

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GENEVA | JUNE 2019

the Messenger

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



MARKLUND T-BALL EVENT MAY 5



Pastor's Page

Thank you for the music!

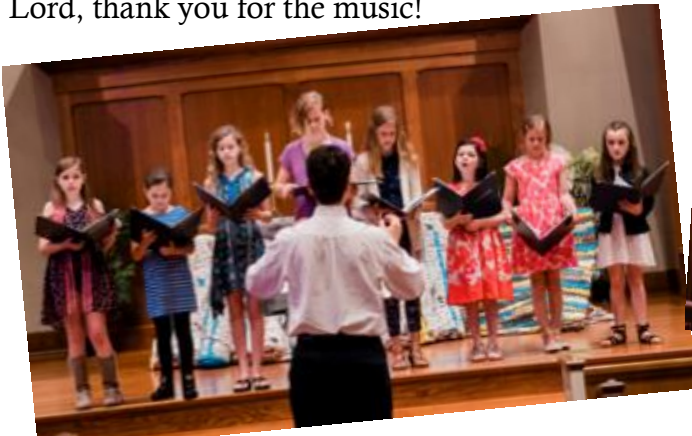
From my vantage point on the chancel I can see the expressions on your faces as we worship together in our beautiful Sanctuary. As our children in Cherub and Carol Choirs recently opened worship singing, "We're the Image of God's Smile," their angelic voices brought a smile to both God's face and ours. There is nothing like the sweet voices of children singing praise to God to light up the room - and our hearts! Lord, thank you for the music!

Music is like time travel - you hear a melody or listen to a song, and suddenly you are transported to another time and place. "You can actually change in seconds," notes emotional intelligence researcher Richard Boyatzis. Whether tapping our toes, moving us to tears, or humming along, music is powerful! Lord, thank you for the music!

And thank you Chancel Choir, Benedictus, Cherub and Carol Choirs, and all two Bell Choirs. Thank you summer soloists and Saturday Eve Worship Service musicians Toby and Betsy Petrie, and Liz Carson. Thank you instrumentalists and guest musicians. Thanks to all our musicians. And thank you, Music Director Scott Stevenson and Choir Director Mike Popplewell, for leading us in meaningful worship time and again. Lord, thank you for the music!

Pastor Rich

P.S. Building on past tradition, this summer will once again feature music themes in our worship services. In the first six weeks of summer, we'll be celebrating "Songs of Community." So come on out and join us in meaningful worship!



REACH UP...

June 2019 Worship Schedule

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

Nursery provided at 9 a.m. service

Summer 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 youth are invited to Worship or to join Journey of Faith

Youth Worship/Sunday School Returns in the Fall

Adult Sunday School - 10:30 a.m.

This month we conclude the second part of our Eastertide sermon series: *Living for and Loving Jesus* before moving on to our summer worship series, *Songs of Community*.

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."

June 2 WEEK 6: Loving Jesus: **EMBODIED BY A LOVING GOD** John 17:20-26

Today's passage informs us that as a follower of Jesus, Christ embodies you in order to display God's love in the world. Thus Jesus indicates that his presence and love will continue in the body of Christ, the church. How are we embodying the love and presence of Christ? **Pastor Rich preaches.**

June 9 Pentecost/Confirmation Sunday WEEK 7: Loving Jesus: **EMPOWERED BY A LOVING GOD** Acts 2:1-21

On the Day of Pentecost, the church is born to empower people to go forth and proclaim the love of God through out the world far and wide. Today we celebrate our confirmands and join them in affirming our baptismal vows and our commitment to serve Christ in the world. **Pastor Esther preaches.**

June 15 Saturday Evening Worship - 5:00 p.m. Celebrating Methodist Missions!

In early April, United Methodists from around the world converged on Atlanta to celebrate 200 years of Methodist Mission history. **Pastor Rich** attended this historic event and personally invites you to this special service. He will share his experience of the Bicentennial and the slide presentation he offered. Refreshments provided by CCG.

SUMMER WORSHIP: SONGS OF COMMUNITY In keeping with our tradition of offering music-themed worship in the summer, over the next six weeks we'll be singing songs that celebrate various communities to which we belong. We begin with the community of the Holy Trinity, then celebrate communities that include our families, neighborhood and nation, church, world and creation.

June 16 Trinity Sunday/Fathers Day/Hymn Requests begin Proverbs 8:32-35; Romans 5:1-5

We are relational beings who are also reliant on God and other people. Paul's words describe and delight in God's actions and blessings on our behalf, as we consider our understanding of God as community and as God desiring to be in relationship with us. **Pastor Becky preaches.**

June 23 Celebrating Families Deuteronomy 6:4-9

God blessed the family of Abraham and Sarah in order to bless all families on earth. Today's scripture guides families who seek God's blessing while seeking to bless others. **Pastor Esther preaches.**

June 30 Celebrating Our Neighborhoods & Nation Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17

As we prepare to celebrate our nation's birthday on July 4th, let's ponder what makes for a good neighborhood and nation. The book of Ruth offers some surprising wisdom! **Pastor Rich preaches.**

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...



UMCG 2019 Scholarship Recipients and Scholarship Sponsors on May 12

Seasons of the Church Year. . . by Jim Byrne

Pentecost Sunday (June 9) occurs 50 days after Easter, ending the Easter season, and is considered to be the anniversary of the beginning of the Christian church. On that day, the Holy Spirit descended "from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind" and to those present "there appeared . . . tongues of fire resting on each one of them" (Acts 2), empowering these early followers of Christ to speak foreign languages so that they could act on The Great Commission, go forth and spread the Gospel (Matthew 28:19-20). Pentecost Sunday is a day for confirmations or baptisms, and a day for each of us to consider our own response to The Great Commission and the way the Holy Spirit works in our daily lives.

Trinity Sunday (June 16 in 2019) is the first Sunday following Pentecost Sunday and celebrates the revealed presence and action of the Trinity in every aspect of life. It is a special day to consider the mystery of the Triune God: God the creator, Jesus who preached in human form and died so that all people could live, and the Holy Spirit through which God works within each person.

The season after Pentecost, called **Ordinary Time**, is the longest in the church calendar, extending from Trinity Sunday through Christ the King Sunday in November. The basic color for paraments, stoles, and banners for Ordinary Time is green – symbolizing growth in Christ. Significantly, Trinity Sunday celebrates doctrine, not events. For a person of faith, this Season after Pentecost is time to focus on our individual relationship with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit; a time to sit outside and engage in *Examen* or *Lectio Divina*, or to walk in nature and experience the grandeur of God's creation. This season also focuses on the significance of the church as a sign of God's continuing presence and activity in the world.

REACH IN...

Birthday Book

Women's Ministries has donated the book *Holy Envy, Finding God in the Faith of Others*, by Barbara Brown Taylor, to the UMCG Library in honor of Corinne Steinbis's 90th birthday on May 18.

REACH OUT...



Pastor Rich and Jean Eakins leading the congregation in blessing the mats.



Joan Peterson brought us the mat-making project idea.

23 Mats Blessed in Worship on May 19 *By Jean Eakins*

Sunday, May 19, Pastor Rich blessed over 20 mats that have been crocheted by the Mat Makers since September. Thank you to everyone who made this happen! That includes all the unknown people who donated plastic bags, as well as, those who faithfully show up, week after week, Jean Eakins, Colleen Fasbender, Barb Greenwald, Jenean Larsen, Barb Pribble, Ruth Rovellstad, Nancy Tweed, and Sue White to sort bags, flatten bags, cut bags and crochet the bags into the mats that we donate to Humans for Hope, through a volunteer, Kal Bihawi.

We would love to have more volunteers to help. Several of the women had never crocheted before and have learned and are making mats. We will be continuing through the summer, so if you have more spare time during the warmer months, please join us. We meet Mondays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. You don't have to show up every week or for the entire two hours. Also, if you know of anyone or any group that can also use some mats, please let us know.

YOUTH Ministry

2019 Year-End Summary

From Youth Ministry Director,
Denise Clementz denise@genevaumc.org,
or 309-507-2328.

As I conclude my first year with UMCG Youth, I wanted to reflect on the wonderful activities and conversations with our students this year. Even though our youth have busy schedules, we were able to offer some wonderful chances to come together with friends and enjoy a variety of volunteer opportunities, worship, relaxation, and fun. Our Youth were also involved in UMCG Rummage Sale, TTS, Swedish Days, Christmas and First Sunday worship services, and Children's Ministry. Here is a brief summary of 2019:

Sunday Worship Services: During First Sundays each month, Youth participated in the 9 a.m. worship service as ushers, greeters, liturgists, and communion assistants. The rest of the month, we held Youth Worship Service in the Youth room for grades 7-12. Our time included worship music, lifting up one another and our world in prayer, a time of teaching, and active discussion. Many speakers opened up new and exciting avenues through which our students were able to talk about God, their faith, and how they interact with the rest of our world. Youth worship continues to be our most regularly and best-attended activity all school year. I hope more members of the Church will be able to volunteer and bring us new topics of discussion next year!

Sunday Afternoon Activities: This year we changed our activities to twice a month to better fit the student's schedules. Most activities were open to students grades 5-12, with a few events reserved for our high school students only. The most exciting and best-attended activities were the loud and crazy Nerf Wars each semester! Other fun events included an Escape Room outing, volleyball at the Darr's, and assisting with the children's Mardi Gras and Easter celebration parties. There was lots of interest in service projects this year: making blankets for Good Night Sleep Tight, creating dog toys for Anderson Animal Shelter, volunteering at Hesed House, and making 20+ College Care Packages each semester. We had great participation at the Marklund T-Ball game. One of my favorite pieces of news is that in April we were able to join a group from the Islamic Center of Kane County for the Montrose Beach Cleanup in Chicago. It was wonderful to partner and have conversations with our Muslim brothers and sisters - both young and old. We hope to continue our partnership going forward.

The Sunday Youth Worship and Afternoon Activities will take a break for the summer, although we may have a few special events over the summer. The program year will kick off again this fall.

Confirmation: This year five 8th graders will be confirmed during worship on Sunday, June 9: Brooke Baurer, Rachel Carlson, Julianna Cornwell, Nathan Kilmer, and Ethan Sims. They have participated in months of classes, learning and discussion, research, homework, and involvement in our church. Congratulations and welcome!

Pen and Paper: This group of students both from inside and outside of our church meet most Saturday evenings in the Church Library to play a role-playing game called Mutants and Masterminds. They'll continue over the summer – so join us! If you are interested please contact Denise Clementz, Darlene Kilmer, or Jodi Borger.

Our volunteers are crucial to the continuation of the youth program, as well as to our ability to continue growing and building a sustaining youth ministry. None of what we achieved and experienced this year could have been possible without the assistance of parents, church leaders, and other adults who stepped forward, showed up, and devoted time to our programs. I would like to thank all the adults who provided or participated in our events and activities during this past year. I am grateful to you for pouring into the lives of our youth - either in the form of seemingly small tasks such as providing snacks, to teaching during Youth Worship. Additionally, I'd like to add a special thank you to Paul Darrow, Darlene Kilmer, Kathy Karr, and Keith Rawson who have been heavily active in assisting the youth programs throughout the year.

It's been a great first year as your Youth Director and I can't wait to see what next year has in store!



PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Monday, May 27
7 - 11 a.m.



Adults \$7
Children 12 and under \$3

West Parking Lot
211 Hamilton St.

Favorite Hymn Requests



...start in worship
on June 16!

Use the orange pew cards or
submit your hymn requests online
at www.genevaumc.org
starting June 3.

Every Sunday this summer, we'll
sing a few to start our worship!



2019

The following information was shared with the Church office regarding graduation from high school, college, graduate school, or trade school:

Katie Hansen from Geneva High School, attending Carroll University in Waukesha, WI, pursuing a double major in graphic communication and photography.

Claire Nowak from Geneva High School, attending University of Maine in Orono, ME, studying music and biology.

William Darrow from Geneva High School, attending Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, MI, studying secondary education.

Eleanor Horvath from Geneva High School, attending Boston University in Boston, MA, studying international relations/business statistics.

Louis Petrie from Geneva High School, attending Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH, studying aerospace engineering.

Will Johnson from Geneva High School, attending Lourdes University in Sylvania, OH, studying business.

Andrew Dahlberg from Geneva High School, attending Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, IA, studying technology and media production.

Bram Borger-Johnson from DePaul University, with a BS Major in Digital Cinema with a Minor in Computer Science.

Caitlin Szabo from Murray State University, with a BS in Integrated Studies.

Maria Isely from Carthage College, with degrees in Graphic Design and Studio Arts and a Minor in Communication.

Eileen McKinney from Colorado State University, with a BS in Chemistry.

Will McKinney from Colorado School of Mines, with a BS in Petroleum Engineering.

Aubrey Benton from Aurora University, with a Master of Social Work with a Specialization in Advanced Clinical Social Work.

Adrienne Szabo Bush from Eastern Kentucky University, with a Master in Public Administration.

Lindsey Rawson Van Wyk from the University of Denver Law School, with a Juris Doctorate Degree.

A DAY TO REMEMBER

by John Kemble

April 10, 2019, is a day to remember, all right! That is when I went on the **89th Honor Flight Chicago** to Washington, DC. My service in the Navy qualified me for the trip to the nation's capital, sponsored by Honor Flight Chicago for veterans of World War II and Korea.



The day started with a 2:15 get up and departure from home at 3 a.m., headed for Midway Airport. I was met at the curb by an orange-shirted man and a wheel chair - symbolic of the care throughout the day: always escorted and attended to by a volunteer. About 90 of us veterans were each given a gray shirt to wear, a nametag, and a set of dog tags, similar to what every serviceman had during their time in.

We departed about 6:45 and arrived about 9 Eastern Time at Dulles Airport. In flight I had an Egg McMuffin sandwich. The flight was routine. Taxiing to the gate we were honored by the Fire Department streaming their fire hose over the plane and greeted by a crowd of about 100 cheering strangers, including my escort LCDR Bryce Hicks. We boarded five busses, circled the Iwo Jima Memorial and the Pentagon, then passed Arlington Cemetery on our way to the Air Force Memorial, where we got out to walk around. Back on the bus, a box lunch from Arby's was served. Next, we were entertained by Trooping of the Colors, National Anthem and Taps at the World War II Memorial on the Mall. Each state has its own column and a wall had 4,000 stars on it symbolizing each 1,000 deaths during the war.

Next, at the Lincoln Memorial, I had a wonderful view of the long pool and the Washington Monument and Capitol Building in the distance. At 2 p.m. the Marine Corps Silent Drill Team performed their 15-minute ceremony - in unison, with no verbal commands - while moving and stationary; quite a show!

By this time, I was riding in the wheelchair and Bryce was pushing. We visited the Viet Nam Wall and Korean Memorial. Each was solemn and moving. I found the place on the Wall where a shipmate's name was engraved and took a picture. Next stop was the Smithsonian Air Museum to view an exhibit of historic airplanes. The most impressive one was the Space Shuttle, with its blackened heat shield tiles.

The day was winding down as we went back to Dulles and were entertained by group dancing to swing songs of the Forties; I even twirled around a few steps myself. Supper was served - Potbelly's. We boarded for a 7 p.m. departure, and in flight Mail Call was sounded. There was an envelope for each veteran, filled with letters and notes from friends and even strangers, who knew we were on the flight.

Back in Chicago, we were again greeted by fire trucks streaming water, and by a cheering crowd of about 200 or more! It was an emotional time. Berniece, Dana, Tony, and his friend Art George and his wife were mixed in the scene. They greeted me and gathered me up to go home. This was an impressive day! The love and respect shown to me was over the top. I was humbled to know others honored my time in service. I will go to their web site, www.honorflightchicago.org, to thank them and send a donation to further their work. I invite you to do so, also.



REACH OUT...

RUMMAGE SALE REPORT

Every rummage and bake sale has a story.

Stories about people in need.

Stories about funny donations that no one thinks will sell, but are the first things out the door when the sale starts.

Stories about bargains and found treasures.

Stories about accidental donations that were not supposed to get donated!

But I think this year's big story is about all of YOU! Your generosity when it comes to donations and your generous spirit of time and muscle.

So many hands make this sale possible twice a year and we have a really dedicated core group of people who have taken on leadership roles to be sure it all gets done. Lorne Tweed gets the box truck so we can bring large donations to church and he rallies the men to come on Saturday to set up all the tables and racks, and again on Saturday for clean up. And Joan Hansen keeps the volunteers fed during the week by organizing food donations, while Ann Oberholtz and her team keep the Bake Sale going year after year.

Our day captains, Nancy Tweed, Wendy McKeehan and Jenean Larsen really keep things going all week so that by Thursday at 6 pm we are ready to open the sale. And there are SO many of you who come for an hour, a day or the whole week to help organize, price, sell and clean up.

Yesterday, when the Wayside truck was full and we still had about 75 boxes and odds and ends left over, this amazing group of men, women and children filled their cars and drove everything to Goodwill, Salvation Army and Wayside Cross, so that on Sunday you wouldn't even know there was a rummage and bake sale. What a blessing!! And we can't thank you enough! This year the bake sale made over \$700 and rummage brought in over \$10,400 for a grand total of over \$11,000!!

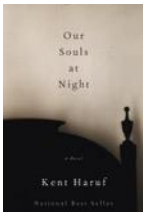
As you know, this sale has taken on a life of its own. What started out as a ladies bazaar over 60 years ago has now morphed into a church-wide effort. And it does not happen without YOU! So thank you, thank you!

I am so proud to be part of this wonderful church family who welcomes the stranger, feeds the hungry, helps to clothe the children and who shows compassion for our community and the world. Like all churches, we have our struggles, and we may never be like the mega churches. But what we have is something to celebrate, and every time we complete a rummage sale I am reminded of just how blessed we are to have each other!

With a grateful heart,
Bobbi Alderfer

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. Contact Sharon Knott at 630-879-9544 for more information.



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

Tuesday, July 2 - *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf

Set in a small town in Colorado, this straightforward novel explores a unique relationship between an elderly man and an elderly woman who are struggling with feelings of isolation and how companionship eases their loneliness. The story begins: "And then there was the day when Addie Moore made a call on Louis Waters..."

Women's Ministry – We will meet on **Sunday, June 2, at 10:15 a.m.**, to distribute proceeds from the Rummage Sale to charity. We will also be discussing plans for our upcoming events. Many thanks to Carol Zars for being our President for the past few years. We are looking for a new president to begin this Summer. Now is your chance to help guide our women's group. Please consider stepping into this position.

Opportunity to Reach Out: HELP NEEDED – Lazarus House sleepover VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

UMCG is committed to supporting Lazarus House homeless shelter in St. Charles on the overnight shift on 1st & 3rd Tuesday's. The overnight volunteer shift runs from 9:30 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. A staff member is at Lazarus House all night. The volunteers sleeps in the Executive Director's office on a pad on a roll-a-way bed. Lights are out at 11:00 p.m. and you sleep until about 5:30 a.m., then are up to set out a breakfast of cereal and donuts and pass out lunches – you can be out the door and on with your day by 7:00 a.m.

Contact Carolyn Sprawka 630-222-4150 or sign-up by going to church website "sign-ups"

June 4 – Pastor Rich
June 18
July 2
July 16
August 6

August 20 – Keith Rawson
September 3
September 17 – Keith Rawson
October 1 – JoAnn Cregier
October 15 – Donna Sims

November 5
November 19
December 3
December 17



Save the Dates for VBS

VBS 2019 will be June 24-27, 2019. We will be using a new curriculum called ***Power Up*** where the kids will be inside their own video game! Contact Jodi Borger or Sharon Reed.

CHURCH COUNCIL

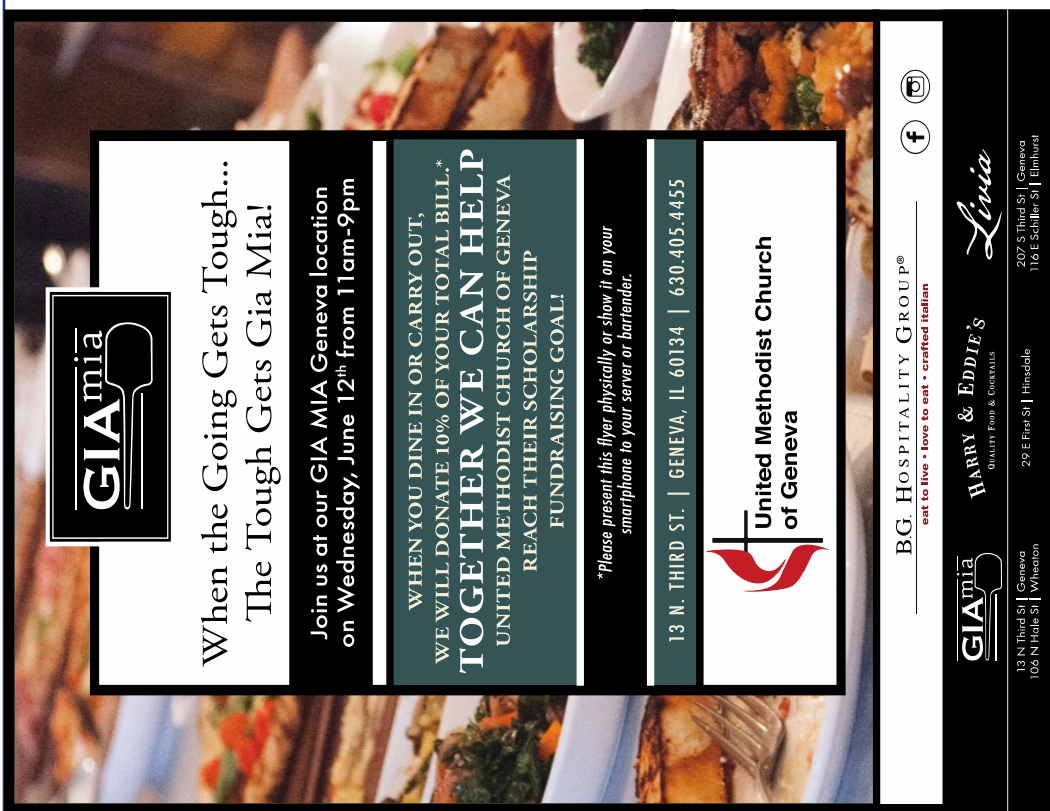
Chair	Kei Narimatsu
Vice Chair	David Dias
Recording Secretary	Jean Eakins
Lay Members to Annual Conference	John Kemble
	Sharon Anderson
	Dan Poremba
Church & Society Co-Chairs	Carolyn Sprawka
Youth Council Co-Chairs	Gary Dittmer
	Keith Rawson
	Keith Worthington
Children's Council Chair	Jen Karwoski
Adult 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	

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

United Methodist Church of Geneva

211 Hamilton Street
Geneva, IL 60134



GIA^{mia}


When the Going Gets Tough...
The Tough Gets Gia Mia!

Join us at our GIA MIA Geneva location
on Wednesday, June 12th from 11am-9pm

WHEN YOU DINE IN OR CARRY OUT,
WE WILL DONATE 10% OF YOUR TOTAL BILL.*
TOGETHER WE CAN HELP
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GENEVA
REACH THEIR SCHOLARSHIP
FUNDRAISING GOAL!

*Please present this flyer physically or show it on your
smartphone to your server or bartender.

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United Methodist Church
of Geneva

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106 N Halle St | Wheaton 116 E Schiller St | Elmhurst

MESSENGER DEADLINE

Submit Articles for the JULY Messenger
by **Saturday, June 15.**
Send information to
communications@genevaumc.org
Subj: Messenger