



GENEVA NEWS

Worshipping | Learning | Connecting | Giving | Serving

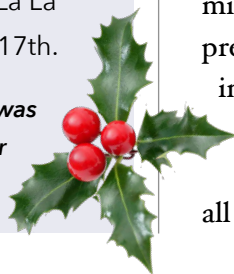
Fa, La, La Luncheon

Sunday, December 17,
11:45am in Simpson Hall*

All Genevans and invited for the 3rd annual Fa, La, La Luncheon where we celebrate Geneva volunteers and Pastor Steve and his wife, Janet, before they head off to Wichita for retirement. December 31st will be his last day with us. We will miss them both!

A "love gift" will be collected for Pastor Steve to express our appreciation for his nine years of service. Contribute online at genevapres.churchcenter.com/giving, choosing "Marsh Celebration" in the dropdown menu, or write a check to the church with "Marsh Celebration" in the memo line. Drop off checks at the church office or bring them to the Fa La La Luncheon December 17th.

** The original luncheon was scheduled for December 10th.*



Farewell From Pastor Steve

Embracing new beginnings in the season of Advent

Advent: the arrival, coming and discovery of something extremely important.

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end." (Isaiah 9:6-7)

As followers of Jesus, we believe in someone who has arrived and will come again. We exist to proclaim salvation in Jesus Christ and him alone; nurture and equip followers of Jesus for the work of ministry; worship God with our whole mind, body, and spirit; preserve the truth; promote justice while serving the marginalized in society; and demonstrate the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. As followers of Jesus, we live his mission, the mission of loving the enemy and telling the good news of Jesus Christ to all in word and deed.

Advent Season Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 3

HOPE: First Sunday of Advent
10:30am worship in the
Sanctuary. GCC kids sing!

Sunday, December 10

PEACE: Second Sunday of
Advent
Chancel Choir Christmas
Concert at 10:30am

Sunday, December 17

JOY: Third Sunday of
Advent
10:30am worship in the
Sanctuary followed by
the Fa, La, La Luncheon in
Simpson Hall where we
will honor and
celebrate Geneva
volunteers and Steve
and Janet Marsh.

Sunday, December 24

LOVE: Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 10:30am worship in the Sanctuary. Communion served.
- 3pm *Lessons and Carols* music celebration in the Sanctuary
- 11pm worship service rooted in the Word and hymns. Communion served.

Sunday, December 31

First Sunday of Christmas
10:30am worship in the
Sanctuary.

Advent: the arrival, coming and discovery of something extremely important.

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19)

Jesus' message leads us intentionally to engage the city, region, and world. Advent compels us to be missional. As missional people, we are entrusted with the simple gospel and understand

our primary identity is that of witness. Jesus Christ came into the world not to condemn it but to save it. We are driven by love for the lost and a desire to incarnate the good news of the kingdom of God in homes, neighborhoods, places of work, and the community.

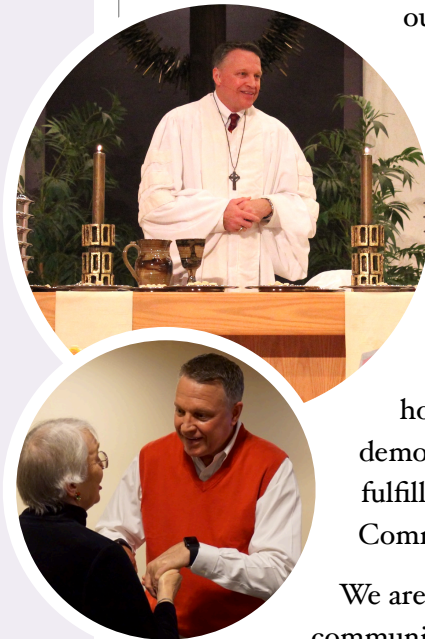
As followers of Jesus, we proclaim the larger story of God's love and purposes as the only hope for meaning in our world. We seek to demonstrate the gospel of the kingdom of God, thus fulfilling both the Great Commandment and Great Commission.

We are not only individual followers of Jesus. We are a community of followers of Jesus known as Geneva Presbyterian Church.

As I reflect upon my retirement December 31, 2023, I am completing my tenth Advent with you. Thank you for the privilege Janet and I have had to love you, grow with you, and serve with you these past nine years and three months. Our lives are better because of you.

As Janet and I leave for Wichita on January 1, 2024, settle into our new home, celebrate life with our two oldest children and seven grandchildren, life is good. And I will begin serving as the Interim Pastor at Grace Presbyterian Church in Wichita on Monday, January 16th.

Yes, a new beginning for Janet and me. And yes, a new beginning for the beloved congregation known as Geneva Presbyterian Church. Inherent in Advent is the idea of a living, breathing, and growing as a follower of Jesus Christ and church. Remember, all of us will be the best Jesus someone will see.



On the journey together, I remain faithfully yours,



The Rev. Dr. Steven M. Marsh
He/him/his
Pastor

Farewell to Pastor Ryan

It is with a heavy heart that we said good-bye to Pastor Ryan and his family Sunday, November 26th. Pastor Ryan made the announcement November 5th in worship that he answered the call to become the new Solo Pastor for Placentia Presbyterian Church.

Pastor Ryan began his tenure at Geneva in July of 2017 as the Associate Pastor of Intergenerational Mission Engagement. He and his wife, Stephanie, along with the rest of the congregation, have watched his children, Ben and Kate, grow from little kids to young adults. We have also watched Pastor Ryan grow in his position, leading the Missional Life and Faith Formation teams as well as Children's and Youth ministries.

We will miss Pastor Ryan and his family, but there is also a swell of pride amongst the congregation that we are sending a well prepared, loving and faithful servant to a church that needs him. Our prayers are with he and his family as they begin their new journey.



New Sermon Series

December 3 – 31, 2023

Pastor Steve begins his final sermon series before retirement, entitled *A New Beginning For Humanity And Continuity For Geneva*. Join us for worship at 10:30am in the Sanctuary or view the live stream at genevapres.org. Review scriptures for each sermon at genevapres.org/currentsermonseries.

Poinsettia Ordering

November 26-December 10

Help fund the decorating of our worship spaces this Christmas by dedicating a poinsettia to a friend or loved one. Dedications will be inserted into the Christmas Eve *In Community With* bulletin. The cost is \$13 per plant. Pick up an order form at the Welcome Center on Sundays, in the church office during the week, or order online at genevapres.org/events. Order deadline is **Sunday, December 10th.**

Youth Winter Camp at Forest Home

February 23-25

Geneva youth, 6th-12th grade, are invited to 2024 Winter Camp at Big Bear Lake Christian Conference Center! This year we're partnering with Trabuco and Santa Ana Presbyterian churches for a Presbytery-wide camp bringing together students from all over South Orange County. The multi-ethnic, intergenerational group will focus on praising the same Lord with different expressions of worship.

Thanks to generous funding support from the Los Ranchos Presbytery, cost for camp will only be \$100 which will allow many more students to attend.

We need chaperones to round out our team. Contact Elizabeth Tedrow at etedrow@genevapres.org if you're open for this 3-day, 2-night adventure. Students must register for camp online at genevapres.org/events.



Worship

Sing Along & Play Along Messiah

Monday, December 4 • 7pm in the Sanctuary

Kick off the advent season by attending this free participation event at Geneva. Eileen O'Hern, Geneva's Director of Traditional Music and Worship, will be the Choir Master. Singers may just show up ready to sing. Limited scores are available so we encourage you to bring your own if you have one. Instrumentalists may reserve a seat by email at contact@globalharmonysymphony.com.



Geneva Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 10 • 10:30am in the Sanctuary

As we celebrate the second Sunday of advent, the Geneva Chancel Choir presents a special concert centering around Johann Sebastian Bach's well-known Cantata No. 140, "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme" ("Sleepers Wake").

The program will include hymns and other pieces as well, and will be presented by Geneva's Chancel Choir, soloists, organist Charlotte Hsieh, and a chamber orchestra..



Let's Connect

Meet & Greet Lunch

Sunday, December 3 • 11:30am in McLennan Lounge

Visitors and guests are invited to join Pastor Steve for a light lunch directly after worship in Simpson Hall to chat, ask questions and discover how we can help you connect with the church. This is a great first step you are interested in Geneva membership. Register at genevapres.org/events or call the church office at 949-837-2323.

New Member Experience

Saturday, December 9 • 9:30am in McLennan Lounge

Come to become a Geneva member or simply learn more about the benefits of membership, how you can find your fit and meet others new to the Geneva faith community. The class is presented by Pastor Steve and Geneva elders. Register at genevapres.org/events, email us at info@genevapres.org or call the church office at 949-837-2323.



Parents Day Off

Saturday, December 9 • 11am-3pm in Simpson Hall

Parents with children nursery through 5th grade are invited to drop off the kids for a fun day at the church while you go Christmas shopping, have lunch or both! The event is free, but donations will be accepted (all donations go toward camp scholarships). Registration deadline: **Wednesday, December 6th**. Want to help out? We're always looking for volunteers. Contact elder Barb Lorenzen at lorenzenbarbara75@gmail.com.

Geneva Youth Crisblitz

Saturday, December 9, 6pm to Sunday, December 10, 9am

Middle School and High School students are celebrating the birth of our king together with an exciting all night event the church. The group will head to Mission Park for ice blocking followed by broom ball at the Aliso Viejo Ice palace, ending with a sleep-over in the youth room. Cost is \$50 per student (this covers broom ball, food and ice blocking). Register at genevapres.org/events by December 6..

South Coast Singers

Sunday, December 10 • 4pm in the Sanctuary

Geneva once again hosts the South Coast Singers as they present *All is Bright*, a family friendly holiday choral concert encompassing both traditional and popular styles of music. Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased online at southcoastsingers.org.

Thank you tech angels!

Thank you to the following "tech angels" for serving as support for the live-streaming of our 10:30am worship service:

November: Noah Morehouse and Iliana Compos

December: Rebecca Njoroge, Shirley Fargo, and Im Sook Lee

Join the team! It's easy to learn and no experience is necessary. Email elder Kwang Seo at kseo1948@gmail.com.

Volunteers Needed

If you consider yourself a people person, then we need you! Become a Geneva front desk office volunteer. It's a great opportunity to meet people and the work is light, mainly answering phones and light office assistance. We're looking specifically to cover morning shifts (9am-1pm) Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Volunteer once a week or more. Substitutes are also in great demand. If interested, contact Geneva Office Manager Laura McCallum at 949-837-2323.

Alternative Gift Market (AGM) open through December 17

Give the gift of hope this Christmas season

Would you like your Christmas gifts this year to have meaning? Consider buying gifts for your loved ones that will make a real difference in the world. Each gift purchased is a donation for a real item or service that benefits a Geneva Missional Life partner locally or globally.

To learn more about AGM and to order online, visit **genevapres.org/alternativegiftmarket**.

Order forms are also available in the church office or at the welcome center on the courtyard Sunday mornings.

Thank you in advance for helping us to help others this advent season! To learn more about Geneva's local, national and international mission partners visit **genevapres.org/serve**.

Programs/Ministries Update

We are grateful for our lay leaders. It is through their commitment that our programs and ministries will continue throughout our pastor transition with few exceptions which we are listing below. Additionally, here is the contact information for some key ministry areas going forward.

- The Sunday morning **Bible Project** class which was led by Pastor Ryan has been discontinued.
- **Stephen Ministry** is suspended effective January 1, 2024. Stephen Ministry cannot function in its usual way of making ongoing assignments and providing monthly Supervision meetings. Why? Geneva's pastor must be trained as a Stephen Leader. If the Interim Pastor is a Stephen Leader, the program can start right back up in its normal way. Until then, however, Lorna Collins will stay in contact with those Stephen Ministers who have assigned Care Receivers.
- Both the **Line Dancing** and **Chair Yoga** classes will be on hiatus for the Christmas holidays.
- Elizabeth Tedrow (etedrow@genevapres.org) will be the contact for youth programs.



- Elder Barb Lorenzen (lorenzenbarbara75@gmail.com) will be the contact for Children's Ministries.
- Elder Elizabeth Carlisle (missionallife@genevapres.org) will be the contact for Missional Life.

If you have any questions about current ministries or programs, contact us at **info@genevapres.org** and we will have answers.



Giving

Generosity Campaign Wrap-Up

Submitted by the Generosity Campaign Team

Pledges continue to be turned in, and we are grateful for every single one. As of November 29th, Geneva has received **102** pledges for a total of **\$607,281**. This still leaves us around 7% short of our goal. If you are planning to pledge, it would help Session to hear from you soon, before any discussion begins on whether to trim or eliminate some programs or activities in the face of a possible revenue shortfall for 2024.

If you are new to pledging, we encourage you to consider contributing, possibly at a modest level, as an expression of commitment to Geneva and its ministry. Our thanks to everyone who has already pledged for their faithfulness and support.

We look forward to additional pledges coming in as people feel called. We are thankful for the many blessings that Geneva has experienced from the leadership and involvement of Pastors Steve and Ryan over the years, and we expectantly await the new things that God has in store for us. Let Geneva continue to impact the community and the world, united in purpose, confident in the grace and provision of our sovereign God, the loving embrace of Jesus Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Per Capita Giving

The beginning of the year starts our Per Capita giving. This year the Presbytery has assessed us **\$39.70** per Geneva member (not per family) as the amount we submit to help operate the Presbytery. Your reimbursement to us helps ensure that pledge contributions are not used for this obligation. It is still a tax deductible contribution for you. You can make your per capita contribution online or in an offering envelope.



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



Christmas Joy Special Offering

December 3-24

This offering reflects that God is with us, through the generous gifts that support church leaders – retired, present and future -- who have pointed us to God. 50% of your gifts assist current and retired church workers and their families; 50% of your gifts to Christmas Joy make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Donate online at genevapres.org/give and choose "Christmas Joy" in the dropdown menu. You may also use the special envelope found in your annual donation envelope box. Thank you!

Office Closed

The Geneva office will be closed **December 25-29** and Monday, **January 1**, New Year's Day. We will reopen Tuesday, January 2nd.

Food Drive Results

We did it again! Geneva hosted another successful food drive at the Stater Bros. Market across from the church for our friends at South County Outreach (SCO).

For two Saturdays in October, Genevans helped to collect **2,350 pounds** of items for the SCO food pantry. According to our Mission representative, Nina Pomery, new clients sign up every week, so we know there is an increasing need for help throughout our county.

We are grateful for the many volunteers from Geneva who came to help. Very special thanks to our youth volunteers who provide energy, joy, and beautiful smiles, including: Elizabeth and Rebecca Njoroge; Ben and Kate Romberg; and Zoe and Daisy Stiso, granddaughters of Linda and Richard Erickson. Shoppers are always delighted



and touched to meet young people willing to help in this very important community effort.

With all the recent tragedies around the world, the Food Drive really seemed to help shoppers feel connected. Members of our community opened their hearts and shared a generous spirit towards those in need.

Elizabeth Carlisle
Missional Life Ministry Team

The Final Newsletter

At this time, the decision has been made to discontinue *The Geneva News* newsletter in 2024. This is a result of some budget "belt tightening". However, we will still be producing a monthly *eNews* email newsletter which,

although not as comprehensive, will definitely keep you abreast of what's going on in the life of Geneva. If we do not have your current email address, if you need to update your

address or if you have opted out of receiving emails in the past and would like to change your status, please contact the church at info@genevapres.org or call the church office at 949-837-2323.

Prayer Requests

Email requests to prayer@genevapres.org, or call the church at 949-837-2323.

Heidi Belew
Joan Burge
Norm Coombs
Bink Lewis
George Marsh
Kurt Messerschmidt
Norma & Norm Petersen
Penny Prol
Louann and Ross Van Riper
Doris Wendel
Jerry Williams

Our Church Prayer

Almighty God, living our lives with the mind that was in Christ Jesus requires demonstrating, in our words and deeds, humility, kindness, and justice. May we be a strength for someone, somewhere to be more hopeful in their journey of living with the mind that was in Christ Jesus. As your children, Almighty God, we desire to be helpful to and an encouragement for others to continue the journey of faithful Christian discipleship. With the mind that was in Christ Jesus we pray, Amen.



Geneva
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Loving God • Loving Others • Making Disciples

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