



CrossWords

news of Geist Christian Church

March 2019

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Journey to Jerusalem

"...he set his face to go to Jerusalem." (Luke 9:51)

During this season of Lent, we will follow Jesus on the road to Jerusalem as described in the Gospel of Luke. Of all of the stories of Jesus, Luke most clearly indicates the moment when this journey begins, when Jesus gathered courage, resolutely took the road, and began the journey. He set his face on Jerusalem. As he starts walking, and immediately some begin to walk with Him.

Over the next forty days, we will walk with them and Jesus, journey as they did. We will see through them, the stories and encounters described in Luke, "along the way." The followers of Jesus discover lessons on discipleship, gratitude, and the cost of salvation. These rich spiritual themes of the journey speak powerfully to us today.

Following Jesus to Jerusalem demands time. All things that renew and enrich demand slow down and invest. Lent calls us to take the time to remember, reflect and be renewed. The journey begins with Jesus invitation, "Follow me" and when we do, we join him again in a life-changing walk.



Pancake Supper – March 5

On Tuesday, March 5, the Youth of Geist Christian Church invite you to the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper that raises money for the 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.

Easter Season of Giving

Geist Christian Church will serve almost 200 families by providing a ham or turkey, a food bag, fresh produce and Easter buckets for children 18 and younger. Beginning in mid-March, an Easter display will be available at each campus. Pick up a food bag, Easter buckets to fill and volunteer to deliver or make a donation to purchase fresh items. Delivery date is Saturday, April 13 at 8:30 am from each campus. You may also donate through the Geist Christian Church website at www.geistchristian.org. For more information, contact Laurie McKinzie at lmckinzie613@sbcglobal.net or Kyle Brown at kyle.brown@geistchristian.org.



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Randy Reflects



Randy Spleth

I am aware that something is going on even though I lose sight of the fact. It happens every year. This year, with the severe winter weather, it was more out of mind. But that didn't mean something wasn't happening.

It was. Within the last few days, I've seen the tiniest spouts of green beginning to show their heads. Despite winter's chill, growth is happening beneath the surface. A blade here and a blade there are tentatively searching for a warm ray of sunlight, readying themselves to greet spring and explode with growth.

So too is the season which we are about to enter. Like the thaw between winter and spring, Lent is a time of preparation. It's a season when we are invited to prepare the soil of our lives for growth. The association isn't coincidental.

The word Lent is derived from an Anglo-Saxon word lengthen or lencten meaning "spring." We are to "spring" into action, to do the tasks of the season. In this 40-day period before Easter, we are called to take inventory of our lives, commune more intimately with God, and clear out those things that may distract us from our commitment to him. In a sense, it is a season to prepare for spiritual growth.

I invite you to use your awareness of springs near arrival, the sprout of greens, the buds on trees, and the promise of nature's annual renewal to bid you come. Commit yourself to the season of prayer, penance, and worship. Discover anew the power of this most ancient practice. If you do, your journey to Jerusalem will be fruitful and your Easter filled with new life.

Blessings,

Holy Land Tour—October 28, 2019

Randy and Ann Spleth will lead a second pilgrimage to the Holy Land. "The experience was so powerful for our group last fall that we had to offer it again. We are excited to share this spiritual transforming experience with others." The ten-day trip includes time sailing on the Sea of Galilee, visits to the Galilean synagogues, walking the ancient streets of Jerusalem and time in Bethlehem at the Church of the Nativity. Seeing the ancient archeological sites in Israel gives faith context. The Bible comes to life when you read the Sermon on the Mount while standing on the Mount of the Beatitudes or you pray where Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. Retracing the life of Jesus is a once in a lifetime experience. Space is limited. If interested, contact Randy at randy.spleth@geistchristian.org or go straight to Geist pilgrimage website at www.travelillumine.com/trc/lhz.

LAST CALL FOR PASTORS CLASS

Pastors Class begins March 3, 3:30-5:00 pm at the Promise Road Campus and runs for 6 weeks. Pastors Class is designed for those students in grades 5 on up who would like to learn more about their relationship with God and Jesus, profess their faith, and either be baptized or affirm a previous baptism. If your child is interested or for more information, please let Michelle Latty know as soon as possible at michelle.latty@geistchristian.org

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CONNECT Adult Ministries

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 while focusing on the One whose presence is beyond the church building. 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 with any questions at kyle.brown@geistchristian.org.

Kerygma Study - This Lent, the Kerygma Bible Study is going to explore the final words of Jesus from the Cross. Each session will dive deep into each of the final seven sayings with the help of Adam Hamilton. Meets on Wednesdays at 10:00 am at the Mud Creek Campus. Contact Kyle Brown at kyle.brown@geistchristian.org for more information.

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

- March 27 - *The Great Alone* by Kristan Hannah and *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.

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.

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.



W.E. Group - The W.E. Group is for women that want to connect with one another. This group meets monthly, usually on the 1st Tuesday of the month in various locations. (In March this group is meeting on March 12 due to Shrove Tuesday.) There are opportunities for fellowship, for outreach and for learning. All women are invited. For more information or to be added to the email list, please contact Carolyn Reed at carolyn@indianadisciples.org.

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

Easter Eggstravaganza - Sunday, April 14 - 2:00-3:15 pm, 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 3:15 pm! 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

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.



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:



- **March 10 Prayer Stations** - Youth will gather at the Mud Creek Campus to participate in a variety of prayer stations. From walking a labyrinth and lighting candles to molding clay and crafting prayers, these stations will help guide and prepare them for Holy Week, a week that captures the extremes of our lives. Begins with a brief service at 5:00 pm, followed by a guided time of prayer and reflection.
- **March 17 Annual Progressive Dinner** - For this progressive dinner, youth will “progress” through the meal, from course to course, from house to house, changing locations and hosts for each step of the way. We will Begin 4:30 pm for appetizers at the Promise Road Campus.
- **March 24 Art Project** - Meet at the Promise Road Campus where the youth will create their own one-of-a-kind art piece. These Jackson Pollock pieces will be an excellent addition to your room, so let’s splatter outside the lines, as we harness our inner artist and express ourselves through creative expression.
- **March 31 Operation Find & Feed** - Spread a little love through acts of service as we partner with Operation Find and Feed. Operation Find and Feed is a small group of Christians who have vowed to provide food and other necessities to the homeless in our city. Jr. High and Senior High youth are invited to join the Youth Ministry Team at the Promise Road Campus at 7:00 am to drive downtown, deliver sandwiches, and worship with those in the alley.

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.

Places to Serve

Ronald McDonald House and Dayspring Shelter - Are you willing to donate 2-3 hours of your time each month to help those who in need? Every month, Geist Christian members and friends serve at Dayspring and Ronald McDonald House on the 2nd and 4th Monday or Wednesday. Dayspring is for homeless families seeking temporary respite until more permanent living arrangements can be made, while Ronald McDonald House is for families that are struggling to see young loved ones suffering with a severe and sometimes life-threatening illness. If you have interest in knowing more about either of these volunteer opportunities, please contact Kyle Brown at kyle.brown@geistchristian.org or 317-842-3594, ext 496.

Prison Ministry – On the fourth Sunday of every month, a team of volunteers from Geist Christian Church lead worship at the Correctional Industrial Facility, the medium security prison in Pendleton, Indiana. The team would welcome new members. The team welcomes men to worship, provides communion, prays with inmates, and shares scripture and a short message. Team members go through annual training and background check and must have an annual TB test. Men and women are welcome on the team. Contact Ryan Hazen at ryan.hazen@geistchristian.org for more information.

Media Team – Both campuses are expanding their media teams. This crucial ministry supports each worship service. At the Promise Road Campus, team members run cameras and what is seen on the overhead screens. At the Mud Creek Campus, team members run the sound board. Contact Randy Kuss at randy.kuss@geistchristian.org for openings at the Promise Road Campus or Ryan Hazen at ryan.hazen@geistchristian.org for openings at the Mud Creek Campus.

Weekday Ministries News

Kindergarten is hard at work creating their own fairy tales during their fairy tale unit. So much fun and learning happening in the kindergarten classrooms.



Students and staff are getting ready to kick off our global mission project, MASK. Led by our own Ms. Alice, a teacher at the Promise Road Campus, all students will raise money and participate in a Fun Run/Walk to benefit children in Kenya.



Creation Care Tip

450 YEARS...That is the time it takes for a plastic bottle to break down. Reach for a reusable one, skip plastic straws and plastic cutlery. "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to serve and preserve it." (Genesis 2:15)



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News Around Geist Christian Church

In Sympathy

Gary Cooper, father John Cooper
 Anne Campbell, brother Richard Morris
 Paula Ackerman, cousin Russell Mann
 Carol Melvin, husband Mick
 Nancy Joostberns, husband **Ken Joostberns***
 Lisa Davis, mother Joyce Suarez
 Marcia Forsythe, mother Martha Hockett

***denotes GCC member**

New Members

Bob Audler
 Barbara Wilhelm

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Rhea Fisher

Becky Ridder
 Randy & Janice Crutchfield
 Erin McIntosh
 Patty Jo & Roger Richards
 Sara & Jim Opel
 Sahm Mens Golf League Sr
 Linda & Martin Mulcahy & Family
 The Christner Family
 Steven & Brenda Glasgo

In Memory of Becky Augustin

Kent & Lori Kline

February Attendance

Service	Feb 2/3	Feb 9/10	Feb 16/17	Feb 23/24
5:30 pm PR	82	74	81	95
9:00 am MC	156	159	130	147
10:00 am PR	171	185	161	153
Youth Worship PR	@Mud Creek	14	10	n/a
10:30 am MC	238	200	178	176
Youth Worship MC	26	9	12	n/a
TOTALS	673	641	572	571

Over 70 ½ Years Old?

If you have an IRA (Individual Retirement Account), you can reduce taxes by making charitable gifts directly from your IRA. Doing this reduces your adjusted gross income by the amount of your gift(s), which reduces both federal and state taxes. For more information on how to facilitate such a transfer to Geist Christian Church, contact Financial Secretary Bren McCollough at bren.mccollough@geistchristian.org or 317.842.3594.



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Special Events

The Artisan Table is back for 2019! - The Artisan Table is a gathering of vendors offering unique handmade items. The event will take place on Saturday, November 2 and 100% of the funds raised will go toward the renewal and refreshing of the Mud Creek sanctuary. We hope to raise enough money to help replace the 20-year old well loved & worn carpet! In the past, the funds raised have gone toward new flooring for the women's restroom, the beautiful photo wall at the Mud Creek Campus entrance and a new dishwasher in the kitchen, as well as numerous charities outside of the church. Vendors rent booth space, but this year, we are also looking for corporate sponsors. Would your company be interested in sponsoring our wonderful show? Our sponsorship amount is \$1000 (but secretly we would be happy with any amount). Your company's name will be on all social media posts and publications. We are also looking for someone who might be interested in matching the funds we receive from the vendors. Or... if you would like to donate a new iPad for our raffle, that would be terrific as well. If as an individual, you would like to give a monetary donation to this event, we would be so grateful. We anticipate having 30-50 vendors as in the past and look forward to a fun day. Stay tuned for more information coming! Contact Mary Ann Lucas at bonbonmaryann@gmail.com

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