



September 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 October newsletter, please send the information to officeadmin@presbyteryofgeneva.org by **September 25, 2025.**



*Let your light shine before men
that they may see your good deeds
and praise your Father in heaven.*

-Matthew 5:16

The poster features a decorative border with watercolor-style illustrations of various autumn-themed items including pumpkins, gourds, leaves, and flowers in shades of orange, red, and green. The central text is contained within a white rectangular box with a thin black border, set against a solid orange background with rounded corners.

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**

Advocacy Training Opportunity in Ithaca, NY

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

October 24–25, 2025

First Presbyterian Church
315 N. Cayuga Street
Ithaca, NY



Rev. Dr. Kathryn Threadgill



Rashida Tyler



Juana Cortes de Torres, Esq.



Rev. Dr. Rose Niles



Henry-Louis Taylor, Jr., PhD.



Rev. Dr. Eileen Lindner



Rev. Dr. Greg Garis



Michael Borges



Rev. Marjorie Ackerman



Ricardo Witt



Rev. Peter Cook



Elder Larry Beasley



Rev. Dr. SanDaena Gaultman Ashley

This two day event is sponsored by the Synod of the Northeast and the New York State Council of Churches, and will included many great speakers and local advocacy groups.



New York State
Council Of Churches

Please register at:
bit.ly/45pN9yU
or scan the QR Code.



Synod of the Northeast

October 24 1–4pm and October 25 9am–5pm

The New York State Council of Churches and the Synod of the Northeast are partnering to host Connection to Transformation: Building a Partnership Culture in Faith Communities, October 24–25, 2025, at First Presbyterian Church in Ithaca, NY.

This powerful two-day gathering begins with the Council's first Regional Advocacy Day—a direct response to faith leaders across New York who asked for more accessible, local opportunities to engage. Regional advocacy days are designed to equip clergy and lay leaders with tools to address pressing issues in their communities, effectively communicate with elected officials, and build lasting networks. This is the first regional Advocacy Day and will bring elected representatives together with faith leaders to focus on the issues facing communities in Western NY. We also encourage faith leaders to attend the Statewide Ecumenical and Interfaith Advocacy Day in March 2026, that will focus on the legislative priorities that impact the entire state and enable faith leaders from different regions to work collectively.

Saturday, October 25 will bring together ecumenical and interfaith pastors, lay leaders, organizers, and advocates from Central and Western New York. The conference will explore how faith communities can foster transformational partnerships through connection, collaboration, and mutuality. Participants will engage in worship, storytelling, workshops, and keynote conversations—all centered on moving from transactional to authentic, justice-rooted relationships. The tools and inspiration for those serving in congregations, nonprofit ministries, and ecumenical initiatives help to build a culture of shared purpose and faithful presence—especially in small towns and rural communities.

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.

[Register Here](#)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



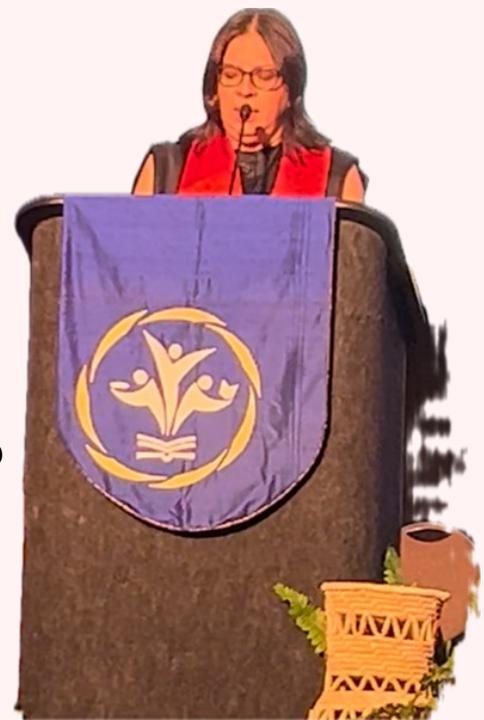
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FALL GATHERING

It's back! The 2025 Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering of the Presbytery of Geneva has returned. PW will be hosting Pastora Evelyn Torres-Ramírez of the Iglesia Presbiteriana de Lares, Puerto Rico. Evelyn will participate in the gathering at Horseheads Presbyterian Church on Friday, 17 October. Following the worship service, there will be a catered luncheon and a presentation by Evelyn about surviving the challenges of Huracán María (2017) and the 2020 earthquake. She will share stories of sorrow and of joy, and the impact of receiving the 2021 PW Birthday Grant.

On Sunday, 19 October, Evelyn will share worship at the Seneca Falls Presbyterian Church, also followed by a catered luncheon and a presentation.

In between worship activities, Pastora will enjoy the "fruits of a New York State autumn, picking apples, touring the Finger Lakes, with a boat cruise on Seneca Lake if the weather cooperates.

In the October newsletter, the PW committee will be providing more details about the visit and how to place a reservation.



Pastora Evelyn Torres-Ramírez at the PW 2024 "Do Everything in Love" gathering in St. Louis.

In Christ, Juana (Joanne) Tunison PW Moderator

A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR CALLED TO CARE, CANANDAIGUA

JOURNEYS

A program of original and traditional songs by
Jim Kerr and Wendy Stoddard

When: Sunday, September 28th, 3:00 PM
Where: United Church, 11 Gibson Street, Canandaigua

Free will offerings gratefully accepted
Light refreshments will be served



CALLLED TO CARE, CANANDAIGUA IS A LOCAL, ALL VOLUNTEER, 501(C)3 ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE WELCOME AND RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES AND OTHER DISPLACED PERSONS.



UNIVERSITY of DUBUQUE
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

LEADERSHIP ETHICS

STARTING SEPT. 2

Taught by the Rev. Emily Blue

100% Online and Semi-Synchronous

Course Topics:

- Theologically Grounded, Personal Ethical Leadership
- Corporate Practices and Commitments for Justice
- Congregational Practices for Safe Sanctuaries
 - Avoiding or Responding to Misconduct
- Congregational Communication and Information Sharing
- Trustworthy and Transparent Finances

Course Outcomes:

- Personal Code of Ethics
 - Program for Congregational Training
 - A program you can implement immediately in your context
 - Judicatory Letters Confirming Training
- (Please confirm with your judicatory, this course meets their requirements)*

For more information or an application:

Contact: Rev. Krista Denne, Director of Seminary Admissions
UDTSAdmission@dbq.edu

Books from Susan Rack pastoral library.

Susan is clearing out her pastoral library and has many useful books to pass on.

Susan is selling the Interpretation Commentary for Teachers and Preachers (42 Volumes Old & New Testament) for \$300 as a set. Pictures attached.

She also has a complete set of Stephen Ministry resources she is willing to give to any church that would use them. The set includes everything a Stephen Leader would need to run the program after being trained.

If interested, please contact:

Reverend Susan E. Joseph Rack,
M.Div., Th.M.

Pastor

First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses
69 E Main St./POBox 597
Trumansburg NY 14886

she/her/hers

(732) 648-6325

revsjoseph@optonline.net



Torah Story

An Apprenticeship on the Pentateuch

Online Course

Tuesday Evenings 6:30–8:30pm

October 7, 14, 21, 28, November 4

Open to anyone

For more information or to register
for this course, please contact:
cfranks1128@aol.com

Required Text:

Torah Story

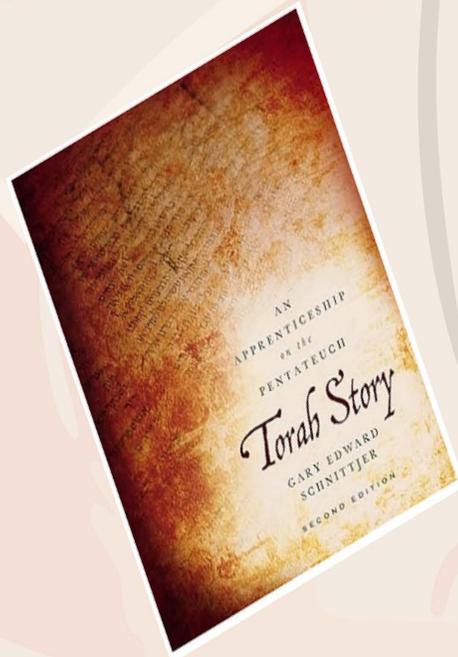
2nd edition

An Apprenticeship on the Pentateuch

by Gary Edward Schnittjer

ISBN # 978–0310112778

An accompanying workbook is also available
for those interested in deeper study



This course counts as continuing education for CRE's in the Presbytery of Geneva

If you would like to make a donation toward the continuation of this ministry, please go to www.presbyteryofgeneva.org to make a contribution to the general fund.
Thank you for your generosity.

All profits from dinner and donations go directly to Camp Whitman, and will be matched up to **\$15,000** by anonymous donors.

You can double your gift to Camp!

Scan the QR code to become an event sponsor.



ITALIAN

DINNER FUNDRAISER

for

CAMP + WHITMAN

NORTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

921 College Ave., Elmira, NY 14901

Saturday, September 13, 2025

5:00-8:00 pm

\$20 per plate
Or sponsor a
table of 6 for \$200

*Choice of:
Stuffed shells in marinara,
Baked Chicken,
Vegetable Lasagna*

Tossed Salad
Garlic bread
Vegan/Gluten free
Lasagna option

To reserve and pay for your dinner,
scan the QR code by September 8.





Honoring the Saints in Our Annual Necrology Report

In honor of upcoming All Saints Day, the time has come for the Annual Necrology Report for the Presbytery of Geneva. We ask that you send information for your congregational Necrology Report by **November 4, 2025** (though any information you have today you can send as this will help those preparing the report to properly recognize all who have passed). Please send the information to leadercare@presbyteryofgeneva.org.

We ask your assistance in recognizing, honoring and giving thanks for the saints who passed into glory between Nov. 1, 2024 and Oct. 31, 2025, having served this presbytery as Ruling Elders or Teaching Elders. We shall also recognize congregations that have run their race and were disestablished during this time. The reading of the Necrology will be incorporated in our **November Stated Meeting of the Presbytery**.

We always try to capture the most complete record we can for the Necrology Report. It is our heartfelt desire to recognize, honor, and give thanks for each servant who has gone to receive the rewards of their labor. Completeness can only be achieved when we receive this information from the congregations. Last year only 15 churches in the Presbytery responded to this request, so we feel many were left out of this recognition.

We ask the Clerks of Session for the following information if possible:

The first and last name of the individual. Middle names can be added and “nicknames” for middle names are welcome.

A phonetic spelling of any names that are likely to be mispronounced by a stranger. We ask for this information because their names will be read aloud as part of the Necrology Ceremony.

A photo, if provided, will be shown in the presentation as we read the name of each individual. Oftentimes a photo is not available, but if one is, we shall show it.

If you have an ordination date, we will include that in the presentation as well. This piece of information is often difficult to find and is simply a “nice-to-have.”

If you have had a year without experiencing a loss, we would like to know this as well so that we know that your church family is accounted for.

We thank you in advance for your help in this effort to honor our colleagues who have passed into glory.



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

2025 Youth Triennium



Youth were asked to worship on Wednesday in their pajamas.



The student band from Susannah at Presbyteriana Church hit youth and info worship on Tuesday.



Presbyterian Youth Triennium participants created keychains and bracelets to help describe what they needed from the church.



Triennium young adults walk with their T-shirts in a hallway of the Kentucky International Conference Center in Louisville.



Young adults make T-shirts honoring gun violence victims during the Young Adult Leadership community group.



Where else but Presbyterian Youth Triennium will you find a soccer game played between youth clothed in rocket costumes?



During the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, Luke Nancoo and Jade Fuentes wrote on bags that were to be used to make snack bags for underserved people in Louisville for a group called Hope Buss. A mission project on Wednesday also included hygiene kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and packages for Rooms in the Inn.



Thursday's closing worship at the Presbyterian Youth Triennium featured the imposition of glitter ashes.

All photos by Rich Copley.

The Process of Aging and Implications for Ministry

Our pastors, parents and other loved ones who shaped us are aging. In the Process of Aging and Implications for Ministry course, you'll learn how theological reflection with older adults can help them address the challenges of aging.



You'll examine how congregations, senior-care organizations, families, and caregivers can challenge ageist assumptions and adapt to the diverse needs of aging populations with dignity, equity, and creativity.

In addition, you'll also:

- Uncover the physical, social, mental, emotional, and spiritual dimensions of aging as an integrated, lifelong process.
- Identify and challenge personal and systemic ageism in caregiving, ministry, and community contexts.
- Design or evaluate programs, services, and ministries that center older adults' agency, dignity, and belonging, informed by current research and best practices.
- Integrate cultural awareness, equity, and inclusion into all aspects of work with aging populations.

Details

Date: September 22 – October 31, 2025

Location: ONLINE

Facilitator: Zeena Regis

Zeena holds an M.Div. degree from Columbia Theological Seminary. She is a Ruling Elder in the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., a hospice chaplain, an author, and a curriculum writer. She serves as the Faith Engagement Manager at Compassion & Choices, the nation's oldest, largest, and most active nonprofit working to improve care, expand options and empower everyone to chart their end-of-life journey.

The program fee is \$265.

For additional questions about the course or Older Adult Ministry certificate program, contact lifelonglearning@ctsnet.edu

[REGISTER NOW](#)



Dear Church Family,

Jesus Christ is Living Water for our Body and Soul

If there is anyone interested in being part of a Water ministry of **Living Waters for the World**, the next **Clean Water U training** is Sept. 23-27 at **Hopewell Camp and Conference Center** in Oxford, MS and we'd love to have you and your team at this training session! We currently have openings in each of our workshops - water project management, health education, and water system installation. If you are interested, contact Ken Allen or Linda Werts. Or visit Livingwatersfortheworld.org website.

“All Gods Children deserve Clean Water”

God Bless!



Looking for old records?

Need to archive your church's records?

Contact the:

Presbyterian Historical Society

425 Lombard St.

Phildelphia, PA 19147

Ph: (215) 627-1852

Email: refdesk@history.pcusa.org

Donate to the Presbytery online!

Presbytery of Geneva

Search 



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, 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*



[Delegation of PC\(USA\) leaders travels to Peru](#)

July trip focused on the impacts of mining and other extractive industries...



[Ten months after back-to-back hurricanes, Florida church's recovery continues](#)

Sarasota's Siesta Key Chapel is cleaned up and back in operation, but far from whole...



[The PC\(USA\) commissions a new class of Young Adult Volunteers](#)

Worshippers gather at the Presbyterian Center and online to bless the Class of 2025-26...



[PDA deploys to Texas Hill Country](#)

Discussions focus on 'human-to-human connection,' immediate needs and long-term recovery...



PRC Practical Resources for Churches



[Changing Mindsets: Discovering theological mindset for your church](#)

Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2025

7:00 - 8:00 pm EDT

Leader – Kim Pope-Seiberlin

[Blessed Minds](#)

Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025

2:00 – 3:00 pm EDT

Leader – Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

[Understanding Polarization: Treating Division with Humility](#)

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

2:00 – 3:00 pm EDT

Leader: Dr. Daryl Van Tongeren

[Advanced Websites: A look under the hood at the new PRC website](#)

Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025

7:00 – 8:00 pm EDT

Leader – Eric Seiberling

[Generationally Speaking: Bridging Generational Divides for a Thriving Church](#)

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

2:00 – 3:00 pm EDT

Leader – Stephannie Luedtke

[Why Administration Matters](#)

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025

2:00 – 3:00 pm EDT

Leader – Bonnie Marden

[Don't Overcomplicate This! First Steps to Fresh Ministry Initiatives](#)

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

2:00 – 3:00 pm EDT

Leader – Brett DeHart

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



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](#)



TWO WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

SHOP

purchase digital
ministry tools
(images, video
clips, lesson plans
& more)
support others!



BECOME A VENDOR

create an account
to sell digital
resources you or
your church
created
generate revenue!



CHURCHES CREATING. MINISTRIES SHARING. FAITH GROWING

Have you ever been searching for a worship image and just can't find a good option, or a Sunday School lesson on a specific text? Your congregation is probably creating resources that once you use them, the file just sits on your hard drive or in the cloud and never is accessed again. Churches are searching for dynamic content and are also creating amazing resources— why not share! The Ministry Marketplace is intended to celebrate how creative ministry workers are and provide a place for them to share their creativity with others. With Ministry Marketplace you can shop digital resources that other pastors, churches, christian educators create and use them to bless your congregation. You can also set up your own vendor account for your church or yourself and allow your creativity to be a stream of revenue, blessing other ministries and supporting your own.

Churches creating, ministries sharing, faith growing.

Check out Ministry Marketplace- share your own materials and support other ministries by purchasing!

theministrymarketplace.com



Presbytery Leader, Marjorie Ackerman, will be away and unavailable from August 20 to October 2.

If you have questions about or need help with Presbytery matters, please contact either:

Amy Loving-Austin at statedclerk@presbyteryofgeneva.org or

David Ashby at treasurer@presbyteryofgeneva.org.

Marji's email will also be periodically checked by a staff member in her absence.

Presbytery Administrative Support Services, Gretchen Duffy, will be away and unavailable from September 15 to September 26. This email will not be checked during this time.

Free Organ to a good home!

Carole Shellman has a Conn organ from approx. 1960 that she would like to give to a good home. The organ was her mother's and has been in her family since it was new. To her knowledge, everything works. If interested, you can reach her at 570-596-2484. Don't wait! Offer only available until late October.



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

before the monthly deadline (found each month on page 1)
and they'll be added to the next newsletter.