



CrossWords

news of Geist Christian Church

March 2020

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New Sermon Series for Lent

At the Promise Road Campus - Unafraid: Overcoming the Power of Fear

"Do not be afraid" is one of the most frequently given commandments in the Bible, and yet fear still dictates our individual lives and our life together in countless ways. During the season of Lent, we will explore God's power to liberate us from the grip of fear so that we may live with hope and courage.

February 29/March 1	Overcoming the Fear of God
March 7/8	Overcoming the Fear of the Unknown
March 14/15	Overcoming the Fear of Rejection
March 21/22	Overcoming the Fear of the Other
March 28/29	Overcoming the Fear of Not Having Enough
April 4/5	Overcoming the Fear of Being Forgotten

At the Mud Creek Campus - Stories on the Way to the Cross

Jesus announces to his disciples that he is going to Jerusalem to be crucified and he calls them to go with him. As they walk from Galilee to Jerusalem, he tells them stories to prepare them for what is to come. These stories, called parables, are sometimes described as "earthly stories with a heavenly meaning." As we make our way to Jerusalem, we listen to these stories and the truth Jesus taught about following him to the cross.

Ash Wednesday, February 26	Sinners: Luke 18:9-14
March 1	The Neighbor: Luke 10:25-37
March 8	The Barn Builder: Luke 12:13-21
March 15	Manure: Luke 13:6-9
March 22	Lost and Found: Luke 15
March 29	A Certain Man: Luke 16
April 5	Entry Talk: Luke 19:11-40

Plan Now for Holy Week Services

Plan now to attend the Holy Week services offered at Geist Christian Church.

Palm Weekend, April 4/5 regular worship schedule at both campuses.
Maunder Thursday, April 9 7:30pm services at both campuses.
Good Friday, April 10 Vigil (six-30 minute services)
 12noon - 3:00pm - Mud Creek Campus
 6:00pm Mud Creek Campus

Easter Weekend, April 11/12

Promise Road Campus

5:30pm Saturday and 9:30am and 11:00am Sunday

Mud Creek Campus

9:00am, 10:00am and 11:15am Sunday



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Pastors Page

Randy Reflects - Randy Spleth, Senior Minister



It was written for a children's Sunday school in the 19th century. I learned it as a child and sang it often. It found its way into the hymnal and we still today, sing it on Palm Sunday. Despite its popularity and longevity, I have always found it confusing. The choice of preposition in the title is misleading. Given the lyrics, "about" needs to replace "of."

The hymn is *Tell me the Stories of Jesus*. Jesus was the great storyteller and the title of this more than century long favorite doesn't deliver. No story of Jesus is referenced. The lyrics talk about Jesus life, about "scenes by the wayside and tales of the sea." It remembers Jesus welcoming children and his "deeds full of grace." It sings "loudest Hosannas" but there isn't one reference to a story of Jesus. It all about Jesus' life.

Changing the lyrics from "of" to "about" would throw off the meter. It wouldn't sing right. But we are going to tell stories of Jesus, stories told by Jesus because they are great stories. Luke says he told these parables on the way to the cross, told them to his followers to prepare them for the life to come. We will use them over the next seven weeks to understand what it means to follow Jesus.

Great storyteller's activate our imagination, inviting us to see and hear beneath the surface of the story. They encourage us to step into the drama, try on the clothes of a characters, discover a new way of thinking, a truth to live by.

Jesus' parables do this and more. They timelessly convey the truth of God's love for us and how our lives can find meaning and purpose in Jesus. They are Good News and as such, the hymn gets that part right. These are the stories of Jesus, I love to hear.

Blessings,
Randy

Grace Notes: Making Room for God- Danny Gulden, Lead Pastor Promise Road Campus



Major League Baseball's Spring Training is in full swing. Teams and players use this time to get ready for the grind of the regular season. As people of faith, we are entering a time when we are getting ready, doing the necessary work so that we are ready to fully receive the Good News of the resurrection. Lent is a time of spiritual preparation when we take stock so that we may be prepared for God to do something new with us. Lent is not only a time of preparation, but of transformation.

We emulate the 40 days that Jesus spent wrestling in the wilderness. In the wilderness, Jesus was tempted to become someone inauthentic to his call. He was tempted to sacrifice his mission for self-indulgent pleasures. Fredrick Buechner describes this period as "Jesus figuring out what it means to be Jesus." Much like Jesus, we spend time figuring out what it means to be ourselves, to be authentic to who God has made us to be. Many give up something during this season as a discipline. It's a realization that we need to give up something so that we can make room for God, make room for true life.

I suspect when we make room for God, we will be pleased with what we discover. Paul wrote to the church at Rome, "You are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you." For Paul, God already dwelled in us, in humanity. The words of Jesus, "You are the light of the world" are true because God dwells in us. Transformation comes when we know beyond a shadow of a doubt who we are and whose we are and live according to that the truth.

Blessings on the journey,
Danny

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CONNECT Adult Ministries

Senior Adult Ministry – March 15 - The next Senior Adult Ministry gathering is on Sunday, March 15 at 4:00 pm. The program will be presented by Geist Christian Church member, Jeff Fierce, and will focus on the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The Indiana Children's Wish Fund is a single-entity statewide wish-granting organization that grants wishes to Indiana children, ages 3-18, who have been diagnosed with a life-threatening or terminal illness. It is not affiliated with any other wish-granting organization. Indiana Children's Wish Fund was founded in August of 1984 and it is entering their 36th year of wish granting.

Wish Children are referred to this organization by their doctors, nurses, social workers, parents, among others. Pitch-in begins at 4:00pm. Bring your favorite dish to share. The program will begin following the meal. Join the group for good fellowship, good conversation, and the opportunity to learn more about the Make-A-Wish Foundation. While there is no obligation, there will be a free-will offering for the Children's Wish Fund, should you wish to do so.

Page Turners – The Book Club of Geist Christian Church - Page Turners, the book club of Geist Christian Church will meet at 6:30 pm at the Mud Creek Campus in the Library on the following dates:

- March 25th - *The Girl with Seven Names* by author Hyeonsoo Lee
- May 27th - *What Alice Forgot* by author Liane Moriarty

If you have any questions, please contact Elena Derbique at elena.derbique@gmail.com.

New Lenten Study for Women - In this study of 1 & 2 Kings, you can join Lysa TerKeurst in Israel as she honestly reveals the places of distrust in her own heart while exploring the deeply personal applicable scriptures that will teach us how to truly trust God. The study group will meet on Thursdays at the Promise Road Campus in the Hospitality Room from 6:30pm – 7:30pm. The group will meet weekly through April 2. Whether you can come to all or just a few sessions, all are welcome. Contact Jennifer Spivey, jkspivey@att.net for more information.

Creation Care Tip

Practice Composting - Composting breaks down organic matter, which includes anything that was once living. This means you are recycling nutrients to return them to the earth, so you can use the end product to improve the quality of your soil. The benefits of composting are:

- Diverts organic matter from landfills helping reduce methane and carbon emissions
- Increases carbon in the soil keeping carbon out of the atmosphere.
- Recycles nutrients, improving soil quality
- Saves water to promote healthy soil - less need for moisture
- Saves you money - less need for moisture
- Makes you more aware of how much food you waste

Getting started: Keep a small, sealed container in your kitchen or in an outdoor compost bin to collect food waste for compost. What you can compost:

- vegetable and fruits scraps
- Coffee grounds
- Egg shells
- Tea bags
- Lawn clippings
- Tree Branches
- Wood ashes from fires
- Natural fibers

Don't forget to bring your ink and toner cartridges, old batteries and phones to the kitchen at Mud Creek. The phones go to the Jillian Center to equip abused women with a means to call 911. We have contributed many phones to this cause. THANK YOU!!!!



CONNECT Children's Ministries

Sunday School - Revealed!



Just in time for Spring, Children's Ministry will be starting a new series for March in Sunday school classes called REVEALED, and it's about some of Jesus' parables, and the idea of growing our faith. Our memory verse is "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV)

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.

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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 March 22

Table Talk - Sometimes we need to talk, and what better place to have those conversations than around a table. On the 2nd (March 8) and 3rd (March 15) 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. Here is this month's schedule:



- March 1- Art Project | "Earth without Art is 'eh'!" It's time to be creative and make some awesome art that your parents would love to have at the house! Bring out your creativity and find your inner childhood as there will be plenty of space to let your imagination run. You will not want to miss out so come to Promise Rd and let your imagination take over.
- March 8 - Baking Challenge | Do you like to watch cooking shows? Want to be the next Chef Gordon Ramsey? Then grab your aprons and head out to Mud Creek for a friendly baking challenge. Youth will partake in the SECOND EVER baking challenge known to Geist Christian Church Youth. This competition will be on Facebook Live for all family and friends to tune in and watch. Mark your calendars because you will not want to miss out on this event as some crazy surprises might be in the mix!
- March 22 - Romans and Christians | Your favorite game of the year is back! Come be a Christian who is running away from the Romans (Youth Adults). We all know Youth love a friendly competition with their Youth Leaders so come and invite your friends, the more the merrier (youth adults might think otherwise)! This game will be held at Mud Creek so prepare yourself for a fun and active evening!
- March 15- Escape Room | You might have never thought that you would have to escape from your very own church, but this evening is just that! We will be having our very OWN escape room held at Mud Creek for a fun and exciting escape. This will test out teamwork, speed, creativity, and patience as you indulge in solving puzzles and finding hidden clues. You will NOT want to miss out!
- March 29- Operation Find and Feed | This weekend we will be partnering with Operation Find and Feed to spread a little love through the act of service. A small group of Christians (Operation Find and Feed) took on the idea to provide food and necessities to the homeless in our city and we are going to join them! Come to Promise Rd and let's help out our city!

Save the Date - April 24-26- Youth Retreat | It is time for the annual Youth Getaway! This is one of the most highlighting events of the year! The Youth Retreat will take place on April 24-26. It includes a fun three-day adventure of small group time, free time, and opportunities to grow in our faith with one another. The cost for this year's retreat is \$100.

Outreach

Help the Food Pantries -

The shelves are bare, and those who are hungry need your help. Geist Christian Church partners with The Sharing Place and Come to Me Food Pantry to help combat hunger as we collect desired items to ensure maximum impact in our community. Below is a list of needed items, and donations can be dropped off anytime at the Promise Road Campus and at the Mud Creek Campus. Let's stack the odds against hunger as we stock their shelves with food for the hungry.

- Granola bars
- Canned soup
- Canned diced tomatoes
- Canned tomato sauce
- Ramen noodles
- Mac and cheese
- Jiffy corn muffin mix
- Laundry detergent
- Monetary donations

Mission Trip to Guatemala - October 3-November 10, 2020 - Informational Meeting: March 28, 4:30pm at the Promise Rd Campus - This October, Kyle Brown invites up to 14 adults (ages 14 and up) to join him on a 7-day mission trip to Guatemala. During this international mission trip, the group 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 makeshift 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. The cost for this trip will be around \$1,700 (including: flight, hotel accommodations, most meals, and building materials). Although we have passed the early deadline sign-up, we still have room for members of Geist Christian Church to attend this international mission trip. If you would like more information please contact Kyle Brown at kyle.brown@geistchristian.org.

Weekday Ministries News

WDM is full of super heroes! Our super hero dads were present for Dads and Donuts. Our super hero police department visited for Books and Badges. Even our teachers and students dress the part to celebrate the letter "S" with Sammy S Snake and our Zoophonics curriculum.



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News Around Geist Christian Church

In Sympathy

Chris Burns, aunt Lois Kaler
 Steve Russell, father Ted Russell
 Norris Nierste, wife **Suzy Nierste***
Judy Blankenship*
 Kyle Grayson, mother **Sharlot Grayson***
 Christine Jackson, mother Rita Allspaw
 Marge Galbraith, mother Dorothy Temple

*denotes GCC member

Births

Chad & Melissa Rollins, daughter Maren Louise, 2/9

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Evelyn Watkins

Bill & Joni Schneider
 Nanci Cummings
 Larry & Louise Smith
 Mark & Nancy Hershman
 Les & Marge Galbraith
 Kerry Bishop
 Priscilla Mingle
 Kent & Lori Kline
 Steve & Cindy Hall
 Craig & Myrna Mullins
 Neil & Sandy Topliffe
 Don & Carolyn Hetzler
 Charles & Jane Strotman
 Philip & Nancy Dare
 Roger & Sue Watkins

In Memory of Susie Nierste

B.R. & C.L. Hutson
 Kent & Lori Kline

In Memory of David Dick

Kay Dick

In Memory of John Beard

Steve & Tracy Line

In Memory of Anna Hall

Mark & Joyce Cook

In Memory of Nancy McConnell

Greg & Yee Yee Kuhn

February				
Service	Feb 1/2	Feb 8/9	Feb 15/16	Feb 22/23
5:30 pm PR	78	67	79	65
9:00 am MC	157	165	180	224
10:00 am PR	232	199	244	209
10:30 am MC	213	225	243	245
Youth (4th Sunday)				17
TOTALS	680	656	746	

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Great American Songbook – March 29, 6:00pm at the Mud Creek Campus - Indiana native Jessamyn Anderson will present an evening of music from The Great American Songbook. A multi-faceted singer and speaker, she performs a wide variety of genres for audiences across the U.S. but her heart belongs to musical theatre and the Songbook standards. This fall, she released her debut album *There is a Season*, which features music from *The Great American Songbook*. Miss Anderson will be accompanied by DeDe Mantock, piano, for this performance. Plan to attend what will be a wonderful evening of music. Admission is free. Refreshments and fellowship will follow in Great Hall.

Holy Land Pilgrimage - October 27-November 6, 2020 - Another opportunity to travel with Randy and Ann Spleth to Israel is offered this fall. Walk where Jesus walked, see his birthplace, experience Golgotha and visit the Garden Tomb. By the Sea of Galilee, hear Jesus' call to follow. Read the Sermon of the Mount on the Beatitudes. Your eyes will be truly opened by breaking bread at Emmaus. The pilgrimage is October 27 through November 6. Information about the trip is found at <https://www.travelillum.com/trc/lbb> or by contacting Randy at randy.spleth@geistchristian.org.

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