

# *the* Messenger

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



## Swedish Days Food Booth 2019



## THIRD SATURDAY WORSHIP



Come &  
Worship...

5:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 20



## *Pastor's Page*

### ***Back to the Future!***

This was the theme for this year's Northern Illinois Annual Conference gathering in Schaumburg, IL. Our Bishop, Sally Dyck, reminded all clergy and lay members of the Annual Conference from every church in our conference that we need to look back to the past, celebrate the good and learn from it, and to let it inform our future which is always hope-filled.

As we took time to look back on the history of the United Methodist Church, we learned that during the hardest times in our nation, the United Methodist Church gathered together, heard God's call or affirmed others who heard God's call in their lives, then blessed and supported their ministry in the world. We celebrated:

- 200 years of missionaries being sent to different parts of the world through the General Board of Global Mission,
- 180 years of ministry as the Northern Illinois Annual Conference,
- 150 years of ministries through the United Methodist Women, and
- 50 years of ministry by the Black Methodists for Church Renewal.

When there was huge risk to go overseas, missionaries **RISKED** and **WENT**; when women were discouraged and oppressed, they were **AFFIRMED** and **EMPOWERED**; when the black community was segregated and oppressed, the United Methodist Church **AFFIRMED** their call, **ORDAINED** them, **EMBRACED** them as pastors **SUPPORTING** their ministry.

We affirmed that the United Methodist Church is not perfect; yes, it has a lot of work to do still, even in the ministry areas we have already been engaged in, but we continue to work on them. This gave many people hope!

As the United Methodist Church continues to find a way forward from the harm done at General Conference 2019, as we look back to the barriers overcome in the past and the celebration of inclusive ministry, can we also see God at work at this time too? Could it be that the difficulties of the past also seemed impossible and the worst of times?

In the Book of Esther, at a very difficult time in the history of the Jewish people, Queen Esther's uncle affirmed her call to be used by God to save the Jews. "For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this." Esther then asked her uncle to gather everyone to pray and to fast while she did the unthinkable in standing up to the King! Could it be that in "such a time as this," the Northern Illinois Conference is called...and the UMCG is called...?

In such a time as this, UMCG will continue to stand firm in loving God and loving our neighbor through the many ministries of this church. With the help of our Vision 2020 team and Church Council, we will be engaged in welcoming those in our community into a relationship with us and with God. Perhaps YOU are here today for just such a time as this... How will you be involved? Let's watch and see what God will do with and through us! Let's be in ministry together!

*Pastor Esther*

# REACH UP...

## July 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 continue our summer worship series: SONGS OF COMMUNITY. Last month we began our series by acknowledging that the origin and basis of all forms of community is God, the Trinity, a loving and holy community of three persons in one. From this Trinitarian nature of God flows various forms of community: the church, neighborhood and nation, and creation. This month we will sing songs about the church, the world of nations and creation itself as forms of community. We will wrap up worship in July with an all-church hymn sing.

### July 7 Celebrating the Church Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13; 5:19

In his letter to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul reminds us that the church is a community of faith, the body of Christ. As members of the body of Christ, we learn to lead a life worthy of the Lord, grow in love and unity and are equipped for ministry. Singing "psalms and hymns and spiritual songs" (5:19) is integral to the life of our church community. **Pastor Becky preaches.**

### July 14 Celebrating the World of Nations Genesis 12:1-4; Psalm 67; John 3:16

The verses in Genesis 12 and John 3 remind us that God's intent is to love and bless all the nations of the world. Psalm 67 is a song of response to God's loving intent and encourages "the nations to be glad and sing for joy; let all the peoples praise you." **Pastor Esther preaches.**

### July 20 Third Saturday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.

Join us for this casual worship service, followed by hot dogs and fellowship. Food provided by CCG.

### July 21 Celebrating Creation Psalm 148

Reminiscent of the creation stories in Genesis 1 and 2, Psalm 148 tells us that all of creation is to sing praise to God, from the heavens above to the earth below, in all spheres of creation both animate and inanimate! All people on earth are to join this chorus of praise to God. **Pastor Rich preaches.**

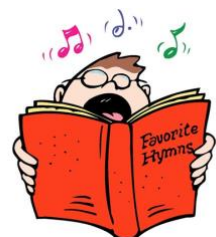
### July 28 Hymn Sing!

Psalm 105:2 tells us to "sing to God, sing praises to God, tell of all God's wonderful works" and Ephesians 5:19 encourages us to "sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, making melody to the Lord!" So come join us as we sing our favorite hymns and songs. There's a good reason why we have been called "singing Methodists!" This service will be led by the pastors and music staff.

**Favorite  
Hymn  
Requests**

Use the orange pew cards or submit your hymn requests online at [www.genevaumc.org](http://www.genevaumc.org).

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





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

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

### REACH UP...

#### ADULT COUNCIL OPPORTUNITIES

Your Adult Council continues to offer a variety of options for study and discussion. The men's study group, **Early Bird Fellowship** meets Thursdays at 6:30 a.m. at Colonial Café on Randall Road, and is studying "Being United Methodist-What It Means, Why It Matters," by J. Ellsworth Kalas.

**Adult Sunday School**, which meets Sundays at 10:30 a.m., is studying "The Ten Commandments - Laws of the Heart" by Joan Chittister a DVD based study.

**What it Means to be Methodist** - In light of the General Conference 2019 aftermath, the pastors will lead a class that will help you understand our UMC structure and processes. Please watch your weekly eNews and Sunday bulletin for the dates and times for this class.

#### UMC Favorite Hymns . . . by Jim Byrne

During the summer months, we sing favorite hymns requested by members of our congregation. Have you ever wondered how your favorites match with those of others in the UMC? [Check out the chart below.](#) Surveys suggest that hymns wax and wane in popularity over time, but some hymns rank in the Top 10 repeatedly. Did your favorite make the list? Be sure to request YOUR favorite this summer as a Hymn Request, using the orange card or submitting it [online here.](#)

What are your favorite memories associated with hymns? Why are some hymns so memorable for you? The religious statement made by them? An association with a time in your life or with people important to you? Have you shared those experiences and hymns with family and friends? We each have stories of faith to share. Find someone with whom you can share witness to the musical dimensions of your faith, someone with whom you could even sing aloud in praise and prayer.

Rank	1985 Survey	2000 Survey	2006 Survey
1	How Great Thou Art (1885)	Amazing Grace (1773)	Amazing Grace (1773)
2	Amazing Grace (1773)	Here I Am, Lord (1981)	Here I Am, Lord (1981)
3	O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing (1739)	How Great Thou Art (1885)	How Great Thou Art (1885)
4	The Old Rugged Cross (1912)	Hymn of Promise (1985)	O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing (1739)
5	Blessed Assurance (1873)	Blessed Assurance (1873)	Hymn of Promise (1985)
6	Holy, Holy, Holy (1861)	Spirit Song (1979)	In the Garden (1912)
7	What a Friend We Have in Jesus (1855)	In the Garden (1912)	Great Is Thy Faithfulness (1923)
8	All Hail the Power (1779)	O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing (1739)	Holy, Holy, Holy (1861)
9	In the Garden (1912)	The Old Rugged Cross (1912)	Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (1907)
10	Church's One Foundation (1866)	Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (1907)	Spirit Song (1979)

*Dates are for the original lyrics.*

# Giving to UMCG CHANGES Lives

*By Pastor Esther*

Have you ever wondered what difference your contributions to UMCG make? Beginning with this month's *Messenger*, we will be sharing about the difference your giving makes within this church, our community, and the world as UMCG is in the business of changing lives!

On June 9 we celebrated Pentecost, the day we remember God empowering the first disciples by sending the Holy Spirit as promised by our Lord Jesus Christ. As Jane Siarny and Austin Heckman-Trathen flew the dove (the symbol of the Holy Spirit) in our worship services, we also celebrated the commitment of our three graduating 8<sup>th</sup> graders in confirming their faith in Jesus. In the near future, we will confirm Ethan, who was already engaged in ministry through UMCG's Appalachia Service Project (ASP), and on the ASP trip!

As a testimony of their Confirmation class journey and their learnings from UMCG Sunday School, the students shared their favorite scripture passages and how these would inform their future journey as Christians:

- “No matter what may happen, no matter how bad things seem, God’s love is unconditional and everlasting. For me, {my favorite scripture} is a great reminder for me to stay positive and never give up,” **Rachel** on *Lamentations 3:22-23*.
- “I remember the Lord gives me the power to stand on my own and not be negatively impacted by others. The Lord is my guiding force and I must not be the follower of wrongdoers,” **Brooke** on *Psalms 1*.
- “God has unfailing love for all of us...I refer to this in times of distress, confusion, and desperation. It reminds me that God loves all of us and wants us to love each other too. He wants us to live a life of forgiveness, acceptance, and love...I try to live by this and by the life Jesus lived in the Bible,” **Juliana** on *1 Corinthians 13:4-8*.

(Ethan Sim's message will be shared at his upcoming confirmation.)

Through your financial gifts, and in response to God's love for you and UMCG, these students engaged in a deep, intense journey through Confirmation class, learning United Methodist history, doctrine, theology, and polity, as well as Spiritual Disciplines like prayer and Bible study. Both of your pastors have been committed to leading Confirmation classes each year. Other staff members were also involved in the organization and the communication for Confirmation class. Even before this, the faith foundation had been set by the multiple volunteers and other church members who invested in the spiritual education of our children and youth over the years.

Through your contributions just this month, three empowered youth made commitments to live like Jesus. These three youth came before the congregation empowered to make a difference in the world. Meanwhile, a fourth confirmand joined 100+ volunteers to serve Christ through UMCG's ASP (story to be told soon).

Thank you for giving generously to UMCG so that others may know God's love through us! Your giving DOES change lives every day!

# YOUTH

Contact Youth Ministry Director,  
**Denise Clementz** at [denise@genevaumc.org](mailto:denise@genevaumc.org),  
or 309-507-2328.



## Confirmation

June 9, 2019



## ASP

*(Left) Commissioning & blessing of  
ASP Missionaries in worship on June 2.*

*(Below) An ASP family visited us in  
worship June 23 & enjoyed Chicago!*



*June 2019 (first) ASP Mission group. WOW! (Below)*





## **NEW OPPORTUNITY to help build our Children's and Youth Ministry Programs**

At the June meeting the Church Council unanimously approved our Children's and Youth Ministry as a critical component of the 2020 Vision Program. In conjunction Council, Staff Parish, Children's and Youth Councils, and our Pastors are excited to announce a new strategic direction to enhance both programs. With financial assistance from the Endowment Committee, UMCG will be partnering in a multi-month consulting agreement with Ministry Architects, a company with a long history of revamping and reenergizing Children's and Youth Ministry.

### **Why Consultants for our Children's and Youth Ministries**

- Not any reflection on current programs
- A component of the overall 2020 plans for building our church. Children's and Youth ministries are critical to the long-term health of churches
- To develop multi-year vision and mission statements/plans
- Comprehensive evaluation & recommendations
- Utilize outside exposure/experience/ techniques from people that have built programs worldwide
- Help invigorate and move our programs forward
- Advice on how to capitalize on our annual successes with VBS and ASP

### **Why Ministry Architects**

- ❖ Large Company
  - 80+ Consultants, multiple experiences
  - Hundreds of churches
  - 25 denominations, 7 countries
  - Multiple people onsite
  - Founder has published multiple books
- ❖ A Systems Approach
  - MA has Identified 17 essential systems for sustainable ministries, i.e.,
    - Volunteer – a means of selecting, recruiting, equipping volunteers
    - Innovation – direction of the future, out-of-the-box thinking
    - Discipleship – identifies methods for deepening and strengthening faith of those involved
    - Growth- intentional process for focused communication designed to connect with people not currently involved/active
  - Program dependent on systems/plans, not on individuals
  - Periodic checkpoints for tracking the progress and adjusting as needed
  - Contract can be tailored and cancellable without any penalty
- ❖ Next Steps
  - Feasibility Study
    - 4 day onsite assessment, interviewing multiple UMCG groups to identify direction, needs, issues, congregational commitment, and challenges.
    - Multiple meetings (10+) with church staff, youth/children volunteers, Sunday school teachers, parents of toddlers to high school, additional church leaders
    - Final result – consultants will produce a report which will provide an overview picture of where we are now, where we would like to go, and a detailed plan and timeline for building sustainable, successful programs
  - CRITICAL: A Project team of 5-7 volunteers to help develop and implement the plans
  - Additional Financial and Service/Time commitment from council and congregation.
- ❖ Please contact Keith Rawson if you are interested in joining this exciting opportunity or would like additional details.

Keith Rawson (Youth Council)  
Jen Karwoski (Children's Ministry)  
Jules Heinemann (Staff Parish)

## REACH IN...

### ADULT LIBRARY NEWS from Joan Hansen

#### Recent donations include:

*Jesus' Last Night with His Disciples* – Hannaniah O. Pinto & James W. Fleming (232) Donated by Tom Tamlyn.  
Assorted reference Bibles and several study selections + *Healing the Enemy; Hypnotic Nights in Baghdad* – Larry Garrett (956.7) donated by Tom Kroc. More donations from Tom Kroc will be processed over the summer.

#### Books donated by Women's Ministries:

*Almost Everything; Notes on Hope* – Anne Lamott (175)

*Holy Envy: finding God in the faith of others* – Barbara Brown Taylor – (261.2). In honor of Corinne Steinbis 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, May 18.

*Simon Peter; Flawed but Faithful Disciple* – Adam Hamilton (225). In honor of Mary Hutson's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, June 10.

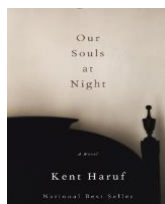
*Mostly Sunny: How I Learned to Keep Smiling Through the Rainiest Days* – Janice Dean (B/Dean) – In honor of Joann Croissant's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday June 17.

We received a very generous donation from Vi Flygare in Memory of Mary Pankow, longtime member who passed away March 2019. **The following new books were purchased and added to our Adult Library:**

- *Paul: A Biography*, N. T. Wright (225.9)
- *It's Not Supposed to Be This Way: Finding Unexpected Strength When Disappointments Leave You Shattered* – Lysa Terkeurst (248.8)
- *Educated: A Memoir* – Tara Westover (921)
- *The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World* – Melinda Gates (305)
- *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water and Loving the Bible Again* – Rachel Held Evans (248)
- *The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For, and Believe* – Richard Rohr (232)
- *Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship* – Gregory Boyle. (277)
- *Reckless Love: Jesus' Call to Love Our Neighbor* – Tom Berlin (242)
- *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks* – Diana Butler Bass (241.4)
- *The Time is Now: A Call to Uncommon Courage* – Joan Chittister (248.4)
- *Where Hope Begins* – Catherine West (FIC/WES)
- *A Glad Obedience: Why and What We Sing* – Walter Brueggemann (223)
- *A Vintage Christmas: A Collection of Classic Stories and Poems* – Louisa May Alcott & more (808.83)

## Book Club News

Book Club meets in a public room at Carriage Oaks senior residence on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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, July 2 – *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf**



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

Inspired by the life of Margaret Fishback, famed Macy's ad-writer of the 1930s, this novel is the story of Lillian Boxfish, an eighty-five-year-old woman who reflects on the triumphs and disappointments of her life as she strolls the streets of New York City on New Year's Eve.

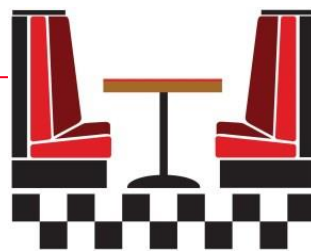
**Coming up:** September 3 – *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris  
October 1 – *The Other Einstein* by Marie Benedict



## REACH IN...

### Food and Fellowship Event

Food and Fellowship offers the opportunity to meet with fellow members for a casual meal out at a local restaurant. This event is open to everyone. The next Food and Fellowship event will take place on **Saturday, July 13, at Aurelio's Pizza, 330 W. State Street, Geneva, at 6:30 p.m.** Please RSVP to Mary Ann Werman at [wermanmaryann@gmail.com](mailto:wermanmaryann@gmail.com) or 630-762-6275.



### LET THERE BE LIGHT!



The Trustees have gathered bids to refit and replace all of the halogen bulbs, which are currently located in the

Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall and the Atrium with dimmable LED bulbs. \$9,024.00 is still needed to recover the full cost of the new lights, which will be installed once all the light bulbs and necessary supplies that we have ordered are received. Please join us by making a donation to the "Let There Be Light!" Campaign.

## REACH OUT...

**Salvation Army Food Pantry needs for July:** shampoo, peanut butter, one-skillet meals, canned fruit, and ravioli/spaghetios.



*UMC Lay Delegates and Pastors led an information session for the congregation about NIC Annual Conference 2019 after worship on June 16.*



### CHECK OUT OUR NEW UMCG WEBSITE!

[www.genevaumc.org](http://www.genevaumc.org)

The new website debuted in May, and has a whole new look! You can now listen to Sunday sermon podcasts!

The website is organized around our *Reach Up, Reach In, Reach Out* theme. For example, in the *Reach In* drop-down menu you'll find: Elexio Directory, Newsletters, Online Giving and Shop with Scrip.

Many thanks to Tom Nicol for photos and for assisting with creating the new site, and to Jim Alderfer for work on our old and new sites.

Becky Nicol, Director of Communications

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday's, from 9:30 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. **Contact Carolyn Sprawka 630-222-4150.**

### STEPHEN MINISTRY

Could someone you know--a friend, family member, neighbor, co-worker--benefit from a caring, unbiased, non-judgmental Christian listener? If so, please contact Stephen Ministry Coordinator Rev. Mary Gay McKinney at the church office at 630-232-7120 or her cell at 815-508-2055.



The **Committee on Church in Society** would like to thank everyone who contributed groceries for the Salvation Army in response to our Sack Sundays appeal in May. This appeal was meant as a way to bolster the food supply at Salvation Army before summer break. To date over 150 bags have been brought to church and taken to Salvation Army—a wonderful testimony to this congregation's ongoing support of the pantry. The Committee and the Food Pantry are so very grateful to all of you for your generosity.

*Nancie Lillie*



### VBS "Power Up" is underway!

Watch for the pictures of this wonderful week in the August newsletter. VBS would not have happened this year without the HUGE efforts of Sharon Reed, Debbie Karr, Jean Eakins, Jodi Borger, Bram Borger-Johnson and Rory Borger-Johnson. Please be sure to thank them when you see them!

**Many thanks** to Debbie Sampiller and Sharon Reed for their work proofreading all the data for our Photo Directory. Thanks, Debbie, for your assistance in the entire process. Our directory was sent to be printed last week.

#### UMCG Church Staff

Rich Darr	Senior Pastor
Esther Lee	Associate Pastor
Debbie Sampiller	Director of Administrative Ministries
Lorie Montanye	Administrative Assistant
Jodi Borger	Director of Children's Education
Denise Clementz	Director of Youth Ministry
Scott Stevenson	Director of Music Ministry
Mike Popplewell	Director of Choral Ministries
Becky Nicol	Director of Communications
Mary Gay McKinney	Coordinator of Congregational Care
Carol Schreiber	Nursery Supervisor

#### CHURCH COUNCIL

Chair	Kei Narimatsu
Vice Chair	David Dias
Recording Secretary	Jean Eakins
Lay Members to Annual Conference	John Kemble
	Sharon Anderson
	Dan Poremba
Church & Society Co-Chairs	Carolyn Sprawka
Youth Council Co-Chairs	Gary Dittmer
	Keith Rawson
	Keith Worthington
Children's Council Chair	Jen Karwoski
Adult Council Co-Chairs	Marty Janners
	Jim McConnell
Endowment Fund Chair	Bill Johnson
Finance Committee Chair	Dave Werman
Men's Club President	Mark Byars
Missions Committee Co-Chairs	Jim Manos
Scholarship Committee	Sharon Anderson
Staff-Parish Relations	Keith Worthington
Stewardship Committee	Jules Heinemann
Treasurer	
Trustees	Jim Karwoski
Women's Ministry	Tony Zefron
Youth Representative	Carol Zars
Worship Committee	Trace Powell
Pastors (w/o vote)	Dick Keslinke
	Rich Darr,
	Esther Lee
Member-at-large	

**United Methodist Church of Geneva**  
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**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GENEVA**

July 10, 2019      5:00pm - 8:00pm

12:00pm - 3:00pm

at the Portillo's located at:

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Batavia, IL 60510

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[portillos.com/good](http://portillos.com/good)



**MESSENGER DEADLINE**

**PLEASE NOTE DEADLINE CHANGE**

Submit Articles for the AUGUST *Messenger*  
by **Friday, July 12.**

Send information to

[communications@genevaumc.org](mailto:communications@genevaumc.org)

Subj: Messenger