



# GENEVA NEWS

Worshipping | Learning | Connecting | Giving | Serving

## Geneva Receives \$200,000 Grant

In response to the shooting on our campus last year, Geneva applied for, and was recently awarded, a \$200,000 security grant from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). The majority of the funds are earmarked for the installation of door access control hardware and a closed circuit TV video system allowing for constant monitoring of campus activity. A smaller portion will be spent on armed security professionals and multi-language security-deterrence signage. These improvements are part of a recommended response from the Department of Homeland Security. We're hoping to complete installation of these systems by September.

Many thanks to Geneva Business Manager, Gary Pado, for securing this funding which will go a long way toward



## The Lenten Season

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

The progression from Ash Wednesday to Easter is the model for developing authentic community that builds one's identity in Christ. This model allows brokenness and woundedness to be normalized into the Christian conversation of becoming more like Jesus.

As I ponder what it means to live in authentic community with God and others, I am continually drawn to certain biblical truths that nurture authentic community. God has given us community as a vital connection with God and others on the same journey toward wholeness. Authentic community is characterized by perseverance, restoration, forgiveness, hope, flexibility, love, and humility.

Ask yourself how you are doing in loving God and others? Do you find yourself being more patient and honest with God,

## Holy Week Worship Schedule

### 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 Sanctuary

### 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 for children up to age  
3 is available.*

## Easter Flowers

### Order March 1-26

Recognize your loved ones  
and help us decorate our  
worship spaces. Each plant is  
\$13 and will be displayed in  
the Sanctuary. Order online at  
[genevapres.churchcenter.com/](http://genevapres.churchcenter.com/)  
registrations. Forms are  
also available in  
the church  
office during  
the week or at  
the Welcome  
Center in the  
courtyard on  
Sunday mornings.



others, and yourself? As you examine how broken relationships are repaired and forgiveness meted out, in what ways are you becoming less broken and more deeply rooted in forgiveness, hope, love, flexibility, and humility? An intimate, vulnerable, and life-giving connection with God and others comes about. You experience a deep and meaningful life with God and others.

Ash Wednesday, Lent, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter is an essential journey and experience of becoming a more authentic community of faith filled with more authentic followers of Jesus. From Jesus' faithful walk into Jerusalem, his reframing of the Passover Seder meal, betrayal, beating by the Romans, crucifixion, and resurrection, we know that death loses, and love wins.

On the journey together, I remain faithfully yours,

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



## Worship Announcements

### New Livestream Worship Replaces Laguna Woods TV Channel 6

Last month Geneva discontinued the broadcast of our worship service on Laguna Woods TV Channel 6. Here's an explanation as to why this difficult decision was made.

At the beginning of the pandemic when our campus was closed, we began offering a livestream worship service which could be accessed at home via computer, tablet or even a Smartphone. This continued connection for our members, and outreach to our community, was vital for so many during this time.

Within months, in addition to our growing YouTube channel, we contracted with Laguna Woods TV Channel 6, at a generous discount, to broadcast a recording of what we were presenting online to reach more people in Laguna Woods. Once we reopened for in person worship, this became more difficult.

Because we were not as yet live streaming our in person worship service, our dedicated pastors and worship team continued to record an online worship alternative Thursday afternoons to be provided to Channel 6 and uploaded to YouTube. Now that we have introduced a new real-time livestream of our in person worship service this no longer makes sense to do for two main reasons:

1. *Expense*: Even with a hefty discount for broadcast time, together with production costs, we can't afford it.
2. *Analytics*: Because Laguna Woods Channel 6 provides no viewership analytics we have no way of knowing if our broadcast is reaching five people or five hundred. This makes the expenditure increasingly difficult to justify.

Because we have invested in the infrastructure needed to provide a quality livestream broadcast from our sanctuary, we are providing an alternative to viewing through Channel 6. Folks can tune in through YouTube and, soon, our website. Through this new livestream, online viewers will enjoy the same worship experience as those worshipping in the sanctuary. No more recordings!

For those Geneva members living in the Village who are regular viewers of our Channel 6 broadcast, we are sorry that we can no longer offer the televised worship option. We encourage you to connect to our new livestream which you may do via your computer, tablet, smartphone or smartTV. If you need help doing this, please call the church office at 949-837-2323 for assistance. Thank you for your understanding as we continue our faith journey together.



## Geneva Youth Guest Preacher Shines!

Because Geneva wants to take the voices of our young people seriously, **Rebecca Njoroge**, a participant in Geneva's youth program, was invited by Pastor Steve to preach. After months spent preparing with Pastor Ryan, Sunday, February 26, she delivered a sermon entitled, *Delight In The Wisdom of God*, to the Geneva congregation at the 10:30am worship service. Her poise and conviction was inspiring to all as she represented wisdom well beyond her years.

Rebecca, a ninth grader at El Toro High School, was chosen to preach because, in the words of Pastor Ryan, "she is a gifted thinker and inquisitive young theologian".

Rebecca has been attending Geneva since 2012 with her mother and father, Christine and Sam, and sister Elizabeth (there's an article featuring Sam on page 7 of this newsletter). We thank Rebecca for the hard work she put in to sharing her message with us.



## 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.

## Organ Festival

### Friday, June 16, 7pm

Organ Recital featuring Eddie Zheng, a master's candidate from The Juilliard School. Learn more at [eddiezheng.com](http://eddiezheng.com).

### Tuesday, June 20, 7pm

Juilliard professor Paul Jacobs will perform Handel's organ concertos with The Pacific Symphony at Christ Cathedral in Garden Grove. Learn more at [christcathedralmusic.org/yearofhazel/jacobs](http://christcathedralmusic.org/yearofhazel/jacobs).

### Friday, June 23, 7pm

Organ Recital featuring Bobby Nguyen, a master's candidate from The Juilliard School.

## Geneva's Memorial Organ is the Star of a New Ministry

Highlighting our unique musical heritage through organ recitals and concerts enables Geneva to celebrate worship music, nurture young artists and provide a gift to our community and beyond. In response to recent success in hosting these events, the music ministry is working to offer additional opportunities to share the beauty of this magnificent instrument and the artistry of those who play it.

To this end, Geneva organist Charlotte Hsieh, who is particularly passionate about this ministry, has organized a mini organ festival in June featuring recitals by two master's candidates from The Juilliard School (see column at left). Organ music enthusiasts may also enjoy a concert performed by their Juilliard professor, Paul Jacobs, held at Christ Cathedral in Garden Grove the same week.



To help support this effort, we encourage donations to **The Geneva Organ Fund**. Originally created to raise money for uncommon repairs and expansion of the Geneva Memorial Organ, its use is now expanding to include supporting events and educational opportunities for the next generation of organists. You may contribute to the fund with a check made out to Geneva Presbyterian Church adding "Organ Fund" in the memo line, or give online at [genevapres.churchcenter.com/giving](http://genevapres.churchcenter.com/giving), choosing "Music Ministry" in the dropdown menu.

For more information about the Organ Fund or the opportunities it provides, contact Geneva organist, Charlotte Hsieh at [chsieh@genevapres.org](mailto:chsieh@genevapres.org).





## March Events

### Meet & Greet Lunch

*Sunday, March 5 • 11:30am in Simpson Hall*

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](http://genevapres.org/events) or call the church office at 949-837-2323.

### Congregational Meeting

*Sunday, March 12, 11:30am in the Sanctuary*

The Stated Meeting of the Congregation will be held in the Sanctuary immediately following 10:30am worship for the purpose of electing Elders for the Class of 2026 and any vacancies. This is important for the life of Geneva and your vote matters. Thank you in advance for your attendance.

### GPW Monthly Luncheon

*Wednesday, March 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.

### Geneva Women's Book Club

*Tuesday, March 28 • 1-2pm in McLennan Lounge*

Come join this very friendly group! The focus for the April discussion is ***Where the Light Fell*** by Philip Yancey. To participate online, join the Book Club group at [genevapres.churchcenter.com/groups](http://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](mailto:info@genevapres.org).



## Learning Opportunities

### Pastor's Bible Study:

#### Philemon & Social Ethics in the 21st Century

*Sunday, March 12 & 19 • 11:30am in Simpson Hall*

Immediately following 10:30am worship, the Rev. Dr. Steven M.

### Time Change for Chair Yoga via Zoom

This low impact exercise class, great for beginners, now meets at 10am instead of 11am. Visit [genevapres.churchcenter.com/groups](http://genevapres.churchcenter.com/groups), choose "Chair Yoga", then click JOIN to participate.

### Line Dancing Hiatus

*Class resumes March 6*

The Line Dancing Class which usually meets at 3:30pm Mondays and Thursdays, did not meet the last two weeks of February but will resume Monday, March 6. Line Dancing is a fun way to get some much needed exercise and have some laughs in the process. Beginners welcome!

### Our Daily Bread Devotional

The free March/April/May devotional booklet produced by *Our Daily Bread* ministries is now available in the church office.

Watch the 3-minute daily inspiration video by Pastor Steve as he reflects on the passage used from the devotional booklet. Connect to the daily messages on the [genevapres.org](http://genevapres.org) homepage.



## 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](http://genevapres.org/scholarships) for more information and to complete an application.

## Happy Cheetahs!

"Thank you @genevapresoc for all that you do to help our school! Our 6th graders love their new sweatshirts!!"

Those are the words from an instagram post made by Kaye Thompson, a 6th grade teacher at San Joaquin Elementary School. In December, the Geneva Missional Life Ministry Team donated sweatshirts on behalf of the church for all 6th graders who will be attending science camp this spring.



Marsh walks through Paul's letter to Philemon, verse by verse. He will examine the social ethics, as laid out by Paul in the first century, and discuss the relevance to Paul's words in the twenty-first century. A light lunch will be served. Donations are encouraged.

## Tough Talks

*Sunday, March 26 • 11:30am in Simpson Hall*

**Topic:** What does "salvation" mean? and how does a person receive God's salvation?

*Tough Talks* have been such a hit, we are now going to be offering them monthly. 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.



## Missional Life Update

### Genevans Did It!

**2022 AGM raised close to \$11,000 for mission partners**

*Submitted by Elizabeth Carlisle, Chair of the Missional Life Ministry Team*

Imagine the feeling. You just found the perfect Christmas gift for your eleven-year-old grandson. In addition to numerous other gifts, you gave him a \$40 piglet that will go to a family through PC(USA) Worldwide Mission. He called you right away and said the piglet was the "best gift ever!" You were so inspired by his response that you



gave a long-time friend, who seemingly “has everything”, a ninth of a share of a whole cow! She thought it was the funniest and sweetest Christmas gift she had ever received.

In fact, Geneva’s **Alternative Gift Market** (AGM), where Genevans and others are able to purchase “alternative gifts” for friends and family to support our mission partners, has been putting smiles on faces since 2019. **Thanks to your generosity**, this has resulted in an average annual donation of about \$9,000 to our local, national and international mission partners, helping to support children, families and others struggling to survive every day.

During our 2022 Alternative Gift Market, your gifts helped children both locally and internationally in twelve different programs. Total aid to children last year was \$2,194. You supplied food for babies, children and families directly and in the “nuturing” form of piglets, chickens, part of a cow, a water filter system and farming tools. Moving to the other end of the age spectrum, you also sponsored seven aged widows in far off India who desperately need help as they are relegated to positions outside the social system in their country.

To sum it up, you, our Geneva Congregation, donated **\$3,355** to needs in our own community and **\$7,445** to global needs. **Your total giving for the Alternative Gift Market in 2022 was \$10,800 – our highest giving to date!**

We are blessed, and in our sharing we are blessing others. Thank you!

## Giving One Great Hour Of Sharing

Give now through April 9 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](http://genevapres.churchcenter.com/giving) (choose *One Great Hour of Sharing* in the dropdown menu) or use the special envelope in your offering envelope box.

**NOTE:** Giving envelope box delivery for 2023 has been delayed due to production issues. Hopefully by the time you read this they are in hand. Thank you for your patience!



## Geneva Helps Fund X-Ray Machine in Kenya

Geneva donated \$5,000 toward the purchase of an X-ray machine for the Innovative Technologies Advancement and Research Campus (ITARC) in Longonot, Kenya. Geneva member, Samuel Nganga, helped to establish this Level 4 research hospital in an area of great medical need. Sam sends this message:

*“It’s a great honor to have Geneva Family walking with us on this great journey of serving the community and when I see the X-Ray standing on that room, I thank God for my church members and see the entire complex of Geneva in Longonot. Thank you very much and all are invited here when anyone visit Kenya please arrange to visit your facility. Now you have a home in Kenya.”*

Geneva is making a difference in the world.



## Daylight Savings

This is just a reminder to “spring forward” by setting your clocks one hour ahead **Sunday, March 12.**



## Parking Update

To better regulate campus parking, please note new signage which prohibits public and overnight parking in our lot. We ask all Geneva members to limit using our parking lot after hours as unidentified vehicles are a "red flag" to our security officers. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Snow Day Recap

Over 300 people of all ages and ten tons of snow filled the Geneva parking lot for Snow Day last month. “The people who came represented our church, our preschool, the Geneva School, and a surprising number of people from the community,” said Pastor Ryan. Activities included a sled run and play area, inflatable slides, carnival games, face painting, food trucks and music. Thank you volunteers and attendees for making this another successful event! Check out the Snow Day video on our YouTube channel, [Youtube.com/genevapresbyterianchurchoc](https://www.youtube.com/genevapresbyterianchurchoc).

## More Food, Less Bags

South County Outreach is now providing bags where needed which allows more control over what clients are taking. Thus, we are no

longer asking for grocery bag donations. However, food is still greatly appreciated. For a list of most needed non-perishable food donations, visit [sco-oc.org](https://sco-oc.org).

## Parent's Night Out Success

Twenty kids and 15 leaders gathered to give parents a date night for Valentine's Day. Once a quarter, Geneva offers parents a well-deserved night out by watching their children for a few hours and parents are very appreciative! Thank you to the volunteers, including many of our Geneva youth, who serve together to make this happen.



## Save the date!

- **GPW Spring Tea – May 6:** Annual event sponsored by Geneva Presbyterian Women. More information coming soon.
- **Vacation Bible School – July 17-21:** For kids PreK through 5th grade.
- **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](mailto:prayer@genevapres.org), call the church office at 949-837-2323 or stop by and complete a Prayer Request Form.

Heidi Belew  
Cynthia Connors  
Norm Coombs  
Evelyn Fanous  
Linda Getman  
Howard Prol  
Bink Lewis  
George Marsh  
Jackson Paschall  
Lizi Silver  
Joyce Stark  
Christine Taylor

Louann and Ross Van Riper

## Our Church Prayer

Identity forming God, walking the path of obedience with you is key to our ongoing discovery of the identity we have in and through Jesus. May we continue to believe and demonstrate our belief through active obedience. Active obedience as your children assist others to discover and experience your hope, peace, joy, and love. In the identity we have in Jesus we pray, Amen.



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