



CrossWords

news of Geist Christian Church

April 2019

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Holy Week and Easter Services

Holy Week begins April 13/14 with the waving of palm branches. Services on Palm Weekend will be at regular worship times and includes a children's palm parade. Additional services during Holy Week include the following:

Maundy Thursday, April 18 7:30 pm, Mud Creek Campus
24 Hour Prayer Vigil, April 18/19 Begins 9 pm, Mud Creek Campus
Good Friday, April 19
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm (six 30-minute services), Mud Creek Campus
6:00 pm, Mud Creek Campus

Easter Weekend, April 20/21
Saturday, 5:30 pm, Promise Road Campus
9:30 am & 11:00 am, Promise Road Campus
Sunday, 9:00, 10:00 & 11:15 am, Mud Creek Campus

Good Friday Vigil

In addition to the evening service on Good Friday, a meaningful part of the day is always the Good Friday Vigil services that take place from 12:00 noon – 3:00 pm in the Mud Creek Campus sanctuary. These six 30-minute services feature a short meditation on the seven last words of Christ from the cross. Feel free to come to one or all of the services. There is a short break between each on the hour and half hour. See page 7 for schedule of services.

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. 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

The final week of March madness falls in April. This isn't unusual. We are on a typical schedule. Most of the madness of the NCAA tournament falls in March even though the conclusion is in April. This past weekend of March brought lots of heartache including the loss of our final Hoosier hope.

There are some years when March madness and the final week of the tournament neatly align with Holy Week and Easter. Not this year. Easter is late. There are 34 possible days for Easter, the earliest of which is March 22. The latest is April 25. This year isn't the latest, but close.

Still, as we come to the close of the madness of March and the final weekend of college basket's loss and victory, I can't help but think of the madness that will take place in a few weeks on a final weekend of loss and victory.

On his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus picked up a bunch of fans, an interesting and diverse group of characters who responded to his "Follow me" challenge. The movement gained steam and energy upon arriving in at the host city. Like unsuspecting visitors to the final four, pilgrims to the Passover picked the front runner and favorite as he rides into the Jerusalem. But then Jesus gets caught up in the "holy madness" of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday and his followers experience the crushing defeat that all but one experience each year. Their plan was upset even though Jesus was clearly going up against the Roman authorities as the underdog. Or at least, so they thought.

Though completely an unlikely possibility, a marvelous upset takes place. It's not a team that rises to victory but a Savior who rises from the tomb. This win is different; it is touched by the divine and collective. In the Good News of Easter we will all rise victorious, snatched from the defeat of death. That's not madness. It is hope eternal.

Blessings,



24-Hour Prayer Vigil

Beginning at 9:00 pm on Maundy Thursday, April 18 and running until 9:00 pm on Good Friday, April 19, this is the perfect way to reflect on Jesus' gift to all and prepare hearts and minds for Good Friday and Easter. Sign up for 1/2 hour increments of prayer. Participants are welcome to pray at the Mud Creek Campus sanctuary or wherever you may be. Sign-up begins April 6 & 7 at the Mud Creek Campus or contact Esther Sickle, esther.sickle@geistchristian.org, 842-3594 ext. 494 for available times. There will be security on the premises during the overnight hours.

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CONNECT Adult Ministries

Let's Play Bingo - The Senior Adult Ministry will gather on Sunday, April 28th from 4:00-6:00 pm at the Mud Creek campus to play Bingo. All are welcome!!! Please note that this is a week later than we usually gather since Easter is April 21st this year. Please bring a finger food to share and join in the great conversation and the very highly non-competitive Bingo game. The incredible John Smitha will serve as our caller again. Come join us!

Mom2Mom - Come for the Easter Egg stuffing party on Wednesday April 10, 6:00-7:30 pm at the Mud Creek campus. The eggs will be for the children's ministry Easter Extravaganza egg hunt. Dinner and childcare will be provided. Contact Sarah Dietrich, sarah.dietrich@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 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.

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

- May 22 - *The Rent Collector* by Cameron Wright
- May 29 - Video showing of *River of Victory*. This is the video documentary of *The Rent Collector* (offsite)
- July 24 - *Follow the River* by James Alexander Thom

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. 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.

Join the Parades! - As is our Holy Week tradition, all children will be parading in at the services on Palm Sunday weekend (April 13/14) and Easter (April 20/21) weekends. Gather at the back of the sanctuary at the Mud Creek before each service. At the Promise Road Campus, please check children in as normal. Michelle and Holly will have palms and streamers ready to wave as we enter at the start of each service. We look forward to all the children helping with this tradition!

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:



- **Sunday, April 7, 5 pm** - Enjoy a pitch-in dinner before we conclude with an hour long parent meeting to talk about both the Jr. High to St. Louis and Senior High Mission Trips to Puerto Rico and Detroit this summer. This meeting will allow Pastor Kyle to answer any questions or concerns about the trip as well as fill out the required paperwork.
- **Sunday, April 7** - We will be playing capture the flag. While the parents have their parent meeting, we'll be taking our skills to the rugged terrain of the Mud Creek Campus for the ultimate test of strategy, speed, cooperation, and focus. Join us in the command room at 5:00 pm for a pitch-in dinner and instruction, and then we'll head out to the battlefield for the showdown.
- **Sunday, April 14** - The youth will crown their own Masters green jacket winner as we enjoy a few rounds of putt-putt at Pirates Quest. Tee time is set for 5:00 pm, so be sure to catch the golf carts departing from the Promise Road Campus. The cost of this event is \$15 and includes dinner on the back 9.
- **Sunday, April 28** - John Muir once said, "Going to the mountains is going home." On Sunday, April 28, the youth will be heading home as we embrace the warmer weather and enjoy a hike at Fort Harrison State Park. Following our time in nature the youth will head over to Jackamo's Pizza for food and fellowship. The event begins at 2:30 pm at the Mud Creek Campus, and youth are encouraged to bring money for dinner.

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

Bread for the World Offering of Letters 2019: Better Nutrition, Better Tomorrow. - Over the past several decades, the world—with a strong commitment from the United States—has made great progress toward ending hunger by promoting global nutrition programs. Senator Todd Young and Representative Susan Brooks, encouraged by the letters we wrote last year, became sponsors of The Global Food Security Reauthorization Act which passed by large margins in both the House and Senate. But the battle has not yet been won.



Last year, The Sharing Place Food Pantry served 87,214 individuals, an 80% increase over 2017. Globally, nearly 821 million people, 11% of the world population, remain hungry. One in 4 of the world's children are affected by stunting, resulting in irreversible physical and cognitive growth. Stunting is caused in children when they do not get proper nutrition. By improving nutrition in a child's first 1,000 days of life, it is possible for children to grow and thrive and thus break the cycle of hunger and poverty in our world.

Join us after worship the week-end of May 18-19 and write letters to our members of Congress asking them to support legislation and increase funding to accelerate progress in global nutrition. Let's work together and make a difference in the world. Your letters are very important.

Guatemala Mission Trip - This November, Geist Christian Church will be organizing its third 7-day mission trip to Guatemala. During this international mission trip, 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, many living off on just a few dollars a day. Most live in make shift shacks with dirt floors with no running water. To combat this extreme poverty, Geist Christian Church, will be partnering with Porch de Salomon (<http://porchdesalomon.org>) as we build homes for families in need. If you would like to reserve your spot or have any questions please contact Kyle Brown at kyle.brown@geistchristian.org.

Weekday Ministries News

We participated and completed our global mission work, MASK, with a Fun Run/Walk using our outdoor classroom trail. MASK is a foundation in Matuu, Kenya that provides resources for children with special needs and their families. The foundation was founded by our cdo teacher, Alice Reinhart. Our families helped us to raise over \$4,900!! Check out the Mama Agnes Special Kids Facebook page for more information.



Creation Care Tip

It's time for Spring cleaning! Recycle your unwanted electronic waste. Did you know that it is illegal to mix unwanted electronics with trash going to a landfill or being incinerated? There are a number of electronic recycle drop-off days coming up in our area.

For Fishers residents – Saturday, April 13 from 8 am – 1 pm at Billerica Park

For Indianapolis residents – Saturday, April 27 from 10 am – 1 pm at Lawrence Police Department

Go to www.tech-recyclers.com for more information and other drop off locations and dates.



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News Around Geist Christian Church

In Sympathy

Richard Selby, aunt Olza Ice
 Becky Sture, uncle Pete Beasley
 Bonnie Altemus, uncle Pete Beasley
 Corey Riesterer, uncle Mike Fox
 Corey Riesterer, uncle Bill Fox
 Lewis Wheat, mother Linda Wheat
 Tina Nagle, sister Amy Nagle
 Lori Krimmel, uncle Roy Frady
 Tara Maroun, cousin David Phares
Paul Dubenetzky*
 Barbara Wilhelm, companion Paul Dubenetzky
 Ryan Smith, father Robert Smith
 Greg Durst, father Don Durst

*denotes GCC member

New Members

Julia Casey
 Ron & Kathy Nicholas
 Matt & Nicole Nikirk & Lucy

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Rhea Fisher
 William & Mary Barrett

In Memory of Mick Melvin
 Ronald & Deborah Burks
 David & Jayne Richter

Good Friday Vigil

12:00 noon - First Word

Carolyn Reed, Associate Regional Minister, Christian Church in Indiana
 Luke 23: 32 – 34; "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing."

12:30 pm - Second Word

Andrew Lewis, Geist Christian Church member and Ordained Minister
 Luke 23: 35 – 43; "Truly, I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

1:00 pm - Third Word

Ann Updegraff Spleth, Chief Operating Officer, Kiwanis Children's Fund
 John 19: 25 – 27; "Woman, here is your son." "Here is your mother."

1:30 pm - Fourth Word

Kyle Brown, Minister for Outreach and Youth
 Matthew 27: 39 – 46; "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

2:00 pm - Fifth & Sixth Words

Sue Shadburne Call, Retired Minister, Downey Avenue Christian Church
 John 19: 28 – 30; "I am thirsty." & "It is finished."

2:30pm - Seventh Word

Randy Kuss, Interim Promise Road Campus Pastor
 Luke 23: 44 – 46; "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

March Attendance

Service	Mar 2/3	Mar 9/10	Mar 16/17	Mar 23/24	Mar 30/31
5:30 pm PR	77	71	71	82	69
9:00 am MC	139	151	156	160	151
10:00 am PR	159	139	168	181	178
Youth Worship PR	@Mud Creek	6	14	n/a	n/a
10:30 am MC	180	222	186	210	211
Youth Worship MC	29	7	8	n/a	n/a
Youth Operation Find & Feed					10
TOTALS	584	596	572	633	619



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Special Events

Spring Concert – May 19 at 3:00 – Mud Creek Campus: Save the date and plan to join the music program as they present their annual Spring Concert. The program will feature a variety of pieces presented by the Chancel Ringers and the Chancel Choir will perform Rene Clausen's "Te Deum", with orchestra. We hope you will join us as we conclude our regular musical season. Admission is free. Refreshments will follow in Great Hall.

"If I Should Die" Workshop – May 5: Question - What is the absolute best gift you can give a loved one? Answer – Having planned and made your wishes known about what happens when you die. Senior Associate Minister, Ryan Hazen, will offer a free information session on Sunday, May 5 beginning with lunch at 11:45 am at the Mud Creek Campus. This session, developed in consultation with Mark Roberts of Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, will give helpful information about how to make many decisions in advance and will give participants the opportunity to ask questions about advance directives, what to expect when meeting with a funeral home including current costs and how to be most helpful to loved ones making many stressful decisions in a short amount of time. There will be many take-home resources to help in the decision making. In order to get a proper lunch order, please RSVP to Ryan Hazen at ryan.hazen@geistchristian.org.

Artisan's Table Date Change - Due to the Holy Land Trip, this year's Artisan Table will be on Saturday, October 19, from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm at the Mud Creek Campus. Plan to shop from the many vendors that will be present with their unique, hand-crafted items. Those interested in being a vendor should contact Mary Ann Lucas at bonbonmaryann@gmail.com.

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