



## June 2025 Newsletter

***Our Mission:*** The Presbytery of Geneva lives to support and equip congregations and leaders to be Christ in the Finger Lakes and the world.

***Our Vision:*** Radiating the light of Christ, the Presbytery of Geneva thrives as a community of servants, lifting up every congregation and leader in ministering together.

The purpose of the newsletter is to announce upcoming events and opportunities sponsored by the Presbytery, its congregations, the Synod of the Northeast, the PC(USA), neighboring presbyteries, and partner agencies. If you have an item for the newsletter, please send the information to [officeadmin@presbyteryofgeneva.org](mailto:officeadmin@presbyteryofgeneva.org) by **June 24, 2025**.



A decorative border of watercolor illustrations surrounds the central text. It includes various autumn-themed elements: green and brown seed pods, orange and yellow leaves, a red apple, a yellow pear, and a large orange flower. The border is composed of several vertical and horizontal strips of these illustrations.

# RETIRED PASTORS, CRE'S, AND SPOUSES

And Those Considering  
Retirement

## LUNCHEON

THURSDAY

# SEP 11 2025

**11:30 - Coffee Social**

**Noon - Lunch**

**Afternoon - Wagon/Boat Tour  
(Weather Permitting)**

**RSVP to:**

**[leadercare@presbyteryofgeneva.org](mailto:leadercare@presbyteryofgeneva.org)**

**CAMP WHITMAN  
150 WHITMAN ROAD  
PENN YAN, NY**

## NEW LOGO!



### **SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST** **Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

The **Synod of the Northeast** logo is a **visual story of unity, movement, purpose and shared mission**. While the curve of the lines reminds us of Creation, the **seven ripples** represent how our faith radiates beyond our context and the Living Water fills us. The **interwoven hands** represent the holding presence of our God, embracing all people in a sacred space of transformation and belonging, and symbolizing a **commitment to radical inclusion and justice-driven** collaboration to embrace and empower all. The **dual colored flame** illustrates the guidance of the Holy Spirit breathing life into a church that is ever-evolving and responsive to the needs of its people. The **eight spheres, representing the eight states of our Synod** ground the image forming an institution dedicated to transformation. The **cross at the center** is not just a symbol of faith—it invites us to decenter ourselves and is a call to action, urging us to embody Christ's teachings in leadership, advocacy, and love.



# CAMP WHITMAN

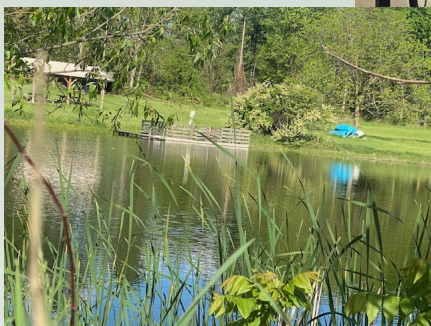
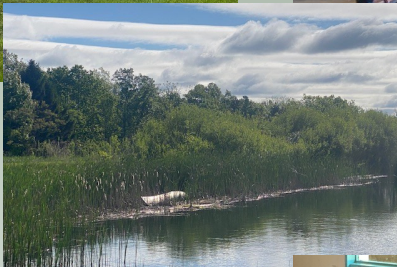
Have you signed up for camp yet?! There are plenty of sessions still available including the two week Counselor in Training (CIT) program and the Adirondack Adventure Camp. Sign up soon as there are sections nearing capacity. Don't get wait-listed! Sign up today!!

[campwhitman.org/dates-rates](http://campwhitman.org/dates-rates)





The May Stated Presbytery Meeting was held at beautiful Camp Whitman.  
Rev. Leah Ntuala was kind enough to take some pics.







## Trainings for Training

St. Benedict Center | Schuyler, NE | November 10-13

Rev. Bethany Benz-Whittington is a PC(USA) pastor living in Maryville, TN. She serves as the Stated Clerk for the Presbytery of Genesee Valley in Rochester, NY, and leads Sacred Calls, focusing on progressive faith formation and training. Outside of ministry and parenting, Bethany enjoys exploring creative faith expressions, connecting with community, and fostering inclusive spaces.

See Bethany's work in action at our November event, Trainings for Training - learn more and register at our [website](#) or click the button below.

**Event Registration and  
Information**

### Questions?

Contact our Director of Programs, Rev. Tricia Dillon Thomas at  
[programs@opsf-omaha.org](mailto:programs@opsf-omaha.org)



## COMMITTEE ON MISSION AND WITNESS



**A hearty "shout out" is going to Rock Stream Presbyterian Church.** From Pastor Carleen Frost, "Here's the awesome, great news. On 18 May, a FREE BBQ chicken dinner was held. There were 125 people served with NO leftovers. What a great joy! The Cents-Ability basket was overflowing with donations totaling \$599.00! Praise God through whom ALL blessings flow." Thank you, Carleen and the Rock Stream congregation and community!

An additional thank you to the Pastor Linda Myers and the Watkins Glen Presbyterian Church for their monthly community dinners with proceeds going to the Cents-Ability offering. The next dinner will be held on Thursday, 26 June at the church. All are welcomed!

To our presbytery churches who are actively collecting a monthly Cents-Ability offering; as possible, please notify Juana (Joanne) Tunison ([lalocat@aol.com](mailto:lalocat@aol.com)) with your monthly totals. For those churches who have yet to initiate the Cents-Ability program, if you need help, feel free to contact Juana using the above address.

**Finally,** the Mission and Witness Committee wishes to extend prayers of comfort and peace to the family of Pastor Debbie Grohman upon her death in late May. Debbie was a long-time member and chair of the committee. Her dedication, knowledge, wisdom, and compassion for "the least of these" was ever evidenced. She will be greatly missed.

Respectfully submitted, Juana (Joanne) Tunison, chair



**From Irene Fadden, Western Presbyterian Church in Palmyra:**

Church World Service is making "party boxes" for their hygiene kits (and the others probably) They come in a box from Fed Ex with all the items. After the kits are assembled, you box them in the original boxes and use a label sent with the kit and take them to a Fed Ex shipping spot to return at no cost to you. My husband took them to General Dollar: 5 boxes, 120 hygiene kits. The cost of a hygiene kit was \$15 last year plus a \$2 deposit for pickup at Canandaigua church. This year each kit cost only \$7. What an easy way to do this worthwhile project!



**From Ellen Reynolds, The Presbyterian Church in Geneva:**

The Presbyterian Church in Geneva had a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Mission Project in April. The Mission and Social Concerns Committee and Presbyterian Women collaborated to make 48 Hygiene Kits for Church World Service. Presbyterian Women paid for the postage. People stayed after the 10:30 service to put the kits together with items that church members had donated in the previous weeks.







**Worship through Music**

**"The Spark that Starts the Fire"**

**Maranatha Mobile DJ Service**

**Featuring Pick's Pub Food Truck**

**Sunday June 8, 2025 1-4pm**

**United Church of Painted Post**

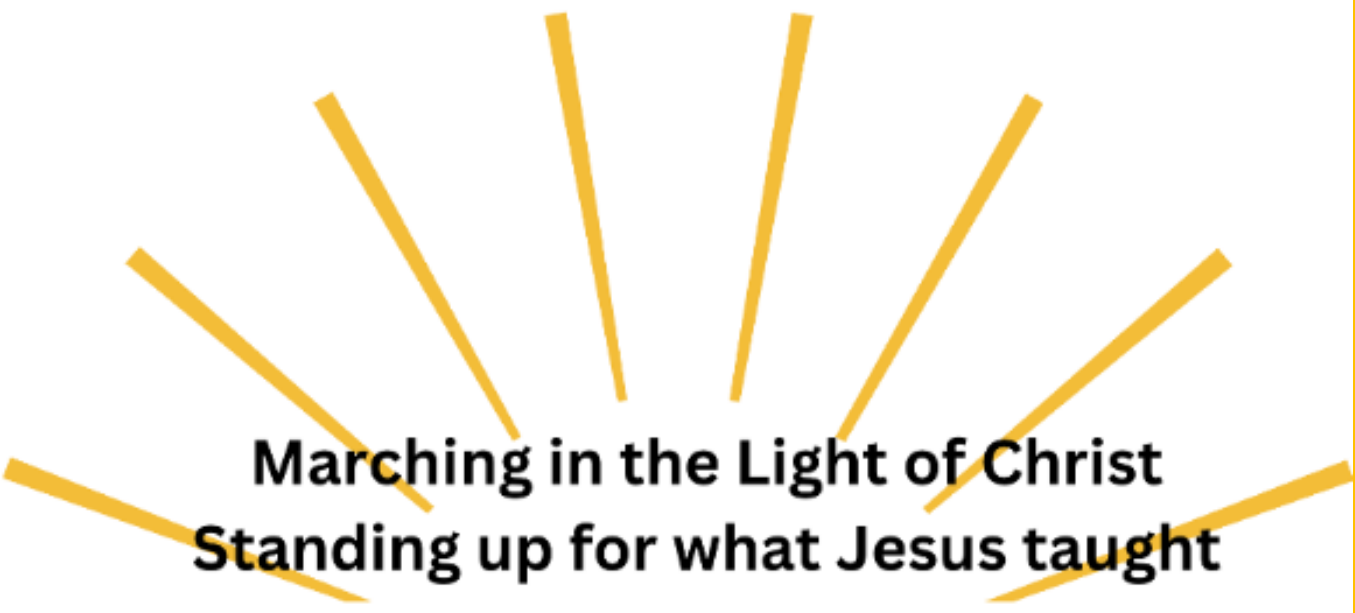
**201 N. Hamilton St. Painted Post, NY**

**Outside Yard**

featuring music by Newsboys, Third Day, MercyMe, Ryan Stevenson, Sanctus Real, Jeremy Camp, Casting Crowns, Bid Daddy Weave, Matthew West, I Am They, Colton Dixon, King & Country and many more

**Free to the Public**

**Bring a Chair or Stand & Dance**

A graphic of a sunburst with several yellow rays emanating from behind the text.

## **Marching in the Light of Christ Standing up for what Jesus taught**



**Sunday, June 8, 2025, 2:30pm**

**at the Bicentennial Park in Geneva, NY**

**Modeling the Ministry of Jesus, in service of the least of these, we:**

- **Feed the hungry food**
- **Give the thirsty a drink**
- **Welcome in the stranger**
  - **Clothe the naked**
- **Care for the sick, and**
- **Visit the prisoners.**



## PRC - Practical Resources for Churches



### **Something to think about doing this summer?**

**Children's Ministry Launchpad:** one-on-one coaching from our children's ministry consultants. Bring everyone involved with Children's Ministry! We provide you with three one-hour coaching sessions where we

- vision: *where are you, where do you want to be in 1 year, three years, 5 years, what is important for faith formation across the lifespan*
- curriculum: *we play curriculum matchmaker and get you organized with all the materials you need for the upcoming year*
- nitty gritty: *we cover everything you need for effective communication with families and the congregation, how to schedule, safe church policies, and what goes in your supply closet*

email [elizabeth@prcli.org](mailto:elizabeth@prcli.org) if you are interested in Launchpad.

### **HANDS TO WORK, HEARTS TO GOD CRAFT GROUP**

After stopping our in-person HANDS TO WORK, HEARTS TO GOD CRAFT GROUP during the pandemic, Practical Resources for Churches is planning to start a virtual "new version" where we can share our love of crafting and desire to connect with God online. Come join us on Zoom every month and bring any "lap work" you may have. While we craft, we will listen to and discuss readings from Joyce Rupp's book, Constant Hope.

We'll meet on the third Thursday evening of every month from 7 to 8 p.m.

If interested, please call or email Karen Smith at PRC.

Phone: 631-821-2255

Email: [karen@prcli.org](mailto:karen@prcli.org)

### **PRC's Spring 2025 Online events**

**All webinars are recorded. Click the title to register or read the description.**

[Building Collaborative Teams  
for an Adaptive Church](#)

**Tuesday, June 3, 2025**

**2:00 - 3:00 pm EDT**

**Leader - Dustin Benac**

[The Psychology of Polarization –  
Science in Church Series](#)

**Thursday, June 5, 2025**

**2:00 – 3:00 pm EDT**

**Leader – Dr. Kurt Gray**

[Our Whole Lives - 25 Years of Faith Based Sexuality  
Education with the UCC and UUA](#)

**Tuesday, June 10, 2025**

**2:00 – 3:00 EDT**

**Leaders - Rev. Amy Johnson, Dr. Melanie Davis**

[Dissolution of a Religious Corporation:  
How to Secure your Legacy](#)

**Thursday June 12, 2025 2:00 – 3:00 EDT**

**Leader – William McManus**

[Know Your Rights – ICE](#)

**Tuesday, June 24, 2025**

**2:00 – 3:00 PM EDT**

**Leader - Rev. Dr. Ellen Clark Clémot**

**JOIN OUR ONLINE BOOK CLUB  
THE FROZEN RIVER by Ariel Lawhon  
July 12, 2025 11:00 am – 12:00 pm**

[Click here to register](#)

Questions email [karen@prcli.org](mailto:karen@prcli.org)



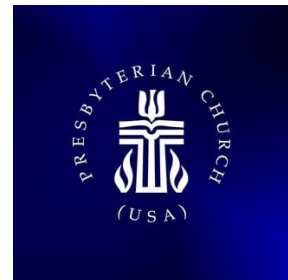
## Top PC(USA) News of the Week



*Week of May 19 - 23*

### Even as membership declines, 2024 church statistics report shows an increase in financial contributions, adult baptisms

Presbyterians remain committed and generous givers, report shows



### PC(USA) pastor spins the 'Wheel of Fortune'

The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Reinink appeared this week on the popular game show



### Cleveland Heights church focus is on student debt relief as repair

Congregation's Racial Repair and Restoration Task Force addresses historic harms with new program



### 'It's not just praise — it's a promise'

Thoughtful preaching and unified worship lead off a joint meeting between the Unification Commission and the A Corp Board



### Can AI deliver the Word of God?

Webinar on AI-powered ministry covers the pros and cons of artificial intelligence







Center for  
Earth Ethics

## Spirit of Place: A Climate Training for Hudson Valley Faith Communities

June 13-14, 2025  
The Ashokan Center, Olivebridge, NY



In June 2025, the Center for Earth Ethics will bring our climate training for faith and spiritual leaders to the Hudson Valley. In this time of upheaval, when both nature and society are under threat, community-building and bioregional knowledge are indispensable. This training will inspire people of all faiths to deepen their communities' relationship with land and empower them to respond to the climate crisis with purpose and discernment. It will address climate science and policy, ethical communication, local watershed and foodshed issues, eco-justice initiatives, spiritual support and pastoral care. Our training will foster networking and collaboration, leaving participants more resourced and connected for the journey ahead.

*For faith and spiritual leaders of all traditions, lay and ordained.  
By application at this URL: <https://forms.gle/1NAuD2SSyTadUdL26>  
In person only; onsite lodging available.*

[WWW.centerforearthethics.org](http://WWW.centerforearthethics.org)



Dear friends,

In June 2025, the Center for Earth Ethics will bring our [faith and climate training](#) to the Hudson Valley. This training will support spiritual and lay leaders of all faiths in building their community's relationship with land in a way that informs and inspires them to face the climate crisis and respond effectively. The training will be held June 13-14, 2025, at [The Ashokan Center](#) and is by application.

The training will address climate science and policy, ethical communication, local watershed and foodshed issues, eco-justice initiatives, and spiritual support and pastoral care. Our trainings foster networking and collaboration, leaving participants more resourced and connected for the journey ahead. The training runs Friday afternoon through Saturday evening with an optional stay through Sunday morning.

Learn more about the training [here](#). I've shared information about previous trainings [here](#). We ask you to circulate this invitation and the attached flyer to interested members of your community. The application can be found [here](#).

We are happy to answer any questions.

Best,  
Allegra from the Center for Earth Ethics

# LeaderCare

## COMMITTEE ON LEADER CARE

The purpose of the Committee on Leader Care is to provide personal support to pastoral leaders, presbytery leaders, and church leaders as they seek to serve Christ through the ministries of the Church.

This includes Teaching Elders (both presently active and retired), Commissioned Ruling Elders (whether commissioned to a specific church, or in other roles), Presbytery Leaders including Presbytery staff and Committee chairs, church Moderators, Clerks of Session, and any others in a leadership position throughout the Presbytery. All discussions are kept confidential between the Committee and those interacting with the Committee.

If you have a need or a question, please feel free to contact the Committee at [leadercare@presbyteryofgeneva.org](mailto:leadercare@presbyteryofgeneva.org)



*Share Your*  
**PHOTOS**

**Send us your pics!** If your church has photos of recent events to share, please email them to the presbytery office at: [officeadmin@presbyteryofgeneva.org](mailto:officeadmin@presbyteryofgeneva.org) before the monthly deadline (found each month on page 1) and they'll be added to the next newsletter.