



CrossWords

news of Geist Christian Church

February 2019

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February is Hunger Action Month



As a way to raise awareness and help combat hunger in the community, Geist Christian Church is partnering with The Sharing Place and Come to Me Food Pantry. For the third year in a row, we will stack the odds against hunger as we stock their shelves with food for the hungry. Throughout February, members are encouraged to bring non-perishable items to church and place them in the boxes and bins at both campuses for collection. Each week, the bulletin will highlight most desired items to ensure maximum impact in our community. Monetary donations are also needed and

accepted. Let's see what Geist Christian Church "CAN" do to make a difference for the hungry in our community.

Annual Meeting Recap

Annual Meeting Recap – For those unable to attend the Annual Meeting in January, Moderator Chad Galloway shared important information about the future direction of Geist Christian Church especially as it relates to staffing. He reported on the strategic planning process which began in 2016 and included congregational surveys, café conversations with the congregation and consultants helping the board vision for the future. One of the biggest concerns was the succession planning for our founding pastor.

"There is the belief that given some of the issues we've faced as 'one church in two locations' and the considerable work demands that our current model places on the senior minister that finding a direct replacement wasn't the right path," Galloway said at the meeting. He continued, "The board has come to the conclusion that a healthier model and one with the greatest potential for revitalizing our church is to have two lead pastors, one at the Promise Road Campus and one at the Mud Creek Campus, eventually working as 'co-senior pastors.' We see this as the succession plan and we also see it as a two-step process, something that we live in to over the last few years of Randy's work,"

A search is active for the lead pastor at the Promise Road Campus with a goal for that person to be in place in the coming 2-3 months. Once in place, Randy Spleth will transition out of the full-time preaching responsibilities at the Promise Road Campus over the last half of 2019. The new lead pastor will build their own team after arrival on-site. Galloway added that we are grateful that Randy Kuss has agreed to serve at the Promise Road Campus during this time of transition and recruitment.



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

In one of the best books on grief, Jerry Sittser writes: "Living means changing, and change requires that we lose one thing before we gain something else. Thus we lose our youth but gain adulthood. We lose the security of home but gain the independence of being on our own. We lose the freedom of singleness but gain the intimacy of marriage. We lose a daughter but gain a son-in-law. Life is a constant succession of losses and gains.

If change is a constant as Sittser rightly suggests, so too is our struggle with it. Human beings are notorious for being resistant to change. Nostalgia is often the cause. We wish for the good old days but our memory is flawed. A mentor and pastor I knew early in my career often said to his congregation, "Things aren't the way they used to be, and they never were."

It is a reminder to be mindful when we reflecting on the past. There were times in the past, in the good old days, when we struggled, when we were concerned or anxious because we didn't know what was ahead. Every gain in our living comes through times of transition and change.

When I think of the many changes that our congregation has experienced since my arrival in February of 1985, it is mind-boggling. So too are the challenges and hurdles of becoming our church. At every step, whether clearly apparent or not, God was in it, guiding and directing. What is clear in the past is prescriptive of the future. Every new stage brings possibilities for renewal and growth, both individually and corporately. To paraphrase, "We aren't who we used to be and never were."

There is no question that we live in a time of change and with it, fear and anxiety. It's all around us in just about every place; a great spiritual challenge. What is ahead for us as individuals, as a community, as a country? Sooner than we imagine, what looms ahead will come nearer and get clearer, until it becomes the scenery of the present that fills our vision. Look carefully then. You'll see. God walked with us every step of the way.

Blessings,

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

The youth of Geist Christian Church will have soup bowls and be standing at the doors after worship **THIS SUNDAY, February 3**, to accept soup and monetary donations to help feed the hungry in the community. The Souper Bowl of Caring empowers youth and unites communities at the time of the Big Game to help those in need. Last year the youth in churches across America crossed the \$10 Million Dollar Mark! 100% of the funds stay local!



Fat Tuesday

Save the Date! On Tuesday, March 5, the Youth of Geist Christian Church invite you to their Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper that raises money for their 2019 mission trips to Puerto Rico, Detroit, and St. Louis. The event will be at the ALTARed Worship Center at the Mud Creek Campus and will run from 5-7 pm. The cost is \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children six and under and is all you can eat. Come and enjoy the pancakes, sausage and tater tots that will be served by our wonderful and dedicated teenagers. Purchase tickets on-line at the Geist Christian website, after worship at either campus, or at the door.

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CONNECT Adult Ministries

Bible 101 – Online & In Person - Bible 101 is a basic course to help you read the Bible on your own. Learn how the Bible was written, compare different Bible versions, and master some beginning Bible study methods. The course is free. Just bring your Bible and join us at the Promise Road campus from 7:00 to 8:30 PM every Tuesday in February. The course will also be streamed live on the Internet. Contact Joe Allison at hoosierwriter131@gmail.com for details.

6-Week Men's Bible Study Begins in February Calling all men! A new 6-week Men's Bible Study begins in February on Wednesdays from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm at the Promise Road Campus. Whether this is your first or fiftieth Bible Study, this study of the Book of Mark is for you. All men will share a common interest in growing as men through the study of scripture. It's ok if you can't make all of the classes, come when you can. If you've ever wanted to get to know better other Christian men in our community, then here is a low-stress, short-term opportunity to try it out. We hope you will accept this invitation!

Page Turners - Page Turners, the bookclub of Geist Christian Church will meet to discuss the following books:

- 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.

W.E. Group for Women - On Tuesday, February 5th, the W.E. group will meet at the Mud Creek Campus to hear guest speaker Lisa Fleetwood, Faith Nurse Coordinator for Community Health Network. Lisa will speak on the topic on heart health basics for women. The program will commence at 6:30 pm. Snacks are provided as well as great fellowship. If interested in attending please contact Lori Kline at 317.842.3594, ext 489 or lori.kline@geistchristian.org.

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 7:00 pm at the Promise Road Campus.

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.

Senior Ministry February Event - The next Senior Ministry gathering is Sunday, February 17, 4:00 PM at the Mud Creek campus. It is game night! We will be playing such games as Boggle, Scrabble, Pictionary, Euchre, and Bunco. Everyone is invited to bring an appetizer to share. Come and enjoy good conversation and fellowship with one another. All are invited!

Company Coffee: Telling Tales from the Bunker and Beyond - Veterans from WWII

to present-day G.I.s are invited 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.

CONNECT Children's Ministries

Pastors Class Begins March 3 - Meeting at the Promise Road Campus, Pastors Class is a six-session class that prepares students in 5th grade and above to make their decision about their profession of faith in Jesus Christ and prepare for baptism or affirmation of a previous baptism. To RSVP your child or for more information contact Michelle Latty, michelle.latty@geistchristian.org or 317- 842-3594 ext. 504

Easter Eggstravaganza - Sunday, April 14 - 2:00-3:15pm, Mud Creek Campus - This fun, family afternoon will take place at the Mud Creek Campus. There will be snacks, crafts, games, pictures with the Easter Bunny, and of course, an egg hunt at 3:15pm! All ages welcome! You don't want to miss this afternoon of fun and fellowship. If you are interested in helping prepare for the event or helping at the event, please contact Holly Blunk, holly.blunk@geistchristian.org. We will also be taking donations of filled Easter eggs for the hunt and snacks (fruit, cookies, brownies, etc). Please look for sign-ups and collection bins in the children's wing at both locations.



VBS 2019 – Roar! July 8-12, Life is Wild- God is Good - Promise Road

Campus - 9 am -12 pm - We are excited to again celebrate VBS as ONE church this year. This epic African adventure engages the whole herd. At Roar, kids explore God's goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life. Registration will open in late April for those children age 4 (by Sept. 1, 2019) through 3rd grade. Children 4th grade on up will be welcome to help in a variety of roles to assist our "crews." LOTS of volunteers of ALL ages are needed to help with this Wildly awesome adventure! Join us as a "Safari Guide" and lead a group or as a volunteer for our game or craft teams. You won't want to miss this!

Summer Family Nights June 3 & June 24 - 6-8pm at the Mud Creek Campus - Come celebrate summer together! Join us for some Wild family fun. We will share a meal together then hit the ground running for games community time together. Mark your calendars, bring your family and invite your friends for these free event together.

G56 – for youth in grades 5 & 6

Game Night! Friday, February 22, 7-10 pm, Promise Road Campus - 5th & 6th graders, join us for an AWESOME evening of games, food and friends! We'll have a variety of EPIC games and some snacks to enjoy. You won't want to miss this!

Current 4th & 5th graders- G56 Service "Week" – June 18-20, 9am-1pm at the Mud Creek Campus - This is THE "week" you don't want to miss. Plan to join us for three awesome days of service in our local community. WHY??



- Get to know your fellow G56ers
 - Help others
 - Have loads of fun!
- Registration begins mid-April.

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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.



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:



- **Ski Trip** - On Saturday, February 9, the youth head to Perfect North for a day of skiing and snow tubing. Cost is for snow tubing; \$80 for skiing and tubing. Bring money to cover food at the ski lodge. Spots are still available. Contact Pastor Kyle at kyle.brown@geistchristian.org to RSVP today.
- **Concert** - On February 10, the youth head to Bankers Life Fieldhouse for the Toby Mac Hits Deep Concert. Joining him that evening is Jeremy Camp, Jordan Feliz, Ryan Stevenson, *We are Messengers*, and Aaron Cole. The concert begins at 7pm. Transportation to and from the concert. The concert is free! Return to Promise Road Campus by 9:30 pm. Get your homework done and join us for an evening of faith and music.
- **Minute-to-Win Games** - "Minute-to-Win-It" games test your strength, knowledge, and skill. The games are easy to understand. 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** - On February 24, the Youth Ministry Team continues "Faith Talks," a creative format designed to hear other people's stories about their faith formation. Church members talk openly and honestly about their faith and struggles, as well as the joys they have encountered along the way. Youth will explore contemporary issues through a theological lens to help them find words to articulate what they believe, and why that belief is important.
- **Save the Date: Youth Retreat** - March 1-3 - This year the Jr High and High School youth head to Brown County for the spring retreat. The topic this year focuses on failure and the keynote speaker is Cory Glover. Failure: it's not something any of us enjoy, yet it is something we all experience. What makes the difference is how we respond to that failure. During the weekend, we'll look at the life and ministry of the prophet Jeremiah, seeing what we can learn from him about how to handle the rough times in life. Cost for the retreat is \$120 and includes everything.

Mission Trip Information - For the 2019 Youth Mission Trip, Senior High youth have two exciting options to serve and grow their faith.

- **Puerto Rico from June 8-15** - Senior High youth will partner with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) relief organization Week of Compassion, as we continue to rebuild areas that were devastated by Hurricane Maria by helping with various phases of construction/rehab. Cost \$900.
- **Detroit from June 23-29** - Senior High youth will participate in a Methodist-affiliated mission experience called Motown Mission. Motown Mission is an urban ministry designed to connect young people to Wesleyan principles of faith and service. Motown Mission create opportunities to help the people in the city fight poverty and other effects of the economic crisis. Our actions will be complemented with moments of prayer and reflection, as we explore how God is changing lives and transforming hearts. Cost \$450.

Junior High Mission Trip, July 7-12 - Junior High students join forces to participate in a mission experience called Amen St. Louis which is an urban ministry designed to educate youth about how poverty, homelessness, systematic racism, and many other issues are impacting St. Louis. In the evenings, youth are encouraged to pray and reflect about how they might be a part of this kind of work in their own community once they return home. Cost \$350.

Outreach

Ronald McDonald House - We feed people. That's what members of Geist Christian Church do twice a month (2nd and 4th Wednesday) for those staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Indy. The Ronald McDonald House provides a supportive "home-away-from-home" for families of children receiving medical care at Riley Hospital for Children and other area hospitals. During their stay, they create a nurturing a community where children and their families embrace life and healing with a sense of hope, enthusiasm, courage and joy. If you are interested joining this ministry team, please contact Pastor Kyle at kyle.brown@geistchristian.org.

Sharing Place Food Pantry Looking for Volunteers - During the first two weeks of 2019, The Sharing Place Food Pantry served 2,342 people in our community. Volunteers are needed. The Pantry is located on Sunnyside Road just north of 65th Street. There is a volunteer training on Wednesday, February 6 from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm (lunch provided). Contact The Sharing Place at volunteers@lutheranfamily.org for more information or to reserve your place at the training.

Weekday Ministries News

The children in the Weekday Ministry program at Geist Christian Church have loved the snow and have been creating many winter wonderlands in the classrooms! They are learning all about winter, arctic animals, and more.

Although past, we want to give recognition to our school/church family in their efforts



during the winter outreach project. With the help of our families at Weekday Ministries, we were able to purchase, wrap, and deliver Christmas presents and meals to 300 families in need. e are so thankful to our families for helping us help others and spread God's love. Registration is now open to the public for next school year! Please spread the word to your family and friends about the wonderful program so they can experience all the fun and learning we have to offer! Registration forms are available at both campuses and online at www.geistwdm.org.



Creation Care Tip

Water is wasted more frequently than we can see. Turn off the faucet as you are brushing your teeth. Don't turn your shower on until you're ready to get in. Limit your water usage as you wash dishes. Changing old habits will be good for both the environment and your wallet!

***You can recycle unwanted batteries, ink/toner cartridges, cell phones, and eyeglasses in the kitchen at the Mud Creek Campus. Please remember to remove all personal information from phones.



Mud Creek Road Update

Tired of seeing the blue tarps on the sanctuary roof at the Mud Creek Campus? So are we. Last year, shingles began sliding off and some were removed and sent to the manufacturer for inspection. An on-site inspection also took place. An agreement has been reached with between the contractor, manufacturer and the church that EVERY shingle will be inspected and secured if necessary. This is a warranty issue and will not cost the church. However, this work cannot take place until temperatures reach 50 degrees on a consistent basis.

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News Around Geist Christian Church

In Sympathy

Bill Mullineaux, mother Eileen Mullineaux
Andrew Lewis, father Jim Lewis

Nona Miller*

Debbie Wheat, mother Nona Miller
Larry & Louise Smith, son Rannan Smith
Sean Smith, brother Rannan

Becky Augustin*

Drew Augustin, wife Becky Augustin
Linn Boyd, mother Lola Boyd
Esther Sickle, cousin Roger Stahly
Kim Rauch, aunt Bea Zollinger

Rhea Fisher*

Frank Fisher, wife Rhea Fisher
Judy McGrath, uncle Robert Conrad
Sally Hughes, uncle Robert Conrad
Alana Anderson, aunt Delphine Vandervoort
Eric Anderson, great aunt Delphine Vandervoort
Dave Burket, nephew Sean Saffer
Bob Zier, brother Chris Zier
Megan Phillippe, grandmother Mary

***denotes GCC member**

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Arthur Faulkner

Steven & Brenda Glasgo

In Memory of Hal Watkins

Michael & Linda Nodley

In Memory of Becky Augustin

Larry & Nancy Pugh

In Memory of Nona Miller

Jane Moore
Bruce & Amy Russell
Tom Maki
Martins & Goldsmiths
Dee Moore

New Members

Steve & Jackie Stone
Margaret Burt (associate membership)
Adam Hamman & Morgan McCloskey
Jarad & Brianna Vinup, Ainsley & Adler
Matt Ballain

Member Recognition Award



Congratulations to Karen Harris and Carl Herr on receiving the 2018 Member Recognition Award at Geist Christian Church. Karen and Carl were identified as "Selfless Servants" and received a standing ovation

when the awards were announced at the 9:00 am worship service Sunday, January 27.

January Attendance

Service	Jan 5/6	Jan12/13	Jan19/20	Jan 26/27
5:30 pm PR	63	20	✿	96
9:00 am MC	162	106	✿	145
10:00 am PR	189	137	✿	229
Youth Worship PR	n/a	9	✿	n/a
10:30 am MC	200	142	✿	200
Youth Worship MC	n/a	4	✿	n/a
TOTALS	645	418	✿	670



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Special Events

Instant Classic Concert February 10, 3:00 pm - Plan to attend the next installment of the GCC concert series at the Mud Creek Campus. Instant Classic features four good friends with a passion for barbershop harmony and a cappella music. Be prepared to enjoy a variety of music from several decades and styles, including vocal jazz, musical theater, pop, and even R&B. Free admission with donation option to help offsets costs. Refreshments and fellowship follow the concert.

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. Geist Christian Church is hosting a blood drive, **Sunday, February 24, 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.

Artisan's Table Returns - Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 2, 2019 for the return of the Artisan Table holiday bazaar. The event will take place at our Mud Creek Campus from 9 am to 3 pm. Proceeds benefit special Geist Christian projects and area charities. If you are interested in helping/volunteering, please contact Mary Ann Lucas at lucastallygirl@me.com.



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