



the **Messenger**

Reach Up...

Reach In...

Reach Out...



Congrats

**to our 2020
Scholarship
Recipients!**

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that scholarships have been awarded for the 2020-2021 school year:

Ana P., the William K. and Ruth A. Bullock Memorial Scholarship
Victoria McK., the William K. and Ruth A. Bullock Memorial Scholarship
Eleanor H., the William K. and Ruth A. Bullock Memorial Scholarship
Connor McK., the Bob Tucker Graduate Scholarship
Trace P., the Bob Tucker Undergraduate Scholarship
Brian D., the Lucinda Dittmer Memorial Scholarship
Jonathan K., the W. P. McElroy Memorial Scholarship
Danielle K., the Yvonne W. McElroy Memorial Scholarship
Melissa G., the Karen J. Weckler Memorial Scholarship
Alexander L., the Mike Worthington Memorial Scholarship
Katie H., the UMCG General Scholarship
Matt M., the UMCG General Scholarship
Claire A., the UMCG General Scholarship
Morgan W., the UMCG General Scholarship

Thank you to
all our
scholarship
donors!



Pastor's Page

Graced!

Every year I look forward to the first two weeks in May. Why? Well, as an avid bird watcher, this narrow window of time offers a rare opportunity to be in the presence of some very special songbirds migrating through our area. Each year I prepare by making sure our fly-through bird feeder is stocked with premium bird seed, the suet is hung, the peanut feeder is full, sliced oranges are affixed to the roof of the bird feeder, and nectar fills the hummingbird feeding tube. Then we wait and watch. This year has been a bonanza of red-breasted grosbeaks, Baltimore orioles, ruby-throated hummingbirds and even an indigo bunting dining on the food provided. God has graced us, literally, through this annual festival of migrating birds.

Jesus spoke of birds and flowers in Luke 12:22-31 as he addressed his disciples' anxiety over having their basic needs met for food, clothing and shelter as they wandered both Galilee and Judea following their master and teacher. A close observer of Luke remarks, "Why should they be anxious about their basic needs when God feeds birds and clothes the flowers of the field? Are not persons more precious to God than these? On the other hand, humans need to acknowledge their limitation, and not try to control what they cannot, such as the length of life or their stature. Anxiety, it would seem, is a product of not acknowledging and balancing both the specialness and limitedness of human

existence."¹ Jesus's words of wisdom are well worth pondering—and living into—as we continue to face the threat of Covid-19. Ultimately, our lives are in God's good and safe hands.

Pastor Rich

God Leads His Dear Children Along

The words of this song spring alive as I ponder Pastor Esther's appointment to Christ UMC Deerfield starting July 1. Five years ago, God led us together to serve among you as pastors here at UMCG, and we have certainly been blessed by Pastor Esther's faithful partnership in ministry. Ours has been a shared ministry including preaching, teaching, counseling, marriages and funerals, confirmation classes, children's and youth ministries, along with other ministries such as leading worship, Bible studies and administration. I am grateful for Pastor Esther's unflagging faith, wise counsel, eternal optimism and infectious laugh. Although I will miss working with you in the local church, Pastor Esther, our work together will continue at the Conference level. Thank you, and God bless you and your family as you move! I'm looking forward to seeing the many ways God will richly use you to bless God's people in Deerfield, just as you have right here in Geneva.

Pastor Rich

¹Prof. John Darr, "Creation and Anthropology," (unpublished paper).

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...

JUNE 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.

NOTE: Worship videos stay posted all day Sunday on the website, are available any time on the "Online Worship" page of the website, and are always available anytime on FB.

Children's Sunday School – contact jcpoboe@msn.com

Youth Sunday School on Zoom at 11:00 a.m.

Youth Activities online 2:30-3:30 p.m. – contact denise@genevaumc.org

Pen & Paper meets Saturdays 6-9 p.m. online - contact denise@genevaumc.org

Adult Sunday School on Zoom 10:30 a.m. Sunday – contact mcjamesc@aol.com
or myjanner@mtu.edu

Also Online:

Time of Prayer & Encouragement - Mondays & Wednesdays at noon

Hymn Improvisations - Tuesdays and Thursdays

June 7

Trinity Sunday – [Genesis 1:26-28; Matthew 28:16-20](#)

Today's scriptures remind us that our God is a relational God. God speaks in the first person plural in the first creation story (Genesis 1:26). In Matthew's Great Commission, Jesus sends his disciples in global mission, exhorting them to baptize in the name of the Triune God. Created in God's image, we are God's partners in caring for creation and sharing the Good News of salvation. Pastor Rich preaches.

June 14

2nd Sunday after Pentecost/Pastor Esther's Farewell Message

One of the first sermons Pastor Esther preached at UMCG was on [Matthew 14:22-33](#), the story of Peter walking on water in the midst of the storm. As we celebrate her last Sunday with us today, we go back to this scripture passage with the sermon titled, "Stepping Out." What message does God have for us today as we remember the good times we had together, look forward to the coming changes, and renew the assurance of the hope God gives us to face the "storms" before us: the pastoral transitions but also the future transitions, changes, and challenges in our lives. Pastor Esther preaches.

June 21

3rd Sunday after Pentecost/Father's Day – [Matthew 9:35 – 10:1,3-8](#)

On this Father's Day, Pastor Rich will preach from this text in Matthew's Gospel, a text that was his missionary father's favorite preaching passage on missions. What can fathers (and all of us) learn about God's mission—and ours—in the world? Pastor Rich preaches.

June 28

4th Sunday after Pentecost – [Matthew 10:40-42](#)

Here, at the end of Matthew's mission discourse, Jesus sends his disciples off with warnings and some encouragement, as they wonder how they will be received. Hospitality was essential to the early church's traveling preachers. It is more than just a one-time effort; it is a way of life. What does welcoming and being welcomed look like in the time of physical distancing? Pastor Becky preaches.

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

For the month of June, there are a number of online classes available. Please check our weekly eNews for the most current information. Here is what is currently being offered:

SPIRITED WOMEN is meeting via Zoom each Wednesday morning at 9:30 a.m. We are studying “The Universal Christ” by Richard Rohr, led by Sharon Anderson. Those who have not participated but wish to join us may contact Jenean Larsen at jenean_larsen@yahoo.com to be added to the ZOOM invitation.

The men’s study group, **EARLY BIRD FELLOWSHIP** is meeting via Zoom each Thursday at 8:00 a.m. Currently they are discussing the previous Sunday’s sermon. 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 is meeting via Zoom every **THURSDAY (note new day of the week)** evening at 6:30 p.m., and is led by Rev. Mary Gay McKinney. We just started a new study, “BETTER: Waking Up to Who We Could Be,” by Melvin Bray. Rev. Donna Davis Reid, an African American clergy colleague and friend of a few in our group, will also join us. “BETTER” offers a spiritual path on which people - for whom life has called into question many of their assumptions about God and the world - can continue to hold onto their faith, while joining others in seeking sustainable, cooperative, and courageous answers to the seemingly intractable problems of our time. If you’re looking to meet complete strangers during this time of isolation, or eager to see some familiar faces you are missing, we’d love to have you JOIN US. Email joshua.tibbs@me.com or marygay@genevaumc.org for the login information for our Zoom meeting. The book can be ordered online through numerous sites, including 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) or myjanner@mtu.edu, or Jim McConnell (630-715-3480) or mcjamesc@aol.com with any ideas or questions.

ADULT LIBRARY NEWS - Women’s Ministries has donated a book to our library in honor of Marge’s 90th birthday June 11. We have been doing this for over 15 years to honor women in our congregation on their 90th birthday. The book is *Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know About the People We don’t Know*, by Malcolm Caldwell (302/GLA), and is a recent new book. This book will be on display on the table outside our adult library in the atrium when church re-opens.

While we are all at home - staying safe and washing hands, many of us have been cleaning and/or re-organizing items at home. We have over 100 books checked out of our library. Perhaps you will find some of these books, have more time to read them and return them when church re-opens. We will follow the same protocols our public libraries are following when they resume service. Books can be returned to the church office or library in a bag designating them for the church library. They will be quarantined the required 72 hour minimum before being placed in circulation. Thanks. Any questions, please contact me: Joan Hansen, (630) 365-9217.

Reading and Praying the Psalms for Summer

An Offering from the Adult Council

This summer, add to your personal devotions the active reading and praying of the Psalms, the book of the Bible, which perhaps expresses more than any other the full range of human emotions from anger to love and grief to sorrow. After reading each psalm, compose a prayer that captures the essence of the psalm as it speaks to you and use the prayer as a guide to your way forward in faith. Keep a log of your prayers and review it periodically to understand more fully the character of your prayer life.

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
June 1	Psalms 1-2
June 2	Psalms 3-4
June 3	Psalms 5-6
June 4	Psalms 7-8
June 5	Psalm 9
June 6	Psalms 10-11
June 7	Join other Christians today for worship, study, and fellowship.
June 8	Psalms 12-13
June 9	Psalms 14-16
June 10	Psalm 17

June 11	Psalm 18
June 12	Psalms 19-20
June 13	Psalms 21-22
June 14	Join other Christians today for worship, study, and fellowship.
June 15	Psalm 23-25
June 16	Psalms 26-27
June 17	Psalms 28-29
June 18	Psalms 30-31
June 19	Psalms 32-34
June 20	Psalms 35-36
June 21	Join other Christians today for worship, study, and fellowship.

June 22	Psalm 37
June 23	Psalm 38-39
June 24	Psalms 40-41
June 25	Psalm 42-44
June 26	Psalms 45-46
June 27	Psalms 47-48
June 28	Join other Christians today for worship, study, and fellowship.
June 29	Psalms 49-50
June 30	Psalms 51-54

YOUTH

Contact: **Denise Clementz**, Youth Ministry Director
denise@genevaumc.org

Our current programming will continue into the summer to help keep our students engaged. The youth program has 3 weekly programs currently available online. Watch your email for all youth updates.

- 1) **Youth Sunday School**
- 2) **Virtual Youth Activity**
- 3) **Pen and Paper**

Confirmation classes will continue next fall for the current Confirmation students. And, a new class for our next Confirmation students will begin mid-October.

Additionally, we are asking students to still participate in the Sunday 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.



Meals for Lazarus House – Contact Gwen Powell at bgatpow@yahoo.com to schedule a contactless pick-up of the meal. Sign up online at <http://www.genevaumc.org>. Thank you!

LAWN MOWING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR UMCG – Rolland is mowing this month, and is looking for volunteers to help out the rest of the summer season. If you can help, please contact Rolland at rollang@ameritech.net or 630-879-3851. Thanks!

Dear Congregation of United Methodist Church of Geneva,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to receive the wonderful Karen Weckler Scholarship. It has really helped defray the cost of getting a degree in middle school education with a concentration in mathematics. I am doing very well academically and have loved taking my classes. Some activities I have been doing are participating on the Co-ed Cheer team. This has been bringing me lots of joy and new experiences that I am grateful for.

Thanks Again,
Melissa



Dear UMCG Scholarship Committee & Members of the Church,

I am hoping that everyone is doing well during these crazy times! I wish to thank the scholarship committee for awarding me the W. P. McElroy Memorial Scholarship for the 2020-2021 academic year. This money will come in handy when I start my college career in the fall studying mechanical engineering. Take care and thank you once again! God Bless us all!

Johnny

CHURCH COUNCIL

Chair	David Dias
Vice Chair	Jim Alderfer
Recording Secretary	Jean Eakins
Lay Members to Annual Conference	Sharon Anderson Dan Poremba Kei Narimatsu
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Trustees	Tony Zefron
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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

****NOTE:** Mention fundraiser **BEFORE** placing drive up order – their handheld device will not take it afterwards.



Bring in this flyer or show it on your smartphone and 20% of the proceeds will benefit

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GENEVA

June 17, 2020

11:00am - 8:00pm

at the Portillo's located at:

531 N. Randall Road

Batavia, IL 60510

We look forward to seeing you there!

To learn more about how you can partner with us to serve up a better tomorrow, visit portillos.com/good



MESSENGER DEADLINE

Submit Articles for the July *Messenger* by **Monday, June 15.**

Send information to

communications@genevaumc.org

Subj: Messenger

United Methodist Church of Geneva

211 Hamilton Street
Geneva, IL 60134