



GENEVA NEWS

Worshipping | Learning | Connecting | Giving | Serving

A Thanksgiving Prayer

“Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with celebration! Come before him with shouts of joy! Know that the Lord is God – he made us; we belong to him. We are his people, the sheep of his own pasture. Enter his gates with thanks; enter his courtyards with praise! Thank him! Bless his name! Because the Lord is good, his loyal love lasts forever; his faithfulness lasts generation after generation.”

– Psalm 100:1-5



Geneva elder Joanna Capelle leading by example while volunteering at the 2016 Geneva rummage sale.



Using Your Talents & Treasures *Generosity in Times of Transition*

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

It is our hope that all who are part of our church family are considering their involvement in each area of our Mission statement: Worshipping, Learning, Connecting, Giving and Serving. This is part of the stewardship of our lives. We hope you have browsed through the *Use Your Talents and Treasures* brochure sent to all member households for some ideas for your participation.

Worshipping: Are you worshipping regularly?

Before COVID, we had almost 50% of our members in worship each Sunday, but since then we have struggled to achieve the current 38%. We miss those of you who are not present, and we do understand there are reasons that some cannot attend. However, if you are in town and are not homebound, your church family would love to see you.

Advent Season Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 3

HOPE: First Sunday of Advent
10:30am worship in the Sanctuary. GCC kids sing!

Sunday, December 10

PEACE: Second Sunday of Advent
Chancel Choir Christmas Concert at 10:30am followed by Fa, La, La Luncheon in Simpson Hall where we will honor and celebrate Steve and Janet Marsh.

Sunday, December 17

JOY: Third Sunday of Advent
10:30am worship in the Sanctuary. Ordination and installation of Deacons Class of 2026 and any vacancies.

Sunday, December 24

LOVE: Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 10:30am worship in the Sanctuary. Communion served.
- 3pm *Lessons and Carols* music celebration in the Sanctuary
- 11pm worship service rooted in the Word and hymns. Communion served.

Sunday, December 31

First Sunday of Christmas
10:30am worship in the Sanctuary.

Learning: *How are you maturing in your faith?*

It helps to discuss and learn with others and Geneva offers many opportunities for you to do this. Our Sunday classes are open to everyone. Connect groups and other small groups are offered for women, for men, for couples and for mixed groups. Learn more at genevapres.org/learn.

Connecting: *Are you in community with others?*

The Courtyard Café is a great place to meet with others on Sundays. There are activity groups that meet during the week for line dancing and online chair yoga. Join a service group like the Rowdies or raise your voice in song in the Chancel Choir. There are so many fun events at Geneva like Pancake Breakfasts, Trunk-or-Treat, the Fa La La Lunch, and of course, Geneva Presbyterian Women and Geneva Presbyterian Men. Learn more at genevapres.org/activities.

Giving: *Are you participating financially on a regular basis?*

It is never too late to send in your pledge; pledge cards are available in the pew pockets, in the church office and at the Welcome Center. For non-members who may not have received the Generosity mailing, you may pick up a Generosity packet at the Welcome Center on Sunday or call the church office and ask that one be mailed to you.

We encourage you to fulfill your pledge through Online Giving, which is quick, easy and very efficient for the church. Even better is



It's not the amount that counts, but the act of giving itself. All is appreciated!

recurring giving through your bank, where you set the amount and the frequency, providing the church with regular income without the fluctuations caused by vacations or Sundays when you cannot attend. Gary Pado, Geneva's Business Manager, can help you to set this up. You may reach Gary at gpado@genevapres.org or call the church office at 949-837-2323.

If you are 73 or older, you may make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to Geneva directly from your IRA as part of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and pay your pledge for the year with one lump sum. Once again, Gary Pado can help you with this. You pay no tax on the amount you transfer.

Serving: *What is ONE THING you can do to expand God's reign?*

We hope you have found at least ONE THING that you can do to help! God has blessed each of us with unique gifts to use as we serve in the Body of Christ at Geneva. Please do not waste your gifts. Be alert for ways you might serve at Geneva or in the ministries we support in the community.

We may be next door to a retirement community, but there is no retirement from serving the Lord! Even those who are unable to come to church can serve by being part of the Prayer Ministry, or by making phone calls to others who may be homebound, or in the hospital or nursing homes, or even by writing an encouraging note to a college student.

Our fervent hope is that you will become a fully invested participant in the Geneva church family by seeking and finding your place in each of these areas so that you can Be the Best Jesus Someone Sees!



Let's Connect

GPW Architectural Tour

Wednesday, November 15 • 12pm in Simpson Hall

All women are invited to attend monthly luncheon gatherings featuring fun speakers, activities and engaging fellowship. This month the ladies will be guided on an architectural tour of the church examining intentional design features meant to express and celebrate our Christian faith. Please bring a dish to share.

Tech Volunteers

Thank you to our October "tech angels", **Noah Morehouse** and **Iliana Compos**, for serving as support for the live-streaming of our 10:30am worship service. Join the team! It's easy to learn and no experience is necessary. Email elder Kwang Seo at kseo1948@gmail.com.

Poinsettia Ordering

November 26-December 10

Help fund the decorating of our worship spaces this Christmas by dedicating a poinsettia to a friend or loved one. Dedications will be inserted into the *In Community With* bulletin for Christmas Eve services. The cost is \$13 per plant. Order forms will be available at the Welcome Center on Sundays or in the church office during the week. You may also order online at genevapres.churchcenter.com/registrations. Order deadline is **Sunday, December 10th**.



GPW Silver Tea Ticket Sales Begin November 5th

*This year's tea is Saturday,
December 2, 12-2pm*

Beautifully set, sparkling holiday-themed tables, are the backdrop for this year's luncheon and afternoon of multi-generational fellowship. Women of all ages are invited to join the celebration of the Christmas season together. Vocalist Scott Robertson will entertain the group with a wide array of music made famous by such beloved superstars as Neil Diamond, Elvis, The Beatles, Johnny Cash and many more. All attendees are asked to bring "goodies" to share (e.g., tea sandwiches, cookies, finger fruit, veggies, scones, etc.).

Tickets sales (\$5) begin Sunday, November 5th, and may be purchased on the courtyard before or after worship, in the church office during the week, or at genevapres.org/events. Please make seating requests at time of ticket purchase. Tickets are limited and available on a first come, first served basis, so don't delay!



Congregational Meeting

Sunday, November 19, 11:30am in the Sanctuary

A Stated Meeting of the Congregation will be held in the Sanctuary immediately following worship to elect the following:

- Deacons for the Class of 2026: **Wendy McCalley**, **Ruth Niebuhr**, and **Verena Macchia**,
- One Deacon unexpired term: **Christine Armendariz**, and
- One unexpired Elder term for the Class of 2024: **Elena Bennett**.

Friendsgiving

Saturday, November 18, 6-8pm in the Youth Room

Students grades 6-12 are invited to join EG and the Geneva Youth for a night of gratitude and good food! We are asking students to bring a food item to share with the rest of the group for a true Thanksgiving feast. Includes a service project and some fun to top it all off. Register by **November 11** at genevapres.org/events.

Line Dancing Holiday Cancellations

Monday, November 27 through Monday, January 1, 2024

The line dancing class which meets every Monday and Thursday afternoon from 3:30-4:30pm in the Saddleback room is canceled for the holidays. The class will resume Thursday, January 4th.

Geneva Women's Book Club

Tuesday, November 28 • 1-2pm in Annex

The book for November is *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See. 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.



Missional Life

Alternative Gift Market Opens

Opens for business Sunday, December 3rd

Consider buying gifts for your loved ones that show how much you love them *and* will make a real difference in the world. Each gift purchased is a donation for a real item or service that benefits Geneva local or global mission partners and once purchased, are presented directly to the



organizations which we have a relationship.

Shop in person at the church Sunday, December 3, 10 and 17 from 10am-1pm or shop online at genevapres.org/alternativegiftmarket beginning December 3rd. Here you'll have access to the complete shopping list and learn more about the Gift Market and how the process works.

Since we began this program, the Geneva Alternative Gift Market has raised close to \$50,000 for those who need it most. Thank you for helping continue this tradition of love and support.



Administration

Geneva Staff Change

Geneva Communications Director, Edie Robertson, will be stepping down from her role at the end of the year. The reason for the departure is the elimination of the Communications Director position, yet another way we are having to “tighten our belt” in the wake of our budget deficit. However, Geneva is still committed to keeping our members and our community informed. Here’s how we plan to do this.

Current Office Manager, Laura McCallum, will be taking over many of the communication duties, but as you may expect with the combining of two full-time positions, she will not be able to do it all. In that vein, here are some of the changes you may expect in the new year.

Pastor’s Bible Study *The Problem With Evil*

*Sunday, November 19, 11:45am
in McLennan Lounge*

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 for his final study before retirement, in exploring 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.”

Our Daily Bread Devotionals

Pick up your free copy of the Dec/Jan/Feb 2023-24 *Our Daily Bread* devotional booklet in the church office during office hours or email us at info@genevapres.org and we will mail one to you.



Session Meeting Recap

In an effort to continue to keep you informed here are the highlights of the October 24, 2023 session meeting as reported by Joanna Capelle, Clerk Pro-Tem of this meeting.

Actions taken related to the transition include:

- Recommendation that Elders be present on the courtyard before and after service to engage any questions with the congregation.
- Discussion regarding the First Pass Budget for 2024.
- Formation of Interim Pastor Nominating Committee including Elena Bennett, Tom Jenkins, Linda Erickson, John Pomery, Joanna Capelle, Watt Prichard, and Kwang Seo to start developing goals for the Interim Pastor.
- Approval of an article providing information about Geneva staff change.

Complete meeting minutes are available for anyone to read. To request your copy call the church office at 949-837-2323 or email us at info@genevapres.org.

- The *The Geneva News* newsletter will be discontinued in January.
- The weekly and monthly *eNews*, our email newsletter, will remain. If we do not have your current email address on file, if you have chosen not to receive our emails in the past and would like to now do so, or if you would like to change the frequency of the eNews (weekly, monthly or both) please email us at info@genevapres.org or call the church office at 949-837-2323.
- The *In Community With* Sunday bulletin will also remain, although you may be seeing a scaled down version in 2024.
- The Geneva website (genevapres.org) will continue. Here are pages you may want to visit often as they will be updated most frequently: *homepage*, *church calendar*, *Events* and *Current Sermon Series*.
- Flyers, posters, banners, and additional collateral material will be the responsibility of volunteers for various ministry events and programs.

As Geneva enters into our solo pastor era, staying informed will more than ever become the responsibility of all Genevans using the tools mentioned above. And, in this new season for our church we will have much to communicate! We hope that these resources will continue to provide you with the information you need. Please contact the church if you have any questions or concerns.

Property Update: *What you didn't know about keeping our doors open.*

Normally when your front door won't close, a little WD-40 may do the trick. But, what do you do when your 10 foot, 1,000 pound front door won't close?

The sanctuary doors had been a problem for a while but the Geneva property team knew the fix may be expensive so temporary solutions were employed. But, it got to a point where we couldn't wait any longer. In addition to practical reasons for investing in the repair, there was a symbolic significance which was perhaps equally important. Door designer John S. Scott described "the very door by which one enters the sanctuary, or enters the salvation of God" like this:

"The design of our massive entry doors to our Sanctuary, depict a field of ripening wheat. The ten foot hand-carved stalks of grain are not all revealed as ripened grain, indicating future growth and fulfillment. The wheat may remind us of Jesus' word, "I am the bread of life: he who comes to me shall not hunger..." (John



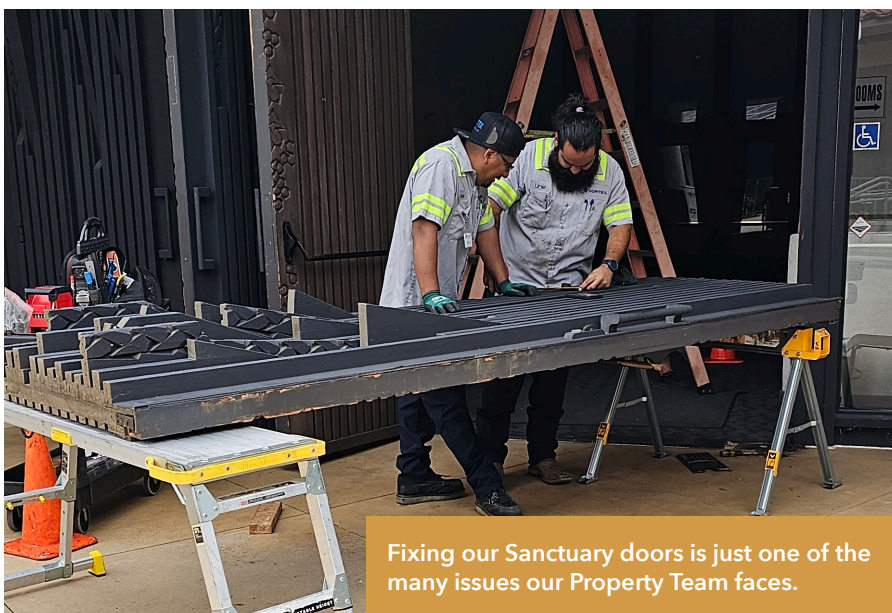
6:35). When the doors are opened we see carved grape clusters and leaves which adorn the inside edges. If the bread is life's necessity, wine may be its added joy.

Thus, as we near and enter, we progressively experience the elements of the Lord's Supper. The bread and the wine together signify the body and the blood of Christ offered in sacrifice. He invites all who enter to partake of the fellowship and prayer and the intimacy of His supper."

Given the intentional, and deeply meaningful design, keeping these doors functioning was important. In September, it took three experts in commercial door repair and some heavy lifting, to fix our one-of-a-kind doors. We're happy to report they are now functioning properly for the first time in years. It cost the church \$3,000.

As our Generosity Campaign is coming to a close, we believe it's important to share how donations to the Geneva general fund are used. As all home owners know, property maintenance can be expensive and is oftentimes unanticipated. This is especially true for a building built in the 1960's.

For years, our Rowdies group, who meet every Monday for fellowship and facility repairs, have worked hard to keep property maintenance costs down. We are blessed by these dedicated volunteers. Thank you to all who have served in the past, or are currently participating in this ministry.



Fixing our Sanctuary doors is just one of the many issues our Property Team faces.

What is a Ruling Elder?

Here's the definition from the Presbyterian Book of Order (G-2.0301). If you are interested in serving, we would like to speak with you. Email us at info@genevapres.org.

"As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they "lord it over" the congregation (Matt. 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its' faith and life. Ruling elders, together with ministers of word and sacrament, exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships."

Daylight Savings

Don't forget to *fall back* one hour Sunday, November 5th. Yeh! An extra hour of sleep.

Office Closed

The Geneva office will be closed Thursday, **November 23rd and 24th** in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

In Memoriam



One time Geneva member, **Lorraine Moon**, passed away August 13th at age 92. For

decades, Lorraine was the Director of *Community Bible Study*, which met on our campus every Thursday morning. Although Lorraine left the church, she was known and loved by many in our congregation. A memorial service will be held at Fairhaven Memorial Park and Mortuary (1702 Fairhaven Ave, Santa Ana, CA 92705) Saturday, December 2nd, 12-3pm in Waverley Chapel.



Geneva member **Joe DeMark** passed away Wednesday, October 4th. He

and his long time partner, David, who passed away in May, joined the church in 2018. Generous and joyful, these qualities were both exhibited when they insisted on purchasing the Christmas trees which now

decorate our sanctuary in the advent season. Memorial service information is pending.



We are saddened by the passing of **Dr. Jong Sik Yoon**, Friday, October 6th. Jong and his wife, Kay, joined the

church in 2020 after moving west from Ohio. A memorial service will be held **Friday, November 17th at 4pm** in Simpson Hall.

Save the date!

Parents Day Off December 9th

Parents with children nursery age through 5th grade are invited to drop off their kids for a fun day at the church while the adults go Christmas shopping. Registration will open next month.

Fa La La Lunch & Retirement Celebration December 10th

All Genevans are invited for our annual luncheon immediately following worship. This year is extra special as we will also be celebrating Steve and Janet Marsh before they head off to retirement in Kansas.

Youth Winter Camp February 23-25

We've partnered with Trabuco and Santa Ana Presbyterian churches to put on a Presbytery-wide Winter Camp at the Big Bear Lake Christian Conference Center. Youth 6th-12th grade are invited, and encouraged, to attend!

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
Kurt Messerschmidt
Norma & Norm Petersen
Penny Prol
Louann and Ross Van Riper
Gwen Sutfin
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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