



GENEVA NEWS

Worshipping | Learning | Connecting | Giving | Serving

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 6, 11:45am

We encourage all Geneva members to participate in this year's Annual Meeting. Attend in-person in the Sanctuary immediately following 10:30am worship or online via Zoom by **registering here** or call the church office at 949-837-2323. The 2022 operating budget will be received and members will vote on the *Terms of Call* for Pastor Steve and Pastor Ryan. A time for Q&A will be available for in-person and online participation.

Ash Wednesday

March 2 @ 12pm

Join us in the Sanctuary for our Ash Wednesday service which includes Communion and Ashing.



Embrace Geneva's Future

A message from Pastor Steve

Friends, the Annual Meeting is coming on Sunday, February 6 immediately following then 10:30am service. The meeting will be hybrid, that is, in-person and on Zoom.

At this meeting, we will hear a motion from the Session to discuss and receive the 2022 operating budget. We will also hear a motion to discuss and vote on the Terms of Call for myself and Pastor Ryan. Let me also remind you of Geneva's future the Session is asking our congregation to embrace:

1. ***Loving God, Loving Others, and Making Disciples.***
2. ***Our Vision:*** All are welcome here. Really, we mean that! All are welcome! Just as God receives all who believe in Jesus Christ, Geneva aspires to be an inclusive congregation worshipping, learning, connecting, giving, and serving together.
3. ***Our Mission:*** To remember, tell, and live the way of Jesus by being just, kind, and humble.

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Jazz Vespers

February 13, 4pm in the Sanctuary

Vespers, a form of Evening Prayer, has its roots in the evening prayers of ancient Israel. Jazz music is a perfect compliment to the contemplative nature of this service. If you have not yet attended a Jazz Vespers service we invite you to do so. Learn more and/or become a sponsor at genevapres.org/jazzvespers.



Current Sermon Series

Ends February 27

Pastor Steve continues the sermon series, **Embrace Geneva's Future: Baptism of the Lord, Epiphany, Transfiguration of the Lord and Making Disciples** through the end of February. You may prepare for the message each week by reviewing the sermon texts, a listing of which is online at genevapres.org/currentsermonseries.

The next sermon series, **Embrace Geneva's Future: Ash Wednesday, Lent, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Resurrection of the Lord/Easter and Making Disciples** will begin Ash Wednesday, March 2nd.

(Pastor's Message continued from page 1)

Lent is upon us. Confession, forgiveness, and obedience are central themes. And we are still amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Many things disrupt us in embracing Geneva's future. We need to set aside preferences and look out for the common good.

One more thing for your consideration. Ponder *who we are* – multi-generational, semi-homogenous, warm & welcoming, musical, on the edge of Laguna Woods. Also ponder *who we want to be* – unified, diverse, inclusive, engaged in authentic relationships and small groups, turned outward, and Disciple-making.

Who we want to be is the future we want to embrace which necessitates inclusion in all aspects of our ministry. This begins with our Sunday worship service, oftentimes our first impression.

The appearance of the choir on a more regular basis is challenging. And the soloists appearing "live," as opposed to a video recording, is difficult. Regarding the "live" presence of the band, we are in the beginning stages of a search for a full-time *Director of Classical and Modern Worship and Music*. We will continue to develop a collaborative service model which embraces classical and modern expressions of worship and music within COVID-19 safe practices as prescribed by the CDC.

The future of Geneva is bright and exciting. You are needed to ensure our future continues to unfold. Embrace Geneva's future. I am grateful for each one of you.



February Activities

New Member Class - February 12, 10-11:30am

Come to McLennan Lounge to learn about the benefits of membership, how you can find your fit and meet others new to the Geneva faith community. To register, call the church office at 949-837-2323, email us at info@genevapres.org or register online at genevapres.churchcenter.com/registrations.

Parents Night Out - Saturday, February 12, 4-8pm

Fun, games, dinner and a lesson await kids age PreK-5th grade as adults enjoy well deserved time away. The evening is free, but if you feel compelled to donate all money raised will go toward our Youth

Camp and Retreat Scholarship Fund. Register online at genevapres.churchcenter.com/registrations/events by **Monday, February 7th**.

Meet & Greet Lunch - February 13th, 11:30am

New members, visitors and guests are invited for an Olive Garden lunch and fellowship hosted by Pastor Steve in Simpson Hall immediately following worship. If you are a member and plan on bringing someone new, please shoot elder Jane Kingston a quick email at janekingston@hotmail.com to let her know you're coming.

Geneva Presbyterian Women - February 16, 1-2:15pm

Ladies, it's time for SHOW and TELL! At this meeting, we'll be sharing our personal collections. Please bring 5 or 6 items of your collection to Simpson Hall at 12:30pm to display for all to enjoy. Although we still cannot have refreshments, we CAN enjoy being together – wearing masks, of course. Contact Emily Tosh at (949) 859-7559 with any questions.

Women of all ages are invited to join Geneva Presbyterian Women!



Geneva Women's Book Club - Tuesday, February 22

This group meets the fourth Tuesday of the month from 1-2pm in McLennan Lounge. The focus for the February discussion is the book ***The Glass Castle*** by Jeannette Walls. 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, email us at info@genevapres.org.



New Adult Education Class

Begins Sunday, February 6

Ever feel like the Old Testament and New Testament represent different Gods? Ever feel uncomfortable with the non-quotable parts of Scripture and wonder what's really being said? Then this class is for you.

College-aged through adults are invited to join the Rev. Ryan Romberg in Simpson Hall **Sunday mornings at 9am** to explore the Bible as "a unified story that leads to Jesus".

Developed by a Biblical scholar and a professional illustrator, the *Bible Project* material traces Biblical themes from the opening pages of Scripture all the way until its closing words. We'll learn to read the Bible in its Jewish context, both in the ancient and 1st Century worlds. This promises to shake up our thinking and will force us to reconnect to the story's original meaning and intent. From there, hopefully we'll come away with fresh significance for our lives today.

CONNECT GROUPS

A more personal way to be in relationship together.

Become A Connect Group Facilitator

Training is February 13, 20 & 27
11:45am-1:15pm, McLennan Lounge

Connect Group facilitators guide God's people in mutual caring, fellowship and encountering God's word. They attend 4 hours of training to learn the nuts and bolts of *Connect Groups*, facilitation skills such as good listening, how to use the Bible as an equipping tool, and leading prayer and worship. Facilitators may function as a *Connect Group* leader, or they may simply be a resource for a group, providing the tools the group needs to function. Sign up by joining the facilitator group at genevapres.churchcenter.com/groups. Come be a part of this exciting new ministry!

Connect Groups

February is *Connect Group* sign-up month!

What is a Connect Group?

Connect Groups are small gatherings of 3-12 Geneva members and non-members, meeting a minimum of once a month to study the Bible, worship and serve together while supporting one another through life's trials and joys. *Connect Groups* provide a more personal way for us to be in relationship together, which is what God has called us to do.

How is a Connect Group different than a Bible Study?

Bible study is one important element of a *Connect Group*, but it is not the sole purpose of the group. We see *Connect Groups* experiencing life together – volunteering, socializing, checking in on one another – but most importantly, we hope you develop a trusting relationship with the people in your group where you feel safe to share your story, be yourself and expand your support network.

What if I'm already in a similar group?

Connect Groups are not meant to take the place of any current group in which you participate (e.g. GPW circle groups, Saturday Men's Bible Study, etc.). We understand that many of you already have groups in which you feel completely connected and supported. If this is the case, you are blessed. However, if you are not currently in a group, or if you would like to join another group in addition to your current affiliation, we encourage you to do so. For example, if you are currently in a women's group and would like to join a couple's or single's group to connect with more people with similar interests, please do!

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Gathering together with friends you love and trust, just because.



Worshipping and feeling the presence of God with others more intimately.



Learning together where you can safely be yourself.



Experiencing the joy of **Serving** together as a group.



Supporting one another through life's trials and joys.

I want to join a group! How do I do it?

The first step is to choose a group that appeals to you. You may do this online at genevapres.org/connectgroups, at the Welcome center Sunday mornings or by calling the church office at 939-837-2323. But, please do so by the end of February. Here are the groups we from which to choose at this time:

- Adult Men / Day / New
- Adult Men / Night / New
- Adult Women / Day / New
- Adult Women / Night / New
- Couples / New
- Parents of School-Aged Children / New
- Singles / New
- Women of Faith / Existing - Meets Tuesdays, 1pm at Geneva
- Open Group Category

Once you choose a group, you will be contacted by a Connect Group Facilitator to confirm your placement and answer any questions you may have. The goal is for groups to begin meeting in March and April. It will be up to each group to determine when and where the meetings will take place.

What if none of the group options appeal to me?

No worries. If you don't find a fit, choose the "Open Group Category". A facilitator will follow up with you to determine your needs. We're anticipating beginning new groups based on this input. Please keep in mind that we can only have as many groups as we have group facilitators, so think about becoming a leader to help us expand our group offerings.

Answers to additional questions may be found at genevapres.org/connectgroups. Just click on the "FAQs". We hope all Genevans and friends will participate in a *Connect Group*. As elder Jane Kingston says, "Connect Groups are where real ministry begins!"



Missional Life Update

Genevans Rise Up

Gifts are going here, there and everywhere. Your Alternative Gift Market is providing a very Happy New Year for people close to home and far away. A few examples:



Register now for the Men's Retreat!

Friday, March 25 - Sunday, March 27

Registration Deadline:
Sunday, March 13

Pastor Steve, Pastor Ryan and the retreat committee hope all Geneva men and guests will join them for a spiritual weekend at the beautiful Luther Glen Conference Center in Yucaipa. Activities will include music, conference sessions and small group connecting and networking. Free time activities include resting, reading, hiking, walking the labyrinth, visiting the cider mills or animal farm or trekking down the hill for Oak Glen's famous apple pie!

All participants will carpool to the location. The cost is \$199 per person. Scholarships are available. Learn more about transportation, scholarships and other details - and register - at genevapres.churchcenter.com/registrations or call the church office at 949-837-2323.



Pastor's Lenten Study Coming Soon

Sunday, March 6 & 13

Pastor Steve invites you to join him Sundays, March 6 and 13 at 9am in Simpson Hall for an in-depth study on the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-16). As we will be in the middle of Lent at this time, a closer look at confession, forgiveness, and obedience is in order.

Discussion and questions are encouraged as we explore together this enlightening and motivating study for the journey of embracing Geneva's future.

Pastor Steve's Daily Inspiration

Begin or end your day with a 3-minute devotional reflection from Pastor Steve on the daily passage found online from the Our Daily Bread Devotional series. You may also call the church office at 837-2323 during office hours or email us at info@genevapres.org for a free Our Daily Devotional booklet. The upcoming edition covers March/April/May.

1. Our mission partner in Tijuana, Mexico will receive 15 bags of beans @ 55 pounds per bag (that's a lot of beans, folks!), and 41 bags of rice @ 110 pounds per bag (4,500 pounds!). This will go a long way toward supplementing family meals in rural, impoverished areas.
2. *Corado Hope for the Future*, our mission partner in Romania, will receive 16 sets of hats and mittens, 8 winter jackets, 13 pairs of socks and 3 soccer balls. What fun the children will have running and playing together!
3. Our members bought a cow (9 shares equals one cow) and 3 more shares, or 1/3, of another cow to feed people in rural India.

Many more of your gifts will be circulating to people throughout the world through our mission partnerships this year.

One of our Missional Life Ministry Team members helping at the Market, Carolyn Gerakos, was told by a donor that she appreciated the opportunity to give to a place she would otherwise not have known about. She went on to say that although there is a lot of mission activity here at the church, it seems to be mostly behind the scenes whereas the Alternative Gift Market is really "hands on."

We are very pleased and thankful to our many "hands on" Geneva participants. With your help, through the 2021 Alternative Gift Market Geneva was able to purchase \$6,348 in goods and services gifted to our local and world mission partners. Your generous contributions will make a real difference in many lives. Thank you!

The Missional Life Ministry Team



Through the *Alternative Gift Market*, Geneva purchased \$6,348 in goods and services for our local and world mission partners.



Giving Update

Donating "Stuff" at Geneva

Our wonderful, generous members have donated many items to Geneva. Some of the programs we participate in have changed over the years. Here's an update on what we are currently collecting:

Please DO donate:

Used eyeglasses. The Lions Club has a collection box in the church office. They accept new, used, prescription and non-prescription eyeglasses, safety glasses and sunglasses. Broken or incomplete glasses are not accepted.

Non-perishable food for South County Outreach. Drop off donations in the shopping cart on the courtyard on Sundays or in the church office during the week.

Clean used clothing and other textiles. *Use Again* pays us by the pound and re-purposes the items for resale or recycling. Drop off donations in the green and white bins which are on the courtyard on Sundays and in the church office during the week.

Please DO NOT bring in:

Used ink and toner cartridges. We used to take them for recycling credit to offset the cost of office supplies, but currently the closest drop-off is too far away to be feasible.

Perishable food items.

Used cell phones or other e-waste.

The recycling program we participated in no longer exists and in 2022 it actually costs us to dispose of them properly.

Again, thank you for your generous donations. If you have any questions regarding any of the items on this list contact Geneva Office Manager, Laura McCallum at lmccallum@genevapres.org or call the church office at 949-837-2323.



2022 Per Capita

The per capita assessment supports Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly and all that these bodies provide for us as a PC(USA) congregation. Every year we are assessed a certain amount based on the number of members we have. This year the amount is \$38.83 per member. We appreciate it if those members who are able would cover this cost so that we do not pay it out of our General Fund. You may do so by mailing your contribution to the church, dropping it by the office or completing your transaction online at genevapres.churchcenter.com/giving (choose *Per Capita* in the dropdown menu).

One Great Hour Of Sharing

March 13 - April 10

This PC(USA) Special Offering aids those living in the aftermath of a natural disaster like the recent tornados in Kentucky and Tennessee. Give online at genevapres.churchcenter.com/giving (choose *One Great Hour of Sharing* in the dropdown menu) or use the special envelope in your offering envelope box.

Covid Update

Booster Requirements

In response to the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus, in their January meeting session voted to approve a motion to amend the current mandatory vaccination policy for Geneva staff and volunteers (choir, staff, ushers and teachers) to include the booster shot in its definition of “fully vaccinated.” Here’s an example of one of the many reasons why this is important.

The CDC specifically allows boosted individuals that have been exposed to the coronavirus, but remain asymptomatic, to continue working. Last month, the Geneva Children’s Center had three teachers out due to testing Covid positive which greatly strained their ability to meet licensing requirements for proper student to teacher ratios. These teachers may have been allowed to continue working if they had shown proof of being boosted. Similarly, the booster will not only better protect the health of everyone on campus, but will also help church employees and volunteers keep up with regularly scheduled commitments.

What does this mean for current employees and volunteers? We are not demanding proof of having received a booster, but in the absence of proof, boosted individuals who have been

exposed but remain asymptomatic may return to work whereas those who have not received the booster must quarantine for at least 5 days. Questions? Contact Gary Pado at gpado@genevapres.org.

In-Person Worship

Geneva leadership has decided to continue in-person worship instituting additional safety guidelines. Please stay home if experiencing any symptoms or have had recent exposure to anyone with COVID-19. An online service option continues to be available for those who are sick, have been exposed or are simply uncomfortable with attending in person.

Save the date for these upcoming events

- **Women’s Retreat – June 3-5** @ Luther Glen Retreat Center in Yucaipa, CA for fellowship and rejuvenation. Sign-ups begin in May. Cost is \$199 per person.
- **Vacation Bible School – June 20-24:** VBS is for kids PreK through 5th grade. A great volunteer opportunity!
- **Summer Camp – July 5-9:** Middle and high schoolers go to Catalina Island. Sign-ups begin in June. Cost is \$475 per person. Scholarships available.

Prayer Requests

Paul Arndt
 Bill Barnes
 Bruce and Denise Beckhart
 Jerra Lynne Beckhart
 Cynthia Connors and Jim Juhan
 Beth and Norm Coombs
 Hank Green
 David Horne
 Carol Van Kirk
 Harriet and Bink Lewis
 George Marsh
 Lucy Messerschmidt
 Bob Warren
 Frank Whitney
 Paul Woodward

Email prayer requests to prayer@genevapres.org, or call the church office to complete a *Prayer Request Form*.

Our Church Prayer

Disciple making God, the baptism, epiphany and transfiguration of your son, Jesus Christ, furthered the hope of transformation for every human being that began at Advent and Christmas. We’re commissioned to live your mission of salvation for the sake of others to discover and experience your favor, love, grace, and peace. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.



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