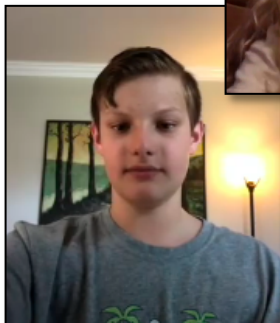
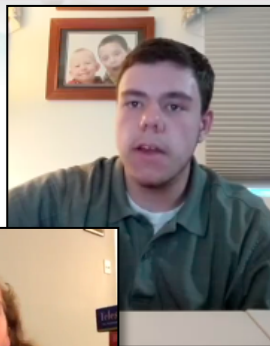
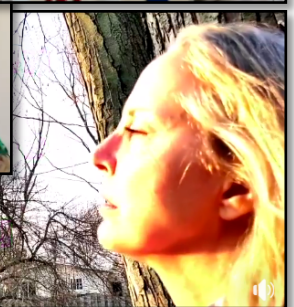
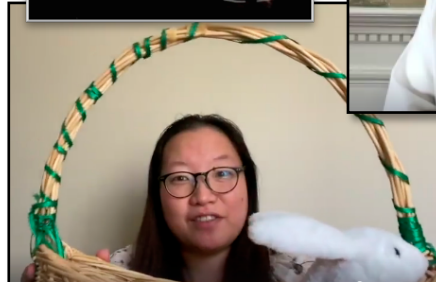
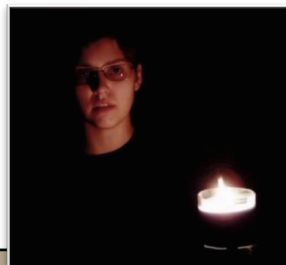




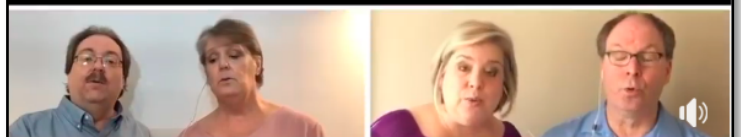
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GENEVA | MAY 2020

# *the Messenger*

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



*Earth and heaven in chorus say,  
Alleluia!*



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

[Facebook.com/umcgeneva](https://Facebook.com/umcgeneva)

## Pastor's Page

*I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now...It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me...And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more...*      Philippians 1:3-11

With the news of my uncle's passing, the inability to travel to celebrate his life with the rest of the family in South Korea, in addition to all that the COVID19 pandemic has brought on, to be honest and transparent, I was deeply saddened and grieved **but I didn't shed a tear!** I always thought of myself as too sensitive with the ability to shed a tear at the "drop of a hat." But in these several weeks, I found my eyes dry, my heart firm, and my neck stiffly standing. I was able to keep my composure, was productive as usual, and my head was clear. I found it very odd! Shouldn't my head be planted in the palm of my hands, distraught and unable to function, and hidden under my blanket, shell-shocked and in despair? Could anyone blame me if I was in that state?

As I stayed up one night perplexed and praying, 'God, have I gone numb, hardhearted, and callused already at 10 years of full-time ministry?' I was overcome with gratitude, much like what Apostle Paul wrote in the letter to his church in Philippi, "I thank God every time I remember you!" as my mind wandered to the flashing images of the messages of encouragement and love from all my friends.

Phone calls, emails, text messages, cards, and letters... For the last couple weeks, I have been blessed by many of you who expressed your condolences, thoughts, and prayers as my family experienced the loss of my beloved uncle in South Korea. Then in recent days, I have been showered with messages of birthday blessings as well as Easter greetings as I was privileged to celebrate those two joys on the same day this year. When I bravely shared my grief and decided to allow others to walk with me in my joys and my pain, I realized that I was being sustained by the thoughts and prayers of many. I was being held up by the people God sent into my life whether or not I knew where the strength was coming from.

As I am nearing the end of my time at UMC-Geneva, this will be what I would remember most: the visible and invisible ways you all have shown God's grace, and how in those unexpected moments, I was held up by your walk with me through the thick and thin.

THIS is what UMCG is good at! THIS is what our community needs to know. THIS is what our world needs. More of that love you have shown me. Keep loving - keep praying - keep serving - and keep giving! Love is overflowing from UMCG even if COVID-19 locks the doors of our church building, even if masks cover our mouths - love is oozing out of those small cracks!

Love,  
Pastor Esther

**If you or someone in your family tests positive for COVID 19 or needs to be self-quarantined for possible contact, please notify Pastor Rich or Pastor Esther.**

**For pastoral care**, contact Pastor Rich or Pastor Esther, or our Coordinator of Congregational Care, Pastor Mary Gay McKinney, by cell at 815-508-2055, or email [marygay@genevaumc.org](mailto:marygay@genevaumc.org). Please let her know if there is someone who needs a phone call.

**If you have prayer concerns**, or birth or death information to share, please continue to send this information to [communications@genevaumc.org](mailto:communications@genevaumc.org), or phone Lorie at 630-992-0671. Email to [communications@genevaumc.org](mailto:communications@genevaumc.org) goes to Lorie, Debbie, and Becky.

**If you are in need of help**, we have volunteers to deliver food and such. Please contact the pastors.

**Giving** – Please continue to send your tithes and offerings to the church, if you usually mail them. The mail is picked up from the Post Office every week. You may also give online through our website at [www.genevaumc.org](http://www.genevaumc.org). Your faithful generosity is greatly appreciated as the pastors and staff work to continue to keep us connected through worship and group meetings, and provide pastoral care.

# REACH UP...

## MAY 2020 Worship Schedule

*All worship is held online at:*

<http://www.genevaumc.org> & [facebook.com/umcgeneva](https://www.facebook.com/umcgeneva)

**Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.**

**Children's Sunday School – contact [jcpoboe@msn.com](mailto:jcpoboe@msn.com)**

**Adult Sunday School on Zoom 10:30 a.m. Sunday – see page 4**

**Youth meetings are also online – see page 5**

**Time of Prayer & Encouragement - Mondays & Wednesdays at noon**

**Hymn Improvisations - Tuesdays and Thursdays**

### **May 3 Good Shepherd Sunday – [John 10: 1-10](#)**

Immediately preceding today's scripture, Jesus heals an isolated, vulnerable blind man. Having received both physical and spiritual sight, this healed man now knows sustenance and security. In this same passage, Jesus refers to himself as the Good Shepherd and the Gate, the one who offers to meet our basic needs for safety, shelter, sustenance and life. What does it mean for us to be protected by our Good Shepherd amidst the fear and unknown of the pandemic we are experiencing? Pastor Rich preaches a sermon titled "Safe and Secure."

### **May 10 Mother's Day – [Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16](#)**

Psalm 31 is a lament that cries out to God for comfort, protection, and rescue. Living through this pandemic brings the same reaction from us – we cry out for help, for protection and for things to return to normal. As we celebrate our mothers and grandmothers, what can we learn from their faith and the way they endured through difficulties in their lives? Pastor Becky preaches "A Mother's Faith."

### **May 17 The Promised Spirit – [John 14:15-21](#)**

Today's passage pre-figures Pentecost as Jesus promises to send another Advocate, the Spirit of truth and love who abides with us, comforts us, leads and guides us. How do we experience this Spirit in our lives today, both individually and corporately? Pastor Rich preaches on "The Spirit of Truth & Love."

### **May 24 Ascension Sunday – [Acts 1:1-11](#)**

Where does your gaze fall most of the time? Heaven or earth? While today's scripture relates the story of Jesus's ascension into heaven, it reminds us that his disciples were told to focus their gaze on earth. Like those first disciples, our gaze is not centered on heaven, indifferent to the needs and injustices of our neighbors. Instead we are called to continue Christ's ministry on earth starting right here in our community and on out to the ends of the earth. Pastor Rich preaches a sermon on "Witnesses."

### **May 31 Pentecost Sunday – [Acts 2:1-21](#)**

The Holy Spirit arrived with howling winds, flames of fire, trembling earth and truth proclaimed in the midst of a "pilgrimage festival." In that busyness, the Church was born! The Holy Spirit came to empower the newborn Church in a myriad of ways: adopting, inspiring, guiding, encouraging and strengthening it for mission evident in how its effect was made visible. How? And what? So now what? (Adapted from *Abingdon Worship Annual 2018*) Pastor Esther preaches a sermon titled "The Reverse of the Babel."



## 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

During this time on of “staying at home” that we hope will be relaxed soon, several groups within our church are using Zoom video to stay connected with discussions on various topics. Please check Becky Nicol’s weekly eNews for the most current information. Here is what is currently being offered:

**Spirited Women** is meeting via Zoom each Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. If you’re interested in joining this group, please contact Marty Janners to be added to the weekly invitation email.

**The men’s study group, Early Bird Fellowship** is meeting via Zoom each Thursday at 8:00 a.m. For more information and joining the weekly discussion, please contact Jim McConnell.

**The Adult Sunday School Class** is also meeting each Sunday at 10:30, again using Zoom video. If you would like to join this group for discussion of the Sunday sermon, please contact either Marty Janners or Jim McConnell.

**Spirits and Studies** In the Fall of 2019, a small group named SPIRITS AND STUDIES was formed. We wanted this to be a safe place where we could study, share, and get to know one another on a more personal basis. Our hope was that we could ALL come together to enjoy food, favorite drink of choice, and fellowship. Currently, our group is meeting via Zoom every Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. Our time together is facilitated by Rev. Mary Gay McKinney. We are studying “What Makes A Hero? The Death-Defying Ministry of Jesus.” If you are looking to meet complete strangers during this time of isolation or looking to see some familiar faces that you are missing, we’d love to have you JOIN US. Send an email to [joshua.tibbs@me.com](mailto:joshua.tibbs@me.com) and we will give you the log in information for our Zoom meeting. The book can be ordered online through Amazon and Nook.

**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](mailto:myjanner@mtu.edu) or Jim McConnell (630-715-3480)-[mcjamesc@aol.com](mailto:mcjamesc@aol.com) with any ideas or questions.

### YOUTH

Contact: **Denise Clementz**, Youth Ministry Director [denise@genevaumc.org](mailto:denise@genevaumc.org)

- 1) **Youth Sunday School on Zoom - Sundays, 11 a.m.**
- 2) **Virtual Youth Activity - Sundays, 2:30-3:30 p.m.**
- 3) **Pen and Paper on Discord - Saturdays, 6-9 p.m.**
- 4) **Confirmation classes have been postponed.** Parents, watch your email for updates.

**First Sundays will still be observed**, with students being encouraged to watch the UMC 9 a.m. service with their families, and no Youth Sunday School held afterwards. Additionally, we are asking students to again participate in the 9 a.m. church services by recording videos to be included of them reading Scripture. We are looking for students who are interested to add to our current rotation.

## Reading The Acts of the Apostles During Eastertide 2020

The Reading Plan by Jim Byrne

The season of Easter, or Eastertide, stretches from Easter Sunday to Pentecost, 50 days. It is a time of celebration of Christ's resurrection. The following reading plan is offered as a guide to enriching your Eastertide experience. Before you begin reading 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 and your reactions with family, a "reading buddy," or a reading or study group with whom you enjoy fellowship face-to-face, by telephone, or by e-mail, Facebook or other social media. Most importantly, **pray** to God in thanksgiving and supplication, and **listen** in silence for His voice.

Date	Scripture Reading
May 1	Acts 17
May 2	Acts 18
May 3	Join other Christians at church today for worship, study, and fellowship.
May 4	Acts 19
May 5	Acts 20
May 6	Acts 21
May 7	Acts 22
May 8	Acts 23
May 9	Acts 24

Date	Scripture Reading
May 10	Join other Christians at church today for worship, study, and fellowship.
May 11	Acts 25
May 12	Acts 26
May 13	Acts 27
May 14	Acts 28
May 21	Ascension Day. Mark 16:14-20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11
May 31	Pentecost Sunday - Acts 2

California Pizza Kitchen is open for Pickup and Delivery Only

### JOIN US FOR TUESDAY FUNDRAISER DAYS!

This Tuesday we will be supporting the following local charitable organization:

Fundraiser in Support of:  
UMCG Scholarship Fund

Date of Event:

**Tuesday, May 19, 2020**

Location of Event:

Gia Mia, Geneva

Any guest that dines with us on Tuesday and provides a flyer<sup>a</sup> with your organization's name on it, 10% of the total check will be donated to your organization for that day.

\*Hard Copy Or On Your Smartphone



### MESSENGER DEADLINE

Submit Articles for the May Messenger  
by **Friday, May 15.**

Send information to

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

Subj: Messenger