

The United Methodist Church of Geneva



SEPTEMBER 2020

the Messenger

In This Issue:

- 3 September Worship Schedule
- 4 Celebrating Holy Communion
- 4 Adult Studies & Groups
- 5 Health Team Update #3
- 9 Neighborhood Groups coming
- 9 Tuesday Prayer Meeting
- 11 Birthdays & Anniversaries
- 8 Adult-Ish



Methodists crucial in fight for women's vote

By Heather Hahn, UM News August 18, 2020



Women march in the 1913 Women Suffrage Procession in Washington organized by the National American Woman Suffrage Association. Methodist women played a significant role in the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Photo from the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Crowds jammed into the Tennessee state capitol on a hot August morning in 1920 for what all expected to be a momentous day. The question on everyone's mind: How would the Tennessee legislators vote on U.S. women's right to vote?

Most of Tennessee's southern neighbors had rejected the measure. The state's legislature faced pressure to do the same and begin sounding the amendment's death knell.

Continued on page 10.

Pastor's Page

It's a whole new world out there...

Business is definitely not the same as usual. I was powerfully reminded of that during two meetings I participated in last week. The first was a Skype meeting involving my brother John, Professor of New Testament at Boston College, and two of our colleagues in Burkina Faso, West Africa, whom we have partnered with in an ecumenical (Protestant/Catholic) inter-faith (Christian/Muslim) earth-keeping project since 2010. We were touching base with partners Mamadou and Yaya regarding a \$3000 gift from us and UMCG going towards medicine and supplies to address the spread of Covid-19 in their corner of Burkina.

One of the first things out of Mamadou's mouth was the impact the pandemic has had on their work promoting Community Based Natural Resource Management in villages. Like us here in the USA, so much of their work is now conducted by online conference calls. Unlike us, in addition to Covid-19, they have also been responding to the impact of several years of violence perpetrated by Al-Qaeda, ISIS and affiliates that has rendered some 800,000 internally displaced persons in a country slightly larger than Colorado and a population of 20 million. They expressed deep gratitude for our gift. And their good work continues in spite of the fact that one of their key conference centers housing a camp and eco-museum was recently attacked and burned to the ground by terrorists.

The second meeting was outdoors in Geneva at Wheeler Park in the shade of a tree. Consultant Mike Crain of Ministry Architects met first with our Children's Council and then with our Renovation Team that will be shaping our children's and youth ministries. Believe me, it sure was different meeting outdoors with social distancing and masks. Both meetings, however, were very productive as Children's Council received tangible and practical help with curriculum and ways to move forward this fall, and our Renovation Team adjusted their important work in light of the pandemic.

One aspect of both meetings that I especially appreciated was the positive attitude every one of our partners displayed—even optimism that the pandemic has forced all of us to adapt, think out of the box, and experiment with new ways of working. After all, what could be more important than helping our children grow in their faith, assisting communities a continent away face the pandemic and taking care of God's good creation? While "business" is definitely not the same as usual, it is most definitely moving forward as God continues to work through us in new ways whether here in Geneva or far-off Burkina Faso.

With gratitude – 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, or phone Lorie at 630-992-0671. Email to communications@genevaumc.org goes to Lorie Montanye, Debbie Sampiller, and Becky Nicol.

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.

SEPTEMBER 2020 Worship Schedule

Worship is held online at genevaumc.org & facebook.com/umcgeneva

Children's Sunday School – Kicks off Sept. 13 at 11 a.m. - contact jcpoboe@msn.com Youth Sunday School – resumes Sept. 13 at 11 a.m. via Zoom – contact denise@genevaumc.org Youth Activities – 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

- September 6 Praise the Lord! Psalm 148 invites the human community to join all of creation (heaven and earth – animate and inanimate) in praising the Lord. In spite of the pandemic and the social, political and economic turmoil we currently face, we join all of creation in offering praise and thanksgiving to the God of creation and salvation. We will celebrate Holy Communion in both our online and *outdoor worship services. Pastor Rich preaches.
- September 13 Worship with the NIC Cabinet! This special online worship service led by Bishop Sally Dyck and the Cabinet centers on the theme of peace. Special music and Saint Francis's prayer that we be instruments of peace will direct our hearts, minds, and actions toward peace making. Bishop Sally's sermon "Deep Peace and the Peaceable 'Kin-dom'" is based on Isaiah 11 (the wolf will lie down with the lamb) and Ephesians 6 (standing strong in the whole armor of God).
- September 20 Philippians 1: 21-30 "For me, living is Christ; live your life in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ!" Wow! Are we up to that? How do we do that? The church in Philippi includes some of Paul's first converts and best friends and supporters of his ministry. Paul encourages them to walk and talk their faith with integrity, in harmony with fellow Christians as well. This practice can bless us all, and our world, with our joy in faith, and salvation beyond any suffering. Pastor Lisa preaches.
- September 27 The Way Up Is Down! Philippians 2:1-13 is based on an ancient hymn of the early church re-minding us how much mind matters. Whose mind is in control of our lives individually and collectively as a church? Ours or Christ's? It really does matter! Pastor Rich preaches.

Outdoor Worship – September 6 and 27, 10:30 a.m. at Fabyan Park (Online worship held these dates, also)

We will be worshipping in person, outdoors, at 10:30 a.m. at **Fabyan Park Shelter #1** on the <u>west side of the Fox River</u>. Worship is limited to 50 persons – face masks and social distancing and sign up are required. Sign up online at the church website – open Monday-Saturday the week prior to each service. If you are unable to sign up online, contact Debbie Sampiller at 630-232-7120 to sign up. You may bring your own water, but no other food or drink. Park restrooms will be open. Please watch your email closely that morning, in case we need to cancel due to weather.

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 September, 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 September:

Spirited Women will begin a new study after Labor Day. Please contact Marty Janners for information.

The men's study group, Early Bird Fellowship is meeting via Zoom each Thursday at 8:00 a.m. They will continue their study of 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 meeting each Sunday at 10:30, using Zoom. We will begin a new book study on Sunday September 6, using the book, "Which Way Lord? Exploring Your Life's Purpose in the Journeys of Paul." This will be a 6-week DVD/book study. Books available on Amazon. If you would like to join the weekly discussion, please contact either Marty Janners or Jim McConnell. ***Adult Sunday School will meet at 1:00 p.m. on August 30, September 6, and September 27 when there is Outdoor Worship.**

Spirits & Studies will resume, weather permitting, in Park on Thursday, September 10, at 6:30 p.m. It will be a book study along with distanced fellowship and joy in gathering in person again. We will send our book title in the weekly eNews. For more information, contact Josh Tibbs at <u>Joshua.tibbs@me.com</u> or Mary Gay McKinney at marygay@genevaumc.org.

Adult Council welcomes your ideas for studies and other areas of interest that you would like to see offered. Please contact either Marty Janners (630-701-5665) myjanner@mtu.edu or Jim McConnell (630-715-3480) mcjamesc@aol.com with any ideas or questions.

HOLY COMMUNION WILL BE CELEBRATED AT ONLINE & OUTDOOR WORSHIP SEPTEMBER 6

For Online worship you may:

- 1) Provide your own bread and grape juice
- 2) Pick up prepackaged wafer and juice cup at the church

For Outdoor Worship:

Please pick up your own wafer and juice cups at the church. There will be some also available at the Outdoor Worship service.

Communion packet PICK UP: Saturday, September 5, from noon until 2 p.m. at church

Please drive up in the parking lot west of our building Be ready to tell/indicate how many communion juice/wafter sets you need **Wear your mask in the car**, open the back window and a volunteer will drop a bag or bags containing communion packs into your car.

PLEASE DO NOT GET OUT OF YOUR CAR - THANKS!



Health Team Update #3

The UMCG Health Team continues to meet every week and to work on planning and preparation. In coordination with the pastors and Worship Planning Team, we have planned to hold outdoor worship services on August 30, September 6, and September 27. All services are at 10:30 a.m., and have restricted attendance limits. A Town Hall meeting was held on August 22 to provide information for those planning to attend outdoor worship. **NOTE: Online Worship will continue every week, including days of outdoor worship.**

OUTDOOR WORSHIP August 30 September 6 & 27

- We must adhere to a state limit of 50 persons gathered, so **you will need to sign up online to attend outdoor worship.** This count includes a pastor, 2 musicians, and ushers. Please, no walk ins.
- Sign up will be done online on our website, and the link sent to you via email. Those who aren't able to sign up online may phone Debbie at the office number, 630-232-7120.
- Observe distancing in parking and in walking to and from the worship area.
- Masks and social distancing are required. Ushers will guide you to seating areas.
- Seating will be on the lawn, so you need to bring your own blanket or chair.
- This is practice for conducting indoor worship and you must observe these safety protocols:
 - Keep masks on at all times and maintain social distancing.
 - No bulletins.
 - No congregational singing or responsive reading.
 - No passing offering plate please give online.
 - No hugs, handshakes, or physical greeting please keep 6' distance minimum.
 - No shared food or drink.
 - Please maintain 25-foot distance from the Pavilion and worship leaders.
 - On Sept. 6, communion elements will be available for you to pick up at the service. These are prepackaged small cups of juice with a wafer, wrapped together. They will be in a bag.
 - You may also bring your own small piece of bread and juice but do not share outside of your family group.
 - No attendance will be taken we will use the sign-up list.
 - Outdoor worship will be promptly ended if attendees do not observe all protocols.

COMMUNION

We are planning to celebrate communion during BOTH our <u>online worship service</u> September 6, AND at the <u>outdoor worship service</u> September 6.

Your options:

- You may provide your own communion bread and grape juice or pick up for online worship.
- For outdoor worship, please pick up prepackaged set(s) of wafer and juice at the church.
- Pick up will be Saturday, September 5, from noon 2 p.m.
 - Drive up in the west parking lot behind the church and stay in your car.
 - Wear your mask in your car.
 - Be ready to communicate to the volunteers how many people you wish to pick up communion elements for, and have your back-seat window open, so they can drop the bag containing communion packages into your car.
 - PLEASE DO NOT GET OUT OF YOUR CAR, AND DO WEAR YOUR MASK IN YOUR CAR.

Criteria for Reopening continued on page 10.

YOUTH

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

Youth Sunday School Returns 9/13 at 11 a.m.

We will resume our meetings on Zoom in September. This semester we will be using the curriculum 'Echo the Story' to look at the Bible through creativity and storytelling.

First Sundays will still be reserved for family to spend together for worship or just time with one another.

Youth Activities

This Fall the Youth Program will continue to have afternoon activities and we will meet every other Sunday, unless otherwise scheduled. Follow the email updates for events planned.

Some events in the beginning of Fall will be socially-distanced outdoor gatherings. Others will be similar virtual games as we used over summer. Guidelines for outdoor events will be posted with each event, and parents will be required to RSVP students beforehand. Guidelines for online activities will continue to be shared with events as well.

Confirmation

Pastor Rich will be leading our Confirmation classes for the Fall semester. If you have a student in 8th grade or older, please contact Denise to have them added to our Confirmation class.

- The class of 2019-2020 will resume in mid-September 2020 and finish in mid-October 2020. All classes will be on Zoom. Please watch email for scheduling requests.
- The class of 2020-2021 will begin in late October 2020 and finish in May 2021. Fall classes will be on Zoom for now. Please watch email for Fall scheduling requests.

Both classes will be confirmed together in worship service next year at a time when we will be able to meet in the church building. This is subject to change to another format depending on the current health situation.

If you have a student who would like to be a part of any of our Youth Programming, or you have any questions, please contact Denise Clementz at <u>denise@genevaumc.org</u>

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL FALL KICK OFF

Save the date for our NEW in person (socially distant with masks) Sunday School kick off for Kindergarten-4th grade and 5th-8th grade! **Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 13, at 11 a.m.** Registration will be required and more details to follow in early September. Can't wait to see everyone!



REACH OUT...

Hi Sharon and Chris,

As strong supporters of Kids Alive Haiti, I am happy to share with you this update from Robenson about the solar panel system that was recently installed in Haiti. Robenson recently shared with us this update:

The solar system was install at the end of October and still functioning great. With the new solar system, there is a huge and incomparable difference. The village and the school are now supplied with electricity 24/7, more security in the evening since the two sites are electrified overnight. We are no longer stressed for the lack of water in our tanks, we are no longer panicked by the lack of fuel that Haiti has known because of country lock.

It's been more than 3 weeks since there is no electricity at all in Cap-Haitian, but praise the Lord for this solar system specially during the COVID where all kids are staying home and they are not feeling bored because they have electricity. Thanks,

Robenson

What a blessing, because of this solar panel system, the children can live free of fear, free of boredom, and with one key necessity of life, water. What a beautiful thing to be able to provide this to GOD's children. Thank you so much for your support of Kids Alive Haiti and if you could so kindly, please share this update with UMC Geneva. Thank you!

God Bless You, Rebecca Hepner, CFRE Mid West Regional Director, Strategic Partnerships www.kidsalive.org



Salvation Army Food Drive

Join our youth and two committees for a food drive to benefit the Salvation Army Food Pantry. Covid-19 has had a marked impact on economic circumstances and food availability for many in our area. The closure of schools means children who would normally eat at least one meal at school are consuming all meals at home. The Salvation Army has doubled family allotments of groceries, so are facing difficulties keeping their shelves full. If you'd like to help out in any way, contact Nancie at 231-845-6097.

Drive-in Food Drive at UMCG Saturday, Sept. 12 10 a.m. – 12 noon

Pull into parking lot behind (west of) church. Volunteers will come to your car to unload your donation. Please wear a mask & stay in your car. Thanks! REACH IN...



Who Are Your Church Friends In Your Neighborhood?!

Pastor Lisa is inviting and encouraging us to live into our Methodist practices once more, connecting in small groups each week or month in some way, to share the road of faith practice with those who are close by. John Wesley organized folks into small groups so that they could encourage and support one another in faith, and be of service to their community for Christ. Let us pray for and with one another in these pandemic times! Let us share some inspiring books together, and let us serve together, in our neighborhoods and beyond, as needs arise.

Pastor Lisa will be contacting you to see if she can meet with your group in your neighborhood, or by Zoom, some time in September or October. Groups consist of 6-12 households, for the most part. Watch for an email from Pastor Lisa this month, cueing you in to the church friends who live near you, and who can become a great support network for prayer, study, and service, as you are inspired to grow together.

Tuesday Prayer Meeting has resumed on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. weather permitting. We pray for thirty minutes. As we conclude, some may wish to remain for some social distancing. We need each other and we welcome newcomers. Some people pray out loud and some are silent. All prayers are welcome! Got questions? Check with Mary Gay McKinney, Coordinator of Congregational Care at marygay@genevaumc.org.

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. Stephen Ministers will meet @ 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 1. We social distance and check in with each other. Stephen Ministers receive 50 hours of training and education before being commissioned. They listen! Are you someone who would like more information about Stephen Ministry? Contact Mary Gay McKinney at marygay@genevaumc.org.

Caregivers Support Group - Are you a caregiver for a family member who needs assistance with physical and or emotional challenges due to their health? Our Caregivers group meets on the second Thursday of each month. Nancy Harrington is our facilitator. We share our stories, we are there for each other. We welcome you! Our next meeting will be September 10 @ 10:00 a.m.

LET YOUR UMCG FAMILY HELP!

By Debbie Sampiller

Because we live in an area that is thought of as "affluent" we don't let anyone know when we are having financial problems. But the truth is, there are folks in our area that are struggling to make ends meet, whether it is from the pandemic or life in general. We, as your faith community, want to be there for you.

There are folks in our congregation that have said they would like to provide financial assistance to anyone in our church that has a need. But we can't help you if we don't know about your need. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our pastors or anyone on staff. All information will be handled in total confidence. Those providing assistance will not know who they are assisting and those receiving assistance will not know who the assistance was received from.

For more information, contact Debbie Sampiller, Director of Administrative Ministries, at <u>debbie@genevaumc.org</u>, or leave a message and she will call you back, at 630-232-7120 ext. 130.





Dear Endowment Committee,

Thank you so much for helping fund the Renovation Team! With your support, we are able to consult with specialists and use their knowledge and experience to revitalize the Youth and Children's Ministries here at UMCG. We truly appreciate your gifts and all that you do for the church to help it grow!

> Blessings, The Renovation Team

Continued from page 1...

Suffragists in the gallery that morning knew that only 47 of the 96 legislators present were committed to their cause. They had little hope that eastern Tennessee Rep. Harry T. Burn, the state's youngest legislator at age 24, would join their ranks.

The suffragists could see that Burn's lapel bore a red rose, a symbol of opposition to the women's vote. What they could not see was the letter in his pocket — carrying advice from his Methodist mother.

> "Dear Son: Hurrah, and vote for suffrage!" Phoebe "Febb" Burn wrote from the town of Niota, Tennessee, where she attended what is now Niota United Methodist Church. "Don't keep them in doubt."

Her son's sudden "aye" tied the vote and emboldened fellow legislator Banks Turner to give the decisive 49th assent. Thus, Tennessee secured women citizens a voice in their nation's democracy, including in that year's presidential election.

Immediately after her son's surprise vote for suffrage, the young legislator faced heated accusations that his vote was bought with bribery.

The 19th Amendment followed more than 70 years of persistence through setbacks and sacrifice. The people called Methodist were part of the struggle from almost the beginning.

"Methodists have a long history of strong, leading women," writes the Rev. Susan Lyn Moudry, a historian, in an article for the United Methodist Commission on the Status and Role of Women. John Wesley accepted women lay preachers and class leaders from his movement's earliest days.

"Many Methodist women, like Frances Willard, saw the vote as a way to further their aims," said Harriett Jane Olson, United Methodist Women's top executive. "It was not just a right. It was a necessary tool."

The word suffrage comes from the Latin word *suffragium*, meaning voting tablet. Still, opponents were happy to play on its similarity to another English word. With women's suffrage, critics argued, men and families would suffer.

Methodist women such as Mary McLeod Bethune, Jessie Daniel Ames and Dorothy Height would continue the fight for voting rights and racial justice long after that August day in 1920.

People across the United States today marked the centennial of that historic vote on Aug. 18, 1920. However, achieving this victory took more than one mother's letter, and the fight for ballot access continues even now.

Moudry, the United Methodist historian, said the Methodist involvement in the women's suffrage movement shows that change is long and hard.

Reprinted by permission from UM News. See entire article at: <u>https://www.umnews.org/en/news/methodists-</u> <u>crucial-in-fight-for-womens-vote</u>

Health Team Update #3 continued

CRITERIA FOR REOPENING

The pastors and Health Team and Worship Planning Team have also created a list of criteria for reopening indoor worship.

Health Team & Worship Planning Team **Requirements:**

In-person, indoor worship will be held when and if:

- The State of Illinois re-opening plan is in • Phase 4 or greater.
- The rate of new COVID infections and deaths are decreasing or remain low.
- All UMCG Health Team protocols and procedures are in place and adequately communicated.
- Several outdoor worship services have been held and at least one indoor *test/observation (a practice with only 12-15 people to observe, using a checklist and photos, how people maintain protocols and adjust as needed.)
- Our re-opening plan has been reviewed by the District Superintendent.
- HVAC is properly working in the sanctuary - it is currently not working and also needs improvements to make the air cleaner.
- Final say on reopening any in-person, indoor service will come from the pastors and Worship Team.

UMCG Church Staff

Rich Darr Lisa Telomen **Debbie Sampiller** Lorie Montanye

Denise Clementz Scott Stevenson Mike Popplewell **Becky Nicol Mary Gay McKinney Carol Schreiber**

Senior Pastor Associate Pastor **Director of Administrative Ministries** Administrative Assistant **Director of Children's Education Director of Youth Ministry Director of Music Ministry Director of Choral Ministries Director of Communications Coordinator of Congregational Care** Nursery Supervisor

CHURCH COUNCIL

Chair Vice Chair **Recording Secretary** Lay Members to Annual Conference

Church & Society **Co-Chairs** Youth Council Co-Chairs

Children's Council Chair Adult Council Co-Chairs

Endowment Fund Chair Finance Committee Chair Men's Club President **Missions Committee Co-Chairs** Scholarship Committee **Staff-Parish Relations** Stewardship Committee Treasurer Trustees Women's Ministry Youth Representative Worship Committee Pastors (w/o vote)

Member-at-large

Jim Alderfer Jean Eakins Sharon Anderson Dan Poremba Kei Narimatsu Carolyn Sprawka Gary Dittmer Keith Rawson Darlene Kilmer Ali Wetmore Marty Janners Jim McConnell Patti Dahlberg Dave Werman Mark Byars Jim Manos Sharon Anderson Keith Worthington Keith Eakins Stuart Henn Jim Karwoski Tony Zefron Betty Keeler Trace Powell Dick Keslinke Rich Darr Lisa Telomen

David Dias



Send information to: communications@genevaumc.org

Contact us at genevaumc.org

United Methodist Church of Geneva

211 Hamilton Street Geneva, IL 60134