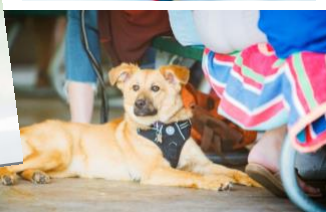
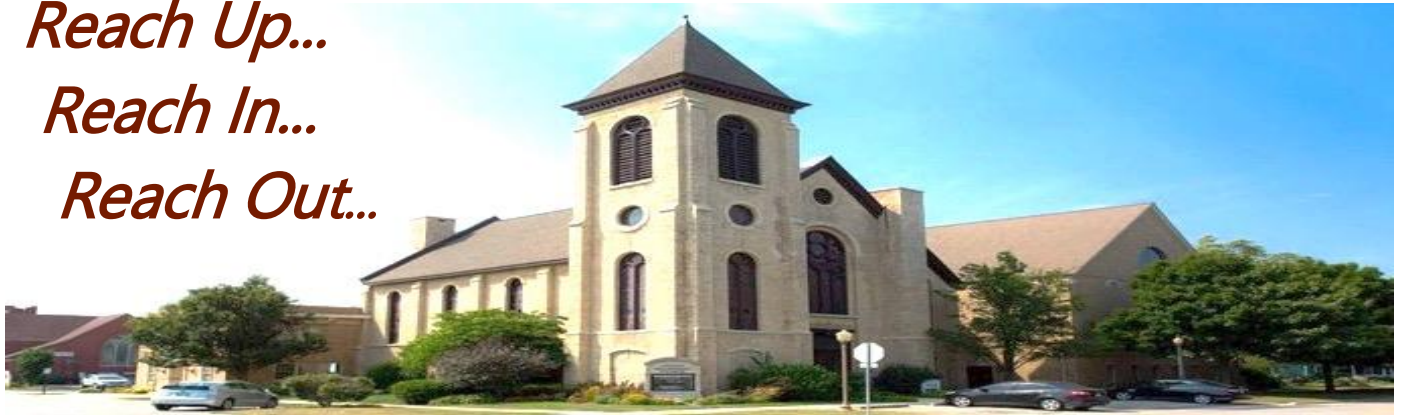


the Messenger

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



Pastor's Page

SHIFTING GEARS

Do you recall those days when you first learned to drive? Some of us remember learning to drive a stick shift (whether on the floor or the steering column). I learned to drive a “four-on-the floor” stick shift, four-wheel-drive Land Rover in Mali, West Africa. I’d already witnessed my older siblings navigating this ordeal with Dad as driving instructor before it was my turn to go through this *rite de passage*. Dad was a nervous wreck as he barked out orders: “Shift into neutral. Now, push the gas pedal slightly, and turn on the key. Is the clutch to the floor? Put the clutch to the floor! Come on! Now...press the gas slightly, and slowly release the clutch. Slowly. No. No. No! You released the clutch too fast! That’s why we stalled, and you about threw us through the windshield! [Sigh] Come on...let’s try it again.” Lurching forward and grinding gears, somehow, I/we eventually learned to drive. LOL. Of course, we look back now and see it as an exciting and rewarding accomplishment that extends for a lifetime.

How are we like shifting gears?

Phil Maynard is a seasoned United Methodist pastor with 25 years’ experience growing healthy churches. He currently works with the UMC’s General Board of Discipleship as a consultant focusing on growing mature disciples and vital churches. Pastor Esther has studied with him in her recent two-year program with our Annual Conference’s Institute on Congregational Development. Several of us from UMCG attended Phil’s seminar not long ago in Park Ridge.

Phil has much to offer us! And that’s why we will be combining the wisdom and insights of his book *Shift: Helping Congregations Back into the Game of Effective Ministry* with the efforts of our Church Council (and all of us) as we lean into Vision 2020. In recent decades, mainline Protestant churches in general, including the

UMC, have been declining in North America, lurching forward and halting much like that Land Rover I was learning to drive. Truth be told, many churches are simply stuck, trying to do ministry as it was done in the “golden days,” 25 to 30 years ago. Let’s face it. The nostalgia of those years is bittersweet at times, isn’t it?

Starting this September, the shared leadership of UMCG will be helping us intentionally face our church’s decline over the past 15 years while working hard, with the Spirit’s help and guidance, to turn things around, revitalize and more effectively make disciples that will transform us, our community, and world. The fact is, we need you. Every one of you. We need your ideas, your input, your involvement and willingness to experiment and try new things. According to Maynard, churches need to “shift” the way we do ministry today in five areas. We need to shift from a Fellowship Mentality to radical Hospitality, from Worship as an Event to Worship as a Lifestyle, from Membership to Discipleship, from “Serve Us” to Service, and from a Survival Mentality to Generosity.

We kick off our new school year of worship and education on Sunday, September 8, with a sermon series introducing you to Vision 2020 and the shift from a Fellowship Mentality to Hospitality. This will be a year of “shifting gears” as we look unto Jesus, who is the Author and Finisher of our faith—the One we follow (Hebrews 12:2). Please join us.

Pastor Rich

REACH UP...

September 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) (Starts Sept. 1)

& Journey of Faith (grades 1-4) (Starts Sept. 8)

Route 56 youth are invited to Worship or to join Journey of Faith (Starts Sept. 8)

Youth Worship/Sunday School Returns in the Fall (Starts Sept. 8)

Adult Sunday School - 10:30 a.m.

Conclusion of Oldies Summer Series

September 1 Psalm 72 (Royal Enthronement Psalm)/Oldies hit – “Dancing in the Streets” by Martha and the Vandellas. This popular Motown hit reached No. 2 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart in 1964. Originally a party song, during the Civil Rights struggle in the '60s it was cited as a civil rights anthem to social change. Psalm 72 can be viewed similarly as a party song sung at the coronation of kings in ancient Israel. However, it was also a reminder that the role of the king was to enact God's rule of justice and righteousness, resulting in *shalom*—God's reign of peace—especially for the poor, oppressed and needy. **Pastor Rich preaches.**
(Based on series by Stan Drenth)

*SHIFT: From Fellowship to Hospitality

Church Council's **Vision 2020 initiative** recognizes the need for transformation and renewal of our church. We are not alone! Many, if not most, mainline Protestant churches are stuck, declining, aging and struggling in various ways. With God's guidance and help, **Vision 2020** seeks to help all of us build on UMCG's significant strengths to bring renewal and revitalization to our church and community.

Over the next nine months, a series of sermons will focus on our congregation's need to “shift” fundamentally: from ‘Fellowship’ to Hospitality, from ‘Worship as an Event’ to Worship as a Lifestyle, from ‘Membership’ to Discipleship, from ‘Serve Us’ to Service, and from ‘Survival Mentality’ to Generosity. Over the next six weeks, worship services will help us better understand our **Vision 2020 Initiative** and our need to ***SHIFT: From Fellowship to Hospitality**. Sermons will blend the theological and theoretical with practical ways to help us practice radical hospitality.

September 8 Vision 2020 & 2020 Vision – Without Vision People Perish (Proverbs 29:18)

During this service, leaders of Church Council and its Vision 2020 team will share the “why” and the “what” of the Vision 2020 initiative and “how” it came to be. **Pastor Rich** will preach on the importance of building on our strengths as we move into God's vision for us.

September 15 Next Steps – Getting In Over Our Heads (Proverbs 3:5,6)

Church Council and Vision 2020 will share “next steps” as all of us at UMCG live into Vision 2020. Five strategic initiatives will be explained. **Pastor Rich** will preach.

September 22 Authentic Relationships: Interpersonal Hospitality (John 17:20-23)

Key to all dimensions of hospitality is that of Interpersonal Hospitality. This is all about meaningful connections at all points in the life of our congregation. How we treat each other impacts the way others perceive our connection with them and with God. They will know we are Christians by our love! **Pastor Esther** preaches.

September 29 Welcoming Guests: Intentional Hospitality (Romans 12:9-13; Hebrews 13:1-2)

When people show up for the first time in worship, an overarching question is: “Do I fit in here?” or “Did people like me?” Intentional Hospitality is all about making relational connections with people you don't know who are visiting and/or returning to visit our church. **Pastor Rich** preaches.

*Based on Phil Maynard, *Shift: Helping Congregations Back Into the Game of Effective Ministry*, emc3 Books, 2013.

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 STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

UNDERSTANDING UMC STRUCTURE AND PROCESSES – In light of the General Conference 2019 aftermath, Pastor Rich and Pastor Becky will lead a class that will help you understand our UMC structure and processes. **Identical classes will be offered on Sunday, September 1 and 8, at 10:30 a.m.** in the Parlor, in place of Adult Sunday School. Everyone is invited.

SACRED TIME – SACRED SPACE – Deepen your connection to God and others with practices to engage mind, body, and spirit. Jane Siarny will lead a 4-week sample class offered to all, **with a special invitation to young families with children.** Nursery care will be provided as needed. Begins on Tuesday, September 17, and meets twice each Tuesday. Contact Jane Siarny at 630-715-8590.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY – Planning for the future is hard when you're still paying for the past! There's a better way. Join our Financial Peace University group, and we'll learn how to beat debt and make a plan for the future... together! Interested? Join us at 10:30 on Sundays, starting 9/8. In just 9 short weeks you will learn to create a budget, save for emergencies, and plan for the future. Register at www.daveramsey.com/FPU or use this link: <https://www.fpu.com/1093958>. Prices are on the website, but a year's membership is \$129.99 per FAMILY (everyone, high school and up are welcome). Still unsure? Give the first class a try and see if it's a fit - it's FREE! Childcare provided upon request. Meets in the Church Library.

SPIRITED WOMEN – will resume their meetings September 4 with a 3-session course by Rev. Mary Gay McKinney on **Mimetic Theory**. Learn why we imitate others, or desire what they desire, why we blame, and what Abel's death, Jesus' first sermon, and Elisha's messenger reveal about **us**?

The men's **EARLY BIRD FELLOWSHIP** group meets each Thursday morning at 6:30 a.m. at Colonial Café on Randall Road. A new study will be selected soon. Men – come and join us!

The Adult Council welcomes ideas for studies, and field trips. Contact: Marty Janners (630-701-5665)-myjanner@mtu.edu or Jim McConnell (630-715-3480) or mcjamesc@aol.com.

FALL MUSIC PROGRAMS ARE STARTING SOON!

If you've ever thought about joining one of our wonderful UMCG music groups, now's the time. All are welcome, no auditions are required. It's a great way to fellowship and make a joyful noise unto the Lord! Questions? Contact Director of Music, Scott Stevenson, at scott@genevaumc.org.

Chancel Choir (Adult vocal choir)	Rehearses Thursdays 7:30 - 9 p.m. beginning September 5
Sanctuary Ringers (Adult handbell choir)	Rehearses Tuesdays 7:30 - 9 p.m. beginning September 17
Cherub/Carol Choir (K-5 vocal choir)	Rehearses Tuesdays 7 - 7:30 p.m. beginning September 17
Strikepoint (5-12 handbell choir)	Rehearses Tuesdays 6:15 - 7 p.m. beginning September 17

Giving to UMCG CHANGES Lives

By Carolyn Sprawka

Talk about making a difference in lives! On Wednesday, August 7, two families staying at Hesed House moved out! One family had been at Hesed House for two months, the other almost exactly one year – a mom with four kids and a mom and dad with three children.

These children will start this school year getting on a bus with other kids from their block. They will excitedly talk about things kids going back to school talk about - will their teacher be nice – what subject they like best or don't - what they'll have for lunch.....what they won't have to talk about is where they live. School bus drivers with Hesed House on their route pick up Hesed kids first on the route and drop them off last on the route so the kids don't need to explain why they live at a homeless shelter. That's why serving dinner, making lunches, volunteering in the middle of the night, BEING THE CHURCH matters – one school bus at a time.

Food preparation and donation along with people power is critical to these shelters operation. It is our faith in action. The 2nd Monday of each month over a dozen folks go to Hesed House homeless shelter in Aurora and staff 3 shifts from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. On that Monday a group gathers to shop for and prepare beef stew for 180 to be served for dinner that night.

UMCG provides dinner, bag lunches, and a person who sleeps overnight at Lazarus House shelter in St. Charles on the first and third Tuesdays of every month. Volunteers are always needed and you can sign up on our website.

Financial support is also crucial. Shelters have heat and electrical bills to pay just like we do. Last year UMCG supported Hesed House with \$2,500 and Lazarus House with \$750 from the budget tithe and from special offerings and other giving.

The Fox Valley Marathon is Sunday, September 22 starting at 7 a.m.

Note that streets and parking around the church will be affected. Please leave extra time and be aware of this concern.

WORSHIP ARTS HELP NEEDED –

We need a new team of two to work on seasonal decoration of the Sanctuary before Advent! Records and directions are available, and most can be done on your schedule.

ACOLYTE ORGANIZER NEEDED

Thanks to Nicole Bernas for getting this re-started. Can you help?

**For both of these, please contact
Worship Chair Dick Keslinke at
630-542-2511, or email
richard.keslinke@att.net**

...from Communications

**Please pick up your
UMCG 2019 Directory**
in the church office
during office hours.

**A volunteer is needed to
scrapbook UMCG**
photos and articles.
Please contact Becky at
Becky@genevaumc.org.

Studies & Spirits is something new starting this fall. We're connecting Christ and culture via *The Faith of a Mockingbird*, a study book to bring us together. We begin on Tuesday, October 1, 2019. Joshua Tibbs and Jason Hartz are hosting in their home. Emerging facilitators include Josh, Cheryl Johnson, Pastor Mary Gay and maybe YOU if you volunteer. We'll start @ 6:30 p.m. and end at 8:00 p.m., with time for ice breaking, studying, praying and generally having fun. You might be a part of UMCG and you might not. If you want lively discussion with some truth-telling thrown in, this could be a place for you. Bring friends and relations. Maybe you've read *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Maybe you're planning to see a new version in play form starring Jeff Daniels on Broadway or when it comes to Chicago. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, we welcome you to "Studies and Spirits." Please bring your own beverage.

YOUTH

Contact Youth Ministry Director, **Denise Clementz** at denise@genevaumc.org, or 309-507-2328, or Jodi Borger, Director of Children's Education at 630-232-7120.

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! On September 8, our Youth Worship for 7th-12th grade students will resume meeting Sundays from 9-10:15 a.m. in the Youth Room. This year we will look at our own Christian faith, and then study aspects of other religions and discuss our similarities and differences. On the First Sunday of each month, youth are encouraged to attend the 9 AM Worship service in the Sanctuary, and asked to volunteer to assist in the service - such as ushering, greeting, reading Scripture, or serving communion.

September 8 will also be the return of our youth activities for grades 5-12, beginning with a Kick-Off Party at Brian and Darlene Kilmer's home (additional information below). This fall we will continue an 'every other week' format for our afternoon activities. Look in your bulletin, newsletters, and youth/parent emails for the upcoming dates and information. If you are interested in volunteering to host, be a second adult, or provide snacks or transportation for any of our activities and events please contact Denise Clementz. We need support from parents and the whole congregation to make a great youth program for our students!

On Saturday nights, our Pen and Paper group will continue meeting in the Church Library from 7-9 PM, dates listed below. This group of lively and creative 5th-12th grade students come together for a session of the role playing game Mutants and Masterminds. Please join them to see more about the community they have created! All are welcome regardless of your experience in role-playing games.

Sunday Youth Worship: 9/8, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29 – Youth Room, 9-10:15 a.m.

10/6 – First Sunday, Sanctuary, 9 a.m. – Youth volunteers needed, sign up on the church website [here](#).

Youth Activity Schedule:

Saturday, 9/7	Pen and Paper, 7-9 p.m., Church Library
Sunday, 9/8	Kick-Off 3-5 p.m. at Brian and Darlene Kilmer's Home, 0N317 Feece Ct, Geneva
Saturday, 9/14	Pen and Paper, 7-9 p.m., Church Library
Sunday, 9/22	Marklund T-Ball Game, 3-5 p.m., sign up online 1S450 Wyatt Drive, Geneva
Friday 9/27 through Monday 9/30	Ministry Architects Consultation Group (see next page)
Saturday, 9/28	Pen and Paper, 7-9 p.m., Church Library
Friday 10/4	Geneva/Batavia High School Football Tailgate Party, time TBA, Pastor Rich and Donna Darr's home, 1308 Center St., Geneva



2019- 2020 Confirmation Class

If you have an incoming 8th grade student and you would like more information or to sign up for classes, email Denise Clementz as soon as possible at denise@genevaumc.org.
Classes to start in late September.

Save the Dates: September 27-30

Planning for our Youth & Children with Ministry Architects

We value the children and youth of our church and are committed to building sustainable youth and children's ministries that are going to have a deep impact! That's why we are developing a game plan together with Ministry Architects, (MA). MA is a highly skilled and experienced consultant company focused on Children's and Youth Ministry. They will visit us Sept. 27-30 to help develop a plan for revamping/reenergizing our programs.

The MA consultants will spend the majority of their time listening to a variety of groups within the congregation, through focused listening groups. We hope to see participation in these listening groups from a broad spectrum of parents, volunteers, staff, and people who just love our young people. We want your insights, your frustrations, and your dreams to be heard. **Please plan on attending one of the listening sessions on Sept 27 or Sept 28.** The schedule will be available soon. Your feedback and participation is critical for a successful outcome.

After spending 2 days in these listening groups, the MA team will develop a detailed report. The Assessment Report will start by reflecting back to the church what the MA team heard people saying about the children and youth ministries. They will compare UMCG to norms across the country. It will point out the assets of the programs – the things to protect and keep. They will also share the challenges – the things that are roadblocks to the ministries moving strategically forward. It will then lay out a blueprint for how to strategically move the children and youth ministries from where they are now to where we want them to grow. These recommendations will include a detailed timeline laying out the process month by month.

On Monday evening, Sept. 30th, MA will present the report to the congregation laying out specific recommendations and a blueprint for how to move forward. If you would like to be part of this process or have questions, please contact one of the people below.

Keith Rawson 847-214-1171 ka_rawson@hotmail.com
Ali Wetmore 319-651-3799 alighart@gmail.com
Maria Isely 630-340-2409 maria.isely@gmail.com

Learn more about Ministry Architects at www.ministryarchitects.com.



Ethan Sims was confirmed on Sunday, August 11. Ethan was on an ASP trip during Confirmation in June.

All Church Event: Marklund T-Ball Game September 22, 3-5 p.m.

It was a lot of fun last spring, so our Youth Group is sponsoring a T-Ball game with the residents of Marklund AND **WE WANT TO INVITE EVERYONE** to join us in the fun. We will assist wheel chair bound adults with hitting off the T, guiding them around the bases, and fielding.

Youth under 14 must have an adult with them to participate. First time UMCG participants must sign a liability waiver, but waivers from all spring participants are still valid. You can [sign up online](#) at the church website or by contacting Keith Rawson at 847-214-1171. Marklund is at 0N317 Feece Ct, Geneva, IL.

REACH IN...



Here's the Scoop!

There will be an **Ice Cream Social** immediately following the 9:00 a.m. worship service in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, September 22, 2019. Join us in Fellowship Hall to hear and share vacation and back-to-school stories and to re-connect with one another.

This event is sponsored by the Creating Community with God (CCG) Committee. An event coordinator is needed. If you can help out, please contact Mary Ann Werman at (630) 763-6275.

OLDIES Summer Sermon Series

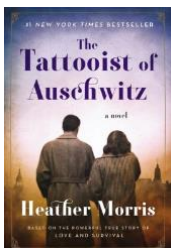
photos by Tom Nicol



2019 NIJFON Champions of Justice Dinner – September 29 from 4-6:30 p.m. at Two Brothers Roundhouse, 205 N. Broadway, Aurora. Tickets at nijfon.org.

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.



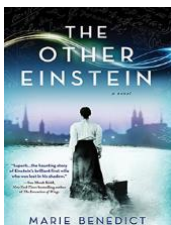
Tuesday, September 3 – The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris

Based on the true story of Lale Sokolov, a Slovakian Jew imprisoned at Auschwitz in 1942 where he is forced to tattoo numbers on his fellow prisoners. There, he witnesses brutality and bravery and meets Gita, the love of his life.

Tuesday, October 1 – The Other Einstein by Marie Benedict

This is the story of overshadowed female scientist Mileva Maric, whose relationship with her famous husband, Albert Einstein, was full of passion, intellect, and betrayal. Avid historical fiction readers will enjoy the authentic portrayal of the scientific world during the early 20th century.

Coming up: November 5 – **The Only Woman in the Room** by Marie Benedict
December 3 – **A Christmas Carol** by Charles Dickens





Ann E. has been practicing yoga for 20 years and loves it! She says it keeps her young, and she enjoys the caring community.

Monday	Wednesday	Thursday
September 9 - December 16 No class 10/21 and 12/9	September 11 - December 18 No class 10/23 and 11/27	September 12 - December 19 No class 10/24 and 11/28
9:15 am - 10:30 am or 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Note new start times	9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
\$130 for 13 classes	\$130 for 13 classes	\$130 for 13 classes
Colleen Fasbender 630 715-9012 colleenfas@icloud.com	Donna Burg 630 309-0614 donnaabb@comcast.net	Colleen Fasbender 630 715-9012 colleenfas@icloud.com

Important Dates and Info:

Rummage Sale is week of Oct. 21. No class. Start de-cluttering now and plan to come and help.

Women's Advent Tea is December 9. No class.

Contact Judy Burgess, Registrar for more info: 630-988-1205 or judyburgess2@aol.com.

Winter session begins January 6, 2020. Save the date of March 14, 2020 for Linda Troutman SomaYoga Therapy Yoga for Upper Back/Shoulders.



Friendly Visitors Meeting

There will be a Friendly Visitors Meeting on Sunday, September 15th, at 10:15 a.m., in the Counters Room in the office. This meeting is for persons currently involved in or interested in joining the Friendly Visitors program.

The Friendly Visitors are individuals who visit church members or church friends who are elderly, ill, or shut-in and who may therefore be unable to attend church or maintain long-standing relationships. We are particularly in need of men, but all are welcome to join our team. If you are unable to attend the meeting, questions may be directed to Rod Yarger, at 630-584-2656, Nancie Lillie, at 630-232-6696, or Rev. Mary Gay McKinney, at the church office at 630-232-7120, ext. 170, or on her cell at 815-508-2655.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

All around you there are people who are hurting, people who need love, people who need your encouragement. They are present right here in your community. Let God use your gifts and talents to bless them. Stephen Ministry training classes are being planned for this fall. Please prayerfully/carefully consider serving. There is a great need for additional Stephen Ministers. If you have served as a Stephen Minister in the past, please consider serving again this year. For more information please contact Rev. Mary Gay McKinney at the church office 232-7120 or her cell 815 508-2055.

Thank You!



Church Clean Up Day



Lazarus House is hosting its **Lazarus House Open Golf Outing** on Friday, September 13, 2019, at Prairie Landing Golf Club in West Chicago. The cost is \$175 per golfer. Sponsorships are available ranging from \$500 to \$1,000. All proceeds will benefit Lazarus House operating funds. Reservations: call Darlene at 630-587-2144 or visit <https://lazarushouse.net/lazarushouseopen/>

The **Shop with Scrip** announces that \$2,000 will be added to the church operating budget to help cover the cost of roofing and lighting expenses. The UMCG Shop with Scrip gift card program has generated much-needed funds for the church operating budget with the sale of gift cards from popular retailers. Shop with Scrip gift cards can be used for everyday or travel expenses, to purchase gifts, dine out, or for charity. Continued support from the church will keep this excellent fundraising program going strong!

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	Carolyn Sprawka
Co-Chairs	Gary Dittmer
Youth Council Co-Chairs	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	Jim Manos
Co-Chairs	Sharon Anderson
Scholarship Committee	Keith Worthington
Staff-Parish Relations	Jules Heinemann
Stewardship Committee	Stuart Henn
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	Rob Anast

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



Please join us for the
**Geneva United
Methodist Church**

Scholarship Fundraiser Wednesday, September 11, 2019

It's Easy and Fun! Present this coupon to your server, delivery driver or at the carryout window and the Geneva United Methodist Church Scholarship Fund will receive 15% of your total check.

Good ALL DAY Wednesday, September 11, 2019

only at the
Geneva Aurelio's 330 W. State St. 630-262-8440
Hours: 11am - 9pm

*Good for Carryout, Delivery or Dine-In!

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

MESSENGER DEADLINE

Submit Articles for the **SEPTEMBER Messenger**
by **Monday, September 16.**
Send information to
communications@genevaumc.org
Subj: Messenger