

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GENEVA | MAY 2019

the Messenger

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



PALM SUNDAY & EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP



Pastor's Page

So what really matters...and lasts?

It's been almost a year since I wrote these words in my Pastor's Page. I think they are as appropriate, if not more so, than last year.

I've been finding hope in a small book given to me by a parishioner. It's aptly titled *The Marks of Hope: Where the Spirit is Moving in a Wounded Church*. This book is hot off the press (Abingdon), co-written by three young Methodist clergy for Methodists. It comes at a time when our denomination, at all levels, is wrestling with decline and division. This book reminds me of the crucial role of stories—how they shape our understanding of the world around us, and how the way we share stories matters. The book asks: What stories are we sharing in our local congregation? Are these stories about the work Christ is doing through us and around us or even in spite of us? I'm reminded that changing our stories isn't escapism. The goal is never to put on rose-tinted glasses, but how we can share our faith and our future in a way that invites fruitfulness instead of a barren place. It is very important to focus on the positive and fill our stories with hope.

What I didn't write last year I share with you now, straight from *The Marks of Hope: Where the Spirit is Moving in a Wounded Church*. As your pastor, these words from other pastors resonate deeply within me.

"So what does it mean to find hope in The United Methodist Church today?...What I do know is that every day I'm charged with loving, serving, challenging, and leading the folks who have found a home in my local church and those who don't yet know God's amazing grace in Jesus Christ...In *The Marks of Hope*, our perspective comes from being knee-deep in ministry in a local church not of one mind. We teach, preach, counsel, and plan in the midst of good Christian women and men who do not agree, and yet our churches are growing with new disciples, fostering relationships with the poor and neglected, cultivating a place of trust for holy conversations, and creating an environment where we do our best to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8)." (*The Marks of Hope*, p. 9)

Justice, kindness, humility—faith, hope and love abide. But the greatest of these is love. So many wonderful things are happening at UMCG right now. One of the big, positive stories that fills me with hope is our *Vision 2020* initiative. You'll be hearing more about it in the weeks to come. As I said last year, it is very important to focus on the positive and fill our stories with hope. So in future weeks and months, I am looking forward to hearing your stories as we *Reach Up* to God in life-changing worship and study; *Reach In* to one another through generous hospitality and care, and *Reach Out* to our community and world sharing God's amazing grace through effective ministries of mission and social justice. So what really matters and lasts? Justice, kindness, humility, faith, hope and love. These endure.

Pastor Rich

REACH UP...

May 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. (May 19 ONLY)

Adult Sunday School - 10:30 a.m.

EASTER SEASON SERMON SERIES: “LIVING FOR & LOVING JESUS”

PART I – LIVING FOR JESUS

In these first three sermons we will explore how believing, following and listening to Jesus intersect to form a way of discipleship that witnesses to the risen Christ. (Series runs April 28 – June 9.)

- May 5** **Third Sunday of Easter/First Sunday/Holy Communion** **Living for Jesus: FOLLOW Me**
This post-resurrection story of a miraculous catch of fish echoes the story in Luke 5:1-11 when, at the beginning of his ministry, Jesus invites his disciples to follow him. In this post-resurrection story we see the Risen Christ extending his call to follow him at the end of his ministry. Post-resurrection, the disciples often do not recognize Jesus at first. Sometimes we too are so preoccupied we miss seeing Jesus at work in our lives and in the world. Living for Jesus includes looking for Jesus in the every day events of life and following his call to care for others. Our love for others and our love for God are intertwined. [John 21:1-19.](#)
- May 12** **Fourth Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day** **Living for Jesus: LISTEN to Me**
Scholarships awarded at 9:00 a.m. service.
Jesus does not always answer the questions the way we want. In today's story, people gather around him and demand that he tell them, plainly, if he is the Messiah. However, in order to hear Jesus's answers to our questions, we need to let go of what we want to hear and listen to what he is saying. Listening to Jesus also involves doing, and this passage reminds us that how we behave speaks as loudly as what we say. Living for Jesus involves both active listening and doing. [John 10:22-30.](#)
- May 18** **Saturday Evening Service 5:00 p.m. Praise Service**

PART II: LOVING JESUS

This second set of sermons focuses on the action of God upon those who believe *in* and *into* Jesus, resulting in a divine flow of energy from God to the church and the world. All the themes in these sermons are subtitled “by a loving God.”

- May 19** **Fifth Sunday of Easter** **Loving Jesus: MARKED by a Loving God**
Jesus offers a new commandment to love one another and thus be known as his disciples. This “marking” is the way we are known and has direct connections with our baptism into Jesus's life, death and resurrection. In short, the mark of a Christian is love. [John 13:31-35.](#)
- May 26** **Sixth Sunday of Easter** **Loving Jesus: SENT by a Loving God**
John's Gospel dwells on love. In today's passage we are offered a Trinitarian model of love among God the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Their “dance of love” overflows in their self-giving action to the world. God invites us into that dance of love! As God the Creator sends Jesus and the Spirit into the world, the Triune God sends us into the world to share God's overflowing love. [John 14:23-29.](#)

**Sermon series from Discipleship Ministries (UMC) Easter 2019.*

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...

ADULT COUNCIL SPRING OPPORTUNITIES *by Jim McConnell*

Your Adult Council continues to offer a variety of options for study and discussion:

- **Spirited Women** meets each Wednesday morning at 9:15 and will be studying the book "**Holy Envy - Finding God in the Faith of Others**," by Barbara Brown Taylor.
- **The Men's study group, Early Bird Fellowship**, meets each Thursday at 6:30 a.m. at Colonial Café on Randall Road. They will begin a new book "**Being United Methodist-What It Means, Why It Matters**," by J. Ellsworth Kalas.
- **Adult Sunday School** will begin a 6 week study on world religions using the book by Adam Hamilton: "**Christianity and World Religions-Questions We Ask About Other Faiths**." Books are available in the church office for \$10.
- There will also be a pastor led presentation on the organizational structure of our global United Methodist Church using "**The United Methodist Church Handbook-Therefore Go: Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World**," now available in the church office at no charge.

Check our weekly church bulletins and Becky Nicol's weekly e-News for additional information and timing.

We're Trying a New Way to do Worship Announcements

Recently, you may have noticed that Worship announcements took 17 minutes! In an effort to communicate more effectively and support excellence in worship, we are going to try a NEW way to do announcements in Worship for a while, starting May 5, and then see how we like it!

What doesn't change:

- Submit information to Lorie in the Office or Communications@genevaumc.org by Wednesday noon.
- Limit length to 30 seconds, please – just the basics: what, when, where, and point to a source of more information.
- The first 3 received will be announced. Please avoid requests to be added right before Worship.

What will change for a while:

- Announcements will be made by the Pastor, who will ask the person connected to the announcement to stand up where they are seated, to be recognized.
- Please remember that announcements made in Worship should be applicable to the entire congregation – we have several more effective ways to communicate to smaller specific groups.

Announcement template:

The _____ (group) will be holding a/their _____ (event) on _____ (day, date) at _____ (time). **OR** The _____ (group) needs volunteers to _____ (make sandwiches, etc.) at _____ (event) on _____ (day, date).
Please see _____ (newsletter, bulletin insert, email), or contact _____ (name) for more information.

Thanks for your help!

REACH IN...



CALLING ALL GOLFERS: Spring is here! 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.

Why is it called Stephen Ministry? *By Renee Lower*

In the Book of Acts, Stephen was chosen to provide a caring ministry to those in need. Since the time of the Apostles, caring ministry has been considered a hallmark of the Christian faith community.

What are Stephen Ministers? Stephen Ministers are lay people trained to provide one to one Christ-centered care. They have a compassionate heart for those that are hurting and they have been equipped with caring ministry skills by attending Stephen Ministry Leader-led training classes. A Stephen Minister typically has one care receiver at a time, meets with that person once a week to listen, care, pray, encourage and offer emotional and spiritual support.

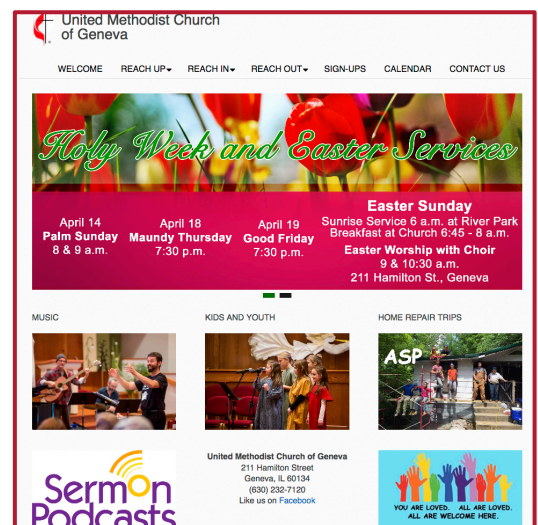
If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister or are in need of a caring Stephen Minister, please contact Rev. Mary Gay at the church 630-232-7120 or cell 815-508-2655.

www.genevaumc.org Has A New Look!

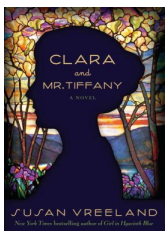
UMCG's new website goes live on
Sunday afternoon, April 28

Many thanks to Tom Nicol for assisting with creating the site, and for photos. Thanks also to Jim Alderfer for website help (old and new sites), and for ongoing support from the Communications Team.

Becky Nicol, Director of Communications



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 an interesting discussion and fellowship. Contact Sharon Knott at 630-879-9544 for more information.

Tuesday, May 7 - Clara and Mr. Tiffany by Susan Vreeland

Against the backdrop of Gilded Age New York, bestselling author Susan Vreeland's extraordinary novel brings a woman once lost in the shadows -- Clara Driscoll -- into vivid color. Clara struggles with her desire for artistic recognition and the seemingly insurmountable challenges that she faces as a professional woman.



Tuesday, June 4 - Birds of a Feather (a Maisie Dobbs mystery) by Jacqueline Winspear

The eponymous heroine of Winspear's promising debut, Maisie Dobbs, continues to beguile in this chilling, suspenseful sequel set in England a decade after the end of the Great War. Maisie, "Psychologist and Investigator," as the brass nameplate on her office door declares, gets hired by a wealthy industrialist to find his only daughter, who has gone missing.

Coming up: July 2 – *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf

August 6 – *Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk* by Kathleen Rooney

YOUTH at UMCG

Youth Worship

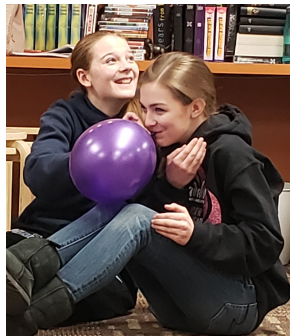
- May 5** **First Sunday:** Youth are invited to attend and take part in the 9 a.m. Worship service in the sanctuary.
- May 12** **Mother's Day:** *No Youth Worship* so that families can spend time together.
- May 19** **Final Youth Worship of the School Year:** End of school year celebration service. And... a 'Blessing of the Animals' prayer time. Students are asked to bring printed photos of their pets or email them to Denise ahead of the service.
Youth Worship will return in the Fall.
- June 9** **Confirmation Sunday: 9 a.m.** Worship includes the Confirmation of the 2018-2019 class. Come to show your support and celebrate with our confirmands!

Have a great summer!

Youth Activities

- May 5** **Marklund T-Ball Game: 3-5 p.m.** The Youth Group will be assisting wheelchair-bound adults with hitting off the T, pushing them around the bases, and fielding. Individuals providing wheelchair assistance must be 14 years old. Youth under 14 require an adult to assist them. All UMCG participants must also sign a liability waiver. You can sign up by contacting Keith Rawson at 847-214-1171.
- May 27** **Men's Club Pancake Breakfast: 7-11 a.m.** Youth volunteers are needed to help them set up, cook, serve, and clean up. Contact Denise if you are available to help.
- June 8-15** **June ASP Mission Trip:** Keep those who are travelling in your prayers!

Watch for emails about summer events: Nerf Wars, Escape Room, Pool Party & volunteering at Swedish Days and VBS!



For questions about any of these events, please contact Denise Clementz at denise@genevaumc.org, or 309-507-2328.

ASP FUNDRAISERS:



IN CONCERT!

SATURDAY, MAY 4th
4pm – 6pm

Proceeds to benefit the Geneva United Methodist Church's work
on behalf of
the Appalachia Service Project®!

All ages welcome!
Donation appreciated at the door.

302 WEST STATE STREET
GENEVA, ILLINOIS



Meat Up for ASP: It's Grilling season!

ASP is teaming up with Country Village Meats to offer you the finest in fresh cut steaks & chops, smoked bacons, beef jerky, snack sticks, and more.



- **Sunday, April 28** - sample Country Village Meats specialty meats and order your favorites.
- **Sunday, May 5** - Pickup your meat order.
- **15% of your purchases will go to fund ASP.**

To get a preview of the meats available, visit

www.countryvillagemeats.com.

Save the Dates for VBS

VBS 2019 will be held June 24-27, 2019. Mark your calendars now so you don't forget! 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, contact Jodi Borger or Sharon Reed.



Opportunity to Reach Out:

Lazarus House in St. Charles - Overnight Volunteers needed 1st & 3rd Tuesdays. Call 630/222-4150.

REACH OUT...



Open Your Door and Heart to the World – Host an AFS Student!

The world is in need of friendship and understanding more than ever before. What better, or more fun, way to help promote peace than to host an international student! Something extraordinary happens when you share your life with a high school student from another country. You can help build bridges of intercultural understanding and enrich your life in many ways by hosting an AFS exchange student. Students arrive in August. Families of all kinds are needed: 2 parents, 1 parent, children or no children, anyone can host. Students need a bed, food, love and guidance. Meet the students on this [link](https://www.afsusa.org/host-family/): <https://www.afsusa.org/host-family/>.

Now is the time to apply. Contact Robbin Lang, 630-346-4320, robbinlang@ameritech.net or Darlene Kilmer, <http://www.afsusa.org> 630-779-8389, Darlene.kilmer@afsusa.org, to learn more about becoming an AFS Host Family.

SACK SUNDAYS IN MAY

The Committee on Church in Society has designated the Sundays in May as “Sack Sundays” for the benefit of the Salvation Army Food Pantry so their shelves will be full during the summer months when children are home from school and families experience the need for more food. Sacks will be distributed, (one per family), after worship services on April 28. Return filled sacks with needed grocery items to church any time during the month of May. Please deposit your filled sacks underneath the coat racks in the Atrium. Additional sacks will be available on the shelf above the coat racks. The Committee thanks all of you in advance for your ongoing support of the Food Pantry, and our ministry to relieve hunger in the Fox Valley. Questions may be directed to Nancie Lillie, at 630-232-6696.



UMCG Mats for the Homeless *by Jean Eakins*

We have completed 20-25 more mats to be delivered to the homeless in Chicago through **Humans for Hope**.

If you want to help, we need bags! It takes 900-1000 bags for each 3' X 6' mat. Please remember that we cannot use newspaper bags, small bags, dirty/sticky bags, dry cleaning bags or thick bags. The best bags are grocery bags from Meijer, Jewel, Fresh Market, Target, etc. Also, it is helpful if you remove the cash register receipts. Drop off the bags in the bin under the coat rack to the right of the elevator in the Atrium.



If you can crochet, we could use your help in crocheting the mats. If you don't know how, we'll teach you. Three women who are crocheting the mats had never crocheted before. This is a great way to learn. We also need bag flatteners, bag cutters and plarn makers. We have lots of fun and meet every Monday, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm. Come when you can. We will attach a prayer from UMCG to each mat, and are looking forward to having the mats blessed before we drop them off.

A note from Mary Gay McKinney, Coordinator of Congregational Care

On January 8 I began with you as Coordinator of Congregational Care. Our church is my home base three days a week and for Sunday worship. My favorite part of my ministry is visitation. It has been a privilege to begin meeting you at church, in your homes, or perhaps over coffee or a meal. Who am I visiting? So far, when I hear that someone might like a visit, I'm on it. And, I might add, having a great time. Without mentioning names, getting to know you, your journeys and stories, fills me with joy. Pastor Rich, Pastor Esther, Pastor Becky and I appreciate and want your suggestions as to whom we might visit, so keep 'em coming!



Pastor Rich has asked me to devise a way to make sure no one gets left out or left behind when it comes to relationship and visitation. I'm working on a database to compliment our outstanding Elexio program.

Thank you to everyone for making my first four months incredibly delightful.

2019 Scholarships Awarded

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to report that scholarships have been awarded for the 2019-2020 school year.

Alexander Laskowski, the Mike Worthington Memorial Scholarship
Melissa Guio, the Karen J. Weckler Memorial Scholarship
Claire Nowak, the Bob Tucker Graduate/Undergraduate Scholarship
Katherine M. Hansen, the Bob Tucker Undergraduate Scholarship
Helen Johnson, the W. P. McElroy Memorial Scholarship
Louis Petrie, the Yvonne W. McElroy Memorial Scholarship
Sarah Baurer, the Lucinda Dittmer Memorial Scholarship
William Darrow, the William K. and Ruth A. Bullock Memorial Scholarship
Ana Powell, the William K. and Ruth A. Bullock Memorial Scholarship
Eleanor Horvath, the William K. and Ruth A. Bullock Memorial Scholarship
Morgan Wagnitz, the UMCG General Scholarship



CALLING ALL GRADUATES!!

We'd like to extend our congratulations to those who have or will be graduating in 2019 from high school or post secondary school. If you or a family member is graduating this spring, please contact the office at debbie@genevaumc.org, and let us know from which school they are graduating, as well as any future educational, work or other plans. **Please send your information by May 15.**

Annual Conference 2019 Bishop's Appeal: Outdoor & Retreat Ministries By John Kemble

Each year our Bishop selects a cause to put forward as an appeal for funds, to be presented at Annual Conference of the Northern Illinois Conference. All churches in the conference are encouraged to raise funds for this cause. This year the Bishop's Appeal is for the conference Outdoor and Retreat Ministries. This ministry operates two sites, in Dixon, IL and Williams Bay, WI. The funds raised by this effort will be used to support two summer weeklong camps to target children who would not otherwise be able to attend a camp. **Contributions may be made through May 26. Please mark "Bishop's Appeal" on your donation. Thank you!**

Memorial DAY

PANCAKE BREAKFAST



Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast

Monday, May 27

7 - 11 a.m.

Tickets: \$7 Adults \$3 Kids 12 and under



Neighbor Project Spring Gala – May 11 – Don't miss it!

An elegant evening of cocktails, dinner and god company for the sake of our Neighbor Project neighbors. Cocktail hour 6 p.m.- Dinner at 7- and Live Auction & Program at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$150 per person, available online at neighborproject.us.

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
	Sharon Anderson
	Dan Poremba
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
Men's Club President	Mark Byars
Missions Committee Co-Chairs	Jim Manos
	Sharon Anderson
Scholarship Committee	Keith Worthington
Staff-Parish Relations	Jules Heinemann
Stewardship Committee	
Treasurer	Jim Karwoski
Trustees	Tony Zefron
Women's Ministry	Carol Zars
Youth Representative	Trace Powell
Worship Committee	Dick Keslinke
Pastors (w/o vote)	Rich Darr,
	Esther Lee
Member-at-large	

Pizza with a purpose

Bring in this flyer, present it to your server and we'll donate 20% of your check to the organization listed below. Purchases include dine-in, takeout, catering and all non-alcoholic beverages.

Fundraiser in support of:
UMCG SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Wednesday, May 15th, 2019
ALL Day (Dine-in, Take-out & Catering)

Valid at the following location:
California Pizza Kitchen
Located in the Geneva Commons
1202 Commons Drive
Geneva, IL 60134
630.845.1731

Join the **CPK Rewards** program and receive a **free Small Plate** on your next visit after registering. Register today at **cpk.com** or download our new app today!



Fundraiser offer valid only on the date(s) and at the CPK location identified on the flyer. Only 501c organizations and non-profit schools are eligible to participate in CPK's fundraiser program. CPK will donate 20% (twenty percent) of all food and beverage sales to the organization. Tax, gratuity, gift card and retail sales are excluded from the donation. Offer valid for dine-in, takeout, online, catering, curbside or delivery orders placed directly with CPK. Not valid for third-party delivery. Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near restaurant. For more information about the 501c organization participating in the fundraiser, please contact the organization directly.



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

MESSENGER DEADLINE

Submit Articles for the *JUNE Messenger*
by **Wednesday, May 15.**
Send information to
communications@genevaumc.org
Subj: Messenger