



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GENEVA | APRIL 2020

the Messenger

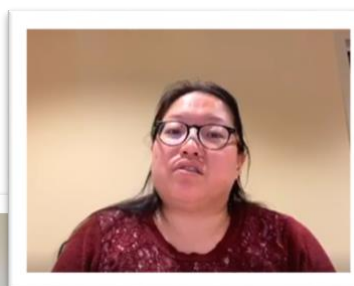
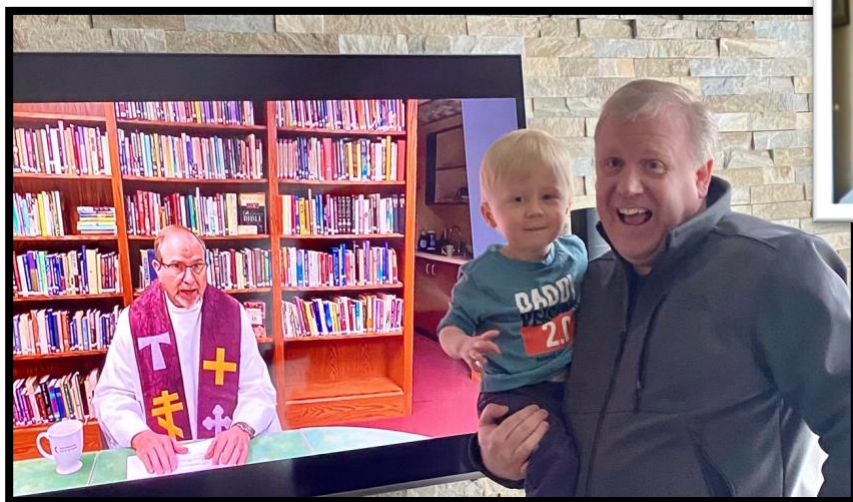
*Reach Up...
Reach In...
Reach Out...*



And Now.....We're



United Methodist Church of Geneva



Holy Week Services

Good Friday
7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunrise
Devotional
6:00 a.m.

Easter Service
9:00 a.m.

Facebook.com/umcgenova | www.genevaumc.org



On the Lookout

I was on a conference call this week with my clergy colleagues, and all we could talk about was the impact of the Coronavirus on our lives and church communities. Our stories were remarkably similar, especially around the new experiences of hosting worship services online for the first time in our lives, working to help church families stay connected, and adjusting to the “new normal” that is emerging and constantly changing.

Soon the topic of Easter came up. Our common question was, “What are we going to do for Easter?” According to our Bishop, we would not be holding Easter services face-to-face, but online. I quipped that this Easter we would all be able to identify in new ways with those two disciples who, upon hearing of Jesus’s death, fled Jerusalem and headed home to Emmaus. Luke 24 vividly recounts the way they stumbled along “in the dark” even though it was broad daylight, overcome with disbelief, shock and fear that their Lord was dead. How could this have happened? How could this be happening? To us? Now? And in their surreal “new normal,” they were unable to recognize their risen Lord when he was suddenly walking right beside them.

This past week, the Coronavirus has broken over our nation and our lives like a cascading tsunami. It’s no longer something happening way over there, somewhere halfway around the globe. We’re realizing that it’s here. Now. And like those two stunned and grieving disciples, our lives will forever be changed. And like those two, we may find it hard to see God, to see the risen Christ, as we journey together through this pandemic.

Where do we turn in such times? As Luke 24’s story continues, only later, over dinner, were the two disciples *able to see* that their traveling companion was the risen Lord himself. They hadn’t planned it that way. But in the breaking of the bread their eyes were opened, and they were able to see, to experience the reassuring presence of the risen Christ.

So it is for us. As we continue our journey together toward Easter, let’s remember—the Lord may come to us in unfamiliar guises—in people and places and events where we least expect him. Let’s all be on the lookout! Lord, give us eyes to see.

Pastor Rich

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. 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, or phone Lorie at 630-992-0671. Email to 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. 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...

April 2020 Worship Schedule

All worship is held online at:

facebook.com/umcgeneva & www.genevaumc.org

Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

Time of Prayer & Encouragement - Mondays & Wednesdays at noon

Hymn Improvisations - Tuesdays and Thursdays

April 5: Palm Sunday - Pastor Rich preaches “Great Expectations” (Matthew 21:1-11)

Two millennia ago crowds waved palms to celebrate Jesus’s grand entrance into Jerusalem as Messiah and King. Today, as we remember Jesus’s triumphal entry in worship, we also acknowledge that this day signals our “letting go” into the sorrow of the events of the coming week. God’s steadfast love encourages us to stand together with Jesus even in the face of suffering and adversity, including the current pandemic. At 9 a.m. on Facebook & website.

April 10: Good Friday - Tenebrae Service

A Service of Tenebrae, or Shadows, is based on a twelfth-century late night/early morning service and is an extended meditation on the passion of Christ. Through readings and music we recall Jesus’ arrest, trial, crucifixion, and death, and what it means for the redemption of the world. At 7:30 p.m. on Facebook & website.

April 12: Easter Sunday

6:00 Sunrise Devotional - live on Facebook with Pastor Esther

9:00 Easter Sunday Service - Pastor Rich preaches “Can’t You See?” (Luke 24:13-35)

The hymn “Christ the Lord is Risen today” says it all! As we walk the road to Emmaus with Jesus’s bewildered, grieving disciples, we realize how much one’s perspective drives our perception and understanding of Easter. Even when we are questioning life and not sure what we’re looking for, Christ comes. Christ lives. Christ is present with us. We are not alone. And both life and love ultimately win. At 9 a.m. on Facebook & website.

****Easter Flowers:** If you ordered flowers, Heinz Brothers Garden Center will be delivering them to your doorstep on Friday, April 10. They will not ring the doorbell. If you do not want yours delivered to you, please phone Debbie at 630-715-1358, by Tuesday, April 7. Any remaining flowers will be given to a local nursing home.

April 19: 2nd Sunday in Easter - Pastor Esther preaches “Renaming Thomas” (John 20:19-31)

Every year on the first Sunday after Easter, many Christians take time to point a finger of disapproval at “Doubting” Thomas, one of the disciples of Jesus who refused to believe in the news of Jesus’ resurrection. But what if many of us have more in common with this Thomas who should actually be known by a different name? At 9 a.m. on Facebook & website.

April 26: 3rd Sunday in Easter - Pastor Rich preaches “Fishing with Jesus? (John 21:1-19)

From death to life, from despair to joy, from obstacles to clear path—yet we continue to trip over life’s obstacles and disappointments. But Jesus waits patiently for us, showing us right where to put down our nets to reap the abundance of God’s love—if only we are willing to follow him. At 9 a.m. on Facebook & website.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES NEWS

by Joan Hansen

The Fox Valley Annual Women's Cluster Luncheon was held March 7, hosted by West Chicago United Methodist Church. About 50 women from Baker, Kaneville, Geneva, and West Chicago attended this event celebrating women who have made their mark in the past 100 years since passage of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote. It was a great opportunity to "Reach Out" to other United Methodist Women in our extended community and learn more about each other. There was a very interesting program about how women achieved the right to vote with the encouragement and support of many men.

Each table of six had a placemat commemorating the achievements of women during the past 100 years:

- Marie Van Brittan Brown (1922-1999) invented the Home Security System using TV to see/hear anyone at your door.
- Olga Gonzalez Sanabria invented the Nickel-Hydrogen Battery used in the International Space Station.
- Stephanie Kwolek (1923-2014) invented Kevlar in 1969, used by millions of people every day
- Maria Telkes (1900-1995) invented the thermoelectric power generator to heat the first 100% Solar-Powered House.
- Yvonne Brill (1924-2013) developed the concept for a new rocket engine, the Hydrazine Resistojet Propulsion System.
- Marie Curie (1867-1934) discovered the Theory of Radioactivity.

"Make Your Mark 19" is a way to help honor the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment by engaging the public through craftivism. Making an embroidery of the 19th Amendment provides a way for anyone to take a stitch to honor and carry forward the ideal that all women and men can participate in our democracy."

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Women's Ministries is in the process of deciding how we will provide opportunities for all to "take a stitch". We will include a sheet with signatures of those who participate in this activity when our church resumes "regular" activities.

The 2021 Cluster Luncheon will be hosted by Baker Memorial UMC.



Women attending Annual Fox Valley UMC Women's Luncheon at West Chicago UMC

(photo by Rev. Avani Christian - West Chicago UMC)
The photo of some of the attendees was taken by West



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.

April 1	John 5-6
April 2	John 7-8
April 3	John 9-10
April 4	John 11-12
April 5	Palm Sunday. Join other Christians at church today for worship, study, and fellowship.
April 6	John 13-14
April 7	John 15-16
April 8	John 17-18

April 9	John 19-20
April 10	Good Friday. John 21
April 11	Join with other Christians in the vigil for Easter morning.
April 12	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.



2020 Census

It's important to complete your census form that you'll receive by mail. You can complete and submit it by phone, by calling **844-330-2020**, or online at **my2020census.gov**

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 AND OTHER GROUPS:

Spirited Women, The Men's study group, Early Bird Fellowship, The Adult Sunday School Class, Reading the Bible Again study, and Spirits & Studies, are all working to transition to online gatherings, as are committee meetings and more. Watch your email for an update.

Book Club – Sharon suggests you read whatever favorites you have on hand until the group is able to meet again.

Food and Fellowship

by Mary Ann Werman

There are many ways which "Food and Fellowship" happens at UMCG – Comfort Food Potluck and Ethnic Food Potluck, men's group Colonial Café Bible study, Spirited Women often share a meal on Wednesday's following their study, our Scholarship Committee local restaurant fundraisers, Men's Club activities like Pancake Breakfast, Swedish Days food booth, and Sub Sandwich Sale. There's also the ASP Chili cook-off and weekly donut sales, the UMC women's "Cluster Luncheon," the Sunday Panera group, our Women's Advent Tea, and those who prepare meals for Lazarus House!

On a recent Sunday in March we had nearly 45 join in for a "Food and Fellowship" brunch following each of our worship services and Adult Sunday School. Why do we do this? It is all about building relationships. It is about getting to know one another. It is about sharing God's grace. According to Phil Maynard's book, Shift, "The driving force behind the building of relationships is the expression of God's grace (unmerited love) through the acceptance of all persons as being those God loves and the invitation for all to discover the fullness of that love for themselves."

For now, these events are all on hold – but we encourage you to keep in touch in other ways – through phone calls, email, letters or cards, and even Facetime or Zoom! Share God's grace.

Endowment Committee Funds Two Ministry Projects

Two exciting projects recently received funding from the Endowment Committee:

- The Creating Community with God Committee (CCG) received \$1,000 for its "Reach Up, Reach In, Reach Out" ministry and activities. Linda Tamlyn has more details on CCG.
- A new program in the development and formation stage received \$1,500. "Music on the Move" will reach both UMCG audiences and the community with inter-generational music activities. See Jane Siarny for emerging details.

Maintaining our UMCG tradition, this committee also tithes 10% of the previous year's fund growth to Missions and Church in Society; this year's amount tithed is \$9,200.

The Endowment Committee is funded through undesignated bequests and provides start-up money for new and unfunded ministry programs and activities. The 2020 disbursement amount remaining is approximately \$25,000. Have an idea? Tell your committee! And then tell one of us!!
Members: Patty Dahlberg, Jules Heinemann, Mark Byars, Rita Bowgren, Bill Johnson, and Rolland Lang.



by Debbie Karr

April 22, 2020, will be the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. On the first Earth Day in 1970, over 20 million Americans came together all across our country to advocate for a healthy environment. Fifty years later it is observed world wide as a call to action day for our earth.

In past years our children have celebrated this day with a school or scouting activity and families and groups have participated in a community event. However, this year because of our social distancing rules, this will not be possible.

The Earth Day Service and Expo planned by the Creation Care team has been postponed but we have been working on an idea that we hope our UMCg families will share with their friends, neighbors and community to help celebrate a *virtual* Earth Day 2020.



Starting Sunday, April 19th and ending Saturday, April 25th we are challenging you to post your pictures and stories on the UMCg Facebook Page of how you are celebrating Earth Day and this year's theme, Climate Action.

Covid-19 does not prevent us from going outside in our yards or even visiting forest preserves or bike and walking trails. It is a healthy activity that doctors and other health professionals are encouraging us to do during this time of isolation.

So, be creative! Hug a Tree, (that's allowed!) said author Sam Liptak in her article on earthday.org, "Hug a Tree Not Each Other." Sam writes that the 50th Anniversary will be the largest online mobilization in history. Trade in Netflix she said for some fresh air and sunshine...the earth and your body will thank you.

Below are some websites to get you started. Look for more information to be posted on the UMCg Facebook Page and in the weekly eNews Update. Tell your family and friends! Come join us for *virtual* Earth Day 2020.

www.earthday.org
www.earth911.com
www.earthreminder.com



The Church Clean-Up scheduled for April 4 has been postponed.

The **SPRING RUMMAGE SALE** has been postponed.



UMC General Conference Moving to 2021

The General Conference 2020 of the United Methodist Church has been postponed due to the global coronavirus pandemic and travel bans. Organizers are exploring possible new dates in 2021. At this point, there is not a specific date.

The Northern Illinois Conference will be rescheduled, but dates are not yet available. The Bishop's office will issue updates.



A huge "Thank You" to Trustees Cindy Caliendo and Kathy McNeil as well as Ruth Rovelstad who cleaned and organized our Adult Church Library Friday, March 13. We accomplished so much. The library looks the best it has in years. This was planned as a prelude to the all-church cleanup April 4.

Joan Hansen

Recent additions to our children's books:

Sharon Anderson donated *The Invisible String*, and *I Miss You*, books for young children on the topic of loss.

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 Co-Chairs	Carolyn Sprawka
Youth Council Co-Chairs	Gary Dittmer
	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 Co-Chairs	Jim Manos
	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

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

California Pizza Kitchen is open for Pick-up and Delivery Only

Pizza with a purpose

Bring in this flyer, present it to your server
and we'll donate 20% of your check to the organization listed
below. Purchases include dine-in, takeout, catering and
all beverages.

**Fundraiser in support of:
United Methodist Church of Geneva
for Scholarship Funds**

Wednesday, April 15, 2020
11:00 AM – 9:00 PM



Valid at the following location:

California Pizza Kitchen
Geneva Commons
1202 Commons Drive
Geneva, IL 60134
(630) 845-1731

Join the **CPK Rewards**™ program and receive a **free Small Plate** on your next visit after registering. Register today at **cpk.com** or download our new app today!



Fundraiser offer valid only on the date(s) and at the CPK location identified on the flyer. Only 501c organizations and non-profit schools are eligible to participate in CPK's fundraiser program. CPK will donate 20% (twenty percent) of all food and beverage sales to the organization. Tax, gratuity, gift card and retail sales are excluded from the donation. Offer valid for dine-in, takeout, online, catering, curbside or delivery orders placed directly with CPK. Not valid for third-party delivery. Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near restaurant. For more information about the 501c organization participating in the fundraiser, please contact the organization directly.

MESSENGER DEADLINE

Submit Articles for the May *Messenger*
by **Wednesday, April 15.**

Send information to
communications@genevaumc.org
Subj: Messenger

United Methodist Church of Geneva

211 Hamilton Street
Geneva, IL 60134