



# CrossWords

news of Geist Christian Church

March 2018

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## Holy Week and Easter Services

Holy Week begins on March 24/25 with the waving of palm branches. Services on Palm Weekend will be at regular worship times at each service will include a children's palm parade. Additional services during Holy Week will include the following:

Maundy Thursday, March 29	7:00pm, Promise Road Campus 7:30pm, Mud Creek Campus
24 Hour Prayer Vigil, March 29/30	Begins 9pm, Mud Creek Campus
Good Friday, March 30	(six 30-minute services) 6:00pm, Mud Creek Campus 7:00pm, Promise Road Campus
Easter Weekend, March 31/April 1	Saturday, 5:30pm, Promise Road Campus Sunday, 7:15am, 9:30am & 11:00am, Promise Road Campus Sunday, 9:00, 10:00 & 11:15am, Mud Creek Campus

## Good Friday Mid-Day Services

In addition to the two evening services on Good Friday, a meaningful part of the day is always the Good Friday Vigil services that take place from 12:00 noon – 3:00pm in the Mud Creek Campus sanctuary. These six 30-minute services feature a short meditation on the seven last words of Christ from the cross. Feel free to come to one or all of the services. There is a short break between on the hour and half hour.

## Easter Season of Giving - A Time for Sharing & Caring

With the season of Lent fully upon us, Easter Season for Giving can't be far behind. This season, Geist Christian Church will serve almost 200 families by providing food and Easter buckets for children. Beginning March 3-4, an Easter display will be available at each campus. Pick up a food bag to fill (a list is attached) and/or Easter buckets to fill (a list is attached). Delivery drivers are also needed. The delivery date is Saturday, March 24 from 8:00am to 10:00am. Lastly, monetary donations will be used to purchase the hams, potatoes, and fresh fruit. There will be envelopes on the tables for this purpose. You may also donate through the Geist Christian Church website at [www.geistchristian.org](http://www.geistchristian.org). For more information, please contact Judy Apple-VanAlstine at [japplevanalstine@aol.com](mailto:japplevanalstine@aol.com) or 317-626-8540 or Kyle Brown [kyle.brown@geistchristian.org](mailto:kyle.brown@geistchristian.org). With your kindness and support, 200 families and almost 800 children will have a wonderful Easter.



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317.842.3594

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## Randy Reflects



Randy Spleth

Traffic is crawling. What is normally a short commute is longer, a dangerous journey needing careful attention. Even when traffic is light, it is adventurous. Oncoming cars zig-zag to avoid damage, like they are playing dodge ball and you are about to target them. "Indianapolis' decaying, pothole-ridden roads are on the cusp of a catastrophic collapse" the headline reads. Yes, we know.

A would-be worshiper seeking to begin his Lenten journey missed morning service on Ash Wednesday. His excuse was flat-tire after hitting a pothole on Fall Creek just south of the Mud Creek campus. "Someone didn't want me in worship," he mused.

Potholes can feel that way, as if an anonymous "someone" is responsible for maintenance has targeted you. But in truth, the cycle of neglect accelerates the longer it's ignored. There are more bumps, potholes and alignment altering moments, the more you neglect care for the base. The foundation has to be solid or the inevitable will occur. Of course, this is as true for the spiritual journey as it is our city streets.

The spiritual journey is never a completely smooth ride. There are bumps, potholes and alignment altering moments in every life. Jesus himself had to navigate potholes along the way. But he was able to do so because his core identity remained strong. Jesus handled it all with strength and grace, staying spiritually alignment with his mission of salvation.

How will you do? It's a foundational question, a question about what is at your core, about whether or not you've neglected care of the base. Rest in the fact that Jesus came to offer help, to sustain us on the way, with His truth and lead us with his life giving Holy Spirit. There is no way to miss all the potholes of life; but with Jesus' help, when the bumps come, we can avoid spiritual misalignment or worse, catastrophic collapse.

Pray that your journey will be smooth but when it isn't, know that it is your foundation in Christ will keep you in balance.

Blessings,



## Member Recognition Award

Each year, Geist Christian Church recognizes an individual who has given above and beyond in their service to God through the church. At the Annual Meeting on January 28, Thomas "Tommy" Derbique, Jr. was recognized as the recipient of the 2017 Member Recognition Award. The title given was "Joyful Friend" which embodies Tommy's spirit to everyone he meets. Tommy attends worship at the Promise Road Campus on Saturday and volunteers every Sunday in Children's Ministry at the Mud Creek Campus, a position that he has served in for over 20 years.



An emotional Tommy Derbique was surprised when it was announced that he was the recipient of the 2017 Member Recognition Award. ➤

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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](mailto: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 (March 7, 14, 21, and 28) 6:00-7:00pm 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 with guest speaker.

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](mailto:elena.derbique@gmail.com)



**Small Group: Outside the Box Bible Study** -Gather with a diverse group of folks in a public context to talk God. Come as you are, grab food and drink (or not), and enjoy fellowship while focusing on the One whose presence is

beyond the church building. In March, we will continue to explore Lent and spiritual practices. Meet on the third Tuesday of the month, (March 20, April 17, May 15), 6-7:30pm (ish) at Aurelio's, 13147 Parkside Dr., Fishers, IN 46038. Childcare provided at the Promise Road Campus. Contact Pastor Sarah with questions ([sarah.renfro@geistchristian.org](mailto:sarah.renfro@geistchristian.org)).

**Small Group: Young Adults**- Each month, Geist Christian Church Young Adults gather somewhere fun for food and fellowship. Check out the Facebook page "Geist Christian Church Young Adults" to find out the latest goings-on and gatherings! All young adults are welcome to join the camaraderie and meaningful connections at any time.

**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 Campus. 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](mailto: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.

**Company Coffee: Telling Tales from the Bunker and Beyond** - Veterans from WWII to present-day G.I.s are invited to Higher Grounds Coffee Shop located at Promise Road and 126th for a free cup o' joe and safe space in which to share with those who "get it." Come and go 10am-2pm each Tuesday.



**W.E. Women's Group** -The W.E. Women's small group meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6:30 - 8:00 pm at The Coffee Brake, 6125 Allisonville Road beginning January 2. Contact Carolyn Reed, [carolyn@indianadisciples.org](mailto:carolyn@indianadisciples.org).

# CONNECT Children's Ministries

**Easter Eggstravaganza** - This year's EASTER EGGSTRVAGANZA is right around the corner! Families are invited to the MUD CREEK CAMPUS on Sunday, March 18, 2-3:15pm for a hopping good time! There will be crafts, games, snacks, story time, pictures with the Easter Bunny and of course.....an Easter egg hunt at 3:15pm! All ages are welcome – children up to 4th grade are welcome to join in the egg hunt.

Donations of filled Easter eggs and snacks (brownies, cookies, fruit, pretzels, and goldfish) are greatly appreciated. We also need adult and youth volunteers to prepare the crafts, put out eggs on March 18, and help with games/ crafts during the event. This is a wonderful opportunity for youth service hours! Please let us know how you would like to help out at [children@geistchristian.org](mailto:children@geistchristian.org) or check out the sign-ups in the children's wing at both campuses.

**Summer 2018! Going to the Extreme: Vacation Bible School - Amped!** - Vacation Bible School will be held June 11-15 at the PROMISE ROAD CAMPUS from 9am -12pm. We need LOTS of group leaders and volunteers. Please let Michelle Latty or Holly Blunk know if you are interested in volunteering, [children@geistchristian.org](mailto:children@geistchristian.org). Registration begins mid-April.

**Family Nights: Amped Up!** - June 25, July 9, July 30 from 6:00pm – 8:00pm at the MUD CREEK CAMPUS - The summer fun doesn't end with Vacation Bible School. Join us for something new this summer. We will share a meal together then hit the ground running for games, outreach and community time together continuing the themes of the Amped! VBS. Mark your calendars to come to 1, 2 or all 3 (might just be a bonus prize drawing for attending... so come as often as you can)! Bring your family and invite your friends for these free events together.

**G56 (current 4th & 5th graders)** - G56 service week, June 27-29, 9:00am-1:00pm at the Mud Creek Campus. Please plan to join us for THREE awesome days of service in our local community. WHY?

- Get to know your fellow G56ers
- Help others
- Have loads of fun!

Registration begins in mid-April.

**PASTORS CLASS 2018** has a wonderful group of 23 students going through the class this year. Please congratulate them on their faith journey if you see them in worship with their sponsoring elder.



## Weekday Ministries News

We are having "snow" much fun at WDM this winter. From igloo building, to winter crafts, to snowball fights and outside play, we have learned so much about this season.

WDM has limited openings for Child's Day Out, Preschool, Pre-K, T-K, and Kindergarten for the 2018-19 school year. Please email Valerie at the Mud Creek Campus: [valerie.zeigler@geistchristian.org](mailto:valerie.zeigler@geistchristian.org) or Janine at the Promise Road Campus: [janine.kays@geistchristian.org](mailto:janine.kays@geistchristian.org) or call us at Weekday Ministries at 317.578.4591.



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# CONNECT Youth Ministries

**Youth Group** - The Youth Group at Geist Christian Church is about being in community, connecting with others, and encouraging one another in faith. It's all about exploring our faith stories by having intentional relationships with God and one another. March schedule.

**The Collective** - Are you looking for a creative worship experience on Sunday morning? Would you like to worship with your friends from both Mud Creek and Promise Road campuses? Then join us for the Collective, a monthly worship service that combines music, prayer, communion, and scripture in a laid back fun atmosphere. Join fellow youth for both campuses at the next Collective at Mud Creek on March 4 at 10:30 am. The sermon title: The Jonah Complex.

**Topic Night** - This spring the Youth Group will continue to explore the many open doors God places before us every day. During the semester these open door talks have allowed us to recognize these changes while encouraging one another to step out in faith and embrace all the extraordinary opportunities that await. Youth will claim their doors of opportunity so that they can become a form-able force for a world yearning for their youthful and dynamic presence. So join us on March 4, as we open ourselves up to the Jonah Complex.

**Art** - Scott Adams once said, "Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep." On Sunday, March 11, all youth are invited to get creative as we make window art with white glue, food coloring, and dollar store frames. These one-of-a-kind pieces will be an excellent addition to your room, so let's color outside the lines, as we harness our inner artist and express ourselves through creative expression.

**Destination Unknown** - What? Where are we are going...???...???...??? That's right we are not telling. On March 18 the youth will participate in a destination unknown adventure and will have no clue where they are going, but it promises to be a wild ride. They always say groups that travel together stay together! So join us for this fun-filled as we embark on an unknown destination.

**Prayer Stations** - The psalmist once said, "Be still and know that I am God." On March 25, youth from Geist Christian Church will gather at the Mud Creek Campus to participate in a variety of prayer stations. From walking a labyrinth and lighting candles to molding clay and crafting prayers, these stations will help guide and prepare them for Holy Week, a week that captures the extremes of our lives. So join us for a brief service at 5:30 pm, followed by guided time of pray and reflection.

## Mission Trips

Senior High Mission Trip - June 16-23, 2018 and July 22-28, 2018

The Senior High Youth will be traveling to Hazard, KY to participate in the Housing Development Alliance. The HDA is an organization that believes that safe, decent, and affordable housing is a fundamental human right. The HDA is an equal opportunity housing provider who works with a variety of homeowners, including but not limited to young working couples with children, single parents, persons with disabilities and elderly persons. During our week we will volunteer on various phases of construction, from shingling to digging footer drains, framing floors and walls to painting or landscaping. We hope that this week-long program will create an environment that will encourage youth to probe deeper into their faith and how they can help in a community that is so close to home.

Junior High Mission Trip - July 15-20, 2018

The Junior High Youth will be traveling to Lexington, KY to participate in the Mission Immersion Project sponsored by Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church. The Mission Immersion Project utilizes a modular system that focuses on issues surrounding homelessness, hunger, and poverty in Lexington, KY. This three-prong model of service, learning, and reflection will serve as a springboard to explore the intersection between social justice and Christianity. We hope that this program will create an environment that will encourage youth to probe deeper into their faith and how their faith calls them to act in our world.



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# Outreach

## Blood Drive February 25

Due to an aggressive flu season and weather related impacts, participation at blood drives has been negatively affected. Donate blood on February 25, 9 am to noon at the Mud Creek Campus and you will be entered to win one of five \$50 Speedway giftcards.

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



Be **ONE** More.

# Creation Care Tip

## Green your Easter



- Ditch the harsh dye: Some Easter egg coloring kits contain chemicals you might not know much about. Why not make your own coloring kit using plant-based dyes? Search online for ways to naturally dye your Easter eggs.
- Natural table décor: If you're going to create a table-scape, try something a little different than buying flowers or other paper or plastic decorations. Use spring vegetables like whole radishes and carrots (tops included) or asparagus and green onions as a feature. When dinner is served, pass around a basket to collect the veggies and save them for a spring soup or salad!

- Get closer to your candy: Seek out candy that doesn't include extra packaging that will simply get tossed. Look for Easter bunnies that are wrapped in foil only. Look for sweet treats made with organic ingredients, or better yet, consider making your own goodies.
- Easter baskets: Reuse old Easter baskets or purchase new-to-you ones from thrift stores and/or online marketplaces. If you're crafty, make your baskets from fabric or recycled items.
- Tree tradition: What better time than spring to plant the seeds of a lasting tradition with your family. Get together to start your own garden or make a dedicated effort to plant a tree each year at this time. Talk about growing with your family!

# 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](mailto:give@geistchristian.org) with questions.

# GIVE+

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# News Around Geist Christian Church

## In Sympathy

Chris Karimu, mother Boi-Sallay  
**Debbie Wheeler, husband Leroy \***  
 Nick McDonald, grandmother Dorothy McDonald  
 Ruth Weaver, cousin Roxanne Stauffer  
 Stewart Hults, aunt June Hults  
 Ryan Hazen, aunt Rose Laird  
 Sherri Foegley, uncle Jerry Brighton  
 \*denotes GCC member

## New Members

Morris & Barb Irwin  
 Eric & Tara Maroun, Olivia & Owen

## Memorial Gifts

**In Memory of Larry Holdorf**  
 Storen Advisory LLC  
 Bonnie Holdorf  
 Kenneth & Corrie Bartell  
 Gail Sassman  
 Shirlee Cook  
 Francis & Bobbi Finney

**In Memory of Leroy Wheeler**  
 Mark & Nancy Hershman  
 Gregg & DeDe Mantock  
 Tae & Becky Sture  
 Phil & Ann Manship

**In Memory of Loren Stanley**  
 Kathy Stanley

January/February 2018				
Service	Jan27/28	Feb 3/4	Feb 10/11	Feb 17/18
5:30 pm PR	116	97	76	116
9:00 am MC	134	139	90	138
10:00 am PR	21	221	152	196
ALTARed PR	n/a	n/a	5	9
10:30 am MC	206	217	126	224
ALTARed MC	n/a	33	9	4
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>707</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>687</b>



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## Special Events

**Keenagers: Field Trips for Adults** - Why should field trips stop with elementary school? There's lots more to see. The Keenagers generally travel on the first Friday of the month. Here is a sampling of upcoming events.

- March 2 – Only a few spots remain. Downtown Indianapolis with a tour of the Scottish Rite Cathedral, lunch at Bearcats in the Stutz Building and an afternoon tour of the Indiana War Memorial and Museum. Cost is \$12 plus lunch.
- April 6 – Fair Oaks Farms – Fair Oaks Farms in northwest Indiana is a large working farm with an emphasis on education. Join the group for the tours of the dairy and crop areas as well as a buffet lunch. Cost is \$50 per person which INCLUDES the lunch.
- May 4 – It is the month of May. Travel to Speedway, Indiana for a tour of the Dallara Indy Car Factory, a visit to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and lunch on the now trendy Speedway Main Street.

Contact Ryan Hazen at [ryan.hazen@geistchristian.org](mailto:ryan.hazen@geistchristian.org) for more information about any of these trips.

**24-Hour Prayer Vigil** - Beginning at 9:00 pm on Maundy Thursday, March 29 and running until 9:00 pm on Good Friday, March 30, this is the perfect way to reflect on Jesus' gift to all and prepare hearts and minds for Good Friday and Easter. Sign up for 1/2 hour increments of prayer. Participants are welcome to pray at the Mud Creek Campus sanctuary or wherever you may be. Sign-up begins March 10 & 11 at either campus or contact Esther Sickle, [esther.sickle@geistchristian.org](mailto:esther.sickle@geistchristian.org), 842-3594 ext. 494 for available times. There will be security on the premises during the overnight hours.

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