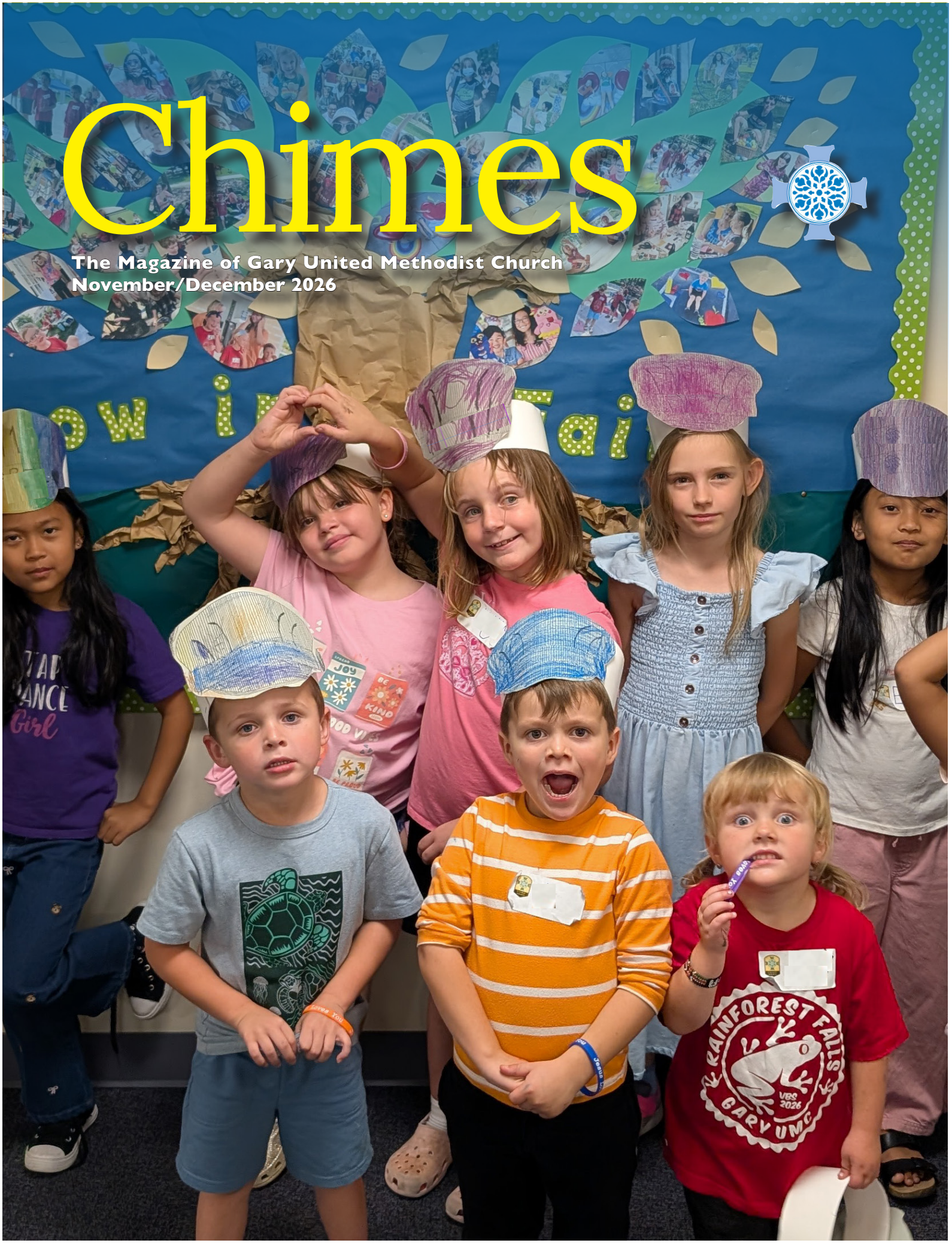

Chimes
The Magazine of Gary United Methodist Church
November/December 2026
JOY
BE KIND
RAINFOREST FALLS
VBS 2026
GARY UMC

Staff

Rev. Jonathan Crail
SENIOR PASTOR
jcrail@garychurch.org

Rev. Dr. Daniel Cochran
ASSOCIATE PASTOR
dcochran@garychurch.org

Carey Williams Bebar
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR
cbebar@garychurch.org

Joshua Velez
MUSIC DIRECTOR
jvelez@garychurch.org

Robert Sacks
ORGANIST
rsacks@garychurch.org

Pam Connor
PIANIST
pconnor@garychurch.org

Jo Chiko
DIRECTOR OF HANDBELL MINISTRIES

Deb Evans
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
devans@garychurch.org

Deb Hafner
CHURCH OFFICE
office@garychurch.org

Jennifer Castino
WELCOME MINISTRIES COORDINATOR AND MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
jcastino@garychurch.org

Janet Mathis
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
jmathis@garychurch.org

Pam Keller
PRINT COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
pkeller@garychurch.org

Becky Lemna
ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
blemna@garychurch.org

Mike & Donna Capra
CAPRA JANITORIAL

Sunday Worship

9 a.m & 11:11 a.m.
In person
Livestream and recording later in the day at garychurch.org
Nursery available

Church Office Hours

Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
630–668–3100
office@garychurch.org

Holiday office hours

The Church Office will be closed on the following dates:
Thursday and Friday, Nov. 26 and 27
Thursday and Friday, Dec. 24 and 25
Thursday, Dec. 31 - early closing at noon
Friday, Jan. 1

At Gary Church, *our mission through Christ is to grow in joyful faith and serve all in love.*

On our cover

Campers having fun at Camp Gary!

Submissions for the Jan./Feb. *Chimes* magazine are due by noon on *Monday, Nov. 2*. Announcements for the Sunday bulletin and weekly e-news are due each Monday 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.

Listening Loving Leading in 2027

"Vision leaks"

This was a quote from a well-known church consultant and leader reminding a group of pastors that a one-time glimpse and plan for the future isn't sufficient. A thriving church needs to regularly revisit and be reminded of where it's going and what its priorities are. Otherwise, at a minimum, churches begin to drift and miss out on accomplishing all that God desires, or more problematically, a congregation just does what's worked in the past and stops connecting with a changing community and culture.

So how is Gary Church doing? Do you think it's time for us to do some re-visioning so that our priorities, resources and activities are aligned and all pulling in the same direction?

The Gary Church Council recently agreed that now is the season for new inspiration and direction. In order to facilitate a rigorous and compelling visioning process, the Council authorized the formation of a Visioning Task Force, made up of about a dozen people representing a cross-section of our church community and with appropriate experience and skills. Their role will NOT be to create the vision, but rather to guide a visioning process over the next year or two that involves the whole congregation and input from neighbors in our community. Once formed, this task force will evaluate how to most effectively accomplish the development of a vision and a corresponding plan to implement it.

As we approach the Advent and Christmas season when we remember a bleak time and place where hope and optimism were hard to find, we celebrate the improbable truth that God took on human form in the birth of Jesus the Christ so that love could shine in the darkness of the world.

How do we need to reflect that love and light in today's challenging environment? Given our gifts, assets and resources, what is God calling us to accomplish? What are the issues that we as a community can address most effectively? We want to tap into the work of the Holy Spirit in our midst so that we can share that same light and love that Jesus brought to us to all of our neighbors, both near and far!

Let's catch the vision God has for us by Listening, Loving and Leading over the next year! Please begin praying with us, **"Lord, what do you want to accomplish through Gary Church in this next season of ministry? Guide us to your preferred future for us!"**

> *Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?"*
>
> (Romans 15:1-2 The Message)



Pastor Jonathan Crail

ADULT Christian Education and Discipleship

Works of Healing: Medicine and Care in the Medieval Church

Sunday, Nov. 1, 10:10 a.m., Anderson Room, led by Carey Williams Bebar



The medieval era is not usually remembered for excellent healthcare or social stability. Plague, famine, war and uncertainty were part of everyday life. Yet amid these hardships, monasteries and convents became important places of refuge and care for the sick. Explore the fascinating world of medieval monastic medicine and how the Christian call to love our neighbors helped give rise to hospitals and other institutions of healing — a legacy that continues to shape the church's ministry of care today.

Give blood on Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday

Nov. 8, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Anderson Room



Why does a church host a blood drive on a Sunday? Because caring for our neighbors has long been one of the ways Christians embody the love of Christ. Come give blood and take part in this continuing ministry of healing and care. Register at garychurch.org or just show up!

Walking a Sacred Path: The Practice of Pilgrimage

Sundays, Nov. 15-22, 10:10 a.m., Anderson Room



What makes a journey a pilgrimage rather than simply a trip? Join the **Rev. Barb Good** as we explore the history and practice of pilgrimage, how it differs from tourism and how the simple act of journeying with intention can open us to God in new ways.

Christian Nationalism and Public Education

Sunday, Nov. 15, 4 p.m., St. Matthew United Church of Christ, 1420 South Gables Blvd., Wheaton

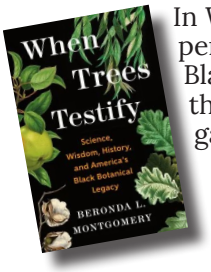
Gary Church is participating in a newly-formed ecumenical effort called West Suburban Christians Against Christian Nationalism. Look to the e-news for more information about the group's first event, "Christian Nationalism and Public Education."

If you visit resourceumc.org, you'll learn more about the position of The United Methodist Church and actions you can take as Christians against Christian Nationalism. Contact the **Rev. Dwight Stewart** to learn more about Church & Society at Gary Church.

CHURCH & SOCIETY
The United Methodist Church
Living FAITH Seeking JUSTICE Pursuing PEACE

Anti-Racist Book Club | When Trees Testify

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 7 p.m., Commons, discussion led by Elaine McCluskey



In *When Trees Testify*, plant biologist Beronda L. Montgomery weaves together science, personal memoir and African American history to argue that trees are living witnesses to Black American life. She explores seven tree species and the cotton shrub, highlighting both the trauma and resilience interwoven with them. Read the book on your own and register at garychurch.org.

creative arts ministry

Grow in faith and fellowship through the arts. You can get involved in several ways:

Join our team working to create new banners and installations for the Gary Church Sanctuary.

Participate in one of our upcoming public programs offered every other month. Our next program will be a 3-part series on pottery.

Saturday, Nov. 7, 10 a.m. – create your pottery
Thursday, Nov. 12, 6 p.m.–7:30 p.m. – open studio time for pottery
Saturday, Nov. 21, 10 a.m. – paint your pottery

Submit your art to be featured in a new rotating exhibition hosted in the Anderson Room. This gallery, featuring art from Gary Church members and local artists, is designed to encourage conversation, creativity and personal reflection. The next exhibition will be on display from November through January, and the theme is "Advent."

Sign up for Creative Arts programs at garychurch.org. For questions or to join the Creative Arts Team, please see **Lisa Grigsby, Pam Keller** and **Rebekah Stoneberg.**

Grief Support Group

Thursdays, Nov. 5 – Feb. 11, 1-2:30 p.m., Anderson Room



The Grief Support Group offers a safe and caring space to share, listen, remember and find support in the loving company of others. Open to everyone, including past participants, this group will meet for a total of 12 sessions. This year's updated program and new curriculum will be led by **Rebekah Stoneberg, Pastor Jane Hawkins** and **Pastor Daniel Cochran.** If you or someone you know might find comfort and companionship in this group, please register at garychurch.org. Questions? Contact **Pastor Daniel Cochran**, dcochran@garychurch.org.

The Gathering

Second Sunday of the month, 12:15 p.m.

All young adults are invited to the table where you can find good food, genuine relationships, honest conversation and room to explore faith. No RSVP is required.

Mid-Month, Mid-Week, Jazz Fans

Wednesdays, Nov. 18, Dec. 16, Jan. 13, 6:30 p.m., Manhattan's, 300 S Schmale Rd, Carol Stream

Meet for fellowship, food and live jazz. RSVP at garychurch.org.

New: Mom's Walking Group

Thursdays, 9:30 a.m., Northside Park

Motherhood can be such a beautiful and rewarding journey, but it can also be challenging at times. This is a casual opportunity to get to know one another, share our experiences and relate in the joys and struggles of being a mom. Sometimes, it helps just to know that we're not alone and that someone else understands. We'll meet across from the tennis courts at Northside Park, and walk the path around the pond. We will also have a short time of prayer.

Advent at Gary Church

Embodied Light – *A Worship Series for Advent*

Thanks to the creative gifts of the amazing volunteers and staff here at Gary Church, we are planning an exciting Advent series entitled "Embodied Light," inspired in part by Melissa Tidwell's devotional book, *Embodied Light: Advent Reflections on the Incarnation.*

Seeking to bring the mystery of the incarnation home in real and tangible ways, the series will draw on a variety of artistic expressions to explore the reality God made flesh to dwell among us. Through poetry, movement, music and visual art, we'll consider how God takes form in Christ, and continues to take form in us and in the world.

- Advent One (Nov. 29) — Poetry: Longing Takes Form
- Advent Two (Dec. 6) — Dance: Movement Takes Form
- Advent Three (Dec. 13) — Music: Glory Takes Form (Lessons and Carols)
- Advent Four (Dec. 20) — Visual Art: The Body Takes Form

Invite a family member or friend to "Come sit with me" on Sundays at 9 a.m. or 11:11 a.m., with related programming during the education hour between worship services.

Sunday *Advent Series:*

Embodied Light

Sundays, Nov. 29-Dec. 20, 10:10 a.m., Anderson Room

This adult education series complements worship during Advent, *Embodied Light*. Expect hands-on participation in poetry, movement, music and visual art during Advent. Look for details in the weekly e-news.

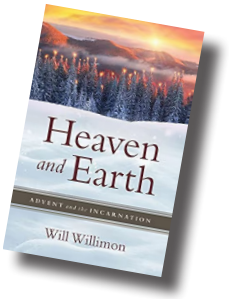
Midweek *Advent Series:*



Heaven and Earth

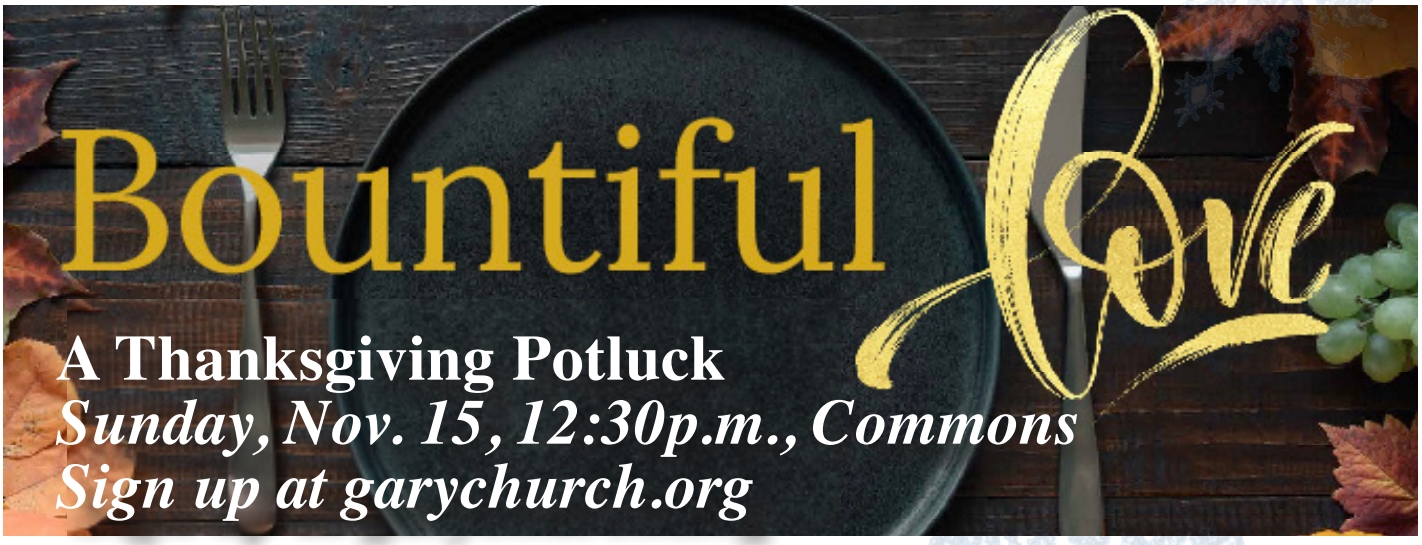
Wednesdays, Dec. 2, 9, 16, 6:30 p.m., Heritage Room, led by Rev. Steve Conger

In *Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation*, Will Willimon introduces you to the God who brings heaven to earth and changes everything. In Advent we celebrate and anticipate the earth-shaking, life-transforming good news that God is coming to us. Watch out. Get ready. God is on the way. Participants can purchase a book through the Church Office for $10. Register at garychurch.org.



Wonderful ways *to celebrate*

in fellowship with Gary Church



Let's gather together for a Gary Church family Thanksgiving potluck. Main dish, coffee and lemonade will be provided. Please bring your favorite Thanksgiving side dish or dessert to share, plus place settings (plates, utensils) for your party.

Want to swap recipes? Please bring your recipe on an index card the day of the potluck.

Help prepare for our Thanksgiving feast. Volunteers are needed to set up and clean up.

Go to garychurch.org/registrations to let us know you're coming, share a recipe and volunteer. Suggested donation of $5.00 with a maximum of $20/family. Questions? Please contact the Bountiful Love Committee through the Church Office.



Join us for fellowship and food as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ – together!

Soup makers willing to share their culinary talents are wanted. 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 it.

Sign up to participate and/or to provide soup at garychurch.org.

gary kids
Growing in Faith

Hey Families!

November and December are full of opportunities to learn, serve, create, celebrate and simply be together. Through it all, we hope you and your children experience God's love taking shape in meaningful ways as we journey through the season together. Blessings, and see you Sunday!

what we're teaching

November Series:
On the Right Track

Racers, start your engines! In a race, you might need to navigate obstacles, pit stops and tight turns in order to stay on the right track. As you're zooming through the track, there's so much to think about and it can be hard to stay focused on what's most important! In this series, we'll learn some important stories from Joshua about how obstacles are no problem for God and courage comes from knowing God's words. No matter how long the race, God can use someone like you because with God, there is victory!



December Series:
Christmas Vacation

Grab your sandals, sunblock and swim gear because it's time for a Christmas Vacation! We'll be making sand angels and roasting chestnuts around an open bonfire on our tropical getaway. In this series, we'll focus on the birth of Jesus and the way God had been planning things from the very beginning. We'll see how God sent Jesus for a reason, learn to trust God's timing, understand why God gives us what's best and see how Jesus is why we celebrate. Jesus is God's gift to the world!



what's happening

Camp Gary

Monday, Nov. 2, at Gary Church for Preschool 3s-5th grade

Full Day: *9 a.m.–2 p.m.* (Campers will need to bring their own lunch)

Half Day: *9 a.m.–12 p.m.*

Looking for something fun for your kids to do on their day off from school? Activities will include games, stories, songs, crafts, snacks and fun time hanging out with friends. And, for parents and caretakers, you'll have access to a quiet workspace stocked with coffee and donuts. Register at garychurch.org.





Healing & Helping: A Medieval Adventure

Sunday, Nov. 8, 10 a.m. Sunday School

Did you know that some of the earliest hospitals grew out of Christian communities caring for people who were sick? While adults give blood upstairs, Gary Kids will travel back to the Middle Ages to discover how monks cared for their neighbors through hospitality, food, medicine and healing. Through hands-on activities and games, kids will explore what these medieval Christians can teach us today: we follow Jesus by caring for others!

Feed My Starving Children Family Night

Wednesday, Nov. 11, 7:15 p.m.–8:45 p.m.
FMSC, 555 Exchange Ct., Aurora

Gary Church families of all ages are invited to "turn hunger into hope" by preparing meal packs together. Register online at fmsc.org and use the Join Code: K0LGWM.



Family Advent Wreath Making

Sunday, Nov. 29, during 10 a.m. Sunday School



Begin Advent by creating a little light together! Families are invited to make an Advent wreath to take home and enjoy throughout the season. We'll discover how the Advent wreath helps us prepare for Christmas and reminds us of God's love taking shape in the world through Jesus.

Connect

Wednesdays, Nov. 18 & Dec. 16, 5:30 p.m.–7 p.m.

Looking for a night where your kids will be cared for – and, honestly, so will you? Connect creates space for families to come together, share a meal, and build meaningful relationships. After dinner together, kids will enjoy Bible-based crafts, games, music and more, while parents gather for guided conversation about the joys and challenges of raising a family.

4th grade fellowship

Christmas Party

Friday, Dec. 4, 6:30 p.m.–8 p.m.

Fourth and fifth graders are invited to a fun night of games and activities! RSVP to **Carey Williams Bebar**, cbebar@garychurch.org.



Gary Kids' Choir: Making a Joyful Noise

Did you know Gary Kids sing every Sunday in Kids' Church? Each month, children learn a new worship song that connects with our monthly teaching theme. They'll practice the song during Kids' Church each Sunday, with an opportunity for some extra singing at *Connect*, our family ministry gathering on the *third Wednesday* of each month. At the end of the month, children will have the opportunity to share what they've learned with the congregation during a special musical Children's Time in *9 a.m. Worship*. This casual, come-as-you-are choir is all about celebrating our kids' voices and helping them experience the joy of worship through music.

GARY CHURCH *makes a difference*



Holiday Cookie Walk

Saturday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Commons

Joy Circle and United Women of Faith invite you to our third annual Holiday Cookie Walk. In the past two years, the cookie walk has raised $12,000 to fund missions and ministries of Gary Church.

Bring your friends and family and plan to fill your boxes with your favorite home-made cookies: 3 pound box for $35 or 1-1/2 pound box for $20. We also provide pre-packaged holiday plates, trays and mugs for purchase – perfect hostess gifts or perfect for sharing with a group!

If you have a talent for baking beautiful cookies and wish to donate your favorites, we need your help! Please contact **Suzy Wible** or **Ida Whitcomb** through the Church Office. For more information, look for baker's instruction sheets in the *Gary Commons starting Nov. 1.*



Christmas Sharing needs you

Saturday, Dec. 12

Christmas Sharing of Wheaton-Warrenville provides gifts of food, gift cards and non-food items for neighbors in need living within Community Unit School District 200. Gary Church partners with seven other area churches to serve over 700 families. Gary volunteers will open our doors to provide kids' coats and toys and holiday hospitality. We will again work with the Northern Illinois Food Bank to distribute food to our guests at the St. John Lutheran Church location. We will also provide diapers, sundry items and gift cards, distributed at St. John's. Look for the Angel Tree and collection boxes for donated coats and diapers in the Commons. (Diapers in packs please, not cases.)

Monetary donations are needed for the gift cards and other items provided.
Donate at garychurch.org/give or through the Church Office. Watch the e-news for information about signing up to volunteer. Questions? Contact **Dan** or **Suzy Wible** or **John Hart.**

Christmas Sharing Fundraiser at Portillo's

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 5 pm.-8 p.m., 235 North Ave., Glendale Heights

Christmas Sharing of Wheaton Warrenville will receive 20% of the proceeds from your purchase at Portillo's. Show the cashier the flyer at garychurch.org. If you're ordering online, use code PORTILLOS2.

Outreach Christmas Luncheon

Friday, Dec. 18



Gary Church is partnering with Outreach Community Center and First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton to host the annual Christmas luncheon for the Older Adults Program at Outreach. For many of these seniors, this annual event is the highlight of their holiday season. Approximately 125 seniors will enjoy a traditional ham dinner, listen to a middle school music presentation and receive an individual gift.

Volunteers help with set up or clean up, making food and serving seniors at their tables. Look for the sign-up sheets in the Commons in November. A $15 donation will provide one older adult a place at the table. Donate through garychurch.org/give or make checks out to Gary Church and note Outreach in the memo area. If you have any questions, please contact **Barbara Holmes** or **Holly Trueblood** through the Church Office.

GARY CHURCH *makes a difference*

Educate a Girl / Change the World



Gary Church, because of your generous, ongoing support, you have helped many girls and young women gain an education that will lead to endless possibilities for their futures. Let's continue the success of Educate a Girl / Change the World in 2027 as we plan scholarships for current and new students. To contribute to Educate a Girl, go to garychurch.org/give.

For more information, contact **Cathy Mousseau** or **Judy Selby** through the Church Office.

Save the Date: Educate A Girl Bake Sale

Sunday, Jan. 17, 2027, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Bakers and buyers welcome!





Gary Homework Club

Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m., during the school year

The newly-expanded tutoring program, now called Gary Homework Club, includes more than 50 students of refugee families from grades K-12. The new format provides tutoring for homework and core academic skills, plus it helps students develop improved social and emotional skills with fun activities.

Volunteers needed

Tutors: Help students with homework and improve core skills, primarily reading. You can choose the age group.

Drivers/Riders: We currently have children who cannot come due to a lack of transportation. We need a driver and an adult passenger for each World Relief van. Routes will take 30 minutes or less with pick up starting at 5 p.m. and drop off starting at 7 p.m.

Specials: Provide a fun, 25-minute activity. This can be a craft or game. The primary need is for elementary students, although we would love to expand specials to older students. The tutors will help with the activity. Provide the special for one or more homework club sessions. Each special will be done with two groups of students, once at 5:30 p.m. with grades 3-5 and another at 6:30 p.m. for grades K-2.

If you can help, sign up at garychurch.org. For questions, contact **Jeff Bray** through the Church Office.

GARY CHURCH *makes a difference*

Help with Blessing Bag project



The Blessing Bag project gives vinyl backpacks filled with practical supplies to unhoused people in DuPage County. The Blessing Bags are filled with thermal blankets, gloves, hats, food, first aid products, and a fun game or treat. **Ellie Pentland** started the mission in 2008, giving away 12 bags. Last year, she distributed 65 bags to the unhoused, including DuPage Pads and Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans. This year, her goal is 65 vinyl backpacks. You can help by donating supplies, knitting hats or mittens, assembling backpacks or volunteering your time. You can make monetary donations through garychurch.org/give. Contact **Ellie Pentland** through the Church Office for more details.

Gary Church to host CROP Walk

Sunday, May 2, 2027, 2 p.m.
start/end at Gary Parking Lot

Mark your calendars for the next Glen Ellyn/Wheaton CROP Walk, which will start and end at Gary Church! You can participate in several ways – planning team, walker or host helper. Contact **Judy Selby** through the Church Office if you'd like to volunteer, as the team will start planning in January. Spread the word and save the date!



Donate to Heifer Project International

A gift of farm animals helps families around the world become self-sufficient. See the display in the Commons during Advent. Donate at garychurch.org/give or through the Church Office.

HEIFER® INTERNATIONAL

Leftover Halloween candy?

We will add candy to the college care packages. Any Halloween-themed candy will be shared with visitors to the Church Office. Drop off leftover candy in the Church Office.



Welcome, new members!



Brooke and Chad Barber are new Wheaton residents who moved here in May from Bloomingdale. They both grew up in The United Methodist Church: Brooke at Baker in St. Charles and Chad at UMC Geneva. They were married at Baker by the Rev. Dr. Mary Zajac and Pastor Mary also baptized their twin daughters **Aubree** and **Rylee** at Baker. Brooke and Chad are expecting baby girl number three in December. They are excited to be members of Gary Church!



Pam Winchell lives here in Wheaton with her husband of 50 years. They have two daughters and eight amazing grandchildren who all live out of state. Pam worked for the Naperville school district for 30 years as a school psychologist and in retirement she has lived in North Carolina, Pennsylvania and has now come full circle back home in the western suburbs. Pam is looking forward to serving in hospitality roles here at Gary and joining women's Bible study.



Elizabeth and **Tim Misavage** have been attending Gary for quite some time. They have four children, **Ben, Maggie, Joe** and **Rosie.** Ben was received in membership with our most recent confirmation class and Maggie is a confirmation student this year. Tim is an elementary school P.E. teacher and Elizabeth is a nurse. Elizabeth serves during VBS in the summer and the entire Misavage family is involved in many activities here at Gary.



Anne Holman and her children **Avery and Oliver** have also been attending Gary for a while. Avery was received in membership this past May on Confirmation Sunday and Oliver is in confirmation this year. Anne is an attorney and stays busy with the kids' athletic activities. Anne participated in our Fast Track Disciple Bible Study last year and also generously shares her organizational and administrative gifts helping in our Church Office.

Pizza with the Pastors

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 6:30 p.m., Heritage Room

Get better acquainted with pastors and staff, learn more about what it means to be United Methodist and about the history of our Gary Church congregation. If you're interested in membership, contact **Jennifer Castino**, jcastino@garychurch.org.

Gary Youth

Volunteers needed for youth ministry

During this time of searching for a new youth director, adult volunteers are needed to support youth activities. One of the greatest strengths of Gary Church's youth ministry is that it is not built around one person — it is built around a community of caring adults and students who share a passion for helping young people grow in their faith. When you volunteer, you'll be part of the youth ministry team, including members of the youth council, pastors and staff. Please contact the Church Office if you are interested in volunteering.

Share job posting

Gary Church has a full-time opening for a director of youth ministry. View the job description and apply at garychurch.org. Please consider sharing the job posting with your friends, family and professional contacts.



Stay connected

Visit garychurch.org and navigate to our youth page, receive weekly Gary Youth emails, plus follow us on Instagram (gary_youth) and Facebook (Gary Youth).

Upcoming events

High School Word & Table

Sunday, Nov. 15, 6 p.m.
(watch your email for location and additional dates)

Families host the youth for a meal, fellowship and discussion.

Feed My Starving Children Family Night

Wednesday, Nov. 11, 7:15–8:45 p.m.
FMSC, 555 Exchange Ct., Aurora

Gary Church families of all ages are invited to "turn hunger into hope" by preparing meal packs together. Register online at fmsc.org and use the Join Code: K0LGWM.

Christmas Party

Wednesday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m.-8 p.m. Middle School

Thursday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m.-8 p.m. High School

Animation Adventure

Monday, Jan. 4-Wednesday, Jan. 6, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.
College of DuPage



All high school students are invited to join **Tony Venezia,** Gary Church member and professor of film at College of DuPage, for an exciting and creative course on animation. In this three-part series, participants will explore the animation principles that give characters life and personality using stop-motion animation techniques and storytelling. Each participant will create their very own short animation project. Space is limited; cost is $99.
Sign up at garychurch.org.

Thank you Gary Youth supporters!

Gary Youth would like to thank all of the hole sponsors, golfers and 19th hole visitors who supported this year's golf event. We raised several thousand dollars for youth programs and missions. We also want to thank all our volunteers who spent the day checking people in and taking care of every detail. We are especially grateful to **Mr. Bob Martin** who organizes and runs the Gary Youth golf fundraiser every year. Please plan to join us next year at *Klein Creek Golf Club on Sunday, Aug. 1.*

Charlie Castino
Youth Council Youth Chair



Gary Youth and Adults alike enjoyed a beautiful day at Klein Creek for the annual Gary golf outing and fundraiser for our Gary Youth.













Ongoing Activities

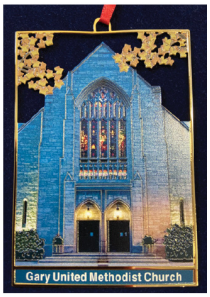
Middle School
Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m., Enjoy games, sharing, prayer and Bible study.

High School
Thursdays, 7-8 p.m., Enjoy various activities and discussions about faith.

Sunday School
10-11 a.m., Middle School and High School Rooms

Great East Window to be repaired

Over the next year, the Great East Window in the Balcony of the Sanctuary will be removed and repaired to prevent glass pieces from falling out. In the meantime, you'll see boards covering the opening. If you'd like to donate to the stained-glass window fund, go to garychurch.org/give.



Ornament to help fund window repair

This ornament shows the Great East Window at Gary Church as it appears from Main Street. It is a beautiful addition to any Christmas tree and attractive enough to keep on display all year long.

Ornaments will be available for purchase at 10 *a.m. on Sundays, Dec. 6-20, in the Commons*, or through the Church Office. The minimum suggested price of the ornament is $20. All proceeds go toward the stained-glass window fund. Make plans to purchase your Gary Church ornament today!

Not too soon for Lenten devotions

We realize Advent hasn't happened yet, but we also know that inspiration for a Lenten devotion can happen anytime. We need 40 devotions — one for each of the days of Lent, that will be sent to your e-mail. Take a photo. Write a poem. Draw a picture. Maybe a recent sermon or Scripture passage has touched you. Or maybe our theme for the year, "Listening, Loving, Leading" has moved you. We invite all children, youth and adults to share reflections, personal stories and glimpses of God at work in our lives. You're welcome to email your devotion any time before *Wednesday, Jan. 13* to **Janet Mathis,** jmathis@garychurch.org. A devotion will be e-mailed to you each of the 40 days of Lent.

Plan your own funeral – A celebration of life

Monday, Feb. 22, 3 p.m.-5 p.m., Anderson Room, led by Pastors Daniel Cochran and Fred Kelsey



Planning your own funeral is an act of faith, love and hope that celebrates the gift of life and the promise of eternal life. This class is designed to help you thoughtfully plan your own funeral while reflecting on what our faith teaches us about death, resurrection and eternal life. Together, we'll consider how our Christian faith and Methodist tradition provide meaningful resources that can ease the planning burden on our families and help them celebrate our lives in ways that honor our faith. Please contact **Pastor Daniel Cochran**, dcochran@garychurch.org, with any questions. Register at garychurch.org.

Missing Gary Church e-news?

Have you been receiving the weekly e-news on Wednesdays? How about the new monthly women's and men's e-news on the first of the month? If the answer is no to either of those questions, please contact the Church Office to make sure your correct email address is on the list.



Cut & share; snap & text

Throughout the *Chimes*, think about what activities you plan to attend and who you'd like to invite. Feel free to cut up the *Chimes* and share the articles! Or, snap a photo of the article and text/email it to your friends.

Faith-filled Giving

Year-end gifts

If you are interested in making a year-end contribution, please make note of the following:

- If you would like to drop off your gift, the Church Office hours are *10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday through Friday*. On *Thursday, Dec. 31*, the Church Office will close at noon. Any gifts intended for 2026 must be dropped off by that time.
- If you would like to mail your gift, envelopes must be postmarked by *Dec. 31*.

Thank you for your generosity.

Considering a stock gift?

Expressing your generosity through a donation of stocks can make a huge impact to the mission and ministry of Gary Church and provide you with tax advantages. The transfer process may take several business days, so if you are considering a stock gift in 2026, notify **Deb Evans** in the Church Office and consult your financial advisor.



2027 Stewardship Campaign

We invite you to prayerfully consider how sharing your spiritual gifts and financial resources can help you in 2027 in listening, loving and leading. Go to the registrations page of garychurch.org and click on the following links:

- **Get Connected** will show you the many ways you can share your spiritual gifts.
- **Stewardship Campaign: Listening, Loving, Leading** will show how you can pledge your resources.

Listening
Loving
Leading
Romans 15:1-2

Vote on Church Council interim reorganization

As our congregation begins the process of re-visioning our future, the Church Council has approved an interim reorganization proposal for the next one to two years. *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* identifies the Church Council to be the congregation's primary leadership body. It not only manages church business — it is the group responsible for discerning, planning, implementing and evaluating the congregation's mission and ministry.

A final future council structure would be determined in response to the re-visioning process. The interim council would be leaner and more strategic — 21 specific roles rather than the current 100+ members. Meetings would remain open to all church members, but change from a report-focused structure to one largely centered on planning, visioning and evaluating the church's mission and ministry. Meetings have been bimonthly for many years – the interim council would meet monthly. These changes would go into effect in January 2027.

All Gary Church members have the opportunity to vote on the interim reorganization proposal on *Monday, Nov. 2 at 7 p.m.* at the Charge Conference, the annual meeting of the Gary Church congregational membership.

Prairie Central Fall 2026 Lay Academy

Saturdays, Nov. 7 and 14, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
First United Methodist Church, 155 S. Main St., Lombard
Choose a class from the following three topics: sacraments, spiritual gifts and fighting racism. Learn more and register at garychurch.org.

Gary's GREEN TEAM

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. Psalm 24:1

In its first full year, the Gary Green Team has been busy caring for God's divine handiwork. Here are some highlights:

- Benchmarked the carbon footprint of the main church facility and the Wesley Center, looking back two years
- Installed new recycling bins, and introduced a coordinated program to our congregation
- Installed a Courtyard rain barrel for Gary Gardeners
- Helped coordinate a creation care worship series and adult education classes
- Suggested sustainable practices policies to the Trustees, who incorporated them into our Building Use Policy
- Explored the possibility of geothermal or solar energy installation with Trustees, including a field trip to UMC of Geneva
- Recycled and properly disposed of Styrofoam, paint, electronics and an AC unit
- Collected gently used school supplies for reuse and crayons for repurposing
- Supported a second, near-zero waste picnic at Worship in the Park
- Hosted a local watch party to livestream noted environmentalist Bill McKibben's keynote address to the Faith in Place Environment and Spirituality summit
- Plugged into wider UMC creation care efforts by participating in the North Central Jurisdiction's Creation Justice conference

None of this is possible without the support of the Gary community. Thank you for being open to learning and growing. If you are interested in joining this dynamic team, please contact **Mark Mathis** through the Church Office.







Donate cloth napkins

Do you have clean cloth napkins going unused? Willing to donate a few? As the Gary community works to reduce its footprint on the Earth, we want cloth napkins for church events, alongside reusable dishes and utensils. Leave napkins in the bin in the Commons under the Missions bulletin board between *Nov. 1 and 15*. Help us reach our goal of 100 before the Thanksgiving Potluck.



November & December birthdays*

Happy (90+) birthday to:

Judy Jay
Nancy Turner
Arleta Troutman
Jan Allen
Rita Coake
Mary Landreth
Lorrie Brand
Barbara Garlinger
Sally Bintz

November and December anniversaries*

Happy anniversary (50+) to:

Howard & Esther Nicholas
Phil & Sandy Cline

Congratulations!

Chuck and Cubby Minauskas on the birth of their great-granddaughter, Lyla Ann, on Sept. 11.

The Van Hiel family on the birth of their son and brother, Otto.

Baptisms

Lucy Milena Halina Lucas, daughter of Shaun Lucas and Kamila Nawrot-Lucas, on Aug. 30.

Our sympathy

Mike and Linda Krueger and their family on the death of their son, Steven, on Aug. 20.

Brian, Jenna, Kole, Ezra and Skye Tatnall on the death of the father and grandfather, William (Bill) Tatnall, on Sept. 14.

Jill, Paul and Tom Stoffels on the death of Jill's aunt, Dolores Dolley, on Sept. 27.

Harry and JoAnne Chase on the death of their daughter, Sherri Senese, on Oct. 1.

Bob and Virginia Isgren on the death of Bob's sister, Barbara Bock, on Oct. 13.

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

Thank you

Thank you Gary Prayer team for all your thoughts and prayers offered up for my daughter-in-law, Linda Landreth. She has undergone a stem cell transfer and will be in isolation for about three weeks while the new cells take hold and begin to multiply. We can't thank you enough for your powerful intervention. I'm a firm believer that one can never have too many prayers!

Mary Landreth and family

Mike and I would like to express our gratitude for the numerous cards and expressions of condolences, sympathy and support from our Gary friends and staff after the loss of our son Steve to suicide. It will be a long road to healing and your kindness and support mean everything.

Many thanks,
Mike and **Linda Krueger**

Jennifer and I want to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has offered their help, support and prayers while I was undergoing cancer surgery and treatment. Our Gary family has always been our family in times of need, and we may not have expressed our gratitude often enough. So, thank you and may you all receive God's blessings.

Joe and **Jen Ruth**

All-church *special worship*

Lessons and Carols

Sunday, Dec. 13, 9 a.m. and 11:11 a.m.
Advent lessons and music shape this unique family worship experience.

Longest Night Service

Monday, Dec. 21, 7 p.m.
Traditionally held on the winter solstice, the longest night of the year, the service will provide a time to remember loved ones, share our hurting places with God or simply step aside from the stresses of the season.

Christmas Eve

Thursday, Dec. 24
4 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Worship
7 p.m. Christmas Eve Traditional Worship
9 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship with communion