



GENEVA NEWS

Worshipping | Learning | Connecting | Giving | Serving

Undie Sundie!

Donate NOW through Sunday, September 10

Underwear is the most under-donated, and most needed, item of clothing for the homeless. New, clean underwear is not only important for hygiene and physical comfort, it also provides dignity and self esteem to those who need it.

Men, in particular, are in need as usually women and children are cared for first. To help close the gap, we are asking for donations of **NEW**, packaged, adult men's underwear - boxers, briefs, athletic fit - to help our male neighbors served by the Orange County Rescue Mission.

Donations may be dropped off at the church office during the week or bring them to "Undie Sundie" **September 10th**, the same day as the Homecoming Sunday Luncheon.



Homecoming Sunday Luncheon

Sunday, September 10 • 11:30am in Simpson Hall

The smell of fall is in the air as the kids head back to school and we head back to church after a long, lazy and warm (!) summer. To usher in autumn in style, the Geneva Congregational Life Ministry Team is joining forces with our friends from ITPC (Irvine Taiwanese Presbyterian Church) to host a free luncheon in Simpson Hall immediately following worship.

The menu will include delicious traditional Chinese dishes along with good old American grill staples (does pulled pork sound good?). There is no need to register, just show up with a smile and your appetite.

As usual, we could use a few extra hands to help with the event. Contact the church office or email us at info@genevapres.org if you would like to serve.



New Sermon Series

September 3-November 26

Pastor Steve begins the series *Words & Deeds Part II: "Really? They Are Life Changing"*. Join us for worship at 10:30am in the Sanctuary or view the live stream at genevapres.org. Referenced scriptures for each sermon in the series may be found at genevapres.org/currentsermonseries.

Thank You Choir- for-a-Day Singers!

*A special note from Chancel
Choir Director, Eileen O'Hern*

We are grateful for all who participated: veteran choir members, previous choir members, and those who joined us for the first time. The turnout was great – we had singers ranging in age from teenager Liz N to we're-not-saying-who – and you all sang beautifully! Thank you all for bringing your voices to this special worship moment, and for providing a very moving anthem for our time of communion!



Let's Connect

Meet & Greet Lunch

Sunday, September 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.

Line Dancing Resumes

Monday, September 11 • 3:30-4:30pm in the Saddleback Room

Line dancing is back from its summer hiatus! This low impact exercise is easy to learn and great for you. It's offered Mondays and Thursdays from 3:30-4:30pm. It's free, no need to register and no experience necessary! Just show up and join the fun.

New Member Experience

Saturday, September 16 • 9:30am in McClellan Lounge

You love worship, the people are great and you get a warm, fuzzy feeling when you come onto campus – it's time to consider Geneva membership! The *New Member Experience* explains more about the church, groups and activities, the benefits of membership and how you can easily plug in to the Geneva family. You need not become a member after the class, but we hope you will. Register online at genevapres.org/events or call the church office at 949-837-2323.

The choir loft was full August 13 with singers of all ages participating in *Choir-for-a-Day*.



GPW Monthly Luncheon

Wednesday, September 20 • 12pm in Simpson Hall

All women are invited to attend monthly luncheon gatherings featuring fun speakers, activities and engaging fellowship. This month, GPW welcomes Dr. Ron Shackelford, as he presents “The Jesus of Joy”.

Geneva Women’s Book Club

Tuesday, September 26 • 1-2pm in Annex

The book for September is *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. 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.

Dementia Education Series Continues

September 23 October 21 • 9am-11:30am in Simpson Hall

According to the new estimate by Alzheimer's Orange County (AlzOC), 164,346 OC residents have dementia or some form of mild cognitive impairment.

If dementia or Alzheimer’s has touched your world, we invite you to attend the remaining two installments in a three-part free educational series presented by Alzheimer’s of Orange County and hosted by Geneva. The next topics:

September 23: Understanding the Continuum of Care

Join us for a discussion that will help decode the mysteries of levels of care, how they are paid for, and when they are necessary.

October 21: Are You Good to Go?

This program will discuss how you can anticipate and identify your wishes, ensure those wishes are honored, and start the often-difficult conversations with loved ones.

This educational series is open to everyone, so invite your friends, neighbors or anyone you feel needs additional resources to help navigate this life altering illness. A continental breakfast will be provided at each event. Please RSVP to Aaron Leal at a.leal@alzoc.org.



Choir is Back!

Rehearsals are Thursday

evenings, 7:30pm in the Choir Room

The Geneva Chancel Choir, under the direction of Eileen O’Hern, Director of Traditional Music and Worship, has resumed regular rehearsals and is gearing up for the fall. New voices are always welcome! If you would like to give choir a try and make some great new friends in the process, join us Thursday evenings in the Choir Room at 7:30pm.

Tech Help Needed

Live-streaming allows people not able to attend in-person worship to enjoy the same experience as those on campus. It takes a little extra effort to make it happen, but it’s worth it. Over 400 people have live-streamed our service in real time since we began this new process in February. Thank you to August volunteers **Ben Romberg** and **Liz Njoroge**, and **Janet Marsh** and **Im Sook Lee** for stepping up in July, to serve as technical support for the live-streaming of our 10:30am service.

Vacation Bible School Update

Over forty kids preschool through 5th grade attended Vacation Bible School in July. Thank you to all of the volunteers who made it happen. Even student organist, Bobby Nguyen, got in the action as he introduced our students to the Geneva Memorial Organ and what it can really do. (It was loud!) The next big event will be next month's annual **Trunk-or-Treat!** More info coming soon.



Join a Connect Group!

Connect Groups are smaller, more intimate gatherings of Geneva members and non-members, who study the Bible, worship, and serve together while supporting one another through life's trials and joys. Being a part of a Connect Group can greatly enhance your life! Call the church office or email us at info@genevapres.org if you want to be a part of this fantastic ministry.



Faith Formation

Bible Project: Exploring the Gospel of Mark *Sundays, 9pm in the Saddleback Room*

Leaning upon the educational material of the same name, through video, lecture and discussion, this class explores difficult and confusing passages in Scripture. The Gospel of Mark will be explored in September. Pastor Ryan will lead the discussion the first two Sundays and Pastor Steve will lead the third and fourth Sundays.

Pastor's Bible Study: *The Problem of Evil* *Coming November 12, 19 & 27*

The Pastor's Bible Study originally planned for October (The Key to Following Jesus – Part III) has been replaced with a three-part study in November entitled, "The Problem of Evil". Join Pastor Steve as he leads this final study before his retirement in December. A light lunch will be served and donations are suggested to cover the cost.



Missional Life Update

2023 School Supply Drive

Why we do what we do.

Thanks to the generous donations of our congregation, Members of the Geneva Missional Life ministry team recently delivered 266 backpacks full of school supplies to San Joaquin Elementary School, home of the "Cheetahs". This was a much larger number than we've provided in the past, but the goal was for every child in the school to have their own supplies.

The Needs of a Title I School

What is a Title I school? Title I is a federal education program that supports low income students. Funds are distributed to high poverty schools, as determined by the number of students who qualify for free or reduced lunch. For the past few years, Geneva provided less than 100 backpacks to help support the school. This year, Principal David Shun requested an increase because he and his staff felt it heartbreakingly difficult to choose the most needy and they did not want to leave any child behind.

Money Well Spent

The Missional Life team accepted the challenge of such a lofty goal, and although we needed an additional financial investment from our mission budget to purchase items not collected, the positive impact this gift has on the children in our community is priceless. Here are a few letters from the stack of thank you notes received from the children at the school, reprinted exactly how they wrote them:

Dear Geneva Church,

My name is Scott and I am in 3rd grade. Thank you for donating supplies to our school! Thank you! This is only the 1st day! And it's already an EXTRAORDINARY day so far! Thank you for all the supplies you were able to donate.

From, Scott

Thank you for funding money to donate school supplies to us, they will help so much during 6th grade. The yellow backpack looks great, and I will use that a lot since my dad lives so far away. We are grateful for these supplies, and we didn't need to spend a lot of money. We are thankful, and God bless you!

*Sincerely,
Sebastian*

Dear Geneva Presbyterian Church,

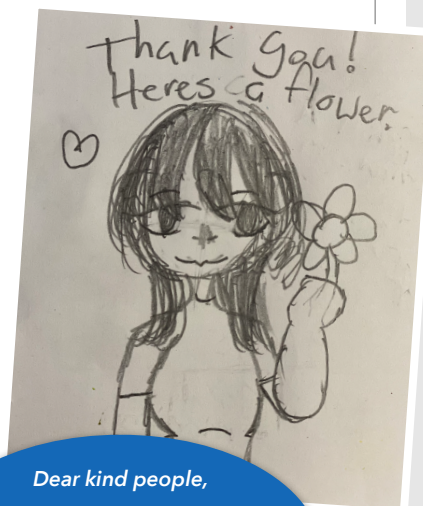
Thank you for giving me and my classmates school supplies for school. I am so thankful. When I told my dad about the things that you all gave me he was so grateful. And thank you for the backpack and letting my family save money.

Victoria

Dear the Geneva church,

Thank you for the supplies. I really enjoyed the stuff. It was so nice for you to take your time into us and you made our day ❤️.

*Sencirly,
Jarrel, 4th grade*



*Dear kind people,
Thank you for donating all the backpacks with school supplies. We appreciate you guys so much!*

Madison

Youth Room Gets A Make-Over

Black?! You want to paint the room **black**?

This is what you get when you ask a bunch of middle and high schoolers what color they'd like to paint the Youth Room. "No more circus colors," they said. "Primary colors are for babies."

"Actually, it wasn't such a bad idea," said Pastor Ryan. The plan is to have a solid backdrop for students to add pops of color with graphics and Bible verses of their choosing. "It's important for these kids to create a space they feel is their own," says Ryan.

If you have a few minutes, pop by the Youth Room to see their handiwork. You might be pleasantly surprised with the results.

The Geneva Youth Group is meeting again after their summer hiatus. Grades 6-12 gather Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30pm. Large group meetings are the 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesdays, and small groups meet the 2nd and 4th weeks. Questions? Contact Pastor Ryan at the church office or via email at rromberg@gevevapres.org.



Earn money for Geneva when you shop!

Geneva will receive 1-4% on every dollar you spend when you swipe your Ralph's card. Here's how to link your Card to Geneva:

1. Go to ralphs.com and log into your Ralph's account
2. Click on "Community Contributions" in the menu and search for GENEVA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LAGUNA WOODS either by name or code (KL983).
3. Click Enroll.

If you're a new user, you must create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a rewards card. Once completed, any transactions moving forward using the Shopper's Card number associated with your digital account will be applied to Geneva's account.



Pastor Transition Update

Where we are and where we're going

Church leadership decided in June to transition to a solo pastor church. This decision prompted the retirement of Pastor Steve, which after four decades of ministry, was on the horizon for him anyway. The fact that Geneva currently cannot support a two-pastor staff simply hastened his decision.

There are many steps in the process of the dissolution of a pastoral relationship as required by the Presbyterian Church (USA) *Book of Order*. Here are the steps completed thus far:

- **July 2:** Pastor Steve announced his retirement in worship.
- **July 25:** A motion passed at the monthly Session meeting to approve Pastor Ryan as the "Bridge" Pastor effective January 1, 2024.
- **August 27:** A special Congregational Meeting was held to dissolve the pastoral relationship between Pastor Steve and the Congregation effective December 31, 2023.

Pastor Steve will continue serving our congregation as he always has, and will help lead us through this transition until his departure December 31st.

The next step as outlined by the PC(USA) will be to hire an Interim pastor. The Bridge pastor provides continuity and stability until Session is ready to begin the Interim pastor search. The Bridge pastor has no role in the search process.



The Solo pastor transition steps were outlined in a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document distributed to all members with the August *Geneva News* newsletter. Copies of this document are still available if you would like to learn more. Additional questions and/or comments are encouraged! Please direct them to info@genevapres.org.

Interested in reducing your 2024 taxes?

Submitted by the Geneva Generosity Team: Jane Kingston, Elena Bennett, Carol Boeryd, Joan Dimmitt, Steve Marsh, Don Natenstedt, John Pomery

If you have a traditional Investment Retirement Account (IRA) here is something to think about before making your pledge in the upcoming Generosity Campaign. If you are over the age of 73, you must make an annual withdrawal of a portion of your IRA, known as the Required Minimum Deduction (RMD) which is taxable. Many of you probably deposit this amount into your regular bank account and make your contributions to Geneva as well as covering all your other expenses from this account.

There are ways to give to Geneva while lowering your federal and state taxes. If you arrange with the manager of your IRA at the start of 2024 to have your pension fund make a direct payment to Geneva for the whole year (rather than making weekly or monthly donations yourself out of your bank account), then the entirety of the 2024 payment to Geneva is deducted from your taxable income for the year.

For example, if you were to arrange with the manager of your IRA for the fund to directly pay \$5,000 to Geneva for 2024, then your taxable income from the IRA for 2024 will be reduced by \$5,000. (You would no longer be able to include the \$5,000 in any itemized deductions, since the \$5,000 has already been taken out of your taxable income.) If you took the standard deduction in the past, you would still be eligible for the same standard deduction with this new arrangement, yet at the same time your taxable income would be \$5,000 lower than without the arrangement. In light of this benefit, you might be encouraged to increase your Geneva pledge!

If you are interested in exploring this, feel free to contact any member of the Generosity Team, or church Business Manager, Gary Pado. As always, we thank you for all your support.



Peace and Global Witness Offering

August 27-October 1

A gift to the PC(USA) Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to address systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Congregations are encouraged to use up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid councils (Presbytery Synods) retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own. Give online at genevapres.churchcenter.com/giving (choose *PCUSA Peace & Global Witness*) in the dropdown menu) or use the special envelope in your offering envelope box.

Office Closed

The Geneva office will be closed Monday, September 4th in observance of Labor Day.

PC(USA) Disaster Relief

This message is currently on the PC(USA) Disaster Assistance website:

Multiple fires continue to burn in Hawai'i on the islands of Maui and Hawai'i (The Big Island). While there are no PC (USA) congregations on those islands, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has been in touch with a pastor on O'ahu and the Presbytery of the Pacific to discuss ways PDA can support those impacted by the devastating fires. More information will be available as details are worked out.

In the meantime, to keep updated and to make a donation to help our friends in the Pacific, visit pda.pcusa.org/situation/hawaii-wildfires/#.

Giving Stats

In the 2023 *Impact Report* recently received by the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PCA), we were informed that Genevans contributed a combined amount of **\$8,000** to the four PC(USA) special offerings (Christmas Joy, One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost Offering and the Global Witness Offering) and the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. Thus far through June 30, 2023, our church has contributed **\$8,764** with two more special offerings to go. This statement highlights the

impact of our gifts at work in the world. Thank you for your contributions to these offerings.

Our Daily Bread Devotional

The free September/October/November devotional booklet produced by *Our Daily Bread* ministries is now available in the church office. Watch the 3-minute daily inspiration video by Pastor Steve as he reflects on the passage used from the series. Connect to the daily messages on the genevapres.org homepage.

In Memoriam

Evelyn Fanous



It is with a heavy heart that we announce the August 13th passing of Geneva member **Evelyn**

Fanous. A Memorial service will be held at Geneva

Saturday, September 9th at 10am in the Sanctuary. A retired accountant, Evelyn served many years in the Geneva business office, not only counting contributions but also faithfully implementing the critical internal control of reconciling our monthly bank statement. As a member of the Geneva Presbyterian Women's Lydia circle, she also served as treasurer of GPW and received a lifetime member award from the national GPW organization. Evelyn was a loyal friend, a faithful servant and a valued member of our congregation. All of our worlds will be a little less bright without her.

Prayer Requests

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

Heidi Belew
Norm Coombs
Bink Lewis
George Marsh
Steve Marsh
Kurt Messerschmidt
Norma & Norm Petersen
Mike O'Hern
Penny Prol
Louann and Ross Van Riper
Doris Wendel
Janie and Jerry Williams

Our Church Prayer

Almighty God, living our identity in progressing honesty, openness, and realness is necessary for our experience of the identity we have in and through Jesus to be impactful. May we be a strength for someone, somewhere to be more hopeful in their journey of living in the identity they have in Jesus. We lift-up in our words and deeds the strength we have in Jesus as your children for it is helpful for others to continue the journey discovering and living your hope, peace, joy, and love. In the identity we have in Jesus we pray, Amen.



Geneva
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Loving God • Loving Others • Making Disciples

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