



CrossWords

news of Geist Christian Church

April 2018

Contents

- Holy Week and Easter Services
- Good Friday Mid-Day Services
- Randy Reflects
- Keenagers
- CONNECT Adult Ministries
- CONNECT Children's Ministries
- Weekday Ministry News
- CONNECT Youth Ministries
- Outreach
- Creation Care Tip
- GIVE
- News Around GCC
- Special Events

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	7:00 pm, Promise Road Campus 7:30 pm, Mud Creek Campus
24 Hour Prayer Vigil, March 29/30	Begins 9:00 pm, Mud Creek Campus
Good Friday, March 30	(six 30-minute services) 6:00 pm, Mud Creek Campus 7:00 pm, Promise Road Campus
Easter Weekend, March 31/April 1	Saturday, 5:30 pm, Promise Road Campus Sunday, 7:15 am, 9:30 am & 11:00 am, Promise Road Campus Sunday, 9:00, 10:00 & 11:15 am, 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 – 3:00 pm 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.

12:00 Noon - First Word (Luke 23:32-34)	Dustin Hite
<i>"Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing."</i>	
12:30 pm - Second Word (Luke 23:35-43)	Sarah Renfro
<i>"Truly, I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."</i>	
1:00 pm - Third Word (John 19:25-27)	Dustin Hite
<i>"Woman, here is your son. Here is your mother."</i>	
1:30 pm - Fourth Word (Matthew 27:39-46)	Andrew Lewis
<i>"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"</i>	
2:00 pm - Fifth & Sixth Words (John 19:28-30)	Kyle Brown
<i>"Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing."</i>	
2:30 pm - Seventh Word (Luke 23:44-46)	Ryan Hazen
<i>"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."</i>	



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Randy Reflects



Randy Spleth

With March comes madness. You don't have to be a basketball fan to know the phrase. Car dealers and furniture stores use the phrase to drive special sales. Native Hoosiers predict the madness of March with a snowstorm before the Final Four. As I write this article, it is the first day of spring and the weathermen are predicting snow. Conventional wisdom seems right.

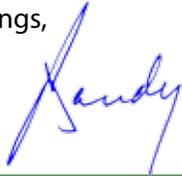
Predicting the weather is, I'm sure, maddening. Predicting the outcome of a tournament, more so. The 2018 NCAA tournament, after the first week, has more upsets than any time in its history. Underdogs aren't just lucky; they are dominating. The last week of March is the tournament's finish and it will be unpredictable madness. An underdog may win for the first time.

As the calendar falls, this is also the last week, our Lenten finish. On the week when college basketball fans watch with anticipation, fearful about outcomes, so too will we. We will watch again as Jesus, the ultimate underdog, rides into the Passover city, a donkey king threatening power. It was madness. As the week unfolds, madness rules, from a confrontation in the temple to betrayal in a Garden, from torture on a cross to burial in a borrowed grave. Who could have predicted it? It was madness for Jesus to do what he did.

But just like we know that at the end of the final week of the NCAA tournament, one will emerge out of the madness, victorious. We also know that God used the madness of Holy Week to claim victory. Before the phrase was ever coined, Paul says, "God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong." (1 Corinthians 1:27) If that's not the madness of an underdog winning, I don't know what is.

If this connection wasn't clear before, this year, it should be. Easter falls on a day that celebrates madness, April Fool's Day. Maybe it should always be that way.

Blessings,



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.

- April 6 – Fair Oaks Farms – Only four spots left! 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. Buses leave the Mud Creek Campus at 8:00 am and returns by 4:30 pm.
- 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 for more information about either of these trips.

[Return to Contents](#)

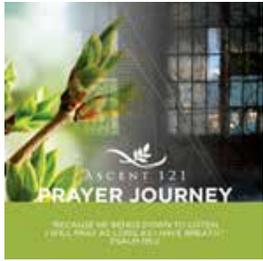
CrossWords April 2018



CONNECT Adult Ministries

New Class! All Things New - On Tuesday, April 3, for four Tuesdays in April an adult class will begin and is open to a everyone. The study book titled *All Things New* invites the class to explore questions about what heaven will be like. Is heaven some place up in the sky or is it more like a new Garden of Eden? Held in the Mud Creek Campus library beginning at 7:00 pm. For more information you may contact Jim Schmidt at schmide64@hotmail.com or call the church office.

Ascent 121 Prayer Journey, April 21, 9:00 am - The



Ascent 121 Prayer Journey is an opportunity for you to drive through the near east side of Indianapolis and pray for areas affected by trafficking and exploitation. Through this experience you will learn more about the child welfare system,

the juvenile justice system, different ways that teens are drawn into trafficking and recovery services that are available to survivors. Guided prayer stops allow you to pray for survivors, teens at risk, educators, social service providers, juvenile justice staff, law enforcement, ministries and organizations. The journey begins at West Morris Street Church with an orientation by the Ascent 121 staff and concludes with a debrief for your group to process their experience. The Prayer Journey is intended for small and large groups. A parent must accompany participants under 18. RSVP to Pastor Sarah at sarah.renfro@geistchristian.org.

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

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

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. Meet on the third Tuesday of the month (April 17) 6-7:30 pm at Aurelio's, 13147 Parkside Dr., Fishers, IN 46038. Childcare is provided at the Promise Road Campus. Contact Pastor Sarah, 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 6:30 pm, 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.

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 7:15 pm 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 10:00 am-2:00 pm 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. Contact Carolyn Reed, carolyn@indianadisciples.org.

CONNECT Children's Ministries

Vacation Bible School - Amped! - Join us June 11-15 as we Live Life Fully Amped! We are excited to celebrate VBS as ONE this year. The Promise Road Campus will host the extreme sport themed vacation bible school from 9:00 am-12:00 pm each day. Registration will open in mid-April for those children aged 4 (by Sept. 1, 2018) through 3rd grade. Children 4th grade on up will be welcomed as Assistant Coaches for our teams. LOTS of volunteers of ALL ages will be needed to help with this extremely awesome adventure! Join us as a "coach" and lead a group or as a volunteer for the games or craft teams. You won't want to miss this!

NEW! Family Nights: Amped Up! - June 25, July 9, July 30 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm at the MUD CREEK CAMPUS - The fun will not end after VBS! Join us for more extreme family fun. 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. So 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 (grade 5 & 6) - Attention: Current 4th & 5th graders - G56 Service "Week" – June 26-28, 9:00 am-1:00 pm at the Mud Creek Campus. This is THE week you don't want to miss. 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- Please watch for our 23 newest members to profess their faith and officially join our community in the coming weeks. Congratulate them on their faith journeys!

Weekday Ministries News



Rainbows, castles, shamrocks, Dr. Seuss, and of course Easter are popular topics of stories and activities around the school this month! We all had a great time celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2, reading many of his books and doing activities centered on them. Kindergarten and a few Pre-K classes are focusing on fairy tales this month. The Kindergarten classes have done a fabulous job of writing their very own fairy tales and constructing castles to go along with their stories. They culminated the unit with a Fairy Tale Night on March 8, when all families were invited in to hear the stories and see all their wonderful projects.

St. Patrick's Day is also a fun day in the preschool world. Traps are made to "catch" silly leprechaun and you can find "gold" hiding around the building, especially near our rainbows. We hope that March, which came in like a lion, leaves peacefully like a lamb, especially as we celebrate Easter and the rising of our Savior. We are looking forward to egg hunts and celebrating Easter at the end of the month. We will also have a special Easter Chapel on March 19th and 20th when we will sing and hear more of the Easter story. Happy Easter to all from the students and staff of WDM!



[Return to Contents](#)

CrossWords April 2018



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. Schedule for April

Capture the Flag - On Sunday, April 8th, we will be playing capture the flag. Now, this isn't your ordinary, elementary school gym class capture the flag. No, this Sunday we'll be taking our skills to the rugged terrain of the Promise Road Campus for the ultimate test of strategy, speed, cooperation, and focus. Join us in the command room (Promise Road Campus Gym) at 5:00 pm for instruction, and then we'll head out to the battlefield for the showdown. Dinner will be at 6:00 pm.

Youth Progressive Dinner - On April 15 the youth of the church will be participating in their annual Progressive Dinner. For this progressive dinner, youth will "progress" through the meal, from course to course, from house to house, changing locations and hosts for each step of the way. We will begin at the church at 4:30 pm for appetizers at the Promise Road Campus and then head out for an evening of adventure, hosted by different members of the church. So come and enjoy an evening of food and fellowship with your fellow youth and members of the church.

Spring Youth Retreat - Scripture points to a rhythm in the spiritual life. The blueprint for life is all over the Bible. It points us to the truth that God is more concerned with who we are rather than what we do. Once we grab hold of who we are and whose we are, we can live the life God calls us to live. On the Spring Retreat, from April 20-22, GCC youth will explore how we do this and the blueprint for a life of being, going, and telling. Our time away will include keynotes, small group time, a 3-hr ropes course, and free time. The retreat is for both Jr. High and High School Youth, with age-specific activities, and small group time throughout the weekend. So join us as we get away and enjoy the sights and sounds of nature, as well as, grow in our faith with one another.

Mission Weekend- Hill Harper once said, "I believe that love expands. As you give love out, it's received and reciprocated, and it grows. That's the beauty of it." On the last weekend of April, we are going to spread a little love through acts of service as we partner with Operation Find and Feed. Operation Find and Feed is a small group of Christians who have vowed to provide food and other necessities to the homeless in our city. On Saturday, April 28 from 12-1:30, Jr. High and Senior High youth are invited to join the Youth Ministry Team for lunch at the Promise Road Campus, which will follow a time of making sandwiches and preparing cards that we will deliver on Sunday. On Sunday, April 29, Jr. High and Senior High are invited to join the Youth Ministry Team at the Promise Road Campus at 6:45 am to drive down, deliver sandwiches, and worship with those in the alley.

Mission Trips

Senior High Mission Trip - June 17-22, 2018 and July 22-27, 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 .

Junior High Mission Trip - July 15-20, 2018 - The Jr. 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



[Return to Contents](#)

CrossWords April 2018

Outreach

Mac and Cheese

Thank you for those who have helped feed people at Dayspring. 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 has had some amazing members of Geist Christian Church donate Party Size Stouffer's Mac and Cheese (76oz) as a complement to the meal. As we approach spring, we are in need of some more donations to help replenish our reserves. If you have donated or are interested in donating, please contact Kyle at kyle.brown@geistchristian.org.

Creation Care Tip

#skipthestrav

More than 500,000,000 straws are used once and tossed every day in this country. Ocean Conservancy ranks plastic straws as the number five most commonly found item on beaches. Straws are not recycled, so they wind up in landfills, litter streets, wash into streams and add to the estimated 8.5 million metric tons of plastic debris in oceans annually. During the month of Earth Day, April 22, vow to significantly reduce your use of plastic straws. So many of us use straws as routine simply because servers hand them to us. There are so many alternatives, like drinking from a cup or using a paper, metal, or other reusable straw.



Give

Mobile Giving App

Geist Christian Church now has an additional and, for some, a more convenient way to give financially 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.



New! Text Giving

Try giving by text. Text the amount you wish to give to 317.886.1677. If it's the first time, you'll be asked for some simple information. You may make a recurring or one-time gift and you'll receive an immediate confirmation. After the initial registration, next time you may simply text the amount you wish to give to the exclusive Geist Christian TEXT TO GIVE number.

[Return to Contents](#)

CrossWords April 2018



News Around Geist Christian Church

In Sympathy

Erin McIntosh, father Jerry McIntosh
 Matt Scott, grandmother

Bob Petzel*

Kay Dick, husband David*

Sherri Foegley, father Merle Pettijohn
 Bruce Russell, aunt Ruth Russell
 Carolyn Hetzler, aunt Bertha Bateman
 Damon Ashburn, father Gary Gaither

Elena Derbique, husband Tom*

Tommy Derbique, father Tom*

Becky Augustin, mother Ina Schubert*

*denotes GCC member

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Larry Holdorf

Larry & Ann Heck

In Memory of Leroy Wheeler

Shirley Wells

Larry & Judy Butts

Kevin & Rose Ann Robbins

In Memory of Bob Petzel

Kent & Lori Kline

Tae & Becky Sture

Thomas & Judy Bush

Stephen & Alice Tarr

Births

Tony & Karen Sinn, son Colton Gabriel 3/7

February/March 2018				
Service	Feb 24/25	Mar 3/4	Mar 10/11	Mar 17/18
5:30 pm PR	108	98	92	98
9:00 am MC	148	166	180	145
10:00 am PR	200	208	187	202
ALTARed PR	n/a	at MC	14	12
10:30 am MC	234	239	239	223
ALTARed MC	n/a	24	7	14
TOTALS	690	735	719	694

Special Events

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 at the Mud Creek Campus or contact Esther Sickle, esther.sickle@geistchristian.org, 842-3594 ext. 494 for available times. There will be security on the premises during the overnight hours.

Spring Concert – May 20 at 3:00pm - "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." (Psalm 150:6). Plan to join us for the Spring Concert presented by the Chancel Choir & Chancel Ringers. The choirs will present musical settings of the Psalms. Enjoy an afternoon of music and fellowship with refreshments following in Great Hall.

[Return to Contents](#)