



August 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 September newsletter, please send the information to officeadmin@presbyteryofgeneva.org by **August 26, 2026.**



Rejoice in the Lord always.

I will say it again: *Rejoice!*

PHILIPPIANS 4:4



30th Anniversary of Ordination



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.

Natasha Bradley



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

Country Breakfast

Oaks Corners Presbyterian Church

County Road 6/ Pre-Emption Road, Oaks Corners, NY
(5 miles north of Geneva on County Road 6/ Pre Emption Road)

Saturday, August 22 & 29, 2026 - 7:00am - 11:30am



**Pancakes,
Bacon, Sausage, Scrambled Eggs, Home Fries,
Coffee, Juice, and Milk
Adults \$12, Children 5-10 yrs \$2.50, Under 5 yrs Free**

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

Waiting, Witness, and the Way of Christ: Reimagining the Church's Calling

September 25–26, 2026

at the Presbyterian Church in Geneva, NY

with acclaimed author, podcaster, and seminary professor

Andrew Root

Learning, Fellowship, Music, and More!

For congregation members, presbytery committee members,
Commissioned Ruling Elders, Teaching Elders, and Ruling Elders leading their
communities into God's emerging future. You won't want to miss this!



Andrew Root, PhD (Princeton Theological Seminary) is the Carrie Olson Baalson Professor of Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary. He is most recently the author of *Evangelism in an Age of Despair* and the six volume *Ministry in a Secular Age* series (including *Churches and the Crisis of Decline*, *The Congregation in a Secular Age*, *The Pastor in a Secular Age*, *The Church After Innovation*, *The Church in a Age of Secular Mysticism* and *Faith Formation in a Secular Age*). He is also the author of *The End of Youth Ministry?* and more than a dozen other books. Andy also serves as theologian in residence at Youthfront. He has worked in congregations, parachurch ministries, and social service programs.

Friday, September 25th

9–11:30 am - Registration/Refreshments

10–11:30 am - Workshop with Andrew Root: A Church
of Consolation: Proclaiming Good News in an
Age of Despair

11:30 am–2 pm - Lunch (on your own in town)

1:30 pm - Registration Re–Opens until 4 pm

2–5 pm - Andrew Root Keynote and Discussion:

The Church in a Secular Age: Why Things Feel so
Hard and Our Best Intentions May Hurt More Than
Help

5–6 pm - Dinner

6–6:30 pm - Evening Prayer

6:30 pm - Conversations, Confections and Coffee

Saturday, September 26th

9–11 am - Registration/Refreshments

9:30–11 am - Roundtable Discussions and Best
Practices Sharing

Possible topics may include: Joint Committees on
Preparation for Ministry Consultation
Joint COM (or equivalent) Consultation
Joint New Worshiping Communities/
Church Development Consultation
Rose Niles, Presbyterian Foundation
Luke Choi, Board of Pensions

11 am–Noon - Second Keynote from Andrew Root:
The Waiting Church

Noon–1 pm - Worship

1 pm - Lunch and Back into the Mission Field

**Registration fee for both days is \$75, payable through the Presbytery of Genesee
Valley's web portal. Please use the link below or the QR code.**

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

For detailed schedule, hotel information, and registration, go to
<https://pbygenval.wufoo.com/forms/rzj499r0psc429/> or use the QR code.

Presented by the Presbyteries of Cayuga–Syracuse, Genesee Valley,
Geneva, Susquehanna Valley, Utica, and Western NY



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](#)



WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING

Grants Update

World Communion Offering Grant Information

If you are a council of the church (session, presbytery, or synod) doing reconciliation ministry around racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness or eccumenical/innerfaith relations may apply for a grant, even if you don't receive the World Communion Offering.

Grant Timeline

Applications open: September 7, 2026

Application close: January 15, 2027

Award notification: March 2027

Grant Applications

Applications will use the PC(USA) grant management system and should take about 15 minutes to complete if you have the required documentation.

[Read the list of required documentation](#) in the FAQs on our website.

You will need to create a username and password to access the PC(USA)'s grant management system to apply. More information about the application process will follow.

Grant Awards

Grant recipients will be eligible to receive \$500-\$1000 and will be notified in March 2027. All grant funds, once received, are expected to be used within the next 12 months.

Where to learn more about the World Communion Offering Grants

Make sure you [Update your preferences and check the box labeled World Communion Offering Grants](#) to receive the most up-to-date information and resources regarding the grants.

[Read our Grant FAQs](#)



Synod Coach Network

www.snecoachingnetwork.weebly.com

If you've been curious about coaching—or are looking for ways to strengthen your leadership—we want to support you.

The Synod Coach Network Leadership Team is pleased to offer **scholarship support for individual and team coaching and coach training.**

As ministries navigate change and opportunity, coaching continues to be a powerful way to foster healthy leadership, stronger teams, and faithful discernment.

Scholarships are available for

- Individual leaders
- Ministry teams
- Coach Traininging

Coaching Scholarships

Individual and Team scholarships include such ministry areas as:

- Leaders of emerging ministries
- Leaders actively engaged in church transformation
- Young ministry leaders
- Racial/ethnic leaders
- Small church leaders
- Leaders working through transitions and/or adaptive challenges
- Individuals in transition seeking a first time call or between calls or moving into and adjusting to retirement
- Teams of ministry leaders

[Apply for a Scholarship](#)





Coach Training Scholarships

Coach training scholarships are available for the **cohort that starts January 2027**. This **ICF-accredited program** is designed for anyone who want to deepen their impact in life and ministry through coaching.



Upcoming Training Schedule:

- **Orientation Meeting:** Thursday, January 7, 2027 (for registered participants)
- **First Online Retreat:** January 11–13, 2027
- **Monthly Online Classes:** Two Thursdays per month, 1–3 PM Eastern

Apply for a Synod Scholarship above.

Learn more about coach training & Register below through Loaves & Fishes Coach Training.

Whether you're seeking certification or simply want to integrate coaching skills into your ministry or leadership, this program is designed to meet you where you are.

[Register for Coach Training](#)

Synod of the Northeast Coaching Network Leadership Team

Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins, ACC

Rev. Chris Garrison, ACC

Rev. Laurie J. Ferguson, PhD, PCC

Rev. Chip Low, MCC, ACTC





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.

Presbyterian Women please note:

If you are a moderator or treasurer of your church's Presbyterian Women group, or your women's group, please send your name, email, mail, phone number to Presbytery PW treasurer Ellen Reynolds so that we have an updated contact list. Thank you.

We are looking for a few more women to serve on the Presbytery PW Coordinating Team. We don't have many meetings, and many hands make light work. We really would like participation from more churches to help make us a more responsive organization.

Please contact Joanne Tunison, Moderator, or Ellen Reynolds if you are interested.

Joanne (Juana) Tunison, lalocat@aol.com

Ellen Reynolds, ellenr09@gmail.com 315-521-3240
330 William Street, Geneva, NY 14456

Also, if you are sending contributions, please use this form.

Presbyterian Women of the Geneva Presbytery Remittance Form

Send to : Ellen Reynolds, Treasurer

330 William Street, Geneva, NY 14456

Check payable to

ellenr09@gmail.com / 315-521-3240

Presbyterian Women of the Geneva Presbytery Please send by these dates

March 1	September 1
June 1	December 1

From the Presbyterian Women of

Name (PW Treasurer)

Address

Phone

Email

Check number / Date sent

PW-PCUSA Support (Churchwide) \$

PW-NE Synod Support \$

PW -Geneva Presbytery Support \$

Birthday Offering \$

Thank Offering \$

Least Coin Gift \$

In Memoriam Gifts \$

Other Gifts \$

TOTAL AMOUNT \$

THANK YOU





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.





Italian FUNDRAISER Dinner

All profits from the dinner and donations go directly to Camp Whitman, and will be matched up to \$10,000 by an anonymous donor. You can double your gift to Camp!

**SATURDAY - SEPT 19TH, 2026
5PM-7PM**

**NORTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
921 COLLEGE AVE, ELMIRA, NY 14901**

**SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR A MENU &
MORE INFO!!**

[CLICK FOR RESERVATIONS!](#)



ENJOY A GREAT MEAL FOR AN EVEN BETTER CAUSE!

NORTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ELMIRA, IS HOSTING THE NEXT CAMP WHITMAN
FUNDRAISING DINNER ON

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19, 2026 - 5PM-7PM

ALL REVENUE FROM THE DINNER RESERVATIONS WILL BE DONATED TO CAMP
WHITMAN.

IN ADDITION, ALL CONTRIBUTIONS AND PLEDGES MADE DURING THE EVENING WILL
BE MATCHED, DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR, BY AN ANONYMOUS DONOR, UP TO \$10,000! THIS
IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE UP TO \$20,000 FOR THE ONGOING FINANCIAL
NEEDS OF CAMP WHITMAN, LOCATED ON THE WESTERN SHORE OF SENECA LAKE.

THE SIT-DOWN DINNER WILL BEGIN WITH HORS D'OEUVRES AT 5 P.M.

**THE COST PER MEAL IS \$20, WITH RESERVATIONS
REQUIRED**

IF YOU ARE WILLING, WE ARE ASKING FOR A \$250 DONATION TO SPONSOR A TABLE
FOR SIX, WHICH WILL ALSO COVER THE COST OF THE MEALS FOR THE SIX GUESTS AT
THE TABLE.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRYAN MUECKE WILL DELIVER A
PRESENTATION**

ABOUT CAMP WHITMAN: INCORPORATION AS A 501(C)3, HOW THINGS WENT THIS
SUMMER AND WHERE WE HOPE TO GO IN THE FUTURE.

**WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR RESERVATION, PLEASE INDICATE YOUR
MEAL PREFERENCE FROM THE MENU BELOW:**

JUMBO SHELLS STUFFED WITH RICOTTA, MOZZARELLA AND PARMESAN CHEESES,
SIMMERING IN MARINARA SAUCE, ACCOMPANIED BY A TOSSED SALAD AND GARLIC
BREAD.

CHICKEN BREAST BAKED IN GF HERB-SEASONED BREAD CRUMBS, WITH TOSSED SALAD
AND GARLIC BREAD

FOR THOSE SEEKING A DAIRY-FREE, MEAT-FREE AND GLUTEN FREE DINNER WE WILL
ALSO OFFER LASAGNA MADE WITH BARILLA GF PASTA, EXTRA FIRM TOFU,
NUTRITIONAL YEAST, GLV TOMATO-BASIL SAUCE AND FRESH SPINACH.

IN ADDITION, FRESH BAKED ITALIAN BREAD AND BUTTER WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR
THOSE NOT DESIRING GARLIC BREAD.

COFFEE, LEMONADE AND WATER WILL BE SERVED WITH DINNER, WITH FRESHLY MADE
LEMON BARS OFFERED FOR DESSERT.



PC(USA) CHURCH GROWTH NETWORK

A learning community dedicated to
fostering church growth in size,
vitality, and missions impact.

Join a Presbyterian Church Growth Network (PCGN) cohort!

Dear Presbytery colleagues,

I would like to start a cohort of conversationalists in our Presbytery around growth - and the skills, obstacles, strategies, and statistics that foster it. All church leaders, however you self-define this, are welcome. The group will:

- Get to know one another's churches and contexts;
- Consider, at each meeting, some quote or thought from outside sources;
- Spend most meetings focusing on a particular church context and the challenges it faces, helping to brainstorm and troubleshoot tactics for growth for that individual congregation in that place.

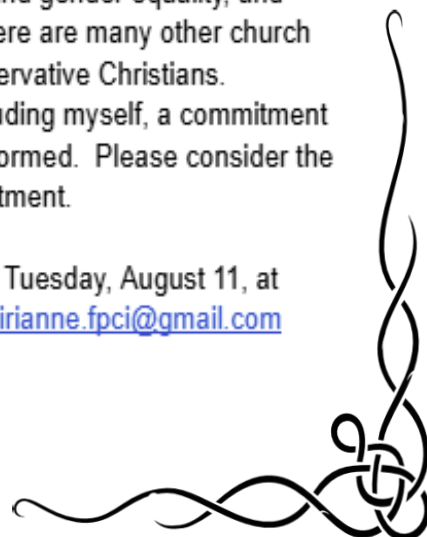
Some precepts for the conversation:

- Growth in a church can be a matter of depth, or the spiritual growth of members. However it is also a matter of reach: maintaining and increasing the number of adherents to Christ. While both are important, there are many PCUSA programs focused on depth; therefore we will focus on reach.
- We will talk about statistics and work on reach, but we will never assume that a church whose attendance is shrinking is less faithful or excellent, nor that a church with growth in numbers is superior. Context is everything.
- The PCGN is staunchly inclusive of the rainbow community and gender equality, and believes in Jesus' social messages of justice and peace. There are many other church growth communities out there for politically and socially conservative Christians.
- While we know many will miss meetings here and there, including myself, a commitment to the group will make our conversations richer and better informed. Please consider the importance of this group to your church and your own commitment.

The first meeting of our Presbytery's Growth Network will be held on Tuesday, August 11, at 1pm via Zoom. Please RSVP to Rev. Kirianne Weaver for the link: kirianne.fpci@gmail.com

To learn more about the PCGN nationally: [Presbyterian Church](#)

Thank you, and I look forward to our work together!





Dear Friends,

Every year, our presbytery is supposed to provide 1 ruling elder and 1 teaching elder for the upcoming Fall Ordination Exams. If you are interested or you know someone, such as a ruling elder in your congregation, who might, if asked, be interested, we would love to hear from you. Readers do not need to be experts in polity, theology, worship and sacraments, or biblical exegesis. What is needed is a willingness to help our denomination and those seeking ordination by participating in this important process. We have for your information and discernment attached in Word, a general [description of the qualifications and responsibilities](#) of readers. **The reading week this year is October 5 – 9, 2026.**

If you are interested or know of someone who might be, feel free to contact Evan Hansen at pastor@northpres.church. We need to provide names of readers by August 31. Thank you for your time, consideration, and discernment.

Warmly in Christ,

Evan D. Hansen
Committee for Preparation for Ministry

Christianity *without* Christian Zionism:



PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL,
PURSuing JUSTICE,
REKINDLING HOPE



August 6-8, 2026

Louisville, KY

Free to attend in person or online



*Scan code to receive
more information*



*This event is part of the Presbyterian Life & Witness response to
Item **INT-05 On Confessing our Complicity in Christian Zionism**,
referred from the 226th General Assembly (2024).*

Donate to the Presbytery online!

 Presbytery of Geneva

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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*



[Voices of Jubilee accompanies incarcerated youth with hope](#)

Virginia ministry builds lasting relationships through worship, mentorship and advocacy



[When loving your neighbor means protecting asylum-seekers](#)

Despite a hostile political climate, Pastor Sharon Kutz-Mellem continues her immigrant support efforts



['Jesus Loves Me, This I Know'](#)

Exploring the origins of the American Sunday School Association and a favorite children's hymn



[Educating voters and ensuring their right to cast a ballot this fall](#)

The PC(USA)'s Advocacy & Witness ministry hosts three ecumenical advocates of free, fair and safe elections



[Presbyterian Church of the Master celebrates six years of online outreach](#)

The Omaha congregation created a video to mark its anniversary, which it aired during worship on July 5





Financial Transparency That Builds Trust (Not Anxiety)

Thursday, Aug. 20, 2026

2:00 – 3:00 PM EDT

Leader – Keith Clark-Hoyos

Jesus Was a Changemaker—Your Congregants Can Be Too

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

2:00 – 3:00 PM EDT

Leaders – The Changemaker Initiative

Grant Writing for Mission and Ministry

Thursday, September 10, 2026

2:00 – 3:00 PM EDT

Leader – Micháela Murray

Building a Digital Bridge

Thursday, September 17, 2026

2:00 – 3:00 PM EDT

Leaders – Cassie Waits and Joe Evans

What Matters: Unlock your Church's Hidden Potential

Thursday, September 24, 2026

2:00 – 3:00 PM EDT

Leaders – The Changemaker Initiative



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**



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