



# CrossWords

news of Geist Christian Church

October 2018

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## Defying Gravity: Breaking Free from a Culture of More

# Defying Gravity

- Do you want to live a life of generosity?
- Do you want your life to be a blessing to others?
- Do you want to have a giving spirit that overflows from a heart?

We all want to be generous, but most of us find this hard to carry out. Demands on our time and money create a scarcity mindset. Marketing creates a compulsion to buy things that are new or the latest version of the old.

Over a four-week period we'll examine the generous life, what it is and why it can be hard to experience. "Defying Gravity" studies the topic of generosity through four sermons and companion book by Tom Berlin, available at church beginning September 29 & 30. Sign up for 28 daily exercises or challenges to help you consider your relationship with money, possessions, and giving.

The good news is Jesus offers a way to generosity. It's not about should or ought to. It's about want to. It's about overflowing with love and the desire to bless others as Jesus blesses us.

Join us as we begin Defying Gravity, a four-week program that explores what the Bible says about a generous life.

October 13 & 14  
 October 20 & 12  
 October 27 & 28  
 November 3 & 4

Discovering Gravity  
 Breaking Free  
 Tethered to God  
 When We Get It Right

## New Children's Choir Music Director

The Children's Choir began rehearsing Sunday, September 23 in the Music Suite at the Mud Creek Campus. The choir meets weekly on Sundays throughout the school year, from 6:00-7:00 pm. Beginning this year, we will have one choir that is open to students age 4 through 6th grade from both campuses. We welcome Jordan Murray, as our new Director. Jordan is a graduate of Anderson University and has taught in northern Indiana and most recently 3 years in Abu Dhabi before returning to the states with his wife and daughter. He currently teaches music at Park Tudor in Indianapolis. If you have any questions, please contact Schuyler Brinson, Director of Music, at: [schuyler.brinson@geistchristian.org](mailto:schuyler.brinson@geistchristian.org).



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## Randy Reflects



Randy Spleth

I admit to eavesdropping. I never do so intentionally. It just happens. I inadvertently hear something said in line at the grocery or at a nearby table in a restaurant. I overhear dozens of such conversations every day. Research says as much. Most of the time, I hear but don't hear. That is, the conversation doesn't register enough to listen in. But occasionally, I'll hear a buzzword and down the slippery slope of eavesdropping, I go. I can't help myself.

You could guess what my buzzwords are, words like church, Jesus, or God get my attention in a heartbeat. A few weeks ago the word generous nabbed me. It was in a restaurant. Sitting next to us was a group of professionals who appeared to be experiencing a reunion. They were enjoying being back together, catching up in a boisterous manner. The entire patio was invited to listen in.

I was hearing but not hearing until a woman said, "Tom and I could be more generous but I like nice things." Can you blame me for eavesdropping? It was as if she knew a pastor was sitting at the adjacent table. "I like driving a nice car and wearing new clothes." "And eating at a nice restaurant," someone else chimed in. She had us all there. "But," she said, "I feel better when I am generous." Then, as someone who practiced examining her life, "I guess I like things more than feeling better."

I was tempted to ask her if I could record her testimonial knowing that Defying Gravity was the theme for the fall. She was a commercial for the series. Despite positive benefits to generosity, a high majority of people focus on acquiring things, holding on to them rather than letting go and giving. Even though this grasping posture results in less happiness and a loss of meaning and purpose, the majority of Americans give in and are less generous than they could be.

There is something about the pull of possessions and accumulation that works against the pull of generosity. The good news is that Jesus offers a way to address this pull and defy its gravity. Together, we will examine this pull on our lives in hopes of embracing the positive benefits of generosity.

Blessings,



## Mens Activities Announced

**14th Annual Men's Hike** – Join other men from Geist Christian Church at Morgan-Monroe State Forest on October 20 for hiking and a cookout. The hike begins at 11:30 am followed by a cookout at approximately 6:00 pm. Cost is \$30 per person and includes cookout, drinks and entertainment and includes optional overnight camping. Contact Dale Billman at [dbillman@talktotucker.com](mailto:dbillman@talktotucker.com) with questions or sign up at either campus.

**Fall Men's Retreat, November 16-18** - This fall, the Geist Christian Church True North Men's Group celebrates its 16th annual men's retreat. The theme for 2018 is called Road Signs. As we journey through life, there are many ways that the Holy Spirit is right there with us. Do we see the signs? Do we see the many divine moments in the midst of our daily tasks and challenges? Do we isolate ourselves and hunker down or open ourselves up to a caring community? These and many other questions will be a part of our time together. The cost for the weekend is \$165 and includes all lodging food and activity. For more information contact Mike Peck at [mpeck1189@me.com](mailto:mpeck1189@me.com).

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# CONNECT Adult Ministries

**Sermon Chat** - Here's an opportunity to respond to Pastor Randy's series Defying Gravity: Breaking Free from a Culture of More. Dustin Hite will lead an on-line discussion of each week's sermon. Contact [dustin.hite@geistchristian.org](mailto:dustin.hite@geistchristian.org) for more details.

**New Support/Grief Group Forming** - Come and connect with others who "get you" and the journey of living in grief. Grief Counselor Robin Mifflin from In Touch Bereavement, a part of the Community Health Network is offering a structured six-week series. The group is free, but registration is required due to limited space. The group will meet Thursdays, October 11 – November 15, at the Promise Road Campus at 6:30 pm. Free childcare provided upon request. Please register with Sarah Renfro at [sarah.renfro@geistchristian.org](mailto:sarah.renfro@geistchristian.org) for more information.

**Page Turners** - Page Turners, the book club of Geist Christian Church will meet November 28 to discuss the book *The Noel Diary* by Richard Paul Evans. 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](mailto:elena.derbique@gmail.com).

**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](mailto: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 (October 16) 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](mailto: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.

**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](mailto:mike@outsidesource.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.



## Ongoing Groups at Geist Christian Church

- GCC Young Adults - The next gathering will be October 27, 6:00 pm at St. Joseph Brewery and Public House, 540 N. College Ave. Follow Geist Christian Young Adults on Facebook to find out the latest gatherings. Contact Kathryn Heman, [katelizabeth15@gmail.com](mailto:katelizabeth15@gmail.com)
- Mom2Mom - A ministry of moms that provide support to expecting moms in the church community. All upcoming events are posted on the GCC Mom2Mom Facebook page. Contact [sarah.dietrich@geistchristian.org](mailto: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](mailto:carolyn@indianadisciples.org) for more details.
- Mental Health Support Group - Meets at the Promise Road Campus on the third Tuesday of the month at 7pm.

# CONNECT Children's Ministries

Welcome to fall! School is back in full swing and so are The Deep Blue Kids. We are learning how Jesus' family, other biblical families as well as our church family are all a part of God's BIG family. This month, children will learn the stories of Isaac's family, Joseph and his brothers, Moses and Miriam and Martha and Mary. The Bible memory verse for October is: "Look at how good and pleasing it is when families live together as one!" (Psalm 133:1). We are collecting offering each week in large group. Learning the importance of giving back at an early age is a wonderful gift.

## Upcoming Children's Events

- Sunday, September 30th join in a Fall Family Fun evening from 5:00-7:00pm at the Promise Road Campus. There will be a chili cook-off, s'mores (weather permitting) and a family craft. Families of ALL ages welcome! Let's see who will walk away with bragging rights for the BEST chili at Geist Christian Church! There are sign-ups in the children's halls at both campuses.
- Friday, October 26 from 7:00-8:00pm, there will be a Fall Family Festival at the Promise Road Campus for ALL families! There will be lots of games and activities.....and of course a trick or treat trail! We will need several adults and youth to help out with the games and the always popular, trick or treat trail. Please consider helping out for a bit to help make this event spooktacular! Contact Michelle Latty or Holly Blunk to assist.

**Volunteers 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: michelle.latty@geistchristian.org at the Promise Road Campus and Holly Blunk: holly.blunk@geistchristian.org at the Mud Creek Campus.

**G56 – Grades 5 and 6** - Hope to see all of you at the Fall Family Fun evening on September 30th! There are LOTS of service opportunities coming up for this awesome group of 5th & 6th graders.

Mark down these wonderful opportunities and please let Michelle or Holly know if you can help...

- Fall Family Festival (Promise Road Campus) – Friday, Oct. 26 – 6:00 – 8:00. Help set up, run the games and the trick or treat trail.
- Veteran's dinner (Promise Road Campus) - Wednesday, Nov 7 - 6:00-8:30. Help serve dinner and say thank you to local veterans.
- Christmas Caroling (local care facilities) - Sunday, Dec 2 – 2:00-4:00.
- Christmas Celebration (Promise Road Campus) - Saturday, Dec 8- 9:00-11 am. Help in games and crafts.

Save the Date – Friday, November 16th – Laser Tag & Mission work – Promise Road Campus – 6:00-8:30pm – IT WILL BE EPIC!

## Weekday Ministries News

We have had perfect weather this fall and have been enjoying all of our outdoor spaces! Kindergarten students studied insects and had an insect museum. Preschool students have enjoyed the butterfly garden on our playground. We have even had visits from wildlife.



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# CONNECT Youth 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. The worship service for youth is 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 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. The next Collective as part of the larger Table Worship Service will be at Mud Creek Campus on October 7 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 5-6: 30 pm, and the High School students meet from 6-7:30 pm. Upcoming events include:



- **Games** -What does 4 on a couch, Four Corners, Checkers, and Basketball all have in common? They are all games we will be playing on Sunday, October 7. All youth and your friends are invited to game night at the Promise Rd. Campus. Both Jr. High and High School will have their time to shine, as we enjoy a mid-year break of games and fellowship. So be sure to mark your calendars for this fun night of fellowship.
- **Movie Night and Pumpkin Carving** - Sunday Night + Halloween Movie + Pumpkins = Youth Group Movie Night!! On Sunday, October 14 Jr. High and High School youth are invited to Mud Creek for an epic movie and pumpkin carving extravaganza. night. Youth will need to provide their own pumpkin, but we will have all the carving utensils needed to create a Halloween masterpiece. The featured film will be Beetlejuice, and we will have plenty of hot chocolate to go around.
- **Corn Maze and Chili Dinner** - On Sunday, October 21, we will lose ourselves in a 10 acre corn maze at Russell Farms. Youth are encouraged to dress for the Halloween season (awards given to best dressed), as we enjoy a country fall festival and corn maze in Noblesville. We will meet at the Promise Road Campus at 4pm and return at 6:20pm for a chili dinner. The cost is \$10 and includes dinner.
- **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.

Youth celebrate winning the annual youth-parent kickball game. ▼

Youth helped sort apples at the first gleaning opportunity. ➤



# Outreach

**Guatemala – February 16-23, 2019** - Deadline: November 9. In 2019 Geist Christian Church is offering a mission opportunity for those looking to serve in the new year, as we participate in a 7-day mission trip to Guatemala. 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. To combat this extreme poverty, Geist Christian Church, will be partnering with Porch de Salomon and build homes for families in need. The cost for this trip will be \$1,750 (including: flight, hotel accommodations, most meals, and building materials). We still have 6 spots available, and our deadline for signing up is **November 9, 2018**. Contact Kyle Brown at [kyle.brown@geistchristian.org](mailto:kyle.brown@geistchristian.org) for more information.

**Mac and Cheese** - 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. 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](mailto:kyle.brown@geistchristian.org).

**Family Promise of Hamilton County** - 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. If you are interested in being part of this ministry team, please contact Sarah and join her for an informational meeting on Thursday, October 4, 6:00-7:00pm at the Promise Road Campus.



**Outreach Opportunity: Gleaning** - Sunday, October 21, 1-3 pm gleaning with Society of St. Andrew at a local farm near Noblesville. Call 317-607-0004 or e-mail [in-glean@endhunger.org](mailto:in-glean@endhunger.org) for more information.

# Creation Care Tip

"Fall" into caring for God's Creation with these tips:

- Check the air pressure in your tires. Cooler temps lower tire pressure and that in turn lowers fuel efficiency. So, check your tires and make sure they are properly inflated.
- If you have a ceiling fan reverse the direction. The fan should run in a clockwise direction (stand under the fan and if you feel a breeze, reverse the direction so that air is being drawn upwards). This pushes the air up against the ceiling and down the walls to gently re-circulate the warm air without creating a cooling "wind chill effect".
- As the autumn leaves fall, consider raking them up rather than using a "blower". Once raked up, use them as mulch to protect plants throughout the winter or add them to a compost pile.
- Electrical outlets, especially on outside walls, and light fixtures are prime places for cold air to leak into your home. Add foam gaskets behind covers and switch plates, and use safety plugs in unused outlets. Be sure to shut off the power at the fuse box or circuit panel before doing this.

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# News Around Geist Christian Church

## In Sympathy

Steve Farley, father George "Mike" Farley  
**Walter Giffin\***

Steve Smith, mother Joan Smith  
Chris Burns, brother Brad Burns  
Molly Griffin, cousin Bill Barnes  
Kathy Goodhart, father Pete Specht  
Allison Hite, uncle Tim Alferi  
Adam Shaul, aunt Pat Steimle  
Keith Scheid, father Kenneth Scheid

\*denotes Geist Christian Church Member

September Attendance				
Service	Sept 1/2	Sept 8/9	Sept 15/16	Sept 22/23
5:30 pm PR	86	240	93	74
9:00 am MC	150	133	158	138
10:00 am PR	177	154	156	181
Youth Worship PR	n/a	at MC	8	12
10:30 am MC	197	225	221	223
Youth Worship MC	n/a	20	15	12
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>640</b>

## Seniors Ministry Event – October 21

Enjoy getting together and having fun with other church members and friends. Come to the next event for the new, expanded senior's ministry on Sunday, October 21 from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm at the Mud Creek Campus. Bring some finger foods to share and there will be a rousing game of bingo along with good conversation. For more information, contact Judy Apple-VanAlstine at [japplevanalstine@aol.com](mailto:japplevanalstine@aol.com).

## Keenagers – Field Trips for Adults

The November Keenager outing will happen on Friday, November 2. The morning will consist of a tour of the James Whitcomb Riley Home in Greenfield, IN before traveling a few miles north to Tuttle's Orchard for lunch, a tour of the facility and a wagon ride (weather permitting). Cost of this trip is \$30 and includes LUNCH, tours, transportation AND an afternoon snack! Contact Ryan Hazen at [ryan.hazen@geistchristian.org](mailto:ryan.hazen@geistchristian.org) to sign up.

## Sarah Renfro Reception

A reception honoring Sarah will be held Sunday, October 21 at the Promise Road Campus immediately following the 10:00 am worship service.

## 2019 Sanctuary Flower Chart

There are only 5 bouquets available for 2018 during the months of November and December. Stop by the chart in the Great Hall at the Mud Creek Campus to reserve your bouquet or contact Esther Sickle ([esther.sickle@geistchristian.org](mailto:esther.sickle@geistchristian.org)). The 2019 chart is also in the Great Hall. Cost of a bouquet is \$75. Reserve your 2019 bouquets!



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# Special Events

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

**Veteran's Appreciation Dinner** - Geist Christian Church, True North Men's Ministry and Warriors Hope invite all veterans and guests to the 6th Annual Veteran's Appreciation Dinner on Wednesday, November 7 from 6:00 pm – 8:00pm at the Promise Road Campus. A free meal will be provided along with a guest speaker and musical entertainment. RSVP to John Smitha at [jonsmitha@comcast.net](mailto:jonsmitha@comcast.net) or 317.439.6304. Veterans are asked to provide an active duty picture with name, branch of service and years served to be displayed in a slide show.

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