



GENEVA NEWS

Worshipping | Learning | Connecting | Giving | Serving

Holy Week Worship

April 2: Palm Sunday

10:30am worship in the Sanctuary and livestream

April 6: Maundy Thursday

7pm – Tenebrae service with communion in the Sanctuary

April 7: Good Friday

12pm worship, “The Seven Last Words”, in the Chapel

April 9: Resurrection of the Lord/Easter

10:30am worship in the Sanctuary and livestream

NOTE: There are no youth or adult classes Easter Sunday. Childcare is available for children up to age 3.

GCC Kids Sing

Sunday, April 23, 10:30am

The little ones from the Geneva Children’s Center Preschool will be singing in the 10:30am worship service. If you have yet to experience this cornucopia of cuteness, you won’t want to miss it.



Mariachi Nayar joins us Easter Sunday as Christians around the world celebrate the risen Lord.

Christ died for all!

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

On Easter Sunday we join with Christians around the world to celebrate the impossible: the resurrection from the dead of our Savior, Jesus Christ! As a congregation we’ll sing hymns and the choir will raise their voices to celebrate our risen Lord.

This year, we welcome Mariachi Nayar to join us, emphasizing the all-inclusive, all-embracing nature of the celebration. Christ was risen to conquer death for all!! The Worship Celebration team is excited, as am I, to see how our nearest international neighbors express the joy of the resurrection through music.

On an entirely different note, your officers, the Elders and Deacons of Geneva, had two Retreats recently to discuss strategic initiatives and action items that could facilitate increased unity in our congregational experience.

‘It’s a new day! Connect!’ is a short phrase with a gigantic message, that *connecting* – people to people, people to mission, people to God – better equips us to understand each other, to identify and reach out



New Sermon Series

April 9 - May 28

Easter Sunday, Pastor Steve begins the sermon series *Rebirth: Ongoing Conversion*. 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!

The live stream of our 10:30am service enables people worshipping online to enjoy the same experience as those worshipping in person. It takes additional human resources to make this happen. Thank you to Geneva youth volunteers **Noah Morehouse** and **Iliana Compos** for stepping up in April to assist in the process. Anyone can be trained to volunteer for this ministry. It's not difficult, we promise! Contact Worship Celebration elder Kwangho Seo at kseo1948@gmail.com if you are interested in becoming a part of the team.

to those who need help within and outside of our doors, and to help us determine and fulfill the purpose the Lord has for us.

What can we do as a church to better connect? Ideas may range from creating new programs and ministries, to implementing smaller changes. One example is the new "Connection" time introduced in worship recently encouraging the congregation to shake the hand of someone new. I have received feedback that this little nudge has had amazingly positive reverberations throughout the congregation.

Our elders and leadership teams have been tasked to come up with additional ways for the congregation to better connect. You may be approached by a member of leadership for your ideas and input. We look forward to receiving your feedback.

You will be hearing more about our new focus on building better relationships and how we CONNECT throughout the days, weeks, and years ahead. In the meantime, let's all work on expanding and strengthening our relationships. **'It's a new day! Connect!'**

On the journey of Christian discipleship and connecting with you, I remain faithfully yours,

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



April Events

Meet & Greet Lunch

Sunday, April 2 • 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. Register at genevapres.org/events or call the church office at 949-837-2323.

GPW Monthly Luncheon

Wednesday, April 19 • 12pm in Simpson Hall

Geneva is blessed to have many painters, watercolorists, photographers and other visual artists in our congregation. At the April luncheon their work will be displayed and we will hear their stories. All women are invited to attend monthly Geneva

Presbyterian Women luncheon gatherings featuring fun speakers, activities and engaging fellowship. Please bring a dish to share.

Angels Game Night

Saturday, April 22 • 6:07pm (first pitch)

It's Geneva night at Angel stadium! The church has a block of 40 tickets to watch Mike Trout, Shohei Ohtani and the gang rout the Royals together. Friends and family welcome!

- **Game Time:** First pitch is at 6:07pm (carpools leaving church 4:30ish - exact time to be determined based on need).
- **Transportation:** We will be carpooling to the game so please let us know when registering if you can be a driver, or if you need a ride. Drivers will need to pay a \$15 parking fee.
- **Giveaway:** Includes a Shohei Ohtani shirt and post-game fireworks.
- **Tickets:** Cost is \$20 per ticket if purchased before April 1. After this the price increases to \$23, the actual face value of the ticket. Seats are located in the lower deck of left field. Purchase tickets at genevapres.org/shop.
- **Ticket Distribution:** When purchasing you may choose an electronic or a physical ticket. Electronic tickets will be emailed directly to you. Physical tickets may be picked up Sunday, April 16 at the welcome center outside of the sanctuary before and after 10:30am worship or in the church office April 17-20 between 9am-4pm.
- **Purchase Deadline:** April 16, or until tickets are sold out.

See you at the game!



Pastor Steve's Update on the Pastoral Prayer during Worship

I am thrilled that we are connecting in different ways as a congregation in how we do the Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer in Worship each week. Whether it is in unison, "Popcorn", taking requests from the congregation, or the traditional way, we are connecting with God and one another in powerful ways. God is good all the time. All the time God is good.

Upcoming Music Events

Sunday, May 21, 4pm

This year, Geneva hosts **ChoralFest**, a musical celebration featuring choirs and vocal musicians from our neighboring houses of worship.

Sunday, May 28, 10:30am

On Pentecost Sunday, Geneva's Chancel Choir will present *Come Away to the Skies: a High, Lonesome Mass*, a work that features the traditional movements of the Mass accompanied by a bluegrass band.



GPW Spring Tea

May 6, 12-2pm, Simpson Hall

Beautifully set tables displaying a variety of china patterns are the backdrop for this afternoon of fellowship hosted by Geneva Presbyterian Women (GPW). Whether or not you're a regular GPW participant, women of all ages are invited to grab a favorite teacup and join the fun.

Singer **Sheryl Smith**, a versatile vocalist proficient in many styles including opera, Broadway standards and traditional hymns, will provide the entertainment for the day.

Beginning Easter Sunday, tickets (\$5) may be purchased in the courtyard, in the church office or at genevapres.org/events. Seating requests may be made at time of purchase. Tickets are limited and available on a first come, first served basis. Attendees are asked to bring goodies to share (e.g. tea sandwiches, cookies, finger fruit, veggies, scones, etc.).



Geneva Women's Book Club

Tuesday, April 25 • 1-2pm in McLennan Lounge

Come join this very friendly group! The focus for the April discussion is ***The Thursday Murder Club*** by Richard Osman. To participate online, join the Book Club 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.

Health News

Senior Non-Emergency Medical Transportation

Are you having a difficult time getting to and from medical appointments? Are you uncomfortable driving on freeways? Do you no longer have access to a car? **Age Well Senior Services** is offering a solution.

If you are at least 60 years of age and reside within the South Orange County service area, you may qualify for the *Senior Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Program* funded by the County of Orange Office on Aging. The program was developed to provide seniors with access to transportation to their non-emergency medical appointments including therapy, dentistry, hearing, dialysis, prescription pick-ups, testing and x-rays.

Once enrolled, participants may request 16 one-way (8 round-trips) per month at just \$2 per one-way trip (caregivers ride for free). Rides must be scheduled at least five business days in advance and will be given on a first come, first served basis. Program hours are Monday through Friday, 7am-6pm, excluding holidays.

If interested, enrollment forms (it's quick and easy!) are available in the church office. Once completed, simply mail it to Age Well and an eligibility determination will be mailed to your home address. Enrollment forms may also be accessed online at myagewell.org/transportation. Questions? Call Age Well at 949-855-9766.



Learning Opportunities

Sunday Morning Adult Classes

Grow and nurture your faith by attending a Sunday morning class at Geneva. Being an intergenerational congregation, classes welcome people of all ages and stages in life. We find that a diverse class providing different perspectives and life experiences makes things much more interesting. Our class offerings:

The Bible Project: Through video, lecture and discussion, the Rev. Ryan Romberg leads participants in an exploration of varying themes in scripture, looking at the Bible as a unified story that leads to Jesus.

Exploring the Bible Together: Led by elder Joanna Capelle, this group discusses the lectionary scriptures which come from the *Feasting on the Word* curriculum, including commentary by a wide variety of theologies and thinkers.

The Network: The *Feasting on the Word* curriculum is also the basis for study for this class. Led by rotating leaders from the group, discussions also veer into how scripture relates to current events.

These classes meet every week at 9am before worship at 10:30am. All newcomers are welcome!



Missional Life Update

Thank You From David Shun

San Joaquin Elementary School (SJES) is a Title I, California Distinguished School in Laguna Hills. Title I is the largest federally funded educational program which provides supplemental funds to assist schools with the highest student concentrations of poverty.

Recognizing we have a Title I school in our own backyard, over the past several years, under the leadership of the Missional Life Ministry Team, Geneva has formed a special partnership with SJES to provide assistance where it is needed. Our relationship has grown into one of trust and mutual respect.

On the next page is an exact reprint of a letter sent to us from school



Are you an artist?

Do you dabble in acrylics, watercolor, photography or other visual art medium? We would love for you to share your work at the April 19 Geneva Presbyterian Women luncheon. Please contact Emily Tosh at (949) 836-9041 or Daria Clement at (949) 878-0250.

O'Neill/Boyer Scholarships

Now through **April 30, 2023**, we are accepting applications for O'Neill/Boyer academic scholarships. These financial awards are offered as an extension of the commitment Geneva makes to nurture, care, and guide our youth in the ways of Christ. Scholarships are also available to Genevans returning to school to finish a degree, begin anew, or to pursue an advanced degree or special training. Visit genevapres.org/scholarships for more information and to complete an application.

Pastor Ryan is Principal for a Day

Last month, Pastor Ryan was invited by San Joaquin Elementary School principal, David Shun, to participate in *Principal for a Day*, a program run by the Saddleback Valley Unified School District.

As Principal for a Day, Pastor Ryan toured classrooms and observed teachers in action, met students and generally got a taste of what Principal Shun does on a daily basis.

We are always asking for ways we can help the cheetah students. Right now they need people to come in and read to children. Email Pastor Ryan at rromborg@genevapres.org if you're interested in serving as a reader or helping in a classroom, or call the church office.



principal, David Shun, demonstrating what can be accomplished when we reach out in love to a neighbor in need. We thought you would all like to read it as it addressed to the entire church which supports, through your giving, this special relationship.

To Pastor Ryan and Geneva Presbyterian Church,

San Joaquin Elementary School sincerely thanks you for your sincere generosity and unwavering support since adopting us as your school. Through your efforts, we've been able to establish, maintain, and continue to access a wide variety of student-centered resources and supports.

One of our greatest additions has been the Cheetah Den, the San Joaquin Wellness Center, where students can go to help self-regulate or re-regulate their feelings and outlook as well as to just find a quiet place to rest and relax before returning to class. Last year, we were able to resurrect our raised garden bed and the students found joy in gardening flowers, plants, and vegetables.

In addition, as we continue to evolve our Media Center (Library) to be more culturally reflective and inclusive, we've been able to not only add a variety of new reading materials that further represent our community, but we've also been able to transform the library into a student friendly place to read and explore with flexible furniture options and features.

We are also very grateful for the donation of 6th grade specific Spirit Wear to help boost our 6th grade students' school spirit and to provide them with a special San Joaquin 6th grade promoting class keepsake. Finally, we cannot thank you enough for your invitation to join Geneva's Alternative Market Place donation drive where your congregation helped our school raise funds that will be used for our library, supporting our PAWS positive behavior expectation support program, and for providing our students scholarships.

As a Title I school, many of our students grapple with a variety of challenges including financial hardships. Through your generosity, we are able to provide multiple layers of support for all our students and as a result, we can see joy and excitement resounding in our students and our staff.

Sincerely,

David Shun

Principal, San Joaquin Elementary School

Pastor Ryan is pictured with Saddleback Valley Unified School District Superintendent, **Dr. Crystal Turner** and San Joaquin Elementary School Principal **David Shun**.

For all those Genevans who have served our Cheetah friends in any way, through either time or treasure, we thank you and hope you will continue to help us support our adopted school family.



Giving

PC(USA) Pentecost Offering April 10-May 28

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Give online at genevapres.churchcenter.com/giving (choose *PCUSA Pentecost Offering* in the dropdown menu) or use the special envelope in your offering envelope box.

Genevans Give To Disaster Relief

Once again, Genevans have shown their generosity by giving to the PC(USA) Disaster Relief Fund. Since last December, designated member giving has allowed us to send the following financial assistance through the Los Ranchos Presbytery to support those suffering around the world: **\$3,162.92** for Syria, **\$3,565** for Ukraine, **\$4,137.78** for disaster assistance as needed. Thank you for your donations!



SoCal Landmarks
Copyright © 2023 by John Bare, John Bare Photography

Geneva Added to SoCal Landmark Website

We were thrilled to allow photographers John Bare and Andrew Schmidt access to our campus to photograph the church to be included on the *SoCal Landmarks* website.

SoCal Landmarks is an ongoing project to document the sites, buildings, monuments, and other natural and historical points of importance and/or interest that are considered locally, regionally and/or nationally as landmarks in the ten southern counties of California. The project is supported by contributions from a collaboration of photographers with varying levels of skills and experience, but a common interest in the place we all call home - Southern California.

Visit the website at socallandmarks.com and add *Geneva Presbyterian Church* to the search bar to read more and see the stunning collection of photographs of the church which includes the one at left. Many thanks to John and Andrew for their beautiful work and generosity in sharing it with us.



Juhan Memorial

A memorial service will be held for the Rev. Jim Juhan in the Sanctuary **Saturday, April 15 at 10am**. A reception will immediately follow in Simpson Hall. Jim, who passed away at this home February 1st, was a beloved friend of Geneva and will be greatly missed. Our hearts and prayers are with his family as they, and we, continue to mourn his loss.

Congregational Meeting Update

The following Geneva members were elected to serve in leadership positions in the Congregational Meeting held Sunday, March 12th:

Elders for the Class of 2027:

Barbara Lorenzen - Faith Formation, Ray Miller - Finance, Patty Georges - At Large, and John Pomery - Membership

Nominating Committee for 2023-2024:

Penny Prol, Mark Reed, Mary Gonzales, Jason MacAllister, Daria Clement and Elena Bennett

Please join us in thanking these individuals for stepping up to use their gifts in these capacities, and continue to pray for them as they serve.

It's Not Too Late To Give!

You have until April 9 to give to the PC(USA) *One Great Hour of Sharing* Offering. The three programs supported by *One Great Hour of Sharing* - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. Give online at genevapres.churchcenter.com/giving (choose PCUSA One Great Hour of Sharing in the dropdown menu) or use the special envelope in your offering envelope box.

Eyeglass Donations

Lions Club International recognizes the urgent need for corrective lenses. The church collects used eyewear – reading glasses, sunglasses, prescription lenses – to support the Lions Recycle For Sight Program. Look for this collection box in the church office.



Save the date!

- **Vacation Bible School – July 17-21:** For kids PreK through 5th grade. There are also plenty of volunteer opportunities. More information will be in the next issue of *The Geneva News*.
- **Summer Camp – July 5-9:** Middle and high schoolers go to Catalina Island. Sign-ups begin in May.

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
Evelyn Fanous
Howard Prol
Bink Lewis
George Marsh
Lizi Silver
Joyce Stark
Louann and Ross Van Riper

Our Church Prayer

Identity forming God, experiencing ongoing rebirth (conversion) with you is essential for our ongoing discovery of the identity we have in and through Jesus. May we understand being born again in a new and deeper way. In this way we live as your children being honest, open, and real, encouraging others in words and deeds to discover and experience your hope, peace, joy, and love. In the identity we have in Jesus we pray, Amen



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