



February 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 by **February 24, 2025**.



Officer training for new Ruling Elders & Deacons

Saturday, February 22, 10am–12pm

in-person at Walton United PC and at Union PC (Endicott), or on Zoom

Mark your calendars for this workshop being offered for new Ruling Elders and Deacons!

Rev. Pat Raube and Rev. Greg Garis will lead a training that is geared toward folks who are preparing for ordination as a Deacon or Ruling Elder, or those who were recently ordained. This training will also be a great refresher for anyone returning to active service as an officer in their congregation.

This training will be offered in hybrid format, with in-person “watch parties” at Union PC (Endicott) and Walton United PC as well as the option to join online via Zoom.

Please register at susvalpresby.org/register.

If your church would like to host another hybrid watch location, please contact Scott Kindig at cclefchair@susvalpresby.org or call the presbytery at 607-323-4477.

To join the meeting on Zoom, use this link: <https://bit.ly/3Ve5mtR>

or call 1-646-558-8656. Zoom Meeting ID: 880 3204 2470, passcode: PSV

CAMP WHITMAN SUNDAY IS ALMOST HERE!!– February 9 th

The PCUSA sets aside certain Sundays for special emphasis and February 9 th is Camp Sunday! At Camp Whitman we appreciate your prayers for our ministry as we provide a safe space where people gather to experience mercy and grace. For worship resources to use on that morning, please click on the following link to find the resource sheet which provides a liturgy for this special service <https://pcusa.org/resource/2025-camp-and-retreat-sunday-resources> Camp Sunday is also a great opportunity to take up a special offering for Camp Whitman. Each year we have campers from underserved communities who need a scholarship to attend camp. Your generosity ensures that we never have to turn a camper away because of financial need! **SUMMER REGISTRATION IS OPEN!!** Registration is open for summer 2025 and families are already signing up! To get started with your registration, click here: <https://www.campwhitman.org/dates-rates> We would love to see you this summer at one of the following sessions:

May 23-26 – Memorial Day Family and Community Weekend – the first of 3 family weekends (see more dates below) open to all for a family gathering, get away, camp alumni gathering...we will offer a continental breakfast, chicken bbq and recreational options

June 15-20 – Pathfinder 1 for our adult friends with special needs. We will house participants in common age groups and have a variety of activities to meet the interests and abilities of each camper.

June 22-27 – Pathfinder 2 – Trailblazer Mini-Camp for ages 6-10. This is a great introduction to camp in a shorter session. We will house campers in separate units for ages 6-8 and ages 8-10.

July 3-6 – Independence Day Family and Community Weekend

July 6-11 – Trailblazer 1 for ages 8-17 with campers housed in age-appropriate units with their peers. The Trailblazer weeks are a classic summer camp program that fosters new friendships and connections while having a wide variety of activity offerings that campers can choose from.

July 13-18 – Trailblazer 2 for ages 8-17

July 20-25 – Pathfinder 3 for our adult friends with special needs.

July 27-Aug 1 – Pathfinder 4 for our adult friends with special needs.

July 20 – Aug 1 – Counselor in Training (CIT) The Counselor-In-Training program is a two-week leadership program for campers entering their Junior or Senior year of high school. The first week of the program is focused on leadership development, learning to serve and making the transition from camper to leader. The second week of the program, CIT's will be working directly with our Pathfinder campers, assisting the camp counselors.

August 17-22 – Adventure Camp for middle and high school students in a fun, wilderness-based trip camp. We will be traveling to and out camp location in the Adirondack Park just outside of Lowville, NY. We will be staying at a wilderness outpost in platform tents and Adirondack style lean-tos. Meals will be provided, and we will have guides to lead us on canoe trips, hiking trips and a rock wall/high ropes experience!

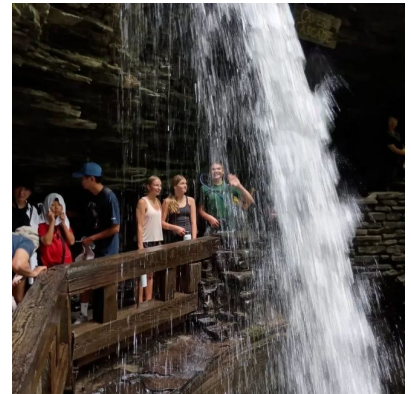
August 29-September 1 – Labor Day Family and Community Weekend

CAMP WHITMAN ADDRESS UPDATE!!


We will no longer be using the P.O. Box in Rochester. Please send all USPS mail and deliveries directly to the camp at 150 Whitman Rd, Penn Yan, NY 14527




If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at director@campwhitman.org or by calling (607)385-0375. We look forward to seeing you at Camp Whitman this summer!!

Grace and peace,
Bryan Muecke
Executive Director





Donate to the Presbytery online!

 Presbytery of Geneva

Sign Up Log In  Basket  


Presbytery of Geneva






Presbytery of Geneva General Fund

Give now




Camp Whitman

Give now




Individual per capita contribution

Give now



Ordination and Installation Offerings

Give now



Presbytery Meeting Offerings

Give now

Online Giving for Camp Whitman and the Presbytery of Geneva is available from our website. Make contributions to Camp Whitman, the Presbytery's General Fund, Individual contributions to per capita, Ordination and Installation Offerings, and Presbytery Meeting Offerings. This is through the Presbyterian Foundation and long-time partner, Vanco (known for offering envelopes from 'way back) so it is very secure to use.

On our homepage www.presbyteryofgeneva.org, click on the "Make a Contribution" link or go directly to our Vanco donation page Donate to Presbytery of Geneva. You can select our general fund, Camp Whitman, per capita, Ordination and Installation Offerings, Presbytery Meeting Offerings, and others in the future as we roll them out.



Presbytery of Genesee Valley

CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING DAY



Saturday, March 1, 2025

- For New & Experienced Church Leaders & Church Members
- Offering Worship & 7 Courses—all online, **via Zoom**
- Registration deadline: 2/27/25

SCHEDULE:

8:30 – 8:55 a.m.	Meet and Greet--conversation & time for questions
9 – 10:45 a.m.	Introduction & Workshop Session 1
10:45 – 11	Break
11 – 11:30	Worship
11:30 – 1 p.m.	Workshop Session 2

Worship will be led by Rev. Jim Renfrew with music by Bill Hockey.

REGISTER: <https://pbygenval.org/congregational-learning-day/>

Workshop Descriptions

Worship Service - 11 a.m.

Led by Rev. Jim Renfrew with music by Bill Hockey

9:00 - PGV Racial Justice Policy

9:00 - Introduction to the Enneagram for Teaching Elders

9:00 - Claiming the High Calling: Ruling Elder Training

11:30 - Two-Way Q and A

11:30 - Not Safe for Worship, Part II: Modern Biblical Interpretation in the Burned Over District

11:30 - Equipped to Care: For deacons and anyone charged with caring for others

11:30 - Enlivened Worship Leadership: The Engaged and Authentic Liturgist

For more workshop information go to:

pbygenval.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2025/01/2025-CLD-promo-flyer-formatted.pdf



OUT OF CHAOS, **HOPE**



"God will cover you with their feathers, and under their wings you will find refuge; God's faithfulness will be your shield and rampart."

Psalm 91:4

The beginning of this year has brought unprecedented challenges for our neighbors in California, who are now facing a devastating disaster. The harrowing images of wildfires consuming parts of Los Angeles and Ventura counties have deeply impacted us all, stirring our hearts with sorrow and compassion. Authorities are reporting this as a historic and deadly wildfire event. More than 40,000 acres have burned, with over 12,300 structures destroyed, entire communities wiped out, and tens of thousands of residents displaced. Currently, 92,000 residents are under evacuation orders, and 89,000 more remain in evacuation warning zones, meaning they may need to leave their homes at a moment's notice. Tragically, at least 24 lives have been lost, and the numbers continue to rise as fires remain uncontained. This is an ongoing disaster, and the extent of damage and loss continues to evolve, with figures expected to change as the situation develops. As part of the ongoing response and in consultation with the Presbyteries of the Pacific, San Fernando and San Gabriel, as well as the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii and its leadership, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has been in communication with faith leaders in the affected communities. In addition to providing emotional and spiritual care, PDA has already released emergency grants to meet the urgent needs of the communities and to provide immediate assistance. Though the final outcomes of these fires are yet to be known, we are clear that the magnitude of the event will require the development of long-term projects and assistance, both for the physical and emotional long-lasting effects. Presbyterians in the region are participating in coordination calls with nonprofit and faith-based disaster organizations to ensure that no one is forgotten.

PDA affirms our commitment to accompany those affected by this disaster. As people of God, once again we are called to stand with our siblings in the “GAP” — Give, Act and Pray.

GIVE. ACT. PRAY.

GIVE:

Financial support for relief efforts can be designated to DR000165, which supports the church’s response to wildfires in the U.S. Gifts can be made online by clicking [HERE](#), by phone at 800-728-7228, ext. 5885, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with “PDA-CF25-E” written on the memo line and mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

ACT:

Download and use the [bulletin insert](#) and [media toolkit](#).

Gift of the Heart kits are needed — learn more [here](#).

Stay informed and like us on [Facebook](#) and share updates with your congregation.

PRAY:

God, our refuge and our strength, you are an ever-present help in trouble.

You see the devastation caused by the California wildfires. You hear the cries of those suffering loss. You know the fear and anxiety and exhaustion of those waiting, hoping and helping as they watch the fires burn. For those forced to abandon their homes and shelters in search of safety, we pray for your guidance to find places of rest. For those called to fight the fires, we pray for your strength to persevere. For those ministering to the injured, we pray for your wisdom and guidance to heal. For those mourning loss, we pray for your comfort. For those accompanying others, near or far, we pray for your upholding. For those still in danger’s path, we pray for your protection.

Now and in the days and weeks to come, we trust that you are present. You have promised that even in the darkest of valleys, you will never leave nor forsake your children.

God, our refuge and our strength, you are an ever-present help in trouble. As your incarnate presence brought hope to those in need, may the Church, your body, be the presence of help and hope in Los Angeles County and beyond.

In the name of Christ Jesus,
Amen.

— Rev. Jihyun Oh,

Stated Clerk of the General Assembly and Executive Director of the Interim Unified Agency

Give Now

Give online by major credit card or electronic bank transfer. Make a one time or recurring gift.

SUPPORT THE PC(USA)



Andover Newton Seminary
AT YALE DIVINITY SCHOOL

Overturning your 'Immunity to Change'

with Dr. Robert Kegan

In partnership with Andover Newton Seminary
at Yale and Berkeley Divinity School

Zoom | March 3 | 12 – 3:30 pm Eastern
Free Event



Yale
DIVINITY SCHOOL
Center for Continuing
Education

You are invited...

The Center for Continuing Education, Andover Newton Seminary and Berkeley Divinity School are pleased to offer a special virtual workshop,
"Overturning Your 'Immunity to Change'" with Dr. Robert Kegan on March 3, 2025 from 12 - 3:30 pm Eastern.

The "Immunity to Change" is a novel approach to personal improvement-- now being deployed all over the world--which surfaces and engages those aspects of a person's underlying mindset that prevent them from bringing about the very changes they most want to make. This world-renowned approach to personal improvement can also be applied to organizations.

Join Harvard Professor Dr. Robert Kegan for a free virtual workshop. He will provide participants a fast-moving opportunity to try on this approach for themselves. Come with a personal improvement goal you most want to work on in mind!

This virtual event is free, but you must register in advance. **Register at [Overturning your 'Immunity to Change'](#)**.

We hope you will join us for this exciting workshop in March.

Best,

The Center for Continuing Education Team in partnership with Andover Newton Seminary and Berkeley Divinity School

MISSION AND WITNESS UPDATES



Iglesia Presbiteriana en Lares, Puerto Rico sends a hearty thank you to the Mission Committee of Elmira First for their generous donation. It enabled the purchase of small gifts, sweet treats, and needed school supplies for the Epiphany celebration of Los Reyes Magos (Three Kings). Pastora Evelyn Torres-Ramírez is particularly grateful for the opportunity to give children-friendly gifts rather than basic supplies of food and clothing. Since Hurricane María and the earthquake of 2020, children were "gifted" with only basic necessities.



The 2025 Matthew 25 grants applications are scheduled to be available by the end of February. This is later than the usual time, so please spread the word. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Juana (Joanne) Tunison, lalocat@aol.com.

Please plan to join your family, friends, neighbors, and congregations in the 2025 Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) "Gifts of the Heart" Kits Project. The date is March 8, 2025 and will be hosted by Bath Presbyterian Church (Rev. John Woodring) and Christ the King in Spencer (Rev. Sabrina Slater). The events will begin at 9:00 AM and run through noon, with a simple lunch to follow. There is no need to R.S.V.P; simply come with a heart willing to serve.

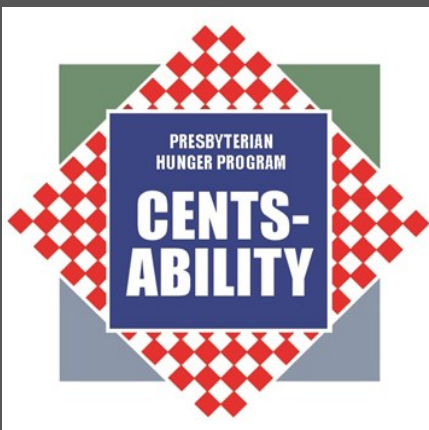


Presbyterian Youth Triennium Event



This year the Presbyterian Church (USA) will welcome thousands of its high school age youth and their adult youth workers to Louisville, Kentucky for four days of worship, recreation, bible study, outreach, and faith formation all around the theme of, "As If We Were Dreaming". The event takes place from 28-31 July. More information will be available in the March and April newsletters. A committee of eleven from five presbyteries met on January 26 and shared the following details:

- The Geneva Presbytery will combine with Genessee Valley, Susquehanna Valley, Northern New York, and Cayuga-Syracuse to send one large delegation.
- Transportation will be by bus and all the anticipated costs for the weekend are estimated to be between \$700 and \$800.
- This year, there will also be a program for young adults 18-25, due to the (Covid) cancellation of the 2022 event.
- There will be more details in the March newsletter.



The Presbytery of Geneva, in a combined effort with the Presbyterian Hunger Program, "Cents-Ability" initiative needs your support. Once monthly, presbyterian churches are asked to collect the equivalent of five cents per person per meal per day. These funds go to benefit the Matthew 25 grant program, specifically donated to food insecurity. Please visit the website:

<https://pcusa.org/resource/cents-abilityguide>.



PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA

SMALL CHURCH GATHERING

An online discussion for fellowship and sharing

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY

4

10:30 AM

zoom

MEETING ID: 830 2565 2747

PASSCODE: 274302

We hope you will join us!



Confirmation Intensive Retreat @ Watson Homestead

February 16-19, 2025
(Students 6th-9th Grade)

You are invited to participate in this unique opportunity for education, fellowship, and an engaging exploration of what it means to be a follower of Jesus as part of a PCUSA church. Youth from churches in the Presbyteries of Geneva and Genesee Valley will gather at the wonderful **Y at Watson Woods** (<https://rochesterymca.org/locations/ymca-watson-woods>) for an intensive retreat focusing on Christian community, PCUSA worship and belief foundations, bible basics, and Q&A with a panel of pastors. There will be worship, shared meals, and fellowship time.

The instructors for the event are all current or retired pastors in the two Presbyteries. Music will be led by Rev. Colin Pritchard from The Presbyterian Church in Geneva and Camp Whitman.

All youth will have the opportunity to engage with their individual church Sessions to request membership following this course and the creation of a personalized Statement of Faith.

This retreat is an excellent opportunity for youth in churches that may not be able to offer a local confirmation class at this time. There is also a special energy and community that comes from an intense large group gathering.

Please follow the link below for registration details. Any questions can be directed to Rev. Colin Pritchard (pastor@pcgny.org, 585 734-7007)

<https://pbygenval.org/event/youth-conference-watson-retreat-center-2/>