



CrossWords

news of Geist Christian Church

February 2020

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Pastors Class

Pastors Class begins on February 23. Pastors Class is a six-week class for students in grades 5 and 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 contact Ryan Hazen at ryan.hazen@geistchristian.org.

Pancake Fundraiser



Save the Date! On Tuesday, February 25, the Youth of Geist Christian Church invite you to their Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper that raises money for 2020 mission trips to Mexico, Memphis, TN, and Lexington, KY. The event will be in 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.

Deb Strock-Kuss Called as Associate Pastor

Rev. Deborah Strock-Kuss has been called to serve as Associate Pastor at the Promise Road Campus. Deb comes to Geist after serving six years as the Pastor of First Christian Church in Pittsboro, Indiana. Prior to this, Deb served for thirteen years as the Associate Pastor at Allisonville Christian Church in Indianapolis. Her core responsibilities will include small group formation, congregational connection, pastoral care, and outreach for the Promise Road Campus. Rev. Danny Gulden, Lead Pastor, says this about Deb: "Deb's vast experience will greatly enhance our ministries. She has a passion for faith formation, connection, and pastoral care that will enable us to continue on a trajectory of growth and community building. I am excited to welcome her to our team." Deb and her husband, Randy Kuss, have two grown children, Blaine and Georgia, and live in Indianapolis. She will begin her ministry in mid-March.



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Pastors Page

Randy Reflects - Randy Spleth, Senior Minister



By the time you read this, I will have had communion again. That, you may think, is nothing new. As members of the Christian Church, we gather each week around the table. One of my ecumenical friends likes to say that we are "Supper" driven.

The communion I will experience won't be with actual bread and wine, but communion nevertheless. Communion with others, both contemporaneous and long-gone, communion with the disciples and Jesus, from a unique perspective, the *sensus communis* of experiencing Leonardo DaVinci's Last Supper.

As a last-minute gift, we will once again visit this iconic masterpiece while traveling to Milan for Ann's work. We thought it wasn't possible. Tickets are hard to get on short notice. Two were found yesterday and we will have communion on Thursday.

The power of The Last Supper is in the invitation. Though a flat, 2 dimensional painting, it invites you to have communion with Jesus. Light and depth trick your senses. It makes you feel as if you are dining with them. The large fresco is in a dining room of a rectory. For centuries, the Dominicans had communion with Jesus each time they sat at a table for a meal. The table of The Last Supper was an extension of their table.

The invitation to commune with Jesus is there. But as with any sacred icon, one experiences a mystical moment when reminded of the many people throughout the ages who have also visited this place. You aren't just experiencing the moment with the group of 40 during your fifteen-minute allocation. There is a powerful feeling that a great cloud of witnesses is present with you.

It is a reminder of what we often forget being "Supper" driven. Bread and wine are never served to a few, but to many. Each time we have communion, we eat and drink not just with those gathered. We have communion with that great cloud of witnesses that have gathered to have communion with Jesus.

I'll remember that when I have communion. Or more rightly said, when we have communion.

Blessings,

Randy

Grace Notes: Born to Run - Danny Gulden, Lead Pastor Promise Road Campus



Christopher McDougall wrote a book last year entitled *Born to Run*. Even if you are not a runner (or you think you are a runner like me), it is well worth the read. He examines a tribe of people living in Mexico who routinely run 50 miles per day barefoot and on some of the most rugged terrain in all of North America. He wonders how it is that they can run this way and this far while most people can barely finish a mile. He does some research and comes up with a theory. In the ancient days, most people had to do some form of hunting and gathering. If a person was chasing an animal, there was no way that a human could outrun most animals for speed. They would simply run until the animal could no longer run because a human being was built for endurance rather than speed. His conclusion is that everyone is equipped to run a marathon.

Now, I don't want to challenge each of us to run a marathon, but there is an important point here. We are created with the capability to do far more than we ever imagined. Scripture is full of stories about people and communities who said, "we can't do that." Yet, God worked through them, even in their doubt, to build the kingdom of God on earth. It's good news that God has placed far more trust in us than we place in ourselves. God has equipped and empowered us in far greater ways than we are willing to admit. Perhaps there is fear around being the person or the church that God has created us to be.

Church, we are born to run. One of my greatest joys in ministry is helping to set the conditions in which people feel empowered to accomplish a shared mission. There is no reason for us to play small or to believe that we are inadequate. Together, we are called and equipped by God. That's all we need to be the people and the church God desires us to be.

Blessings on the journey,

Danny

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Annual Meeting Recap



The Annual Meeting of Geist Christian Church was held on Monday, January 20 at the Promise Road Campus with approximately 120 people in attendance. Moderator, Yee Yee Kuhn first called on each of the ministers to reflect on a celebration in ministry in 2019. Following this, she reviewed the progress on the strategic plan in the past year.

Over a two-year period from 2016 through 2017, the board, with significant input opportunities for the congregation, created a three to five-year plan to address who we are, where we need to focus and how we will address staff in an ever changing ministry as one church in two locations. From that time came a new vision statement - Geist Christian Church is a faithful, growing church that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality

and has a heart for God and a heart for people.

The six goals developed in this process have to do with quality worship and staff, opportunities for study and outreach, attention to developing culture that is financially engaged in the mission of the church and the development of a communication strategy to tell the Geist Christian Church story.

The fifth goal received the most attention in 2019. *Geist Christian Church will intentionally and systemically recruit and retain talented and creative personnel dedicated to the Geist Christian Church mission and who exemplify pastoral care.*

Kuhn reported, "A great deal has been accomplished in adding talented and creative personnel. Danny Gulden was called as the Lead Pastor for the Promise Road Campus. Filling this position begins to implement a new staffing model for the congregation. As early as 2016, the leaders of the church have been in conversation about succession planning for our founding pastor. A healthy model with great potential for revitalizing our congregation is to have two Lead Pastors, one at the Promise Road Campus and one at the Mud Creek Campus, eventually, "co-senior pastors." Danny has been able to begin to build the staff at the Promise Road Campus by adding Deb Strock-Kuss as Associate Pastor and Katie Kerr as Director of Children's Ministries."

Also at the meeting, Treasurer, Tom Ayers, reviewed the financials and presented the budget for 2020. The general fund ended the year with a favorable net income of \$28,205. A debt reduction of \$464,000 was achieved in 2019. The 2020 budget was approved.

Kerri Irwin presented the 2020 leadership to the meeting on behalf of the Nominations Committee and all were approved.

Always a highlight of the Annual Meeting is the announcement of the Membership Recognition Award. Pat Murray was recognized as the recipient for 2019 with the title of "Humble Servant." Murray cares for landscape and attends services at both campuses. He serves on the Prison Ministry team, is a member of the Bridge and is active in the Find and Feed ministry in downtown Indianapolis among many other connections. Congratulations and well-deserved, Pat! ➤



CONNECT Children's Ministries

WOW! LOOKS WHAT'S COMING!

Easter Eggstravaganza - Sunday, March 22 - 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 need youth 5th grade and above and adults to help with games, putting out eggs, crafts and snacks.

We will also be taking donations of filled Easter eggs and snacks (fruit, cookies, brownies, etc). Pick up a bag of empty eggs at either campus and bring them back filled! Please look for sign-ups and collection bins at both campuses.

Vacation Bible School – Rainforest Explorers - June 22-26 Promise Road Campus - 9am -12pm - We are excited to celebrate Jesus with the children during the Geist Christian Church summer VBS! The rainforest is a wild place. It's got all kinds of critters. To make it through this unknown world safely, kids need a guide who can keep them on the right path. At Rainforest Explorers VBS, we will learn how Jesus is our ultimate guide in the rainforest and throughout our lives. We might feel lost, but He'll show us the way. He'll never leave us. Jesus treasures us so much!



Registration will open in mid-April for those children age 4 (by September 1, 2020) through 3rd grade (fall 2020). Children 4th grade on up will be welcome to

help in a variety of roles to assist our "crews". We will be looking for LOTS of volunteers of ALL ages to help with this exciting adventure! Join us as a "Guide" and lead a group or as a volunteer for our rotation classes. You won't want to miss this!

G56 – Grades 5 & 6 Friday Fun Night! - Friday, February 28. - Put the date on your calendar! All 5th and 6th graders are invited to an evening of fun! We'll pass out further details soon.

ATTENTION - Current 4th & 5th graders – The G56 Service "Week" is June 9-11 from 9am-1pm at the Mud Creek Campus. This is THE "week" you don't want to miss. Please plan to join in these three awesome days of service in our local community. WHY?? Get to know your fellow G56ers, help others and have loads of fun! Registration begins in April.

Weekday Ministries News

We are half-way through our school year and already preparing for next year! The registration for the fall of 2020 is underway and classrooms are filling up. We have many options for number of days per week for all age groups, beginning with Child's Day Out (children who are 18 months by August 1, 2020) and ending with our wonderful Kindergarten program. Please feel free to go to the website to learn more about us and obtain registration forms (geistwdm.org). All of the nurturing classrooms are age-appropriate, with theme based hands-on learning. Exploring math, science, and language through play builds self-confidence, maturity, and an inquisitive learner! We have also opened up registration for the summer camp programs. The website also offers information on these for both preschool and school aged children. Please call Valerie or Janine with any questions at (317) 578-4591.

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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. This worship experience for youth at Geist Christian Church is called The Table. The Table is a dynamic worship experience offered on the 4th Sunday of each month where youth from both campuses gather to refocus, recharge, and reconnect to God. The next installment of THE TABLE is February 23.



Table Talk - Sometimes we need to talk, and what better place to have those conversations than around a table. On the 2nd (2/9) and 3rd (2/16) Sunday of each month, youth will gather at both campuses to talk about their faith. Each week we will explore contemporary issues and experiences to talk logically about what they believe and why that belief is important. Through their language and faith formation, handed down by the church, we will envision the church of tomorrow.

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. This new year, we are updating the schedule to allow for more small group activities, which will complement our large group gatherings.



- 5:00 pm - Let's go small! Youth will gather in small groups according to their age and stage (Jr. High and High School) as they engage in a Bible study around the topic of Let's Walk. This Fall and Spring, youth will tackle a variety of topics from doubt and service to diving deeper into the Christmas and Easter story.
- 5:30 pm - We love to eat! Each week we will have a different food option for dinner. These meals will range from home cooked to store bought and will only cost \$5. Coming to the table is biblical, so we hope you will join us for food and fellowship as we break bread together.
- 6:00 pm - Divide and Conquer! - We have an amazing youth schedule designed around a play-full life. Each month we offer a variety of activities designed for the Jr. High and High School students to bring joy and encourage fellowship with our students. Coming events include:

Coming Events in February:

- February 8 – Ski Trip | Are you adventurous? Want to make new memories with friends? The GCC Youth Ministry will be giving you the perfect chance to become the next USA Olympic Skier as we head out to Perfect North for a day of skiing and snow tubing! The cost of the trip will be \$70, and the youth will depart at 7am from Promise Road Campus. Youth may bring extra money to cover for snacks at the ski lodge. Registration is open! Make sure to RSVP to this event, you will not want to miss out! RSVP to Kyle.Brown@geistchristian.org.
- February 16 – Board Game Night | If you haven't played any board games lately, then you might want to head out to Promise Road and have an entire evening filled with board games! You can even bring your own favorite games. This evening is a perfect chance to let your competitiveness show so do not be shy and come on by.
- February 23 - Dodgeball | Our very own classic game is back! As parents talk about the amazing mission trips taking place this summer, youth will be invited to play some dodgeball. Head out to Promise Road to let your inner competitiveness shine!
- February 25 - Fat Tuesday Fimdraisor | Did you know that the biggest pancake in the world weighed about 6,614 pounds? Even though we might not be making the biggest pancake, we will be making pancakes for our BIGGEST fundraiser yet! This fundraiser raises money for their 2020 mission trips that will be taking place in Mexico, Memphis, TN, and Lexington, Ky. This fun meal will be served in the ALTARed Worship Space at the Mud Creek Campus. Youth will need to arrive at 4pm to help set up and begin cooking some awesome, yummy pancakes.

Outreach

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.



Blood Drive, February 23, Mud Creek Campus - 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.

Versiti Blood Center of Indiana 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, February 23, 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. While walk-in volunteers are welcome, scheduling an appointment makes it easier to plan staffing for the blood mobile.

Creation Care Tip

Some reasons to skip topping off at a filling station:

1. Topping off affects the air you breathe! When vehicles are overfilled, gas vapors can escape into the air and produce toxic air pollutants. That adversely affects air quality, which ultimately affects your health as well.
2. Topping off costs you money! According to the EPA, drivers who top off at the pump are likely paying for gas they're not getting. That's because gas station pumps have vapor recovery systems that feed gas vapors back into their tanks in an effort to decrease air pollution. So any gas that drivers try to pump into their tanks after the nozzle has clicked may only be drawn into the vapor line and fed back into the gas station's tanks and not your vehicle's fuel tank.
3. Topping off may damage your car! Fuel tanks need extra room inside them so gas can expand while the is being operated. Without room to expand, gas may evaporate into the vehicle's vapor collection system, which can damage the system and produce greater gas emissions, thereby harming the planet.

Topping off at the filling station may seem like a savvy move. But drivers, their vehicles and the planet are best served by taking the pump handle out of the tanks at the familiar sound of the nozzle's click.



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News Around Geist Christian Church

New Members

Peggy Paden
Stacey Wilson

Births

Taylor & Morgan Clarkson, daughter Peyton Mae,
12/6, grandparents Keith & Kim Scheid

In Sympathy

Shawn Dunagin, grandmother Frances Lekens
Marilyn Schneider, sister June Wood
Ross Merkel, brother-in-law Dennis Byrd
Roma Mullin*
Christine Jackson, father Carl Allspaw
Evelyn Watkins*
Mary Jo Renshaw, mother Donna Good
Dianne Boyd, father Ken Sheets
Thaymer Eppler, cousin Verla Burgess
Bruce Russell, uncle DeWayne Nevil
Jan Dixon, son Michael Dixon
Keith Stoller, father Raymon Stoller
Tracy Troxell, aunt Joan
Debbie Garner, cousin Don Riffle

*denotes GCC member

January				
Service	Jan 4/5	Jan 11/12	Jan 18/19	Jan 25/26
5:30 pm PR	88	70	69	80
9:00 am MC	134	157	131	169
10:00 am PR	228	201	165	221
10:30 am MC	192	244	176	193
Youth (4th Sunday)				21
TOTALS	642	672	541	684

Coffee Hosts Needed at Promise Road Campus

The closing of the Lobby Cafe at the Promise Road Campus has provided an opportunity to serve and to offer visitors and members gracious hospitality. During worship services, we are looking for 1-2 people to brew coffee (you will be trained) and to bring snacks to share. Ideally, you will also greet people before and after worship services as they get coffee. We would love to get a group together willing to be our Coffee Host Team with people serving approximately one service per month. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Danny Gulden at danny.gulden@geistchristian.org.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS

Concert Series – “Be Italian” Cabaret – March 1 at 6:00pm, Mud Creek Campus

The Chancel Choir and soloists will present “Be Italian,” an Italian themed cabaret. The event will begin with a meal at 6:00pm and the show will follow, all events are in the ALTARed Worship Center at the Mud Creek Campus. Come and enjoy a variety of pastas, salad, freshly baked breads, dessert and drinks. Tickets are \$25.00 and can be purchased online at geistchristian.org or in the Great Hall before and after Sunday services. All proceeds from this event will support the Music Program at Geist Christian Church. Advance ticket purchases are appreciated so food can be planned accordingly. We hope you will plan to join us for what is sure to be a fun evening for all.

Souper Bowl of Caring

The youth of Geist Christian Church will have soup bowls and be standing at the doors after worship on Sunday, February 2, 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!



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