



the Messenger

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



New UMCG Associate Pastor Rev. Lisa Telomen Begins July 1

Rev. Lisa Telomen begins her appointment to the UMCG on July 1. For the past six years Pastor Telomen has been senior pastor at First UMC of La Grange, where she helped the congregation reignite a Special Needs Ministry, a Health and Wellness Ministry, and cheered on the congregation's outreach to the community through Evangelism ecumenical ministerium, and the La Grange Business Association. In addition, she helped the congregation continue some much-needed renovations of the sanctuary organ, and some of their education wing. At her last three appointments, Pastor Lisa has enjoyed connecting congregation and community through environmental justice/Green ministries, cross-racial dialogues and partnerships, and hunger ministries.

Pastor Lisa Telomen has served churches across the Northern Illinois Conference including rural, small town, county seat, Chicago, and Chicago suburban congregations. She enjoys ministry with children and youth.

Pastor Telomen is married to Rodney Telomen, RN, who retired this past December. They have two sons, Christopher, who is a landscape architect in San Jose, CA, and Jeffrey, who is a freshman at Central College in Pella, IA, where he is studying music education. They all love camping, hiking, and kayaking.



Help Welcome Pastor Lisa & Rod Telomen

We are excited for our congregation to meet Pastor Lisa Telomen, our new associate pastor. Because we cannot gather for a large welcoming party, we encourage folks to send Pastor Lisa and Rodney a card to welcome them to our church family. Be sure to include a little information about you and your family, and your phone number and email. Questions? Please contact Pastor Rich or Debbie Sampiller.

Pastor's Page

It is an exciting prospect to join with the staff and congregation of UMC of Geneva. I started my ministry career not far from here at Maple Park and Cortland UMCs; back when they were yoked, and there were a few times I came over to the hospital at Geneva to visit my people. I have long admired the city, and have been impressed with the ministry of this congregation. I am excited about your commitment to children, youth, missions, music, and now with your new initiative, to ministry in and with the community! There is lots for us to get excited about as our communities and churches begin to open up a bit during this pandemic. It is a privilege and joy to serve with your staff, who are wonderful people, some of whom I am a bit acquainted with already, through conference work shared together.

I am excited this summer to get to know the staff, congregation and community better: I look forward to becoming acquainted with the neighborhoods of Geneva, and perhaps even doing neighborhood visits with social distancing to hear from a few families at a time across driveways, what are your favorite stories and ministries of UMC of Geneva; who are your faith heroes, in the Bible and at UMC of Geneva? I am also excited to begin getting acquainted with the community businesses and non-profits, to hear what they love about Geneva, and what their favorite times of year and events of the year are, in the community.

I look forward to learning history, and hearing your visions and plans for the future of the church and community, and how we can move together toward God's kingdom vision!

I am excited to hear how you have been able to adapt some ministries to online venues, and look forward to exploring ways to gather safely in small groups to learn and serve together in our next phase of opening, when it is safe and we are ready. We are learning how to be church, and love God's people in new ways in this different time, but what is clear as we move forward: God is still here, and God is still loving us, and loving others through us; perhaps in different ways and through different expressions, but the message and mission is still before us and within us. We can do this! And we are stronger as we figure it out together, using the creativity of children, youth, adults and seniors. There may be a few things we can't do safely yet, but we have a whole host of new ways to explore bringing God's Word and Love to life in order to bless one another and bless our world together.

Looking forward to serving Christ with you,

Pastor Lisa Telomen



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 our Coordinator of Congregational Care, Pastor Mary Gay McKinney, 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.

Giving – Your faithful generosity shown by giving online, by text, and through the mail 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...

JULY 2020 Worship Schedule

All worship is held online at:

genevaumc.org & 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

Will not meet July 5, other July dates TBD

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

Youth Activities online 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Pen & Paper meets Saturdays 6-9 p.m. online

Adult Sunday School on Zoom 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Also Online:

Time of Prayer & Encouragement - Mondays & Wednesdays at noon

From the Archives – Music from UMCG - Tuesdays and Thursdays

July 5

Yokes [Matthew 11:25-30](#)

Today we welcome our new Pastor, Rev. Lisa Telomen, and her family and look forward to hearing her preach next Sunday. Today, however, **Pastor Rich will be preaching**. Our text reminds us that life brings yokes of various shapes and sizes—some we choose for ourselves, and some that others choose for us. Jesus assures us, however, that his yoke will be easy and renewing rather than burdensome.

July 12

Sower, Seed and Soil [Matthew 13:1-9,18-23](#) (Note: **Rev. Lisa Telomen preaches!**)

God is an extravagant gardener, sowing seeds of kingdom love here, there and everywhere! And Jesus asks us to help plant as well. So hear this Good News: God is always trying to reach us, and others, no matter where we are! Some will hear, some will not; sometimes we are receptive, sometimes we are not. The Good News and Good Work is to Sow God's kingdom love All Ways: in all the ways we can, at all the times we can, in all the places we can, with all the people we can, as long as ever we can! I look forward to joining Geneva's Sowing Team, learning where we are already planting with Jesus, and exploring with you where else we can sow seeds with God!

July 19

Wheat & Weeds [Matthew 13:24-30](#)

The best is yet to come! In this parable on the kingdom of God, Jesus warns his disciples that until God's reign comes in its fullness, we will live side by side – the wheat with the weeds. Our calling is to remain fruitful, healthy fields of grain. And so we live with patience, steadfast faithfulness, perseverance and hope. **Pastor Rich preaches.**

July 26

Baptismal Renewal

The Shepherding Team of the Aurora District will lead us in a virtual worship service centering on the renewal of our baptismal covenant. Join us online as we remember our baptisms and celebrate our membership and ministry in the body of Christ.

*Weekly themes based on the Gospel lessons in the *Abingdon Worship Annual 2020*.

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.

July 1	Psalms 55
July 2	Psalms 56-57
July 3	Psalms 58-59
July 4	Psalms 60-61
July 5	Join other Christians today for worship, study, and fellowship.
July 6	Psalms 62-63
July 7	Psalms 64-65
July 8	Psalms 66-67
July 9	Psalms 68
July 10	Psalms 69
July 11	Psalms 70-72

July 12	Join other Christians today for worship, study, and fellowship.
July 13	Psalms 73
July 14	Psalms 74-75
July 15	Psalms 76-77
July 16	Psalms 78
July 17	Psalms 79-80
July 18	Psalms 81-82
July 19	Join other Christians today for worship, study, and fellowship.
July 20	Psalms 83-84

July 21	Psalms 85-86
July 22	Psalms 87-88
July 23	Psalms 89
July 24	Psalms 90-91
July 25	Psalms 92-93
July 26	Join other Christians today for worship, study, and fellowship.
July 27	Psalms 94-95
July 28	Psalms 96-97
July 29	Psalms 98-99
July 30	Psalms 100-101
July 31	Psalms 102-103

YOUTH

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, including weekly Zoom codes, etc.

- 1) **Youth Sunday School on Zoom**
- 2) **Virtual Youth Activity - Sundays, 2:30-3:30 p.m.**
- 3) **Pen and Paper - Saturdays, 6-9 p.m.**

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. Please contact Denise if you are interested.

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

Spirited Women is meeting via Zoom each Wednesday morning at 9:30 a.m. They will continue their study of "The Universal Christ" by Richard Rohr, led by Sharon Anderson. Those who have not participated but wish to join us should 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 8:00am. They will be studying the Rob Fuquay book "The God We Can Know-Exploring the "I Am" Sayings Of Jesus."

The Adult Sunday School Class is also meeting each Sunday at 10:30, again using Zoom video. We will be studying the book "Unafraid" by Adam Hamilton.

Spirits & Studies is meeting via Zoom meetings for now, the group continues a study using *BETTER: Waking Up To Who We Could Be* by Melvin Bray. We are happy that Rev. Adonna Davis Reid joins us to provide a much needed perspective in these challenging times. *BETTER* weaves together current events, painful events, and Bible stories. As Donna Darr, one of our participants has reminded us, "Anything mentionable is manageable." Meetings are from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays until choir practice resumes!

STEPHEN MINISTERS are trained in listening and walking with you through challenging times, be it grief, loss, crisis, loneliness, fear, worry or whatever else you could be facing. They continue to meet monthly via ZOOM until we are able to gather in person at church. For such a time as this, with the many challenges we face, you might benefit from **having** a Stephen Minister. Also, perhaps our Lord is nudging you toward **becoming** a Stephen Minister.

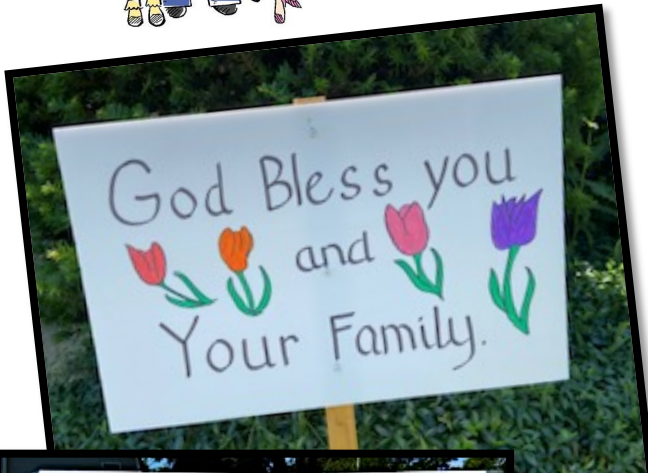
Geneva Virtual Swedish Days June 25-28!

For assorted virtual events for kids and adults and t-shirts saying "Swedish Days 2020...NOPE!" see the website:

https://www.genevachamber.com/virtual_swedish_days.php



Goodbye
Pastor
Esther



REACH OUT...

UMC of Geneva working to make masks available in Kane County and the DR

By Sharon Anderson Schmal

During these uncertain times of the Covid-19 pandemic, members of the UMCG faith community have been contributing financially and volunteering with MASK-UP KANE COUNTY (MUKC), making more than 60,000 masks for non-profits throughout Kane County, including Hesus House, Mutual Ground, and Lazarus House. Read more about MUKC at <http://www.maskupkanecounty.org>.

UMCG has been working with Kids Alive for 10 years, and in April learned they were also desperately in need of supplies. Christine Schirtzinger, founder and coordinator of MUKC, graciously allowed UMCG to purchase mask supplies to go to the DR even though the focus of the organization is local. In just three days, UMCG folks made and shipped more than 600 masks to our Dominican friends.

Now, in mid-June, Leslie has asked for more masks to be sent down. If you would like to contribute financially or in making of masks either for Kane County or Kids Alive DR, please contact Sharon Anderson at sanderson2257@sbcglobal.net. We'd love to have you join our team!



Dr. Leslie Trautwein receives a shipment of 620 masks from MUKC and UMCG.

Kids at the orphanage wearing masks to stay safe.



Make a Difference with the Neighbor Project

By Sharon Anderson Schmal

How can you **reach out** to connect and provide meaningful help to someone in need? One way is by volunteering with **The Neighbor Project** in Aurora. UMCG has been partnering with The Neighbor Project, providing financial support for a building in downtown Aurora that has four apartments. Two families living there will be participating in an 18-month program that gives them the knowledge and skills needed to become homeowners. Each family is assigned a maintenance team of 3-5 people to support and encourage them throughout the process. Maybe God is calling you to join other UMCG members to be part of a maintenance team.

Jim Manos, Marilyn and Jules Heinemann, Chris Schmal and Sharon Anderson Schmal formed the maintenance team for the Kalumba family. Talk to any of these UMCG members if you want to know more. They will tell you what a positive experience it was getting to know the Kalumbas and joining them on their journey of becoming homeowners! To learn more go to <https://neighborproject.us/> or contact Sharon Anderson at sanderson2257@sbcglobal.net.

