

the Messenger

*Reach Up...
Reach In...
Reach Out*



News about the UMC Commission on the Way Forward and Special Session of General Conference

Delegates from each Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church are meeting in Special Session of the General Conference in St. Louis, Feb. 23-26, 2019. Their purpose is to receive and act on the report of the **Commission on a Way Forward**, based on the recommendations of the Council of Bishops.

UMCG will be holding one or more meetings following the Conference to discuss the outcome and next steps. Please watch for dates and times of these meetings.



Saturday Evening Worship February 16

The service focused on immigration, with presentations by Pastor Esther Lee and Claudia Marchan, Executive Direction of Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON). Music by Liz Carson and sister Tressa Holat.



ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

March 6 at 7:30 m.



General Conference 2019 Resources may be found at:

<http://www.umc.org/topics/general-conference-2019-special-session>

Pastor's Page

Growth Spurt

“...to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” *Ephesians 4:12-13*

A couple of weeks ago, my parents (who live with us) mentioned that they noticed that Aria had grown several inches since the beginning of winter, when she turned 2 years old. As John and I struggled to remember her height from her last doctor's visit, we noticed that her clothes, which were always a little too loose on her seemed to be fitting better lately. I also noticed that she had been asking for more rice at meal times and looking for snacks throughout the day as though her meal times were too far apart. She also found a new liking for meat...I guess she hit a growth spurt! Aria is thriving as a two-and-a-half-year-old. Praise God!

I learned long ago in biology class that the evidence of life is growth! This is affirmed by a science article I came across recently that said there are 7 characteristics of living things:

1. Movement, all living things move in some way.
2. Respiration, releasing of energy from food.
3. Sensitivity, ability to detect changes in the surrounding environment.
4. Growth, all living things grow.
5. Reproduction, the ability to reproduce and pass genes to offspring.
6. Excretion, getting rid of waste.
7. Nutrition, intake and use of nutrients.

These make a lot of sense!

This reminds me of Apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians where he encourages his church to “mature,” that as the body of Christ, one must strive to grow, mature, and be built up in love. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are instructed to be a living and thriving body of Christ by being active in practicing loving and serving others, to grow spiritually by participating in feeding on the spiritual food or practicing the spiritual disciplines like praying, fasting, and studying, reading, and meditating on the scripture, etc. and ridding ourselves of what is unhealthy.

These are what we as a church are focusing on as we continue to live into God's vision for us at UMCG: to **Reach Up** in worship and spiritual formation, **Reach In** in loving and welcoming one another, and **Reach Out** in service to others. And a great time to start is during the season of Lent as we mimic Jesus in his time in the wilderness. As he engaged in the spiritual disciplines, he grew closer to God, gained focus in his mission, and was energized for the ministry to which God had called him.

What are the signs that you are growing spiritually? What *spiritual disciplines* will you engage in with your brothers and sisters at UMCG - weekly worship with the Lenten sermon series “Giving It Up,” Bible study with *Disciple Fast Track*, or the Lenten book study *Simplifying the Soul*? Consider joining us in this time of growth in our church! How much will we have matured by Easter?

Pastor Esther

REACH UP...

March 2019 Worship Schedule

8:00 and 9:00 a.m. Sunday Services

Nursery provided at 9 a.m. service

Sunday School Schedule:

Children's Sunday School 9:00 a.m.: Godly Play (3-years-old - Kindergarten)

Journey of Faith (grades 1-4) & Route 56 (grades 5-6)

Youth Worship/Sunday School – 9-10:15 a.m. (excludes First Sundays)

Adult Sunday School - 10:30 a.m.

Worship in March begins with Transfiguration Sunday, immediately followed by Ash Wednesday, ushering in the season of Lent. **Giving It Up: A Sermon Series for Lent*** begins Sunday March 10. Many of us give up certain things for the forty days of Lent, and doing so can be very beneficial. This seven-week series takes that idea one step further. Each week addresses something that God wants us to give up, not just for forty days, but throughout our lives.

March 3 Transfiguration Sunday/First Sunday/Holy Communion Luke 9:28-36

Transfiguration is an experience for both Jesus and us. We, too, need to be transfigured by his life and teachings. This begins by listening to him and his call to a transforming, active love for God and others. Chancel Choir will perform Scott Stevenson's anthem **"Christ Upon the Mountain Peaks"** at 9 a.m. service. **Pastor Rich preaches.**

March 6 Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 p.m. Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17 Imposition of ashes. A heart that is centered on God flows through today's scriptures. The prophet Joel exhorts us to "return to God with all our hearts" while the Psalmist prays "God, create in me a clean heart." As we begin the Lenten season, we are reminded of our mortality and invited to change our hearts, returning again to the God who loves us. **Pastor Esther preaches.**

March 10 Giving Up Control Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Matthew 4:1-11 (Time changes today)

Adam and Eve disobeyed God, thinking they knew better than God, with disastrous consequences. Tempted in the wilderness, Jesus gave up his own impulses and followed God's will. In a world where we are used to having control over so many things, God wants us to give up control and give him the final say in our lives. **Pastor Rich preaches.**

March 16 Saturday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m. Deb Vensel will share about her mission last year in West Virginia addressing food deserts there. Followed by fellowship and refreshments.

March 17 Giving Up Expectations Genesis 12:1-4; John 3:1-17

Abraham followed God's call to leave his homeland and travel to the place God promised his descendants, even though he didn't know how it would all work out. When Nicodemus talked to Jesus, he had a hard time understanding what God's grace was really about. What expectations do we have about life? Yet whatever circumstances we may face, we can trust that God will be with us. **Pastor Rich preaches.**

March 24 Giving Up Superiority John 4:5-42

Jesus broke all kinds of conventions by speaking to a woman in public, a Samaritan no less, whose life was such a mess it could have marred Jesus's reputation as a holy man. But Jesus brought his message of grace and freedom to her, knowing that she would hear, respond and witness to his love. Letting go of our status symbols and judgmental attitudes helps us hear and respond faithfully to Jesus's call in our lives. **Pastor Esther preaches.**

March 31 Giving Up Enemies Luke 19:37-44.

Loving our enemies seems impossible. Yet Jesus calls us to do just that, following his example. We call Jesus the Prince of Peace. Our challenge is to believe the Lord and live like peace is possible in our highly polarized world today.

*Sermon series is based on Ministry Matters' 2012 Lenten worship season

REACH UP... REACH IN... REACH OUT...

We **Reach Up** to God in worship and spiritual development, **Reach In** to help and care for one another in our congregation, and **Reach Out** to serve others in our community and the world.

REACH UP...

Lenten Study:

Simplifying THE SOUL: Lenten Practices to Renew Your Spirit

Groups meet: Tuesdays, 2 and 7 p.m.

Meets Feb. 26, March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9 & 16 – join us any time.

Facilitated by Rev. Becky Nicol



Are you yearning for a simpler life? Want to experience a lively Lent? Come join us as we explore sayings of the Desert Mothers and Fathers, enjoy meditations from the author, and do the daily practices. Each day we will practice a simple act that renews our spirits, spending a week simplifying each of these: our space, the use of money, the care of the body, the mind, the schedule, relationships, and prayer.

Books are available in print and for Kindle, and are available in the church office now for \$11.

Sign up online at www.genevaumc.org/signups.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

During this Lenten season the Adult Sunday School Class will reflect on passion week using the book and video by Amy-Jill Levine: *Entering The Passion of Jesus*. This study will begin on March 10, and continue through April 14. The class meets at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays in the Parlor. Books are available in the church office for \$12. Please join us!

Cross and Light



Experience this critically acclaimed musical
and video summer before it heads for
Broadway!

St. Peter's Catholic Parish, 1891 Kaneville Road

- ❖ Friday, March 15 7:00 p.m.
- ❖ Saturday, March 16 2:00 and 7:00 p.m.
- ❖ Sunday, March 17 2:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$25 general admission, \$50 preferred reserved seating, and VIP/reserved parking \$100.

LENT begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6

Join in *Reading the Gospels in Lent 2019*

Once again UMCG is encouraging everyone to read the Gospels during Lent. **The following reading plan is offered as a guide to enriching your Lenten experience.**

Before you begin reading each day, **prepare** by clearing your mind of the distraction in your life so that you can focus totally on the Bible passage. **Read** silently or aloud with both mind and heart open to the message. When you finish, **reflect** on what you have read, on how it relates to other passages in the Bible, and on how it relates to your life. **Share** what you have read and your reactions with family, a “reading buddy,” or a reading or study group with whom you enjoy fellowship face-to-face, by telephone, or by e-mail, Facebook, or other social media. Most importantly, **pray** to God in thanksgiving and supplication, and **listen** in silence for God’s voice.



THE READING PLAN

Date	Scripture Reading
March 6	Ash Wednesday. Matthew 1-3
March 7	Matthew 4-6
March 8	Matthew 7-9
March 9	Matthew 10-12
March 10	Join other Christians at church today for worship, study, and fellowship.
March 11	Matthew 13-14
March 12	Matthew 15-16
March 13	Matthew 17-18
March 14	Matthew 19-20
March 15	Matthew 21-22
March 16	Matthew 23-24
March 17	Join other Christians at church today for worship, study, and fellowship.
March 18	Matthew 25-26
March 19	Matthew 27-28
March 20	Mark 1-3
March 21	Mark 4-6
March 22	Mark 7-9
March 23	Mark 10-12
March 24	Join other Christians at church today for worship, study, and fellowship.
March 25	Mark 13-14
March 26	Mark 15-16
March 27	Luke 1-3
March 28	Luke 4-6
March 29	Luke 7-9
March 30	Luke 10-12
March 31	Join other Christians at church today for worship, study, and fellowship.

Date	Scripture Reading
April 1	Luke 13-14
April 2	Luke 15-16
April 3	Luke 17-18
April 4	Luke 19-20
April 5	Luke 21-22
April 6	Luke 23-24
April 7	Join other Christians at church today for worship, study, and fellowship.
April 8	John 1-2
April 9	John 3-4
April 10	John 5-6
April 11	John 7-8
April 12	John 9-10
April 13	John 11-12
April 14	Palm Sunday. Join other Christians at church today for worship, study, and fellowship.
April 15	John 13-14
April 16	John 15-16
April 17	John 17-18
April 18	John 19-20
April 19	Good Friday. John 21
April 20	Join with other Christians in the vigil for Easter morning.
April 21	Easter Sunday. Join other Christians at church today to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Invite others to grow in their faith by reading each of the Gospels.

Thanks to Jim Byrne for editing this list.

REACH IN...



CALLING ALL GOLFERS: Spring will soon come and usher in warmer temperatures for us to enjoy -- especially on the golf course. Our group, mostly seniors, plays Wednesday mornings, April through September, rotating among local courses. We invite all who enjoy playing golf to join us. Contact Bill Knott (weknott@sbcglobal.net) or John Kemble (jrkemblesr@comcast.net) to be included on the weekly invite list.

Swing into Spring with these Wellness programs for Body & Soul:

- ❖ **Wing and a Prayer YOGA:** Mondays 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. (ongoing)
- ❖ **CPR for the Soul ~ Restorative Yoga** and other practices to promote rest and rejuvenation: 1st Saturdays 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- ❖ **Wisdom of the Body Groups ~ Monthly InterPlay**
 - 1st Wednesdays 10:00 am-12:30 p.m.
 - Saturday, March 16 1:00-3:30 p.m.
- ❖ **NEW! Moving in the Spirit (InterPlay, Dance and Yoga)**
Saturday, March 16 10:30 a.m. – noon

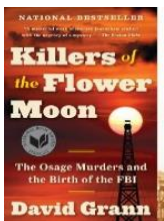
Facilitator Jane Siarny is an advocate for embodied spirituality, helping individuals and groups find health and wellness through expressive movement, dance, yoga and InterPlay. For information and pre-registration: Contact Jane at 630/715-8590 or interplaychicago@sbcglobal.net

ADULT LIBRARY NEWS

There will be many books from our adult library on display in the atrium in front of the library with selections for **Lenten reading**. Please check out a book or two to enhance your Lenten experience.

Book Club News

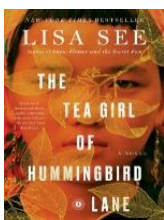
Book Club meets in a public room at Carriage Oaks Senior Residence on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. New members are ALWAYS WELCOME to join us for interesting discussion and fellowship. Contact Sharon at 630-879-9544 for more information.



Tuesday, March 5

***Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann**

The Osage Nation in Oklahoma, 1920s, great wealth, mysterious deaths, and the newly formed FBI. A gripping non-fiction narrative that explores prejudice greed, and the long-lasting consequences of community tragedy.



Tuesday, April 2

***The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See**

A powerful story about circumstances, culture, and distance, *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* paints an unforgettable portrait of a little-known region of China and its people and celebrates the bond of family.

Coming up: May 7 -- *Clara and Mr. Tiffany* by Susan Vreeland

June 4 – *Birds of a Feather* (a Maisie Hobbs mystery) by Jacqueline Winspear

YOUTH at UMC

Thank you to everyone who brought in donations for Hesus House as part of our Souper Bowl Sunday drive.

We ended up with 9 bags and a medium box full of donations! A big thank you to Ella and Evan Horvath who asked their neighbors for donations.

Youth Worship

Join us for Youth worship Sunday mornings in the Youth Room at 9 a.m.

During Sundays in March, we will be studying the Lenten season. These discussions will follow the same sermon series as Worship in the Sanctuary, so please strike up conversations with your parents!

Pen and Paper

Meets 7-9 p.m. Saturdays

March 2, 9, 16

Come have some fun!

CONFIRMATION CLASS
Returns March 10 at 6 p.m.

Youth Activities

March 3 3-4:30 p.m. Help at Mardi Gras party
Youth are needed to volunteer and assist the Children's Ministry department in hosting the Mardi Gras Party. Please contact Denise or Jodi if you are available.

March 17 4-6 p.m. Nerf War for grades 5-12!
Invite your friends! Please bring your own Nerf guns and protective eyewear if you have them. The church has a small supply to go around.



*Photos from
Youth Worship
Bible Family
Feud –
reviewing what
we've learned!*



UMC-Geneva and UMC scholarships are now open.



Information and the application form are online at www.genevaumc.org under "scholarships."

REACH IN...

Altar Flowers:

If you would like to provide flowers for worship on a Sunday, please sign up at the Worship Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall, or visit our online Altar Flower Sign-up at www.genevaumc.org/signups to select a date. We have many openings for 2019. If the flowers are in memory or recognition of a loved one or in celebration of a special event, you may provide a brief dedication on the form, which will be included in the Sunday worship bulletin. Lorie Montanye, our flower coordinator, will order the flowers from Town and Country Gardens in Geneva and they will bill you directly.



UMCG 4th Graders Receive Bibles on Sunday, February 24

Our 4th graders and their favorite Bible verses are:

Charlie Popplewell – Isaiah 40:31

Eli Reed – John 1:12

Brandon Sampiller – Galatians 5:22-23



ACOLYTE GROUP STARTING UP

We are putting together a group of acolytes – all ages are invited. Acolytes process in with the light at the beginning of worship, and light the candles on the altar table. At the close of worship, they extinguish the candles and walk the light out into the world in front of us as we go forth. Please contact Becky Nicol at 630-232-7120 or Becky@genevaumc.org if you are interested!



THE GREEN DIARY: Try Some New Green Habits for 2019! *from the UMCG Creation Care Team*

This is a friendly reminder to **clean all recyclables before disposal (STYROFOAM)** and **thank you for continuing to fill the Styrofoam collection box in the atrium.**

The best resource for recycling is:

<https://www.countyofkane.org/Recycling/pages/curbsideGuidelines.aspx> There is a link to a printable poster for an easy reminder. Look for a copy posted in the church kitchen.

Check out *The Story of Stuff*, a 20-minute on-line video about how we make, use and throw away all the Stuff in our lives. We all do better when we know better: storyofstuff.org

“Like” *Batavia Environmental Commission* on Facebook.

It's a great place to find ideas and events on going green. Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

- **Tuesday, Feb. 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Batavia Public Library.** Green Night out at the Movies: True Cost - Who Pays the Price for our Clothing?
- **Saturday, March 9 at 6:00 p.m.** for an eco expo before the movie at 7 at Batavia City Hall.

REACH OUT...

Marty Janners, Keith Rawson, and Keith Bowgren were commissioned as new Stephen Ministers on Sunday, February 17, by Pastor Allan Dempsey from Fox Valley Presbyterian Church, Georgia Fessler, Coordinator of Congregational Care Rev. Mary Gay McKinney, and Pastors Rich and Esther.

Stephen Ministers receive special training to provide one-to-one care for people in our congregation and community during difficult times.



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Tuesday, March 12, 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Our church is hostess for the **Annual Cluster Luncheon of United Methodist Churches** in the expanded Fox Valley area. All women are invited to come join in the food and fellowship with women from Baker Memorial, Batavia, West Chicago and Kaneville. Carolyn Burnham will present a program, "Being Good Stewards of the Earth." Please sign up in Fellowship Hall by the Women's' Ministries bulletin board to attend this event. For more information, contact Joan, jdansen@sbcglobal.net or (630) 365-9217.



FREE ADULT COUNCIL EVENT

The Adult Council has reserved a limited number of free tickets to this Aurora University Celebrating Arts & Ideas Series event, held in Crimi Auditorium, 1347 Prairie St., Aurora:

Tuesday, March 19, 2019 - 7:30 p.m.

"THE RUST BELT REVIVAL, THE MIDWEST AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY"

Hear national thought leaders, including former Grand Rapids, Michigan, Mayor George Hartwell and Nonresident Senior Fellow with the Brookings Institution and the Chicago Council on Global Affairs John Austin address the critical issues facing the future of the Midwest in the global economy. Chicago Tribune Chief Political Reporter Rick Pearson moderates this Town Square.

To reserve your tickets or with questions please contact Jim McConnell at 630-715-3480 or email to mcjamesc@aol.com. Reservation deadline is Friday 3/15/19.

Opportunities to Reach Out



Salvation Army Food Pantry needs for March: peanut butter, jelly, dry pasta, pasta sauce, canned fruit, dish soap, and detergent.

Lazarus House in St. Charles - Overnight Volunteers needed 1st & 3rd Tuesdays every month?
Please contact Carolyn Sprawka 630/222-4150.



by Jim Byrne

Did you know that **Lent**, a period of penitence marked by prayer, meditation, and fasting in preparation for Easter, is one of the oldest observances in Christianity?

Early Christians believed that special preparation was necessary for the observance of Easter and by the second century Lent was an established practice. The institutional church formalized it as a period of 40 days in recognition of Christ's fasting in the wilderness early in his ministry (Matthew 4:1-2). Because Christ's arrest, trial, and martyrdom occurred during Passover, Lent and Easter observances occur at the same time of the

The word **Lent** comes from the Anglo-Saxon word **lencten**, meaning **spring**, and the word **Easter** is derived from the name of the Norse goddess **Eostare**, associated with spring. Early missionaries incorporated these traditions in their practices.

Lent is a season of 40 days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Sundays are little Easters, tempering the penitential spirit of Lent with joyful expectation of the Resurrection. Somber colors such as purple or ash gray are used in the sanctuary during Lent, and are usually removed on Good Friday.

Even Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, has pre-Christian roots. Sackcloth and ashes were associated with sacrifice, grief, and repentance in the pre-Christian era. Today, the ashes on a person's forehead are a reminder of human frailty, mortality, and redemption by grace through the death of Christ.



Save the Dates for VBS 2019

VBS 2019 will be held June 24-27, 2019. Mark your calendars now! We will be using a new curriculum called ***Power Up*** where the kids will be inside their own video game! If you want to help plan this adventure into the world of video games, come to our planning meeting on Tuesday, March 5th at 1 p.m. or contact Jodi Borger or Sharon Reed.

UMCG Church Staff

Rich Darr	Senior Pastor
Esther Lee	Associate Pastor
Debbie Sampiller	Director of Administrative Ministries
Lorie Montanye	Administrative Assistant
Jodi Borger	Director of Children's Education
Denise Clementz	Director of Youth Ministry
Scott Stevenson	Director of Music Ministry
Mike Popplewell	Director of Choral Ministries
Becky Nicol	Director of Communications
Mary Gay McKinney	Coordinator of Congregational Care
Carol Schreiber	Nursery Supervisor

CHURCH COUNCIL

Chair	Kei Narimatsu
Vice Chair	David Dias
Recording Secretary	Jean Eakins
Lay Members to Annual Conference	John Kemble
Church & Society Co-Chairs	Carolyn Sprawka
Youth Council Co-Chairs	Gary Dittmer
	Keith Rawson
	Keith Worthington
Children's Council Chair	Jen Karwoski
Adult Council Co-Chairs	Marty Janners
	Jim McConnell
Endowment Fund Chair	Bill Johnson
Finance Committee Chair	Dave Werman
Membership Connection	
Men's Club President	Mark Byars
Missions Committee Co-Chairs	Jim Manos
Scholarship Committee	Sharon Anderson
Staff-Parish Relations	Keith Worthington
Stewardship Committee	Jules Heinemann
Treasurer	
Trustees	Jim Karwoski
Women's Ministry	Tony Zefron
Youth Representative	Carol Zars
Worship Committee	Trace Powell
Pastors (w/o vote)	Dick Keslinke
	Rich Darr,
	Esther Lee
Member-at-large	

United Methodist Church of Geneva
211 Hamilton Street
Geneva, IL 60134



*Fundraising
Giveback Event*

For Questions Please Contact
United Methodist Church of Geneva
(630) 232-7120
debbie@genevaumc.org

Scholarship Fundraiser

Date
Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Time
4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Location
Lou Malnati's Geneva
1048 Commons Drive
(630) 208 - 1600
Carryout & Delivery (within zone)
Excludes Online Ordering

**STOP & READ!
STEPS TO FOLLOW:**

- Must mention fundraiser at time of order to ensure credit towards fundraiser.
- Please check receipt for "fundraiser" item, if you do not see "fundraiser" on your receipt, please see or call a manager.
- For questions or concerns please email fundraising@loumalnatis.com

Order 132
Server: _____
Guest: _____
Medium Cheese \$14.55
Medium Thin Cheese \$10.45
FUNDRAISER \$0.00

Sub Total \$25.00
Tax \$1.04
Total \$26.04

Lou Malnati's will donate 20% of total sales to your organization (20% based on pre-tax purchase, excluding alcohol) from every order received from Dine-in, Carryout or Delivery (within zone).
FUNDRAISER/FLYER MUST BE MENTIONED AT TIME OF ORDER.
Cannot be combined with any other promotional offers including but not limited to: Discounts, Deep Dish Dough rewards redemption or Malnati Mail welcome coupon.

ATTENTION CASHIERS: please be aware of daily fundraisers and key in fundraising item on orders, found in miscellaneous tab for each order.

MESSENGER DEADLINE

Submit Articles for the **APRIL Messenger**
by **Friday, March 15.**
Send information to
communications@genevaumc.org
Subj: Messenger