

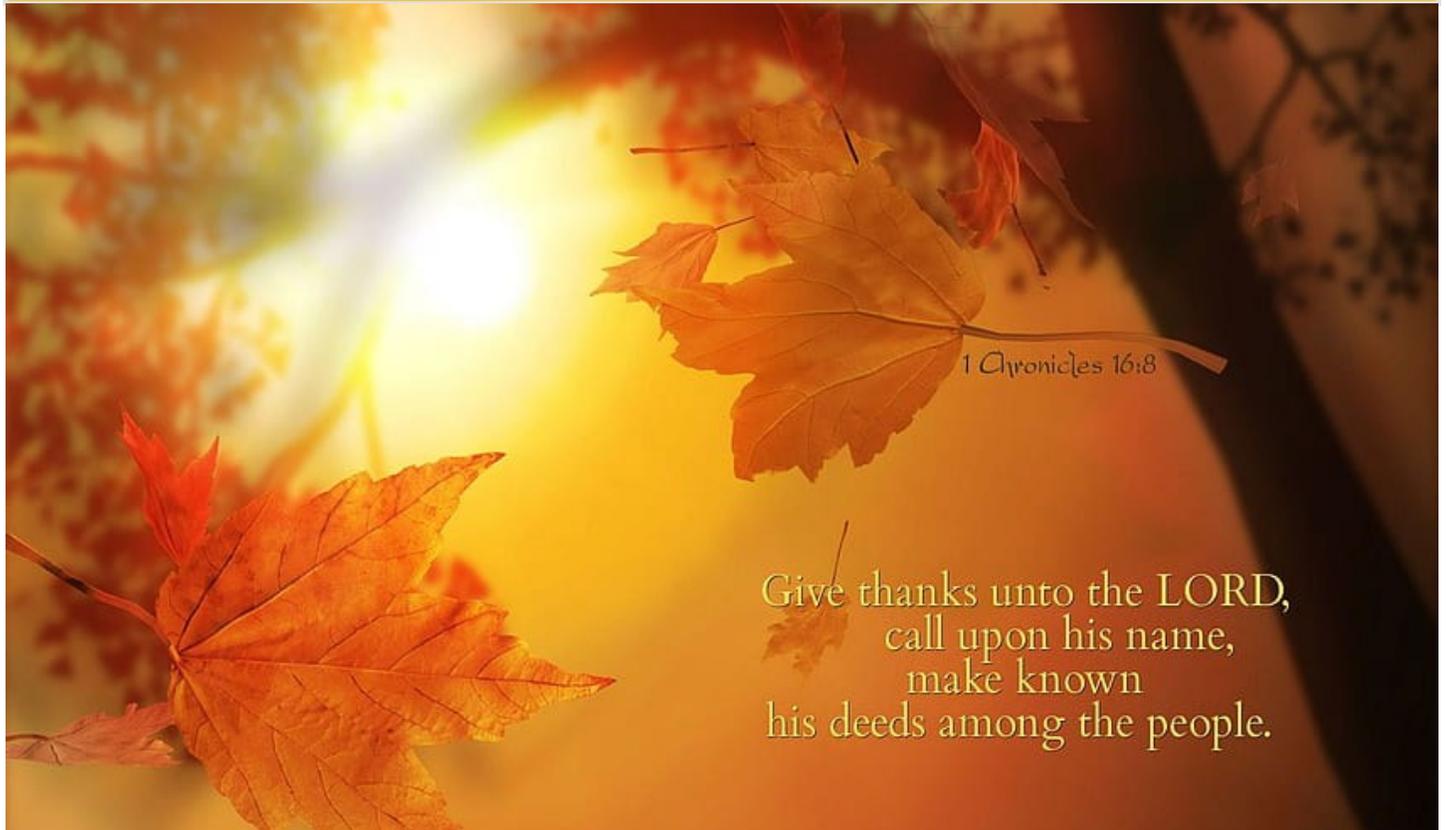


November 2025 Newsletter

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 **November 24, 2025.**



1 Chronicles 16:8

Give thanks unto the LORD,
call upon his name,
make known
his deeds among the people.

Veterans Day Concert, 11 November 1PM

Sacred music, patriotic songs and some surprises



Featuring:

Lois Dungan on piano. Played piano at the Arkport Methodist Church as a teenager. Completed musical studies at Houghton College. Has been a summer musician for 23 years at Odosagih Bible Conference and currently plays weekly at Hillside Baptist Church.

Denise Uhlman on violin. Taught strings for 27 years. She has played with Orchard Park Symphony for 40 years. Denise is very involved with activities of Odosagih Bible Conference and Retreat Center. She often plays with Lois Dungan in the evenings at camp.

Sarah Uhlman on violin. She has played in the Orchard Park Symphony for many years. Taught in the Buffalo School System many years and currently teaches English as a Second Language to students from various countries. Active in short term missions and is a writer for the daily devotional "Light from the Word."

Greta Brokaw a vocalist. Grew up singing in churches throughout Western New York with her father and three siblings. Over the years, she has developed her own singing and speaking ministry and has authored four devotional books (Heart Medicine Devotions).

Where and When:

Arkport Community Church
15 Main Street, Arkport NY
Tuesday, 11 November @ 1 pm



All are welcome and invited to meet our musicians at a little reception afterwards.



Synod of the Northeast
Youth & Young Adult Leadership
Development Grant Webinar

Tuesday, November 4th, 2025 10:30 AM



The future of the church is being shaped right now — in the hearts, voices, and actions of our youth and young adults.

Join us for an energizing and insightful webinar hosted by the **Synod of the Northeast** to learn how to apply for our **Youth & Young Adult Leadership Development Grant** — a unique opportunity to invest in the next generation of disciples and innovators.

During this session, we'll explore:

- What this grant supports and how it empowers emerging leaders
- Creative examples of youth and young adult ministries making a difference
- Step-by-step guidance on the application and evaluation process
- Tips for strong proposals that reflect your vision and the community's story
- How to navigate the **Foundant** system for submitting your application

Whether your ministry nurtures leadership in a local congregation, campus, community center, or mission project, this grant helps equip young people to lead with courage, compassion, and faith.

Together, let's grow a movement of leaders who listen deeply, serve boldly, and re-imagine what faithful leadership looks like in today's world.



[Register today!](#)

If you can't attend live, register anyway — we'll send you the recording afterward so you won't miss a thing.



Creating neuro-affirming worship

A Presbyterian Outlook webinar



Creating neuro-affirming worship: a webinar - November 5 at 7 p.m. ET! - Presbyterian Outlook

How can congregations move beyond awareness toward genuine belonging for neurodiverse people in worship, learning, and community life?

In this webinar, the team from **Big Faith Resources** explores why neuro-affirming worship practices matter and how they can be implemented in various congregational settings. Drawing from theology, lived experience, and practical ministry tools, they'll guide you in equipping your church to more fully welcome neurodiverse children and their families.

Together, we'll examine how faith communities can grow in both understanding and practice—cultivating spaces that affirm and include people with a wide range of neurological differences. This webinar connects emerging understandings of neurodiversity with accessible ministry strategies, helping churches create environments where every person's unique way of thinking, feeling, and engaging is honored in the congregational life.

In this webinar, you'll learn:

- Practical steps for inclusive worship and education across church settings
- How to move beyond basic awareness toward genuine belonging
- Ways to support neurodiverse children and their families in congregational life

Who should attend:

Pastors, Christian educators, children's ministry leaders, worship planners, and anyone seeking to make their congregation more inclusive and affirming.

[Learn more and register!](#)



https://youtube.com/shorts/taXX_YEpWQQ?si=kZYTTBThpJqM3T6u

You have heard from your Mission and Witness Committee about some of the ways our “Cents-Ability” (formerly 2 cents a meal) efforts make a real difference in the lives of all involved. Would you be willing to help us share those stories with the rest of your congregation? Or, perhaps with your Session or Mission committee?

We hope this video will inspire you and your congregation to either grow or begin your generous participation in this successful and inspiring food ministry:

https://youtube.com/shorts/taXX_YEpWQQ?si=kZYTTBThpJqM3T6u

(if this you tube link does not open up when you click it, consider copying the link and pasting it directly into your internet search bar.)

With gratitude,

Mission and Witness

COMMISSION *on the* STATUS OF WOMEN



Be the Voice. Bring the Hope. Advocate with Justice.



The Presbyterian Women and PC(USA) delegations worship at the 69th Commission on the Status of Women in March 2025

Join Presbyterian Women at the Commission on the Status of Women

Presbyterian Women invites you to apply to be part of our delegation to the 70th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70)—a global gathering where voices of women, faith, and justice converge to shape the world's agenda for gender equity.

Each year, Presbyterian Women brings the heart of our faith and the power of our Purpose to this global platform—lifting up stories of resilience, challenging systems of injustice, and standing shoulder to shoulder with women from every nation.

The 70th Session on the Commission on the Status of Women will be held March 9–20, 2026, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, and offers an opportunity to

- Engage with global leaders, advocates, and faith-based and ecumenical partners.
- Participate in worship, educational opportunities and advocacy that embodies Presbyterian Women's Purpose.
- Bring back insights and inspiration to your congregation, presbytery, and PW community.
-

CSW70 Priority Theme

Ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls, including by promoting inclusive and equitable legal systems, eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, and addressing structural barriers.





Whether you are seasoned in advocacy or newly inspired to speak out—[your voice belongs here](#). Kelsey Law, Vice Moderator, Presbyterian Women, Inc., 2024-2027 Board of Directors, says

"Presbyterian Women's purpose is not simply spoken—it is lived. We enter spaces like CSW as faith bearers and justice seekers, carrying the stories of our communities and the hope of a world made whole."

A Legacy of Presence and Purpose

For nearly two decades, Presbyterian Women have been a consistent and courageous voice at the United Nations. Guided by faith and rooted in advocacy, PW has sent delegates to CSW for over 17 years, ensuring that the lived realities of women in the Church and around the world are not only represented but reverberate through global policy discussions.

From rural congregations to international forums, PW's presence is a living legacy of commitment, courage, and connection—proof that when women of faith gather, transformation follows.



Call to Action

Applications are due by **December 8, 2025**

[Click here to apply now to join Presbyterian Women's delegation to CSW70!](#)

Presbyterian Women Churchwide is offering financial support for CSW participation

[three young women's grants](#)—up to \$2,000 each—available to young women (ages 18–30)

[PW Leadership Development Grants](#), (up to \$500 each) available for women of any age.

Please note that applications for these grants are separate from the CSW application. And early application for these funds is advised!

Presbyterian Women's Annual Mission Fund (the Mission Pledge) makes possible every mission, program and resource of PW, including our advocacy at the UN. Give now to support Presbyterian Women's witness in the world.

[GIVE TO PW's ANNUAL MISSION FUND](#)



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

National Fund for Sacred Places to award \$8.73 million in grants to 30 congregations with historic buildings

Irvington Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis, First Presbyterian Church of Albany, New York, and Third Presbyterian Church in Rochester, New York are among the 2025 grantees

The [National Fund for Sacred Places](#), a program of [Partners for Sacred Places](#) in collaboration with the [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#), is proud to announce its newest cohort of grantees. This year, 29 churches and one synagogue (listed below) have been selected to receive capital grants of up to \$500,000 along with tailored technical assistance to support historic preservation efforts, community engagement, and enhanced fundraising. This represents both the largest cohort of grantees in a single year and the largest amount of funding awarded in the program's history, totaling \$8.73 million in grants.



The Irvington Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis is one of three PC(USA) churches to receive preservation funding. (Photo by Craig Shaw)

Now entering its 10th year, the National Fund for Sacred Places is the only nationwide program of its kind, providing financial and professional resources to help congregations remain strong faith communities while they steward some of the nation's most important and architecturally significant houses of worship. Since its inception, the National Fund has awarded or pledged over \$33 million to 168 community-serving congregations representing 28 faith traditions across 45 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Each of the congregations welcomed into the National Fund this year represents a unique story of resilience, history, and service," said Bob Jaeger, President of Partners for Sacred Places. "These sacred places are not only architectural treasures—they are vital centers of congregational life and community anchors offering meals, education, cultural enrichment, and refuge. We are honored to support their preservation and their continued role in public life."



Faith communities supported by the National Fund often serve as centers for critical social and cultural activity, providing everything from shelter and meals to after-school programs, concerts, and civic dialogue. Research shows that for every \$1 invested through the National Fund, more than \$4.77 in community impact is generated, making preservation an act of both cultural stewardship and community investment.

“Sacred places hold a profound role in the American landscape, embodying both heritage and hope,” said Carol Quillen, President and CEO of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. “Through the National Fund for Sacred Places, we are ensuring these spaces remain vibrant hubs of community life, sustaining connection, creativity, and service for generations to come.”

Interest in the National Fund continues to be high. This year 319 congregations applied, reflecting both widespread need and a growing recognition that sacred places require external support to maintain their dual role as historic landmarks and community lifelines.

“The congregations we serve are dedicated to caring for their historic buildings and serving their communities, but cannot do it alone,” said Rachel Hildebrandt, Senior Director of the National Fund for Sacred Places. “The National Fund provides funding as well as comprehensive technical assistance so that our grantees can complete the urgent projects at hand while remaining vital, thriving congregations. We are deeply invested in their success and look forward to working with them over the next two or more years.”

The National Fund 2025 grantees are:

- Saint Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church - Tucson, Arizona
- The Park Hill United Methodist Church - Denver, Colorado
- Luther Place Memorial Church - Washington, D.C.
- Riverside Church at Park and King - Jacksonville, Florida
- St. Francis of Assisi Parish - Marshalltown, Iowa
- First Church of Deliverance - Chicago
- Gobin Memorial United Methodist Church - Greencastle, Indiana
- Irvington Presbyterian Church - Indianapolis, Indiana
- Bethany Lutheran Church - Lindsborg, Kansas
- Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral - Louisville, Kentucky
- Hyde Park Seventh-day Adventist Church - Boston, Massachusetts
- State Street Church UCC - Portland, Maine
- Wright on Main/Community Christian Church - Kansas City, Missouri
- Calvary Moravian Church - Winston-Salem, North Carolina
- St. Thomas Episcopal Church - Dover, New Hampshire
- First Presbyterian Church of Albany - Albany, New York
- St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery - New York, New York
- Third Presbyterian Church - Rochester, New York
- First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland - Cleveland, Ohio
- Our Lady of Lourdes Parish - Cleveland, Ohio
- Trinity Episcopal Church on Capitol Square - Columbus, Ohio
- Camphor Memorial Church - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- SACCPhilly - Snyder Avenue Congregational Church - Philadelphia
- St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church - Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- San Juan Cathedral - San Juan, Puerto Rico
- St. Patrick Catholic Church - Charleston, South Carolina
- Canton Lutheran Church - Canton, South Dakota
- Belmont United Methodist Church - Nashville, Tennessee
- Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd / El Buen Pastor - Ogden, Utah
- Temple Beth Hatfiloh - Olympia, Washington



For more information on the National Fund for Sacred Places, including eligibility, program details, and the value of sacred places in communities nationwide, please visit www.fundforsacredplaces.org. The National Fund for Sacred Places is made possible thanks to the generosity of Lilly Endowment Inc.

About Partners for Sacred Places

Partners for Sacred Places is the only nonsectarian, nonprofit organization dedicated to the sound stewardship and active community use of older sacred places across America. Partners provides a variety of fundraising, building stewardship, space-sharing, and community engagement services through grant-funded programs and consulting so that sacred places can live into the vital roles they play as community assets in their neighborhoods and our wider society. To learn more, visit www.sacredplaces.org.

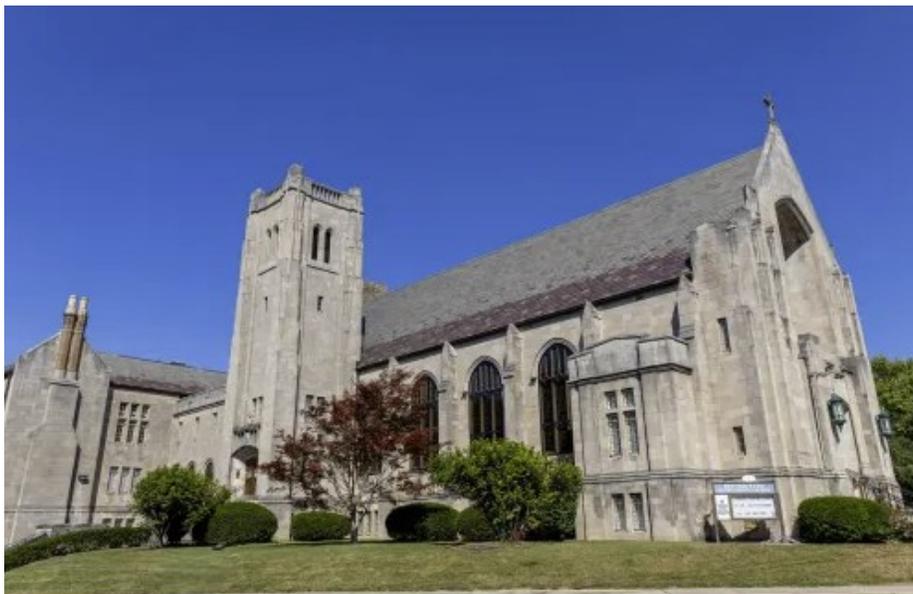
About Lilly Endowment Inc.

Lilly Endowment Inc. is a private foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly Sr. and his sons Eli and J.K. Jr. through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. While those gifts remain the financial bedrock of the Endowment, it is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. In keeping with the founders' wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education, and religion and maintains a special commitment to its hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana. A principal aim of the Endowment's religion grantmaking is to deepen and enrich the lives of Christians in the United States, primarily by seeking out and supporting efforts that enhance the vitality of congregations and strengthen the pastoral and lay leadership of Christian communities. The Endowment also seeks to improve public understanding of diverse religious traditions by supporting fair and accurate portrayals of the role religion plays in the United States and across the globe. www.lillyendowment.org

About the National Trust for Historic Preservation

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a privately-funded nonprofit organization dedicated to helping communities maintain and enhance the power of historic places. Chartered by Congress in 1949 and supported by partners, friends, and champions nationwide, we help preserve the places and stories that make communities unique. Through the stewardship and revitalization of historic sites, we help communities foster economic growth, create healthier environments, and build a stronger, shared sense of civic duty and belonging.

SavingPlaces.org



The Irvington Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis is one of three PC(USA) churches to receive preservation funding. (Photo by Craig Shaw)

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*



[Standing 'on the kin-dom side of history'](#)

PC(USA) congregations raise awareness and advocate for families in detention



[Congregational connections form through US-Colombian presbyteries' partnership](#)

The relationship between Seattle's Union Church and Primera Iglesia Barranquilla became so close, one Seattle couple lived in Colombia for a year



[Palestinian pastor urges transformation like Paul's](#)

The Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac leads Bible study for the World Communion of Reformed Churches



[Delegates elect the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson as WCRC president](#)

Three members of the Executive Committee are people under 30, while four are between the ages of 30 and 40



[World Communion of Reformed Churches celebrates 150 years of faith and fellowship](#)

Sunday's worship celebration mixes music, pageantry and preaching to produce a jubilant service



PRC Practical Resources for Churches



Can We Talk? What the Bible Can Teach Us about Dialogue in a Divisive Time

Thursday, November 6, 2025

2:00 – 3:00 PM EDT

Leader – Rev. Dr. Leah Schade

Creating Ministries for Neurogent Families

Thursday, December 4, 2025

7:00 – 8:00 PM EDT

Leader – Kim Pope-Seiberling

Advent is right around the corner!

[Check out the Advent Christmas page](#)

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 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



Presbyterians for Earth Care is inviting young adults ages 18-35 to join the Creation Action Network of Presbyterian Young Adults - CANOPY! Together, this group is connecting, educating, learning, and taking action in solidarity with creation and with one another. To learn more, visit their Instagram (@canopy_pec), complete their interest form (bit.ly/CANOPYInterestForm), or email Emma Marshall, CANOPY's organizer, at pecyaorganizer@gmail.com. Join us, and share with a friend!

CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK
OF PRESBYTERIAN YOUNG ADULTS

Our Mission

We are a community of faith-filled justice-seekers, inspired by the Holy Spirit and informed by the Presbyterian tradition. We come together to advocate and act for environmental justice and creation care, magnifying our voices and power as a new generation of leaders. Heeding the call to love God and to love our neighbors, human and non-human, we seek to:

- *Connect through diversity, geography, and experience to build collective power,*
- *Educate and learn through experience- and knowledge-sharing to inspire action, and*
- *Take action with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love in solidarity with creation.*



Upcoming events

FALL 2025

FRI
SEPT 26 THRU SUN
SEPT 28

Jesus and Justice Young Adult
Advocacy Conference
Lansing, MI

MON
SEPT 29
7:30pm-8:30pm EDT

CANOPY Meeting
Zoom

THU
OCT 8 THRU SAT
OCT 11

Presbyterians for Earth Care
Conference
Little Rock, AK

TUES
OCT 28
1:00pm-2:00pm EDT

CANOPY Meeting
Zoom

SUN
NOV 16
4:30pm-5:30pm EST

CANOPY Meeting
Zoom

TUES
DEC 9
8:00pm-9:00pm EST

CANOPY Meeting
Zoom

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FALL GATHERING

PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA WELCOMES PASTORA EVELYN TORRES-RAMÍREZ OF THE IGLESIA PRESBITERIANA EN LARES, PUERTO RICO

"Do Everything in Love" was the message from Pastora Evelyn Torres-Ramírez at the 2025 Fall Gathering held on 17 October at the First Presbyterian Church of Horseheads. Pastora Evelyn traveled from Lares, Puerto Rico to join a gathering of over 30 women, (and a sprinkling of men!) from throughout the presbytery, and beyond. The day began with a worship service and the Lord's Supper, led by Pastora Evelyn, The Reverend Dr. Betsey R. Crimmins, HR, and Pastor Leslie Latham of Buffalo, NY. Following the service, a catered luncheon was enjoyed by all, with desserts provided by FPC Elmira. After the meal, the women returned to the sanctuary where PW SYNOD Moderator, Virginia Champlin installed Juana (Joanne) Tunison as the new Presbytery of Geneva Moderator of PW. The event continued with a PowerPoint presentation of the new kitchen facility in Lares, the result of the 2021 PW Birthday Offering grant of \$105,000. Special thanks go to Horseheads PC Pastor Aaron Frank for his warm welcome, members Allen Oldfield, tech support; Randy Cornell, music; Marty Oldfield, Leslie Matejka, and Ron Tunison, for their invaluable help in serving and cleanup. Many thanks to members of FPC Elmira Barb Fitzsimmons, Mission Committee Chair for sustaining the Elmira/Lares partnership, and Marsha Turner for knitting and presenting a prayer shawl to pastora. Special thanks to Kathy Menges, FPC Elmira for help with planning the event.

The weekend continued at the Seneca Falls Presbyterian Church for a 10:00 AM worship service on Sunday, 19 October. The Rev. Dr. Leah Ntuala and her congregation warmly welcomed Pastora Evelyn who delivered the message, "Faith That Doesn't Give Up", based on Luke 18:1-8. Following the service there was a catered meal provide by PW. Many thanks to all from the Seneca Falls church who helped with serving and cleanup



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FALL GATHERING



COMMUNITY Thanksgiving Dinner

Hosted by Seneca Falls Elks Lodge #992
SC House of Concern & United Way of SC

Delivery & Pick Up

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED (315) 568-2433

Wednesday, November 26th

Deliveries: 2pm-4pm

available anywhere within
Seneca County

Pick Ups: 4pm-5:30pm

ELKS Lodge #992
2221 River Road, SF

Thanksgiving Day Dinner 11am-1pm

SF Elks Lodge - 2221 River Rd, Seneca Falls

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**

Sun. 11/23 - Thurs. 11/27

(315) 539-1135 or
rhonda@uwseneca.org



**DONATIONS
APPRECIATED!**

SC House of Concern
22 Locust St, Waterloo 13165
www.houseofconcern.org

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Open to all Seneca County residents in need of a holiday meal or place to go on Thanksgiving Day!

LeaderCare

From COMMITTEE ON LEADER CARE

If your church, or a church in your community, is planning a Blue Christmas service this year, please let us know at revjwk@yahoo.com
We would like to publish a list in the next Presbytery newsletter as this is a valuable source of comfort for those in need

Thank you,
Jim Kerr on behalf of CoLC

Christmas Shop for Clients of Painted Post Pantry

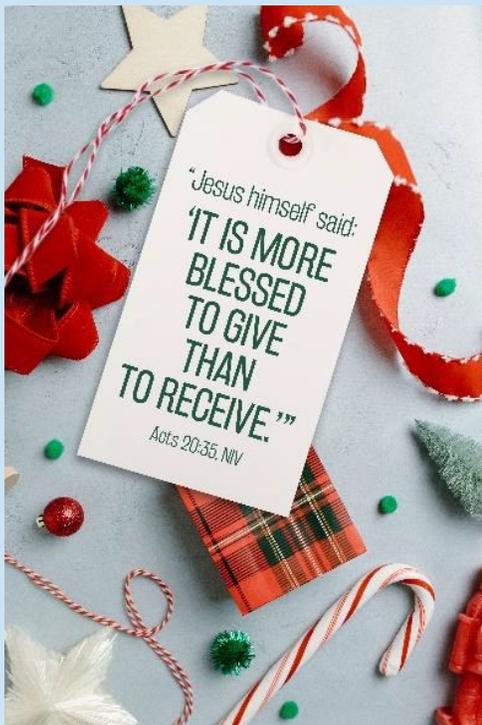
Accepting Donations now through December 15. Seeking Donations of Christmas Items and new or Like New gifts for Adults and Children.

Ideas:

Gloves, hats, scarves, Christmas mugs, tins, candles, candy, puzzles and games, art supplies, balls, jump ropes, toys, jewelry, grooming items and Christmas decorations.

Drop off at Painted Post Pantry located at the Church of Painted Post, 201 N. Hamilton St.
9:00 AM – 12:00 Now- December 12

No furniture, or bedding. Accepting **ONLY NEW** Clothing for children and adults.



Camp Whitman Fundraiser at North Presbyterian Church on September 13



Thank you to all who
helped to make this a
successful event!



Share Your
PHOTOS



New
email
address?



New staff
or session
member?



Upcoming Event?

Please share!

If your church has photos of recent events, has news of an upcoming event, or some updated information to share, please email the presbytery office at:

officeadmin@presbyteryofgeneva.org