

# WinChimes

Winfield Community United Methodist Church  
An Affiliate of Gary United Methodist Church

## Project Night Night

The Winfield youth collected enough money from the congregation to put together 37 packages for Project Night Night. Each contains a new security blanket, an age-appropriate children's book, and a stuffed animal—all nestled inside of a new canvas tote bag. We split the bags between PADS in Wheaton and Family Shelter Service in Wheaton. They were very grateful for the donations.

Project Night Night donates over 25,000 Night Night Packages each year to homeless children 12 and under who need these childhood essentials to have a concrete and predictable source of security and an increased exposure to high-quality literacy materials during their time of upheaval. By providing objects of reliable comfort, Project Night Night reduces trauma and advances the emotional and cognitive well-being of the children they serve.

Every child who receives one of the Night Night Packages leaves a shelter owning a book which encourages reading and family bonding, a security blanket which can be cuddled, and a stuffed animal which can become a cherished friend. The organization has one objective—to deliver Night Night Packages to every homeless child in the country who needs one.

Project Night Night is a tax exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code. They work with over 10,000 volunteers each year and are the leading provider of nighttime comforts for homeless children.



## Winter Blessings

Hats, gloves, and scarves (many handmade) were donated throughout the fall season. On Sunday, December 2, the donated items were blessed during worship before being given to local area schools, for children in need.

## Something You Should Know: *Explore God Chicago*

by Pastor Bruce Anderson

We are trying something new for the New Year at Winfield Community UMC. Along with over 600 churches around Chicagoland, we are joining with *Explore God Chicago* for a seven-week series exploring questions about God, faith, and purpose. Over seven weeks, our sermon series and a discussion group will examine these questions: "Does Life Have a Purpose?" "Is There A God?" "Why Does God Allow Pain and Suffering?" "Is Christianity too Narrow?" "Is Jesus Really God?" "Is the Bible Reliable?" "Can I Know God Personally?" These have been identified as the top questions that those who do not attend church have.

This will give those who are unchurched, as well as recovering Christians, and just curious Christians, a chance to take a fresh look at God and faith in a safe atmosphere where there is no such thing as a silly question and no judgment. It will also give long-time Christians a chance to reexamine their own beliefs while sharing with those who are seeking to know God for the first time.

As United Methodists, we believe in the priesthood of all believers. We are all to minister for God in the world, but it is often hard to know when and how to step out and share our faith with others.

This is one way to do that and to be able to share how God has been at work in our lives. We can share how God has helped us to make it through times of trouble, or how God has blessed us in our lives.

The church and God seem to be increasingly irrelevant in people's lives these days. Hopefully, this endeavor will pique people's interest in the possibility of seeking God, becoming open to learn more about God, and ultimately letting God into their lives. It is often the strident fundamentalist Christians who get to represent God and Christianity through the media. It is time that those of us in the middle have a chance to represent God and have more tolerant discussions of God with people who are interested in the possibility of letting God into their lives without them having to worry about being judged. My prayer is that we may be able to touch some lives for Christ through this initiative. Feel free to ask anyone you know who might be interested to join us during January and February to *Explore God*. The day and time of the discussion group is to be determined.



**Praise**  
**WORSHIP**

January 12, 5 p.m.  
Winfield Methodist Church

**Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord**

