Gary Reed. They have been a real source of comfort.

Allen and Ellen Reed

Our sympathy
Allen and Ellen Reed on the death of Allen’s brother, Gary Reed, on May 13.
David and Brenda Skarin on the death of Brenda’s father, George Dudley, on May 17.
Bill Thar on the death of his wife, Jackie Thar, on May 25.
Deb Hafner and family on the death of Deb’s husband, Todd Hafner, on May 30 and her uncle, Lyle Stensland on June 24.
Deb Connor on the death of her ex-husband, John Connor, on June 14.
Greg and Cindi Copeland on the death of Cindi’s cousin, Robert Patyk, on June 21.
Scott Adair on the death of his wife, Jan Adair, on June 23.
Dave, Liesl, Alyn and Chase Mann on the death of Dave’s brother, Jason Martel on July 9.
Pastor Cynthia Zolk (former Gary pastor) on the death of her husband, Tom Zolk, on July 10.

Congratulations!
Dale and Coleen Atteberry on the birth of their grandson, Duncan Richard Atteberry, on May 31.

Baptisms
Abel Jansen, son of Evan Stephen and Kelsey Margaret Jansen, on June 18.
Archer Andrisevic, son of James and Kathryn Andrisevic, on July 18.

New opportunities
Fred and Becky Wirt on their move to North Carolina.

*If we’ve missed your special day, please contact the Church Office. We’d love to include the date in our records.
Congratulations! 2023 Graduates

**Fonz Aliga**, son of Norm and Olive Aliga, graduated from Pepperdine University with a Doctor of Clinical Psychology.

**Ryan Allen**, grandson of Gary and Jeanene Fowler, graduated from Cornerstone Christian Academy and will be attending Wheaton College majoring in finance.

**Will Austin**, son of Bill and Vickie Austin, graduated from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor of Arts in Education with an emphasis on American Sign Language. He will be working as an interpreter in the Tucson schools starting this fall.

**John Carlson**, grandson of Allen and Ellen Reed, graduated from Kalamazoo College with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

**Owen Carlson**, grandson of Allen and Ellen Reed, graduated from Dexter High School, and will be attending Michigan State University.

**Gray Cicmanec**, son of Chris Cicmanec and Katharine Hodges, graduated from Wheaton North High School and will be attending the University of Wisconsin majoring in biomedical engineering.

**Max Crisostomo**, son of Alberto Crisostomo, graduated from high school.

**Jake Doman**, son of Matt and Lisa Doman, graduated from Glenbard South High School and will be attending the University of Illinois to study health sciences.

**Alexandra (Aly) Fenoglio**, granddaughter of Bob and Carol Barnes, graduated from the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs with a Bachelor of Science in Sports Management.

**Tony Janiak**, son of Heather and Larry Janiak, graduated from Wheaton North High School and will be attending the University of Missouri, majoring in computer science.

**Sam Jones**, son of Brian and Beth Jones, graduated from Wheaton Warrenville South High School and will be attending DePauw University.

**Kayla Leonard DeHolton**, daughter of Dan and Polly Leonard, graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a Ph.D. in Physics.

**Anne Lovett**, daughter of Stephen & Carla Lovett, graduated from Calvin University with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.

**William Meyer**, grandson of Ellen and Allen Reed, graduated from the University of Iowa with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering/Business.

**Danny Newell**, son of Steven and Laura Newell, graduated from Wheaton Warrenville South High School and will be attending the University of Dayton majoring in communications, marketing and sales.

**Travis Papievis**, son of Lisa and Brett Papievis, graduated from Wheaton North High School and will be attending the College of DuPage, majoring in automotive technology.

**John Plate**, son of David and Cindy Plate, graduated from the University of Maryland with a Master of Music in Percussion Performance.

**Elizabeth Rybarczyk**, niece of Marion Rybarczyk, graduated from Marist High School and will be attending college in the fall.

**Roger Sanstrom**, son of Lisa and Joe Sanstrom, graduated from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Science in Statistics. He has accepted a position at Epic.

**Lukas Schaafsma**, son of Chris and Brandy Schaafsma, graduated from Wheaton North High School and will be attending the College of DuPage.

**Lauren Updegrove**, daughter of Dean and Bobbi Updegrove, graduated from Glenbard West High School and will be attending Ohio University majoring in civil engineering.

**Naomi Venezia Fitzgibbons**, daughter of Tony and Becky Venezia, graduated from Longwood University with a Master of Business Administration.
Worship in Memorial Park and Picnic

Sunday, August 20, 10 a.m.

See page 3 for details.