



July 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 **July 25, 2025**.



July

Some have crossed the bridge, and some are looking to do so - what bridge you ask - the bridge into retirement. For those thinking about retirement, learning from those who made the crossing can be very helpful. For those on the other side, sharing your experiences with your sisters and brothers can be a help to all. So if you have "been there, done that", or are considering it, please consider joining us for our Retirees luncheon. If you need a ride, we will try to connect you with someone driving (no guarantees, however).

Committee on Leader Care



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

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.



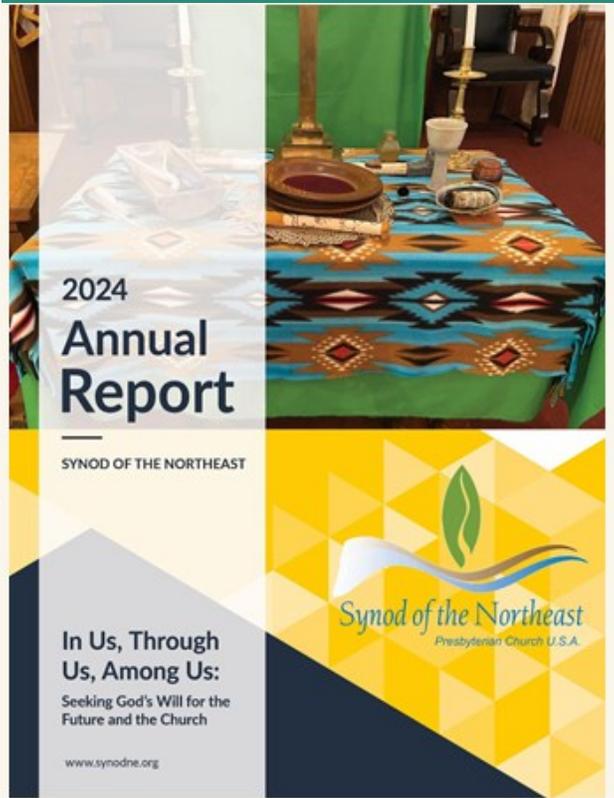
Read Our 2024 Annual Report!!

As we reflect on the past year, we are pleased to share the **2024 Annual Report of the Synod of the Northeast**. Rooted in the theme "**In Us, Through Us, Among Us**," this report bears witness to the Spirit's work in our shared life and ministry.

Inside, you will discover stories of renewal, highlights from key initiatives, and vivid examples of how the Spirit continues to shape, move through, and dwell among us as a connectional community.

We invite you to read, reflect, and celebrate with us all that God has made possible through our shared witness.

Rev. Dr. SanDawna Gaulman Ashley



[View Report Here](#)



The Synod Coach Network is offering coaching scholarships to support individuals and teams in their leadership and ministry in the Synod of the Northeast. How can our coaches support you in exploring what you want to learn and do next?

Apply for a Scholarship: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=synod>

Please help us share the gift of coaching with people in our Synod.

Synod of the Northeast Coaching Network

www.snecoachingnetwork.weebly.com



Emerging Gospel Communities Grant Webinar

June 26, 2025
10:30 AM and 7:00 PM

Are you dreaming of planting a new ministry? Revitalizing a congregation? Starting a fresh expression of church that reaches people right where they are? If so, the Synod of the Northeast's Emerging *Gospel Community Grant* may be just the opportunity to help your vision come to life. We are here to help you take the first step.

We're excited to invite you to either of the two informational Zoom webinars designed to walk you through the application process for the Emerging Gospel Community Grant. This uplifting session will offer insight, inspiration, and practical tools to understand the grant criteria, help navigate our grant application system, craft a compelling proposal, and discern how God may be calling your emerging community to something new.

Why Attend?

- Discover how the grant supports new worshiping communities, church plants, revitalization efforts, and innovative outreach ministries.
- Learn the key elements of a strong application, including mission clarity, leadership development, sustainability planning, and community engagement.
- Hear stories about past recipients whose ministries are thriving today because they dared to dream—and act in faith.
- Connect with Synod leaders and the Synod's Grant Coordinator who are ready to walk alongside you on the journey.

Whether your idea is still forming or you're ready to apply, this webinar will be a hopeful space to learn, ask questions, and be encouraged by others walking a similar path. We believe God is stirring new life in communities across the church—and this grant might just be the catalyst your ministry needs.

[Register for 10:30 AM Session](#)

[Register for 7:00 PM Session](#)

Let's step forward in faith together. The Spirit is already moving—come find out how you can join in.

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" – Isaiah 43:19

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





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

MARCHING FOR JUSTICE

What?

I will be walking 78 miles from Seneca Falls to the ICE Detention Center in Batavia, camping along the way. I hope members of the Congressional Oversight Committee will meet me there on **July 2nd at 10 a.m.** I encourage you to tour the center as we bear witness together—asking whether our constitutional rights and duties are being upheld.

When?

Beginning on **Sunday, June 29th**, to arrive in time for a peaceful protest on **July 2nd at 10 a.m.**

Why?

Because these are unprecedented times, and I can no longer go about daily life pretending everything is normal.

Who?

Me, **Rev. Dr. Leah Ntuala**, and anyone who wishes to join me.

Where?

Batavia Detention Center — July 2nd at 10 a.m.

In 1848, on the corner of what is now Fall and Troy Streets, people gathered to declare equality—specifically, the rights of women. Still, we gather. Still, we march. In 2025, we gather and march to ensure that the living, breathing document known as the Constitution holds the line—to protect democracy and the balance of the three co-equal branches of government, and to uphold life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all people.

I march to take back the title Christian from christian Nationalists. I am a patriot. As a Christian, I am not a Nationalist, because the only kingdom I believe in is the Kin-dom of God and I believe all of us were created in the image of God. We are connected to something much greater than ourselves and there are no boundary lines to God's love. I march for my sons—so they may one day work a single job that pays them well enough to build the futures they dream of.

I march for your children too.

I march for the children torn from foster care who had asylum.

I march for the children impacted by sudden changes at USAID, the NIH, CDC, and the Departments of Education, Housing, and the Interior—and so many others.

I march for the least of these.

I march to put my faith into action—and for your freedom *of* or *from* religion.

I march to honor the past, shine a light on the present, and carry hope into the future.

You are invited to join me—for all or part of the walk.

Line the streets as I pass through your community to show support for the Constitution.

Join me in Batavia.

Share my daily videos.

Invite your leaders to walk with us.

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Rev. Dr. Leah Ntuala, The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls, NY
“You will make mistakes, but do them with enthusiasm.” – Colette

You can read an article about the March for Justice on the PC(USA) website [here](#).



The Matsiko World Orphan Children's Choir
will return to Elmira July 15-20.



The choir will perform at
North Presbyterian Church on
July 17, 2025, at 7:00 pm.
All are welcome to this free event.

Please join us!

Donate to the Presbytery online!

Presbytery of Geneva

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Presbytery of Geneva General Fund

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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, 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.



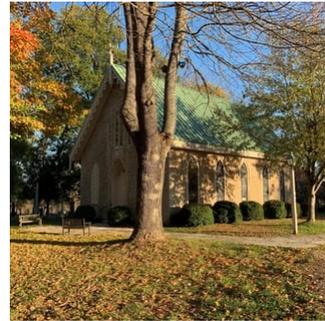


Top PC(USA) News *of the Week*



[The right place, the right time, with the right heart](#)

A Presbyterian pastor ministers to bluegrass star Billy Strings without knowing how famous and beloved he is



[Presbyterian clergy join hundreds in 40-day 'Fast for Gaza'](#)

Veterans for Peace organized the national fast



[Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\) Co-Moderator honored with Women of Impact award](#)

Former PMA president also among honorees at NBPC event



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Calling all young adults (18-35) who are passionate about climate justice and creation care! Presbyterians for Earth Care is building a faith-based network of young people who are leading the way in environmental advocacy - from local congregations to the PC (USA) to the national stage. Is that you? Or does it describe someone you know? Join us by completing our interest form: bit.ly/PECYANetwork. Then, tag a friend who's ready to take action and share this with your community.

Presbyterian Earth Care

Visit the Earth Care
website [here](https://www.pcc.org/earth-care)

Young Adult Environmental Justice Advocacy Network

A faith-based network for Presbyterians and their friends, ages 18-35, advocating for creation and climate justice

Join us!

bit.ly/PECYANetwork



First Presbyterian Church of Watkins Glen May Community Dinner

They had 65 people in attendance and provided to-go meals for some of their shut-ins.



Installation of Rev. Dr. H. Leigh Holder Park Presbyterian Church of Newark



Connection to Transformation

Building a Partnership Culture in Faith Communities Conference



SAVE THE DATE

A Collaborative Conference with the New York Council of Churches

The Synod of the Northeast, in collaboration with the New York Council of Churches, is excited to present:

Connection to Transformation: Building a Partnership Culture in Faith Communities Conference

Saturday, October 25, 2025 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

*First Presbyterian Church
315 N. Cayuga Street
Ithaca, New York*

This gathering will bring together ecumenical and interfaith pastors, lay leaders, organizers, and community advocates from across the Central and Western New York region to explore how transformational partnerships can emerge when faith communities center connection, collaboration, and mutuality. Through worship, storytelling, interactive workshops, and keynote conversations, participants will reflect on how churches can move beyond transactional relationships toward deeper engagement that reflects the love and justice of Christ in our small towns and rural communities.

Whether you serve in a local congregation, a nonprofit ministry, or an ecumenical initiative, this conference will offer tools and inspiration for building a culture of authentic partnership rooted in shared purpose and faith.

Join us as we listen, learn, and reimagine the future of the Church and the communities we are called to serve. Together, we move from connection to transformation.

Registration will open in July! Stay tuned for registration details and speaker announcements.

[Read Article on Website](#)