

the Messenger

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



All Saints' Day

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY November 3

**ONE UNIFIED SERVICE ONLY
at 9:00 a.m. (No 8:00 service)**

Our celebration of the Saints will include special music from a New Orleans ensemble, candle lighting and Holy Communion.



**Our Aurora District
Superintendent, Rev. Jeffrey
Bross, leads our 2019 UMCG
Church Conference on
Wednesday, October 9**

*See page 10 for more information
about our conference.*

BISHOP'S APPEAL OFFERING FOR FARMERS

At the November 16 Special Session of NIC Annual Conference, a Bishop's Appeal offering will be taken to help our local farmers who have had a difficult season due to the rain and cold in the spring, and drought in July. Bishop Dyck encourages churches to take an offering and donate as you are able. If you mark your donation "Farmers" it will go to this appeal. Watch the Bishop's video message at www.vimeo.com/358087591.

Pastor's Page

A Thankful Heart

If you were to walk into the family room at the Center Street parsonage, your eyes would be drawn to the sign perched above the windows next to our TV saying “a thankful heart.” This gift from parishioners is in a prominent place in our home so that we are reminded daily of our blessings.

The scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, are loaded with verses reminding us of the power of praise, of offering thanks to God and others. Even Harvard Medical School acknowledges this truth! Surfing the internet recently, I ran across a blog from Harvard Medical School titled “Giving thanks can make you happier,” reminding me that November kicks off the holiday season with high expectations for a cozy and festive time of year. Of course, as we all know, the holidays can also be a challenging time tinged with sadness, anxiety or depression.

Dipping into the field of theology, this blog informs us that the word “gratitude” is derived from the Latin word *gratia*, which means grace, graciousness or gratefulness. Gratitude is a thankful appreciation for what a person receives, whether tangible or intangible. With gratitude, we zoom in on the goodness in our lives. In the process, we usually recognize that the source of that goodness lies at least partially outside ourselves. As a result, gratitude also helps us connect to something larger than ourselves - whether to other people, nature, or God. Then we are opened up to express gratitude for past blessings, present blessings (not taking good fortune for granted as it comes), and future blessings (maintaining a hopeful and affirming attitude).



Sign at the parsonage.

This November, we at the United Methodist Church of Geneva will have rich opportunities to express our gratitude - as we remember and honor loved ones whom we have lost this past year (and previous years) on All Saints' Sunday, November 3rd. The next two Sundays - Fall Stewardship Campaign - we will be reminded of our many blessings and how we, through generous giving, can bless others. Finally, on November 24th, we'll offer thanks to Jesus Christ, our Savior, as it is both Christ the King Sunday and Thanksgiving Sunday all rolled in to one!

And oh yes, before I finish, I wish to thank our two friends who gave us that thoughtful gift that now rests atop our family room windows reminding us to give thanks. We too often forget.

With a thankful heart.

Pastor Rich

REACH UP...

November 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 youth are invited to Worship or to join Journey of Faith
Youth Worship/Sunday School - 9-10:15 a.m. except First Sundays

Adult Sunday School - 10:30 a.m.

Gratitude & Thanksgiving

November offers a unique opportunity to express gratitude for God's many blessings in our lives. All Saints' Day, our Annual Stewardship Campaign and Christ the King/Thanksgiving Sunday provide multiple opportunities to express our gratitude to God for the many blessings we have received.

- November 3** **All Saints' Day/First Sunday/Communion (Ephesians 1:1-13; Hebrews 12:1-2)**
One unified Worship service at 9:00 a.m. only! (No 8:00 a.m. service.)
John Wesley, the father of the Methodist Movement claimed All Saints' Sunday "A festival I truly Love." Why? Join us today to find out through a unique worship experience as we remember, honor, and express gratitude for those we have lost this past year by lighting candles. We will also celebrate Holy Communion, and our celebration of the Saints will include special music from a New Orleans ensemble and a special processional. **Pastor Esther preaches.**
- November 10** ***From Survival "Mentality" to Generosity/Annual Stewardship Campaign Part I (Genesis 12:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8:1-8)**
Sermon Title: "Blessed to Be Blessed"
In the OT, God blessed Abram, Sarai and their family to be a blessing to the entire world. In the NT, Paul holds up the financially poor Christians of Macedonia as an example of generosity to the wealthy church members of Corinth. Through their sacrificial giving, the Macedonians proved to be a blessing to the poor disciples in Jerusalem. **Pastor Rich preaches.**
- November 17** ***From Survival "Mentality" to Generosity/Annual Stewardship Campaign Part II (2 Corinthians 9)**
Sermon Title: "What God Wants From You and For You."
In 2 Corinthians 9, Paul urges the Corinthian Christians to give generously, Abundantly, indeed extravagantly. This passage spells out four beneficiaries of generous giving: ourselves, the recipients, God and the church at large. **Pastor Rich preaches.**
- November 24** **Christ the King/Thanksgiving Sunday/Receiving Our Pledges (Philippians 4:4-7)**
How can you be grateful even when you're not? Could there be a secret reason to be grateful? Thanksgiving can be the beginning of the journey, power for today, and the way to a purposeful future. Let us gather to celebrate Christ our King and be renewed of our grateful hearts. **Pastor Esther Preaches.**

*Phil Maynard, *Shift: Helping Congregations Back into the Game of Effective Ministry*, EMC Publishing, 2013, chpt. 5.

REACH IN...

The Church Year: All Saints' Day/Sunday

by Jim Byrne



November is the last month in the Christian calendar. It begins with **All Saints' Day** (November 1) and All Souls Day (November 2). In some denominations they are celebrated separately with All Saints Day focusing on the heroes and martyrs of Christianity who have been formally recognized as such and All Souls Day focusing on all of the "faithful departed." In the UMC, the days are celebrated together on the first Sunday of the month as a time to give thanks for all who have gone before us in the Christian faith, those who are called the "great cloud of witnesses: in Hebrews 12 and the "communion of saints" in The Apostles' Creed. Paul called all believers in the emerging church "saints," and in the hymn "Come, Let Us Join Our Friends Above," Charles Wesley called for the celebration of all who have walked before us in faith: "Let saints on earth unite to sing, with those to glory gone, / for all the servants of our King in earth and heaven, are one." What special people who have "to glory gone" will you celebrate this year?

Christians end the year by celebrating **Christ the King Sunday**, the last Sunday after Pentecost, the last day of the liturgical calendar, and the last Sunday before Advent. This year it is November 24. For Christians, the celebration is not about the end of something. It is a special day on which to celebrate Christ as the ultimate authority in our lives, as the Messiah who fulfilled Old Testament prophecy, and as our Savior who will come again. It is a day to celebrate the full authority in our lives of Christ, our sovereign in all things. **Christ the King Sunday** is a day of expectation which helps to prepare Christians for the celebration of Advent and the Christmas season in the spirit of the line from a beloved hymn: "Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let earth receive her King."

NURSERY CAREGIVERS NEEDED

Two or three people are needed, age 18 and older, to be scheduled for occasional Sunday mornings and other times, as needed, caregiving in our nursery. For more information or to apply, please contact Carol Schreiber in the church Nursery on Sunday mornings during the 9:00 a.m. worship service or email her at schreibca@att.net. Pay is \$10 per hour.

WORSHIP ARTS HELP NEEDED – We still need 1 or 2 people to work on seasonal decoration of the Sanctuary. Can you help for a month or so?

Please contact Worship Chair Dick Keslinke at 630-542-2511, or email richard.keslinke@att.net.

Steeple Walk Holiday Music - Sunday, December 8, 2-4:30 p.m.

Geneva's Steeple Walk is a rare opportunity to sample holiday musical performances at several of Geneva's beautiful historic churches. The Steeple Walk consists of four 20-minute performances, each at a different church, and all are within easy walking distance of each other in Downtown Geneva. Tickets are \$15 and go on sale Nov. 4. Tickets may be purchased in person at each of the four participating churches, at the Geneva Chamber of Commerce, City Hall, or at Circa, 123 S. Third St. This event is not intended for children 5 years old and younger.

2019 Locations/Performers: First Church of Christ, Scientist – Canto Zenzero & The Singing Gingers, Geneva Lutheran Church – Heartland Voices, Geneva UMC – Golden Strings, Unitarian Universalist Society – Linda Slabon & Toni Tolerud.



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

SPIRITED WOMEN - meets each Wednesday morning at 9:15 and will offer a 4-week Advent study from November 27 to December 18. The study will be Amy-Jill Levine's book: "Light of the World."

THE MEN'S STUDY GROUP, EARLY BIRD FELLOWSHIP meets each Thursday at 6:30am at Colonial Café on Randall Road. They will offer an Advent study for the month of December and continue their study of "Beatitudes from the Backside" by J. Ellsworth Kalas in January. Join us!

THE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS meets each Sunday at 10:30 in the Parlor and will offer an Advent study led by Pastor Becky Nicol on 11/24, 12/8, 15 & 22. This DVD study will be *Almost Christian* by authors Magrey DeVega, Ingrid McIntyre, April Casperson, and Matt Rawle. Please join us in this "low preparation" discussion class. (Class will meet on 12/1 with another topic.)

Check our weekly e-News and Sunday bulletins for more information and opportunities

Adult Council welcomes your ideas for studies, field trips, and other areas of interest that you would like to see offered. Please contact either Marty Janners (630-701-5665), myjanner@mtu.edu or Jim McConnell (630-715-3480), mcjamesc@aol.com, with any ideas or questions.

IT'S CANTATA TIME!

Rehearsals for our annual choral Christmas cantata will begin Sunday, November 3, from 10:30 a.m. - noon in the Sanctuary. This year's cantata is *Rise Up!*, a cantata of gospel carols of the season. The cantata will be presented during 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. worship on Sunday, December 15, accompanied by a gospel band. All singers high school age and above are invited to participate, and this is a great opportunity to "reach out" to other singers you know and personally invite them to join us! Questions? Contact Director of Music Ministries Scott Stevenson at scott@genevaumc.org



Save the Date...

Women's Advent Service and Tea

Monday, December 9, at 9:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.

REACH OUT...

Salvation Army Mission Moment on November 10

The Mission Moment speaker on November 10th at 9:00 a.m. worship will be Lieutenant Dena Smith, currently serving as one of the Corps Officers of the Salvation Army, Tri-City Corps and Joe K. Anderson Community Center, along with her husband, Lieutenant Scott Smith. Dena and Scott have been serving in St. Charles since June of this year. Prior to coming to St. Charles, they were in seminary for the last two years at the College for Officer Training in Chicago. Dena previously worked for 25 years as a registered nurse in Danville, Illinois. She has been involved in the Salvation Army for 20 years as a soldier.

Scott is also from Danville, Illinois, having previously served in the Air Force and then working for 26 years as a maintenance technician in Champaign, Illinois, before answering the call to ministry. This is Scott and Dena's first appointment since graduating. They share a passion for serving and are excited to see God reveal his plans for their ministry in the Tri-Cities.



SALVATION ARMY FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR NOVEMBER:

Ravioli/spaghettios, ramen noodles, dry pasta, canned fruit, baked goods (cake mix, cookie mix), peanut butter and jelly, and dish soap.

Men's Club Poinsettia Sale

Order now using form in Sunday bulletin, or online soon. **(Orders due Nov. 24 by noon at church.)**

- **Red, White, or Pink Poinsettia in 4 ½" pot, 6 ½" pot, or 7 ½" pot (\$10, \$20, \$28)**
- **24" Wreaths – Noble Fir with Mixed Greens and Pine Cones (\$20)**
- **33" Premium Door Swag (\$22)**

Pick up Saturday, November 30, 9 a.m.-noon, in the UMCG Atrium. **Payment is due on pick up.** Table for orders will be in Fellowship Hall Nov. 10, 17 & 24. Proceeds benefit multiple ministries.

HELP WANTED – Lazarus House NOVEMBER 19 – DECEMBER 3 & 17

UMCG is committed to supporting Lazarus House homeless shelter in St. Charles. We NEED HELP on the overnight shift on 1st & 3rd Tuesday's. The overnight volunteer shift runs – 9:30 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. A staff member is at Lazarus House all night – the volunteer (you) sleeps. Lights out at 11:00 p.m. and the volunteer goes to sleep and is up at about 5:30 a.m. 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 or sign-up on the church website under "sign-ups."

People don't always need advice.

Sometimes all they really need is a



to hold, an



to listen, and a



to understand them.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Quite possibly you are that someone with hand, ear, and heart. Have you considered becoming a Stephen Minister? Training provided, classes will begin soon. Contact Mary Gay McKinney for further information at: church (630) 232-7120 or cell (815) 508-2055.

REACH IN...

ETHNIC POTLUCK

Sunday, November 10, after 9:00 a.m. service



Once again, we would like to celebrate Thanksgiving and Veteran's Day by honoring all the different wonderful ethnicities that the Veterans have protected, both here and abroad. At UMCG we have our own unique blending of cultures from various places in this universe – Africa and South Korea to start with and then add to the mix our Foreign Exchange Students. CCG invites you to bring a dish to share that would represent a place in this beautiful world that is near and dear to your heart. Tables will be set up along the side of Fellowship Hall to plug in crockpots and we will also have warming ovens available. We will provide drinks and table service. Help us to thank the Lord for our blessings and thank the Veterans for their service.



A BIG THANK YOU! to everyone who helped out with our Fall Rummage & Bake Sale!

Women's Thanksgiving Luncheon

Friday, November 22, at 12 Noon

All women of the church are welcome to attend this Thanksgiving event. Invite a friend to come and enjoy fun, food, fellowship and music. Sign-up sheets will be posted November 3 in Fellowship Hall on the Women's Ministries Board. For additional information, contact Georgia Fessler – (630) 232-0364.



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, November 5 – The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict

A powerful novel based on the incredible true story of glamour icon and scientist Hedy Lamarr, whose groundbreaking invention revolutionized modern communication.

Tuesday, December 3 – A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly businessman, learns the true meaning of Christmas after he is visited by the ghosts of Christmases past, present, and future.

Coming up: Jan. 7 – *Raising Lazarus: a true story of God's miracles* by Darlene Marcusson

Feb. 4 – *The Moment of Lift: how empowering women changes the world* by Melinda Gates



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.

Sunday Youth Worship:

11/3 – First Sunday, Sanctuary, 9 a.m. – Students attend and assist with the worship service.

11/10, 11/17 – Youth Room, 9-10:15 a.m. – Continuing our study on Christianity and World Religions.

11/24 – No Youth worship (Thanksgiving weekend)

12/1- First Sunday Worship Volunteers needed, sign-up on the church website.

Youth Activity Schedule:

Sunday, 11/3 **Archery with Certified Instructor, 3 p.m.** at Camp Big Timber, 37W955 Big Timber Road, Elgin, IL, 60123. Sign-up on church website. Watch the weekly youth email and church bulletin for more information to come.

Sunday, 11/17 **College Care Letters, 10:30 a.m.** (Directly after youth worship)
We will meet in the youth room to write and design letters to our college students for the fall semester. Parents and students grades 5-12 are welcome. If you have a college student please contact the church office or Denise with their name, address, college name, and any known food allergies.

Friday, 1/10 - **Camp Arctic Blast**
Sunday, 1/12, 2020 A winter retreat offered by the NIC for students grades 6-12. Students engage in Bible study, worship, and outdoor activities. Cost is \$135/student (with an initial deposit of \$25/student), however financial assistance is available - please speak with Denise. **Registration fills quickly. Contact Denise ASAP to secure a spot for yourself and your friends.**

Pen & Paper:

Meets on November 2, 9, and 16 from 7-9 p.m. at UMCG.

Confirmation Class:

Meets November 3, November 17, and December 1 from 5:30-7 p.m.



MINISTRY ARCHITECTS VISIT A SUCCESS!

We had a very successful evaluation phase last month with *Ministry Architects* consultants. Approximately 60 people met with or emailed them their observations and concerns about our current programs, along with hopes and visions. *MA* compared our programs to norms from hundreds of churches, and identified our strengths: a church-wide commitment to Children's and Youth Ministry, ASP, VBS, and dedicated volunteers. They also identified some challenges we should

address: additional volunteers, some retuning of our programs, new focuses for the Children's and Youth Councils, and programs to reach out to new children and youth. The consultants outlined a month-by-month plan to help us reach these goals. *MA's* complete report will be available soon. The next step is Church Council approval of the *MA* proposal to walk with us in this investment in our Children's and Youth Ministries. **THANK YOU to everyone who took part!**



Notes from 2019 UMCG Church Conference on October 9

by Becky Nicol

Business of the Church Conference

Reports from church committees and staff were distributed. After a hymn and opening prayer, the first item on the agenda was voting on the pastor's compensation for 2020. It will be the same as 2019, because Pastors Rich and Esther both declined the 1% raise that was offered. For leadership and nominations, Pastor Rich submitted the current slate and proposed to keep it, giving Council permission to edit throughout the year.

Sharing Conference Shepherding Team Vision

D.S. Rev. Jeffry Bross spoke about the Lay Academy, and said they are adding some new classes and will also be training church mentors to go out to churches.

Bross asked about what we celebrate that's good, and how we are welcoming to others. He said he and the conference are trying to help us figure out who we are as a church and be better at it. Bross elaborated on 3 major emphases from our Shepherding Team:

- 1) To Grow and Reach New Disciples of Jesus Christ. If we have a good process - a system - we are more likely to grow. Do we have a known and detailed way to move people from guest to member with associated spiritual development?
- 2) To Live Out the Conviction that Racism is Incompatible with Christian Teachings.
- 3) To Increase the Number of Highly Vital Congregations. We need to grow churches.

Bross said there will be a district workshop covering these three areas on January 25.

Message from the Bishop and the D.S.

Our bishop is retiring as of September 1, 2020; so we will have a new bishop. Bross said two new bishops will be voted in at the Jurisdictional conference, and we likely will be assigned one of the new ones. The NIC is going to restructure our districts from 6 to 5 in the next two years, so each district will go from 65 to about 85 churches.

Presently our conference is below the \$5 million budget level – at \$4.6 – this means we can't function as a conference and insurance costs increase. The Northern Illinois Conference will most likely be merged with another conference in the next 4 years. Bross also indicated that they expect there to be some sort of split at General Conference, but do not have all the legislation.

Bross emphasized how important communications is, and has a volunteer checking out the websites of every church he visits. He said UMCG's is one of the better ones he's seen.

Since last year's conference, we have baptized one baby, confirmed 4 youth, and received 3 new members. Twenty-eight people attended the conference, which closed with a hymn and benediction.

Giving to UMCG CHANGES Lives by Pastor Esther

Your giving touches lives!

“People don’t buy what you do; they buy why you do it. And what you do simply proves what you believe.” - Simon Sinek, *Start with Why: How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone to Take Action*

The Church is not a business that sells a product or a service, but the church does offer something much more important, more crucial, and most essential to all people: Jesus. In line with the mission of the United Methodist Church, UMCG is refocusing on remembering and living out this mission. We are in the process of shifting how we are living into this mission in all aspects of ministry by asking questions about our “why” and by inspiring each other to find meaningful ways to grow in faith by Reaching up, Reaching In, and Reaching out together!

In recent months, Sharon Anderson, one of our members, decided to increase her giving to the church by increasing her involvement within the church, but also to the larger church, on a denominational level. Not only is she going to be the chairperson of the UMCG Missions Committee and a member of the Church Council, she volunteered her expertise as a retired teacher in teaching and advocating for Youth by joining the Renovation Team, working with the Youth ministry consultants, Ministry Architects and, she willingly took on the responsibility of being representative to our Annual Conference, and was one of the 3 representatives from our church who participated in the Leadership Institute in Leawood, Kansas.

Sharon says,” As frustrated as I’ve felt about the overall Church and all its follies of late, as tempted as I’ve been to walk away, I keep coming back to my UMC of Geneva. Why, you may ask. Because this is my family. These are the people, as imperfect as they are, who with love and sincerity look me in the eye, give me a hug, and ask me how I’m doing. These are the people who I can have honest conversation with about who Jesus is and how we can become Jesus to each other and our community. These are the people who accept me with all my imperfections and realize that I, like them, are a work in progress.”

Would you consider giving/increasing your giving by your prayers, presence, service, witness, and finances so that others can experience this love?

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 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 Co-Chairs	Jim Manos Sharon Anderson
Scholarship Committee	Keith Worthington
Staff-Parish Relations	Jules Heinemann
Stewardship Committee	Stuart Henn
Treasurer	Jim Karwoski
Trustees	Tony Zefron
Women’s Ministry	
Youth Representative	Trace Powell
Worship Committee	Dick Keslinke
Pastors (w/o vote)	Rich Darr Esther Lee
Member-at-large	Rob Anast

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

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, November 13th, 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!



california
PIZZA KITCHEN



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.

MESSENGER DEADLINE

Submit Articles for the December *Messenger*
by **Friday, November 15.**

Send information to

communications@genevaumc.org

Subj: Messenger