UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GENEVA | APRIL 2019

the Messenger



UMCG Council Statement in Response to GC 2019

"On behalf of the Church Council and the ALL MEANS ALL Committee of the United Methodist Church of Geneva, we acknowledge the acceptance of all people as children of God. We believe that discrimination in any form is unacceptable. We strongly disagree with the Special General Conference's position on the LGBTQ community. We welcome ALL people."

Easter Sunrise Service

6:00 a.m. River Park, Geneva Bring your own chair or blanket.





Easter Breakfast 6:45-8:00 a.m. at the Church

EASTER/HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES



PALM SUNDAY

April 14 8 & 9 a.m. April 18 7:30 p.m.

MAUNDY

THURSDAY

GOOD FRIDAY

April 19 7:30 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY

6 a.m. Sunrise Service at River Park, Geneva

Breakfast 6:45-8 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Worship

Pastor's Page

A Matter of Life & Death

Religion is about our deepest convictions. I remember it well--sitting in a doctoral seminar in anthropology of religion at Northwestern University. Renowned British anthropologist Mary Douglas was leading our rather intimate gathering of ten or so graduate students. Our discussion that day revolved around one question: When reduced to its core, what is the essence of religion? In other words, what is the very heart of religion; what is it essentially? I'll never forget Professor Douglas's perspective. She said, in effect, religion is about our deepest beliefs and values, our core convictions. It is about that which concerns us most. Religion is literally a matter of life and death—of life overcoming death!

Mark's story of Jesus was the earliest of our four Gospels. From the get-go, we're told what Mark's story is all about: "The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah." Matthew fleshes out in more detail what this good news is. The first time Jesus preaches in Matthew's Gospel, he quotes the prophet Isaiah declaring that "the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the shadow of death a light has dawned. From that time on Jesus began to preach. 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Do you see it? Do I see it? Darkness and light are juxtaposed with death and life! A few chapters later, when John the Baptist's disciples ask Jesus whether he is the Messiah, or should they look for another, Jesus replies, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the poor have good news preached to them and the dead are raised to life!"

In the person of Jesus, the kingdom of God is breaking into the world. And wherever God's kingdom breaks into the world, the forces of death are overcome by the forces of life: evil is overcome by good; sickness in its myriad forms is overcome by healing; hunger and poverty are replaced with food and prosperity; the burden of ignorance is overcome by knowledge and truth that sets us free; broken relationships are mended; and the darkness is overcome by the light of Christ. Above all, in Jesus, God has responded to the deepest and final need of humankind—the threat of death itself.

On the day we call Good Friday, it seemed as though the forces of evil, darkness, and death had won the day. Oh, no. Three days later Sunday arrived. And early that morning God raised Jesus from death to life. Oh, yes! Easter is all about resurrection and celebrating God's victory of life over death. And so our faith in Jesus Christ <u>is</u> a matter of life and death...of life overcoming death. Hallelujah, UMC-Geneva! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

Celebrating Life with you all,

Pastor Rích





April 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. (April 7 & 21 Youth in 9 a.m. Sanctuary Worship) Adult Sunday School - 10:30 a.m.

*This month we continue with Giving It Up: A Sermon Series for Lent.** Each week addresses something that God wants us to give up, not just for forty days, but throughout our lives.

- April 75th Sunday in Lent/First Sunday/Holy CommunionEzekiel 37:1-14; John 11:1-45God creates life from death, nothingness, and hopelessness. The Bible is full of such paradoxes,
as Jesus tells us that those who try to keep their lives will die, but those who give up their lives for
others will live. Jesus calls us to throw away our old categories and embrace God's larger vision
of eternal life that begins here and now.Pastor Esther preaches, "Giving Up Our Lives."
- April 14
 Palm/Passion Sunday/Procession of Palms
 Matthew 21:1-11

 What a welcome Jesus got as he entered Jerusalem. The crowds loved Jesus on Palm Sunday, but just a few days later a different crowd was calling for his death and the release of a murderer. God calls us to put our faith in God's unending love and grace something that will never go away, and will sustain us through the times when others have abandoned us.
 Pastor Rich preaches, "Giving Up Popularity."
- April 18Maundy Thursday 7:30 p.m.
Please join us for a meaningful Tenebrae worship service of scriptures, prayer, music and
extinguishing of candles preparing us for the darkness of Good Friday. The increasing darkness
symbolizes the approaching darkness of Jesus' death and hopelessness in the world without
God.
- April 19Good Friday 7:30 p.m.
Pastor Esther will lead a traditional worship service on this night when we remember the story
of Jesus' betrayal, suffering, abandonment, and death. Jesus' intentional, self-sacrificing love
confronts and overcomes the depth of human cruelty, offering reconciliation with God.

April 21 Easter Sunday/Family Sunday 6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service at River Park, Geneva. 6:45-8 a.m. Easter Breakfast – Fellowship Hall NO 7:30 a.m. Worship Service

9:00 & 10:30 Easter Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary Come; celebrate the Good News of the Risen Christ! When Jesus rose, he turned the entire order of the universe on its head. The Resurrection shows us that Death does not have the last word. God has the last word, and that word is Life. Suffering and Death end, but God's Kingdom lasts forever. Pastor Rich preaches, "Giving Up Death," from <u>Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18</u>.

 April 28
 2nd Sunday of Easter
 John 20:19-31

 How often do we find ourselves, like the disciples, locked up in rooms of doubt and fear, unable to see Jesus the midst of difficult circumstances? In John's version of the birth of the early church, we encounter the risen Christ who sets us free for an abundant life of peace, joy and service.

 Pastor Becky preaches.

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

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

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

REACH UP ...

Join in Reading the Gospels during Lent

The following reading plan is offered as a guide to enriching your Lenten experience. Before you begin reading each day:

- **prepare** by clearing your mind of the distraction in your life so you can focus.
- **Read** silently or aloud with both mind and heart open to the message.
- **Reflect** on how the reading relates to other passages in the Bible, and on how it relates to your life.
- Share what you have read and your reactions with others.
- Most importantly, **pray** to God in thanksgiving and supplication, and **listen** in silence for God's voice.

Date	Scripture Reading		
April 1	Luke 13-14		
April 2	Luke 15-16		
April 3	Luke 17-18		
April 4	Luke 19-20		
April 5	Luke 21-22		
April 6	Luke 23-24		
April 7	Join other Christians at		
	church today for worship,		
	study, and fellowship.		
April 8	John 1-2		
April 9	John 3-4		
April 10	John 5-6		
April 11	John 7-8		
April 12	John 9-10		
April 13	John 11-12		
April 14	Palm Sunday. Join other		
	Christians at church today		
	for worship, study, and		
	fellowship.		

THE READING PLAN

April 15	John 13-14	
April 16	John 15-16	
April 17	John 17-18	
April 18	John 19-20	
April 19	Good Friday. John 21	
April 20	Join with other Christians	
	in the vigil for Easter	
	morning.	
April 21	Easter Sunday. Join other	
	Christians at church today	
	to celebrate the	
	Resurrection of Jesus Christ	

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

Thanks to Jim Byrne for editing this list.

ACOLYTE GROUP STARTING UP

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





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.

APRIL Wellness Programs for Body & Soul **Plant your Practice**

- * Wing and a Prayer YOGA: Mondays 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. (April 1 May 20)
- CPR for the Soul ~ Restorative Yoga and other practices to promote rest and rejuvenation: 1st Saturdays 4:00-5:30 p.m. (April 13, May 4, June 1)
- * Wisdom of the Body Groups ~ Monthly InterPlay
 - o 1st Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
 - Saturdays, 1:00-3:30 p.m. (April 13, May 4, June 15)
- NEW! Moving in the Spirit (InterPlay, Dance and Yoga)

Saturday, April 13 – 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Facilitator Jane Siarny. Contact at 630/715-8590 or interplaychicago@sbcglobal.net.

UMCG YOGA COMMUNITY 2019	Monday	Wednesday	Thursday
	April 1 - May 20 No class 4/22	April 3 - May 29 No class 4/24	April 4 - May 30 No class 4/25
	9:30 a.m 10:45 a.m. or 6:30 p.m7:45 p.m.	9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
A MAN A WAY A MANY O	\$60/\$70 for 7 classes*	\$70/\$80 for 8 classes*	\$70/\$80 for 8 classes*
	Colleen <u>Fasbender</u> 630 715-9012 <u>colleenfas@icloud.com</u>	Donna Burg 630 309-0614 <u>donnabbb@comcast.net</u>	Colleen <u>Fasbender</u> 630 715-9012 colleenfas@icloud.com

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, April 2 - The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See

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

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

CLARA METIPANY VUSAN 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.

Coming up:

June 4 – *Birds of a Feather* (a Maisie Hobbs mystery) by Jacqueline Winspear July 2 – *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf



Thank you to all who donated newspaper for the youth service project for **Anderson Animal Shelter!** We had so much that we were unable to pre-cut all of it during our 2 hour event, but Anderson's appreciated all that was donated - both cut and uncut. We were also able to make 37 D.I.Y. dog toys to donate.

Youth Worship

April 7 – First Sunday/Youth are invited to participate in 9 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

April 14 – Youth Worship in Youth Room – College Care Packages: We will be collecting small, pre-packaged food items and other goodies to be put in their boxes. We sent 24 boxes last semester, so we could use plenty of donated items! Please drop off your donations in the marked box by the Welcome Desk in the Atrium from 3/31 until 4/12.

April 21 – Easter Sunday – Worship in Sanctuary

April 28 – Youth Worship in Youth Room – Parents invited to Youth Worship to learn more about our church's partnership with Hesed House.

Youth Activities

- April 7 iPanic Escape Room 1519 E. Main St., St. Charles, 12:30-2:00 p.m.
- April 14 Rummage Sale week: Youth and parents needed to volunteer for a shift. Sign up at Women's Ministry bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.
- April 28 Hesed House Volunteering 10:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m.
- May 5 Marklund T-Ball All Church Event 3-5 p.m. Mark your calendars, and watch for more information coming soon.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

All on Sunday, May 19:

Make-up class 10:30-11:30 a.m. - Church Library Rehearsal 11:30-12:15 p.m. - Sanctuary Luncheon 12:30-1:30 p.m. - Fellowship Hall Final Class 6-7:30 p.m. - Church Library

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

Pen and Paper

Meets 7-9 p.m. Saturdays

April 6, 13 & 27 Come have some fun!

Save the date.... May 19, 9-10:30 a.m. Youth Worship – End of

School Year Party

Easter Egg

Scavenger Hunt & Craft

for kids kindergarten – 6th grade

Sunday, April 14 3-4:30 p.m.

nvite your friends and bring the kids! This event is open to the community. The kids will hunt for eggs on all three floors of the church, and then fill them with their own craft projects to make a set of Resurrection eggs that tell the Easter story.

Meantime – please start saving clean, empty egg cartons for the hunt. Adults and youth volunters are needed to help day of the event. Questions? Contact Jodi Borger at 630-232-7120 or jodi@genevaumc.org.

EASTER SUNDAY FLOWERS

The Worship Arts Committee invites your participation in expressing the joy of Resurrection with flowers in our Sanctuary on April 21. Please fill out the form in your bulletin and return it by April 15 with your check for \$10 for each plant ordered. Place your form in the offering plate, or bring it to the church office. The spring flowers purchased will be available for you to pick up following the 10:30 a.m. service on Easter Sunday or during the following week.



TTS THANKS ALL OF ITS WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS

TTS has been serving dinner every month for almost nine years. It is only because of each and every one of you that we have been able to open our dining room doors to so many.

As you probably know, pulling together the number of volunteers that are needed to provide our guests with a wonderful dining experience has become harder and harder for several months. An article that was published a while back reported that programs such as TTS have a life expectancy of ten years. Programs have found that they either need to re-invent their programs or the programs have run their natural course and end. That is what we are finding with TTS.

For now, March's dinner was our last Third Tuesday Supper. Please know that this decision has not been made lightly and without great sadness. It is our hope that all of our wonderful volunteers might find another area to be involved in at UMCG. In the spring and fall Women's Ministries have their Rummage and Bake Sale, and in May the Men's Club has its Pancake Breakfast and in June the Men's Club Swedish Days booth. These wonderful programs need many, many more hands to make light the work. When requests are made for help, please consider being a part of these wonderful outreach, fundraising programs. Our TTS Family has so much to offer with their time, talents, and love.

With heartfelt thanks, Carolyn Sprawka & Gary Dittmer, Church in Society Co-Chairs



Observing Holy Week and Easter by Jim Byrne

Holy Week begins with Palm or Passion Sunday, when we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem as he is praised by crowds who place palm branches on the road in front of him. Many people like to bring their palm frond home and display it.

Maundy or Holy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper, the first Eucharist, often symbolized by a foot washing service. It is also a day when we remember Peter's betrayal and denial of his association with Jesus. Maundy recalls the new commandment (*mandatum novum* in Latin) in John 13:34.

Good Friday is regarded by many as the darkest day in the church calendar, the day when Christ was tried and convicted, beaten, crucified, and buried. So why is it called "good"? It may have been called *God's Friday* at one time, and it shows that God was working to draw the world to God's self in Christ. We also call it *good* as we look through the lens of Easter.

Holy Saturday services or vigil may be offered, and are generally simple and solemn.

Easter Day, the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, is the first day of a new season in the church calendar. The Easter Season lasts 50 days and ends on Pentecost (50th). It represents the time during which Jesus returns to his followers and begins a new phase of his ministry as the Christian church is established. In what ways can you plan to celebrate these specials days and seasons?

EARTH DAY - APRIL 22

A national day to focus on the environment was started in 1970 by U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, Gaylord Nelson. Learn more about the history of Earth day @ www.earthday.org. One local Earth Day Celebration is at Peck Farm, Geneva, Saturday, April 13, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Check your local community websites for more Earth Day ideas and events.

DID YOU KNOW?

Our congregation is blessed to have a group of **Stephen Ministers**, who have undergone extensive training so that they might help nurture and care for others. People who might receive care include those who are hospitalized, have lost a loved one, are separated/divorcing, shut-in, or experiencing other problems and difficulties in their lives. If you have questions or know of someone who could use this caring ministry, please call Rev. Mary Gay McKinney at the church office 630-232-7120, or cell 815-508-2055.

Meat Up for ASP

Grilling season is fast approaching. So, ASP is teaming up with a local butcher shop, Country Village Meats, to offer you the finest in fresh cut steaks & chops, smoked bacons, beef jerky, snack sticks, and more.

- **Sunday April 28** you will get the opportunity to sample several of Country Village Meats specialty meats and order your favorites.
- Sunday, May 4 Pickup your meat order.
- 15% of your purchases will go to fund ASP.

To get a preview of the meats available, visit <u>www.countryvillagemeats.com.</u>





Opportunities to Reach Out

Salvation Army Food Pantry needs for April: boxed pasta (not spaghetti), ramen noodles, boxed mashed potatoes, boxed dinners like hamburger helper (not macaroni and cheese),

canned potatoes, canned carrots, canned spinach, canned mixed vegetables, canned pineapple, laundry detergent, ketchup, and mustard.

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

REACH OUT

Missions and Church in Society Update

Meeting church budget by the end of 2018 has given the Missions and Church in Society committees the exciting privilege of being able to contribute financially to the work of our local, national, and global mission partners on behalf of our congregation. Our joint committees are dedicated to prayerfully researching and maintaining communication with these various ministries to make the best decisions for how our tithe is distributed. UMCG has a reputation of being a generous, caring congregation making an impact in the Fox Valley community and around the world through our monetary gifts and service. This past year we continued that tradition once again, maintaining our status as a Rainbow Covenant church fully meeting our apportionments in the greater United Methodist Church.

Of the 5% tithe from the overall church budget, the Mission committee is responsible for disbursement of 66% and Church in Society 34%.

From the 2018 operating budget tithe, Missions received and gave \$24,000.

- \$5,000 to ASP
- \$5,000 to Rebuilding Haiti Now
- \$4,400 to Kids Alive
- \$3,400 to The Neighbor Project (formerly Emmanuel House) in Aurora
- \$3,200 to Grace Children's Hospital in Haiti (35-year-long relationship)
- \$3,000 to Burkino Faso

Church in Society distributed over \$10,000:

- \$2,000 Habitat-Potawatomie
- \$1,500 to Hesed House
- \$1,600 to The Neighbor Project
- \$1,000 to Justice for our Neighbors (JFON)
- \$750 to Lazarus House
- \$500 to Kane County CASA/CROP Walk/TriCity Family Services
- \$250 to each of the following: DuPage Senior Council/Fox Valley Hands of Hope/Mutual Ground/Northern Illinois Food Bank/Elderday/Riverworks/Visiting Nurses Association/ S.A. Food Pantry/Suicide Prevention Services/Bread for the World/Society of St. Andrew

In reading through this list, you will no doubt recognize many of these organizations not just as ministries to which we contribute monetarily, but also and perhaps more importantly, for the countless hours of volunteer work members of our congregation contribute. Please consider how you can share your gifts of financial giving and service.

Feel free to contact us or members of our committees for more information about these ministries or opportunities to serve.

Report humbly submitted by Co-chairs of Missions: Sharon Anderson and Jim Manos Co-chairs of Church in Society: Carolyn Sprawka and Gary Dittmer

Our Grief Journey – meets 5 weeks, starting April 11

This 5-week session is an opportunity for *anyone* who has experienced the death of a loved one. In the 5 weeks that we will meet, we will talk about "tools" to help you in the normal grieving process. We will meet on Thursday afternoons from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m., starting April 11, and continue meeting each Thursday until May 9. Meetings will be held at the Hands of Hope office, 200 Whitfield Drive, Geneva, IL. Registration is required. Please call Linda T. at 630-406-6907.

DEFINING RUMMAGE

Rummage: Something Great Aunt Gertrude gave you, but it never quite fit righ 🖤

A piece of furniture that outlived your style direction (but sorry, no TV armoires)

An appliance that still works, but you don't use or need.

A wedding present that, after 25 years of marriage, is still in the box.

A pair of favorite shoes that never matched any dresses.

Gently used clothing that still has a lot of life.

Stuff you don't want anymore, even though there is nothing wrong with it.

You get the idea...

NOT rummage: Any items that are broken, in need of repair or mending, badly stained or dirty; books that are not best sellers or children's books (like encyclopedias, textbooks and magazines). If it cannot be cleaned or dusted, please do not donate it. We also cannot accept car seats or cribs due to new liability laws.

Defining rummage is easy. The hard part is collecting it, sorting it, pricing it, selling it and boxing it up at the end (all of this happens in 5 short days!!). Our sales have earned a wonderful reputation within the Fox Valley for providing quality clothing and household goods at very reasonable prices. Much of what we sell finds a new home with people who truly need these items, but who could not begin to afford them brand new. It is very gratifying work. Come and join us for an hour, a day or the week, for fun and fellowship.

- Set up: April 22 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall Lots of help needed to set up table and racks. With enough people, we are usually done in an hour and a half! New lighter weight tables! Yay!!!
- **Donation drop offs**: Tuesday, April 23 & Wednesday, April 24 from 9:00 a.m. 8:00 p.m. Please bring your donations up to Fellowship Hall unless it is an item that stays downstairs.



- **Bake sale donations**: Please drop off in the Library by 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 25. Please contact Anne Oberholtz at 630-232-9318 for bake sale.
- Sale Dates: Thursday, April 25 (6:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.); Friday, April 26 (9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.) and Saturday, April 27 (9:00 a.m. noon). All are welcome to participate. Men and youth are particularly needed on Saturday, when we break down tables and racks and load the elevator with our leftovers.

If you are in need of having a larger item picked up, please call Lorne Tweed at 908-723-2617. We are happy to get that on our schedule!

You can see God's amazing grace in every sale. And to experience this amazing week, all you need to do is volunteer to help. It takes over 100 volunteers to pull off a rummage sale of our magnitude and even an hour of your time can make a difference. It's fun, a great way to connect to our ministry, a bit dusty at times and very rewarding. Be looking for the sign-up sheets on the Women's Ministry bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you, in advance, for all of the donations and support we get during rummage week. Your generosity of "stuff," time and spirit is truly a blessing to so many. Let's make this our best sale yet!

Questions? Call Bobbi Alderfer at 630-272-9445 (evenings), Nancy Tweed at 630-262-0857, or Wendy McKeehan at 630-310-9861.



CHURCH COUNCIL

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211 Hamilton Street Geneva, IL 60134