



United Methodist Church  
OF GENEVA



genevaumc.org

FEBRUARY 2021



# *the Messenger*

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## *Retirements & New Appointment*

The Staff Parish Relations Committee has announced two retirements and the appointment of our new Senior Pastor:

**Senior Pastor Rich Darr** will retire effective July 1, 2021. A video message from Pastor Rich and also one from Aurora District Superintendent Rev. Jeffry Bross were included in our online worship service on January 10. Read more in Pastor Rich's Note on page 2. Our congregation will celebrate Pastor Rich's ministry at UMCG and say farewell to Pastor Rich and Donna in June.

**Director of Communications Becky Nicol** will retire effective March 1, 2021. She is an ordained Elder in the NIC appointed part-time to UMCG. Pastor Becky will continue to work 10 hours a week on our online worship and website updates. Pastor Becky heard her call as a member of UMCG and also served at Manhattan (interim), and Burlington. She looks forward to continuing to preach and teach in the district.

**The SPRC also announced the appointment of Rev. Rob Hamilton** as our new Senior Pastor effective July 1, 2021. See page 4 for information about Pastor Rob and his family. We welcome them back to UMCG this summer!

## Pastor's Note

On Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> during online worship I announced my retirement from pastoral ministry in the Northern Illinois Conference, effective July 1, 2021. These past 5 ½ years of ministry at UMC Geneva have been a deep and meaningful blessing for both Donna and me. It has been a tremendous honor, and privilege, to partner with you in Christ's ministry here in Geneva and the Tri-Cities area. We will be moving to the Atlanta, Georgia area, and look forward to what God has in store for us there. In the days and weeks ahead, we will have opportunities to share with you further about our future plans. We will most certainly miss you and hold you in our hearts and prayers, knowing that we are all in God's good hands.

Be blessed – Pastor Rich Darr

### UMCG Finance Update

Our year-end financial results were mixed. We were able to pay our 5% tithe to Missions and Church in Society in full. However, after a vigorous debate, Church Council adopted Finance Committee's recommendation to fund just 60% of our 2020 Apportionments obligation. We felt this approach was prudent given the overall financial position of the Church at year-end.

We ask for your continued faithfulness throughout this New Year.

Dave Werman

### UMCG Health Team Update

**The UMCG Health Team** met for the first time in 2021 on January 11 and reviewed the current state of the pandemic in Kane County: the reopening criteria, as well as the NIC Absolute Guidelines Checklist. Currently, Kane County is experiencing an active outbreak of the Covid-19 virus and its COVID risk level is red per the [CovidActNow](#) website. Given the current state of the pandemic it is unlikely that the church building will be reopened soon.

The Health Team will continue to meet on a regular basis and review the reopening criteria against the current conditions in Kane County and Illinois, as well as actively working the NIC Absolute Guidelines checklist to ensure that when the pandemic conditions warrant reopening that we will be ready. In the meantime, we hope that everyone will stay vigilant in taking the precautions necessary to be safe and well!

# REACH UP...

## FEBRUARY 2021 Worship Schedule

Worship is held online at [genevaumc.org](http://genevaumc.org) & [facebook.com/umcgeneva](https://facebook.com/umcgeneva)

**Children's Sunday School** – contact [jcpoboe@msn.com](mailto:jcpoboe@msn.com)

**Youth Sunday School** – at 11 a.m. via Zoom – contact [denise@genevaumc.org](mailto:denise@genevaumc.org)

**Youth Activities** – contact [denise@genevaumc.org](mailto:denise@genevaumc.org)

**Pen & Paper** meets Saturdays 6-9 p.m. online – contact [denise@genevaumc.org](mailto:denise@genevaumc.org)

**Adult Sunday School** on Zoom 10:30 a.m. Sunday – contact [mcjamesc@aol.com](mailto:mcjamesc@aol.com)

**Neighborhood Group study** on Zoom at 10:30 a.m. – contact [lisa@genevaumc.org](mailto:lisa@genevaumc.org)

### February 7 – 5th Sunday after the Epiphany [Mark 1: 29-39](#)

Jesus' ministry quickly sets a rhythm that balances prayer with service and teaching. How are we balancing our lives, making time for loving God and loving neighbor in all that we do? How do we fill up with God, and spill over in service to family and community? How do our lives demonstrate to others our commitment to love for God and love for neighbor? Pastor Lisa preaches, "Filling Up and Spilling Over."

### February 14 – Worship with Bishop John Hopkins & the NIC Cabinet

The shepherds (in Luke) recognized Him. The Magi (in Matthew) recognized him. John the Baptist (in Mark) recognized Him. Can you recognize Jesus and commit your life to Him in this New Year? Our new Interim Bishop John Hopkins preaches, "Can You Recognize Jesus?"

### February 17 – Ash Wednesday [Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21](#) Posted online at 7 p.m.

Ash Wednesday invites us to a forty-day Lenten journey that leads to Jesus's suffering and death but ultimately culminates in the triumph of Easter. In this season of preparation, what are the characteristics of religion and faith that God will reward? Pastor Rich preaches, "Receiving Your Reward."

### February 21 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent [Psalm 25:1-10](#)

Where is God in all the troubles of this pandemic? Psalm 25 guides us to trust in the Lord, even in the midst of troubles and difficulties. The psalm is a model prayer calling us to learn - God will guide us and be with us through this. Pastor Becky preaches, "Trusting God in COVID Times."

### February 28 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent [Mark 8:31-38](#)

Talk about paradox! Jesus's teaching today is perhaps the paradox of all paradoxes. What does he mean by saying that in attempting to save our lives we lose them? Let's explore Jesus's teaching that "losing means saving," a truth that will surely turn our lives and our world upside down. Pastor Rich preaches, "Losers Win!"





# Rev. Rob Hamilton

Pastor Rob Hamilton (he/him/his) grew up on a Kendall County farm where he was baptized and confirmed at Plattville United Methodist Church. It was at PUMC that Rob gave his first sermon, titled, "God Is Like A Chevy" as a teenager. It was Rob's emerging call to ministry that led him to North Central College in Naperville, IL to study religion. On Rob's first day college he met Meghan. After a few years of friendship, sharing a few ASP trips, finishing their undergraduate degrees, and dating they married in 2005.

After college, while Meghan completed a Master's Degree in Social Work, Rob was a staff youth pastor at Crossroads of Faith UMC, in Bolingbrook, IL. Rob soon received his MDiv from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL where he made close friendships centered around Wesleyan Covenant Discipleship that they still practice together to this day. Rob received his first appointment in 2008 to Glenview UMC as Associate Pastor. In 2011, he was appointed to serve as Associate Pastor at The United Methodist Church of Geneva, IL where he served 4 years before being appointed as Senior Pastor of Rochelle UMC in 2015.

Rob whole-heartedly believes that God's grace is unconditional and available to all people even before we know it. For it is only by God's grace that lives are changed and the world is transformed through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit amongst the body of Christ. It ignites Rob's heart to share the journey of discipleship, build relationships with the surrounding community, and share the love of Jesus with acts of mercy, justice, compassion and outreach by loving God and neighbor as a community of faith and connectional church.

Rob and Meghan have two children, Lily and Ella. Spending time with his family renews Rob and he looks forward to summer camping trips and visiting national parks together. During his time in Geneva, Rob experienced adult on-set athleticism and picked up running as a hobby. Rob continues his early morning runs around town both for exercise and as an act of prayer.



## Reading the Gospels During Lent 2021

*The Reading Plan - by Jim Byrne*

Once again UMCG is encouraging everyone to read the Gospels during Lent. Moreover, everyone is encouraged to respond to the challenge Jesus gave the Apostles: “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation” (Mark 16:15). Invite

your relatives and friends to join in this important act of spiritual renewal and growth. Use e-mail, social media, the telephone, and even postal mail to send them copies of the reading program or to direct them to the UMCG Website where the program is posted. Form a reading group or recruit a reading buddy with whom you can share the reading experience.

The following reading plan is offered as a guide to enriching your Lenten experience. 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 God’s voice.

Date	Scripture Reading
February 17	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Matthew 1-3
February 18	Matthew 4-6
February 19	Matthew 7-9
February 20	Matthew 10-12
February 21	Join other Christians today for worship, study & fellowship.
February 22	Matthew 13-14
February 23	Matthew 15-16
February 24	Matthew 17-18
February 25	Matthew 19-20
February 26	Matthew 21-22
February 27	Matthew 23-24
February 28	Join other Christians today for worship, study & fellowship.
March 1	Matthew 25-26
March 2	Matthew 27-28
March 3	Mark 1-3
March 4	Mark 4-6
March 5	Mark 7-9
March 6	Mark 10-12
March 7	Join other Christians today for worship, study & fellowship.
March 8	Mark 13-14
March 9	Mark 15-16
March 10	Luke 1-3
March 11	Luke 4-6

March 12	Luke 7-9
March 13	Luke 10-12
March 14	Worship, study & fellowship
March 15	Luke 13-14
March 16	Luke 15-16
March 17	Luke 17-18
March 18	Luke 19-20
March 19	Luke 21-22
March 20	Luke 23-24
March 21	Worship, study & fellowship
March 22	John 1-2
March 23	John 3-4
March 24	John 5-6
March 25	John 7-8
March 26	John 9-10
March 27	John 11-12
March 28	<b>Palm Sunday</b> Join others for worship, study & fellowship
March 29	John 13-14
March 30	John 15-16
March 31	John 17-18
April 1	John 19-20
April 2	<b>Good Friday</b> John 21
April 3	Join others in a vigil awaiting Easter morning.
April 4	<b>Easter Sunday</b> Join others for worship to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.



# 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 **February**, there are a number of online classes available. Please check the weekly eNews for the most current information. Here is what is being offered at this time:

**Spirited Women** will finish their discussion of our denomination's Social Principles from the UMC *Book of Discipline*. Group meets Wednesday mornings. For additional information about upcoming studies and a Zoom invitation please contact Jenean Larsen at [jenean\\_larsen@yahoo.com](mailto:jenean_larsen@yahoo.com).

**The Men's study group, Early Bird Fellowship** is meeting via Zoom each Thursday at 8:00 a.m. They will continue a podcast study, *Learning How to See*, featuring discussions by Brian McLaren, Jacqui Lewis, and Richard Rohr. Then, later in February, they will begin a Lenten study by James Harnish, *A Disciple's Path*. For more information and a Zoom invitation to join the weekly discussion, please contact Jim McConnell.

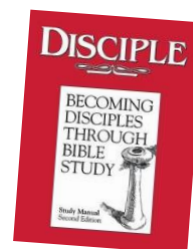
**The Adult Sunday School Class** is meeting each Sunday at 10:30 a.m., using Zoom. They will finish their study of William Willimon's book *Fear of the Other* and will begin a Lenten study later in February by Rob Fuquay, *The Passion Play: Living the Story of Christ's Last Days*. If you would like to join the weekly discussion, please contact Jim McConnell.

**Spirits and Studies** will continue their discussion of the book *Accidental Saints* by Nadia Bolz-Weber each Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. They welcome previous participants and newcomers into this fluid and fun group! For more information and upcoming studies contact Pastor Mary Gay McKinney at [marygay@genevaumc.org](mailto:marygay@genevaumc.org) or phone 815-508-2055.

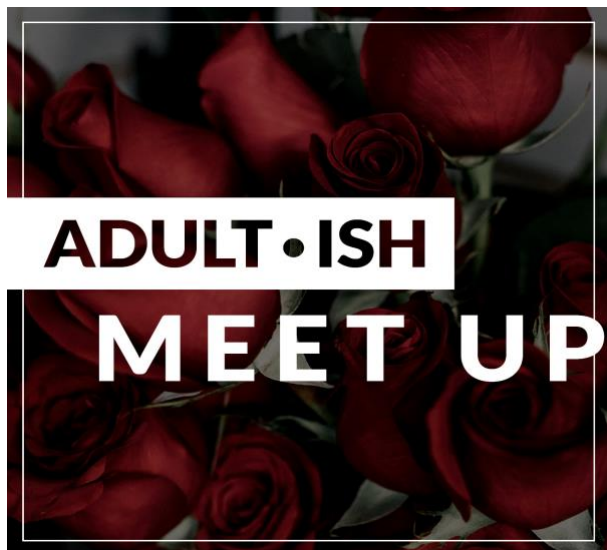
**The Sunday Neighborhood Study Group** meets at 10:30 a.m. and will continue their study of Rev. Rasmus' book, *Love Period*, until Lent, and then Jen Hatmaker's book *Seven* during Lent. Finally, the group will study Dr. Matthew Sleeth's book *Serve God Save the Planet* after Easter and over Earth Day. Please contact Pastor Lisa for more information and a Zoom invitation: [lisa@genevaumc.org](mailto:lisa@genevaumc.org).

**Adult Council** welcomes your ideas for studies and other areas of interest that you would like to see offered. Please contact Jim McConnell (630-715-3480) or [mcjamesc@aol.com](mailto:mcjamesc@aol.com) with any ideas or questions.

**Disciple / Bible Study** - The **Disciple / Bible** study, begun in January, continues to meet in 1-hour weekly Zoom gatherings, over a 2-year period. Discussions happen over two weeks for each of the 34 sessions, so there is half the amount of reading each week. The class will cover the Old Testament this year, and the New Testament next year. Of course, as soon as it is safe to gather as a group, they will return to meeting face-to-face. Classes are facilitated by Pastor Lisa and Tom Tamlyn on Wednesday evenings.



## REACH IN...& OUT



*As the season of love,*

flowers, and candy comes upon us, take the time to reflect inward.

Join us Sunday, February 21, from 1-2 p.m. at **Adult-ish** as we discuss how to love ourselves and be content with all that we are. All are welcome!

Email [maria.isely@gmail.com](mailto:maria.isely@gmail.com) for the Google Meets link.

### UMCG Photos Needed for *Instagram!*

*by Maria Isely*

UMCG recently created an Instagram account and we need your photos to show the community what UMCG has been up to. Have you had a Neighborhood Meeting, Zoom call, volunteer event?

Send it our way to [social@genevaumc.org](mailto:social@genevaumc.org) with a short description and we will put it on our Instagram!

Follow us on Instagram @umcgeneva



### ADULT LIBRARY NEWS

In honor of Donna Mauntel's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, February 15, Women's Ministries has donated the following book to our adult library: *Always a Guest: Speaking of Faith far from Home*, by Barbara Brown Taylor. (248.4) This book will be available in our adult library when our church resumes in-person worship.

### LAZARUS HOUSE DINNERS

UMCG continues to commit to providing dinners to Lazarus House Shelter on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month. Help stock our freezer by making an extra casserole in a 9x13 pan.

**Contact Gwen Powell for contactless pickup.** Please do NOT take to the church.

Contact Gwen at 630-262-7491 or [bgatpow@yahoo.com](mailto:bgatpow@yahoo.com). You can sign up on our website, too.

# REACH IN...

## Children's Program

From Julie Popplewell  
Interim Director of Children's Education

Nine children met on a cold January morning and made some snow people (and dog) and snow angels. We also colored in the snow angels with some eco-friendly colored spray bottles! We also plan to decorate the doors of the church with some valentine hearts. Head to the church and check them out!

This month we focused on the Beatitude, "Blessed are the Merciful," via Zoom. We talked about showing mercy and forgiveness to all, even those who have different opinions than us or who have hurt us. The kids made Melt and Pour soap from the craft kits. They inserted a heart in the middle of the soap to remember to be merciful and forgive every time they wash their hands!



## YOUTH

**February** is the month of love and we would LOVE to hang out with you, so here's what's going on:

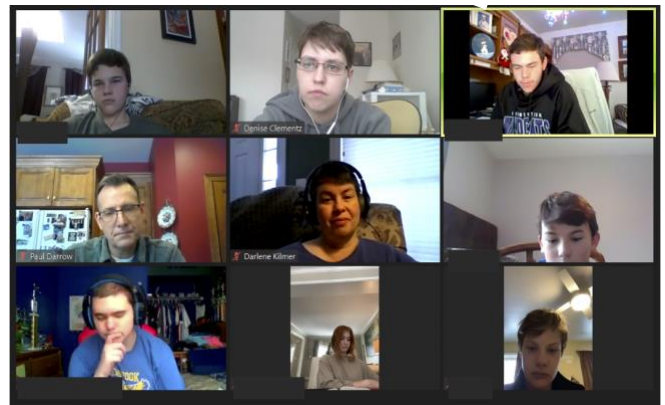
**Saturday, January 30, 12-1:30 p.m.**  
**Snowlympics at Wheeler Park**

**Saturday, February 13, Time TBA**  
**Beginner's Cooking Contest on Zoom**

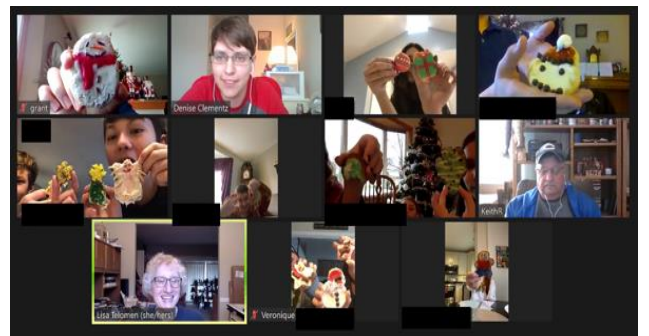
We look forward to seeing you at our events and weekly Sunday School. See the Weekly Youth and Parent email for more details and the links for Zoom invites. Or contact [denise@genevaumc.org](mailto:denise@genevaumc.org).

**In March** we'll be hosting a fundraiser for a local non-profit to be chosen by the Youth Group by having students participate in contests of timed physical activities such as hula hooping, jump rope, and more. We will be looking for donors to pair with students for this fundraiser. Watch the weekly eNews for updates, or contact [denise@genevaumc.org](mailto:denise@genevaumc.org)

Contact: Denise Clementz, Director of Youth Ministry  
at [denise@genevaumc.org](mailto:denise@genevaumc.org) or 309-507-2328.



*Evan teaching last "Incarnation" lesson - his photo*



*Youth Cookie Decorating Contest in December*



# REACH OUT...

## SALVATION ARMY PANTRY FOOD DRIVE STYROFOAM COLLECTION

Saturday, February 27 10 a.m. - 12 noon



**Donors, please wear your mask and remain in your cars when bringing items to the west parking lot.**

Masked, gloved volunteers will transfer items from donor cars to our waiting vehicles. The pantry is always in need of non-perishable canned goods, peanut butter and jelly, diapers, hygiene items, dish soap, and laundry detergent. Thanks for helping!

**You can bring your clean Styrofoam to be recycled. Please wash it & no black Styrofoam.**

**PLEASE REMAIN IN YOUR CAR AND WEAR YOUR MASK**

### ***Making Masks for Mask Up Kane County***

*UMCG-ers from Spirited Women, Spirits & Studies, plus some Yoga students pitched in to make masks.*



### **Update from KidsAlive in the Dominican Republic**

COVID-19 has had a huge impact in the daily routines and activities for KidsAlive. Their three homes were able to keep their tradition to celebrate King's Day by exchanging gifts. But the schools could not have their usual pageant and worship/dinner with parents. Instead, each family received a Christmas dinner package along with a printed family Christmas devotion. They expected to deliver about 1,000 dinner packages.



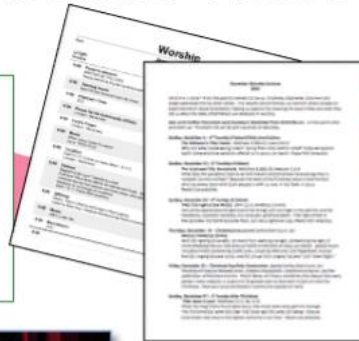


# HOW WE MAKE WORSHIP VIDEOS

## START

Pastors plan outline

Worship Team plans service at weekly meetings



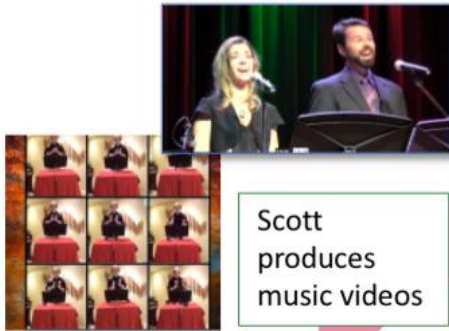
Pastors write sermon & contact other participants

Pastors record: welcome, children's message, sermon, offering intro, benediction, & communion liturgy



Scott Stevenson plans music & contacts Mike & musicians – they record videos

Scott produces music videos



Liturgists write prayer and record prayer and scripture



Pastor Becky creates all slides: each week's theme & intro/closing, welcome, some offerings, Lord's prayer, credits, announcements, etc.

Toby produces their videos



Tom & Becky assist with transfer of files

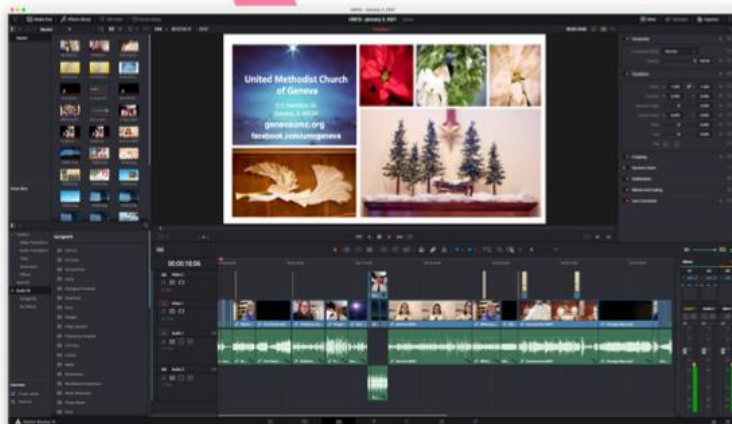
Tom receives all and edits them together: crops videos for picture-in-picture slides, clips beginning and end of each, checks audio, reduces background noise, adds titles, adds transitions between each slide/video, and syncs transitions to music

Tom renders video

Tom uploads video to Vimeo, posts to FB & website

Worship videos are viewed online

Tom & Becky review entire worship video & check flow, order, volume, etc.



## END



1	Brenda Donati	7	Joshua Byars
	Susan Mies		Mike Seidel
2	Jenean Larsen	8	Esther Bullock
	Donald Trathen		Michael Sampiller
3	Nancy Cocks	9	Bruce Benstein
	Margot Monaghan		Terry Parola
4	Mollie Sacrey	10	Bram Borger-Johnson
5	John Andersen		Jules Heinemann
	Doris Baxter		Joel McNally
	Zoey Howell		Sandy Parola
6	Cynthia Foster	11	Colleen Eifler

#### Special Anniversaries

Bob & Jeanne Van Nest - 66 years on 2/12  
 Andy & Patty Dahlberg - 30 years on 2/16

11	Rochelle Graham	20	Valerie Cocks
12	Shamus Barney		Judy Patrick
15	Donna Mauntel	21	John Baumgartner
	Bryce Nelson		Denise Clementz
	Linda Sato		Chloe Sampiller
	Elizabeth Schulte	22	Paul Darrow
	Vaughn Siarny		Claire Nowak
	Rod Yarger		Bob Strand
16	Quinn Beier	24	Karen Baumgartner
	Luciene Rathwell	25	Jane Siarny
	Lincoln Spelich	26	Chuck Howlett
	Justin Tracey		Rodney Telomen
	Carolyn Tracey	27	Danielle Kohorst
	Grace Wetmore		Jane Livingston
17	Elizabeth Cape Horvath	28	Joan Hansen
	Clay Martines		Pace Harrington
	Barb Pribble	29	Lori Cahill
18	Keegan Beier		Jack Smith
19	Chuck Bolvin		Dave Truffelli
	Heidi Howlett		

#### Special Birthdays

Mollie Sacrey 2/4, John Andersen 2/5  
 Cynthia Foster 2/6, Esther Bullock 2/8  
 Rod Yarger 2/15, Donna Mauntel 2/15  
 Joan Hansen 2/28



*Dear Pastor Lisa, my new prayer shawl is warm and comforting. Thank you!*  
*Sincerely, Vi Flygare*

Dear Pastor Lisa and Knitting Ministry Team:  
 Thank you so much for the beautiful "snowy" white prayer shawl. It has already brought me much joy and hope. The vaccine is on its way bringing us hope. I love the warm comfort of the shawl. I will keep each of you in my prayers. I hope you stay warm and keep knitting. I am thankful for your wonderful friendship.

Sincerely, Marilyn Bradley

Dear Spirited Women of UMCG:

I wanted to send my deepest thanks to you for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers! It has been an incredibly challenging year for me as a teacher, but your cards with kind words and encouragement have been much appreciated! After a particularly difficult week of teaching 17 kindergartners on TEAMS remotely (who thought this was a good idea?!), I came home to a lovely gift bag with sweet and thoughtful gifts! Oh, my goodness-gift cards (so appreciated!), teas, a festive face mask, sweets, candle, a masked gingerbread man ornament (my students will love it when they see it on our classroom Christmas tree!) and more!

Thank you does not seem enough but know you have touched my heart! My wish for all of you is that you have a healthy, blessed, Merry Christmas with your loved ones, and a blessed and healthy New Year!

With deep gratitude, Cathy





*Please join us for the*  
**Geneva United  
Methodist Church**

## **Scholarship Fundraiser Tuesday, March 16, 2021**

It's Easy and Fun! Present this coupon to your server, delivery driver or at the carryout window and the Geneva United Methodist Church Scholarship Fund will receive 15% of your total check.

**Good ALL DAY Tuesday, March 16, 2021**

only at the

Geneva Aurelio's 330 W. State St. 630-262-8440

Hours: 11am - 9pm

\*Good for Carryout, Delivery or Dine-In!

No restaurant available for February

## **MESSENGER DEADLINE**

Submit articles for the March *Messenger*

By **Monday, February 15.**

Send information to: [communications@genevaumc.org](mailto:communications@genevaumc.org)

### **United Methodist Church of Geneva**

211 Hamilton Street  
Geneva, IL 60134