



GENEVA NEWS

Worshipping | Learning | Connecting | Giving | Serving

Trunk-or-Treat and BBQ dinner

Friday, October 27 • Dinner served from 5:30-7pm

Whether you're helping at a "trunk-stop" or just want to come see the cute kids in their costumes, we're hoping you'll join us for a BBQ dinner served during *Trunk-or-Treat*. Tickets are \$20 per person and must be purchased by **Wednesday, October 25** online at genevapres.org/events. If you are hosting a trunk, you receive one free ticket. Ticket proceeds fund the food and helps to offset the cost of the bounce houses for the kids.



Your pledging supports events such as the recent Homecoming Sunday luncheon.

Be the best Jesus someone sees!

Generosity in Times of Transition

“Let this mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus...”
Philippians 2:5

On behalf of Session, the Generosity Team wants you to know that Geneva needs your support for 2024 more than ever. We are in the process of transitioning to a Solo Pastor church and trimming our expenses to avoid potential budget deficits. Times of transition elicit concerns for past traditions, but also provide powerful opportunities to grow as individuals and as a congregation in our witness to the grace and love of Jesus Christ.

The Generosity Team asked that you please consider the following as you are prayerfully contemplate your 2023 contribution:

- While there will be significant cost-savings by transitioning to a Solo Pastor church, those savings by themselves will not be

Current Sermon Series

September 3-November 26

Pastor Steve continues 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.



Geneva youth help out at this year's food drive at Stater Bros.

Tech Volunteers

Whoops! A mistake was made in the September newsletter. We thanked the wrong people! The August worship tech volunteers were **Shirley Fargo** and **Kwangho Seo**. We regret the error, especially because we are so grateful for these "tech angels" for serving as support for the live-streaming of our 10:30am worship service. We also want to thank **Sebong Kang** and **Linda Erickson** for helping out in September.

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

enough to shift Geneva to a balanced budget. Even if giving were to remain at the level of 2023, we would need to make additional cuts, and if giving were to dip below the level of 2023, even more drastic measures would be required. Please consider renewing

your pledge, increasing your pledge, or becoming a first-time pledger. ***As Psalm 46 reminds us, God is our refuge and our strength, and we claim this promise at this time of transition.***

- Pastor Steve has emphasized giving from one's life wallet, in terms not only of money but also with time and talents. As Geneva slims down its budget and becomes a Solo Pastor congregation, we will need members to step up as volunteers to bear more of the load. While this may seem a challenge, ***Hebrews 12 encourages us to run with perseverance and to keep our focus on Jesus.***

- Supporting Geneva can take many forms, from financial giving or volunteer activity, to simply connecting within or outside our community, or by offering up prayers. ***Romans 12 tells us, being one body with many members, we have different gifts and talents.*** Geneva has been abundantly blessed with talented people, and now is a time to come together as one body.

- Session recognizes that each person's ability to support Geneva may vary greatly. Bearing in mind Jesus' reaction to the offering of the widow's mite (Mark 12:41 - 43) we are grateful for whatever contributions you can make. In recent years we have averaged only 65% of our members making pledges. If we could move to 100% participation, that would be a wonderful statement of unity and community.

Please keep an eye open this month for our 2024 Generosity campaign mailing, and prayerfully and joyfully consider how you can contribute. We're encouraging all Genevans to join us in worship **October 29 for "in-gathering Sunday"** as we collectively pledge from our life wallets to help ensure the continued well-being of Geneva Presbyterian Church. Any and all contributions are welcomed and more than ever appreciated.

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



Let's Connect

Meet & Greet Lunch

Sunday, October 1 • 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.

GPW Arts & Crafts Show

Wednesday, October 18 • 12pm in Simpson Hall

Geneva Presbyterian Women is showcasing all of the “crafters” in our midst. If you needlepoint, knit, make jewelry or have any other hidden crafty talent we want to hear from you. Contact Emily Tosh or Daria Clement at dariajoc@yahoo.com if you would like to share. All women are invited to attend the monthly luncheons. Please bring a dish to share your culinary talent of cooking and baking!



Free Dementia Education Series Continues

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

You are invited to the final installment of this three-part educational series presented by Alzheimer's of Orange County and hosted by Geneva. The final topic is ***Are You Good to Go?***, which focuses on how you can anticipate and identify your wishes, ensure those wishes are honored, and start difficult conversations with loved ones.

This educational series is open to anyone needing 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.

Geneva Women's Book Club

Tuesday, October 24 • 1-2pm in Annex

The book for September is *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave. 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.

Join Geneva Presbyterian Women (GPW)

Bible Study, Fellowship, Service

Presbyterian Women (PW) is a national organization supported by the Presbyterian Church (USA) with groups across the country. The

purpose of PW is to nurture faith, support missions, build community and develop leaders. The Geneva Presbyterian Women (GPW) group is committed to fulfilling this mandate through bible study, monthly luncheons, annual events and mission projects.

Women of all ages are welcome to join GPW. You may do so at any time throughout the year. An annual donation of \$25 per participant is recommended which is used to cover operating costs, such as paper goods for luncheons, field trip expenses, fees for special speakers and guests, among other things.

To learn more about PW, visit presbyterianwomen.org. To learn more about the GPW group, come to a monthly luncheon or contact GPW Moderator, Mary Gonzales at maryb.gonzales179@gmail.com.

Embrace your inner child by hosting a “Trunk-Stop”!

Friday, October 27, 5:30-7:30pm

Here’s your chance to decorate, dress up (if you feel so inclined) and get into the general spirit of our annual *Trunk-or-Treat* event by being one of 50 “trunk-stops”.

As a *Trunk-Stop*, your car will be one of many parked side-by-side with the hatch up ready to hand out candy to our delightful trick-or-treaters. Decorating your vehicle for the event is greatly encouraged and we ask that you bring at least 100 individually wrapped pieces of candy to hand out. The lower parking lot will be open at 4pm for “trunker” set-up. Each car will receive one free dinner ticket.

Reserve your *Trunk-Stop* online at genevapres.org/events. Once on the list, you will receive additional info. Questions? Contact GCC Director, Amy Lussier, at MrsAmy@genevaCC.org.



Trunk-Or-Treat & BBQ Dinner

Friday, October 27 • 5:30-7:30pm

The Geneva Children’s Center preschool, Geneva church and The Geneva School, are coming together to host the 3rd annual *Trunk-or-Treat*. The Geneva lower parking lot will be filled with little ones showing off their costumes and receiving treats. There are many ways to join in the fun. Here’s how you can participate:

- **Cake Walk Donation:** “Yummy prizes” include cupcakes, cakes, plates of cookies, bread loaves, or any other bakes goods. Please cover plates with plastic wrap. Keeping with the Halloween theme makes the treats even more special! Please bring donations to the church office **Friday, October 27** during office hours (9am-1pm) or bring the goodies with you to the event.
- **Become a Trunk-Stop:** Be one of the trick-or-treat stations by registering your car for a “trunk-stop” spot (see column at left).
- **Buy a Dinner Ticket:** All genevans and friends are invited to join us for a BBQ dinner served from 5:30-7pm. Tickets are \$20 per person and may be purchased online at genevapres.org/events no later than **Wednesday, October 25**. Ticket proceeds fund the food and helps to offset the cost of the bounce houses. Thank you to The Geneva School for coordinating this piece of the puzzle!

Trunk-or-Treat provides a safe way for kids to enjoy the holiday, and it’s a great time to celebrate the children and families calling our campus their home. If you have any questions regarding anything *Trunk-or-Treat* related, please direct them to Geneva Children’s Center Director, Amy Lussier, at MrsAmy@genevacc.org.

Homecoming Sunday Luncheon Recap

Sunday, September 10, the Geneva congregation and our campus partners, the Irvine Taiwanese Presbyterian Church (ITPC), gathered after worship for a Chinese / American food feast and the buzz around town is that it needs to be repeated!

The goal of the afternoon was to get to know one another better. ITPC Pastor Albany Lee set the tone by instructing his parishioners that no more than four folks from the ITPC could dine together at the same table. This mandate seemed to work because every table was shared with Genevans and Taiwanese congregants. If the noise in the room was any indication, great conversations were being had by all!

The food itself was delicious! The ITPC provided a plate of traditional Chinese dishes and we have Pastor Ryan's father, **Gary Romberg**, to thank for grilling the pork for the pulled pork sandwiches. Genevans **Joanna Capelle** and **Wendy McCalley**, made world class coleslaw and the yummy potato salad came from the kitchen of **Elizabeth Carlisle**.

Additional thank you's to the Geneva Congregational Life Ministry Team and volunteers, led by elder **Linda Erickson**, and the ITPC congregation, led by **Mr. Wong**, for set-up, serving and clean-up.

Both congregations agreed that having a joint luncheon more often would be a blessing to us all. In the meantime, we look forward to greeting the new friends we've made as we see them on campus.



Simpson Hall was packed for the Homecoming Sunday luncheon. Circle photo: ITPC Pastor Albany Lee and Geneva member Diane Smith.



Pastor's Bible Study: *The Problem of Evil*

Coming November 12, 19 & 27

Many Christians spend little time, if any, thinking about evil and its impact on the lives of every human being. Evil thwarts the impact of the follower of Jesus each and every day. Join Pastor Steve in studying various biblical texts that highlight the problem of evil in everyday life. Learn biblical truths about ways to resist the work of the Evil one in your life. Paul reminds us in Ephesians 6:12, "For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of the present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."

This study will be Pastor Steve's last before he retires December 31st.

The Importance of the Sunday Morning Registration Pads

Every Sunday, we ask the congregation to pass and complete the brown registration pad found in the pew pocket. It seems like a mundane exercise, but we thought we'd share with you why it's important.

- The PC(USA) requires us to provide worship attendance statistics annually. This is the means by which we obtain these figures.
- It allows Session to discover and follow up with new guests, if they request it.
- It allows you to know who is sitting in the pew with you. Greet them by name!
- If we discover an absence from a regular worship attendee, we are able to reach out and provide additional care when needed.

Basically, pew pads are a relationship building tool as well as a means for us to track attendance. So, even if the pastor forgets to remind us, don't forget to pass the pad!

Meet Our New Members

Three new members were introduced to the congregation at the September 24th worship service. Here's an opportunity to learn a bit more about them. Don't forget to introduce yourself when you get the chance.



Joan Dimmit

After living in Las Vegas for 46 years, my husband and I moved to Laguna Woods in October 2020 and sadly he passed away six weeks later. Prior to that, I was the Regional Representative for the Honorable Barbara Vucanovich, R-NV for 12 years. My daughter Julie Mangino and I both live in Laguna Woods, where I was just elected President of the Aliso Club. I am a grandmother of two and great grandmother of three and a fan of the 2023 Stanley Cup winners, the Vegas Golden Knights ice hockey team.

Grace Sams and Hank Giora

Grace and Sam, who have been married forty years, moved to California from the East Coast six years ago. They met while working at the Pentagon in Washington D.C. (we're sure there has to be a story there!). Grace and Sam may look familiar as they are longtime members of the Geneva Chancel Choir.



Giving

Financial Recap (January - August 2023)

Submitted by Geneva Business Manager, Gary Pado

Thank you to our members who follow through on their pledge commitments! Although we are down \$16k in pledge receipts compared to last year at this time, we are ahead of 2023 budgeted pledges by \$34k through August. Overall expenditures are closely tracking with our budget, so the bottom line is that we remain on solid financial footing so far this year – due to our faithful congregation.

Please keep an eye open this month for our 2024 Generosity campaign mailing, and prayerfully consider how you

	Actual	Budgeted	Difference
Pledges	\$482,227	\$448,719	\$33,508
Total Revenue	\$786,026	\$742,860	\$43,166
Total Expenses	\$745,463	\$745,831	\$368
Net Income	\$40,563	\$(2,971)	\$43,534

can contribute. Join us **October 29 for “in-gathering Sunday”** as we collectively pledge from our life wallets to help ensure the continued well-being of Geneva. Please contact me, Gary Pado, at gpado@genevapres.org, if you have any questions about your contribution or need assistance in setting up automated giving.

Additional Giving Statistics

Submitted by Geneva Business Manager, Gary Pado

A check was recently submitted to the PC (USA) for **\$10,560.50** in support of the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PCA) special offerings (*Christmas Joy, One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace & Global Witness*) and Presbyterian Disaster Relief (*Syria, Ukraine, Maui*). This money was contributed by Geneva members over the past year.

Additionally, **\$3005** was given to our mission partner, *South County Outreach*, representing donations from our members. Thank you, once again, for giving of your life’s wallet for these important organizations.

Left: Geneva Office Manager, Laura McCallum shows off the new awning above the back entrance to Simpson Hall.
Right: Geneva member Pam Lorge, who passed away in October of 2022. A plaque is planned in her memory to be placed outside Simpson Hall.



Leaving a Legacy of Generosity

On October 2, 2022, Genevan **Pam Lorge** went to be with the Lord. Pam’s generous spirit in life followed her in death in the form of a \$5,000 gift to the church which she wanted used for facility improvements.

“My mother loved the church and its members” said Pam’s son Ryan, “we wanted to do something that would have made her smile.”

It seems Pam passed her generous spirit on to her children. As owners of *Classic Home Improvement Products*, Pam’s family waived installation and other fees for our chosen improvements, thereby turning the initial \$5,000 gift into an actual retail investment of over \$12,000. The result is the new awning above the back door of Simpson Hall and much needed window blinds throughout campus.

Many thanks to the Lorge family - Ryan, Tamara, Jason and Jonathan. We know your

Pastor Transition Update

Upon Pastor Steve’s retirement in December, Geneva will be transitioning to a Solo Pastor church. Beginning January 1, 2024, Pastor Ryan will serve as a “Bridge” Pastor. The Bridge pastor provides continuity and stability until Session is ready to begin the Interim pastor search. The next step as outlined by the PC(USA) will be to hire an Interim pastor. This search will begin in 2024. 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. Copies of this document are still available in the church office. Additional questions and/or comments are encouraged! Please direct them to info@genevapres.org.

Undie Sundie Results

What a generous congregation! On Homecoming Sunday, September 10th, you gave an enormous gift to the men and women served by the Orange County Rescue Mission. Here are the results of our underwear drive:



- 75 packets of men’s underwear (that’s 372 pairs!)
- 11 packets of ladies underwear (73 pairs)
- 2 packets of socks (16 pairs)

- \$315 was donated which allowed us to purchase 84 additional pairs

That’s a total of **456 pairs of underwear!!** Your open and caring hearts will help men and women as they work to turn their lives around. The Missional Life Ministry Team extends grateful thanks to all!

Good Luck, Saul!



Geneva Facilities Assistant, Saul Bonilla, is leaving Geneva to continue God’s work as the new coordinator of the South County

Outreach Food Pantry. Saul also recently accepted the Youth Director position at First Presbyterian, Santa Ana.

“Saul loves the lord, has a heart for ministry and is a true servant leader,” says Pastor Steve. “It has been a privilege to have him on Genevas staff. He is going to do great things for the Kingdom of God.”

Geneva’s relationship with Saul began when he was asked to play drums in our Praise Band back in 2017. He became our Facilities Assistant in 2020 in the midst of the COVID pandemic, helping ensure the Geneva campus was safe and well maintained. He was also in charge of church maintenance and managing set-up and assistance for campus events.

Saul has been a wonderful colleague and friend, and we wish him many blessings in his new role.

Prayer Requests

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

- Heidi Belew
- Joan Burge
- 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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