



CrossWords

news of Geist Christian Church

November 2018

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Season of Giving - THANKSGIVING

It is time to begin thinking about the Season of Giving for the holidays. The Season of Giving Committee is already gathering the names of the approximately 200 families that we will serve for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. Families served come from CICOA, Damien Center, Dayspring, Little Red Door, and the Sharing Place in Marion County and the Delaware Township Trustees, Noblesville Township Trustees, and Good Samaritan in Hamilton County. The food bags that we fill for Thanksgiving will be available beginning October 27/28. The filled bags will be due on Wednesday, November 14 and delivery will take place on Saturday, November 17.

The food bags, stockings, and angel tags for children's gifts for Christmas will be available beginning November 24/25 and are due back by Wednesday, December 12, with delivery scheduled for Saturday, December 15. Lastly, the Season of Giving committee is seeking additional members. The more hearts and hands involved, the better! For more information on both Season of Giving, as well as the committee, contact Laurie McKinzie (lmckinzie613@sbcglobal.net) or Kyle Brown (kyle.brown@geistchristian.org).

Defying Gravity – Respond Generously

Most Christians want to be generous and yet struggle with how given the demands on time and money that produces an attitude of scarcity. Marketing from every corner creates a compulsion to buy. Instead of enjoying the freedom to give, we feel trapped, pulled down by the gravity of money. There is good news. Jesus offers us a way to defy gravity and break free from the culture of more. Defying gravity is a way to bless others with the best of our lives. We do so by investing in the mission and ministries of Geist Christian Church.

Defying Gravity

Information and pledge cards for 2019 have been mailed. Pledges may also be made on-line at www.geistchristian.org or by emailing give@geistchristian.org.



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Twitter@GeistChristian
Instagram: geistchristianchurch

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Randy Reflects



Randy Spleth

I am leaving, not my position with you, but leaving never the less. As I write on Tuesday morning, I am preparing to leave. By this time the next Tuesday, after a long day and night of travel, I will take my first step in Israel. I am leaving for a pilgrimage that I have longed to experience.

This is my not my first pilgrimage. During previous sabbaticals, I have followed in the footsteps of Paul ending at Rome. I have traced the path of pilgrims ending in Santiago de Compostela. These were wonderful journeys to sacred places, frequented by many fellow pilgrims seeking to draw closer to God.

For a Christian, the Holy Land is a unique. Christians travel to the Holy land not because God is present there in a unique way. We go there because it is the place where our faith has the deepest roots. Jesus himself walked, talked, laughed, and wept there. He was born, lived, suffered, died and rose again there. We go to step into the footprints of Jesus, who was himself, a pilgrim from heaven in journey on earth.

There is an urge within all of us to journey beyond the familiar as a way to transcend our daily lives. We do so to encounter deeper meaning, a sense of reverence, and to discover closer communion with God. A pilgrimage as a journey to a sacred place is a way to inspire the greater pilgrimage that we are all on. Life is a journey, a great pilgrimage, from beginning to end through which we seek to discover within ourselves an everlasting encounter with God.

I am grateful for the opportunity to take a lesser pilgrimage to the Holy Land with a few members of our congregation even as I am proud to be on the greater pilgrimage with each of you these many years. As I take my leave, I pray we will experience the Holy Land in such a powerful way that upon our return, our shared greater pilgrimage will be renewed and refreshed.

Blessings,



6th Annual 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 – 8:00 pm 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 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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CONNECT Adult Ministries

The W.E. Group - Women meet monthly on the first Tuesday of the month. Enjoy fellowship as well as engage in service/outreach opportunities. The December meeting is on Tuesday, December 4. Gather at Old Oakland Country Club for dinner at 6:30 pm. The group is open to all Geist Christian Church women. For more information or to make a reservation for the December dinner, please contact Carolyn Reed at carolyn@indianadisciples.org.

Kerygma - As familiar as we are with the songs of Christmas, there are four songs recorded in the Bible to celebrate the birth of Jesus that most of us aren't familiar with. The angels sang a song to the shepherds. Mary sang a song to God after she had time to get over the shocking news that she was going to be the mother of the Savior. Simeon also had a song. Then there's Zechariah's song. Zechariah was an elderly priest who sang after being visited by an angel. This wasn't like a Broadway musical—these people didn't suddenly burst into song. But the ancient church captured their words and created songs known as canticle. On November 28, the Kerygma Class that meets at 10:30 am on Wednesdays at the Mud Creek Campus, we will explore these songs of Christmas as we prepare and wait for the coming Christ child.

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. Upcoming discussions are:

- January 23 - *The Great Alone* by Kristan Hannah
- March 27 - *The Stars Are Fire* by Anita Shreve

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.

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 6-7:30 pm at Aurelio's, 13147 Parkside Dr., Fishers, IN 46038. Childcare is provided at the Promise Road Campus. Contact kyle.brown@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.

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 - Follow Christian Young Adults on Facebook to find out the latest gatherings. Meets monthly. Contact Kathryn Heman, 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.
- Mental Health Support Group - Meets at the Promise Road Campus on the third Tuesday of the month at 7pm.
- Exploration Bible Study - Meets every other Friday of the month. Contact ryan.hazen@geistchristian.org.



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CONNECT Children's Ministries

Thank you to all the families that have participated in our Family Fun Nights this year. Families made awesome chili, roasted s'mores, made priceless crafts and had an awesome freeze dance marathon! Congratulations to Kara Burtner – the chili cook-off winner! Her family also made it to EVERY Family Fun Night!!! Thank you!

In November, children will be continuing the study of families in the Bible and are looking at different kinds of families as our families are all unique and special. The Bible memory verse is: But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to abandon you, to turn back from following after you. Wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God." (Ruth 1:16)

Christmas Celebration - Saturday, December 8, 9:00 am -11:00 am. Join us on December 8 for a wonderful morning of family fun .A light breakfast will be served along with crafts and a visit from Santa! The event is from 9:00 -11:00 am at the Promise Road Campus. Volunteers are needed in the craft areas.

New to the Christmas Celebration is an exciting family craft project. We will be painting beautiful wooden nativities. These are all hand crafted and sure to become an heirloom. The cost is \$25 per kit and there is one kit per family. Part of the proceeds will benefit Family Promise, the new homeless ministry we are helping. There are limited spots to participate in this activity at the Christmas Celebration and you must pre-order your kit. Please sign up early! Sign-ups will be in the children's hallway at both locations. Please contact Michelle Latty, michelle.latty@geistchristian.org if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

G56 – Grades 5 & 6 - Laser Tag & Mission Night! Join us November 16 from 7:00 pm-9:00 pm at the Promise Road Campus. Have fun during a rousing game of laser tag. Afterwards, we will be prepping some items for our families for Advent. Bring a friend and let's have some fun!

Service Opportunities for G56

- Veteran's Day Dinner – Wednesday, November 8 – 6:00 pm-8:30 pm at the Promise Road Campus. Honor our local veteran's by setting up, serving and clearing tables at our annual dinner. This is always a favorite service event!
- Christmas Celebration – December 8: 9:00 am-11:00 am at the Promise Road Campus. The Christmas Celebration is a time for the 5th & 6th graders help the younger children with crafts and simple games. Please mark your calendars and let Michelle Latty know if your G56er can help.



Families enjoyed food, crafts and games at the final Family Fun Night in September.

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:



- **Mission Night Scavenger Hunt** - We are gearing up for Hunger Month at Geist Christian Church. In an effort to kick this month off we are embarking on a Food Scavenger Hunt Adventure to help tackle hunger in our community. All youth are encouraged to bring \$5.00 to participate in the Hunt.
- **Sr. High Lock-In** – Bowling + Food + Movie + Games + No Sleep = Best Night Ever. On Friday, November 9 beginning at 7:30 pm we will enjoy all of these things and more at the Senior High Lock-In. Save the date and invite your friends for an unbelievable night of fun and fellowship with fellow youth. The cost will be \$15 and it will be held at the Mud Creek Campus. Parents are encouraged to pick up their children at 7:30 am on Saturday, November 10.
- **Jr. High Laser Tag** – It's time for some team building. On November 11, Jr. High youth will enjoy a night of laser tag at the Mud Creek Campus. From capture the flag to multiple team mode, Jr High youth will enjoy various games that promote teamwork, excitement, and, of course, fun.
- **Faith Talks** – On November 18, the Youth Ministry Team will continue their "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.



◀The youth took the Geist Christian Church bus on September 30 to Operation Find & Feed on September 30 in downtown Indianapolis.▶



Outreach

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 Judy Apple VanAlstine (japplevanalstine@aol.com).



Weekday Ministries News

Happy fall from Weekday Ministries. The drop in temperature outside and the decorations in the hallways are sure signs that fall has arrived! Students are all having a great time making leaf, pumpkin, and apple crafts. The sensory tables are full of various fall treasures, including acorns, squash, and corn. Many classes have taken field trips to apple orchards, pumpkin patches, and farms to learn and explore. It is wonderful to watch the children learn so much from their play and exploration. Late October will bring Chapel and Special Person's Nights at both campuses! We hope that you are all enjoying the fall season and we would love for you to spread the word about our caring and educational program to your family and friends! Please visit our website at www.geistwdm.org for more information.



Creation Care Tip

Thanksgiving provides us with an opportunity to express our gratitude and celebrate the Earth's bounty and all that it gives us throughout the year. Unfortunately, the way most people commemorate the day involves less than Eco-friendly traditions (heavy travel, lots of food waste, disposable decorations, etc.) Mark this year's holiday by keeping the planet in mind with tips for a sustainable and green Thanksgiving.

- Invest in non-disposable cookware (spring for that ceramic roasting pan), cloth napkins and tablecloths and break out the fancy dishes. Make Thanksgiving a non-disposable holiday!
- Skip the store bought, artificial, disposable (and landfill clogging) decorations and collect some fall leaves, pine cones and acorns for authentic, fresh-smelling, all natural table décor.

Celebrate the earth's bounty by being grateful and greenful!



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News Around Geist Christian Church

In Sympathy

Keith Scheid, father Kenneth Scheid
 Lisa Percy, cousin Owen Turner
 Angela Vittori, cousin Owen Turner
 Judy McGrath, aunt Yvonne Conrad
 Sally Hughes, aunt Yvonne Conrad
 Mark DeLong, father Charles
 Natalie Limrick, aunt Mary Ann Casey
 Kelly Eads, father Joe Eads
 Kim Geisinger, mother Elizabeth "Betty" Carlsen
 Ryan Hazen, aunt Barbara Adams
Judy Blankenship, husband Mike *

*denotes Geist Christian Church Member

New Members

Carol Aschermann
 Jeff & Carol Blair
 Nancy Harrison

September/October Attendance

Service	Sept 29/30	Oct 6/7	Oct 13/14	Oct 20/21
5:30 pm PR	88	60	74	77
9:00 am MC	144	167	147	123
10:00 am PR	226	132	133	147
Youth Worship PR	n/a	@Mud Creek	0	9
10:30 am MC	203	193	195	191
Youth Worship MC	n/a	13	6	13
TOTALS	693	565	555	560

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Harris Endy-Daniel

Tae & Becky Sture
 Anne Campbell

In Memory of Walter Giffin

Tae & Becky Sture

Blood Donation Ministry

Ministering to our community includes providing the resources needed during a time of crisis for hope and healing. A blood donation ministry serves others by putting love into action. Donating blood is a powerful way to show compassion and meet needs.

The Indiana Blood Center works daily to sustain a 3-day blood supply. This requires 500 donations everyday to Indiana Blood Center. Many days that level of donation is not met which results in shortages to hospitals. The need is daily.

Geist Christian Church is hosting a blood drive, **Sunday, November 11, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Mud Creek Campus.** Sign up at the Mud Creek Campus or contact Esther Sickle (esther.sickle@geistchristian.org) for an appointment time to volunteer. While walk-in volunteers are welcome, scheduling an appointment makes it easier to plan staffing for the blood mobile.



Special Events

New to Geist Christian Church? Newcomers is for You!- Recent New Members of Geist Christian Church – If you're interested in connecting with other new members of the church, we invite you to an informal gathering on Monday, November 5 at the Mud Creek Campus, beginning at 6:30pm. "The Newcomers" chief purpose is to build relationships with others who are new to the church. For more information, contact Peg Rideout (indynotes@gmail.com) or Tim Kurtz (tjk8822@gmail.com).

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.

Fall Men's Retreat, November 16-18 - This fall, the Geist Christian Church True North Men's Ministry celebrates its 16th annual men's retreat. The theme for 2018 is 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? This and many other questions will be a part of the weekend. The cost is \$165 (scholarships available) and includes all lodging, food and activities. For more information or to register, contact Mike Peck at mpeck1189@me.com.

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