



GENEVA NEWS

Worshipping | Learning | Connecting | Giving | Serving

Worship Greeters

Sundays in the Sanctuary

Greeters are back at the sanctuary door! Each week's team represents a different Geneva ministry. If you or your ministry would like to get on the rotation, please contact our Worship Elder Kwang Seo at kseo1948@gmail.com.

Jazz Vespers Concludes

Since 2016, Jazz Vespers has allowed Genevans and beyond to gather in meditation, fellowship, and prayer. Thank you to the Norm Freeman



Quartet and all who supported and enjoyed this service over the past seven wonderful years. We are truly blessed.



Experiencing God

God's love is unconditional, unrestricted, and unyielding

As we begin 2023, our theme is to lean into Geneva's vision of being a welcoming, diverse, and inclusive community. The more we lean into the vision, the more we experience God; the more we experience our true identity as a child of God.

Experience is subjective, yet from God's perspective experience is an absolute. The person who has an experience with God has something beyond the reach of any argument. Experience is personal. Our experience can be measured. Humanity has been redefined from the inside. In Jesus Christ the new has come and the old is gone.

Experiencing God is real, normal, and revealing. In a day and age where reality shows dominate television, experiencing God should be even more captivating, compelling, and



Sundays in the Sanctuary

Yes, the cameras, software, and hardware are installed in the Sanctuary. In January 2023, we will begin live-streaming our 10:30am service, as well as special services. If you are interested in being trained as a member of the Livestream Service Team, please contact Worship Elder Kwang Seo at kseo1948@gmail.com.

Sermon Series: Identity Part II

*Sunday, January 8 -
Sunday February 19*

This month Pastor Steve continues with the sermon series, **Identity Part II**. You are welcome to review the messages from Part I of the series at genevapres.org/currentsermonseries. You may prepare for the message each week by viewing the sermon texts and In Community With bulletins, which are also listed on the Current Sermon Series webpage.

engaging than TV. Christian who grow in their experience of God are the best Jesus others will see. For others to see Jesus, Christians must have an experience with God that is visible.

The most compelling experience with God a believer can have is that of being loved. Let me share three things about experiencing being loved by God.

First, God's love is unconditional. That is hard for most people to realize. We tend to put conditions on our acceptance of people. We set standards we want people to come up to so that we can love them. We don't really love them; we love their good qualities. As miraculous as it is, God loves you just as you are.

Second, God's love is unrestricted. Our love for God and our love for others are directly related. By the quality of our love, we reveal God's love to others. It is imperative that we who call ourselves Christians put God's love for us into action and love others. The Bible says, "God is love." To learn to love, go to the source, God, and experience God's love.

Third, God's love is unyielding. Our Christian love is demonstrated by doing for others what Christ has done for us. That means we learn to accept others with all their faults and failures. We accept them even when we can't approve of what they are doing. God loves you with unyielding passion.

Are you ready to experience God's unconditional, unrestricted, and unyielding love? The more you lean into Geneva's vision, experience God's unconditional, unrestricted, and unyielding love, you'll change. Your old identity continues to be replaced by your new identity as a child of God.

On the journey together, I remain faithfully yours,

Steven M. Marsh, D.Min.

Pastor/Head of Staff



January Events

Meet & Greet Lunch

Sunday, January 8 • 11:30am in Simpson Hall
New members, visitors and guests are invited for lunch and fellowship hosted by Pastor Steve in Simpson Hall immediately following worship. Genevans hosting guests are invited, too! If you are new to Geneva and would like to attend, please register at bit.ly/genevameetngreet.

If you are a Geneva member and plan on bringing someone please send elder Jane Kingston a quick email at jane.kingston@hotmail.com to let her know you're coming. Jane can also answer any questions you may have. Thank you!

Installation of Deacons Sunday

Sunday, January 15 • 10:30am in the Sanctuary
Please join us for Worship as we Ordain and Install the Class of 2025 Deacons: Shirley Fargo, Barbara Frink, Foy Miller, and Nina Pomery. And we thank the Class of 2022 Deacons for their service: Sylvia Comeau, Shirley Fargo, Char Konyndyk, and Ron Lejuwaan.

The Fix-It Gang

Need help taking down Christmas lights or putting away decorations? The Fix-It Gang is back and better, making it easier to request help with a project in your home. All projects are free!

Eligible projects include installations, repairs, and cleaning. For a project to be approved, it must not require a permit per local code enforcement or take more than 2 hours total for each visit. You may request a project online at <https://bit.ly/Fixitgang>, and we will follow up with a phone call to schedule!

Looking for a way to show your gratitude? We love baked goods! If you're looking to donate, please consider giving to the Fix-It Gang or the Youth Scholarship account.

If you're interested in the "fixer" side of things, contact Pastor Ryan at rromberg@genevapres.org.



Geneva Youth: January

Winter Camp 2023 ❄️

January 20-22
Save the date, parents and students! Join the Geneva Youth Team for an awesome weekend in Big Bear.

Where: Big Bear Lake Christian Camp and Conference Center

Drop Off/Pickup: Geneva parking lot by the playground

Cost: \$150, to cover the facility, transportation, & dinners at the campsite.

Register by January 6:
bit.ly/GYcampw23

For Questions about Geneva Youth events, please email etedrow@genevapres.org or visit the Geneva Youth Webpage at genevapres.org/students.

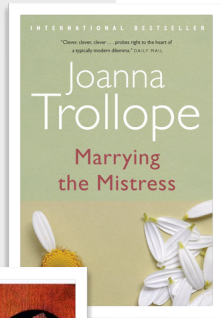


Women’s Book Club

4th Tuesday of the month

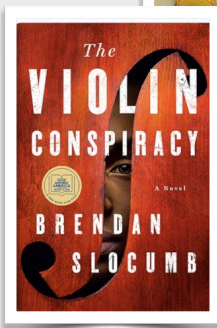
January 24

Marrying the Mistress
by Joanna Trollope



February 28

The Violin Conspiracy
by Brendan Slocumb



Meetings are held at 1pm in the Annex or on Zoom.

GPW Luncheons: Save the Date!

12pm in Simpson Hall

Wednesday, January 18

Join us for Bible Verse Bingo.

Wednesday, February 28

Join us for Fun with Cakes, with Connie Smith.

Organ Recital: It’s All Connected!

Friday, January 27 • 7pm in the Sanctuary

Join organist Lynnette Ball McGee on a musical journey beginning in Europe and moving across the pond to the United States. Her program will feature musical selections by J.S. Bach, Felix Mendelssohn, Franz Liszt, John Knowles Paine, and Louis Vierne.

Lynnette served as organist for more than twenty years at Geneva Presbyterian Church. She is currently the Director of Music and Organist of the First Presbyterian Church in Fullerton. In addition to her church responsibilities, she is a member of the organ faculty of California State University, Fullerton.



Lynnette earned a Master of Music and a Bachelor of Music degree in Organ Performance from California State University, Fullerton, studying with Esther Jones. She graduated with highest honors and was named *Outstanding Performer in Keyboard Studies*. She is currently a Doctoral of Music Arts candidate at Claremont Graduate University, where she was awarded a Music Fellowship and the CE and Bertha Harsh Fellowship.

Her passion for the organ has taken her to Europe where she has studied with world renowned teachers and performed on historic instruments in France, England, Holland, Spain, and Switzerland.

Tough Talks

Sunday, January 29 • 11:30am-1pm in Simpson Hall

Pastor Steve and Pastor Ryan will be discussing difficult passages in the Bible, focusing on Faith and Works, among other topics. Lunch is included; a free will offering will be taken to cover the cost of the food.

GCC Children in Worship

On Sunday December 4th, kids from the Geneva Children’s Center joined us in worship to share a wonderful music presentation! Thank you to the GCC staff and parents for making this happen. Learn more about GCC by visiting www.genevacc.org.





Lenten Season 2023

Lent is a 40-day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Maundy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Biblical texts; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow God's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ. We are also to share God's gifts through sharing our time, talent, and treasure for the betterment of the common good. St. John Chrysostom writes: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs."¹



Steven M. Marsh, D.Min.

¹Adapted from *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 2446



Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 22, 12pm

Service with Ashing and Communion in the Sanctuary.

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 2, 10:30am

Worship in the Sanctuary.
No Sunday School.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 6, 7pm

Communion and Tenebrae Service in the Sanctuary.

Good Friday

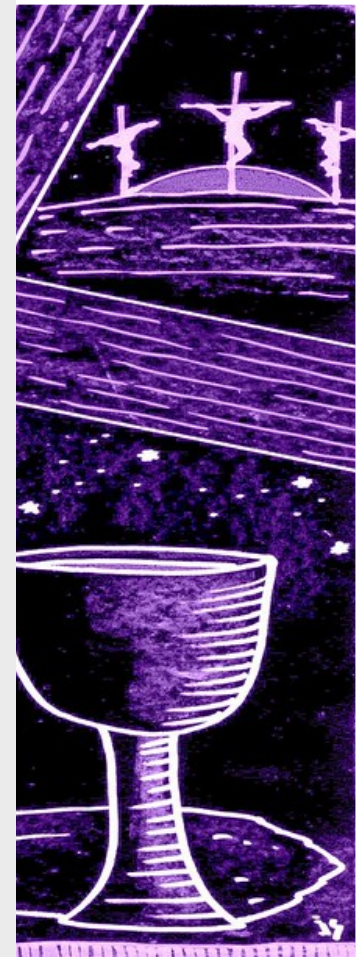
Friday, April 7, 12pm

"The Seven Last Words" Service in the Sanctuary.

Easter

Sunday, April 9, 10:30am

Worship in the Sanctuary.
No Sunday School.



Geneva Youth: February

Bowling and 'Bell

February 11

We start by serving at Parent's Night Out, then hit the lanes to bowl a strike or two. Next, we add the fine dining of Taco Bell—this night just got better.



Where:

Drop off/Pick up: Geneva parking lot by the playground

Cost: \$25, including dinner

Register by February 5:

bit.ly/bowlingbell

Volunteers Needed to Host the Los Ranchos Presbytery Meeting

Thursday, February 23

Geneva will be hosting representative Pastors and Ruling elders from PC(USA) churches in the Orange County and Southern LA County area. They will discuss and vote on issues such as the establishment of new worshipping communities and the presbytery budget. We will need some volunteers to make this a welcoming experience. Please contact [Pastor Steve](#) if you can help greet, guide, and welcome our guests.

February Events

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 5 • 11:30am in the Sanctuary

The annual congregational meeting will be held in Simpson Hall immediately following worship. The session will present a recap of 2022 and the 2023 budget. The congregation will vote on changes to the pastoral terms of call. Lunch will be served and a freewill offering will be taken to cover the cost of food.

New Member Class

Saturday, February 18 • 10-11:30am, McLennan Lounge

This class is for those who are ready for membership or want to discover what it means to become a Geneva member. We will discuss topics such as why join the church, what are the benefits of belonging, and how do I find my fit. If you will be attending, please register at bit.ly/gpcnewmemberclass.

Snow Day

Saturday, February 4 • 10am-1pm at Geneva

Geneva Presbyterian Church, in conjunction with the Geneva Children's Center and The Geneva School, present Snow Day! There will be music, snacks, and best of all, Snow!

Parent's Night Out

Saturday, February 11 • FREE!

Geneva gives parents in our community a night out while we watch their young ones at church. Dinner and games are provided!

Meet & Greet Lunch

Sunday, February 12 • 12pm in Simpson Hall

New members, visitors, and guests are invited for lunch and fellowship hosted by Pastor Steve immediately following worship. If you will be attending, please register at bit.ly/genevameetngreet.

Pastor's Bible Study: Philemon & Social Ethics in the 21st Century

Sunday, March 12 • Sunday, March 19

Join Pastor Steve for this study of the New Testament book Philemon. An examination of Christian social ethics, as laid out by Paul in the first century, will guide this study to address Christian social ethics in the twenty-first century. Classes begin following the 10:30 service in Simpson Hall. Lunch is provided.

Missional Life Update

San Joaquin Elementary School Partnership

Geneva received 40 thank you cards from the students at San Joaquin Elementary school this week. This past year we've built a partnership with San Joaquin Elementary School to serve the students of this Title 1 school. Highlights include a wellness garden, a wellness room, a wellness fair and a library rehab. This is all built upon the foundation of our annual school supply drive. The school is looking for folks to read to students in their library, once per week. If you're interested, contact Pastor Ryan at rromberg@genevapres.org or call the church office- 949-837-2323.



Recent Tijuana Visit

A team of 8 visited our partner church, Iglesia Presbiteriana Dios Con Nosotros, in Tijuana for their annual anniversary celebration worship service. Our church was thanked as well as key members of our partnership, Dave Lammert and John Prange. We worshiped in profound ways and across language barriers to celebrate what God has done in this Mexican Presbyterian worshipping community over the years. The trip was sweet, safe, and a deep blessing to all. As we begin taking more trips down to Mexico, prayerfully consider your participation as each congregation blesses each other!



Rev. Ryan Romberg, Rebecca Njoroge, Liz Njoroge, Kate Romberg, Stephanie Romberg, Ben Romberg



Rev. Ryan Romberg, Rev. Devir Perez, Dave Lammert



Yadira Alvarez, Lupe Ahumada, Jair Perez, Yeifer Perez Dios Con Nosotros Praise Band

2023 Per Capita

Every year, the Presbyterian church congregations that comprise the Presbytery of Los Ranchos are assessed a Per Capita fee for each member. This fee is mandatory and it goes towards support services, commissions, mission undertakings, oversight and assistance with insurance, law, finance, and administrative matters.

The fee for 2023 is \$39.70 per member (not per household). We ask that congregation members reimburse Geneva Presbyterian Church for this expense, which would otherwise impact our budget for our own operating expenses.

In 2022, we paid the Presbytery of Los Ranchos \$10,406 in Per Capita assessments; we received contributions in the amount of \$4,041 towards reimbursement, for a net negative impact to our budget of \$6,365.

Thank you to those congregation members that contributed to reimbursing Geneva Presbyterian Church for this cost! To contribute for 2023, members are welcome to drop off checks to the church office or visit genevapres.org/giving and select "Per Capita" from the drop down menu.

Office Closures:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Monday,
January 16

President's Day: Monday, February 20
A pastor will be on call for emergencies:
949-837-2323; Press 1.

Prayer Requests

Please include these Genevans and friends in your prayers:

Cynthia Connors and Jim Juhan

Norm Coombs

Evelyn Fanous

Howard Prol

Bink Lewis

George Marsh

Joyce Stark

Christine Taylor

Louann and Ross Van Riper

Genece Warren

Email prayer requests to prayer@genevapres.org, call the church office at 949-837-2323, or stop by and complete a *Prayer Request Form*.

Please see the weekly e-news for updated prayer lists throughout January and February.

Our Church Prayer

Church Prayer: Identity forming God, the birth of Jesus represents a new relational beginning, a personal beginning for each of us in our walk with you, through your Son, Jesus Christ. May we continue to seek the Holy Spirit as the catalyst for transformation in our new identity. We desire to live the identity you have for each of your children for the sake of others to discover and experience your hope, peace, joy, and love. In the identity we have in Jesus we pray, Amen.



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