



CrossWords

news of Geist Christian Church

May 2018

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Mother's Day Dessert Auction



It's been said that life is short, eat dessert first. On May 13, you can have your cake and eat it too, as you enjoy a tasty treat and help raise money for this year's youth mission trips. This summer, there are two high school trips to Hazard, KY and one junior high trip to Lexington, KY. The youth ask for

your help on Mother's Day to ensure every youth is able to attend these transformative God-filled experience. There are two ways to help. First, if you would like to provide a dessert, please email Kyle Brown at kyle.brown@geistchristian.org. Secondly, come to church on Saturday, May 12 and Sunday, May 13 ready to buy something sweet and tasty to share with your family.

VBS Registration Opens

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 is open for those children aged 4 (by September 1, 2018) through 3rd grade. Children 4th grade on up will be welcomed as Assistant Coaches for our "teams." We will be looking for LOTS of volunteers of ALL ages to help with this extremely awesome adventure! Join us as a "coach" and lead a group or as a volunteer for our game or craft teams. You won't want to miss this! Register on-line or pickup a form at either campus.



Amped Up Family Nights

June 25, July 9, July 30 - 6-8 pm, Mud Creek Campus

We are not going to let the fun 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 our 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 this free event together.



Facebook: Geist Christian Church
Twitter@GeistChristian
Instagram: geistchristianchurch

317.842.3594

office@geistchristian.org www.geistchristian.org

8550 Mud Creek Road | Indianapolis, Indiana 46256 | 12756 Promise Road | Fishers, Indiana 46038

Randy Reflects



Randy Spleth

It has been an odd spring, more off again than on. Nature appears at times to be confused. Crocus and daffodils have been dusted with snow. Redbud trees are finally hinting of their color but Bradford Pears are in blossom. A wet, below average spring has brought forth new life slowly. But the promise of warmth is there and with it, new life will explode from winter's grave

It is a wonderful image for this season of Easter. Nature resurrected. Winter will not hold life in the tomb of the earth. New life springs forth and our spirits are lifted as the world is renewed.

Teresa of Avila wisely observed "Just as there are seasons in the world around us, so there are in our interior life." There is a time for us to withdraw, to discover the cold solitude of being alone before God. There is also a time to seek the warmth of community that allows us to blossom into God's good and wonderful creation.

Authentic Christian community provides nourishment for those who seek to grow, those who want to bloom with new life. You discover it in the embrace of the bereaved when mourning the death of a loved one. You see it in the nurture of a volunteer teaching a child about the love of God. You will find it in greeting a visitor as she first worships with us. Warmth, radiating from community, brings forth life.

Even if nature is confused, we need not be. If we accept our assignment to be God's representatives to the world, to build and be a community of Easter people, we become the warmth of God's Easter love, bringing forth new life. Then, the fiery heat will bear down upon us. The world calls this summer. The church calls this fiery passion of the Spirit which comes at Pentecost. Either way you look at it, things are heating up.

Blessings,



Prison Ministry

Did you know that a team from Geist Christian Church leads worship every month at the Correctional Industrial Facility, an Indiana Department of Corrections medium security facility near Pendleton? Team members lead prayers, bring the meditation, preside at the communion table and greet worshipers. New team members are welcome. Annual training, background check and annual TB tests are required. Contact Ryan Hazen at ryan.hazen@geistchristian.org for more information.

Annual Golf Scramble



Clean off the clubs, hit the links and enjoy the day at this year's annual Geist Christian Church golf outing. Grilled buffet lunch begins at 12:30 pm on Sunday, June 10 at the River Glen Country Club. Scramble format begins at 2:00 pm. The outing is open to all Geist Christian members, participants and friends (age 13 & up). Registration fee of \$80 per person includes lunch, soft drinks, green fees, cart and contests and prizes.

Registration begins in early May at both campuses and on-line.

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CONNECT Adult Ministries

The W.E. Women's Group is meeting on Tuesday, May 1 for fellowship and conversation. The group will gather that evening at the home of Becky Sture, 6628 W May Apple Drive, McCordsville at 6:30 p.m. This group is for any women in the congregation who is interested in connecting with others and exploring topics related to our faith. Questions may be directed to Carolyn Reed at carolyn@indianadisciples.org.

Page Turners Book Club - Page Turners will meet for discussion on the following:

- May 23 - *An Invisible Thread* by Laura Schroff
- July 25 - *The Traitor's Wife* by Allison Pataki
- September 26 - *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate

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.

"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.



Mental Health Support Group - A Mental Health Support Group sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness meets 7:00 pm at the Promise Road Campus on the third Tuesday of each month.

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 (May 15) 6-7:30 pm at Aurelio's, 13147 Parkside Dr., Fishers, IN 46038. Childcare is provided at the Promise Road Campus. Contact sarah.renfro@geistchristian.org with any questions.



Small Group: GCC Young Adults - Each month, GCC 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.

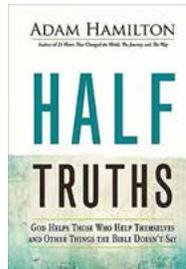
Small Group: Faithful Families - They are simple phrases. They sound Christian—like something you might find in the Bible. We've all heard these words. Maybe we've said them. They capture some element of truth, yet they miss the point in important ways. Join Pastor Sarah for a five-week study of Adam Hamilton's book, *Half Truths* and search for the whole truth by comparing common Christian clichés to the message and ministry of Jesus. The clichés include:

- Everything happens for a reason.
- God helps those who help themselves.
- God won't give you more than you can handle.
- God said it, I believe it, that settles it.
- Love the sinner, hate the sin.

Meets every Tuesday in May, 6:30-7:30 pm, at the Promise Road Campus. Childcare provided.

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.

Small Group: The Bridge - The Bridge is a men's small group designed to create conversation and build community around questions of faith. It 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, contact Mike Peck at mike@outsidesource.com.



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CONNECT Children's Ministries

Vacation Bible School information can be found on the front page of this newsletter.

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 3 awesome days of service in our local community. WHY??

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

Please register by June 15. Link is on the website or paper forms will be available at either campus.

Volunteer opportunities - Plan to help out at VBS- June 11-15 or at any of the family nights (June 25, July 9, & July 30)! E-mail children@geistchristian.org to inquire how you can make a difference.

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. May 6 is Topic Night. The youth will conclude their year-long exploration on the many open doors God places before us every day. Throughout the year 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 formidable force for a world yearning for their youthful and dynamic presence. So join us on May 6, as we cross through one more door.

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 next Collective on May 6 at the Mud Creek Campus.

Important Parent Meeting - On May 6 at 5 pm, there will be a parent meeting to talk about both the Jr. High and Senior High Mission Trips this summer. This hour long meeting will allow Pastor Kyle to answer any questions or concerns about the trip as well as fill out the required paperwork. For many, this will be their first mission experience. Parents are encouraged to email kyle.brown@geistchristian.org or call 859-396-9179 with any questions prior to the meeting.

End of the Year Party - On Sunday, May 20 we will celebrate the end of another school year with cookout and inflatable extravaganza. This event will start at 5:00 pm and promises to be a wonderful celebration as we say farewell to dreaded finals and another school year. I hope you will join us, because we are going to have some great food and fun games (outside dress required), so bring everyone and come celebrate the end of the school year!!

Twenty-six youth and adults enjoyed a spring retreat April 20-21. ➤



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Weekday Ministries News

The children and staff of Weekday Ministries at the Promise Road Campus recently completed sessions learning about global mission work recently. Over \$4,700 was raised for MASK (Mama Agnes Special Kids) which helps special needs children in Matuu, Kenya. The fund-raiser was brought to us by one of our teachers, Alice Reinhart. After weeks of learning about Kenya, it's people and culture, and how best we can help the children there, our mission culminated with a Fun Run/Walk using our certified outdoor classroom spaces. With our crazy weather this spring, our Fun Run/Walk was moved into the gym for an obstacle course. It was amazing to see God's work in all of our teachers, students, and families.



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

For thousands of years, pilgrims have journeyed to the Holy Land to experience God in real and tangible ways. Walking along the shores of Galilee, through the ancient streets of Jerusalem and through archaeological parks in Israel provides new insight that gives faith context. The Bible truly comes to life when you read the Sermon on the Mount while standing on the Mount of the Beatitudes or visit Cana, site of the first miracle where Jesus changed water into wine at a wedding. Retracing the life of Jesus is a once in a life time experience. "Ann and I are excited to lead our first pilgrimage to the Holy Land and we invite you to travel with us. Join us as we retrace Jesus' steps and visit the most holy sites for Christians in the entire world.

Space is limited, so please contact Randy right away if you are interested, Randy.spleth@geistchristian.org or go straight to Geist pilgrimage website at www.travelillumine.com/trc/vhs.

Outreach

Hamilton Co. Outreach Opportunity: Family Promise



Family Promise
of Hamilton County

Did you know there are approximately 45 families experiencing homelessness in Hamilton County? These are families with children who go to school with our kids and yet have no stable place to do their homework or lay their heads. Family Promise is a national organization with 210 affiliates that seeks to establish a cooperative among congregations to give families a safe place to eat a meal and sleep. People of faith are called to care for those among us experiencing homelessness. "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers

and sisters of mine, you did for Me." (Matthew 25:40) If you are interested in learning more about this ministry, contact Sarah Renfro, sarah.renfro@geistchristian.org.

Blood Drive June 3 - Roll up your sleeve and make a difference.

The bloodmobile will be at the Mud Creek Campus, Sunday, June 3, 9:00 am - noon. Contact Esther Sickle, 317-842-3594 ext. 494, esther.sickle@geistchristian.org.

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



Be **ONE** More.



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Outreach

Bread for the World – Offering of Letters

Every day millions of people in the U.S. and around the world feed and support their families through lifesaving programs funded by our government. We are making progress toward the end of hunger, but we live in challenging times.

Globally, hunger has been cut in half over the past 25 years. However, world hunger increased last year, mainly due to a surge in violence in some countries. In the U.S., 1 in 8 Americans live with the risk of hunger or food insecurity, including approximately 13 million children.

Last year, the President's budget called for the largest cuts ever to programs that address poverty and hunger. Geist Christian Church joined with 41 other Indianapolis area churches in an Offering of Letters and together we took 3,630 letters to our senators and representatives. Due, in part, to our letters and those of thousands of other churches around the country, those drastic cuts were not included in the final budget approved by Congress.

For fiscal year 2019, the proposed budget calls for \$1.5 trillion in cuts to these programs. If these cuts go in to effect, every congregation in the U.S. would need to raise \$428,000 every year for ten years to bridge the gap. Bread for the World needs our support again to protect these programs for people who struggle with hunger.

Join us the weekend of May 19-20 at both campuses as we write letters to our senators and representatives. Again, our letters will be gathered together with those of other churches and hand delivered to the local congressional offices. For more information, contact Les & Marge Galbraith at galbraithlm@aol.com.



Guatemala – February 16-23, 2019

Early next year, Geist Christian Church is returning to Guatemala, and inviting up to 14 adults (ages 14 and up) to join this 7-day mission trip. During this international mission trip, the group will be working in the village of Panajachel, a small town on the edge of Lake Atitlan. Despite the beauty of the area, the Mayan inhabitants live in extreme poverty, many living on just a few dollars a day. Most live in make shift shacks with dirt floors with no running water. To combat this extreme poverty, Geist Christian Church, will be partnering with Porch de Salomon (porchdesalomon.org) as we build homes for families in need. The cost for this trip will be \$1,750 (including: Flight, hotel accommodations, most meals, and building materials) and the early registration deadline is September 23, 2018. If you have any questions, please contact Kyle Brown at kyle.brown@geistchristian.org.

Donating Your Vegetables: The Other Conservation Practice

The benefits of gardening for our personal and natural well-being are well known. Eating healthy and fresh produce is one obvious benefit. We now also know that spending 20 minutes in a garden can improve our sense of well-being. In the natural world, greater plant diversity through a garden creates food and habitat for beneficial insects. Likewise, by working the soil and nurturing its health, water quality improves. There is also a link between the benefits a garden offers and improved soil quality through conservation practices. The word "conserve" itself is the formation of two Latin words. The first part, "con," means "with," or, "together." The second word, "serve" in Latin means, "save." Thus, "to conserve" or to practice conservation, literally means, "to save together" or "to save with." Donating produce from your garden is practicing conservation with those that face food insecurity in Hamilton County. (Andrew Fritz, Urban Agriculture Conservationist)

Produce from the gardens at the Promise Road Campus is donated to the "Come-to-Me" Food Pantry. More information on how, when, and what to donate can be found by visiting www.hamiltonswcd.org/donateyourvegetables.

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News Around Geist Christian Church

In Sympathy

Bill Guyton, sister Marianne Beesley
 Julie McConnell, grandfather Dwight Graber
 Steve Blaising, mother Nona Blaising
 John Goodyear, nephew Tyler Goodyear

Pat Butsch*

Lynn Lewis, father Bill Kippenhan

Vicki Burhenn*

Dave Burhenn, mother **Vicki Burhenn***
 Kim Rauch, mother Sharon Hatfield
 Randy Spleth, aunt Billie Spleth
 Lauren Parker, uncle Dave Upton

*denotes GCC member

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of David Dick

Denise Furman

In Memory of Bob Petzel

Lawrence & Deborah Muterspaugh
 Larry & Phyllis Bowman

In Memory of Leroy Wheeler

Andrew & Lynn Lewis

In Memory of Dea Troxel

Bruce & Amy Russell
 Joyce Jordan

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Tom Derbique

Mark & Nancy Hershman
 Randy & Janice Crutchfield
 Kent & Lori Kline
 Jubilate
 Craig, Myrna & Erin Mullins
 John & Sue Smitha
 Lida Harrison
 Michael & Margaret Burt
 Carol Gebhardt

Jeannie Wilson
 Greg & Rebecca Spudic
 Phil & Ann Manship
 Marge & Les Galbraith
 Larry & Nancy Pugh
 Dick & Sarah Getts
 Jim & Janet Brothers
 Nolan & Marian Cooper
 Richard & Carol Selby
 Don & Carolyn Hetzler
 Steve & Rhonda Hasty
 Kay Vezina

Robert & Dorothy Root
 Richard & Sharon
 Henderson
 Dale & Sharon Smith
 Harold & Marilyn
 Schneider
 Tae & Becky Sture
 Andrew & Lynn Lewis
 Gregg & Dianne Mantock
 Rhea Fisher
 Dennis & Joanne Liesen
 Jim & Peg Schmidt

Larry & Louise Smith
 Bob & Lou Jones
 FCS Metro LLC
 Tom & Ruth Armstrong
 Barbara Brundige
 Larry & Judy Butts
 Steve & Candy Lamonte
 & Family
 Eugene Derbique &
 Christine Derbique
 Todd & Lisa Higgins
 Anonymous

Thank you from Derbique Family

Tommy and I would like to thank all of you for the hugs, kind words, cards, meals, music, eulogies, readings, phone calls, etc. and especially for your love. All of you are so important to us and we could not have made it through this difficult time without our God and His hands and feet - as you all acted as extensions of His love. Thank you for touching our souls. -- Elena and Tommy Derbique

March /April 2018 Attendance

Service	Mar 17/18	Mar 24/25	Apr 7/8	Apr 14/15	Apr 21/22
5:30 pm PR	108	98	92	98	89
9:00 am MC	148	166	180	145	152
10:00 am PR	200	208	187	202	177
ALTARed PR	n/a	at MC	14	12	n/a
10:30 am MC	234	239	239	223	219
ALTARed MC	n/a	24	7	14	26 (retreat)
TOTALS	690	735	719	694	663

Easter Mar 31/Apr 1	PR Campus	MC Campus
5:30 pm	164	
7:30 am	19	
9:00 pm		264
9:30 am	156	
10:00 am		329
11:00 am	202	
11:15 am		196
TOTAL		1330



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Special Events

Concert Series - Spring Concert – May 20 at 3:00pm

“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.” (Psalm 150:6). Geist Christian Church will conclude the Concert Series with the annual 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.

#GEISTFEST 3.0 - Save the Date

Saturday, September 8 – Back in its third year, Geistfest will return in 2018. Kick off the fall with a day focused on fun, family, and worship. During the day, there will be a variety of interest/small groups for families and individuals and the day will conclude with worship and an evening concert complete with food trucks and games at the Promise Road Campus.

Keenagers – Field Trips for Adults

On Friday, June 1, get on the bus and travel to Dunkirk, Indiana for the 52nd Annual Dunkirk Glass Days Festival. The group will travel to this small Indiana town just northeast of Muncie and help them celebrate their deep history in the glass industry. There will be a museum and glass factory tour and lunch in Albany, IN before exploring the Minnetrista Cultural Center in Muncie in the afternoon. Contact Ryan Hazen, ryan.hazen@geistchristian.org to reserve your spot. Cost of the trip is \$30.

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