Submissions for the August Chimes magazine are due by noon on Friday, June 23. 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.
**Walkers & Talkers Fellowship**  
*Thursdays, 9:30 a.m., Commons*  
Stop in and chat with this welcoming group. This summer, they're taking a break from their Zoom Tuesdays and focusing on their in-person Thursday fellowship time.

**Faith Club Summer Picnic**  
*Sunday, July 23, 1 p.m.*  
Whether you have been attending this interfaith women's group regularly, haven't been able to come for a while or have been wanting to be part of the group, you are invited to our summer gathering. It's a great time to get to know our sisters of Abrahamic faiths. Please bring a dish to share. We'll enjoy the meal together in the shade of Faith Club member Diane Roubitchek's backyard. For the address, please contact **Kim Austin** through the Church Office.

**Create cards**  
*Thursdays, 1 p.m., Heritage Room*  
You know the cards you sign at the table near the Church Office? Volunteers make those cards, and you can too. Anyone is welcome to drop in whenever you can to create cards. The cards go to people celebrating milestone birthdays and anniversaries. They go to people grieving or sick. And, the cards go to people to simply let them know their friends at Gary Church are thinking about them.

**New time: Knitters/Stitchers Circle**  
*Second & Fourth Thursdays, 7 p.m., Commons A*  
All knitters, stitchers, embroiderers, crocheters, etc. are welcome to come whenever you can! Questions? Contact **Bobbi Wheatley** through the Church Office.

**Enjoy game night**  
*Fourth Friday of the month, 6:30–9 p.m. Commons*  
Play games of bridge, dominos or anything you like with your Gary Church friends. Contact **Fern Evelhoch** through the Church Office for more information, and to let us know you're coming.

**Help make Gary gardens gorgeous**  
Anyone can join the Gary Gardeners team, and in the summer there's always something to do. If you can help with weeding, watering, maintaining/updating planters, general landscaping or various short-term projects, please let **Barbara Wernicke** know through the Church Office.
Our United Methodist Hymnal includes not only beautiful hymns and choruses, but prayers for various seasons and occasions. On more than one occasion when planning a Celebration of Life for someone who has died, family members request the Prayer of Saint Francis (Francis of Assisi). This prayer, I am often told, describes how the deceased tried to live their life.

I quickly mention to them, with a degree of pride, that the prayer is in our hymnal, but, Yes, we can include it in the order of service as well. It would not be appropriate in those moments for me, however, to clarify that the beautiful prayer, credited to Francis, is found nowhere in his writings. Even the Franciscan Order does not attribute the prayer to Francis. Some go as far to point out that its self-oriented focus is atypical of Francis, as is the absence of the words Jesus and God. Still, it has always been one of my favorite prayers, even with its so-called “self-oriented” focus.

The prayer addresses very real human and spiritual conditions that are universal and relational. Likewise, there is little doubt in my mind that the Lord and Divine Master are “God focused.” The fact that it cannot be directly linked to Francis actually allows me to make it my own. I don’t mean to plagiarize it but to make it mine, to make it the prayer of my heart.

However, it has been harder for me to pray the prayer recently. The very first words bring me up short. “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.”

Truth be told, there are too many moments when I find that I am not being an instrument of God’s peace. I find myself failing to do the “sowing” work that the prayer describes. I find that I am not sowing love, pardon/forgiveness, hope, light and joy. I find that I am all too easily given over to, if only for a moment, nurturing hatred or dislike for others, and causing injury or harm to others.

Rarely are these actions intentional but we get caught up in the order of the day. If I am being totally honest, there are times when I find myself given to resignation in the face of the evils of this world, considering the mass shootings that seem to be a daily occurrence, the humanitarian crises related to one of the greatest migration of people the world has ever experienced, and the war between Russia and Ukraine, just to name a few.

Prayer combined with action reminds us that we are not powerless. We serve a Lord who reminds us that he has overcome the world.

The Prayer of St. Francis?

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Yet, in the discipline of prayer, we continue to be reminded that we can be difference makers, by the power of God at work within us. We are also reminded that beyond our prayers we must act. “Sowing” is action. It is a commitment to be used by God as people of peace, love, forgiveness/pardon, faith, hope, light and joy. The world has more than enough of the alternative. I believe prayer makes a difference. Yet, as followers of Christ, we are called to go beyond words with our voices lifted heavenward to God. We are called to take concrete actions that will resist evil and oppression.

Prayer combined with action reminds us that we are not powerless. We serve a Lord who reminds us that he has overcome the world.

What might it mean for you as an individual to claim this as your prayer throughout the summer?

What might it mean for you to intentionally be an instrument of God’s peace?

What might it mean if we did not acquiesce to the voice of the inner-critic or the loud voice of resignation that serve only to maintain the status quo?

I invite you to engage this simple yet transformative prayer as a step toward being a peacemaker, remembering Christ’s teaching, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God” (Matthew 5:9).

Christopher L. Duren

Congratulations
June/July Birthdays*
Happy (90+) birthday to:
Eileen Hughes (She will be 100 on July 4)

June/July 50+ anniversaries*
George & Linda Masek
Gary & Jeanene Fowler

Our sympathy
Mark, Jennifer and Charlie Castino on the death of their cousin, Jim Reid, on May 9.
Dan, Stephanie, Grace and Rhett Kehn on the death of Stephanie’s mother, Patty Wood, on May 12.
Jeff and Maria Bray on the death of Maria’s father, John Wegh, on May 15.

Baptisms
Cooper Thomas Oren, son of Kyle and Andrea Oren, on May 7.
Clara Christine Williams, daughter of Josh Williams and Carmen Sheils Williams, on May 21.

New opportunities
George Roe on his move to Missouri.

Social media milestones
Gary Church’s Facebook page now has more than 750 followers; Instagram has more than 140. Please invite your friends to follow our social media. And, please send photos and ideas for posts to Janet Mathis, jmathis@garychurch.org.

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

We have so many groups meeting throughout the week at Gary Church, you’ll want to reserve a room well in advance of your gathering. Contact the Church Office to see what’s available.
Hey Parents! Nothing says summer like a picnic in the park! Amos 8:1 even mentions this, “This is what the Lord God showed me: behold, a basket of summer fruit.” This summer we are launching a “Picnic in the Park” ministry where families can pack a basket and meet up at Northside Park on the first Sunday of the month, June–August, for some relaxed church fellowship. No need to register, simply grab your checkered blanket and join in the fun!

What We’re Teaching

June Series: Make It or Break It
Whether it’s with LEGO bricks, Minecraft or Roblox, kids (and adults!) love to make things – and sometimes break them. In this four-week series from the very beginning of the Bible, we’ll compare God’s ability to make good things with our tendency to break them. Through the stories of creation, the fall, Cain and Abel and the Tower of Babel, we’ll see that God makes good things, unbreaks what’s been broken and made us different on purpose, so we should honor God with the things we make.

July Series: Staycation
Grab some blankets and flashlights! We’re going to build a fort or jump on the couch because the floor is lava! That’s right – it’s time for a family staycation! In this five-week series about Abraham and his family (and our families, too!), kids will learn that God blesses us so we can bless others and God always shows us compassion. That’s why we can trust God (even when it’s hard to trust each other), always belong in God’s family and can make peace with others – especially the people who live with us.

What’s Happening

Step Up Sunday
June 4, 9 a.m.
Gary Kids will “step up” to their next grade. Then, continue the celebration at our first “Picnic in the Park” of the summer.

Picnic in the Park
Sundays, June 4, July 2 and August 6, 10:30 a.m., Northside Park
Pack a picnic and meet up at Northside Park on the first Sunday of the month, June–August, for some relaxed church fellowship. Come to worship and Kids’ Church at 9 a.m. (we’ll have space in the fridge for your picnic food), and then meet at Northside Park after church. No need to register, simply grab your checkered blanket and join in the fun!
**Summer Reading: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**

Gary Kids are invited to read C.S. Lewis’s classic book, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Four adventurous siblings — Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy Pevensie — step through a wardrobe door and into the land of Narnia, a land frozen in eternal winter and enslaved by the power of the White Witch. But when almost all hope is lost, the return of the Great Lion, Aslan, signals a great change ... and a great sacrifice. Read the book as a family and join Pastor Carey for a special visit to Wheaton College’s Wade Center Museum to see the real Lewis family wardrobe!

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**Marion E. Wade Center Museum Outing**

Friday, July 28, 12:30 p.m. (optional lunch at 11 a.m.)

Did you know Wheaton College’s Wade Center Museum houses C.S. Lewis’ Wardrobe and J.R.R. Tolkien’s desk? Families are invited to join Pastor Carey for a Wade Center tour designed with grade school children in mind, and an optional lunch at Toots Train Whistle Grill in Glen Ellyn. Register at garychurch.org.

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**Stellar VBS**

Monday, June 19—Thursday, June 22, 9 a.m.—12 p.m.

Stellar VBS launches kids on a cosmic quest where they’ll have a blast shining Jesus’ light to the world. Stellar rockets kids on an out-of-this-world adventure that’s light years of faith-building fun. Cost: $30, covers a fun VBS shirt, snacks, sciency-fun gizmos and so much more! Register your child entering 4-year-old preschool through fourth grade at garychurch.org.

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**Stellar VBS volunteers needed**

Join the Stellar VBS volunteer team and help give kids a rock-solid foundation for their lives built on Bible truths about God’s love! Leaders and assistants are needed to shepherd crews, encourage learning and enjoy the fun! Register as a VBS volunteer at garychurch.org.

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**VBS Volunteer Meeting**

Sunday, June 11, 2 p.m., Commons

All Stellar VBS volunteers are asked to join this 90-minute meeting, during which they will meet station leaders, learn about this year’s curriculum, find out who will be on their “crew” and discover all of the great things we have in store this year to help students discover how they can shine Jesus’ light in the world.

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**VBS Decorating Night**

Wednesday, June 14, 6 p.m.

It’s the final countdown! With T-minus 5 days to go until VBS Stellar launches, we need all hands on deck to help transform our space into outer space! Adults and kids alike are welcome at this favorite annual event; pizza and snacks will be provided.

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**2023 Family Camp**

Thursday, July 20—Sunday, July 23

Families are invited to Pine Lake Camp in Westfield, Wisconsin to spend an extended weekend growing closer to God and each other through nature, worship and play.

- **Thursday:** Check in, dinner, campy camp games and activities, campfire with songs and s’mores
- **Friday & Saturday:** Active devotion, free play, campy camp games and activities, campfire with songs and s’mores
- **Sunday:** Worship at the Lake, free play, check out

**Accommodations**

- Retreat Center Room: Hotel style with private bath including one queen bed and one twin bed with twin trundle. Cost: $240 per room + $45 per person after two (family of three: $285, family of four: $330, etc.).
- Rustic Cabin: Electricity, cold running water, toilet and 8-10 twin beds (4-5 sets bunk beds). Shared bath house. Cost: $60 per person. Cabins can be shared by more than one family.

**Meals**

Cost: $110 per person 13+ and $60 per child ages 3-12

- Thursday: Dinner
- Friday and Saturday: Breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Sunday: Breakfast and lunch

**Activity Fee**

$40 per family covers the cost of weekend crafts and activities

You can pay for accommodations, meals and activities at garychurch.org/give.
Preschool year update
Gary Preschool wrapped up their 2022-2023 school year on May 26, and what a year it has been! We had classes Monday through Friday: 3s, 4s and two Parents’ Morning Out classes for our younger children. It was wonderful to welcome back returning families, meet new families and have them all become part of our Gary Preschool family. In total, we were joined by 43 children, many of whom will continue with us in the next school year.

Register this summer
Registration for Gary Preschool and Parents’ Morning Out continues throughout the summer. Some of our classes are already full! Our Tuesday/Thursday PMO, Tuesday/Thursday 3s preschool and Monday/Wednesday/Friday 4s preschool still have openings. If you or someone you know is interested in preschool or PMO, please contact Kirsten McCluskey at preschool@garychurch.org. She would be happy to answer any questions you have and find time to schedule a tour.

Scholarship funds needed
Gary Preschool is collecting donations for our scholarship fund. We have been blessed by previous donations to be able to provide for several families during the past few school years and hope to be able to continue supporting the needs of community families. Every donation helps! Donations can be made through the Church Office.

Help needed for the big move on June 10
As part of the Aldersgate UMC merger with Gary Church, a relocation of items such as boxes, tables and chairs from Aldersgate to Gary is planned for Saturday, June 10. Volunteers are needed to help move these items into the rented truck at Aldersgate and out of the truck into the Lower Level at Gary — no stairs. Work starts at 9 a.m. at Aldersgate, 1753 S. Blanchard Street, Wheaton. No registration required; we look forward to seeing you on that day.

Share graduate information by Sunday, June 11
Please let us know who from the Gary Church family will graduate from high school, college or vocational school this year by filling out the form on the registrations page of garychurch.org. Gary Church high school graduates will be recognized in worship on Sunday, June 11. All graduates will be listed in the August edition of the Chimes.
Chancel Choir gets a new look
by Virginia Blackwell

Chancel Choir members were all smiles on Easter morning as we surprised the congregation wearing beautiful new robes. We are pleased with the design and the cooler fabric. The rich blue complements our vibrant stained-glass windows and contributes to the beauty of the Sanctuary during worship.

“The new robes remind us we are honored and blessed to be able to sing praises to God,” says Bob Barnes, baritone. Terry Balke, tenor, says, “The robes make me feel like part of a wonderful family, like I belong.”

The process to replace our decades-old robes began pre-pandemic in 2019 with the formation of a Robe Committee. Members included Virginia Blackwell, chair, Terry Balke, Bob Martin, Carolyn Raber, David Skarin and Jennifer Whiting. We solicited samples and cost estimates from three vendors and chose Academic Apparel in California as our vendor and blue as our color.

A generous gift from Melissa Allan and Robert Lyon in memory of their mother Betty Lyon, along with another anonymous gift, provided most of the funding we would need. We were ready to make our final selection and place an order early in 2020. Then the pandemic hit, and everything was put on hold for nearly three years. By the time we felt comfortable resuming the process, Academic Apparel was the only company of the three still in business!

We ordered several sample robes, all in blue, and invited all interested choir members to help us make our final selection. Cindi Copeland took charge of getting all our members measured to ensure a good fit for each robe, and of course we purchased extras for the new members we hope will join the choir soon!

Our old robes have found a new home at Wesley United Methodist Church in Springfield, Missouri. We are pleased they will continue to be used, and happy we have new ones to wear. We hope the congregation appreciates the new robes as much as we do.

Vickie Austin, alto, says, “The robes are ‘transplendent’—transformational plus splendid—because they support our music mission!”
DuPage PADS update and volunteer opportunity

DuPage PADS provides shelter and services to the homeless and more. Since March 2020, DuPage PADS has provided shelter and help to 200 survivors of domestic violence. They will now also start a new program called “Haven of Hope” to continue providing shelter while adding secondary services in collaboration with Family Shelter Services. Providing these services locally is a much-needed continuation and expansion of their mission. They have also received a large grant that will permit them to expand their physical client services at the Interim Housing Center, including a new playground for children of families, which will provide a safe outdoor play space.

PADS is currently in need of additional volunteer staff from 2 to 6 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. They are also in need of help in their laundry room from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily. If you are willing and able to volunteer or have questions, contact Heidi Meier at hmeier@dupagepads.org. In addition, they have an urgent need for nonperishable food items and personal care items. Items can be dropped at 703 W. Liberty, or you can shop from their Amazon wish list, linked at their website, dupagepads.org.

Recycle Styrofoam

Sundays, July 16 and 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.

Thousands donated to missions in 2022

Gary Church collected and dispersed more than $90,000 to global, national and local missions in 2022. People’s Resource Center, Feed My Starving Children, Habitat for Humanity, Heifer Project International, ESSE, Christmas Sharing, Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans, CROP Walk, Outreach Ministries, Bridge Communities and DuPage PADS are some of the many missions that received support last year. Gary Church also funded educational scholarships for students in Africa and Cambodia.

CROP Walk 2023 a success

God Is Good – This year’s CROP Walk was blessed with great weather, wonderful neighbors from area churches and so many Gary folks who helped make this event successful. Ninety walkers from area churches participated in the 3-mile walk for the fight against hunger.

Many thanks to the Gary volunteers, staff and Troop 35 scouts who helped prepare and run the event for the fight against hunger. Gary Kids provided beautiful artwork and repaired and assembled posters for walkers to carry. Bill Austin’s wonderful painting made a big statement at the CROP table (thanks Bill).

A big thank you to Gary’s 44 walkers (our largest turnout in 10 years) and everyone who generously donated to this important mission. Gary exceeded our goal, contributing more than $4,000 to the Wheaton/Glen Ellyn total of $20,000. These funds will go a long way to help local and global food supplies. Proceeds go to the Wheaton People’s Resource Center, Glen Ellyn Food Pantry, DuPage Senior Citizens Council and to various needs in other countries including Ukraine.

The CROP Walk 2023 was another example of Gary’s energetic and passionate spirit as you came together in such a warm (very warm!) welcoming manner — sharing God’s love with your actions!

GREAT WORK EVERYONE and THANK YOU!

Judy Selby
Gary Church CROP Walk Chair
Giving less than expenses

Thank you for the support you continue to provide to Gary Church and our church family's mission. As a follow-up to the article — and additional giving request — in the May Chimes, the Finance Committee would like to provide an update on the church's financial results. The following is a summary of the budget and actual results through April 30, 2023.

<table>
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<th>January – April 2023</th>
<th>Budget – YTD April 30, 2023</th>
<th>Actual – YTD April 30, 2023</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The good news is … giving increased in April bringing actual giving for the year to 81% of what is budgeted (an increase from 77% from March). Thank you to all who continued your support and to those who were able to provide a little extra. These funds support the mission and ministry of Gary Church throughout Wheaton and beyond.

The less-good news is … we still are running at a deficit, and it’s slightly increased from March. While expenses continue to be slightly behind plan, we acknowledge that is mostly due to timing differences on when certain expenses are hitting.

Your giving allows us to live out Gary's mission to do ministry and God's great work. It supports worship, teaching, fellowship and outreach — changing lives and making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We cannot do that without you. Thank you.

Suzanne Marra
Finance Committee Chair

Sprucing up the Commons

We have recently decided to replace the carpeting and repaint the Commons, the two classrooms off the Commons and the Office. We will also be repainting the entry by Door 5. A big thank you to Lois Davison and everyone on the Interiors Committee for contacting three different vendors and selecting the carpet style and color as well as the paint color.

The work is scheduled to begin the week of June 25, after Vacation Bible School and BLAST Camp. We will start with the painting and follow that with the new carpet.

Funds for this project are coming from investment accounts designated for capital projects and managed by the trustees.

Please feel free to contact me or any member of the trustees if you have questions.

David Plate
Board of Trustees Chair
Mini Golf Mayhem and Silent Auction

Mini golf, triple berry pie, football, afghan, snake plant, paintings, BBQ, pickles and cupcakes, oh my! What do all these things have in common? They are all ways that Gary Church cares for Gary Youth. In April, Gary Church came out to support our Gary Youth in all sorts of ways. Together, we raised more than $4,000 towards our youth program. Through this all-church effort, our youth are able to grow in their faith and experience a loving church family. Thank you so much for your support! Special thanks to the Wheaton Park District for lending us their putters!
Inviting Friends to Church

“Stop telling your students to invite their friends to church...” is the title of an article I read intended for youth directors at youthministry360.com. Naturally, I had to read it. Andy Blanks, the author, made the point that while inviting their friends who don’t know Christ to youth group isn’t wrong, per se, as a primary strategy for encouraging youth to share the Gospel, it’s not their best foot forward. Blanks writes that the problem with “inviting friends to church” is that 1.) while the Bible does contain examples of evangelism through personal relationships, there is no example of inviting people to church; 2.) it’s not very effective because nowadays, people have a distrust of institutions like the church; 3.) it’s arrogant to say, “you bring em to church and we, the adults/professionals, will handle the rest.” So, what is our best foot forward?

Blanks suggests that community comes first. What if we are good friends to our friends? What if we were the best living example of Jesus to everyone we encounter on a day-to-day basis? The church building can be an intimidating environment. Did you know that our youth are bringing their friends to church? Our youth are not just asking their friends, “do you want to come to church?” They are being good friends to their friends. They are sharing Jesus’ love where they are. This kind of love builds trust. It’s an entire life that invites people to church, ultimately to Jesus. Their friends come and they also experience a welcome from the rest of our youth group. Our youth are living out their faith!

High School Parents Listening Session
Wednesday, June 7, 7–8 p.m.

Parents are vital to our ministry at Gary Youth! Parents of high school youth are invited for a listening session, What can we do to best serve your high schooler and your family? How can we do better in our ministry? Come and let us know.

Gary Youth Summer Launch Party
Friday, June 9, 6–7:30 p.m.

Let the summer fun begin! Gary Youth (incoming 6th graders to graduating seniors) and their families are invited to celebrate the start of Gary Youth Summer with pizza, drinks, snacks and dessert. We will get to know each other and talk about the next Gary Youth program year! RSVP by June 7 by visiting the Gary Youth page at garychurch.org.

Register for BLAST Camp: Level Up!
Monday, June 19-Thursday, June 22, 9 a.m.-noon
Cost $40

At Level Up! BLAST Camp, students entering grades 5–8 will be journeying through the world of video games and learning to “level up” in their life with Jesus. Sign up to volunteer and register your student(s) by visiting our youth page at garychurch.org. Registration closes on Monday, June 5.

Learning to Devo: Liberating Love by Sandhya Rani Jha

This summer, along with our study of the Bible, our middle school and high school youth will be practicing a daily devotional called Liberating Love that honors both scripture and real life. Each day’s devotional contains a short scripture passage and a love note from God. Each youth will receive a book when they come to the first youth group of the summer.

Here is a sample:

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

Genesis 1:1-3

I was there from the beginning, and I was there from your beginning. Today is a day for us to restart our journey together, and this I promise: I will always provide light for the journey. Today, I invited you to take a moment and revel in my creation, and to find ways to honor it and care for it. This is what I seek for us together this year: that you might grow closer to me and creation and that you might always feel my light around and inside you, even in the hard seasons. If I could create all of this, what can’t I create in you?
Bible Black Belt with a Twist of Lemon

Wednesday, June 14 • Wednesday, June 28 • Wednesday, July 19 • Wednesday, Aug. 2, 7–8:30 p.m.

This summer, middle school youth are invited to play games, brush up on our Bible skills and learn to make different kinds of fresh lemonade! We will memorize the books of the Bible, go through the Ten Commandments, study the Beatitudes and artistically storyboard Jesus’ parables! Sign up on our Gary Youth page at garychurch.org.

Summer Nights with the Bible

Sunday, June 11 • Sunday, July 16 • Sunday, July 23 • Sunday, July 30, 6:30–8:30 p.m

High school youth are invited for dinner, a walk and discussion. Our discussions will revolve around the Bible: “What is the Bible?” , “How does the Bible matter to us today?”, “Is the Bible true or science true?” and “How do United Methodists read the Bible?” We will meet at Door 5 and walk over to our dinner location in downtown Wheaton. Sign up on our Gary Youth page at garychurch.org.

SUMMER FUN EVENTS

Art Institute of Chicago and Chinatown

Saturday, June 24, 8:54–6:31 p.m. (Times are specific to Metra schedule)

High school youth will visit the Kwame Brathwaite art exhibit and take the water taxi to Chinatown for lunch. Cost will be $31. Please bring an additional $25 for lunch and dessert. Meet at the Wheaton Metra station before departure time. Sign up and make your payment online by visiting the Gary Youth page at garychurch.org by June 16.

Bristol Renaissance Faire

Saturday, July 15, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., $40

Have you ever wished you could live in a fantasy world of fairies, knights and castles? Then the Bristol Renaissance Faire is the place for you! All Gary Youth (middle school and high school) are invited to eat turkey legs, pickle on a stick, watch knights joust and be amazed by daredevil acrobats. Sign up and pay for your ticket by visiting the Gary Youth page at garychurch.org by June 23.
Welcome, Pastor Daniel!

“I am honored to serve the faithful community of Gary Church, which represents the body of Christ through inclusive hospitality, vibrant worship, active faith formation and impactful missions.”

–Daniel Cochran, associate pastor

Pastor Daniel Cochran joins the staff at Gary Church by way of a merger with the congregation of Aldersgate UMC in south Wheaton. He is passionate about working with others to offer intergenerational worship services, engaging faith formation opportunities and creative ministries that encourage personal and social transformation through God’s abundant grace and radical love.

Born in California but raised in Rhode Island, he has served congregations and campus ministries in New York, Massachusetts, Wisconsin and Illinois. He holds a bachelor's degree in religious studies and classics from the University of Rochester (New York), a master's degree in divinity from Harvard Divinity School, and a doctorate in art history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is the author of Building the Body of Christ, which explores the role of visual art in shaping early Christian communities.

An Eagle Scout and avid outdoorsman, Pastor Daniel enjoys fly fishing, alpine skiing, tent camping and traveling with his wife Lauren (an ordained Presbyterian pastor) and their two children. Their scruffy rescue dog, Luna, would prefer they never left the house at all. Please welcome Pastor Daniel and introduce yourself when you see him. His first sermon at Gary Church will be on Sunday, June 18. We’ll have a welcome celebration on Sunday, July 23.
Welcome, New Members!

Carla and Steve Lovett started attending Gary Church during the pandemic. They have one daughter, Anne, who just graduated from Calvin University. Steve is a math professor at Wheaton College and Carla is an adjunct professor who teaches history. Carla is also a part-time missionary to Costa Rica. The Lovetts are already involved in multiple Gary ministries. Steve is a member of Chancel Choir and Carla is a member of Joy Circle, Anti-Racist Book Club and serves on the Welcome Team. Welcome Carla and Steve!

Abbey and Grant Davis moved to the area about a year ago. Abbey is a special education teacher and Grant is a sales executive. Both Abbey and Grant grew up in The United Methodist Church, and Abbey's great-grandfather is a retired UMC pastor. Abbey plans to help with baking for Special Blend. Grant enjoys sports and is looking forward to meeting some fellow golfers here at Gary. They are dog parents to two rescue pups whom they love dearly. Welcome Abbey and Grant!

We recently welcomed Jerry Smith into membership. Jerry and his wife Cathy moved to Winfield from Pennsylvania last summer to be closer to family. They have two sons, one of whom lives locally. They especially enjoy spending time with their 2-year-old granddaughter. Jerry is retired from two careers, the first in telecommunications and the second in genealogy. We are grateful for Jerry's willingness to share his musical talents here at Gary. He serves in Altar Bells and also plays the trumpet in worship. In his spare time, Jerry enjoys archery and volunteering with the Boy Scouts. Welcome, Jerry!

It’s easy to get connected

For more information on becoming involved at Gary Church, please complete the “Get Connected” form at garychurch.org.

Interested in learning more about membership at Gary? Our next Exploring Membership class will be offered on Sunday, July 16 at 10 a.m. Please contact Jennifer Castino at jcastino@garychurch.org with questions or to register.
After eight years of serving as a part-time associate pastor for Gary Church, Pastor Brian Felker Jones will be pursuing a new career on July 1. Thank you to Pastor Brian for teaching confirmation, leading the Gary Cares ministry, creating “Car Communion” during COVID, introducing The Class Meeting, officiating weddings and funerals, preaching and so much more. Brian has touched countless lives with his love of God.

Brian and his family will still attend Gary Church. He will work with this year’s confirmation class until they’re confirmed in September. He will no longer preach or officiate weddings/funerals. Brian will sit in the pews, volunteer in new ways and continue his faith journey. Instead of hearing the occasional “Amen” from the Chancel, you might hear it from behind you in the Balcony.

Thank you, Pastor Brian, for the gifts you’ve brought to Gary Church. His last sermon will be on Sunday, June 11. Let’s celebrate with him on his last Sunday as our pastor, June 25.

If you’d like to contribute to a love gift for Pastor Brian, go to garychurch.org/give.

Thank you

We would like to thank everyone for their donations to the birthday party bags that we put together for the People’s Resource Center. We chose to do 43 bags in celebration of our 43rd year of being a circle. We were able to exceed our goal of 43 bags. The items were delivered to the PRC and they were ecstatic at Gary’s generosity. Your donation will be a blessing for families as they will now be able to have a small party for their child’s birthday.

The Members of Gary’s Susanna Wesley Circle

Thank you to everyone who extended congratulations and best wishes for our 50th Anniversary. Our Gary family has always been kind and supportive for us and we appreciate you all deeply.

Joe and Jennifer Ruth
Special summer worship services
One worship service at 9 a.m.

Trinity Sunday, June 4
This is Step Up Sunday, when students “step up” to the next grade. We’ll also have a special offering, Peace with Justice Sunday.

Second Sunday after Pentecost, June 11
We celebrate high school graduates by praying for them and wrapping each of them in a homemade afghan. This will be Pastor Brian Felker Jones’s last sermon at Gary Church.

Third Sunday after Pentecost, June 18
On this Father’s Day, we’ll enjoy Pastor Daniel Cochran’s first sermon at Gary Church.

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, June 25
This is Pastor Brian’s last Sunday as our pastor. Let’s thank him for his ministry at Gary Church.

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, July 23
Let’s officially welcome Pastor Daniel as the merged Gary Church’s associate pastor.

We will continue with one service at 9 a.m. throughout the summer. You can worship in the Sanctuary or at garychurch.org. Our worship team is reimagining the 11 a.m. service, which will begin again on Sunday, Aug. 27. Watch for more details in the e-news.

Mark your calendar for summer*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, June 4</td>
<td>Step Up Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, June 11</td>
<td>Celebrate Gary Church high school graduates; Pastor Brian’s last sermon at Gary Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, June 18</td>
<td>Pastor Daniel’s first sermon at Gary Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, June 19–Thursday, June 22</td>
<td>Vacation Bible School/BLAST Camp</td>
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<td>Sunday, June 25</td>
<td>Thank you celebration for Pastor Brian</td>
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<td>Sunday, July 16</td>
<td>Styrofoam Recycling</td>
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<td>Sunday, July 16</td>
<td>Exploring Membership class</td>
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<td>Thursday, July 20–Sunday, July 23</td>
<td>Family Camp</td>
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<td>Sunday, July 23</td>
<td>Welcome celebration for Pastor Daniel</td>
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<td>Sunday, July 30</td>
<td>Fifth Sunday Appeal for United Voices for Children</td>
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<td>Sunday, Aug. 6</td>
<td>Gary Golf Outing for Gary Youth</td>
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<td>Sunday, Aug. 20</td>
<td>Worship in the Park (10 a.m. at Memorial Park)</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Aug. 23</td>
<td>Blood Drive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, Aug. 27</td>
<td>All-church training</td>
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*Check out more events for Gary Kids and Gary Youth on pages 6, 7, 14 and 15

Worship in the Park and Picnic, Sunday, Aug. 20
(note time and location: 10 a.m., Memorial Park)

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 share a picnic together. More details to come in the August edition of the Chimes.
Summer Supper Series

Thursdays, June 8, July 6 and Aug. 3, 5:30–7 p.m., Courtyard
(if inclement weather, then Commons)

Join in fellowship and share a meal with others. Meet for a potluck at Gary Church before the 7:30 p.m. Municipal Band Concerts in Memorial Park. Please bring a dish to share, plus your chair, your place setting, a drink and whatever else you need. You can register to set up, clean up and attend at garychurch.org.