

Gary United Methodist Church

December 27, 2020

Stay Connected to the Church Family

Worship Talk: Today, 11 a.m. on Zoom, facilitated by Rev. JoAnne Chase. Grab your cup of coffee, click on the Worship Talk link on the [website](#), and join the discussion of the morning service.

Gary Preschool Registration: Parents' Morning Out program (18-months–3 yrs.) is accepting applications for Jan.–May. Classes will be held on Mon. and Wed. mornings, 9–11:30 a.m. You may sign up for one or both days by contacting the [Preschool](#). Class size is limited.

Christmas Devotions with the Pastor Brian Podcast: Daily through Wed., Jan. 6. These podcasts will concentrate on the stories of Jesus' birth. Subscribe to the Pastor Brian Podcast wherever you get podcasts. It will also be posted on our [website](#).

Anti-Racism Book Club: Wed., Jan. 27, 7 p.m. on Zoom. We will discuss Isabel Wilkerson's *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*. This book is an eye-opening story of people and history, and a reexamination of what lies under the surface of ordinary lives and of American life today. To join the conversation, please purchase the book on your own and register [here](#).

Spiritual Practices for the New Year: Mondays, Jan. 4 and 11, 7 p.m. on Zoom, led by Kimberly Penrod Pelletier. Start 2021 off with solid teaching and guided experiences in meditation and Gospel contemplation—both to renew your mind and heal your soul. These classes are based in Scripture, grounded in Christian tradition, and backed by neuroscience. Register [here](#).

Men's Bible Study | New Year's Series: Tuesdays starting Jan. 5, 7 p.m. on Zoom. Looking for a way to connect with other men while deepening your faith? Join the Men's Bible Study! The New Year's series will feature Matt Williams' *The Forgiveness of Jesus*. For information about participation and materials, contact Clay Watkins through the Church Office.

Ongoing Groups at Gary: The New Year is a great time to jump into one of these groups that meet on Zoom. You are always welcome! Contact the Church Office for details.

- **Gary Walkers/Talkers:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.
- **United Methodist Women Joy Circle:** Third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.
- **MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers and Beyond):** First and third Tuesdays of the month, 8 p.m.
- **Faith Club, A Women's Interfaith Group:** Second Tuesdays of the month, 7 p.m.

Lectionary Readings

- This week's readings: [Isaiah 61:10–62:3](#), [Psalm 148](#), [Galatians 4:4–7](#), and [Luke 2:22–40](#)
- Next week's readings: [Isaiah 60:1–6](#), [Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14](#), [Ephesians 3:1–12](#), and [Matthew 2:1–12](#)

Stay Connected to the Mission

Gratitude and Giving: We are grateful for those who have supported Gary Church through their service, prayers, pledges, and gifts. If you have not yet returned your pledge card, you may send it to the Church Office or fill it out [electronically](#).

Year-End Giving: To support the ongoing mission and ministry of Gary Church, please consider making a gift by Thurs., Dec. 31. Here are three ways to continue your tithes and offerings.

- **Online:** Make a regular or one-time gift [here](#).
- **Text-to-Give:** Text 844-928-1220 on a cell phone. Enter a dollar amount followed by the word "GARY."
- **Checks:** Mail a check to Gary Church, 224 N. Main St., Wheaton, IL 60187. Envelopes must be postmarked no later than Thurs., Dec. 31, to be included in your giving for 2020.

Missions: Gary Church supports many missions throughout the year. Below are several missions you can help this Christmas season by making a monetary donation or shopping. Donations can be made [online](#) or by sending a check to the church and noting the name of the mission in the memo.

- **Alternative Gift Program:** Heifer Project makes it possible to give a gift in honor of a friend or loved one and help families around the world become self-sufficient.
- **Koinonia House National Ministries UNBANQUET:** Support the work of this prison ministry (which includes RTO) by donating as if you were attending their annual banquet.
- **People's Resource Center:** Help fight hunger right here in our community by picking up some extra food when you grocery shop and drop it off at the church, or after Mon., Jan. 4 at PRC (201 S. Naperville Rd., Wheaton).

COVID-19 Update: The Church Office has limited, appointment-only hours. The office will close at noon on Thurs., Dec. 31 and reopen at 10 a.m. on Mon., Jan. 4. The building will remain locked. Gatherings of Gary groups of 10 or fewer are allowed following safety guidelines. Visit our [website](#) for the latest information.

