



CrossWords

news of Geist Christian Church

December 2018

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Christmas Light Sermon Series

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light... (Isaiah 9:2a)

Advent is the season of lights: lights on trees and lights on homes. We decorate and prepare for Christmas and the lights we string not only bring good cheer; they remind us that Jesus comes as "the Light of the World." Advent is a celebration of Christmas light.



Light dispelling darkness is a rich metaphor central to understanding the incarnation. Isaiah promises a darkness shattering "great light." The wise men follow the light of his star. Simeon blesses the baby Jesus and recognizes him as "a light of revelation." And Jesus declares, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." This is the sum and substance of Christmas Light.

During the season of Advent, we remember the bright light of Jesus arrival and with it, God's gift of hope, peace, joy and love.

December 1 & 2:	Promise of Light
December 8 & 9:	Prepare for the Light
December 15 & 16:	Proclaim the Light—Music Weekend
December 22 & 23:	Respond to the Light
December 24:	Receive the Light

Season of Giving - Christmas

Geist Christian Church cares for close to 200 families during the Christmas holidays. Participate by filling a stocking, filling a food bag, purchasing gifts for children, making a donation to buy a ham & other fresh items and to deliver to the families. Bags, gifts and stockings are due back Wednesday, December 12. Delivery takes place Saturday, December 15 from both campuses. Contact Laurie McKinzie, lmckinzie613@sbcglobal.net or Kyle Brown, kyle.brown@geistchristian.org for more information.



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Randy Reflects



Randy Spleth

It has been decades since I have penned a personal Christmas gift list. I remember putting my hopes and dreams on paper as a child. It was in preparation for a visit to Santa. The list was influenced by catalogs, Saturday morning cartoons commercials, and of course, peer influence. One learns quickly in grade school to long for the same toys that your classmates desire.

I don't remember when I stopped making a list. Sometime in adolescence is the likely time-line. I'm not sure why I gave up the practice. Making a list is useful to gift givers. Parents depend upon them; it makes them look good and insures a joyful Christmas for their children. Some families require list of all members. People want to make sure that the gift given is wanted and appreciated.

I believe I gave up the practice not because I'd somehow grown out of wishes or desires. To suggest such maturity would be disingenuous. I still have wants. I think I gave it up because the gift giving was so generous and good that I simply developed a sense of trust. I believed that whatever I received would be wanted and appreciated. I experienced joyful appreciation, acknowledging that they'd known exactly what I needed.

Through generosity and thoughtful gift giving by loved ones, I discovered an insight into the true meaning of Christmas. No list was created; no request was made. God simply knew what was needed and would be appreciated. We needed God to come down from heaven, for the Creator of the Universe to be revealed to us as a tiny baby. We wanted a Savior that would make things right for us. Even though we would have never written it down, Jesus was biggest our biggest hope and dream, the very first thing that should be written down on every list.

Whether you are a list maker or not, I hope you understand this and anticipate it in Christmas upcoming. The first and greatest gift of Christmas comes wrapped in swaddling clothes, a Savior lying in a manger. I pray that it will be joyfully appreciated and you will acknowledge that God knew exactly what you wanted and needed.

Blessings,



Music Weekend - December 15 & 16

At the PROMISE ROAD CAMPUS - Join the Promise Road Campus praise team for a musical celebration of our Savior's birth. Flutist extraordinaire Michael Morton joins us again for a program of jazz flavored original arrangements of Christmas music favorites. Saturday, December 15 at 5:30 pm and Sunday, December 16 at 10:00 am.

At the MUD CREEK CAMPUS - Celebrate the Christmas season as the Chancel Choir, Chancel Ringers and Orchestra present two performances of sacred music in the annual Music Weekend Celebration. This tradition is a highlight of our Christmas season and we hope you will join us for the celebration. Plan to arrive early as the extended prelude begins fifteen minutes prior to the start of each service. Sunday, December 16, 9:00 am & 10:30 am.

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CONNECT Adult Ministries

Daily E-mail Sentence Prayers During Advent -

Senior Minister Randy Spleth offers daily prayers via e-mail during the season of Advent. Sentence prayers, in addition to a regular time of meditation, allow focus on a single daily thought on the journey to Christmas. Past recipients receive them automatically. If you would like to receive them, send request to epray@geistchristian.org.

Sarah's Sisters Bible Study for Women- Sarah's Sisters begins a new study mid-December. The study is based on Joseph: How God Builds Character by Paul Borthwick. Sarah's Sisters meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm at the Mud Creek Campus. Contact Pat Crampton at pjscrampton@hotmail.com for details..

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
- May 22 - *The Rent Collector* by Cameron Wright

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. In December we will break from our study on "Eating and Drinking with Jesus," for a Christmas arty on Tuesday, December 18 at 6:00 pm at Kyle and Sarah's house. Childcare is provided at the Promise Road Campus and folks are encouraged to bring Long-John's that will go to help those in need at Wheeler Mission, instead of food. Contact kyle.brown@geistchristian.org with any questions or to request their address.

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.

Give

Christmas Special Day Offering - Your over-and-above contributions at Christmas support regional ministries as they educate and train lay leaders, start new congregations, nurture and support clergy and seminarians, and provide Christian camp and conference programs for children and youth. Designate checks as "Special Day Offering" and return them to the church. Gifts received through December 25.



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CONNECT Children's Ministries

With the Advent season upon us, the children will be learning about Jesus' birth along with the family members that were there before and after his birth. The Bible memory verse is: "In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior." (Luke 1:47)

We are also providing an Advent bag to help families celebrate this season. There is an activity for each week of Advent. Please pick up one per family in the Children's Hallway at each campus

Christmas Celebration - Saturday, December 8, 9:00 am -11:00 am. New this year 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 benefit the new homeless ministry we are helping, Family Promise. There are limited spots to participate in this activity at the Christmas Celebration and you must pre-order so please sign up early! Sign-ups are in the children's hallway at both locations. Join us on December 8 for a wonderful morning of family fun. There will be a light breakfast, crafts and a visit from Santa! The event will be at the Promise Road Campus. Volunteers needed in our craft areas. Please contact Michelle Latty, michelle.latty@geistchristian.org if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.



Christmas Eve Pageant Participants Needed - If your family plans to attend the 5:00 pm service at the Promise Road Campus and your child would like to help us with the pageant, please let Michelle Latty know as soon as possible. We act out a nativity scene during the service and need several key volunteers to play a more intricate role (no speaking involved). All ages are welcome to participate. E-mail michelle.latty@geistchristian.org.

Movie Night is coming again this January! - Mark your calendars for Friday, January 25: 6:30-8:30 pm at the Mud Creek Campus. Bring your blanket or sleeping bag and a pillow. A snack and drinks will be provided

G56 – Grades 5 & 6 - This wonderful ministry is full of 5th & 6th grade youth discovering just where Jesus fits into their lives. They are full of energy and the desire to learn more. It is a privilege to be alongside them in this journey.

G57 Skyzone , January 13 - Save the date! Inviting all G56ers to meet at Skyzone to enjoy some fun together. Cost \$10

Service Opportunities for G56

- 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 e-mail children@geistchristian.org to let us know if your G56er can help.

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 - Collective Table is 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 December 2 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. Upcoming events include:



- **Caroling and Hot Chocolate – December 2** - The youth will join G56 in celebrating the Christmas season, with caroling and hot chocolate. At 3:00 pm, youth will meet at the Promise Road Campus to warm up the vocal cords, before heading out to sing at our local senior centers. Following a time of caroling, we will return to the church for pizza and hot chocolate. So come and join us as we welcome in this season of hope, joy, peace, and love.
- **Bowling Christmas Party – December 9** - "For its one, two, three strikes you win at the old bowling lane." OK, it might be combining two sports, but you get the point. As we approach the end of the school year and welcome in Christmas, youth of Geist Christian Church are invited to Bowling Christmas Party on Sunday, December 9 from 2:00 pm -4:00 pm. The cost is \$10 and includes shoe rental and unlimited game play for 2 hours. Join us as we "hit the hard wood," to bowl our best games and enjoy fellowship with one another.
- **Bonus Youth Group: Lunch and Movie – December 16** - This year the Youth Ministry Team is adding a bonus youth group. On Sunday, December 16 youth are encouraged to join in fellowship and a movie at Hamilton Town Center. The movie will be Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse, and lunch will be at Yat's or Five Guys. The time for this event is TBD, so be on the lookout for an email with updated information.
- **Inflatable Explosion – January 13** - Kick off the new year in style with inflatables and games in the Promise Road Campus gym. This event will start at 5:00 pm and promises to be a wonderful to kick off a new year. I hope you will join us, because we are going to have some great food and fun games (gym dress required), so bring everyone and come celebrate the start of the spring semester!!
- **Minute-to-Win Games – January 20** - Youth Group this weekend is not for the faint of heart because we plan on playing some pretty crazy "Minute-to-Win-It." "Minute-to-Win-It" games are pretty easy to understand. They are quick games that take one minute to win. It could be anything from eating a whole pie to stacking 50 cups up high. We plan to play 15 to 20 of these "Minute-to-Win-It" games back-to-back.
- **Faith Talks – January 27** - 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.

Weekday Ministries News

We are celebrating this Season of Giving in many ways. One of our favorite ways to celebrate is with a Thanksgiving Feast. Preschool, Pre-K, and Kindergarten invited a special guest to our feast, and we watched Kindergarten act out "The First Thanksgiving" in their first play. Both campuses have also started collecting food and gifts for the families we will assist during this Season of Giving.



Musical Thoughts by Music Director Schuyler Brinson

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign..." Isaiah 7:14

It was Christmas Eve in the Austrian Alps. At a newly constructed Church of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf, Father Joseph Mohr prepared for the midnight service. He was distraught because the church organ was broken, ruining prospects for that evening's carefully planned music. But Father Joseph was about to learn that our problems are God's opportunities, that the Lord causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him.

It came into Father Joseph's mind to write a new song, one that could be sung without the organ. He wrote the following words, "Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright..." Taking the text to his organist, Franz Gruber, he explained the situation and asked Franz to compose a simple tune. That night, December 24, 1818, "Silent Night" was sung for the first time as a duet accompanied by a guitar. This year we celebrate the 200th anniversary of this beloved Christmas song. Were it not for a broken organ, there would never have been a "Silent Night." ("Then Sings My Soul" by Robert J. Morgan)

Creation Care Tip

WISE ENERGY USE WILL SAVE YOU MONEY AND HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

- Install a programmable thermostat to manage heating and cooling systems efficiently
- Plug home electronics like TV's and DVD players into power strips. Turn the power strips off when the equipment is not being used. TV's and DVD players in standby mode use several watts of power.
- Make it a habit to check and clean your dryer's lint screen as you're unloading the dryer. This improve air circulation and helps prevent fires.
- Remember to periodically check your dryer vent to make sure it is not blocked. A clear vent will save you energy and reduce fire risks.
- When using your stove's range, match the size of the pan to the heating element.
- Cooking for one or two? Use small electric pans, toaster ovens and convection ovens instead of your stove or oven to save as much as one-third to one-half of the energy you'd use with your full-size oven.
- Don't store uncovered or unwrapped foods in the fridge. Not only is it unsanitary - the food will release moisture that can make your compressor work harder.



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News Around Geist Christian Church

In Sympathy

Rich John, father Gunter John
 Judy Zier, brother-in-law Andy Ammann
 Amy Lilly, father Harold Forburger
 Jill Burns, aunt Sandy Berry
 Candy Faulkner, husband Art
 Malcolm Frost, father Bernard Frost
 David Herzog, mother Joan Herzog
 Craig Henderson, brother Mark Henderson
 Marge Galbraith, uncle Wayne Williams
 Harold Schneider, stepmother Sylvia Schneider

Births

Bryce & Kimberly Conway, son Asa Keith, 11/15

New Members

Jeff & Carol Blair
 Pete & Carol Groh
 Christa Ford, Maxwell

October/November Attendance					
Service	Oct 27/28	Nov 3/4	Nov 10/11	Nov 17/18	Nov 24/25
5:30 pm PR	81	80	76	70	85
9:00 am MC	161	227	165	169	176
10:00 am PR	194	186	229	161	135
Youth Worship PR	n/a	@Mud Creek	11	n/a	n/a
10:30 am MC	223	243	229	223	235
Youth Worship MC	n/a	28	13	n/a	n/a
TOTALS	659	764	677	623	631

Christmas Eve Services

Monday, December 24



Promise Road Campus – Fishers 126th & Promise Road

Family service w/children's pageant 5:30 pm
 Sermon with communion 7:00 pm

Mud Creek Road – Indianapolis 86th & Mud Creek Road



Traditional Worship 9:00 & 10:30 am
 Family service w/children's story 4:30 pm
 Lessons & carols family service 6:00 pm
 Lessons & carols with communion 7:30 pm
 Sermon with communion 9 & 11 pm

Child care provided at all worship services.

2019 General Fund

Defying Gravity

Pledges are now due for the 2019 operating budget. Pledge online or email bren.mccollough@geistchristian.org.

Special Events

Sounds of the Season – December 11, 1:00pm

Director of Music, Schuyler Brinson will present “Sounds of the Season” on Tuesday, December 11 at 1:00 pm at the Mud Creek Campus. Enjoy an afternoon of carols and holiday favorites as we celebrate the Christmas season. Light refreshments will follow in Great Hall. We hope you will plan to attend this fun afternoon of music. Cost is \$5 per person. Please RSVP to Lori Kline at lori.kline@geistchristian.org or call 317-842-3594, ext. 489.

Senior Adult Ministry - Euchre and Julian Center Donations

Join us on Sunday, December 16, 2018 from 4:00-6:00 pm for fellowship, food, and Euchre. Bring your favorite finger food to share and plan to have a great time. If you don't know how to play Euchre and would like to learn, there will be a table reserved for lessons on Euchre. If you don't play Euchre and just want to come for the fellowship and good conversation, please come! We will be collecting gloves (not mittens, please), hats, and socks for women, men, and children for the Julian Center. The Julian Center provides emergency shelter and sustainable services for those who have experienced domestic and/or sexual abuse. Unfortunately, that need increases during the holidays. We look forward to seeing you on the 16th. For additional information, please contact Judy Apple-VanAlstine at japplevanalstine@aol.com.

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