the Messenger

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



WORSHIP BY THE WATER Sunday, August 11

Fabyan Forest Preserve Use West entrance - near the Pavilion by the river

7:30 a.m. Fishing Sign up online at www.genevaumc.org Adults 17+ need license ahead of time

10:30 a.m. Worship at the Pavilion 11:30 a.m. Lunch provided by CCG plus... Fun & Games



SUMMER Fun & Worship



FRIDAY, AUGUST 9 6:30 P.M.

RESERVED TICKETS \$5 EACH

Order by 8/1 online at genevaumc.org sign-ups Parking: \$6 general & \$10 preferred

Bring a can of food for the Northern Illinois Food Bank, and get a free ticket to another 2019 game!

THIRD SATURDAY WORSHIP

Praise Worship

followed by light refreshments



Saturday, August 17

Pastor's Page

Sick and in prison...

I choked up this morning when I read a text from Jim McConnell saying, "Nice article in today's Daily Herald." The article, written by Pastor Becky Nicol, was titled "Geneva church packs hygiene kits to give to children at the border." It expressed the concern of UMCG church members over recent reports of the treatment of immigrant and refugee children at the U.S./Mexico border. That concern became action as Sharon Anderson, Co-Chair of Missions, led 20 UMCG volunteers in packing 116 Hygiene Kits to be sent to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for distribution at transitional sites at the U.S. border. The article even described how our group opened their work with a reading and meditation on social justice and taking action, discussing it as they worked.

For me, this is an example of the United Methodist Church of Geneva at its best. This is at the heart of who we are. This is a huge part of our identity, and I was so pleased that our story was being shared with the town of Geneva and surrounding communities. A pressing need was seen through God's eyes, and the Hygiene Kit builders recognized that we needed "to do something" about it. And so we did!

Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

(Matthew 25)

Excited to share this story with you!

Pastor Rích

See story here: https://www.dailyherald.com/submitted/2019 0705/geneva-church-packs-hygiene-kits-forkids-at-the-border.







August 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 back on Sept. 1) & Journey of Faith (grades 1-4) (Starts back on Sept. 8) Route 56 youth are invited to Worship or to join Journey of Faith (Back on Sept. 8) Youth Worship/Sunday School Returns in the Fall (Back on Sept. 8) Adult Sunday School - 10:30 a.m.

Oldies Summer Series*

We'll round out our summer worship with a short series of sermons based on Psalms. Each service in August will feature a classic oldies song played by Scott Stevenson and company that reflects the Psalm and topic at hand. Don't miss the great bands Scott is putting together every week of this series! This month we'll also enjoy **Worship by the Water** on August 11 and **ASP Sunday** on August 25.

August 4 Holy Communion/Psalm 29 (Psalm of Praise), Oldies hit - "Aquarius" by The 5th Dimension. Soloist: Peggy Bartlein. This classic oldie speaks of the coming of a new age of harmony and understanding. It is especially appropriate for Communion Sunday as our communion liturgy speaks of a future heavenly banquet when God's kingdom of harmony and understanding will be brought to final fruition. Pastor Rich preaches.

August 11 Psalm 79 (Psalm of Lament), *Oldies hit* - "American Pie" by Don McLean. Soloist: Dennis O'Brien. This 1972 classic reflects a decade of lament starting with the 1959 plane crash that killed Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and the Big Bopper, through the assassinations of John & Robert Kennedy and Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. What is the role of personal and communal lament in our lives today? Pastor Becky preaches in the Sanctuary at 8 & 9 a.m.

August 11 Worship by the Water - Fabyan Forest Preserve – West Entrance

7:30 a.m. Fishing – Sign up for boats online. Ages 17+ need to secure license ahead of time.

10:30 a.m. Worship at the Pavilion. Pastor Rich preaches.

Worship followed by lunch provided by CCG, plus fun and games! Come for the food, fun and fellowship, and invite your friends and neighbors!

August 17 Saturday Eve Worship 5:00 p.m. We sing praises. We speak praises. We praise children and youth for their accomplishments. We praise what God does in our lives. How can praise become a way of life, or can it? **Pastor Mary Gay's** message, "Praise: A Way of Life?" is based on Psalm 22:3-5 and Luke 1:46-49. Light refreshments follow, sponsored by CCG.

August 18 Psalm 4 (Psalm of Trust), *Oldies hit* - "Won't Get Fooled Again" by The Who. Soloist: Scott Tipping. This song speaks to our challenges in the midst of life's struggles. In what or whom do we put our ultimate trust? Pastor Mary Gay preaches.

August 25 ASP Sunday/Blessing of the Backpacks This summer, 133 missionaries went on two trips, to Salyersville, KY, and Trade, TN. We all look forward to hearing their moving testimonials about what God has done in and through them on these home repair trips. **Backpack Tags:** Everyone who is going back to school or work is invited to bring their backpack, briefcase, tablet, or tote for blessing and a tag.

*Based on a summer sermon series created by Rev. Stan Drenth of Christian Reformed Church of Jamestown, MI, August 2012.

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

- 1. <u>What it means to be Methodist</u> In light of the General Conference 2019 aftermath, the pastors 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.
- 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 that is offered to all, with a special invitation to young families with children. Nursery care will be provided as needed. This class is tentatively scheduled to begin on Tuesday, September 17, and will be offered twice each Tuesday for the 4-weeks. Please check our weekly bulletins and e-news for times and further information. Contact Jane Siarny at 630-715-8590 for times and more details.
- 3. <u>Financial Peace University</u> 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 <u>www.daveramsey.com/FPU</u> or using this link: <u>https://www.fpu.com/1093958</u>. 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.
- 4. **Spirited Women** will resume their meetings in September with a 3-session course by Rev. Mary Gay McKinney on **Mimetic Theory.** Come learn why we imitate others, or desire what they desire, why we blame, and ponder what Abel's death, Jesus' unpopular first sermon, and Elisha's messenger reveal about **us**?
- 5. The **Early Bird Fellowship** men's group will finish their study of *Being United Methodist-What it Means, Why it Matters,* in early August. EBF meets each Thursday morning at 6:30 a.m. at Colonial Café on Randall Road. A new study will be selected soon.

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

WORSHIP ARTS HELP NEEDED

Have you ever wondered how our Sanctuary gets decorated? For about 20 years Val Erickson and Judy Burgess have watched the calendar and arranged to have hung the wonderful supply of banners to introduce a new season of the church year. They are retiring and would like to lend support to a new team for this behind-the-scenes job BEFORE Advent banners need to be hung the end of November.

These organized women have complete directions and records to share! They stress that artistic talent is not a requirement and note the work takes little time and can be done at your leisure. We all appreciate how our Advent, Christmas and Easter worship benefits from the beauty these decorations bring. Please contact Worship Chair Dick Keslinke at 630-542-2511, or email richard.keslinke@att.net if you are interested in taking on this very important service. Many, many thanks to Judy and Val for their years making our Sanctuary so beautiful for worship!

MUSIC NOTES

Chancel Choir is back in worship on Sunday, September 8.

Bells and Children's Choir will resume rehearsals on 9/17:

K-8 choir 7-7:30 p.m. Strikepoint 6:15-7 p.m. Sanctuary 7:15-9 p.m.

Giving to UMCG CHANGES Lives

By Pastor Esther

UMCG is in the business of touching and changing lives and your financial contributions enable impactful ministries to happen in our church, in our local community, nationally, and around the world. Among the many ways UMCG was involved in God's work in people's lives in recent months, several of our ASP families had the privilege of hosting the Fritz family, whom they were in ministry with a couple of years ago. Here is Dan Horvath's reflection on their visit:

"The Fritzes were incredibly grateful for the opportunity that was provided to them. A family that had only experienced life in and around Lee County, VA got on a plane for the first time at our invitation. They rode a train for the first time, rode the water taxi in the Loop, saw skyscrapers, took selfies at the Bean, went to a Cubs game, and possibly best of all, experienced Swedish Days (3 nights plus the parade!) with us. They had never experienced anything like any of it! Neither did we who went along for the ride. And the Fritz girls – mom Tomara, Lakin, Lexie, and Lacie – were gracious, fun, and grateful while they took it all in. Talking to our teens about high school, being ushered into Cub fandom, watching bands at Swedish Days – it was all very positive and clearly enriching for them.

All of us from UMCG who took part also grew from the experience. As Keith has said to us while the plans were being made and after they had left, an opportunity was presented to us with their visit. When we met them in 2017, we showed up at their home due to their circumstances, and they were and have always been since then gracious and welcoming. We were able to be gracious and welcoming to them while they were here at UMCG.

The Fritzes would fit right into our congregation under different circumstances. Their need and our mission bred a friendship that shows that good people regardless of financial or personal circumstances have a lot in common—kindness, compassion, the want to do good, and a giving spirit."

Your generosity to UMCG and its ministries continue to provide ways for children, youth, and adults to have life changing experiences like this; inspiring spiritual growth, encouraging the deepening of faith, and offers opportunities for a closer relationship with others and ultimately with Jesus who changed us by his selfless giving! Will you participate in what God is doing through our church, both with your time and financial resources?



YOUTH & KIDS

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.



NEWS from the NORTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE

Delving Deeper: Race & Well-Being Workshop - (Sept. 14) 8:30am - 1:00pm at First UMC in Downers Grove. Sponsored by United Voices for Children featuring Evanston Township High School Principal Dr. Marcus Campbell and the school's Student Services Department Chair Aracely Canchola for a deeper look at the interconnectedness of race and well-being. To register: click on date and event here: https://www.umcnic.org/calendar?month=09&year=2019. The \$25 fee includes lunch.

In the News

A new social group for seniors at Wesley United Methodist Church in Aurora has a mission statement that can be summed up by its name: Not Dead Yet. Despite a title that suggests survivors of horrific diseases or other misfortunes, organizers like Wendy Evans, a member of the church, say it's about folks 65 years old and older sharing conversation and common interests. <u>Read more</u> from the Aurora Beacon-News.

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

UMCG VISION 2020 UPDATE...

Our Vision 2020 Leaders have been working with UMCG Church Council and the pastors to identify five areas of concentration for revitalization: Worship, Connecting/Welcoming, Communications, Children/Youth/Young Families, and Reaching Out to the Community. Project team leaders have been named for each area, and they are beginning to meet. If you are interested in working on strategic program planning with a particular team, please contact Alan Leard at alantleard@gmail.com. You will be hearing more in the near future.

Pastor Rich received a thank you letter, from Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors to UMCG, for our support, and a thank you letter from TriCity Family Services for the gift of \$2,000 in June.

SPECIAL FUNDRAISER FOR HOLY CASSEROLERS

Use the coupon below to support making dinners twice a month for Hesed House homeless shelter in Aurora.



REACH IN ...

from Communications

CHURCH LIBRARY

Tews

Please pick up your UMCG 2019 Directory on Sunday in Fellowship Hall, or during the week in the church office during office hours. Thanks!

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



Salvation Army Food Pantry needs for August are peanut butter and jelly, detergent, canned meals (Spaghettio's, etc.), boxed meals (macaroni and cheese), soups, and cereal.

ADULT LIBRARY NEWS from Joan Hansen

Recent donations - We have received more donations of books from Tom Kroc that have been added to our adult library:

- *The Five Gospels, What Did Jesus Really Say?* Robert W. Funk, Roy W. Hoover, and the Jesus Seminar (226)
- 4,000 Years of Christmas A Gift from the Ages Earl and Alice Count (394)
- *The Complete Gospels* Robert J. Miller, editor (226)
- Christianity and the World Religions Paths to Dialogue with Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism Hans Kung (261)
- Jesus, Who is He? Tim LaHaye (232)
- Jesus, A Revolutionary Biography John Dominic Crossan (232)
- A Wesley Family Book of Days Susan Pellowe (252)
- *Reclaiming the Wesleyan Tradition John Wesley's Sermons for Today –* Douglas M. Strong, et al (252)
- Christianity's Family Tree What Other Christians Believe and Why Adam Hamilton (232)

And – Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph – Adam Hamilton (232) donated by Ginny Aharrah.

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, 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.



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.

Coming up: October 1 – The Other Einstein by Marie Benedict November 5 – The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict



Saturday, August 17 Save this date & come help out!

We need your help to de-clutter, clean some walls, and do some minor repairs inside our church. So bring a bucket and some rags and lend a hand.

August Wellness Programs for Body & Soul

Grow your Practice

Wing and a Prayer YOGA: Mondays 11:00 am-12:15 pm through August 5. (Fall: Sept. 9 – Dec. 16)

<u>CPR for the Soul ~ Restorative Yoga and InterPlay</u> practices to promote healthy living: 1st Saturdays 4:00-5:30 p.m., starts September 7.

Wisdom of the Body Groups ~ Monthly InterPlay 1st Wednesdays 10:00 am-12:30 p.m. Fridays, 6:30-9:00 p.m. (Aug. 23, Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 6) Saturdays, 1:00-3:30 p.m. (Aug. 24, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec. 7)

<u>Spirit in Motion (InterPlay, Dance and Yoga)</u> ONGOING Saturdays 10:15-11:30 a.m. (No Aug. 10 &17)

Facilitator Jane Siarny is an advocate for embodied spirituality, health and wellness through dance, yoga, music, art and InterPlay[®]. For information and pre-registration: Contact Jane at 630/715-8590 or <u>interplaychicago@sbcglobal.net</u>

Fall Sunday School Registration

If you have a child/student, you should have received an email asking you to register. As we did last year, we are asking families to fill out the Sunday School Registration Form online through our website under the Sign-Ups tab. Only one form needs to be filled out for each family. There are spaces on the form for up to 3 children. This form is for all children and youth from birth through 12th Grade.

Registration forms should be submitted no later than August 25th. If you would prefer to fill out a paper registration form, copies are available in the atrium on the Journey of Faith sign-in table. Registering is an important safety matter. We need to know about allergies or medical issues, we need to know how to contact you, and we need emergency contact information and medical release.



THE GREEN DIARY: Styrofoam Recycling Reminders

Please read this reminder about Styrofoam:

PLEASE make sure the Styrofoam you recycle is CLEAN. Lately, we have had some food containers placed in the box that still have food inside or have not been rinsed. This makes the collection an unpleasant job for the recycler that week, AND it feeds the ants! We have to throw away Styrofoam pieces that have food on them.

Also - make sure what you are placing in the box is actually recyclable. **Plastic tops to drink cups, foam sheets and any plastic #6 cannot be recycled with the Styrofoam.**

Please bag your Styrofoam and place in the box. Consider taking large pieces of Styrofoam to Dart.

Join our team! We need help with Styrofoam collection and drop offs at Dart. Dart is located in Aurora, just 15 minutes from church on Rt 31. This is a great family project and would be an every 4-6 weeks commitment. Please contact the church office if interested.



ASP SUNDAY August 25

Bring your tote, tablet, backpack, or briefcase for a blessing!



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. For more information or to make reservations, call Darlene at 630-587-2144 or visit https://lazarushouse.net/lazarushouseopen/.

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 in the church office at 630-232-7120 or her cell at 815-508-2055. *Next meeting for Stephen Ministers:* Tuesday, August 6 at 1:00 p.m. in the church Library.

Open Your Door and Heart to the World – Hosts Are *Still Needed* for AFS Students!



What better, or more fun, way to help promote peace than to host an international student! Something extraordinary happens when you share your life with a high school

student! Something extraordinary happens when you share your life with a high school student from another country. You can help build bridges of intercultural understanding and enrich your life in many ways by hosting an AFS exchange student. Students arrive in August. Families of all kinds are needed: 2 parents, 1 parent, children or no children, anyone can host. Students need a bed, food, love and guidance. Contact Robbin Lang, 630-346-4320, robbinlang@ameritech.net or Darlene Kilmer, <u>http://www.afsusa.org</u> 630-779-8389, Darlene.kilmer@afsusa.org, to learn more. See Illinois students here: <u>https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zqIA8bgaFSpsurBbbI-8dCug8Qzg82Hw/view</u>.

Opportunity to Reach Out: HELP NEEDED – Lazarus House sleepover VOLUNTEERS NEEDED UMCG is committed to supporting Lazarus House homeless shelter in St. Charles on the overnight shift on 1st & 3rd Tuesday's, from 9:30 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. **Contact Carolyn Sprawka 630-222-4150.**

CHURCH COUNCIL

Chair Vice Chair Recording Secretary Lay Members to Annual Conference

Church & Society Co-Chairs Youth Council Co-Chairs

Children's Council Chair Adult Council Co-Chairs

Endowment Fund Chair Finance Committee Chair Men's Club President Missions Committee Co-Chairs Scholarship Committee Staff-Parish Relations Stewardship Committee Treasurer Trustees Women's Ministry Youth Representative Worship Committee Pastors (w/o vote)

Member-at-large

Kei Narimatsu David Dias Jean Eakins John Kemble Sharon Anderson Dan Poremba Carolyn Sprawka Gary Dittmer Keith Rawson Keith Worthington Jen Karwoski Marty Janners Jim McConnell Bill Johnson Dave Werman Mark Byars Jim Manos Sharon Anderson Keith Worthington Jules Heinemann

Jim Karwoski Tony Zefron Carol Zars Trace Powell Dick Keslinke Rich Darr, Esther Lee Rob Anast

UMCG Church Staff

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

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