



CrossWords

news of Geist Christian Church

February 2018

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Lent Begins February 14 - Teach Us to Pray

"Lord, teach us to pray..." (Luke 11:1b)

Have you ever wished your prayer life was deeper, more powerful, more connected to God? You aren't alone. After observing the intentional prayer life of Jesus, seeing his sustaining, life-giving connection with God, the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. Since then, the words Jesus offered as a teaching exercise has become the most recited prayer in the history of humanity.



During the six weeks of Lent, we will look carefully at just what Jesus was teaching, examining its power and meaning. We will discover the intimacy which Jesus wanted us to discover, clarify exactly what we are saying to and about God and embrace the promise of God's response to our prayer. The series is designed to move us beyond ritual recitation to discovery, unpacking the imagery of each phrase, so that like the first disciples, we will learn to pray like Jesus.

February 17/18	Our Father in heaven
February 24/25	Thy Will Be Done
March 3/4	Give Us Daily Bread
March 10/11	Forgive us our sins
March 17/1	Lead Us Not into temptation
March 24/25	Kingdom, Power, Glory

Ash Wednesday services will be held Wednesday, February 14, 7:00 am and 7:00 pm at the Mud Creek Campus and 1:00 pm at the Promise Road Campus. All services will include communion and imposition of ashes.

Pancake Supper, February 13, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

On Tuesday, February 13, the Youth Ministry Team of Geist Christian Church invite you to their Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper that raises money for the 2018 mission trips to Hazard, KY and Lexington, KY. The event will be in the ALTARed Worship Center at the Mud Creek Campus and will run from 6 – 8 pm. The cost is \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children six and under and is all you can eat. So come and enjoy the pancakes, sausage and tater tots that will be served by our wonderful and dedicated teenagers. Purchase tickets on-line on the Geist Christian website, after worship at either campus or at the door.



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Randy Reflects



Randy Spleth

It probably wasn't the first prayer that I learned. That was I think, a bedtime prayer. It wasn't the second; I believe that was table grace. Likely, those two were learned simultaneously, in which case, they are tied for first. The Lord's Prayer lines up behind those two prayers. But, I do not remember not knowing it. It has been a constant companion throughout my life.

You may have the same experience. You may not have a conscious memory of learning it. It was just there, absorbed in worship as the community of faith recited it. On one level, this is entirely appropriate. There are many things in life that we learn by observation. The ritual and liturgy of worship is one. We learn experientially and as we do, we come to appreciate its value.

At another level, it may fail us for we may not understand the remarkable truth about the Lord's Prayer. It is an invitation to pray like Jesus. The words which have guided billions of Christians for almost 2,000 years, which at this very moment is being recited by fellow followers around the globe, the sixty-five words we offer to God are the very words that Jesus used, for his own personal conversation with God. Recognizing this intimacy, we should pray it carefully, thoughtfully, for we are daring to address God's holiness like Jesus.

I invite you to travel with me through this Lenten season as we consider our most sacred prayer. I invite you to consider more fully what Jesus was teaching us in the words that he gave us. In doing so, I hope it will move you beyond a recited ritual to new understanding about your powerful conversation with God.

Blessings,



Souper Bowl of Caring

On Super Bowl Sunday, 140 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship, and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter, and a warm meal. Please join young people around the country as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It's a simple, yet significant, act of caring for others. Everyone is encouraged to donate money in the soup pot or drop off canned goods as you leave worship on Saturday, February 3 and Sunday, February 4. Our young people are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime. If you forgot to bring cans, you would have an opportunity all month to donate, as we attempt to raise 5,000 pounds of food to help feed those in our community.



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CONNECT Adult Ministries

Daily E-mail Sentence Prayers During Lent - Senior Minister Randy Spleth offers daily prayers via e-mail during Lent. Sentence prayers, in addition to a regular time of meditation, allow focus on a single daily thought on the journey to Easter. Past recipients receive them automatically. If you would like to receive them, send request to epray@geistchristian.org.

Learning to Pray: A Lenten Study - Gather with Pastors Dustin and Sarah on the Wednesdays of Lent to reflect on and practice praying The Lord's Prayer. We will come to know the prayer that many of us have recited since before conscious memory. The simplest words convey the deepest thoughts. In our study, we will engage our minds and our emotions, practice and pray. Bring some dinner as we discuss and discern the Lord's Prayer throughout the season on Lent. Wednesdays (February 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21, and 28) 6:00-7:00pm in room B135 at the Promise Road Campus. Childcare is available.

Page Turners Book Club - the book club of Geist Christian Church will meet for discussions on the following:

March 28 - *Small Great Things* by Jodi Piccolt

May 23 - *An Invisible Thread* by Laura Schroff

July 25 - *The Traitor's Wife* by Allison Pataki

The group meets at 6:30 pm at the Mud Creek Campus. Questions, contact Elena Derbique at 317.823.0173 or elena.derbique@gmail.com

Small Group: Faithful Families - Parents are invited to join Pastor Sarah on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays to continue the conversation surrounding *Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home* by Traci Smith. We will reflect on prioritizing time together and the value of mystery and doubt. Bible study will accompany the application of faith practices to take home throughout the week. Books are available for purchase for \$10. Meet at the Promise Road Campus 6:30pm-7:30pm on February 13, 27. Childcare available.

Small Group: Finances and Faith - Stewardship is a spiritual discipline. Money matters to the spiritual health and wealth of each one of us. Understanding one's finances is vital to living a fulfilling and stress-free life. Throughout February, join with others who seek to learn the importance of understanding our financial history, defining and building wealth, and giving. Judgment-free and forward-focused, Greg Kuhn, Vice President of Commercial Lending with First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust, will lead the group and answer any questions you may have. The small group will gather in room B135 (behind the bookstore area) 6:30-7:30pm on Thursdays, February 1, 8, 15, 22. Childcare is available. RSVP to Pastor Sarah at sarah.renfro@geistchristian.org

Small Group: The Bridge - The Bridge is a men's small group designed to create conversation and build community around questions of faith. The Bridge meets every Wednesday at 6:30pm, at the Promise Road location. This vibrant group is dedicated to talking about real questions of spiritual direction within the context of scripture. For more information, reach out to Mike Peck at mike@outsidesource.com.

Small Group: Soul Sisters - Soul Sisters Fitness is a small group for women to support each other in both physical and spiritual growth. Come as you are, in any shape, any week, to sweat, be silly, and share prayer. Anyone is welcome! Free childcare is provided. Thursdays at 7:15pm at the Promise Road Campus in room 122.

Geist Christian Church Annual Meeting Come for Chili & Soup!

Plan to attend the annual meeting, Sunday, January 28 at the Promise Road Campus. Chili and soup dinner begins at 5:00 pm with the business meeting beginning at 6:00 pm. Agenda includes board strategical planning presentation, election of officers, adoption of 2018 budget and the member recognition award.



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CONNECT Children's Ministries

Christian Education for February - Children will be looking at Jesus' stories that show us God's power. Overcome with awe, they said to each other, "Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him! (Mark 4:41)

The outreach collection for hats and money to buy thermal socks for the Find and Feed organization in Indianapolis will continue through the end of February.

Easter Eggstravaganza - SAVE THE DATE! On Sunday, March 18 from 2:00-3:15pm we will be holding the annual Easter Eggstravaganza! This fun, family afternoon takes place at the Mud Creek Campus. There will be snacks, crafts, story time, games, pictures with the Easter Bunny, and of course, an egg hunt at 3:15pm! All ages welcome! You don't want to miss this afternoon of fun and fellowship.

If you are interested in helping prepare for the event or at the event, please contact Holly Blunk, holly.blunk@geistchristian.org. We will also be taking donations of filled Easter eggs for the hunt and snacks (fruit, cookies, brownies, etc.). Please look for sign-ups and collection bins in the children's wing at both locations

Summer Fun! - Mark your calendars for this summer's awesome Vacation Bible School program, *AMPED!* on June 11-15 at the Promise Road Campus. In addition we are having THREE amazing family night events - June 25, July 9, & July 30 - 6-8pm at the Mud Creek Campus. What is this about? Come and see - we are going to get AMPED UP and have some EXTREME fun together!

Save the date for the G56 Service Week - June 26-28; 9am - 1pm. This is open to all current 4th & 5th graders who will be moving up to G56 next school year.

We are currently looking for people who are willing to help plan these wonderful events. Come join our crew!!! michelle.latty@geistchristian.org or holly.blunk@geistchristian.org.

G56 recently enjoyed an afternoon of fun and fellowship at SkyZone. ➤



Weekday Ministries News



Weekday Ministries is accepting registration forms for the 2018-19 school year. Child's Day Out, Preschool, Pre-K, Transitional Kindergarten, and Kindergarten programs all have limited openings at this time at both campuses.

Recently, the kindergarten class took advantage of the winter weather at Cool Creek Park. What a great way to connect their study of birds, owls, and penguins!!



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CONNECT Youth Ministries

Youth Group - This is an amazing opportunity to meet new friends, and grow in your relationship with God, yourself and each other. The youth group meets at the Promise Road Campus on most Sunday nights. All 7th-12th graders are invited. Jr. High meets from 5-6: 30 pm and the High School students meet from 6-7: 30 pm.

February Youth Group Schedule

- **February 11, IKEA Challenge (grades 9-12)** - I went on an Ikea hunt, and all I took was a camera and a list! On Sunday, February 11th, the High School youth at Geist Christian Church will participate in "The IKEA Challenge." What is "The IKEA Challenge?" It's a scavenger hunt designed to test your creative and problem-solving skills as your team completes a variety of challenges. Points will be tallied for each task completed, and a winning team will be named. Youth will meet at 5 pm at the main entrance. We will have dinner (on your own), and then the challenge will commence. Pick-up will be at 6:30 pm.
- **February 11, Sky Zone (grades 7-8)** - Let's jump for Joy!! On Sunday, February 11th, the Jr. High youth at Geist Christian Church will be heading to Sky Zone for a jumptastic afternoon of flips, dunks, and dodgeball. Youth will meet at 2:45 pm at Sky Zone (10080 E 121st St #182, Fishers, IN 46037) for a 1 1/2 hour jump time that will start at 3 pm. The cost for this event will be \$20, and pickup will be at 4:30 pm.
- **February 17, Ski Trip (grades 7-12)**- On Saturday, February 17, the youth of Geist Christian Church will head to Perfect North for a day of skiing and snow tubing. This is our first trip in years, and we hope this will blossom into a yearly tradition for the youth group. The cost of the trip is \$60 for snow tubing, \$80 for skiing, and \$120 for both. Youth will also need to bring money to cover food at the ski lodge. We have 30 spots for our first trip, so please contact Kyle at kyle.brown@geistchristian.org to RSVP your student's spot today.
- **February 18, Movie Night Popcorn + Sunday Night + 12-foot movie screen = Youth Group Movie Night!!** - On Sunday, February 18 Jr. High and High School youth are invited to the Promise Road Campus for an epic movie night. The featured film will be Wonder Woman, so bring a pillow or two, as we claim the gym floor for a larger than life screening of a 2017 classic.
- **February 25** - Youth Group is going big on Sunday, February 25. We are going to take those retro board games you played as kids and make them life size. Think Hungry Hungry Hippos, Checkers, Yahtzee, and so much more. We hope you will join us for a somewhat unusual board game night that will be out-of-this-world.



◀ The youth groups spent the afternoon together at Pinheads. A good time was had by all.



Outreach

Mac and Cheese Needed

We feed people. That's what members of Geist Christian Church do twice a month (2nd and 4th Monday) for those living at the Dayspring Center. The Dayspring Center is a community center for homeless families seeking temporary respite until more permanent living arrangements can be made. This year, Pastor Kyle is looking for members of Geist Christian Church to donate Party Size Stouffer's Mac and Cheese (76oz) as a complement to the meal. If you are interested in donating, please contact Kyle at kyle.brown@geistchristian.org.

February is Hunger Action Month

As a way to raise awareness and help combat hunger in the community, Geist Christian Church is partnering with The Sharing Place and Come to Me Food Pantry. For our second year in a row, we will stack the odds against hunger as we stock their shelves with food for the hungry. Throughout February, members are encouraged to bring non-perishable items to church and place them in the boxes and bins at both campuses for collection. Each week, the bulletin will highlight most desired items to ensure maximum impact in our community. Monetary donations are also needed and accepted. Let's see what Geist Christian Church "CAN" do to make a difference for the hungry in our community.

Blood Drive February 25

**FEWER THAN 2%
OF HOOSIERS
DONATE BLOOD
ANNUALLY.**



Be **ONE** More.

Roll up your sleeve and make a difference. The bloodmobile will be at the Mud Creek Campus, Sunday, February 25, 9:00 am - noon. Contact Esther Sickle, 317-842-3594 ext. 494, esther.sickle@geistchristian.org.

Ronald McDonald House and Dayspring Shelter Volunteers Needed

Every month, Geist Christian members and friends serve at Dayspring and Ronald McDonald House on the 2nd and 4th Monday or Wednesday. Dayspring is for homeless families seeking temporary respite until more permanent living arrangements can be made, while Ronald McDonald House is for families of young loved ones suffering with a severe, and sometimes, life-threatening illness. If you have interest in knowing more about either of these volunteer opportunities, please contact Kyle Brown at kyle.brown@geistchristian.org or 317-842-3594, ext 496.

Give

Mobile Giving App

Geist Christian Church now has an additional and, for some, a more convenient way to give financially to Geist Christian Church. Using the new mobile app will allow members and guests to give to the operational and building funds with a smart phone or other mobile device. Search for and download the "GIVE PLUS CHURCH" app from the App Store or Google Play to set up and manage one time or recurring donations using checking account withdrawal or credit card. Once downloaded, search for Geist Christian Church to get started. This app utilizes the same secure provider of our online website giving (Vanco). If you are a current user of the online giving and register on the app using the same email address, the giving will be combined. Contact give@geistchristian.org with questions.

GIVE+

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News Around Geist Christian Church

In Sympathy

Vicki Burhenn, sister Teresa Harlan
 Dave Burhenn, aunt Teresa Harlan
 Kate Arambula, grandfather Tom Wood
 Leslie Campbell, grandmother Bernice Rudolph
 Christina Rhoad, father Eugene "Geno" Duran
 Marcy Morrolf, mother Wilma Bixler
 Julia Holdorf, husband **Larry Holdorf***
 Luanne Stover, brother Bob Wherry
 Kevin Honigford, father Paul Honigford
 Leslie Campbell, grandmother Mary Gaston
 Matt Wainscott, father Lon Wainscott
 Von Chamberlain, mother Patricia Hunsucker
 Donna Colegrove, great aunt Edna Croley
 Kerry Illg, sister Karlie Slaven

*denotes GCC member

New Members

Pat Murray
 Jason & Kiara Caudill, Hudson, Prescott & Kennedy
 Kerry Bishop
 Charles (Ed) & Jeanette Poisell
 Von & Sue Chamberlain

Births

Bryce & Mariya Carpenter, son Henry Russell, 12/21

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Larry Holdorf

Harold & Marilyn Schneider
 Foster A. McMasters, Jr.
 Don & Carolyn Hetzler
 Dale & Kris Billman

In Memory of Bob Wherry

Mark & Nancy Hershman

January 2018

Service	Jan 6/7	Jan 14/15	Jan 21/22
5:30 pm PR	81	96	115
9:00 am MC	107	132	153
10:00 am PR	203	209	178
ALTARed PR	13	14	11
10:30 am MC	207	202	225
ALTARed MC	7	15	14
TOTALS	618	668	696

Christmas Eve Attendance

Christmas Eve	MC	PR	Total
4:30 pm	203		203
5:30 pm		282	282
6:00 pm	180		180
7:00 pm		233	233
7:30 pm	306		306
9:00 pm	191		191
11:00 pm	145	38	183
Total	1025	553	1578

Artisan's Table Thank You

The Artisan's Table committee would like to thank the church for their support of this event this past November. Through the success of the bazaar, we were able to monetarily support both the Fairhaven Foundation and Wheeler Mission, as well as provide a much needed new dishwasher for the Great Hall kitchen at the Mud Creek campus. Your generosity and evangelism efforts in talking up the event allow us to have continued success and provide resources outside of the church budget. We look forward to continuing the tradition on November 3, 2018.



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Special Events

Concert Series – “Decades of Love” Cabaret – February 11 at 7:00pm

The Chancel Choir and soloists will present “Decades of Love,” a cabaret of love songs starting with the roaring 20’s and moving through decades of musical love. This event will help support the Concert Series and will be held in the ALTARed Worship Center at the Mud Creek Campus. Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased online or at the door. Desserts and drinks will be served during the performance. Treat your sweetheart to a fun evening of music!

Pastors Class Begins February 11

Meeting at the Promise Road Campus, Pastors Class is a six-session class that prepares students in 5th grade and above to make their decision about their profession of faith in Jesus Christ and prepare for baptism or affirmation of a previous baptism. To RSVP your child or for more information contact Michelle Latty, michelle.latty@geistchristian.org or 317- 842-3594 ext. 504.

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