



GENEVA NEWS

Worshipping | Learning | Connecting | Giving | Serving

In Remembrance

May 15th will mark the one year anniversary of the attack on our campus which took the life of Dr. John Cheng, injured five others and forever affected the lives of many. The *Irvine Taiwanese Presbyterian Church*, our campus partner and target of the attack, will be holding a special service May 14th for their congregation in remembrance of this tragic event. Perhaps we should all pause on this day and say a prayer for the families of the victims, the ITPC congregation, and our community as we continue to heal.



Geneva is proud to host the 2023 *Community of Faith ChoralFest*, a musical celebration featuring choirs and vocal musicians from our neighboring houses of worship. Admission is free.



Meet our new Stephen Ministers (L to R): Kathy Meyer, Verena Macchia, Cathy Kalina and Babs Frink.

Caring for one another

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

Stephen Ministry is a big part of how we care for one another at Geneva. At Geneva, we have nine active Stephen Ministers, three Stephen leaders, and four Stephen Ministers in training who will be Commissioned on Sunday, May 28.

Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers who are not judgmental, therapists or “fixers.” They are, however, good listeners, empathetic, and compassionate. Listen to the testimony of Miranda McPhee, a recent recipient of care from a Stephen Minister.

“My husband had Alzheimer’s Disease, so for a long time we were on a downward slope and the outcome was inevitable. He was at home with me and that was the best thing for both of us, but caregiving is hard.

Four months before my husband’s passing, I asked for a Stephen Minister. I didn’t know quite what to expect but I was at a point where I needed more support and spiritual help. I was going to lose



Current Sermon Series

April 9 - May 28

Pastor Steve continues 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.

Bible Sunday

Sunday, May 21, 10:30am

Each year, the church gifts age appropriate Bibles to the children of the congregation between the ages of three and twelve.

We're looped!



This is a reminder that Geneva is equipped in the Sanctuary with the "Hearing Loop", Assisted Listening Devices for those without T-Coil equipped hearing aids. Please ask our ushers for assistance.

my husband and I was terrified, but I needed to talk about it. My Stephen Minister and I started meeting weekly in a local café. She quietly encouraged me to talk, listened without judgement, offered insight when asked, and helped revive my flagging spirits and faith.

When the Covid lock down came we talked on the phone, and it was just as easy. I found myself looking forward to the calls. I could share the good, the bad and the ugly; the funny and the heartbreaking; my worries and my fears, and the rollercoaster of emotions that crowd in when you are responsible for someone else.

It is not always easy to ask for help when our home lives are difficult. It's personal, so we tend to hunker down, withdraw into ourselves. But I was always taught that to ask for help is a sign of strength not weakness. If I hadn't met my Stephen Minister, I would have made it through this difficult period, of course I would. But I think perhaps I have managed the turmoil better. She has gently helped me lean into my faith with greater confidence, and I know I could never have done that alone."

Yes. It's a new day: connect. If you would like to have an impactful connection with one of our Stephen Ministers, all you need do is ask! Just send an email to caring@genevapres.org or call the church office at 949-837-2323. All requests are confidential.

Thank you, Miranda, for sharing your powerful story. On the journey of well-being, I remain faithfully yours,

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



Upcoming Ways to Connect

Meet & Greet Lunch

Sunday, May 7 • 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. These lunches are a great first step toward church membership and we encourage all Genevans to invite those you may know to attend. Register at genevapres.org/events or call the church office at 949-837-2323.

Geneva Women's Book Club

Tuesday, May 23 • 1-2pm in McLennan Lounge

Come join this very friendly group! The focus for the May discussion is *The Memory Keeper* by Geneva members Larry K. and Lorna Collins. 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.

New Member Class

Saturday, June 3 • 10am-12pm in McLennan Lounge

This class is for those who are ready for membership or want to discover what it means to become a Geneva member. We'll answer questions such as: *Why join the church?*, *What are the benefits of belonging?*, *How do I find my fit?* and more. Register for the class at genevapres.org/events.

Welcome Stephen Ministers

Stephen Ministers are Geneva members and friends who are loving, caring and feel called to provide the emotional and spiritual care you need when faced with any personal struggle or crisis. Stephen Ministers attend up to 50 hours of class time training. In addition, they complete multiple hours of home preparation for each class.

Here's an introduction, in their own words, to each of the four women who made this commitment to serve, and will be commissioned as Steven Ministers in worship May 28th (see photo on the cover page).

Barbara "Babs" Frink: "After a year of living through my husband's grueling and painful decline in health, he passed, leaving me in crisis mode. As a new widow, I couldn't find footing or solace. I was even struggling to find God. I finally emailed the church to request information about Stephen Ministry. What I got was an invitation to join the upcoming class. God knew what I needed. It has been a transcendent experience and I encourage all to utilize this wonderful service, either as a student or a care receiver!"

Cathy Kalina: "I have been the wife of a Presbyterian pastor for forty years and I just survived a rare cancer with a 20% chance to live, so I know God isn't through with me yet! Becoming a Stephen Minister gives me the opportunity to grow spiritually closer to our Lord, and with gratitude I will be better equipped to serve others."



Spring Concert

Sunday, June 4, 10:30am

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. This event has been changed from Pentecost Sunday, May 28, so please change your calendar!

"It's a new day! Connect!"...on Sunday mornings.

Wear your name tag!

Wearing your Geneva name tag helps you get to know people and is a welcoming sign to visitors and guests. Choose may choose a pin name tag or magnetized to protect clothing. Members and non-members can purchase online at genevapres.churchcenter.com/registrations/events. You may also place your order in the church office during the week.

Stephen Minister Spotlight

Lorna Collins

Stephen Ministry Leader

"I have been a Presbyterian for more than fifty years, serving as elder and deacon and leading contemporary worship music. I met Pastor Steve when he graduated from seminary and served my church in San Juan Capistrano. When he was called to Geneva, he asked me to participate in his installation, and I was delighted to do so.

A couple of years later, my husband, Larry (also an ordained elder and deacon), and I joined the Geneva congregation. When Stephen Ministry was restarted here, Steve asked me to join the class. And when leader training was offered, he "strongly encouraged" me to take on this challenge. He was right! This is the ministry in which I was meant to serve, and teaching the method to others has been a joy and a blessing. If you have questions, please ask me. I am always happy to talk about Stephen Ministry."



Lorna Collins

Kathy Meyer: "I am a mother, grandmother and a retired elementary school teacher. I found Geneva two years ago and felt compelled to join the Stephen Ministry when I heard about it. At the time, I had a friend who had suffered the loss of her partner and a family member. I thought the training would help me care for them. I wish I had had a Stephen's Minister when I faced life's trials; divorce, cancer, death of a close friend and my parents. No one needs to go through any crisis alone. We are here to serve you, lend a compassionate ear, and be on your side until you have resolution to your trials in life."

Verena Macchia: "I am so delighted to be a part of Stephen Ministry. I live in the neighborhood and I can't wait to serve and bring the love of Christ and support to you. Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve."

This month, we are incorporating a new column in *The Geneva News* spotlighting someone on the Stephen Ministry team (see column at left) so you can get to know them better. We begin with leader Lorna Collins.

If you are in need of a Stephen Minister or are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, send an email to caring@genevapres.org or call the church office at 949-837-2323. All requests are confidential.



Learning Opportunities

We believe that continuing to study scripture and weaving the teachings of Jesus into our everyday lives is an important part of our growth as Christians. To that end, you'll want to mark your calendar to attend these upcoming "deep dives" into scripture to strengthen our relationship with Christ and enhance our understanding of our community, our world and each other.

Tough Talks

Sunday, May 21 • 11:30am in McLennan Lounge

Topic: Why do bad things happen to good people?

Immediately following 10:30am worship, Pastors Steve and Ryan are joined by Rev. Dr. Howard Hsieh to discuss difficult passages in the Bible from three different Christian perspectives. This includes Q+A with the panel. Lunch is included and a free will offering will be taken to cover the cost of food. The dates for the next two *Tough Talks* are August 27 and September 24. Topics are to be determined.

Pastor's Bible Study: "The Key to Following Jesus"

June, August and October

Immediately following 10:30am worship, join the Rev. Dr. Steven M. Marsh at 11:45am in McLennan Lounge for a verse by verse study of Matthew 5, 6 & 7 from the Sermon on the Mount. A soup, salad, bread and dessert lunch will be served. Donations are suggested.

Here's the schedule for this comprehensive study:

Part I: June 11, 18 and 25 focusing on Matthew 5.

Part II: August 13, 20 and 27 on Matthew 6.

Part III: October 8, 15 and 2 on Matthew 7.



Missional Life Update

The Geneva Missional Life Ministry Team is committed to hands-on ministry. If you are passionate about serving or becoming a part of the Missional Life Ministry Team, contact elder Elizabeth Carlisle at 949-830-3233. To learn more about Geneva's mission partners, visit genevapres.org/serve.

Community Food Drive

May 13-20

Help us replenish the shelves of the South County Outreach Food Pantry! May 13 and 20, Geneva volunteers will be at Stater Bros. Market across from the church from 8am - 12pm to collect food for our friends and neighbors who depend on the SCO Food Pantry. We'll be handing out flyers to shoppers, collecting donations and getting to know people in our community.

Volunteer!

If you would like to help work the Geneva table outside of Stater Bros., register for a shift at genevapres.org/events, or call the church office at 949-837-2323.

Donate!

Bring donated items during our Stater Bros. Saturdays, or to the church during the week. The most needed items are listed at left. Shopping lists are also available in the church office, at the Welcome Center on Sunday morning or download at genevapres.org/events.

NOTE: Please check expiration dates on all packaged items. Expired items are not accepted. Thank you!



Food Pantry Most Needed Items

Help us replenish the shelves of the South County Outreach Food Pantry! Here's a list of the items the Pantry needs most:

- Canned Tuna
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Pasta
- Canned Tomatoes
- Canned Pasta Sauce
- Jelly (for PB&J sandwiches)
- Oatmeal (regular & instant)
- Mayonnaise
- Mustard
- Ketchup
- BBQ Sauce
- Salsa (can or jar)
- Salad Dressings
- Cooking Oils (corn, vegetable, olive)
- Dinner Helpers (Pasta-Roni, Rice-a-Roni, etc.)
- Rice and Beans (1-2 lb. bags)
- Commonly Used Spices (pepper, chili powder, oregano, etc.)

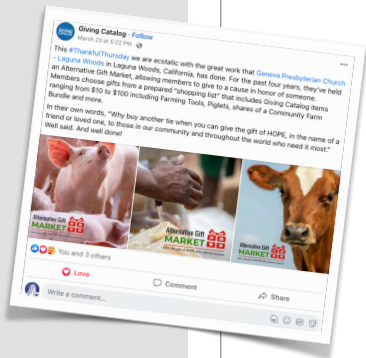
Alternative Gift Market Recognized

In March, the folks who produce the Presbyterian Giving Catalog featured the Geneva Alternative Gift Market in a Facebook post. Here's what they wrote:

"This #ThankfulThursday we are ecstatic with the great work that Geneva Presbyterian Church in Laguna Woods, California, has done. For the past four years, they've held an Alternative Gift Market, allowing members to give to a cause in honor of someone. Members choose gifts from a prepared "shopping list" that includes Giving Catalog items ranging from \$10 to \$100 including Farming Tools, Piglets, shares of a Community Farm Bundle and more.

In their own words, "Why buy another tie when you can give the gift of HOPE, in the name of a friend or loved one, to those in our community and throughout the world who need it most." Well said. And well done!"

We are grateful this catalog is available to make it so easy for our congregation to gift a wide variety of items that provide real and positive impact around the world. Just thought we'd share!



Geneva Congregation Survey Summary

Submitted by Nina Pomery, Missional Life Ministry Team

During a worship service last year, the Missional Life and Congregational Life ministry teams asked those attending to complete a short survey. The survey was also available online for those who were not in attendance. The goal of the survey was to discern the gifts, talents and interests of our congregation; to enable us to better serve one another and our local community. The following summarizes the results.

The first question focused on service to the outside community. Helping the homeless, underserved children (their education, safety, food and housing) and people with food insecurity were the top three concerns. Helping people with medical needs was also mentioned.

The congregation was asked about their personal gifts and hobbies they would enjoy sharing with others. The most listed were listening, arts & crafts, singing/music, teaching and tutoring, and praying.

The third question focused on needs within the Geneva community. The top three answers were the need for more families and youth in the congregation, social opportunities for single adults of all ages and the wish for more potlucks and picnics. There was also concern that many people had left Geneva.

The fourth question asked about needs outside of the community that are unnoticed or underserved. Low-cost housing, the homeless, rental assistance, and food insecurity were the most mentioned.

The fifth question addressed how individual members were volunteering their time. Outside of Geneva, answers included the Rotary Club, the South County Outreach food pantry, as well as tutoring and volunteering in schools.

The Missional Life and Congregational Life teams would like to thank everyone who completed the survey. The answers given are important and although they reflect the thoughts of a sample of the Geneva community (our response rate was 20%), it does provide insight for planning purposes going forward.

If you have any questions feel free to ask elders Elizabeth Carlisle, Nina Pomery, Linda Erickson or Tom Jenkins. We would like to continue to hear your thoughts. If you have any needs that are not currently being addressed, please contact your deacon or call the church office at 949-837-2323.

Vacation Bible School Volunteers Needed

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. It's a lot of fun for the kids and the adults who make it happen. We are looking for volunteers. Important jobs to be filled:

- **Welcome / Registration** – Help us welcome families and check kids in and out for the day.
- **Small Group Leaders** – Shepherd your assigned group to and from rotations and assist your charges in each one when needed.
- **Craft Assistants** – Helping students and leaders with the day's project.

You can sign up to be a VBS volunteer by registering online at genevapres.org/events, call the church office at 949-837-2323 or email Pastor Ryan at rromberg@genevapres.org. Volunteers must be sixth grade or older.



Geneva Included On Historic Bus Tour

Saturday, May 20th
9:30am-4:30pm

“Planner William Pereira,” cover of Time magazine, September 6, 1963. This issue brought national attention to the master plans that Pereira & Associates were developing for the Irvine Company and the University of California, Irvine.

Preserve Orange County is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote conservation of our county's architectural and cultural heritage. In May, the group is hosting, *Pereira in the New Frontier: the Orange County Buildings, 1962 to 1975*, a multi-city tour highlighting the now historic buildings designed by the Los Angeles-based architecture firm of William Pereira & Associates. This is the same firm that designed Geneva's Sanctuary in the 1960's. Tour guides are *Preserve Orange County* historians who will share their fresh research. Learn more and purchase tickets at preserveorangecounty.org/tours/pereirabustour.



Giving

Financial Recap (January - March 2023)

Thank you to our members who follow through on their pledge commitments! Some have chosen to front-load their annual giving; as a result, we have exceeded pledge revenue in each of the first three months of this year. Overall expenditures are closely tracking with our budget, so the bottom line is that we have been able to remain on solid financial footing so far this year – due to our faithful congregation.

	Actual	Budgeted	Difference
Pledges	\$222,881	\$167,661	\$55,220
Total Revenue	\$334,255	\$276,569	\$57,686
Total Expenses	\$290,588	\$288,498	\$2,090
Net Income	\$43,667	\$(11,929)	\$55,596

Campus Closed



This is a reminder that the Geneva campus will be closed Monday, May 29th in observance of Memorial Day.

Give to the PC(USA) Pentecost Offering through 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.

New Parking Policy

The shooting incident on our campus last year has spurred an increased focus on campus safety. The two schools on our campus also increase the immediacy and importance of updating and adding policies to make us more safe. To that end, session has



recently approved a new parking policy for our campus.

The most important take aways from the new policy are that the church will step up enforcement of existing rules, such as handicap, fire lane and reserved parking. A renewed emphasis on parking in any Geneva lot outside of regular business hours **without checking with the church office beforehand** will result in a warning placed on your car. Cars may be towed if an unauthorized vehicle is in a Geneva lot after 24 hours.

If you are carpooling to a Geneva event where you need to leave your car in the lot over an extended period, a parking pass will be part of the registration for the event.

For more details, the *Geneva Parking Policy* is available in the church office upon request. Questions about the new policy may be directed to Office Manager Laura McCallum at lmccallum@genevapres.org.

In-Home Communion

In-home communion is one of the ways in which we connect with Genevans who are no longer able to participate in campus activities. Last month, pastors and deacons brought the elements and administered the sacrament to 25 people in eight different locations. This is oftentimes a profoundly moving experience, and we want to thank those members who assisted in the sacrament and for our members and guests who humbly and graciously received it.

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

God of ongoing transformation, our experience of 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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