



## December 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](mailto:officeadmin@presbyteryofgeneva.org) by **December 24, 2025.**





# JOY TO THE WORLD

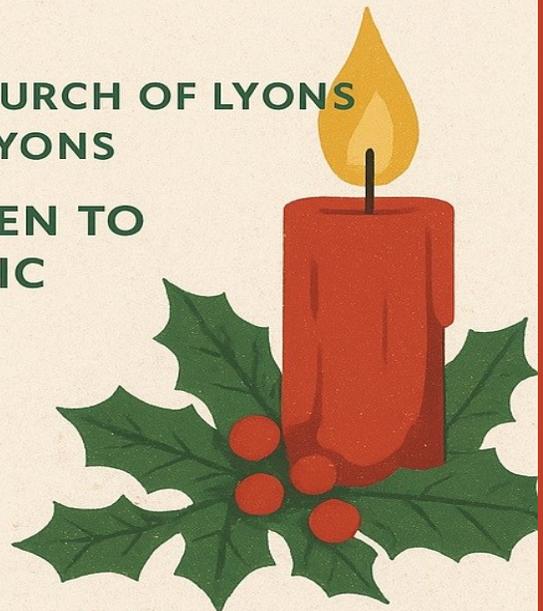
A CELEBRATION OF CAROLS

— PRESENTED BY THE —  
LYONS ECUMENICAL CHOIR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7  
2 PM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LYONS  
11 QUEEN ST, LYONS

FREE AND OPEN TO  
THE PUBLIC



This group has been getting together to present cantatas and sing for baccalaureate services and funerals for years. This year, we have folks from three area churches singing with us!

Camille Clark,  
Choir Director/Elder/Webmaster

# The Racktory

[www.TheRacktory.org](http://www.TheRacktory.org)

[TheRacktorySpirit@gmail.com](mailto:TheRacktorySpirit@gmail.com)



## Who we are

Welcome to our spiritual sanctuary, where every soul finds a place to be nourished and grow. Guided by compassion, creativity and ancient wisdom, we strive to honor your spiritual journey as you experience the Divine.

If you are looking for a fresh experience of ancient rituals, Paul is the man for you. If you are spiritually curious and adventurous, play and create with Susan using spiritual practices old and new to make meaning on special occasion in your life.



[https://youtube.com/shorts/taXX\\_YEpWQQ?si=kZYTTBThpJqM3T6u](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](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

## Blue Christmas and related services

The Christmas season is a time of great joy, and sorrow. For many the festivities spark memories of grief and loss. Several churches are offering Blue Christmas or related services. These are services of quiet reflection for those who are lonely, grieving or suffering either themselves or with others. The services we are aware of are:

Arkport Community Church: Thursday December 18, 6:30 p.m.

Bellona Memorial Presbyterian Church: Tuesday December 16, 11:00 a.m.

Spencer, Christ the King: An annual remembrance service, Sunday December 14, 4p.m.

# Blue Christmas Service

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

11:00 AM at The Memorial Presbyterian Church of Bellona

Christmas doesn't always feel  
like the most wonderful time of the year for everyone.  
If you are grieving, suffering any sort of loss,  
or feeling especially stressed this season,  
we invite you to join us for a service of comfort and hope.

Pastors/CREs are especially encouraged to attend.



UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of HORNELL

# BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

**ARE YOU STRUGGLING WITH LOSS OF A LOVED ONE? ARE YOU JUST FEELING DOWN? NEED A MOMENT OF PEACE AND HOPE? JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL SERVICE OFFERING COMFORT, SUPPORT AND HEALING. YOU DON'T HAVE TO FACE THIS SEASON ALONE.**

**Thursday, December 18th**

**Refreshments will be available in the Great Room along with community organizations that will be set up for support. Join Us!**

**Doors open 5:00 PM  
Service starts at 7:00 PM**

Davidson Chapel  
Enter through the Church  
Street Doors

**FREE ADMISSION**



# Community Advent Season Celebration

Sunday, December 7, 2025

First Presbyterian Church  
23 Cayuga Street  
Seneca Falls, NY 13148

LIVE MUSIC    FREE    HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE    COOKIES FOLLOWING CONCERT

More Information:

[WWW.FPRESSF.COM](http://WWW.FPRESSF.COM)



# A New &

CELEBRATING THE LIGHT AND LIFE OF CHRISTMAS

# GLORIOUS MORN!

**Come together to celebrate Christmas!!!**

A Joint Christmas Cantata with Singers and Instrumentalists

First Presbyterian Church of Elmira

Horseheads Presbyterian Church

North Presbyterian Church

First Presbyterian Church of Elmira

Sunday ~ December 21, 2025 ~ 10:30 am

1054 W. Clinton Street Elmira, NY 14905

607-734-1614

LLOYD LARSON



**Holiday Concert**  
**Seneca Singers**

**Sunday December 14th**

**5:00pm**

**The First Presbyterian Church**

**23 Cayuga St, Seneca Falls**

This project is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrant program, a regrant program of New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by Auburn Public Theater



The poster features a central blue rectangle with white and orange text. It is surrounded by four hands reaching in from the corners, each holding a heart. The background is white with scattered red dots. The text is arranged as follows: 'HOSTED BY THE PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA' at the top, 'SMALL CHURCH ONLINE GATHERING' in large letters in the center, a descriptive sentence below it, a white box containing date, time, and Zoom details, and 'We hope you will join us!' at the bottom.

HOSTED BY  
THE PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA

# SMALL CHURCH ONLINE GATHERING

An open discussion for fellowship and sharing  
designed for small congregations  
and open to anyone

TUESDAY  
DECEMBER

2

10:30 AM

ZOOM

MEETING ID: 867 1986 4998

PASSCODE: 642449

We hope you will join us!

# Find holidays difficult?

join us for a time of expressive writing  
to share your story

Tuesdays  
December 16 & 23  
10am-Noon

Meeting ID  
820 5288 2144

Passcode  
955945

hosted by the Presbytery of Geneva

These sessions are modeled after AWA's Power of Story writing workshops.  
For more information about this type of session, see  
<https://amherstwriters.org/awa-power-of-story-writing-sessions/#!event-list>

# 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](http://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*



### [Celebrating 'the return of the remnant' in Springfield, Massachusetts](#)

Five years after an arson fire, Marin Luther King Jr. Community Presbyterian Church celebrates new life in a beautifully restored sanctuary



### [Exploring faithful stewardship and grant process for new worshiping communities](#)

New Way podcast episode features co-chair of Mission Development Resource Committee



### [The 'mother of a movement' addresses the National Queer Presbyterian Gathering](#)

Bishop Yvette A. Flunder's talk on the Syrophenician woman looks at who let the dogs in



### [The Belle Hawkes Papers 50 years later](#)

Revisiting a collection of personal papers that was first processed in November 1975



### [The Presbyterian Office of Public Witness releases updated citizen action guide for times such as these](#)

The digital booklet is designed to move people from holy restlessness to civic engagement



# PHS MATTERS

the monthly newsletter of the presbyterian historical society



## The Belle Hawkes Papers 50 Years Later

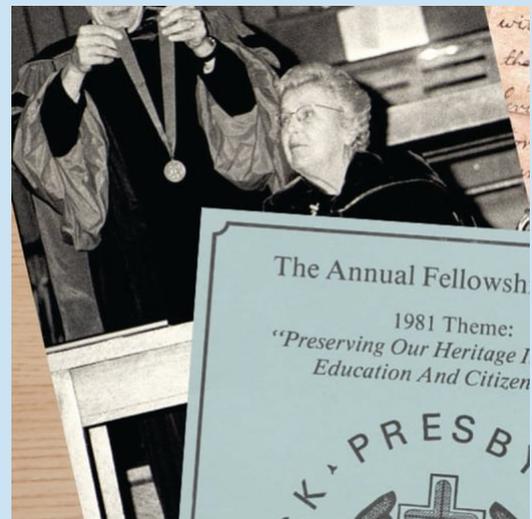
50 years ago this month, Record Group 116, the Belle Hawkes Papers, was processed. In celebration of the 50-year anniversary of the processing of this collection, we have pulled a handful of images and items from Belle's personal papers in order to highlight her history, her talents, and her legacy.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## This Month in Presbyterian History

A congregation mourns, a seminary leader speaks to young adults, and Black Presbyterians United gathers to celebrate

[LEARN MORE](#)



collect. preserve. share. transform.

# *Advent Bible Study*

*Wednesdays  
10am-11:30am  
December 3, 10, 17, 24*

Meeting ID  
813 0473 3376

-----

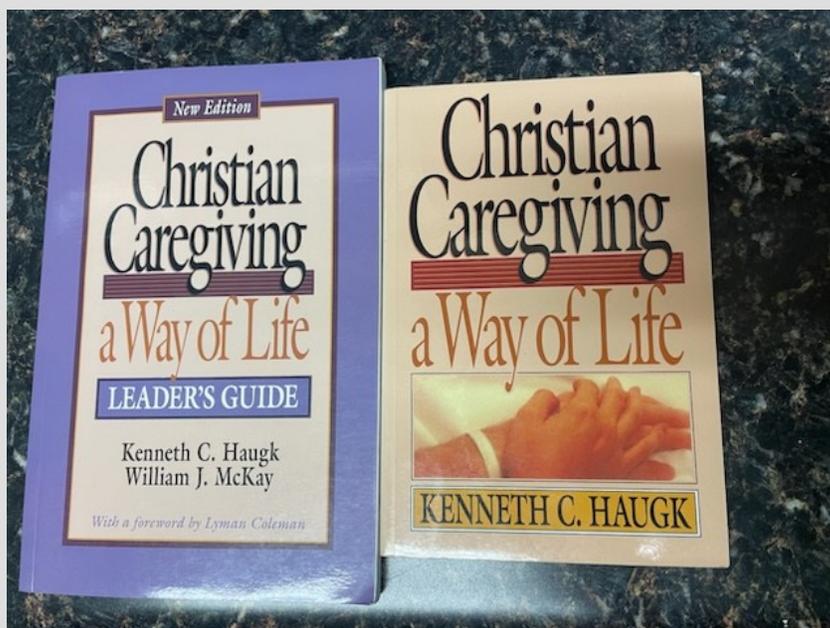
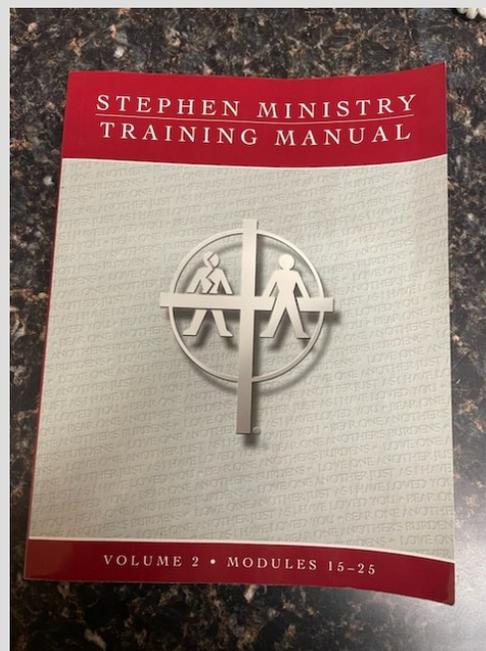
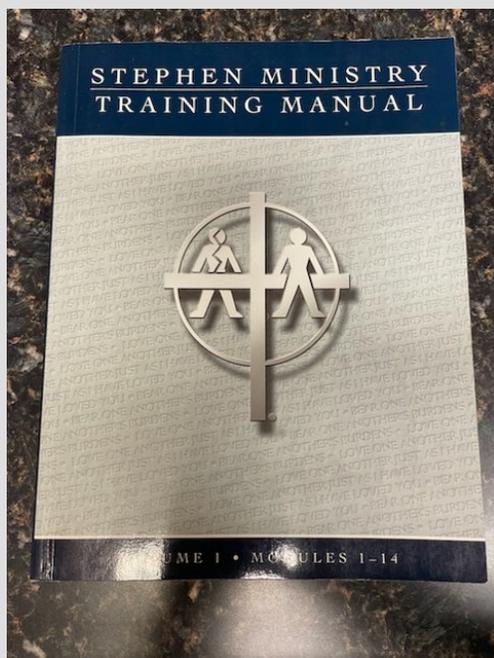
Passcode  
447276



*designed for small churches and open to anyone  
hosted by the Presbytery of Geneva - we hope you will join us*

## Stephen Ministry Program Resources

Susan Rack has recently retired and has a complete set of Stephen Ministry Program Resources that she hopes one of the churches in the Presbytery can use. Attached are pics of the Training Manual and folders. If you're interested, please contact Susan Rack at [susanjosephrack@gmail.com](mailto:susanjosephrack@gmail.com).





Save the Date!

**03**

**07**

**26**

MONTH

DAY

YEAR

Congregational  
Learning Day

The Presbytery of Genesee Valley cordially invites you to Congressional Learning Day. All are invited!! A variety of classes both morning and afternoon will be offered with Inspiring worship in between. Hope to see you there!!

# COMMITTEE ON MISSION AND WITNESS

## Gail Ebeltoft of the Painted Post Food Pantry

The Painted Post Food Pantry provides people in need with food, conducts nutrition workshops, distributes healthy living literature, shares related services information, and, most importantly, instills hope. For 49 years this all-volunteer organization has distributed food to anyone who walks through the door. The number of visitors we serve has risen dramatically. In October 2025, 414 households (representing 1,352 individuals) shopped at the pantry. This is an increase of 22% in households served (29% in individuals fed) over October 2024.

Located within the United Church of Painted Post, the Pantry is open 9am-12pm weekday mornings, plus two hours on Wednesday evening. We provide a three-day supply of food at each visit. Visitors may return every fourteen days. Exceptions to the 14-day waiting period are waived in emergencies. We serve the Painted Post and Corning area, plus surrounding small towns in the Southern Tier and northern Pennsylvania.

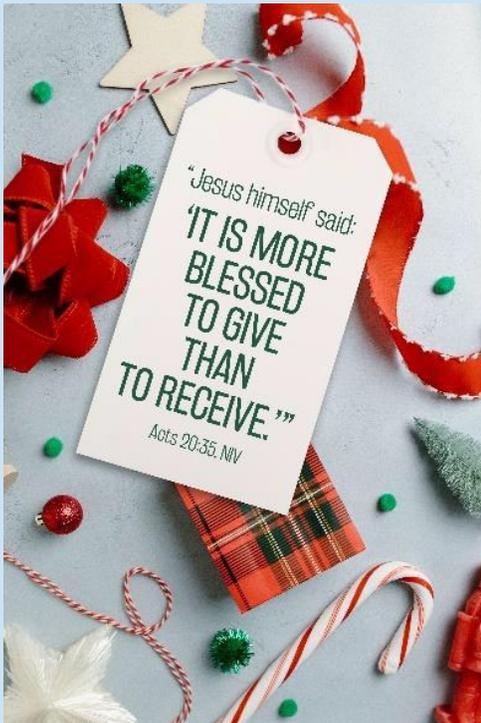
We are the only choice food pantry in the area. Visitors shop and select shelf stable items from a variety of food groups: dairy, fruit, vegetables, grains, and protein. The Pantry also offers frozen meat, fish, fruit, vegetables, bread, and margarine. Fresh produce and dairy products are stocked weekly through collaborative arrangements with *Wegman's*, *Dollar General* and *Fastrac*. (The Pantry spends approximately \$1,500 each week purchasing food from the Food Bank of the Southern Tier.) Board members secure funding from churches, community organizations, generous individual donors, and grants.

The Matthew 25 award not only provides essential support but through your faith-based belief in our mission, bolsters our efforts to feed the hungry. The Pantry's board of directors through its mission exemplifies "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and You gave me something to drink." We are grateful for your generosity. It gives us hope and helps us continue our work.





### 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.

Join us for  
**Carols  
and  
Cookies**

Traditional Christmas Carols  
and Treats!

Sunday, December 21, at 2:00 pm  
North Presbyterian Church  
921 College Ave.



*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](mailto:officeadmin@presbyteryofgeneva.org)