

Church Staff

Rev. Rebecca Clancy, Pastor
Karen Howard, Music Director
Patricia Alcorn, Organist
Lynnly Buchanan, Church Secretary
Catherine Erwin, Minister of Christian Education
Phil Potoczek, In-Care Seminarian
Kyle Tade, In-Care Seminarian
Jillian Lindeen, In-Care Seminarian

Church Officers

Clyde Jones, Moderator
Dave Buchanan, Vice-Moderator
David Fauntleroy, Treasurer
Dan Brand, Financial Secretary
Open, Historian
Sue Cechner & Barb Malone, Clerks

Board Chairs

Barb Malone, Worship
Sharon Jones & Kim Valentine, Deacons Board
Daniele Gibney & Lynnly Buchanan, Christian Education Board
Becca Clancy & Nancy Hannah, Missions Bd.
Lynnly Buchanan, Properties Board
Mike rosier, Stewardship Bd.

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United Church of Christ
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geneva-ucc.org

Franciscan Benediction

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths,
and superficial relationships
so that you may live deep within your heart.
May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression,
and exploitation of people
so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.
May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer
that you may reach out your hand to comfort them
and to turn their pain into joy.
And May God bless you with enough foolishness
to believe that you can make a difference in the world
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done
to bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.
Amen.





Sunday Schedule

9:00 am Choir Practice
10:00 am Morning Worship
11:00 am Coffee/ Fellowship

Board Meetings & Events

Sun	June 6	9:00 am	Trinity Church visit
		10:00 am	Holy Communion
		11:15 am	Missions Board meeting
Sun	June 13	10:00 am	Outdoor Service, Riverpark
Fri	June 18	7:00 pm	Justice Series final movie
Sat	June 19	8:30 am	SoSoGo Breakfast
Sun	June 20		Father's Day !!
Sun	July 4	10:00 am	Holy Communion

Birthdays !

Ian B	Sharon J
David B	Dave B
Sam V	Abbey W
Doug C	Collin B
Siri H	

Anniversaries !

Barbara and Dayle M	23 Years
Linda and Paul M	22 Years

If your birthday or anniversary isn't listed above, please call the church office to update our records.

Remember In Your Prayers...

- Karen Howard's brother, Bruce (illness);
- Karen Howard's cousin, Tom (illness);
- Pat Alcorn's friend, Josephine (illness);
- Sue Cechner's mother, Maxine (illness);
- Clyde Jones' brother-in-law, Stu (illness);
- Catherine Erwin's friend, Lynn (illness);
- Karen Stark's father, Adolph (illness);
- Cheri Barrett's daughter, Jenea (illness);
- Mike Rosier's mother, Jan (illness);
- The people in China and Chile affected by the earthquakes;
- The people of Angola who are being forced from their homes

Additionally, please remember our ill and home-bound members: Emma Gene Buchanan, Betty Deitrich, Nell Graham, Elsie Hogancamp, Lucille Landberg, and Esther Wessels. Finally, please pray for those serving in the military around the world.

For the Record...



Pulpit Associate volunteers for the coming months:

June	Lynnly Buchanan & Nate Brand
July	Open
August	Open

If you are interested in serving as Pulpit Associate or Usher talk with Barb Malone, Worship Board Chairperson.

Food For Thought...

“To get back my youth I would do anything in the world, except take exercise, get up early, or be respectable.”

Oscar Wilde

From The Pastor

The “oldest profession,” biblically speaking at least, is not what it is said to be. The “oldest profession,” biblically speaking, is gardening – “And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed.” That first garden provided prodigiously for all the man’s wants – “out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food...”

But of course, the man, or at least his wife, ruined everything. She reached for the fruit of the forbidden tree and thereby skewed relationship – relationship between humanity and God and relationship within humanity, of course; but also relationship between humanity and the earth. Going forward the man would toil against ground that bore witness to his cursed condition. The writer of the Garden of Eve narrative could not have conceived the extent to which humanity would, some three millennia later, exacerbate the conflict within its relationship with the earth, the extent to which the ground now bears witness to humanity’s cursed condition. The ground is increasingly dead or dying, killed because humanity supplanted God’s wisdom with its own.

But God will never leave himself without witnesses to himself. Prophetic voices are sounding. Many of us have heard them sound in the movies of The Justice Series. In order to revive the ground we need simply to return to God’s wisdom – which provides that we are its stewards, not its despoilers. For this reason, our church has taken up the oldest profession. In taking up gardening, we are attempting to stand in right relationship with the ground. We are attempting to be stewards, not despoilers. With God’s direction and through God’s wisdom, may our attempts at stewardship extend to other areas of our lives. May we all “Grow in His Spirit” this summer.

With you in His service,

Becca

From The Moderator

So you thought that miracles only happened in the Bible. I had a miracle occur at the Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital the other day. I was scheduled for surgery on my achilles tendon that I had ruptured playing tennis back in March. Sharon and I had steeled ourselves for a long recovery – one month in a cast keeping the weight off the left foot and one month in “da boot” and a lot of physical therapy. We ordered and set up a hospital bed, crutches, extended toilet seat and roly polly (a great contraption that allows you to scoot around on one leg) and had everything arranged so I could stay on the first floor. I even had neighbors who were going to hoist me up the entrance stairs of the house. We arrived at the hospital at 6:00 am and I was prepped for surgery including the IV. We even had the chaplain come in with words of encouragement. Dr. Markarian arrived shortly thereafter to sign my left leg (so there was no mistake which leg he was going to cut) but before he did he wanted to examine my Achilles tendon. He had not seen me for three weeks and he wanted to know how it was mending by itself. After a bit of prodding he said he thought that the rupture was healing nicely and in his opinion I did not need surgery – only physical therapy! Wow we were both shocked and happy. So I am in heavy duty therapy and have an Iceman machine to reduce the swelling in the leg. Thank you for all your prayers – especially the Choir prayer group. I believe it works!

Thanks also to the many gardeners in the Church. The raised beds north of the Church are looking good. Even the strawberry vines are getting berries – one nice red one in particular. Sharon put up green polls in the form of a teepee for her poll beans that we planted. Our grandchildren in St. Louis have one of these and they sit inside the teepee and pick the beans when they are ripe. We are looking forward to a fine crop.

Remember to bring a friend to Church and preferably one who likes to sing! See you there. God bless.

W. Clyde Jones, III



*I send prayers of gratitude to all
that has given of itself on this day.
The strong beans and the hardy grains,
the beautiful leafy green plants and sweet juicy fruits.
I thank the sun that warmed and vitalized them,
just as it does me,
and the earth that held and nourished them, as it does me
and the waters that bathed and refreshed them, as they do for me.
I thank the fire that transformed them,
just as I wish to be transformed by the fires of the Spirit.
I thank the hands that grew and prepared this food,
just as I thank all those that have touched me in so many ways.*

■ Sedonia Cahill

It's hard to believe that summer is here. For some it is a long coveted, hoped for, yearned for experience of the universe, or at least a momentous break in the yearly cycle. For others it seems like only yesterday the snow blower was going full force, Easter seems last week, and time seems to be flying by. Regardless, summer is the time when all of us follow the shift in our world's rhythms.

It has been an incredible, and yes busy, year at First Congregational Church Geneva. We have chosen to take on many important causes, to look out through Christ-like eyes and truly see some of the pain, struggle, injustice, needless sorrow of our world, and reached out to make a difference. We have truly, intentionally tried to walk the walk, not just talk the talk, and we have seen what amazing things can happen when we proactively walk with God. "I send out prayers of gratitude" for each of you and your ministries! We have nurtured each other, supported each other, brainstormed and played together. It is not just as the incredible individuals you all are, but by the combined force of

community, a community grounded in Christ, that we have accomplished this.

And the work continues. The opportunities for ministry change for the summer. Our garden plots are up and running, teaching our children, nourishing our bodies, and with many commitments to furnishing needed fresh vegetables to local food banks. We continue with our regular food drives. Remember, summer for many families in need means a loss of school lunch programs and an even greater need of assistance. We have Justice movies and an upcoming Worship service by the river, taking this important core experience of our faith out into the world, to touch others as God would have it happen.

And we continue to walk together, to rejoice in stories of vacations that seem always filled with fun and laughter, and yes, some frustration - of far flung families reunited, of the majesties and wonders of God's earth appreciated. All of this helps transform our small community of the faithful into the strong witness of God that we continue to strive to be.

"I thank all those that have touched me in so many ways."

Blessings,
Catherine



Prayer Team

The FCCG Prayer Team's focus for the month of June will be to thank the Lord for all the wonders of His creation and to pray that we can keep it environmentally sound for future generations. Remember to keep trying to devote 5 minutes a day in dedicated prayer.

Contact me if you have any prayer ideas for the future months. You may contact Sue Cechner.

What's Up With the Missions Board?

Letter Writing Campaign - Often during the year we are called on to support one or another mission project with our hearts and our wallets. We always rise to the occasion. Sometimes, we are called on to answer with our hearts and our hands. This is one such situation.



Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice that urges our nation's decision makers to improve the lives of the poor and hungry both here in the US and throughout the world. This year their efforts at policy changes address issues of hunger for low-income families throughout the United States. Important legislation is coming up for review in 2010, and you can help our government do what's best for those who most need your care and support.

In a low-income family's budget, some expenses are fixed, like rent, transportation, utilities and child care. Others, like the cost of food, are often the most flexible, and so the one place a struggling family can control costs. The government has implemented several child nutrition programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC), and the school meal programs. These are great starts, but progress against hunger requires broader effort to reduce poverty.

The causes of hunger in the US are rooted in poverty. Parents earning low wages struggle to make ends meet and feed their children. Low-income families live on the edge of a financial precipice, and are constantly worried, stressed, and afraid. If the car breaks down or a child gets sick, it could mean the difference between having food on the table or not. Poverty forces drastic choices.

This year's Bread for the World Offering of Letters will urge congress to adopt changes to US tax policy that will benefit low-income families. What do tax credits have to do with hunger? Less taxes paid means more money in the bank to cover expenses. The tax code has many incentives in it that encourage taxpayers to make certain fiscal choices, like saving for retirement, getting a college education, or owning a home. But many of those kinds of credits are out of reach for low-income earners who often do not have the same tools for those kinds of expenditures. The ones that do help are in danger of being reduced or eliminated.

The Earned Income Tax Credit was established in 1975 to help low-income families hold on to more of their earnings. It is a refundable tax credit geared primarily toward families with two children. It is a great benefit for those who are able to use it, and has helped more than 22 million households. As effective as this simple program is, it could be made even more helpful. For example, the size of the tax credit does not increase for families with more than 2 children, even though their poverty rates are higher. Filing for the EITC is also complicated, leading most eligible families to be forced to use commercial tax prep services. If the average benefit of the EITC is about \$1800, losing \$200 of it is a big deal.

Another credit, the Child Tax Credit, is worth up to \$1000 for each child under the age of 17 claimed on a worker's return. Until recently this credit was not available to families with incomes under \$11,300. We need to ensure that recent improvements that allow low-income families to use this credit stay in place beyond their 2010 expiration date. There are millions of families that need this credit.

This year's letters will encourage congress to protect and strengthen the EITC and the Child Tax Credit. They will also seek additional funding assistance for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites, which provide financial education and free tax preparation assistance to low-income people.

You will find example letters in the Mayflower Room to use. You can either 1) sign each of the example letters (including address) and leave them to be mailed en mass; 2) re-write each of the letters in your own handwriting (more effective) and leave them to be mailed en mass; or 3) use the example as a basis for your own impassioned plea for help. Whatever you have time for, you will accomplish big things. Bread for the World has accomplished many things at a systemic level by banding together people who care enough to write a letter. And listen, if you are under 18 and can't vote, congressmen still want to hear from you. You'll be voting one day. Don't pass up the chance to speak out when you get it.

If you can't make it to church and would like us to snail mail or e-mail you copies of the letter formats call Lynnly at 630-208-8637.

—Thanks in advance for your help—



Food Pantry Needs - The Missions Board is collecting canned foods and other items that are routinely needed by our local food pantries every week throughout the year. It would be our fondest wish that everyone get in the habit of bringing food pantry items with them to church every Sunday, even if it's

just one can a week. The collection tubs will stay at the entrance to the sanctuary at all times. When full, we will be distributing them to the food pantry at St. John's UCC church in Chicago, the food pantry at the Open Door Clinic in Aurora, and the Northern Illinois Food Depository.

The items most often needed by local food pantries includes:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Canned Fruits & Vegetables | Baby Formulas |
| Canned and Dried Soup Mixes | Peanut Butter & Jelly |
| Spaghetti Noodles | Pasta Sauces |
| Canned Tuna or Chicken | Canned or Dry Beans |

- Macaroni & Cheese
- Diapers, size 4, 5, and 6
- Pancake Mix and Syrup

- Rice or Rice Mixes
- Pancake Mix and Syrup

Angola Mission visit – ON Sunday, July 11 we will welcome Donna Dudley, from the Illinois Conference UCC's Angola Mission group, to worship with us and speak with us regarding the UCC's work in Angola and her experience as the UCC's missionary there. She went from an average Joe congregation member to a full time missionary in the blink of an eye after her first trip there several years ago, and her story is quite interesting. Join the Missions Board in welcoming Donna and stay for a missions meeting afterward in which we will hear about the UCC's involvement and work in Angola.



Change for Change - You may recall, back on May 2nd, David Coatsworth, from the Global Ministries office in Cleveland, OH, spent the day with us speaking about what it means to be a global missions church, and celebrating our commitment to become one. At the time, he discussed several initiatives by other churches, begun by children in many cases, in which they collected change from congregation members each week, and put the change to some specific use, whether it be supplying clean bottled water for victims of the Haitian earthquake, or lunches for a local homeless shelter. He discussed the importance of such 'unplanned giving', in which you don't think through what you might put into the collection plate this week or next, but you just toss in whatever change you might have in pocket or purse on Sunday when the plate comes around. Over the next months we too will start collecting change, in the hopes of filling a 5 gallon water jug, so that we too can make change with change. Help us fill the jug, in the mean time the Missions board will be finding a good place to send it to. We'll let you know.





JULIET Meeting

Please join us Friday, June 11, at 1 p.m. JULIET's will have their annual outing to Graham's 318 on Third Street in Geneva. Please join us for an afternoon of treats and conversation. The treats are Dutch treat -- the conversation is for everyone. Call Ruth Marsh, or Nancy Hannah if

you need a ride.

The 2010 Justice Series



The 2010 Justice Series Movie Night continues, and this year includes: *Farmingville*, *Fish Out of Water*, *How to Save the World* and *God Grew Tired of Us*. All movies start at 7:30pm, with movie shorts and an informal pot luck starting at 7pm (and when we say informal

we mean informal...bring whatever you feel like eating and share in whatever everyone else felt like eating). Movies are shown in Fellowship Hall. **Admission is free, and nursery care is available.** The remaining movie schedule is as follows:

June 18 *God Grew Tired of Us* **7:30pm**
A film about the lost boys of the Sudan.

If you wanted to see one of the movies we have shown (this year or in the past) but couldn't make it, call Lynnly to rent the DVD.

Outdoor Service in June!

We will be holding services outdoors on Sunday, June 13th at the RiverPark of Geneva, at Peyton and North River Lane. The service will focus on nature, particularly rivers and the role they played in the Scriptures. The RiverPark is a 1.8 acre park which



was built by the citizens of Geneva to offer a spot where the natural, mid-western beauty of the prairie could be appreciated by everyone. The RiverPark follows the west bank of the Fox River from Hamilton to Ford Street. The service will be held in the park's stone amphitheater and will begin at 10:00 a.m. In case of rain, the service will be held in the church as usual.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

The men's group, Sons of God (SoSoGo), will have their next breakfast meeting on Saturday, June 19th, at 8:30am in Fellowship Hall. All men and boys are welcome. The group will meet on the last Saturday of each month for breakfast and light chores.

Massage Raffle Fundraiser

Laura Fransiscy is holding a fundraiser raffle to benefit a friend who recently had a kidney transplant and is having trouble covering his enormous medical bills without medical insurance. She is a licensed massage therapist, and is raffling off two one-hour massages. Tickets are \$10.00 each and can be purchased from Laura or Tracey after church for the next three weeks. The drawing will be held on Sunday, June 13. You can schedule a time for your massage after the drawing.