

A Note from the Presbytery Leader

Hello Everyone and Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and an amazing start to the New Year. A very special 'thank you' to all those who were adventurous enough to face the winter weather in order to participate in the MLK Jr. Day of Service projects and to the churches who hosted those events. We could not have done this without you!

I'd also like to share a few programming options coming up very soon. An online Small Church Gathering will be held on Monday, February 12 at 11am. As always, this is an opportunity for open discussion, resource sharing and support for our smaller congregations. Please watch for zoom links and flyers on the presbytery website and in the newsletter.

With Lent coming up in just a few weeks, I wanted to share with you an opportunity to express some feelings of grief and loss that have been building up throughout the pandemic and seem to be 'hanging around' in much of what we do today. Beginning on Thursday, February 15th at 10am (and repeating week until March 21st), I will be leading an online writing and discussion group loosely based on the book *Praying Our Goodbyes: A Spiritual Companion Through Life's Losses and Sorrows* by Joyce Rupp. Although it is not necessary to read the book in order to participate in these sessions, it does contain a ton of great information that may be helpful to those facing these types of difficult circumstances. These sessions are open to anyone and are being offered in response to requests made in previous workshops. Please watch for zoom links and flyers on the presbytery website and in the newsletter.

After Easter, I will be offering a study series using the devotional booklet developed for the *Bridging the Gap* workshops that were offered in October (which can be found here: [Devotional-Booklet-for-website.pdf \(presbyteryofgeneva.org\)](https://www.presbyteryofgeneva.org/files/Devotional-Booklet-for-website.pdf)). This series will focus on themes of resurrection, faith, and reassurance and how they intersect with potential futures of our churches. These sessions are open to anyone and are being offered in response to requests from small churches who are looking for bible study opportunities and for those wanting to continue future-oriented conversations in their churches. Please watch for more details in upcoming newsletters.

Additional events are currently being planned for later this spring – if your church is interested in being a host site, please contact me at leader@presbyteryofgeneva.org so arrangements can be made.

I look forward to seeing you in these online events and I wish you a wonderful New Year filled with great peace, joy, and blessings.

In Christ's service,
Marji Ackerman
Presbytery Leader