

Chimes

The Magazine of Gary United Methodist Church
May/June 2026



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Chimes VOLUME LXXIV, ISSUE III

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One worship service this summer

Starting Pentecost Sunday, May 24, we will worship together at 9 a.m. Throughout the summer, we'll enjoy 9 a.m. worship and Kids' Church, plus 10 a.m. Special Blend fellowship. Nursery care will be available throughout the morning.

Kickoff Sunday is Sept. 13 with 9 a.m. and 11:11 a.m. worship, Sunday School for all ages between services, 10 a.m. Special Blend fellowship and nursery care throughout the morning.

Church Office Hours

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



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

On our cover

Our Gary Kids enjoying their friends during Sunday School.

Submissions for the July/August Chimes magazine are due by noon on Monday, June 1. 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.

How we view our neighbors

The Pew Research Center is a non-profit research organization well known for its opinion surveys. Their research is frequently cited as a source for how people around the world think across a wide range of topics.

On March 5, 2026, Pew released an interesting result from their Global Attitudes Survey reporting that people in the U.S. were the most negative among 25 countries surveyed on how they viewed the morality of their fellow citizens. They asked people to rate the morality and ethics of people in their own country on a

Love one another as we share the mission of being Christ's body in the world.

scale of very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad and very bad. In the United States, 53% of respondents answered somewhat bad or very bad. Turkey was the next on the list with 49% rating fellow citizens negatively. The most positive results came from Canada with only 7% of respondents rating the morality of their fellow Canadians as somewhat or very bad.

I find this result interesting even with all the uncertainties associated with opinion polls. That's in part because seeing others negatively is a concern I've noticed lately in my own spiritual life. I want to hold all humanity in the light of hope and the attitude of compassion and care. However lately I've noticed that I need to be attentive about doing that. I could blame media bias, political division or the biting humor of comedians as causes for a somewhat more negative outlook. However, none of that really matters. What matters to me, is that judging others matters to God. As Jesus said,

Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged. And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? How can you think of saying to your friend, 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.

Matthew 7:1-5 New Living Translation

We can learn a lot from this passage. First, I need to recognize when I am judging others as opposed to respectfully disagreeing. Disagreement leaves room for discussion; judgement says they're not even worth listening to. If the issue is disagreement, it may be time for a conversation to listen and possibly learn. However, if the issue is judgement, it's time for prayer to see myself clearly and ask for God's help removing the log out of my eye. In my experience, once we address our own judgementalism, our desire to judge others turns to compassion and care.

I think it's important to realize that Jesus didn't say we all need to agree. We will always have different understanding, experience and opinions. What we need to do is love one another as we share the mission of being Christ's body in the world.

You may not think that The United Methodist Church is big enough to make much of a difference in national survey results about judging our neighbors. However, in 2024, Pew Research reported that 3% of American adults identify as United Methodist. Perhaps the place to be extra attentive to our national tendency to judge others begins at home. Let's get to know each other well enough to recognize our similarities and differences, let's dig deep enough spiritually to see ourselves clearly, and let's be courageous enough in our love to embrace one another with compassion and care.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Mary



Love
Courageously

1 Corinthians 16:14

ADULT Christian Education and Discipleship

Caring for creation

Sundays, May 3 & 10, 10:10 a.m., Anderson Room

A two-week series on caring for all creation, which God has called “good.”

Stewarding Creation with Native Plants

Sunday, May 3, 10:10 a.m., Anderson Room

Learn how integrating native plants into your garden can help steward God’s creation while creating a natural habitat that benefits creatures great and small – including you! Presentation by Nancy Cinatl from The Conservation Foundation.



Talking About Climate Change

Sunday, May 10, 10:10 a.m., Anderson Room

No matter your perspective, discover how to have a respectful, productive dialogue about this important topic. This session will center on a TED Talk by Katherine Hayhoe, Chief Scientist at The Nature Conservancy, followed by conversation and reflection.



For more creation care opportunities, see page 13.

Young Adult Lunch

Sunday, May 31, 12:15 p.m., meet at Door 5



If you’re post-high school/ college/ early on in adulthood/ probably in your 20s or 30s, join us for our next young adult lunch gathering – our last get together before we take a break for the summer. Lunch is on us, so come hungry and ready to connect. RSVP to **Dan Lee** at dlee@garychurch.org, or feel free to just show up – we’d love to see you there!

Picnic with Pride, a Wheaton Ally Collective Event

Saturday, June 13, Memorial Park

Gary’s Church and Society Committee, in partnership with the Wheaton Ally Collective, invites all to this family-friendly Pride Month Celebration that commemorates the anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, widely regarded as the birth of the modern LGBTQ+ movement. Come out to show your support and enjoy the informational booths, activities, gift bags and more.



NIC/IGRC Illinois PILGRIMAGE



Thursday, June 25–Sunday, June 28

(Orientation: Tuesday, June 2, 7-8 p.m. via Zoom)

His face and name are on our license plates, but what does it mean to be United Methodists living in the “Land of Lincoln”? Join the Northern Illinois Conference’s General Commission on Religion and Race Pilgrimage Committee for a journey across Illinois as we explore the tensions between the state’s celebrated identity and its racial history. This spiritual pilgrimage invites United Methodists into honest reckoning, deeper understanding, and a renewed call to love boldly, serve joyfully and lead courageously. For details, and to register, go to garychurch.org/registrations.



Celebrate Juneteenth

Friday, June 19, 5-7 p.m., Memorial Park



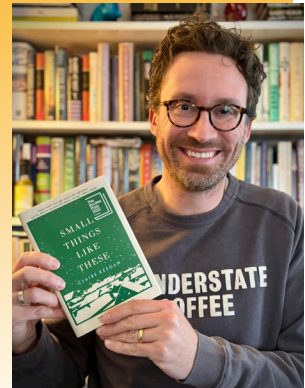
Church and Society invites you to observe Juneteenth, celebrating the end of slavery in the United States. **The Rev. Dwight Stewart** will give the invocation. The event will include food trucks, entertainers and more.

Summer book read and film fellowship

Sunday, July 26, 10:10 a.m. and Wednesday, July 29, 6:30 p.m., Anderson Room

All are welcome to join **Pastor Daniel Cochran** in reading Claire Keegan's novella, *Small Things Like These* (Grove Press, 2021). Winner of the Orwell Prize for political writing and shortlisted for the 2022 Booker Prize, *Small Things* is a very short but "deeply affecting story of hope, quiet heroism, and empathy" based on the true story of the infamous Magdalen laundries in Ireland.

Go ahead and pick up a copy and begin reading now. We will meet after worship on *July 26* for a guided discussion. Then, on *Wednesday evening, July 29*, we will gather to watch and discuss the 2024 award-winning film adaptation directed by Tim Mielants starring Cillian Murphy and Emily Watson. Please contact **Pastor Daniel Cochran** with any questions, dcochran@garychurch.org.



Thank you Jamie!

We would like to give a special thanks to **Jamie Hanna Williams** for leading this Bible study. A 24-week *Disciple Fast Track* study where Jamie boldly took us through the Old and New Testaments. Because of her extreme knowledge, faith and dedication, this group journeyed together while learning, discussing and growing as disciples.

Hey Families!

This has been such a fun year of ministry, and we hope you are already looking forward to big, beautiful adventures with your family and loved ones.

what we're teaching

May Series: TRUE STORY

Can you remember the last time you got lost in a really good book? The epic quests, daring escapes and wild adventures make it hard to put down! While our lives might not include mythical creatures or fantastical lands, we're all part of an incredible adventure – following God and helping others do the same. Each week, kids will explore the amazing and true stories about Jesus that show us what it means to live for God.



June Series: IN THE BEGINNING

Take a moment to pause and get a closer look at the amazing world around us – trees, oceans, animals, and even you! What's even more amazing is that it was all created by God, for God. From the beginning of time, God created everything with care and purpose, showing incredible love for all of creation – especially us. The best thing we can do is give that love back by taking care of the world God has given us.



what's happening

4th & 5th Grade Fellowship | End-of-the-year party

Friday, May 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Third, fourth and fifth graders are invited to our annual end-of-the-year party. We will welcome third graders and send off fifth graders to Gary Youth!



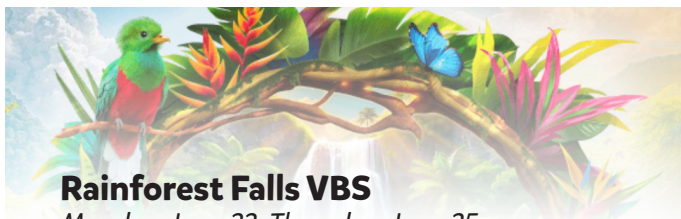
Sunday School and Kids' Church schedule

The last day of 10 a.m. Sunday School for the summer is May 17 – we will resume on Sept. 13!
Kids' Church at 9 a.m. will continue in the summer for children ages preschool 3s-grade 3.

Step Up Sunday

May 31, 9 a.m.

Students will “step up” to the next grade. We will also celebrate high school graduates with afghans handmade by Gary Church knitters.



Rainforest Falls VBS

Monday, June 22–Thursday, June 25
9 a.m.–12 p.m.

Step through the mist into Rainforest Falls, overflowing with wild waterfalls, towering trees and colorful creatures. Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids plunge into a life-long adventure, discovering the nature of God, and exploring what it means to be rooted in relationship with the creator who knows them and promises to love them forever! Go to garychurch.org for incoming 4-year-old pre-school through grade 4 registration and details.



VBS volunteers needed

Join the VBS team and help kids discover the nature of God! Leaders and assistants are needed to shepherd crews, encourage learning and enjoy the fun! Register as a VBS volunteer at garychurch.org.

VBS volunteer meeting

Sunday, June 14, 10:30 a.m.
Activity Center

All VBS volunteers are encouraged to attend this kickoff session. You'll meet station leaders, learn your crew, receive this year's VBS T-shirt, and get a preview of our Rainforest Falls adventure.

VBS decorating

Saturday, June 20, 10:30 a.m.

We need adults and kids to help bring the rainforest to life!



Growing closer to God and each other through nature, worship and play

Pine Lake Camp, Westfield, WI

Families are invited to spend a weekend growing closer to God and each other through nature, worship and play. Register at garychurch.org.

Accommodations

Retreat Center Room: Hotel style with private bath including 1 queen bed and 1 twin bed with twin trundle.

Cost: \$180 per room + \$40 per person after 2 (family of 3...\$220, family of 4...\$260, etc.).

Meals:

Cost: \$75 per person 13+ and \$45 per child ages 3-12

Activity Fee:

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





Gary Youth

Sunday School in May

During his ministry, Jesus taught his followers using parables and miracles. He used parables to help people understand and used miracles to help others. They were done out of his compassion and love for others (healing people, curing their disabilities, feeding people, raising their loved ones from the dead, calming storms to calming their fears). In May, Gary Youth will explore Jesus' parables and miracles. Last Sunday School will be *May 17*. We will resume on *Sept. 13*.



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](#)).

End-of-the-year parties

Enchanted Castle

Wednesday, May 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Enchanted Castle, 1103 S. Main St., Lombard

Middle schoolers will celebrate the end of the school year with some laser tag, arcade and pizza! We will meet at Enchanted Castle. Cost is \$12.50 (Each middle schooler will receive \$10 credit to the arcades but feel free to bring extra money.) Check Gary Youth's weekly emails for sign-up information.



Let us Know

We want to celebrate you and the amazing gifts God is growing in your life! If you have a graduation, concert, game, exhibit, ceremony, party — or any special moment worth cheering — let us know about it. Fill out the quick form on our youth page at garychurch.org, and we'll do our best to show up, celebrate and cheer you on loud and proud!



Korean BBQ

Sunday, May 3, 6-7:30 p.m.

High schoolers are invited to **Dan, Stacey and Mina Lee's** house for a Korean BBQ dinner to celebrate the end of the school year. If you need a ride, let us know when you sign up. Check Gary Youth's weekly emails for sign-up information.



BLAST Camp 2026: The Exchange

Monday, June 22-Thursday, June 25, 9 a.m.-noon
registration closes June 1

At this year's BLAST Camp, we'll dive into the book of 2 Timothy. We'll explore some advice the apostle Paul gave to Timothy, a guy he was mentoring, because we can learn from Paul's wisdom too. At The Exchange BLAST Camp, students entering grades 5-8 are invited to engage in community transforming mission and see how we can all exchange wisdom with each other (no matter our age) by helping each other discover our gifts, develop discernment, get equipped, and find strength to follow Jesus.

We need you to help make our campers feel loved. Adults and high school youth are invited to be camp leaders. Register using the QR code below or go to garychurch.org.



Gary Youth recent events

We've celebrated the Lunar New Year, enjoyed the Winter Chill retreat in Wisconsin and so much more! Check out these photos from recent events.



2026 Summer Launch

Clocktower Mini Golf

Wednesday, June 3, 5:45-7:30 p.m., \$6

Middle schoolers — including our new sixth graders — are invited to kick off the summer with mini golf, ice cream and a sneak peek at all the fun ahead! We'll meet at Clocktower Mini Golf & Skate Park to play 18 holes, enjoy a sweet treat, and hear about what's coming up this summer. Please RSVP and submit the \$6 fee by *Monday, June 1*. A sign-up link will be sent out via weekly email.

Lunch and Bubble Tea

Thursday, June 4, 12-1:30 p.m.

High schoolers — including our new ninth graders — are invited to spend the afternoon exploring downtown Glen Ellyn with lunch and bubble tea! We'll meet at Elitea (507 Pennsylvania Ave.), walk together to our lunch spot, and then head back for a sweet bubble tea treat. Come eat, enjoy dessert, and hear about all the exciting plans we have for this summer. Please bring your own money and RSVP by *Monday, June 1*. A sign-up link will be sent out via weekly email.

GARY CHURCH *makes a difference*

Educate a Girl supports more young women

Thanks to the generosity of Gary Church, *Educate a Girl / Change the World* will provide scholarship support for at least 16 girls and young women in the 2026-2027 school year!



New to Educate a Girl this year is 13-year-old Doerk Chakriya from Cambodia. Chakriya has one younger brother, and her father lives with a disability due to an accident that occurred while working at his construction job. Her mother is a factory worker working far away from their home.

Currently, Chakriya is living with her grandmother, who works on an earthworm farm to support their daily living expenses. After her classes, Chakriya helps her grandmother earn money, which also helps pay for medical expenses for Chakriya's father.

Chakriya's greatest wish is to become a teacher so she can help other children and improve her family's quality of life. With support from an Educate a Girl scholarship, Chakriya will be able to continue her education without adding to her family's financial struggles. She believes that education is the key to changing her future!

Other new EAG recipients will include Akira from the north Lawndale neighborhood in Chicago and two new students from the south Chicago area. Watch the *Chimes* for information on these and all the Educate a Girl students.

You can still donate for 2026 at garychurch.org/give or with a check. Thank you, Gary Church, for your continued and unselfish giving.



May is ESSE Support Month

Ecumenical Support Services for the Elderly (ESSE) provides adult day care options that promote the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of older adults and their families. Gary Church members can help support ESSE by volunteering in activities such as:

- Playing music (ESSE has a piano on site)
- Assisting staff with games, arts and craft projects
- Reading
- Bringing your pet
- Showing slides/videos of your vacation trips
- Bringing younger children for a visit
- Providing 20 homemade treats

Contact the ESSE Wheaton/St. Paul Lutheran Church office at 630-260-3773 to schedule your activity. You can also donate to ESSE at garychurch.org/give. If you have questions, contact **Jeff Mousseau** through the Church Office.



Prescription for Life

Remember to bring your Prescription for Life bottle in on *Sunday, May 3* filled with money for our donation drive to Outreach Community Ministries. You can also drop it off with your donation in the Church Office. We DO need the bottles back, as they are reused each year.

Your donation helps to cure loneliness and provide a healing touch for those in our community who are aging and on their own with limited resources. Outreach provides these neighbors with activities, transportation and "friendly visitors." Gary Church and First Presbyterian provide the primary support for this caregiving through our annual Prescription for Life drive.

You can also give to Outreach at garychurch.org/give. If you have questions, contact **Barbara Holmes** or **Holly Trueblood** through the Church Office.





Gary Church presents check to PRC

The People's Resource Center was the recipient of a \$1,290 check from Gary Church's missions budget. As a way to celebrate the resurrection through generosity, for every contact information card we received on Easter Sunday, we donated \$2.50. For every dollar donated, the PRC can buy \$5 worth of food. That means our donation of \$1,290 equals \$6,450 in food!



Last-minute walkers welcome at CROP Walk

Sunday, May 3, 1 p.m. check in, 2 p.m. walk, Glen House Snack Center
800 Roosevelt Rd., Glen Ellyn

The 2026 CROP Walk raises funds for and awareness of the ever-present food insecurity issues in DuPage County and around the world. Portions of our CROP funds support DuPage Seniors, the People's Resource Center and Glen House Food Pantry. Donate and/or register to walk at garychurch.org. Contact **Judy Selby** for more information.



Volunteer for Habitat for Humanity

Tuesday, May 5-Friday, May 8, Lafayette, Indiana

Help build quality affordable housing. No previous experience and no tools are required. If you'd like to help for one day or more, contact **Lois Davisson** through the Church Office. Please also consider a financial donation at garychurch.org.



Blood Drive

Wednesday, May 6, 2-6 p.m., Commons

Each pint donated can save as many as three lives! Register to donate blood at garychurch.org. Walk-ins also welcome. More blood drive dates in 2026: Aug. 19, Nov. 18.



DuPagePads “Fun”raisers

DuPage PADS offers fun fundraising opportunities this spring to support their mission to end homelessness in DuPage County. You can rappel down the Hotel Arista, enter a raffle for a Vespa, golf at Seven Bridges, go on a 100-mile bike ride, dance and more. Learn about these events at dupagepads.org.



DuPagePads current needs

DuPagePads would like your help to supply their clients with Hormel Compleats microwavable meals, canned chilis, men's long boxer shorts, Ziplock snack bags, non-scratch sponges, paper plates and bowls. You can place the items in the DuPage Pads bin in the Commons.

Outreach Community Center helpers needed

One way Outreach supports the older adults is by providing trips to food stores, and other shops as well as outings to restaurants or other events using their bus. They need “riders” - helpers who ride along on the bus to work the lift, help people on & off, help with packages as well as keep track of who gets off/on at each stop. If you are interested in helping with this or getting more information, please contact **Barbara Holmes** through the Church Office.



Help with Plants with a Purpose

Saturday, May 2

A big thank you to all those who placed orders for the Plants with a Purpose fundraiser. Our efforts will earn \$3,000-\$3,500 for ministries and missions of Gary Church (the final profit depends on the sale of the extras).

Orders will be ready to pick up on *Saturday, May 2, between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., in the Gary Parking Lot*. For those who did not place an order (or just need more plants!), we will have some “extras” available for sale during the pickup time, and on *Sunday morning, May 3*.

We need adults and youth to help. Here is the anticipated schedule May 2:

8 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Unload the plants; sort into individual orders. The grower will give us an estimated arrival time for the truck a few days before delivery. We need the most volunteers in this time slot.

10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Prepare orders for pickup. Help customers load their plants to take home. Water any leftover plants, store equipment and clean up.

Sign up to help at garychurch.org/registrations. Thank you for making a difference through Plants with a Purpose! Questions? Contact **Linda Tresner** through the Church Office.





Gary Church celebrates creation

Join the **Green Team** of Gary Church in celebrating creation – “the theater of God’s glory” – through worship, education and mission. See below for a list of activities throughout the month of May.

Worship:

Gary Church’s Sunday worship services on May 3, 10 and 17 will explore our calling to be stewards of Earth, Water and Air.

Education:

Stewarding Creation with Native Plants

Sunday, May 3, 10:10 a.m., Anderson Room
Read more information on page 4.

Talking About Climate Change

Sunday, May 10, 10:10 a.m., Anderson Room
Read more information on page 4.

Nature Walk

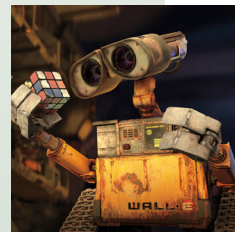
Sunday, May 10, Adams Park, 10 a.m.

Children and their parents are encouraged to join Sunday School teachers on a Nature Walk in Adams Park.

“WALL-E” Movie Event (2008, rated G)

Wednesday, May 13, 6:30 p.m., Chapel

All ages are welcome at this special event. Bring a blanket, lawn chairs and/or pillows if you’d like; additional seating will be available. We’ll provide the snacks and a few questions to think about as you watch this unique, memorable Pixar film, featuring themes of environmental stewardship and mutual care.



Mission:

SCARCE Kiosk

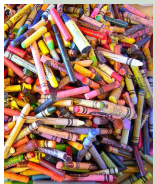
Month of May, Gary Commons

Explore the many ways you can answer the Christian call to be a steward of God’s good creation. SCARCE is a local non-profit committed to strengthening the community through environmentally focused initiatives.



Crayon recycling

Bring your old crayons to donate to SCARCE throughout the *month of May*. No need to sort or peel them; just bring them in and drop them off in the marked bins near the Children’s Desk. SCARCE will melt down old crayons and mold them into new, larger shapes for differently abled students!



Common Ground garden

Plant, weed, water and harvest Gary Church’s garden plots at Wheaton Park District’s Atten Park. Produce grown in the Common Ground garden will be delivered to local food pantries. Sign up to help at garychurch.org.



For more information about Gary’s Green Team, contact **Elaine McCluskey** or **Mark Mathis** through the Church Office.

Look what's coming up at Gary!

Confirmation Celebration

Sunday, May 17, 9 a.m.

Let's celebrate our 8th grade confirmation class! This program runs throughout the school year and provides our youth an opportunity to explore and grow in their faith through weekly Sunday morning classes, field trips, retreats, service in worship and mission opportunities.

We celebrate and continue to pray for this year's confirmation class: Sebastian Alvarez, Austin Doering, Avery Holman, Sophia Johnson, Ben Misavage, Imogen Somboonsiri, Liam Stoneberg, Ezra Tatnall, Johanna Walston and Taylor Westcomb. We will also celebrate and give thanks for the adult sponsors who walked with these students throughout the year: **Ron Austin, Stephanie Dalton, Anise Foster, Christy Grace, Dale Grauman, Mark Mathis, Joe Matuch, Holly Trueblood, Michael Villanueva** and **Bobbi Wheatley**.

If you are the parent, grandparent or guardian of a 7th grader rising into 8th grade who is interested in participating in the 2026-2027 confirmation program at Gary Church, please contact **Pastor Daniel Cochran**, dcochran@garychurch.org. He will meet with each prospective confirmand over the summer. The program will meet at 10 a.m. on Sundays beginning Sept. 13.



The DuPage African Methodist Episcopal Church welcomed our confirmands to worship.

Annual Conference Delegation from Gary Church

Sunday, June 14-Tuesday, June 16
Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center

Grounded in Romans 5:3-5, this year's theme of the 187th Northern Illinois Annual Conference of Practicing Hope "encourages us to remember that endurance builds character, and character builds hope, pouring love to us through the Holy Spirit. Guided by this spirit, participants will engage in opportunities to

practice hope, build stronger bonds, and discern God's call in their lives" (umcnic.org). Gary Church will be sending several lay members to participate in this Conference and vote on legislation. Please keep our lay members and clergy in prayer as we hope for an inspiring and productive time of holy conferencing.



peace

Prayers for Peace

Friday, May 1–Sunday, May 31, Courtyard

You are invited to add your prayers for peace to our Gary Church Courtyard during the month of May. Take a ribbon from the Welcome Desk, write your prayer for peace on the ribbon, and then tie the ribbon to the fence in the Courtyard. We'll keep the ribbons on display throughout the month of May.

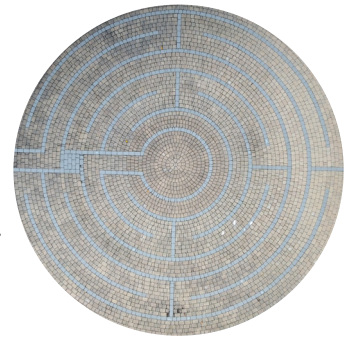


Take a few minutes to walk our labyrinth while you are in the Courtyard. Labyrinths have been used for Christian prayer for many centuries. At the Gary Church Labyrinth, you'll notice pavers that are a slightly different color than the rest of the Courtyard. Those pavers form a spiral walking path. When you enter, follow the path to the center. When you reach the center of the labyrinth, take a moment with God and say a silent prayer. Then, begin your journey back to the start, remembering that with God at our center we will always find our way home.

Walk as One for Peace on World Labyrinth Day

Saturday, May 2, 1-2 p.m. Courtyard

World Labyrinth Day is an international event held on the first Saturday of May. People all over the world will be walking labyrinths at 1 p.m. local time to pray for peace. Join labyrinth facilitator Cathy Smith to walk at Gary Church's labyrinth. All are welcome. Contact Cathy through the Church Office for more information.



history



May Preservation Walk

Gary Church will participate in the City of Wheaton's Preservation Walk in May. The Historic Commission will place a blue sign in front of the building to signify that Gary Church is a historic Wheaton property. The self-guided tour will take you to more than 160 historical sites around Wheaton. You can find more information at wheaton.il.us/preservationmonth.



Explore the historic display

Sunday, May 24–Sunday, May 31, Commons

Enjoy looking through artifacts from Gary Church's early days. You'll find photos, bulletins, Sunday School attendance records and more from the 1853-1929 time-frame. You can even take a peek at Elbert Gary's top hat! (Elbert Gary's parents were founding settlers of Wheaton and charter members of the church. Elbert Gary, the first mayor of Wheaton, gave the first Gary Church building in honor of his parents, Erastus and Susan Gary.)

New this summer at Gary!



New “Open Chair” Conversation and Prayer Ministry

On fair-weather days this spring and summer, Gary Church pastors and staff will be offering a public conversation and prayer station outside the Wesley Center. Embracing John Wesley’s reminder that “the world is our parish,” this new ministry is intended to reach out beyond the walls of Gary Church to engage the public passing by on foot. Come on by to chat and pray – we’ll have an open chair waiting for you! Please contact **Pastor Daniel Cochran** with any questions, dcochran@garychurch.org.

New furniture coming soon

The Trustees have approved the Interiors Committee’s comprehensive plan to refresh the furniture in the Commons. Members of the Interiors Committee met to make final decisions and placed the furniture order. The new furniture should arrive soon. If you’d like to donate to this project, go to garychurch.org/give.



Call for summer musicians

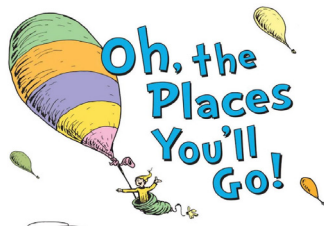
Do you sing, play an instrument, whistle or have a clapping ensemble? Share your musical gifts in worship this summer! There is room for all ages and abilities. Contact **Joshua Velez**, jvelez@garychurch.org for more information and to sign up.



Supporting Gary's Youth and Graduating Students

Sign books for high school graduates

You're invited to be part of the celebration – stop by the Commons during May and add your words of love and encouragement to the book, *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* During worship on *Sunday, May 31, at 9 a.m.*, we'll pray over our graduates and present them with the book, along with a cozy afghan lovingly handmade by our Gary Church knitters.



Commissioning of Gary Youth mission team

Sunday, May 31, 9 a.m. worship

Please join us as we pray for and encourage the Gary Youth mission team. Adult and high school volunteers will be working with the Appalachia Service Project in June.

Celebrating our 2026 graduates

Gary Church is excited to celebrate our 2026 graduates – whether from high school, college or vocational school! We'd love to make sure no one is missed as we honor this important milestone. Graduates' names will be shared in an upcoming edition of the Chimes newsletter, so please let us know who we should be cheering for by *Sunday, May 17*. Just scan the QR code or go to garychurch.org and fill out the quick questionnaire.



courageous LOVE Art Gallery at Gary Church

Friday, June 5 - Sunday, June 7

Friday, June 5, 5:30–8 p.m., Commons, Saturday, June 6, 4–8 p.m., Commons
Selected works will remain on display during Special Blend fellowship on Sunday, June 7.

This year's theme is "Courageous Love" and will feature original artwork from local artists and members of our own congregation. The Opening Gala (with refreshments) will be celebrated on Friday, June 5, 5:30–8 p.m., with opening remarks at 6:30 p.m.

If you would like to participate in this ministry, contact a member of the Art Gallery Leadership Team: **Lisa Grigsby**, **Pam Keller** and **Rebekah Stoneberg**, creativearts@garychurch.org.

for details go to garychurch.org

Volunteers needed!

Rainforest Falls VBS



**Monday, June 22 through
Thursday, June 25 9 a.m.- noon**
to volunteer for 4-year-old
preschool through grade 4
go to garychurch.org

See page 7 for more details.

The Exchange BLAST Camp



**Monday, June 22 through
Thursday, June 25 9 a.m.- noon**
to volunteer for incoming
grades 5-8
go to garychurch.org
or use the QR code.



See page 9 for more details.

May anniversaries*

Happy (50+) anniversary to:

Bud & Melissa Wheaton

June anniversaries*

Happy anniversary (50+) to:

Gary & Jeanene Fowler

Rick & Kay Kehoe

George & Linda Masek

Bill & Mary Anne Phemister

Len & Marta Witte

Congratulations!

John-Michel and Kate Bilezikian on the birth of their daughter, Madeline Maria, on Feb. 13. Grandparents are John-Marc and Jane Bilezikian.

Melanie Smith on the birth of her granddaughter, Tessa, on March 16.

Cheryll and John Kelly on the birth of their grandson, Connor John Kelly, on March 24.

Mark and Stephanie Dalton on the birth of their granddaughter, Emilia Nicole, March 23.

Pam Keller and Hanna Keller on the birth of their grandson and nephew, August Breese, on April 15.

Our sympathy

Vicki Vock and family on the death of their husband and father, Michael, on Feb. 25.

The family of Phyllis Bauler. Phyllis passed away on March 29.

Casey, Judy, Mackenzie, Derek and Andrew Webb on the death of their brother and uncle, Rodger "Chip" Webb, on March 30.

Baptisms

Hudson Oren, son of Kyle and Andrea, brother of James and Cooper, on March 29.

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

Thank you

Dear Gary friends,
Thank you so much for all the beautiful cards, phone calls and loving thoughts for Ron during his recent surgeries. The concern from you has made this journey so much lighter!

Ron and Bev Bassler

I wanted to pass on a sincere thank you to all of the wonderful people at Gary Church. The receipt of the card following my surgery was truly appreciated. A special thanks to the ladies who make these cards as I'm sure that all who receive one are truly grateful for being thought of.

Mark Nichter

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to our daily Lenten Devotional this year. A special shout out to our proofreaders: **Barbara Holmes, Cheryll Kelly** and **Elaine McCluskey**. Lent starts earlier in 2027 — Ash Wednesday is Feb. 10. Please feel free to submit a Lenten devotion any time to **Janet Mathis**, jmathis@garychurch.org.

This year's Gary Youth fundraiser was an incredible church-wide celebration of talent, generosity and mission. From the lively *Fired Up!* musical performance to the delicious chili cookoff and exciting auction, it was a joy to see our congregation come together in such a big way. Thanks to countless hours of rehearsal, slow cookers of lovingly-prepared chilis and soups, amazing items donated, and generous financial gifts, we raised thousands of dollars to support our summer mission trip with the Appalachia Service Project.

Thank you from Gary Youth mission team



Some of the golden ladle winners from the chili/soup cookoff!



Art Gallery at Gary Church

Friday, June 5 – Sunday, June 7

courageous
LOVE

for details see page 17 or go to garychurch.org