



July 2026 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 August newsletter, please send the information to officeadmin@presbyteryofgeneva.org by **July 27, 2026.**



30th Ordination Anniversary.



The First Presbyterian Church of Lyons
will be celebrating
Rev. , Dr. Cynthia Huling Hummel's
30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION
on Sunday, August 23, 2026 at
The First Presbyterian Church of Lyons,
11 Queen St, Lyons, NY
Worship service at 10 AM
followed by a picnic reception at 11 AM.
Everyone is invited to attend either or both.
Pastor Cynthia has asked that, in lieu of gifts,
a donation be made to the
First Presbyterian Church of Lyons.



Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake, Inc. is pleased to announce our participation in the Effective Camp Project in summer 2026. We are part of a group of camps across the country who are part of this project. This ground-breaking study will reveal the strengths and growing areas of Camp Whitman. We are surveying summer campers (and their parents) at the end of camp to look at critical areas like self-confidence, personal faith, social skills, and faith practices. We appreciate those who are willing to participate!

By participating in this exciting project, we hope to take an honest look at how we are doing in serving our summer camp families and achieving desired outcomes. Data from our camp will also help tell the larger story of the benefits of camping ministries to families and the church! We are partnering with the experienced and respected research team at Sacred Playgrounds in order to tell the camp story in a new way and improve our camp programs for all participants.

Previous Effective Camp research has identified five fundamentals of Christian summer camping: faith centered, safe space, relational, unplugged from home, and participatory. Dr. Jake Sorenson, Effective Camp project director, says, "This project has demonstrated that, when the five fundamental characteristics are in place, the Christian camp experience has significant, lasting impacts on the lives of participants and their families."

Our participation in this study will show us where our camp shines and where focused attention will generate significant improvement in outcomes for our campers. As of 2025, we have data from over 30,000 campers and 12,000 camper parents at 100 Christian camps across the United States and Canada. These camps represent multiple Christian denominations. The research to date is available online at effective-camp.com.

Thank you, again, to our camp families. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on how Camp Whitman can make the camp experience even better!

Grace & peace,

Bryan Muecke (he/him/his)

Executive Director

director@campwhitman.org

www.CampWhitman.org

Upstate NY Presbyteries Event September 25-26, 2026,

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars, Presbyterians! You won't want to miss what's coming. September 25-26, 2026 at the Presbyterian Church in Geneva, NY: Six Presbyteries, Andrew Root, Learning, Fellowship, Music, and More!

More details are coming soon, so save the dates and check out the next newsletter for more information.



From the Hector Presbyterian Church:

Hi Folks - We are wondering if any of the Churches in the Geneva Presytery are looking to sell or re-home any "Glory to God" Hymnals.

Regards,
Susan Rocholl
Clerk of Session

You can reach Susan at: hnrrocholl@aol.com

WAITING, WITNESS AND THE WAY OF CHRIST

REIMAGINING THE CHURCH'S CALLING

Two days of learning, fellowship, and music.



Featuring Speaker: Andrew Root

Carrie Olson Baalson Professor of Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary. Author of over a dozen books including "Evangelism in the Age of Despair."



September 25-26, 2026

The Presbyterian Church in Geneva
24 Park Place
Geneva, NY 14456

SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER



\$75.00 per person

includes conference registration,
Friday dinner, Saturday lunch
and a walking exhibit by
The Presbyterian Historical Society

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE



HOTEL INFO



Brought to you by the Presbyteries of: Cayuga-Syracuse, Genesee Valley, Geneva,
Susquehanna Valley, Utica and Western New York

Rooted in Hope

Equipping Leaders for Ministry with Older Adults

OLDER ADULT MINISTRY CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 15-18, 2026 KNOXVILLE, TN



Registration Open for 2026 Conference

Join with colleagues around the United States in Knoxville this fall for an inspiring conference focusing on older adult ministry. Whether you are a member of the clergy, a lay leader, a volunteer, or an older adult yourself, you will find plenty to learn.

[VIEW SCHEDULE AND SESSIONS](#)

Meeting Facility

POAMN is happy to partner with churches in Knoxville to present the 2026 conference. Our event will be held at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Knoxville, with support by Sequoyah Hills Presbyterian Church.

First Presbyterian Church
620 State Street
Knoxville, TN 37902

Conference Hotel

If you need lodging while attending the conference, comfortable rooms are available at the Courtyard by Marriott, just one block from First Presbyterian. We have negotiated reduced rates for conference attendees.

Courtyard by Marriott Knoxville Downtown
210 West Church Avenue
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

[VIEW HOTEL RATES](#)

Save on Registration

Save on your registration cost by registering on or before August 10 and becoming a POAMN member. If you are not currently a member, add a membership during registration to take advantage of member registration rates.

[REGISTER](#)

[MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS](#)

Financial Assistance Available

Interested in attending the conference, but finances are a constraint? POAMN has limited funds to assist participants with conference expenses. POAMN members will receive first consideration for financial help. Apply by June 1.

[LEARN MORE](#)

New website will enable churches and mid councils to easily prove their federal tax-exempt status

Obtaining a group inclusion letter now requires just a few keystrokes



First Presbyterian Church of Perryville, Maryland dates its founding to 1897. (Photo by Rich Copple)

LOUISVILLE — A new website designed to help Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) churches and mid councils easily obtain a group inclusion letter which demonstrates their federal tax-exempt or 501(c)(3) status is now available. Go [here](#) to get the online process started.

The church or mid council will need its Personal Identification Number (PIN) or its Employer Identification Number (EIN) in order to obtain the inclusion letter. Such letters help tax-exempt entities obtain grants and do everyday business including assuring potential donors that contributions qualify for federal tax deductibility and opening a bank account, said Samantha Lund, Legal Office Administrator in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation's Administrative Services Group.

Before the launch of the website, mid councils and congregations would contact the Legal Office to obtain the letter. The Legal Office would verify the information submitted and then send the church or mid counsel a packet with the customized letter.

"Now that we have this platform, it automatically cross-checks with the IRS and our internal database," Lund said. "Assuming everything lines up and is accurate, it produces the customized inclusion letter" almost immediately.

The Legal Office processes more than 400 requests for inclusion letters annually, about 35 per month. With the soft launch of the new website, monthly use is up significantly, Lund noted.

The new site is easy to use and has been received by users with excitement and gratitude.

One church administrator called it "perhaps the quickest and easiest thing that I've seen the PC(USA) roll out in the 40+ years I've been a member of the Presbyterian Church. It was incredibly easy and quick to complete, and got me the information I needed almost immediately."

The tax-exempt entity is asked to indicate whether they're a congregation, presbytery or synod and then provide their PIN or EIN, numbers that are unique to them. Entities will be given the option of having their organization listed on the IRS' [Exempt Organizations Business Master File](#), which currently lists nearly 2 million tax-exempt organizations across the country.

"The advantage [of being listed on the EOBFM] is that [churches and mid councils] are more easily findable if they find themselves in situations where they need to prove tax exemption," Lund said. "If they are applying for lots of grants — if they are building, for example — it makes them more findable."

If a church attempts to use the EIN of, say, the PC(USA) or another council or entity, "there's a stop for that" on the website, Lund said. Entities should be using their specific EIN or PIN, she said.

The new website does not allow churches and mid councils to change their denominational information — their address, for example. Those changes are still to be submitted by presbytery stated clerks through the Stated Clerk Portal. "We can direct them" on how to do that, Lund said. Her email is samantha.lund@pcusa.org.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has been issued a Group Ruling (hereinafter "Group Ruling") by the Internal Revenue Service (hereinafter "IRS"). Since the initial ruling of January 31, 1964, the IRS has reaffirmed the Group Ruling periodically. The Group Ruling exempts the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and its related organizations from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (hereinafter "Code").

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) lists all of its related organizations that are entitled to the benefits associated with the Group Ruling in its Minutes (hereinafter "Minutes") which are published every year. The Office of Legal & Risk Management Services of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation's Administrative Services Group manages the Group Ruling on behalf of the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).



Exploring Faithful Stewardship

Registration is underway for the 2026 Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference in Baltimore, Sept. 21-23. Act before **June 30** to secure the early-bird registration fee. For more information, click on the link below.

[2026 Stewardship and Kaleidoscope Conference](#)



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF PROTESTANT CHAPLAINS

Annual Chaplains Conference

October 6-8, 2026

Liverpool, NY

Plans are in the works for an educational opportunity
for Chaplains in all areas.

This year's theme will be:

"Spirituality: Discernment, Direction, Discipline, and Devotion"



Mark your calendars &
watch for registration to
open soon.



Ecumenical Service Opportunity:

Do you (or someone you know!) love learning & serving beyond our denomination? We have been invited to serve in two different ways with our Reformed Church in America siblings! They have a Commission on Christian Unity, and also a Commission on Christian Action. The committees meet 4 times/year, with 1 meeting being in person, and term is typically 1-3 years. This is just one way we can serve the larger Church and live out our ecumenical calling! If you are interested and/or feeling nudged by the Holy Spirit to be open to serving in this way please fill out an ecumenical service application & submit it ASAP. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to Dr. Dianna Wright, Associate Stated Clerk, Director of Ecumenical & Interreligious Relations or Rev. Sabrina Slater, current chair GACEIR.

For an application, please click [here](#). The address to submit your application to is on the bottom of the form.



July 12 – 17, 2026
in Oneonta, New York

SUMMER
INSTITUTE of THEOLOGY
at Hartwick College

*Ecumenical faith-based
Christian education for everyone*



SAVE the DATE for the 35th annual
Summer Institute of Theology at Hartwick College

*Open to all for personal enrichment and continuing education.
People of every faith (and those seeking) are welcome.*

Seminar topics to include:

- Art & faith
- Biblical studies
- Church history
- Practical ministry
- Preaching
- Social justice
- Spirituality
- Theology

*offered three times a day Mon–Thurs
& on Friday morning, 2½-hr classes*

Faculty faith traditions include
Baptist, Episcopal, Latter-Day Saints, Lutheran,
Methodist, Orthodox Church in America,
Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic

For more information, contact

info@sithc.org

or Rev. Paul Messner, 607-287-4534
or prpaul_theoinst@hotmail.com

Watch for updates at
https://sithc.org



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, 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 PC(USA)'s advocacy director joins other faith leaders for a Moral Mondays rally in front of the White House

The Rev. Jimmie Hawkins takes on access to healthcare during his three minutes behind a 'public pulpit'



GA227 will feature public witness addressing gun violence

In-person events in Milwaukee will begin with a walk and activity addressing gun violence and how the church is responding



An early Juneteenth celebration

The Rev. Gregory J. Bentley, Co-Moderator of the 224th General Assembly of the PC(USA), urges the kind of compassionate care exhibited by the Good Samaritan



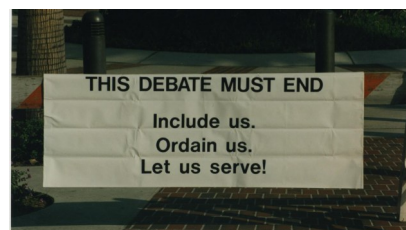
PC(USA) responds to powerful earthquake in the Philippines

Partners providing humanitarian assistance in Indonesia as well



#PRIDE in the archives

A reintroduction to the Pam Byers Memorial Collection at the Presbyterian Historical Society, where LGBTQIA+ history is preserved with #PRIDE





Child Protection Policies Basics

Wednesday, Jul 29, 2026

2:00 – 3:00 PM EDT

Leader - Elizabeth Christie

Financial Transparency That Builds Trust (Not Anxiety)

Thursday, Aug. 20, 2026

2:00 – 3:00 PM EDT

Leader – Keith Clark-Hoyos

Grant Writing for Mission and Ministry

Thursday, September 10, 2026

2:00 – 3:00 PM EDT

Leader – Micháela Murray

What Kind of Changemaker are You?

Thursday, October 22, 2026

2:00 – 3:00 PM EDT

Leaders – Joy Skjegstad and Heidi Unruh

Simple, Inexpensive Ideas for Community Outreach: Less Can Be More

Tuesday, November 10, 2026

2:00 – 3:00 PM EDT

Leaders – Joy Skjegstad and Heidi Unruh



RETIREED PASTORS,
CRE'S, AND SPOUSES
AND THOSE CONSIDERING
RETIREMENT



LUNCHEON



THURSDAY

SEPT 10 2026

11:30 - Coffee Social

Noon - Lunch

***Chat: Ideas for Post-
Retirement Activities***



**Afternoon - Wagon/Boat Tour
(Weather Permitting)**



RSVP to:

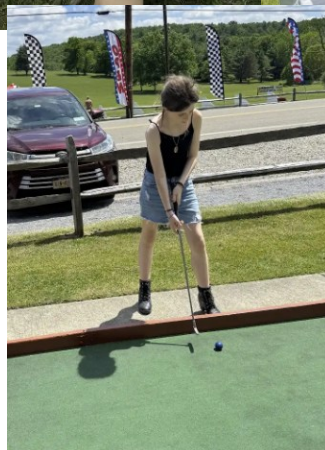
leadercare@presbyteryofgeneva.org

**CAMP WHITMAN
150 WHITMAN ROAD
PENN YAN, NY**





First Presbyterian
Church of
Seneca Falls
Foam Party



First Presbyterian
Church of Elmira and
North Presbyterian
Church
picnic and games at
Harris Hill Park.

2026 Mileage Rate Increased to 72.5 cents per mile

The IRS has set the 2026 mileage rate as 72.5 cents per mile, which is up 2 cents from last year. If you are doing any reimbursements for your church members, Presbytery committee members, pulpit supply, or moderator supply, please be aware of the change. Here is the information from the IRS website.

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-sets-2026-business-standard-mileage-rate-at-725-cents-per-mile-up-25-cents>

THE PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA ADDRESS HAS CHANGED!!

Please take note and change our address in all places you maintain it.

The new address is:



The Presbytery of Geneva
PO Box 17
Penn Yan, NY 14527



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