



the **Messenger**

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



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SONGS OF PROTEST

UMCG SUMMER MUSIC SERIES 2020



- August 9** – *For What It's Worth: Stop, Hey, What's that Sound?*
- August 16** – *What's Goin' On*
- August 23** – *Ohio*
- August 30** – *A Change is Gonna Come*

We are living once again in a time of protest and dissent in our country, and there is a long tradition of American protest songs. There is also a rich history of protest in Scripture, of striving towards greater social and economic justice. For this year's summer music series, we will feature four influential songs of protest, performed in our online services by a number of special musical guests. Our pastors will relate those songs to stories and lessons from scripture.

Music Director Scott Stevenson



Pastor's Page

We're co-creators in Christ's ministry!

If you had to describe recent months in one word, what word would you choose? That was the "ice-breaker" used in a ministry meeting I attended recently. My response? "Challenging!" I was thinking of our worship planning team and how we've rallied together to become co-creators of online worship services, guided by God's Spirit through it all. Fact is, we've all been learning how to be the church differently, creatively, and effectively as we've faced a host of challenges thrown our way by Covid-19, economic recession, social, and political upheaval. I affirm that it's been challenging for us all.

In early March, before the pandemic came in full force, we pastors of the three United Methodist churches here in the Tri-Cities area started meeting weekly online to discuss ways we could better live into the connectional nature of our UMC calling and mission. For five months now, we've been getting better acquainted, and there's been a whole lot of talk about sharing online ministries among our churches. For example, Baker Memorial has offered a meaningful Bible study online. Batavia UMC has successfully hosted 5 Cups of Coffee, an online program that helps people get to know each other and discuss their faith in non-threatening ways.

Our sister churches have expressed interest in joining us online in our new Spirits & Studies discussion group. We've discussed occasional, joint online worship services. And there are plans for a united, monthly, online game or fellowship time for our youth groups.

Best of all, we've moved beyond talk to action. Debbie Sampiller, Director of Administrative Ministries, has reached out to assist the pastors and her counter-parts at Baker Memorial and Batavia UMC with administrative and financial resources, processes, and procedures. And this past week, I was thrilled to help lead an energizing online VBS program, "Knights of the North Castle," hosted by Baker Memorial. I send a huge "thank you" to their Shelly Steinbarger, Dir. of Children and Family Ministries, and her team for organizing this weeklong VBS and offering it to us *for free!* I also commend our own Ali Wetmore and Sharon Reed for their collaboration and support. It was a bright highlight of my week! Every morning our home was filled with the sounds of children's voices singing, sharing, praying, and laughing.

Have the past months been challenging for us? Certainly! But, at the same time, the challenges have provided us with the impetus and opportunities to try new ways of being the church and new ways of walking with the Lord—whether in worship, study, fellowship, or mission outreach. The challenges have been worth it and have laid a groundwork for new paths of ministry to come within the Tri-Cities area.

As we learned in VBS throughout the week, "Be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his power!" (*Ephesians 6:10*)

Onward!
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 Lisa.

For pastoral care, contact Pastor Rich 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.

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

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...

AUGUST 2020 Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship

All worship is held online at genevaumc.org & [facebook.com/umcgeneva](https://www.facebook.com/umcgeneva)

Children's Sunday School – off until the end of August - 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

August 2 – Matthew 14:13-21 Pastor Rich preaches on life's *Bare Necessities!*

Jesus and his disciples are interrupted in the evening by a crowd of hungry followers. The disciples argue to send them away! Instead, Jesus provides a simple meal from a few loaves of bread and fish. Even in our darkest hours and greatest fatigue, the Lord is with us, meeting our needs and giving us opportunities for ministry.

SONGS OF PROTEST

UMCG SUMMER MUSIC SERIES 2020

August 9 – *For What It's Worth: Stop, Hey, What's that Sound?*

Buffalo Springfield's song became a protest anthem often associated with the Vietnam War, but a very different protest influenced Still's lyrics. Scripture tells us to learn from the past – so how does this 1968 tune relate to today? Pastor Becky preaches. (Romans 15:4-5, 1 Corinthians 10:11-13)

August 16 – *What's Goin' On*

Marvin Gaye's version of *What's Goin' On* grows out of his reflections on Bloody Thursday, the Watts Riots, and stories his younger brother told about his 3-year tour in Vietnam. We'll reflect on the history and legacy of this song, comparing it to the prophecies of Amos & Jesus' lament over Jerusalem.

Pastor Lisa preaches *What's Goin' On*. (Amos 5:10-15, Matthew 23:37-49)

August 23 – *Ohio*

The song *Ohio* was written and composed by Neil Young in reaction to the Kent State Shootings on May 4, 1970, where four college students, protesting the Vietnam War, were shot and killed by the Ohio National Guard. Sung by Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, it was dubbed "the greatest protest on record." *Jesus joined their protest against wanton bloodshed against the innocent by the powerful.

Pastor Rich preaches. (Hosea 4:1-3, Luke 13: 31-35)

August 30 – *A Change is Gonna Come*

Sam Cooke wrote and sang this mournful, soulful, bluesy song in 1964 about hanging on to this hope, and it's hard much of the time. Today in our streets people continue to protest and hang on. Some change has come but not nearly enough. When the people of God were enslaved in Egypt for 400 years, could they dare to hope for a change? When the women went to the tomb on Easter morning, what could they dare to hope? Pastor Mary Gay preaches *Keep Hope Alive!* Title is borrowed from the Rev. Jesse Jackson. (Exodus 3:1-15, Mark 16:1-6)

*Lynskey, Dorian, "Neill Young's Ohio." *The Guardian*, May 6, 2010.

Outdoor Worship – coming in late August or early September – watch for details.

The Christian Tradition of the *Love Feast*

(Condensed from Wikipedia and other online sources by Pastor Lisa)

What is a love feast, and why would we have one?

The **Love Feast** is modeled on the meal, teachings, and Last Supper shared between Jesus and his first disciples on that first Maundy Thursday. The early house churches of our New Testament letters, and the Acts of the Apostles, reference how the early disciples would gather in homes for a meal, teaching, and testimony, and then shared bread and cup, “doing this in remembrance of me (Jesus).” In Acts, chapter 2, we read how the disciples would gather and share teachings, break bread, eating together and praising God,” Check out I Corinthians 11 to read of some problems with that! Early house churches continued this tradition, but sometime between 100 and 300 CE, as larger, more formal churches were established, the common meal and the Lord’s Supper got separated, and then the common meal eventually died out and is not mentioned as a regular, religious practice in churches. The focus of churches shifted to preaching, teaching and the Eucharist, or Holy Communion, the bread and juice blessed by clergy and shared by the congregation.

After the Protestant Reformation there was a move among some groups of Christians to try to return to the practices of the New Testament Church. The Moravians, led by Count Zinzendorf, adopted a form consisting of the sharing of a simple meal, and then testimonies or a devotional address were given and letters from missionaries read. John Wesley first experienced it among the Moravians in Savannah, Georgia, ten years later, and incorporated it into his practice and teachings. As Methodists immigrated to North America they made Love Feasts an important part of early American Methodism. Due to the lack of ordained ministers in America, the Love Feast took on a life of its own, practiced because clergy could only visit each area for communion three to four times a year.

Charles Wesley, John’s brother, wrote this hymn “The Love-Feast,” in 1740, as well as a few others for Love Feasts.

“Come and let us sweetly join Christ to praise in hymns divine;
Give we all, with one accord. Glory to our common Lord.
Hands and hearts and voices raise; Sing as in the ancient days;
Antedate the joys above, Celebrate the **feast of love.**”

On August 2, when we reflect on the text for the day from Matthew 14, the feeding of the 5,000, we will celebrate a Love Feast together, remembering how when two or three are gathered, Christ is among us. And, whenever we break bread and share the cup, Christ is there among us. We will bring to our worship observance our bread or breakfast or sweet roll and coffee, tea, milk or juice, and gather virtually to remember that Christ is still among us when we eat and praise and remember him, and Christ is especially present in the love we share together as we eat. Pastor Becky will share in words of blessing and remembrance, and then invite all of us watching to eat and drink whatever we have brought to our worship, together, in Christ’s love. Be sure to bring your food to your worship space at the beginning of the service, so you don’t have to leave in the middle to go get them!



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

ADULT STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

For the month of August, 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 August:

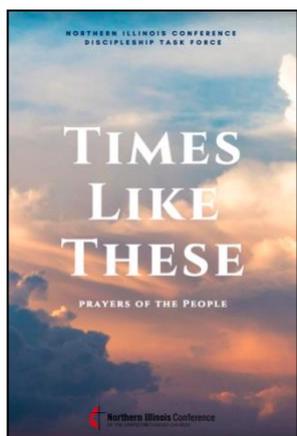
For information regarding **Spirited Women**, please contact Marty Janners.

The men's study group, **Early Bird Fellowship** is meeting via Zoom each Thursday at 8:00 a.m. They will begin a new study on Psalms: "Invitation to Psalms" by Michael Jenkins. For more information and a Zoom invitation to join the weekly discussion, please contact Jim McConnell.

The **Adult Sunday School Class** is also meeting each Sunday at 10:30, again using Zoom video. We will begin a new study in August. Please watch weekly communications for more information. If you would like to join the discussion, please contact either Marty Janners or Jim McConnell.

Spirits & Studies will be on break for the month of August. We will begin meeting again on Thursday, September 10. Watch for updates and more detailed information in our September *Messenger*. We welcome newcomers! Questions? Phone Joshua Tibbs @ 630-465-1196.

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 <mailto:myjanner@mtu.edu>, or Jim McConnell (630-715-3480) or <mailto:mcjamesc@aol.com> with any ideas or questions.



The Northern Illinois Conference Discipleship Task force has put together an online booklet of prayer, *Times Like These – Prayers of the People*, for your reflection and devotion.

It is available to **view online**

https://issuu.com/niconference/docs/nic_prayer_book_final?fr=sYzk3OD E2NTQ3MjI,

Also available for **download**:

<https://www.umcnic.org/media/files/Congregational%20Life/NIC%20Prayer%20Book%20.pdf>

Print options coming soon.

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. Contact Rev. Mary Gay McKinney via email @ marygay@genevaumc.org or by phone 815-508-2055.

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
August 1	Psalm 104
August 2	Join other Christians today for worship, study, and fellowship.
August 3	Psalm 105
August 4	Psalm 106
August 5	Psalm 107
August 6	Psalms 108-9
August 7	Psalms 110-111
August 8	Psalms 112-13
August 9	Join other Christians today for worship, study, and fellowship.
August 10	Psalms 114-15
August 11	Psalms 116-8
August 12	Psalm 119:1-16

Date	Scripture Reading
August 13	Psalm 119:17-40
August 14	Psalm 119:41-64
August 15	Psalm 119:65-88
August 16	Join other Christians today for worship, study, & fellowship.
August 17	Psalm 119:89-112
August 18	Psalm 119:113-44
August 19	Psalm 119:145-76
August 20	Psalms 120-22
August 21	Psalms 123-26
August 22	Psalms 127-29
August 23	Join other Christians today for worship, study, and fellowship.
August 24	Psalms 130-32

Date	Scripture Reading
August 25	Psalms 133-35
August 26	Psalms 136-38
August 27	Psalms 139-40
August 28	Psalms 141-43
August 29	Psalms 144-45
August 30	Join other Christians today for worship, study, and fellowship.
August 31	Psalms 146-47



REMINDER: Church door key codes were changed on June 29. Please contact Debbie Sampiller if you need a new code for essential reasons. Please do NOT share your code. Questions about the Health Team and reopening of the church building can be directed to Dave Dias or Jim Alderfer.

Elderwerks Virtual Senior Fair
August 12 -13, 2020

seniors. There are 22 classes that are 45 minutes each with a 15 minute break in between. Choose 1 or 22 it's up to you.

For more information and registration visit:
<https://www.elderwerks.org/resources/seniorfair/default.aspx>

REACH IN...

Update #2 from the UMCG Health Team

The Health Team continues to meet weekly via Zoom. We conducted the Check-In Survey to assess where people are right now for the use of the pastors and Health Team. We received 178 responses to the survey, and results were emailed to the congregation. The survey showed among our respondents:

- 94% were able to access our online worship, and 79% had viewed it during the past 4 weeks.
- Suggestions for groups: Bible studies, prayer, hope and faith, fruits of the spirit, forgiveness, good communication techniques, political divisions in families, racism, and racism and homosexuality and the UMC.
- When people would feel most comfortable attending worship:
 - 46% as soon as possible following the state/NIC guidelines with masks, distancing, etc.
 - 63% (total) at least several months later, when we don't need masks, or when there is a vaccine.
- Respondents also indicated their primary concerns with being in the building.

Our Town Hall meeting was held via Zoom on Saturday, July 11, at 3:00 p.m., and 66 people participated from their computers, phones, and tablets. Jim Alderfer presented a thorough report on what the Health Team has been doing, including its mission. Their primary guide is the Northern Illinois Conference ReTurn Plan, available on the NIC website umcnic.org, in conjunction with the Restore Illinois Plan, the IDPH and CDC. He noted these key take-aways from the NIC ReTurn Plan:

- Churches are different than other public venues for a number of reasons.
- Significant changes to our routines will be required.
- Worship will not look like it did before, and we will not get what we want right away.
- There are no shortcuts to the guidelines; they must be followed to maximize the safe return to worship and other church activities in order to 'Do No Harm.'

Music Director Scott Stevenson (Worship Planning Team) described the many changes that would be made and exactly what worship would look like when we do return. He said worshipers will need to make a reservation and we'd be limited to 45 people because the pastor, musician, and ushers count. Worshipers would be ushered to a seat with distancing, wearing a mask at all times. Many things won't happen: there will be no congregational singing, no vocal solos except on video, with live music limited to piano and organ (no wind instruments), and many portions of the service still prerecorded. There will be no Bibles or hymnals, no bulletins, no passing of the peace, no passing the offering plate, no responsive calls to worship or readings in unison of any kind, including the Lord's prayer, and the service will be short. Scott Stevenson also said we can't expect to come back to the worship service as we knew it, and we probably won't be able to for quite a long time – but, this may change future worship for the better.

The Health Team is working through the Absolute Guidelines and Best Practices lists and is close to completing those for Phase 4. For now:

- Church meetings should continue to be done through video conferencing.
- Worship will continue to be provided online for the immediate and long-term future. We can do the most online now.
- The building is still closed with a few exceptions, and anyone who needs to be in the building needs to contact Debbie to schedule a time and must follow proper protocols in the building (masks/distancing/limited area, etc.)
- We are required to keep track of everyone who is in the building from now on.

The presentation was followed by an hour-long question and answer session.

Both the slide presentation and the meeting video are available on our website under "Reach-In" tab.

YOUTH

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

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 - Sundays, 11 a.m.**

Our sessions will aim for about 40 minutes to connect, learn, and discuss. Please make sure to log in a few minutes before 11 a.m. to make sure the connection loads, and for the leaders to allow you access from the waiting room.

2) **Virtual Youth Activity - Sundays, 2:30-3:30 p.m.**

We have opened a server for Sunday youth activities for students in 5th-12th grade. Adult leaders are able to stream an interactive set of games. Students will need to watch the stream on computer; and then submit their answers through a phone or tablet. For security reason you must email to receive a code to connect the first time.

For parents who are concerned about their students using on their own, I suggest the parent making an account and joining our server. That way you can allow your student access only during our scheduled gaming times. Families with multiple students in grades 5-12 only need to use one account at a time.

3) **Pen and Paper - Saturdays, 6-9 p.m.**

Pen and Paper will continue meeting online using the server. You will have to email or contact Darlene to receive a viable code to connect the first time. You are allowed to invite friends, but you must contact either Denise or Darlene first.

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.



One of 3 goals of the NIC's 5-Year Plan: To live out the conviction that Racism is incompatible with Christian Teaching.

See NIC Information here:
<https://www.umcnic.org/antiracism>

See UMC information at
<https://www.umc.org/en/how-we-serve/advocating-for-justice/racial-justice/united-against-racism>

ADULT•ISH

MEET UP

ZOOM EDITION

Sunday, Aug 9th | 1–2 p.m.

Zoom link to follow—check genevaumc.org
or the weekly emails for updates!

Are you lost and confused? So are we. Welcome to Adulthood. Adult-ish, the young adult group for ages 18 to 30 something, is here to help you out...or at least scream internally with you. Join us as we meet virtually to talk about anything and everything and try to figure out this adult thing together. All are welcome!
Contact Maria at maria.isely@gmail.com

Get to know Pastor Lisa in a Zoom group!

Pastor Lisa Telomen will hold Zoom group meetings on these dates and times: Tuesday, August 18, at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Wednesday, August 19, at 7 p.m.; and Thursday, August 20, at 10 a.m.

Please email Pastor Lisa at Lisa@genevaumc.org with your first and second choice of time. Each group will be limited to 12 people.





notes & more

THANK YOU!

Friends at United Methodist, The world is better because people like you care for the well-being of all. MUKC is grateful for your generous donation. We wish you good health, peace and security during these challenging circumstances

Friend *Sue* *Margie*
MASKUPKANECOUNTY.ORG
Sandy #maskupkanecounty Ellen Sue

Thank you from the Telomens!

We are so grateful to all who prepared the parsonage house and yard for us after Pastor Esther moved out – you did great work, and we appreciate your ongoing attention to further work that needs to be done to preserve this beautiful house! Many thanks also to those who stocked snacks in our refrigerator, who have brought meals, given gift cards, who have brought flowers and sent greeting cards, and welcoming emails. Your hospitality has been so wonderful, and helped us through the difficult work of packing, unpacking and organizing our space.

We have pretty much organized the living space now, and are enjoying the gardens very much too! The basement will be an ongoing project... as one New Yorker cartoon of two birds building a nest put it: the one bird, with a twig in mouth as it scrutinized the building plan, says to the other: "There's always one annoying piece left over...!" We look forward to putting our leftover pieces to good use as we partner with you all in ministry to the community!

**Salvation Army Tri-City Corps
Food Drive**

**Saturday, August 15, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
1710 S. 7th Avenue in St. Charles**

Supplies are low due to the tremendous demand this year. A table will be set up outside the building in the parking lot, and volunteers will accept your donations. All standard staples are needed, plus brown paper grocery bags. For more information, please call 630-377-2769, or email dena.smith@usc.salvationarmy.org.



COMING SOON....

**Blessing of Backpacks
for all ages**

Watch for the date TBA...



Wednesday/Friday: Prayer & Encouragement

Tuesday/Thursday: From the Archives Music from UMCG

Raise a slice
FOR A
**GOOD
CAUSE**



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GENEVA



FOR QUESTIONS

Please contact UMCG
(630) 232-7120
Debbie@genevaumc.org

DATE
Wednesday, August 19, 2020

LOCATION
Lou Malnati's Geneva
4:00pm - 10:00pm
1048 Commons Drive
(Geneva Commons)
(630) 208-1600

Lou Malnati's will donate 20% of total sales to your organization (20% based on pre-tax purchase, excluding alcohol) from every order received from Dine-In, Carryout or Delivery (within zone).
Make sure to mention the flyer or fundraiser during your phone order.

* INCLUDES ONLINE AND APP ORDERING. USE CODE FUNDUMCG20 *

**PLEASE
NOTE**

- Must mention fundraiser at time of order to ensure credit towards fundraiser
- Please check receipt for "fundraiser" item. If you do not see "fundraiser" on your receipt, please see or call a manager
- For questions or concerns please email fundraising@loumalnatis.com

MESSENGER DEADLINE

Submit Articles for the September *Messenger*
by **Saturday, August 15.**

Send information to

communications@genevaumc.org

Subj: Messenger



UMCG Church Staff

Rich Darr	Senior Pastor
Lisa Telomen	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

CHURCH COUNCIL

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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 Gary Dittmer
Youth Council Co-Chairs	Keith Rawson Darlene Kilmer
Children's Council Chair	Ali Wetmore
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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 Lisa Telomen
Member-at-large	

United Methodist Church of Geneva

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