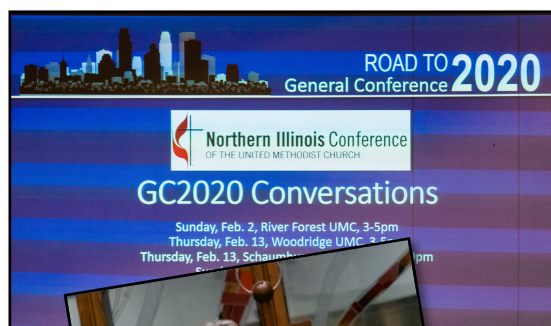


the Messenger



The Road to General Conference 2020

Bishop Sally Dyck and members of our NIC delegation to GC 2020 held six conversations across the Northern Illinois Conference. Nine UMCg's participated at the Sycamore UMC session on February 16.

The conversation focused on explaining what is happening with legislation going to GC 2020, and the role of our NIC delegates. Bishop Dyck spoke, joined by delegates Rev. Chris Winkler (Chair), Rev. Brian Gilbert, and several other delegates.

Here are some important facts for you to know:

- A mediator and diverse UM group released the **Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation** in January. Many of the different plans going to GC have been stepped back, allowing the Protocol to take precedence. Find it here: www.gracethroughseparation.com/legislation
- The NIC Exploration delegation has developed an **Identity and Covenant Statement**: <https://files.constantcontact.com/62925eb8001/26e6a1f1-4470-491c-aea2-44ba78ed45f4.pdf>
- You can find the volumes of GC 2020 information, including names and addresses of delegates, available from the **Advance Daily Christian Advocate**: <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/general-conference-2020-advance-daily-christian-advocate>
- Only one bishop will be elected for our Jurisdiction as two retire. This will impact the NIC – stay tuned.

Watch your weekly eNews for more information.



SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

Drop off items:
April 21/22

Sale Dates April 23-25

Pastor's Page

“ For everything there is a season, and
a time for every matter under heaven”
Ecclesiastes 3:1

It is with mixed emotions that I share that our time together is numbered as I received a new appointment by our bishop. At the end of June 2020, my time as your associate pastor will end, and July 1, I will begin ministry with the people of Christ United Methodist Church in Deerfield, Illinois, as their senior pastor. As endings are also times of new beginnings, we begin the difficult time of transition, celebrating our 5 years of ministry together while we also start grieving by saying our good-byes.

In the next couple of months as we journey through the different emotions, I look forward to reminiscing with you about the fun we've had, tearing up as we share the times we cried together, and to sharing hope as we look forward to all that God will do with us and through us as we continue to serve God and God's creation together through the United Methodist Church as members together in the Northern Illinois Conference.

Pastor Esther



I am so grateful for Pastor Esther's partnership in ministry at UMCG over the past 4½ years. While I will most certainly miss her, I also congratulate her on the new opportunities she will have in serving as lead pastor at Christ UMC Deerfield. They're blessed to have her as their pastor.

Since we are sharing the Pastor's Page this month, I'd like to reflect on the text Pastor Esther referred to from Ecclesiastes. Indeed, there is a time for every season under heaven. And that applies to the change of seasons in the church calendar. It seems as though it was only yesterday that we were adorning the sanctuary with blue paraments and banners, setting up our beautiful Chrismon tree, and placing a manger and images of angels above the chancel. We lit the Advent Candle for four weeks while your pastors wore blue stoles. Ash Wednesday marks the transition into the season of Lent with the imposition of ashes. The color of the sanctuary, paraments and pastors' stoles turn to purple for this season.

Both Advent and Lent are seasons of preparation. Each season leads up to one of the two most important holy days in the church calendar: Christmas and Easter. Advent anticipates the birth of the babe of Bethlehem and the consummation of history in the second coming of Jesus Christ. The color blue in Advent thus reflects anticipation and hope, while the color purple reflects the somber, solemn mood of preparation for Jesus's crucifixion and death.

As we journey with Jesus to Jerusalem and his death this Lenten season, let's remind ourselves of the way the story of Jesus ends. Death does not have the final word. God does – in the resurrection of Jesus! Above all, as people of resurrection and hope, God promises that “we will all be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words.” (1 Thessalonians 4:17,18)

With encouragement and hope -
Pastor Rich

REACH UP...

March 2020 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 and 6)

Youth Worship/Sunday School - 9-10:15 a.m. except First Sundays

Adult Sunday School - 10:30 a.m.

As we enter the season of Lent in preparation for Easter, we continue to preach from the *Revised Common Lectionary. This month's scriptures evoke a series of questions reflected in the sermon title for each Sunday. Are we seeking God's best? Are we givers or takers? What are we thirsting for in life? What brings us spiritual sight? Are our futures hopeless or hopeful? As we make the Lenten journey to the cross and resurrection, remember - Jesus walks with us.

- March 1** **1st Sunday in Lent/Family Worship/Communion ([Matthew 4:1-11](#))**
Moses is tempted in the wilderness and fails. Later, Jesus, the new Moses, is also tempted in the wilderness but succeeds. Jesus refused temptations (feeding, rescuing, ruling) that were all good. However, these good things would have kept him from fulfilling God's best – his role as Savior and harbinger of God's kingdom on earth. Temptation to pursue lesser goods instead of God's best is something to which we can all relate. **Pastor Rich preaches: *Good? Better? Best?***
- March 8** **2nd Sunday in Lent ([John 3:1-17](#))**
John assures us that Jesus was not sent into the world to condemn it, but to save it. God so loved that God gave. And our lives have been forever changed. God is a giver, not a taker. Is the same true of us? **Pastor Esther preaches: *Giver? Or Taker?***
- March 15** **3rd Sunday in Lent ([John 4:5-42](#))**
During their wilderness wanderings the Israelites doubted God's presence and often felt parched. The Samaritan woman at the well was thirsting for a better life. At times we too are thirsty both physically and spiritually. The good news is that Christ's love and grace are always available to quench our troubled souls and nourish us with abundant life, in this life and the next. **Pastor Rich preaches: *Thirsty?***
- March 22** **4th Sunday in Lent ([John 9:1-41](#))**
In this story Jesus heals a man who was blind from birth and we find ourselves confronted with a paradox operating on both the physical and spiritual levels. The man born blind ends up with the ability to see, both spiritually and physically. However, the religious leaders of the day, although they have physical sight, remain spiritually blind. Pastor Becky preaches: ***Who Is Jesus? What Blinds Us?***
- March 29** **5th Sunday in Lent ([John 11:1-45](#))**
We feel dried up, devoid of breath, aching from the loss of loved ones. But death and loss do not have the final word. We worship a God who brings us new life, new visions and hope. We place our hope in the God who has power even over death.
Pastor Rich preaches: *Hopeless? Or Hopeful?*

*Sermon themes are adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020*.



Reading the Gospels During Lent 2020

The Reading Plan - by Jim Byrne

The following reading plan is offered as a guide to enriching your Lenten experience. Before you read each day, **prepare** by clearing your mind of the distraction in your life so that you can focus totally on the Bible passage. **Read** silently or aloud with both

mind and heart open to the message. When you finish, **reflect** on what you have read, on how it relates to other passages in the Bible, and on how it relates to your life. **Share** what you have read. Most importantly, **pray** to God in thanksgiving/supplication, and **listen** in silence for God's voice.

Date	Scripture Reading
March 1	Join other Christians at church today for worship, study, and fellowship.
March 2	Matthew 13-14
March 3	Matthew 15-16
March 4	Matthew 17-18
March 5	Matthew 19-20
March 6	Matthew 21-22
March 7	Matthew 23-24
March 8	Attend worship
March 9	Matthew 25-26
March 10	Matthew 27-28
March 11	Mark 1-3
March 12	Mark 4-6
March 13	Mark 7-9
March 14	Mark 10-12
March 15	Attend worship

March 16	Mark 13-14
March 17	Mark 15-16
March 18	Luke 1-3
March 19	Luke 4-6
March 20	Luke 7-9
March 21	Luke 10-12
March 22	Attend worship
March 23	Luke 13-14
March 24	Luke 15-16
March 25	Luke 17-18
March 26	Luke 19-20
March 27	Luke 21-22
March 28	Luke 23-24
March 29	Attend worship
March 30	John 1-2
March 31	John 3-4

ASP CHILI COOK-OFF



...and the new Chili Master!

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 for Lent will study the book by Rob Fuquay "The Passion Play: Living the Story of Christ's Last Days." Contact Marty Janners for additional details.

The Men's study group, Early Bird Fellowship meets each Thursday at 6:30 a.m. at Colonial Café on Randall Road. For Lent they will study the book by James Harnish "Easter Earthquake." Join us!

The Adult Sunday School Class meets each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor and will continue a Lenten study of the book by Rob Fuquay: "The God We Can Know: Exploring the 'I Am' Sayings of Jesus." Please join us in this discussion class.

Pastor Rich and Tom Tamlyn will continue their study of the Marcus Borg book "Reading the Bible Again For the First Time: Taking the Bible Seriously But Not Literally." The same class is offered at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. each Thursday. Check with Pastor Rich or Tom Tamlyn for more details.

Reading the Gospels During Lent - Once again UMCG is encouraging everyone to read the Gospels during Lent. Invite your relatives and friends to join in this important act of spiritual renewal and growth. Use e-mail, social media, the telephone, and even postal mail to send them copies of the reading program or to direct them to the UMCG Website where the program is posted. Form a reading group or recruit a reading buddy with whom you can share the reading experience. (See Reading List on page 4.)

Join our study using *We are Beloved: A Lenten Journey with Protestant Prayer Beads*, by Kristen Vincent. Each week there is a scripture passage, a weekly devotion, several reflection questions, an optional prayer bead experience, and a listening meditation. Participants may bring their own beads, but can also do the study without beads. You can purchase your own already-made set of beads at www.etsy.com/shop/PrayerworksStudio. Join us Tuesdays at 2, from February 25 – April 7. Books are \$9, and are available in the church office as well as on Kindle. Facilitated by Pastor Becky Nicol.

Spirits & Studies meets Tuesday evenings beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Jason Hartz and Joshua Tibbs, unless otherwise noted. Our NEXT study book, for LENT, is Matt Rawle's ***What Makes A HERO?*** This study begins Tuesday, March 3. The book is available through bookfinder.com and smile.amazon.com (going this route for your order can send back a contribution to UMCG.) Food and beverages are welcome. For more information contact Josh Tibbs @ joshua.tibbs@me.com.

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.

REACH IN...

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES NEWS

We Reached In and Reached Out - and 40 women ranging in ages 24 to 89 attended the 29th annual UMCG weekend retreat, January 24-26! Our own Betsy Petrie led us in the DISC (Dominance, Influence, Steadiness, Conscientious) style of communication. Betsy and our Liz Carson led us in music throughout the weekend. There were many other opportunities and activities for all to get to know one another and better understand our different styles of communication.



2020 Women's Retreat Participants

March 15: All women are invited to attend the next Women's Ministries meeting after the 9 a.m. service to look ahead to our 2020 events.

Annual Women's Cluster Luncheon

Saturday, March 7, 11:30-2:00, 1st UMC in West Chicago

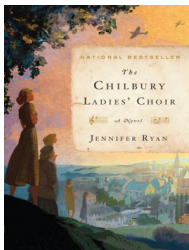
Come celebrate women who have made their mark in the past 100 years! Be sure to wear white and bring a dessert.

Please RSVP on bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or contact Joan Hansen. Carpooling is available.

Communications Has Received Another UM-Com Grant!

We were awarded a full year of automated Facebook posts designed to engage more people. We'll still continue to post our events and information. Rev. Becky Nicol

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. If you follow our list and read the books, come join us for an interesting discussion and fellowship. New readers are always welcome!
Contact Sharon Knott at 630-879-9544 for more information about the group and how to obtain a copy of the current book.

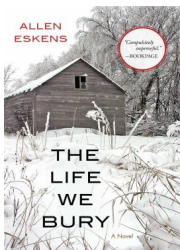
Tuesday, March 3 – The Chilbury Ladies' Choir by Jennifer Ryan

Tuesday, April 7 – The Life We Bury by Allen Eskens

A college assignment mires student Joe Talbert in the cold case of a man who spent 30 years in prison for the rape and murder of a woman. Alongside his troubled neighbor, Joe sets out to prove the man's innocence, uncovering many devastating and long-buried secrets.

Coming up: May 5 – *The Mighty Queens of Freeville* by Amy Dickinson

June 2 – *Beloved* by Michelle Obama



YOUTH

Contact Youth Ministry Director, **Denise Clementz** at denise@genevaumc.org, or 309-507-2328.

Sunday Youth Worship:

3/1 – First Sunday, Sanctuary, 9 a.m. – Students attend and assist with worship service.
3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29 – Youth Worship, Youth Room, 9-10:15 a.m.

Youth Activity Schedule:

3/1 – Nerf War, UMC, 2:30-5 p.m.

3/13 – Winter Jam Concert, Sears Centre Arena, 5:15-11 p.m.

This is a huge Christian concert held annually, with 10 bands for just \$15 paid at the door (students will need to bring cash and pay directly). Follow this link to see more information for yourself: <https://2020jamtour.com/>. We will meet in the church parking lot and leave at 5:15 p.m. The event is held from 7-10 p.m., however we will need to arrive early to get seats. Our estimated return to the church is 11 p.m.

Please sign up on the church website ASAP!

Students will also need permission slips, which are available in the church office.

3/15 – Making Dog Toys for Anderson Animal Shelter

Students from grades 5-12 are asked to gather and help us make toys to donate and help keep shelter dogs entertained while they wait for adoption.

****We will need donations** of dog treats, tennis balls (lots and lots), rope or fabric good for braiding (fleece or flannel in long strips), and newspaper for bedding. Please drop off at the church office by 3/14.

Pen & Paper:

Meets March 7, 14 & 21

Confirmation Class:

Meets 3/1 and 3/15



Youth making blankets.

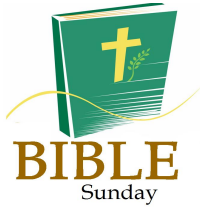
Photos from Kid's Mardi Gras Party



REACH IN...

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

4th Grade Bible Workshop and Bible Sunday



We'll be presenting our 4th Grade students with their very own Bible on **Sunday, March 8th** during the 9 a.m. service.

The **Bible Workshop** will be scheduled at a later date. Parents of 4th Graders should have received information in the mail – if you did not, please contact the church office. Congregational giving provides the Bibles.



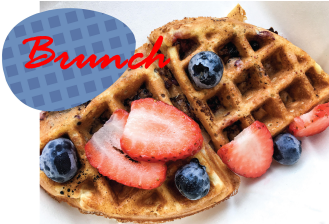
The Trustees Need Your Help!

Vision 2020 reminds us to make our church a place to call home. That requires a clean house, and that's where you come in. Everyone is invited to help clean God's house on April 4th from 8:00 a.m.- 12:00 noon. We will be cleaning windows, high dusting, washing walls and trim, and purging some overlooked areas. Look for more information and sign-ups in the bulletin and in Fellowship Hall.

Creating Community with God

Welcome to another year of Creating Community with God!

Mark your calendars with our upcoming events:



BRUNCH Food and Fellowship – March 8

We have chosen the Brunch Cafe in St. Charles to be our location, 172 S. 1st Street, St. Charles.

After the 8 a.m. service

After the 9 a.m. service

After the 10:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School

We will need an RSVP for this event. Please check your bulletin insert, fill out the form, and drop in the offering basket.



GAME DAY!

OUR OWN little bit of March Madness - March 22!

Join us after the 9:00 a.m. service in Fellowship Hall. We'll provide some games, but also encourage anyone to bring their favorite family games to the event. CCG will provide snacks, coffee, tea, and juice. **Let's play!**



CALLING ALL GOLFERS: Spring will soon come and usher warmer temperatures for us to enjoy -- especially on the golf course. Our group, mostly seniors, plays on Wednesday mornings (sometimes on Tuesdays), April thru September, rotating among local courses. We invite all who enjoy playing golf to join us. Please contact Bill Knott (weknott@sbcglobal.net) or John Kemble (jrkemblers@comcast.net) to be included on the weekly invite list.

REACH OUT...

Bag Ladies Send 20 More Mats to Chicago!

In December, the “bag ladies” gave 20 mats to the Hands of Hope who minister the needs of the homeless in downtown Chicago.

We thank you for all the bags you donated! It takes about 900 bags to make a mat. That being said, in the interest of our environment, we still encourage you to use your recyclable bags whenever possible. We have a great time changing plastic grocery bags into plarn (plastic yarn) and crocheting this into a mat.



We'd love to have you join us. We meet every Monday (except holidays) at 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Parlor (except the 3rd Monday when we meet in the Library). If you have any questions, contact Jean Eakins.



Caregiver Support Group



Where: UMCG Parlor
When: 2nd Thursday every month
Time: 10:00 -11:00 a.m.
Next meeting –Thurs., March 12

Are you the caregiver for a spouse, a family member or other loved one? Come when you can to a group designed for you, your needs, joys, frustrations and more. Come and share or come and just be. We're calling this, to quote the Irish poet, a “soft place for hard conversations.” Nancy Harrington is our facilitator. Mary Gay McKinney is her backup. For more information contact the church office so we can put you in touch with Nancy or Mary Gay.

SALVATION ARMY FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR MARCH:



Cereal, condiments, instant potatoes, dry pasta, canned chicken, canned tuna, toothpaste, dish soap, feminine products, deodorant, & laundry soap.

Swing into Spring with Thoughts on HOPE

Join us for **Wing and a Prayer Wellness** programs this March where our theme is hope. Each class includes readings from *Almost Christmas* and Anne Lamott's *Almost Everything ~ Thoughts on Hope*.

Wellness 101: M &/or W 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Wisdom of the Body ~ Monthly InterPlay

Saturdays, 3/14, 4/4, 6/6, 1-3:30 p.m.

Spirit in Motion Saturdays 10:15-11:30 a.m.

CPR for the Soul SELECT Saturdays 4-5:30 p.m.

Facilitator Jane Siarny is an advocate for embodied spirituality and helping individuals and groups find health and wellness through the expressive arts. For information and pre-registration: Contact Jane at 630/715-8590 or jsiarny@att.net.



Thanks to everyone who helped make the wonderful kid's Mardi Gras party so much fun!

Highlights from Church Council

Sunday, Feb. 16

The Board of Trustees reported they had replaced the 25-year-old commercial refrigerator in the kitchen, which had broken and needed costly repairs. They were able to replace it with an efficient new refrigerator thanks to a donation from Memorials arriving the week before.

The Trustees also reported that the old rooftop HVAC unit that serves the basement area broke down in January. We have multiple units to cover our entire building. Repairs have been made at a cost of around \$4,000. The final bill is not in yet. This is just a reminder that we do need the Capital Campaign for our HVAC system soon.

Church Council decided to transfer the work of the Council sub-committee *All Means All Team* to Church in Society, which will continue the work and maintain the relationships established by *AMA* in the areas of immigration, racism, interfaith relations, and LGBTQ issues.

The Council would like to thank all those who helped lead UMCG to a better understanding of our brothers and sisters as part of *AMA*: Jordan Poremba, Joshua Tibbs, Dan Poremba, Gary Dittmer, Keith Dodson, Deb Vensel, Linda McConnell, Jodi Borger, David Dias, Jackie Patterson, Jami Johnson, and Carolyn Sprawka. Thanks also to Alan Leard, Kei Narimatsu, Pastor Esther, and Pastor Rich for support and guidance.

UMCG Church Staff

Rich Darr	Senior Pastor
Esther Lee	Associate Pastor
Debbie Sampiller	Director of Administrative Ministries
Lorie Montanye	Administrative Assistant
	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

A MESSAGE FROM THE RENOVATION TEAM (Youth & Children's Ministry)

Since the beginning of the year, we have officially signed on with Ministry Architects and have had monthly meetings with the consultants to start laying the groundwork for the next 18 months. At the end of each meeting, UMCG Renovation Team members are assigned specific tasks to revise, create, or strengthen various aspects of the Youth and Children's Ministries. In the next month or so, the Ministry Architect consultants will be visiting UMCG to have a 'Quick Start Summit' with the Renovation Team



CHURCH COUNCIL

Chair	David Dias
Vice Chair	Jim Alderfer
Recording Secretary	Jean Eakins
Lay Members to Annual Conference	Sharon Anderson
	Dan Poremba
	Kei Narimatsu
Church & Society	Carolyn Sprawka
Co-Chairs	Gary Dittmer
Youth Council Co-Chairs	Keith Rawson
	Darlene Kilmer
Children's Council Chair	Ali Wetmore
Adult Council Co-Chairs	Marty Janners
	Jim McConnell
Endowment Fund Chair	Patti Dahlberg
Finance Committee Chair	Dave Werman
Men's Club President	Mark Byars
Missions Committee	Jim Manos
Co-Chairs	Sharon Anderson
Scholarship Committee	Keith Worthington
Staff-Parish Relations	Keith Eakins
Stewardship Committee	Stuart Henn
Treasurer	Jim Karwoski
Trustees	Tony Zefron
Women's Ministry	Betty Keeler
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



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

Scholarship Fundraiser Wednesday, March 18, 2020

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

Good ALL DAY Wednesday, March 18, 2020

only at the

Geneva Aurelio's 330 W. State St. 630-262-8440

Hours: 11am - 9pm

*Good for Carryout, Delivery or Dine-In!

MESSENGER DEADLINE

Submit Articles for the April *Messenger*
by **Monday, March 16.**

Send information to

communications@genevaumc.org

Subj: Messenger