



CrossWords

news of Geist Christian Church

September 2018

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#GEISTFEST Returns Saturday, September 8

Looking for a great excuse to celebrate the final days of summer? Geist Christian Church kicks off the fall with an event focused on fun, family, fellowship, and worship at the Promise Road Campus.

- 4:30 pm - help fill blessing bags
- 5:30 pm - worship
- 6:00 pm - free concert by The Flying Toasters, food trucks & children's activities



Pastor Sarah Renfro Accepts New Call



Pastor Sarah Renfro has announced that she has accepted a call to become an Area Director for the Pension Fund of the Christian Church. She will serve Geist Christian Church through October 23, 2018. The Pension Fund of the Christian Church is a general unit of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and is based in downtown Indianapolis. In the letter announcing her new call, Renfro reflected, "Through small groups, Bible studies, seasonal offerings, worship and pastoral care, I have developed relationships that have helped to shape my faith, my family, and my ministry. I give great thanks for the opportunities afforded me in this place..." A reception will be held in Sarah's honor at the Promise Road Campus on Sunday, October 21 following worship.

New Sermon Series Begins September 8/9

The Discipleship Gene launches on September 8/9, our annual series about the genetic makeup of fully devoted followers of Jesus. The study of genetics is a fascinating reminder of the creative genius of God. We are, as the Psalmist declares, "fearfully and wonderfully made." Created in God's image to follow Jesus, we have five distinct genetic characteristics.



Faithful disciples gather, consistently showing up in worship around the table of our Lord. We connect with one another, experiencing God's Word, linking up relationally. We serve one another just as Jesus served us. We care for others, having a compassionate heart as we reach out and beyond. Finally, we express gratitude through our giving, strengthening the work of the body of Christ.



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

Life is filled with rhythms, some large, some small. Scientists report that the human body lives in patterns called circadian rhythms. In its strictest form, it is a twenty-four hour internal clock. It is the way our body tells us to sleep, to rise and to eat. If you travel across the country or overseas, your circadian rhythm is disrupted and sleep is affected. External cues such as sunlight and temperature play a big role in your biological clock. To be healthy, circadian rhythms needs to be kept.

In a similar fashion, there is a circadian rhythm in nature, a communal experience that signals that fall has arrived. The calendar says the first official day of fall is September 22, the autumnal equinox when the sun is at its apex over the equator. This may be the official day but it isn't when fall starts. Ask around and you will get a number of answers. You know its fall when the state fair is over. You know its fall when the pools close. You know its fall when the ice cream truck stops driving through the neighborhood. You know its fall when you close the lake cabin. You know its fall when you get new clothes for school You know its fall, when school starts. (Granted, it's a dated memory given the current school schedules.) Fall starts the day after Labor Day.

Then, it must be fall and churches have a rhythm too. Congregations around the country have traditionally had a fall round-up, an all church event to invite you back to community. Vacations are over, summer patterns complete; there is a new rhythm and it should include worship.

I encourage you to embrace this tradition, connecting with our round-up event, Geistfest on the first Saturday after Labor Day. That weekend, we'll focus on the importance of gathering together as community in worship. I hope you to see you because like the biological circadian rhythm is important to your health, so too this sacred rhythm is important for your spiritual health.

Blessings,



WTHR Anchor Scott Swan to Kickoff Expanded Senior Adult Ministry

The Senior Adult Ministry is growing and you are invited to share in its growth. Beginning on the third Sunday of September, and continuing every third Sunday thereafter, you are invited to share in fellowship with others who identify as senior adults. The kick-off will be held on Sunday, September 16, 2018 at 4:00 pm. We will begin with a pitch-in at 4:00 pm in the Great Hall at the Mud Creek Campus.



Feel free to bring your senior friends and family members. Bring a covered dish and join others as we gather to enjoy the company of one another, have a wonderful meal together

Following the pitch-in, we are honored to welcome Scott Swan, a noted Channel 13 news anchor. He has won a number of awards in the media industry but it is his spiritual journey that is the most compelling part of his life. He almost lost his life a little over a year ago and he credits his recovery to his faith in God. He will not accept an honorarium for his time with us. Instead, he invites us to donate to his favorite charity, Lamplighter Ministries. A good will offering will be collected that evening to donate to Lamplighter Ministries in his name.

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CONNECT Adult Ministries

Kerygma (Making Sense of the Bible) - "Kerygma" is the biblical word from the Greek language that means "proclamation." We won't just read the Bible, but explore the meaning of the words, historically and presently. The class meets on Wednesdays at 10:30 am in the Mud Creek Library. The fall topic focus on the Adam Hamilton Book, "Making Sense of the Bible" begins September 12.

Men's Hike- The men of Geist Christian Church are invited to join in the annual men's hike (and optional camp-out) at the Morgan - Monroe State Forest on Saturday, October 20. Watch for sign-ups at each campus closer to the event.

Page Turners - Page Turners, the book club of Geist Christian Church will meet September 26 to discuss the book *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate. The club meets at the Mud Creek Campus on the 4th Wednesday (every other month) at 6:30 pm. If there are any questions, please contact Elena Derbique at 317.823.0173 or elena.derbique@gmail.com.

Ring & Sing – Music Ministry - The Mud Creek Campus music ministry is preparing to start a new season on September 6 with a choir kick-off for the Chancel Choir at the home of Gregg & Dede Mantock, 6:30 pm. Bell choir begins on September 13 at 6:15 pm. If you're interested in joining the music ministry we'd love to have you! For more information or questions, contact Schuyler Brinson at: schuyler.brinson@geistchristian.org.

Spiritual Gifts - The apostle Paul often mentions "spiritual gifts." What spiritual gift(s) do you have, and how might you use them? No textbook other than the Bible is required. The group will meet at 6:30 pm for six Wednesday evenings at the Promise Road Campus, beginning September 5. Contact Terry Outt at opoppy1@sbcglobal.net to register and indicate whether you will need child care.

Exploration Bible Study - Join Senior Associate Minister, Ryan Hazen, for a new year of Exploration Bible Study. The group meets every other Friday from 6:30 pm-7:30 pm at the Mud Creek Campus beginning September 14. This fall, the group will journey on an overview of the New Testament.

Faithful Families/Busy Women's Bible Study -

Sharing Our Stories is about intimate community, connecting with others when we open up our hearts and voices. We grow deeper when we share our joy and sorrows, trials and triumphs. On the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, 6:30-7:30 pm, beginning September 11, women will gather to hear and interact with each other's stories. Childcare is provided. Contact sarah.renfro@geistchristian.org for more info.

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. We will explore "Eating and Drinking with Jesus" over the next five months. Meets on the third Tuesday of the month (September 18th) 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.

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 in room 122.

New Bible Study - Studying *Job - a story of unlikely joy* by Lisa Harper- Meets Monday mornings 9:30 am, Mud Creek Campus beginning September 10 and running through October 22. Cost \$15. Contact Karen Harris, karenharris70@comcast.net.

New & Ongoing Groups at Geist Christian Church

- GCC Young Adults - Follow Geist Christian Young Adults on Facebook to find out the latest gatherings.
- Mom2Mom - A ministry of moms that provide support to expecting moms in the church community. Contact sarah.dietrich@geistchristian.org.
- Sarah's Sisters Bible Study - Meets weekly on Wednesdays, 1:00 pm at the Mud Creek Campus beginning September 5.
- W.E. Women's Group meets the first Tuesday every month at various locations. Contact Carolyn Reed, carolyn@indianadisciples.org for more details.



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CONNECT Children's Ministries

Welcome back to school! September begins a new year for our curriculum, Deep Blue Kids. This year's focus is 'At Home with God.' Come along with us as we teach children about faith by exploring how families work together, communicate, and worship God. Throughout this year we hope you will join together with your children in reaching out to our community, getting to know different people and talking about how God is working in our lives. The Bible memory verse for September is: A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son whom I dearly love; I find happiness in him." — Matthew 3:17.

Upcoming Events: There are exciting opportunities for students and families this fall. Which ones can you enjoy with us?

- September 8: 8:00 am -12 pm (116th & Eller Rd) - White River Clean Up - Join us as we help clean up the banks of the White River. RSVP to michelle.latty@geistchristian.org. More information at www.whiterivercleanup.org.
- September 30: 5:00 -7:00 pm - Fall Family Fun Night at the Promise Road Campus. Open to all ages! We're having a chili cook-off, s'mores and family activities. Join us for this family time together! Contact children@geistchristian.org if you are interested in putting your chili to the test or have questions about how to help with this fun evening.
- October 27: 7:00-8:15 pm- Fall Festival at the Promise Road Campus for ALL families! There will be games and activities.....and of course a trick or treat trail! Save the date!

Help needed- If you are interested in serving in our Children's Ministry we would LOVE to welcome you! All services are in need of teachers and/or subs. In addition, if you'd like to help prep lessons during the week, talk to us! Please contact Michelle Latty at michelle.latty@geistchristian.org at the Promise Road Campus and Holly Blunk at holly.blunk@geistchristian.org at the Mud Creek Campus.

G56 – GRADES 5 & 6 - What a way to start our year! The pool party was awesome! A HUGE thank you to Dave & Jodi Burtner for their generous hospitality!!

Save the dates for these wonderful service opportunities! More details to come.

- White River Clean Up- Sept 8- 8:00 am-12:00 pm (www.whiterivercleanup.org) RSVP to michelle.latty@geistchristian.org
- Fall festival (Promise Road Campus) – Friday, Oct. 26- Help run the games and the trick or treat trail for our younger children.
- Veteran's dinner (Promise Road Campus)- Wednesday, November 7- Help set up & serve dinner to local veterans



◀ Seventy-five backpacks for local children were filled at the final family fun night

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CONNECT Youth Ministries

The Youth programing 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. Below are two ways to plug in, with more information found at <http://geistchristian.org/connect/student-ministries/>.

Youth Worship - The Table - We all need a place to plug into our faith. A place where we can sing songs, read scripture, and pray for our world and each other. Beginning September 9, we will unveil our new service called The Table. The Table is a dynamic worship experience offered three times a month where youth gather to refocus, recharge, and reconnect to God. We hope this new opportunity at Geist Christian Church will be a place for the youth to unplug from the world and plug into God and each other.

The Collective Table- Are you looking for a creative worship experience on Sunday morning? Would you like to worship with your friends from both campuses? Then join us for The Collective Table, a monthly worship service that combines both the Promise Road Campus and Mud Creek Campus youth for some music, prayer, communion, and scripture in a laid back, fun atmosphere. Our next Collective as part of the larger Table Worship Service will be at the Mud Creek Campus on September 9 at 10:30 am.

Youth Group- Youth Group is an amazing opportunity to meet new friends and grow in your relationship with God, yourself, and each other. The youth group is a combination of both campuses and meets at the Promise Road Campus on most Sunday nights. All 7th-12th graders are invited. Jr. High meets from 5:00-6:30 pm, and the High School students meet from 6:00 -7:30 pm.

- Messy Games and Color Games - On Sunday, September 9, at the Mud Creek Campus, the youth will be participating in activities designed to express themselves in colorful ways. At 5:00 pm, the Jr. High Youth will be competing in a variety of messy games that will be sure to leave them hungry for more. At 6pm, both groups will enjoy pizza, before the High Schoolers enjoy a color slide and Twister. Parents, you will want your child to pack a change of clothes, and several towels.
- Tubing Trip - Join the Youth Ministry Team for an afternoon of floating on the White River. On Saturday, September 15, High School youth will have an opportunity to enjoy 3-mile ride (3 – 3.5 hour float time) down the White River. Youth will meet at the Promise Road Campus at noon for a 1pm departure with the White River Canoe Company. The cost is \$20, and it promises to be just what you need to have your stress melt away. The waiver can be signed at <https://waiver.smartwaiver.com/w/5af365fc3dab5/web/>.
- Billman Bash - On Sunday, September 16 at 5pm, Jr. High youth and their parents are invited to the biggest backyard bash of the year. Pack your lawn chair, and bring a dish to share, as we gather for fun, food, and fellowship. Everyone is encouraged to park along Courageous Drive. You can park anywhere on the street. If you want to use your GPS, our path is right next to the mailbox at 10387 Courageous Dr.
- Faith Talks - This fall, the Youth Ministry Team will offer "Faith Talks," a creative format designed to hear other people's stories about their faith formation. These talks will follow a Late Show format, where different church members will talk openly and honestly about their faith and struggles, as well as the joys they have encountered along the way. During our time, we will also explore some contemporary issues through a theological lens to help our youth find words to articulate what they believe, and why that belief is important. On Sunday, September 23, Sarah Renfro will be joining us to talk about body imagine and faith, her time in Los Angeles.
- Operation Find and Feed - On Saturday, September 29 from 12:00-1:30 pm, 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, September 30, Jr. High and Senior High are invited to join the Youth Ministry Team at the Mud Creek Campus at 6:45 am to drive downtown, deliver sandwiches, and worship with those in the alley. When we are finished, we will enjoy breakfast as a group before returning to the Mud Creek Campus at 11:15am.



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Outreach

Adult Mission Trip Planned for Puerto Rico - Word has been received from the General Pastor of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Puerto Rico that, as of last week, all power has been restored to the island and they are ready and eager to welcome groups that would come to help in the rebuilding. This follows two devastating hurricanes in late 2017. Geist Christian Church has committed to taking a small group of 6-10 adults before the end of the year to help rebuild and to help the Church in Puerto Rico understand the needs in hosting groups. Details are still being worked out but the trip would likely be an 8-10 day period near the end of November into the first week of December. Those interested in such a trip should contact Ryan Hazen at ryan.hazen@geistchristian.org.

Hamilton Co. Outreach Opportunity: Family Promise - As of June 2018, 145 families in Hamilton County experienced no stable place to live, yet there is not one shelter for families experiencing homelessness in the area. Family Promise of Hamilton County seeks to begin hosting families in congregations throughout the county by the end of the year. They are still in need of a 14-passenger van and trailer. Volunteer opportunities for this endeavor will include providing meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner), visiting with the families, staying overnight at the church, setting up and tearing down space, and transporting families to school and work. If you feel called to help parents with children in Hamilton County, who have no place to call home, contact sarah.renfro@geistchristian.org. Every gift of time and energy to this ministry is significant and life-giving.

Weekday Ministries News

The Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten classes have begun another new year and are off to an amazing start! They are discovering many great things in the classrooms and getting to know each other well! The CDO, Preschool, and Pre-K classroom teachers have been hard at work getting their classrooms ready for the students beginning on Sept. 4th.

We still have a few open spots for students in some of our 2018-19 classrooms. If you are looking for a safe, loving, educational program; please call, infer, and spread the word. The Mud Creek Campus also has a couple staff openings in our Child's Day Out program. We are currently looking for a lead teacher for our Tues/Thurs class, an assistant CDO teacher for a Tues/Thurs class and an assistant CDO teacher for a M/W/F class. If you are interested or know of someone who would be a great fit for our program, please contact Valerie Zeigler at valerie.zeigler@geistchristian.org.

Creation Care Tip

Geist Christian Church collects unused cell phones, which are donated to the Jillian Center to provide women with phones to call 911 if needed. You may drop them off in a box in the kitchen at the Mud Creek Campus. Also, we continue to recycle the ink cartridges and batteries at both campuses. The box at the Promise Road Campus is located in the coffee shop area. The location at the Mud Creek Campus is in the kitchen. You may also drop off old eyeglasses in another box there, as well. If you have any old pillows that need tossing, consider donating them to a place like Noah's Clinic who re-purpose them as dog beds in the kennels.

News Around Geist Christian Church

Births

Bryan & Diane Holladay, sons Wyatt & Weston, 8/16

In Sympathy

Lois Davis, 7/24*

Stewart Hults, father Malcom Hults
 Deby Wilson, father Harvey Inman
 Mona King, brother-in-law Thomas Chumley
 Nancy Pugh, sister Molly Anderson
 Helen Skinner, brother Ron Ladd
 Euphrasie Koubela, cousin Harris Endy Daniel
 Mark Hershman, sister Dee Hart
 Marcia Rigdon, uncle Burdette Burch
 Shirlee Cook, mother Mabel Clem

*denotes Geist Christian Church Member

New Members

Cathy James
 Tim Kurtz & Peg Rideout
 Steve & Mag Russell
 Dan Scarborough

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Larry Holdorf

Anonymous

In Memory of Harris Endy-Daniel

Alison Benz
 Tom & Ruth Armstrong
 Les & Marge Galbraith
 Craig & Myrna Mullins
 Nolan & Marian Cooper
 Jim & Peg Schmidt
 Mike Dresbach
 Kerry Bishop

July/August Attendance

| Service | July 28/29 | Aug 4/5 | Aug 11/12 | Aug 18/19 | Aug 25/26 |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 5:30 pm PR | 77 | 96 | 78 | 83 | 69 |
| 9:00 am MC | 153 | 155 | 143 | 145 | 175 |
| 10:00 am PR | 174 | 188 | 221 | 186 | 183 |
| 10:30 am MC | 206 | 180 | 216 | 184 | 210 |
| TOTALS | 610 | 619 | 658 | 598 | 637 |



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Special Events

Sermon Chat - Here's an opportunity to respond to Pastor Randy's series of September sermons on discipleship. Joe Allison will lead an on-line discussion of each week's sermon at 7:00 pm on five (5) consecutive Sunday nights, beginning Sunday, September 9. You can participate via computer or smart-phone. Register in advance by calling (317) 989-4684. Campus Pastor Dustin Hite will also be offering an in-person small group on the same sermon series. Even if you weren't able to make it to church, you will be able to watch the sermon on-line before logging on or meeting in person. If you are interested in meeting face-to-face, please contact Dustin at 317.863.6502 or dustin.hite@geistchristian.org.

"Pedals, Pipes & Praise" - September 16 at 3:00 pm - Director of Music, Schuyler Brinson, will kick-off the 2018-2019 Concert Series with Pedals, Pipes & Praise. A variety of music will be performed and we hope you will plan to attend and bring a friend for an afternoon of wonderful music. Admission is free. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the concert in Great Hall.

Mom2Mom Holiday Bazaar - Please join us for the annual Holiday Bazaar Saturday, November 10, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. There will be over 40 unique vendors. This is a great place to kick off your holiday shopping and support local small businesses.

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