



GENEVA NEWS

Worshipping | Learning | Connecting | Giving | Serving

Register for Vacation Bible School

July 17-21, 9am-12:30pm

Geneva offers free Vacation Bible School every summer for preschool through 5th graders. During the week kids learn about Jesus through lessons, crafts, games, snacks and singing. Register your kids, grandkids, friends and neighbors today at genevapres.org/events.

VBS Sunday Fellowship Event

July 23, 10:30am

Join us in welcoming children and families who have participated in this year's VBS. You won't want to miss the children singing the songs in worship they have learned during the week. And, we invite all Genevans and friends to stay for refreshments and fellowship after the service.



Planting Seeds of the Gospel

A message from the Rev. Dr. Steven M. Marsh

I've been thinking a lot lately about our upcoming Vacation Bible School (VBS) Monday, July 17th – Friday, July 21st. I'm filled with my own memories of going to VBS every year K-6th grade at Millbrook Presbyterian Church in Fresno, California.

I fondly recall great crafts, recreation, and Bible Stories told on flannel graph boards. The teachers and assistants were so loving, caring, and fun! Looking back, I understand that my parents enrolling me in VBS those years were very formative in my growing understanding of God and Christianity. In fact, when I responded to God's love for me as an 8th grader and believed in Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord, I know all those years in VBS planted seeds of the gospel and watered them to that point of the beginning of my conversion into a follower of Jesus.



VBS Small Group Leaders Needed

Here's your chance to make a difference in the life of a child and have a great time doing it! A small group leader leads one, 45 minute, pre-planned, fully-resourced session per day with one age group at VBS. Each will have two assistants. Small group leaders do not need to walk the groups from place to place as in previous years, but need to be present at the opening and closing large group sessions (the very fun part!). Important dates when you will be needed:

VBS Training: Mon, July 10th, 6:30-7:30pm, via Zoom

VBS: Mon., July 17, 8am-12:30pm; Tues.-Fri., July 18-21, 8:30am-12:30pm

Leader Celebration Lunch: Friday, July 21, 12:30-1:30pm

VBS Sunday: Sunday, July 23, 10-11:30am in the Sanctuary

Contact Pastor Ryan at rronberg@genevapres.org if you want to serve.

The theme of VBS this year is "Follow Jesus Here, There and Everywhere". Friends, this year's VBS is all about Loving God. Loving Others. Making Disciples. The K-5th graders attending will experience Geneva's Mission Statement: "To remember, tell, and live the way of Jesus by being just, kind, and humble."

As always, we need volunteers to serve in VBS. There are many areas available for you to serve. There is something that anyone who desires to serve can do. Your words and deeds matter all the time, but particularly in VBS. Young lives and hearts are shaped and nurtured in a context of God's love. And yes, I continue to be involved with VBS as I have in every congregation I've served over the past 41 years. I love it. And the children impact my life as a follower of Jesus too.

Yes, every child has the opportunity to experience what I did during all the VBS's I attended decades ago. I'm grateful for the volunteers who invested in me and my coming to faith in Jesus Christ.



Yes, you are needed, wanted, and vital for a successful Vacation Bible School at Geneva. Pastor Ryan and Barb Lorenzen can't wait to receive your call to get you plugged in.

On the journey of Vacation Bible School with you, I remain faithfully yours,

The Rev. Dr. Steven M. Marsh
Pastor/Head of Staff



Worship Celebration

Choir-For-A-Day

Sunday, August 13 • 9:45am in the Sanctuary

Summer is here, and the Geneva Chancel choir will be taking their traditional August hiatus. The exception is Sunday, **August 13**. Choir Director Eileen O'Hern invites anyone who likes to sing to join in on "choir-for-a-day". Just show up in the sanctuary at 9:45am. No robes; music will be provided. Bring a friend, neighbor or your opera singer pen pal! If you've ever thought about joining the choir, consider this a great test run. **All are welcome!** Let's make music together.



Stephen Minister Spotlight

Lisa Kagan

I've had many careers, but mostly, I was a technical writer, a profession I fell into. In my 1980 interview, the manager opened a thick computer manual and all I saw were pages of words, no pictures. He said: "Do you think you can do this?" In my mind, I yelled "No way!" but my voice said "Yes." I took a leap of faith and it turned out to be a satisfying and rewarding career.

When Geneva offered training in Stephen Ministry. I didn't know what that was, but I took a leap of faith and signed up. In my head, I thought "I don't know if I can do this," but my voice said "Yes." A year later, I found that using my new skills to help someone in real need, was rewarding beyond measure.

I fell into Stephen Ministry, as I fell into Technical Writing. I took a leap of faith and it has enriched my life. Sometimes you just need to say "Yes."

Stephen Ministers are Geneva members who are trained to provide the care you need when faced with a personal struggle. To request a Stephen Minister, email caring@genevapres.org. All requests are confidential.



Let's Connect

Geneva Women's Book Club

Tuesday, July 25 • 1-2pm in Annex

For a change of pace, participants are asked to bring a book of their choice to share with the group. To participate online, join the group at genevapres.churchcenter.com/groups to receive an email with the Zoom meeting ID. For questions or technical assistance, contact the church office at 949-837-2323 or email us at info@genevapres.org.

Welcome New Members

Six new members were introduced to the congregation at the June 11th worship service. Here's an opportunity to learn a bit about each one. Please introduce yourselves when you get a chance.



Susan August-Brown

Born and raised in Chicago, I spent 40 years on the East Coast living and working in Boston, but primarily in Scarborough, Maine. I moved to California in 2016.

After attending a few churches here, I was happy to finally find the connection I was seeking at Geneva and look forward to meeting and getting to know the members of this wonderful community.



Verena Macchia

Verena is joining the church through a reaffirmation of faith. She and her husband, Frank, live in Aliso Viejo, the neighborhood across the street from the church.



School Supply Drive

July 23 - August 6

Since 2017, Genevans have donated generously to our School Supply Drive, providing hundreds of students from low income families the essentials they need for academic success.

This year's drive will begin July 23rd, and all donations received will go to San Joaquin Elementary School, with whom we've developed a strong partnership. A list of needed supplies will be available by the end of the month. You may download this list at genevapres.org/events or pick one up in the church office. The supply list will be updated as we collect items.

Donations may be brought to the church during office hours (Mon.-Thurs., 9am-4pm; Fri. 9am-1pm) or on Sundays **beginning July 23rd!** Bins for each item are specified. It helps greatly to put items in the right bin so we don't have to sort hundreds of items. Thank you for taking the extra time to do this! All donations must be received by **August 13**.

You may already recognize Verena from her photo in the May issue of *The Geneva News* as she was just commissioned as one of our newest Stephen Ministers.



Betty Oliker

Following my retirement last year, my husband Dan and I left our home of 51 years in Berlin, NJ and moved to Laguna Woods Village to be closer to our three children and four grandchildren. In October Dan became ill and passed in March 2023 so I find myself "starting over" in so many ways. I am enjoying attending our grandchildren's high school sporting events and am beginning to get involved in some of the activities in The Village. I am grateful to have found Geneva as everyone is so welcoming and there is a strong sense of "community". I look forward to fellowship and new friendships.



Daphne Sykes

I have a son who is a high school senior working on his Eagle Scout rank. I established a ballet program in the City of Compton and have taught ballet and tai chi to teenage girls in foster care. I enjoy entertaining friends, baking and community theatre. A sacred choral music enthusiast and jazz aficionado, I sing with the Laguna Beach Chamber Singers. I love all kinds of outdoor festivals, traveling and foreign films. I am excited to become a member of Geneva.



Lori and Bob Weatherford

After living in Richmond, Virginia for 53 years, we moved to Laguna Woods to be closer to our three children and four grandchildren. We met our senior year at the University of Virginia and James Madison University. Lori is a retired teacher and Bob is a retired business owner. We have felt very welcomed by the members of Geneva.



Learning

Pastor's Bible Study: The Key to Following Jesus - Part II

July 9, 16 & 23

Immediately following 10:30am worship, join Pastor Steve for Part II of his study of the Sermon on the Mount. The three-week study will

focus on a verse-by-verse study of Matthew 7. A light lunch will be served and donations are suggested to cover the cost.

VBS Youth Protection Training (via Zoom)

Monday, July 10 • 6:30-7:30pm

Geneva is serious about protecting kids. *Youth Protection Training* is an annual requirement for all Vacation Bible School volunteers regardless of age or hours served. The course content focuses on Geneva's Youth Protection Policy as required by the Book of Order emphasizing basic safety training. Pastor Ryan will contact all those who need to attend.



Missional Life Update

O'Neill/Boyer Scholarships

Sunday, July 16th, Geneva will be recognizing this year's O'Neill/Boyer scholarship recipients in the 10:30am worship service (recipients are listed in the column at right). We thought now would be a good time to revisit the scholarship origin story.

How It All Started

The scholarship program was established with funds given by the O'Neill family in memory of their son and brother, Kevin, who passed away in a car accident at the age of seventeen. Just as Kevin "grew up" at Geneva and was an active member of the high school fellowship, his family hoped that this fund would encourage other people's quest for excellence in faith and life – a pilgrimage to which Kevin was committed.

Over the years the generosity of the O'Neill family has changed lives and inspired others to bequeath funds to their cause. Larry Boyer was similarly committed to furthering educational opportunities for those in need and also set up a designated fund to support Geneva students. Long time Geneva member Elsie Miller followed suit contributing significant monies to sustain the Kevin O'Neill scholarship fund.

Reaching Beyond Our Borders

In 2019, award eligibility was expanded to include students attending our partner church in Tijuana where education can be out of reach



2023-24 O'Neill/ Boyer Scholarship Recipients

Summer Duff / Cal Poly Pomona

(Granddaughter of Member
Dave Lammert)

Ryan Harvey / Saddleback College

(Son of Geneva Choir
Member Holly Moore Harvey)

Lindsey Inouye / Cal Poly

(Daughter of GCC teacher)

Rian Loomis / UCI

(Geneva Youth Group Member)

Jamie Lussier / Colorado State University

(Daughter of GCC Director,
Amy Lussier)

Kinheng Ng / Irvine Valley College

(Geneva Youth Group
Member)

Ben Pado / Grand Canyon University

Joe Pado / Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

(Sons of Geneva Business
Manager, Gary Pado)

Grant Penderghast / Arizona State University

Lexi Schloessman / Liberty University

(Grandchildren of Geneva
Member Don Beckhart)

Brenna Tosh / Cornell

Bronwyn Tosh / University of Washington

(Grandchildren of Geneva
Member Emily Tosh)

A Promise Kept

*Contributed by Missional Life Ministry
Team member Carolyn Gerakos*

Last March, recent tragedies loomed over Mexico and a "Do Not Travel to Mexico" designation was issued by the US government. In spite of the risks, Geneva members Dave Lammert and Elizabeth Carlisle, Chair of our Mission team, traveled to our partner church in Tijuana to deliver the much needed scholarship funds to fourteen worthy recipients.

Dave and Elizabeth attended Sunday worship, followed by a luncheon for the scholars. At the luncheon, all the students expressed their gratitude for the much needed financial assistance, enabling them to work toward their degrees.

After the students many "thank you's", Elizabeth shared with the students concerns about her special needs high school-aged granddaughter who was refusing to go to school. The students enthusiastically began praying for Elizabeth's granddaughter, Isabella. As the event concluded, Dave and Elizabeth safely returned home.

A Promise Kept.

for many deserving youth. We are blessed and grateful to God for giving us the resources to share with the neighbors we love.

This year, in addition to the recipients listed in the column on page five, Geneva has awarded fifteen students in Tijuana financial assistance to begin or continue their education. Funds are used not only for tuition, but for food, transportation and housing. This is oftentimes a first step for these young people to climb out of the poverty which traps so many in their community.



Past scholarship recipients.

Impacting The World

Over the years, scholarship recipients have become doctors, lawyers, musicians, teachers, producers, scientists, bakers and international consultants, among other things. But, as impressive as these accomplishments are, most importantly, they are good people worthy of the investment Geneva has made in them.

These awards remind Geneva scholars that Christ is with them even though they may be many miles away during their studies and long after they graduate. We also believe that through the O'Neill/Boyer Scholarships, the opportunities for maintaining contact with students through their college years and beyond is increased.

Our scholarship students are impacting the world. As they do, we can rest in the knowledge that wherever they go they have a Christian foundation and a faith community behind them. Our continued prayers are with our past, and most recent, scholarship recipients as they continue their academic and life pursuits.



Geneva Children's Center Update

Last month, the Geneva Children's Center (GCC), which offers Christian preschool education on the Geneva campus for kids age 2-6, "promoted" twelve students. "This is my favorite day of the year," says GCC Director, Amy Lussier, "to see these kids grow and know they are ready for the next step – it's why we do what we do."

The past few preschool promotions at the GCC have been particularly meaningful. As with other area preschools, enrollment took a hit during the pandemic. Additionally, the GCC faced unique challenges as the school addressed parental and staff safety concerns after the shooting on our campus. Amy and her staff are to be commended for weathering these storms and keeping the school not only operating, but with a current enrollment of 51 children, once again, thriving.

"It's been a crazy couple of years," Amy concedes, "but we have the greatest staff, parents and students in the world, and I know God has been, and will always be, on our side."

Amy is also quick to recognize the GCC Board of Directors for their continued support and guidance. Current Board members include: Pastor Steve, Barb Lorenzen, Samantha Gambrell, Patty Georges, Sherry Hoselton, Molly Levegood, Greg Rankin and Mark Ryan.

The Geneva Children's Center has been serving our community since 2012. If you know of anyone who is interested in a top-notch Christian preschool for their child, call the school at 949-581-2200 or email Director Amy Lussier at director@genevacc.org.

Newly promoted GCC students are ready for kindergarten!



Geneva Presbyterian Women Give Back

Submitted by Mary Gonzales (GPW Moderator 2022-2023), June 2023

The GPW group is committed to supporting local, national and international missions by collecting donations for our various mission partners at our monthly program luncheons and special events. Through the Summer 2022- Spring 2023, GPW is pleased to have donated a total of **\$4,038** to our mission partners. Here's the breakout:

- **\$1,895** - South County Outreach Food Pantry
- **\$1,415** - San Joaquin Elementary School (to help restore their aging library)
- **\$728** - National Presbyterian Women PC(USA) Mission Projects (focus is providing clothing, food, education, shelter, and physical and mental healthcare for women and their families)

Thank you to all who contributed. It is a blessing to participate in this aspect of Christian service, by loving God and loving our neighbors in need.



Campus Closed

This is a reminder that the Geneva campus will be closed Tuesday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day. Enjoy a happy and safe holiday!

Battery Recycling

Being good stewards of the earth God created is an important part of living our lives as Christians. The improper disposal of batteries – AAA, AA, C, D, button cell, 9 Volt – creates more harm to mother earth than most of us realize and is an easy thing to correct (65% of fires at waste facilities across the country area caused by batteries). The Orange County Waste and Recycling Department holds a number of collection events at various locations throughout Orange County. You can view the list of accepted items, events locations and a list of the departments permanent collection centers by checking out this link: oclandfills.com/hazardous-waste. Irvine Collection Center — 6411 Oak Canyon, 92618

Recycle For Sight Program

Last month, the local Lions Club donated **385 pairs of glasses** through their *Recycle For Sight* program. Glasses are distributed to those in Orange County who cannot afford corrective lenses. We



encourage all Genevans to donate used eyewear – reading glasses, sunglasses, prescription lenses – to the cause. A collection box is in the church office.

Healing Buddies

Members of the Kiwanis Club meet every **Monday in the Geneva Annex from 1-3pm** to make

“Healing Buddies”. These dolls are given to children in pediatric hospitals and to those who have been impacted by natural disasters, victims of

domestic abuse and residents of homeless shelters. Currently the dolls are being donated to South County Outreach, Mercy Warehouse and Laura’s House, among other places. Memorial Care places them in their pediatric areas and the Orange County Sheriff Department carries a supply in their cars. The group needs help sewing, stuffing, pattern cutting and turning the dolls inside out. No experience is necessary, and you can just show up!

Receptionist Needed

The Geneva office needs a volunteer receptionist Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 12:30-4pm. Duties include answering phones, greeting visitors and light administrative tasks. Contact Geneva Office Manager, Laura McCallum at info@genevapres.org, or call the church office at 949-837-2323 if interested.

Prayer Requests

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

- Heidi Belew
- Norm Coombs
- Joe DeMark
- Evelyn Fanous
- Bink Lewis
- George Marsh
- Kurt Messinger
- Norma & Norm Petersen
- Louann and Ross Van Riper
- Doris Wendel

Our Church Prayer

Almighty God, living our identity in continuing honesty, openness, and realness is imperative for our ongoing experience of the identity we have in and through Jesus. May we celebrate the transformation we experience as your children for it is a blessing for others to consider discovering and living your hope, peace, joy, and love. In the identity we have in Jesus we pray, Amen.



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