

## Open Call for Artists

**Artists—ages 14 and up—are invited to explore the theme of Courageous Love.**

Please reflect on the courage to love: first, in receiving love without condition, and then in embodying that love in the world through compassion, acceptance, and grace.

Through your art, consider how courageous love might be seen, felt, and lived — and what it asks of us today.

### What We're Looking For

In creating your work, you might reflect on questions such as:

- When have you experienced unconditional acceptance? How did it feel? What did it look like?
- Did that experience of love inspire—or even embolden—you to engage with others, perhaps strangers or adversaries, in a new way?
- What did that new way of engagement reveal about humanity, belonging, and the life-affirming power of unconditional love?

### Mediums

We encourage submissions in a variety of artistic forms, including:

- **Visual Art:** Paintings, drawings, photography, sculpture, or installation
- **Literary Art:** Poetry, Short Story, etc.
- **Performance Art:** Dance, theater, or music, etc.
- **Digital Media:** Video, interactive media, or multimedia pieces
- **Mixed Media:** Works that combine different materials or techniques

### Eligibility

Open to artists aged **14 and up**, from emerging creators to established practitioners.

### Submission Guidelines

- **Deadline:** May 5, 2026
- **File Format:** JPEG or PDF for visual work; MP4 for performance or video work.
- **Number of Submissions:** Artists may submit up to **6 works for review**, though no more than **3 works per artist** will be selected for the exhibition. Selection will

be influenced by the available exhibition space, which is the only limiting factor on the number of works accepted overall.

- **Submission Process:** Submit a digital file of your work to [CreativeArts@garychurch.org](mailto:CreativeArts@garychurch.org)

## **Insurance**

Gary Methodist exercises professional care when handling submitted work. However, we do not assume responsibility or liability, including but not limited to accidents, damaged work, or forces of nature. Artists who feel their work is fragile should consider carrying their own personal property insurance. Gary Methodist Church will not assume liability for damage.

## **Exhibition Details**

**An opening reception** will be held at **Gary Memorial United Methodist Church**, located at **224 N. Main Street, Wheaton**, on **Friday, June 5, 2026, from 5:30–8:00 p.m.** Please join us in celebrating the art, enjoying light refreshments, and listening to live acoustic music.

The **exhibition** will also be on view on **Saturday, June 6, from 4:00–8:00 p.m.**

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## **Contact**

Please feel free to contact the gallery via email at [CreativeArts@garychurch.org](mailto:CreativeArts@garychurch.org) should you have any questions about the exhibition, submitting work, or the prospectus.

## Art Submission Form

**Open Call: Courageous Love**

**Submission Deadline:** May 5, 2026

**Submission Email:** [CreativeArts@garychurch.org](mailto:CreativeArts@garychurch.org)

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### Artist Information

- **Full Name:**
- **Age (if under 18):**
- **Email Address:**
- **Phone Number:**
- **Mailing Address:**
- **Website (if applicable):**

### Artwork Submission

- **Title of Work #1:**
- **Medium:**
- **Dimensions/Length:**
- **Description (Optional):**

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- **Title of Work #2:**
- **Medium:**
- **Dimensions/Length:**
- **Description (Optional):**

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- **Title of Work #3:**
- **Medium:**
- **Dimensions/Length:**
- **Description (Optional):**

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*If submitting more than three works, please attach additional information for up to three more works (maximum six).*

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### **Submission Requirements**

- Artists may submit up to **6 works for review**, with a maximum of **3 works accepted per artist** for exhibition.
  - File formats: JPEG or PDF for visual work; MP4 for performance or video work.
  - Submit all files via email to [CreativeArts@garychurch.org](mailto:CreativeArts@garychurch.org)
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### **Acknowledgments**

Please confirm the following by checking each box:

- I understand that selected works will be included in the exhibition on June 5–7, 2026.
- I understand that the number of works accepted is subject to space availability.
- I understand that Gary Methodist Church will not assume liability for damage to my artwork and I am responsible for insurance if needed.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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