PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA
FINGER LAKES NY

November 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 December newsletter, please send the information to officeadmin@presbyteryofgeneva.org by November 24, 2026.





Pianist or Organist needed

The First Presbyterian Church of Penn Yan, NY is seeking someone proficient on the keyboard for our Sunday Worship Service. Organist skills are preferred but not required as we have a Yamaha Hybrid piano available with pipe organ voices in addition to a traditional pipe organ. Position includes accompaniment for our choir. Compensation is $240 per week.

Please call Robert Gillespie 315-694-2812
for more information.



Dashing Through the Snow with Favorites We Know



A Hymn Festival Traveling from Christmas Through Lent

January 17, 2027

Kenmore Presbyterian Church, Buffalo, New York

Register here

Dashing Through the Snow with Favorites We Know: A Hymn Festival

Dust off your holiday cheer and get ready for a musical journey that stretches far beyond December! Join us at Kenmore Presbyterian Church for Dashing Through the Snow with Favorites We Know, a one-of-a-kind Hymn Festival celebrating the vibrant tapestry of sacred music as we travel from the joy of Christmas all the way into the reflective beauty of Lent.

Whether you love lifting your voice with a full congregation, enjoy singing with your church choir, or simply adore the timeless melodies that shape the church year, this festival is built for you. We're calling on singers, pastors, music directors, music lovers, and joyful noise-makers of all ages and experience levels to pull on their cozy winter boots and join in this wonderful day of fellowship!

Location:

Kenmore Presbyterian Church
576 Delaware Road
Buffalo, NY 14553

Festival Host and Clinician:

Dr. Patrick Towey, Music Director, Kenmore Presbyterian Church

Particiapation Cost:

Free to Participate!
However, we will take a freewill offering to help defray expenses for holding the event.



Sunday, January 17:

8:30 am—10:15 am—Registration
10:30 am—Kenmore Presbyterian Community Wide Worship Service
12:00 pm—Hymn Festival Community Luncheon
1:00 pm—Dress rehearsal for all members of the Hymn Festival Choir
1:00 pm—Community Festival Activity for Congregational Participants
3:30 pm—Doors Open for Hymn Festival
4:00 pm—Hymn Festival Begins!
5:30 pm—Cocoa, Cookies and Fellowship following the festival in the KPC Fellowship Hall

Any Questions? Feel free to reach out to:

Dr. Patrick Towey, Music Director, Kenmore Presbyterian Church-Patrick@kenpres.org; 716-472-1989
Reverend Fred Powell-Haig, Pastor, Kenmore Presbyterian church– pastor@kenpres.org: 803-209-5807
Jeff Trenchard, Office Manager, Kenmore Presbyterian Chruch—office@kenpres.org: 716-875-7600

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

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 informaiton 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





Here are a few pics from the Six Presbyteries' Andrew Root Event. Nearly 100 Presbyterians from at least seven presbyteries plus Methodists, UCCs, Lutherans, Episcopalians gathered at the Presbyterian Church in Geneva.





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 Training

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

Presbytery
Presbyterian Women
Fall Gathering

Friday, November 13

Shortsville First Presbyterian Church

59 W. Main Street, Shortsville

Registration and Coffee 9:45 a.m.

Gather with other women from across the Presbytery of Geneva, and beyond for fellowship, worship, lunch and mission.

The featured guest will be the Rev. Dr. Holly H. Thompson, the first Native American woman ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament (Teaching Elder) in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This year marks the 40th year of her ordination.

The Fall Gathering will feature a worship service with guest Rev. Dr. Holly H. Thompson, lunch, and hands-on-mission project. All women (and men) are invited.

Mark your calendar now! And invite a friend!

RSVP by November 6 to Joanne Tunison or Connie Franks

lalocat@aol.com or cfranks1128@aol.com

For those who are planning on coming to the PW Fall Gathering on November 13, 2026, we have a request. The mission project will be to benefit FAMILY PROMISE OF ONTARIO COUNTY. We are asking that you bring from the list below to help the homeless. Please see the flyer for the event attached. Remember that this event is open to all people.

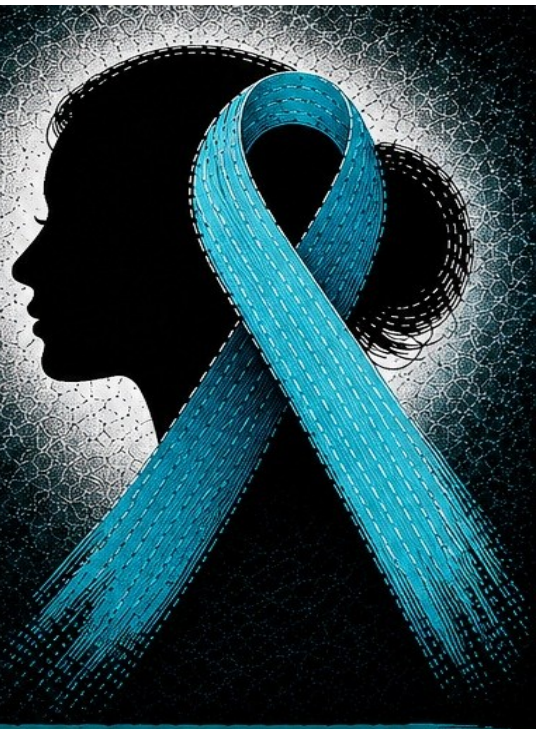
Welcome Hygiene Kits include full size items (not travel sizes)... for adults or babies

*Bath towel (small size)
*Wash cloth
*Shampoo
*Soap
*Individual packaged toothbrush
*Toothpaste
*Razor (disposable)

PREDATORS, GROOMING & EXPLOITATION:

What every community should know about

HUMAN TRAFFICKING



A COMMUNITY AWARENESS CONFERENCE

SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 14, 2026

10:00 AM – 3:30 PM

DOORS OPEN AT 9:00 AM
VENDORS & COFFEE
Connect. Learn. Get Involved.

UNITED WITH CHRIST CHURCH
1025 Robinson Hill Rd
Johnson City, NY 13790

FREE EVENT
Everyone Welcome!

FEATURING PRESENTATIONS FROM:

- NYS DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES
- CRIME VICTIMS ASSISTANCE CENTER
- BROOME COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
- SURVIVOR TESTIMONY
- NYS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
- FBI TASK FORCE
- THE POTTER'S HANDS FOUNDATION

PRESENTED BY
SOUTHERN TIER HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

EDUCATE • EMPOWER • END EXPLOITATION

TOGETHER WE CAN HELP END HUMAN TRAFFICKING. | #EndHumanTrafficking



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 6, 2026** (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, 2025 and Oct. 31, 2026, having served this presbytery as Ruling Elders, Deacons or Teaching Elders. We shall also recognize congregations that have run their race and were disestablished during this time. The presentation of the Necrology Report 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 17 churches in the Presbytery did not respond to this request, so we feel many might have been 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.

Committee on Leader Care


Annual Harvest Dinner
Saturday, November 7, 2026
4-6 PM
North Presbyterian Church
921 College Ave., Elmira
All dinners will be take out or delivery only.
Please call for reservations
by noon November 2: 607-734-2977
$15 per person or $50 for a family of 4.
*Turkey *Gravy *Roll *Stuffing *Corn
*Mashed Potatoes *Sweet Potatoes
*Choice of Apple or Pumpkin Pie
Proceeds to benefit the
North Presbyterian Church
Youth Program.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING SERVICE

First Presbyterian Women of Watkins Glen invite all women and girls to our annual Advent Candle Lighting service on Tuesday December 1, 2026. Fellowship and dessert will begin at 6:30 pm in our Fellowship Hall followed by our service in the sanctuary. We look forward to seeing you there. Bring a friend or two along.

If you or someone you know would like to participate as a reader, please email Patti.

smithpatti314@gmail.com



FROM LEADER CARE COMMITTEE

A blue Christmas worship service is traditionally a reflective service during the season in advent. It can take many forms. If your church, or a church you know, is having such a service, kindly announce it in the presbytery newsletter .

Thank you.

COMMISSION on the STATUS OF WOMEN

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



The Presbyterian Women and PC(USA) delegations at the 70th Commission on the Status of Women in March 2026

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 71st Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW71)—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 71st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women will be held March 8-19, 2027, 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.

CSW71 Priority Theme

Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



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 18 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 1, 2026**.

Click here to apply now to join Presbyterian Women's delegation to CSW71

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.

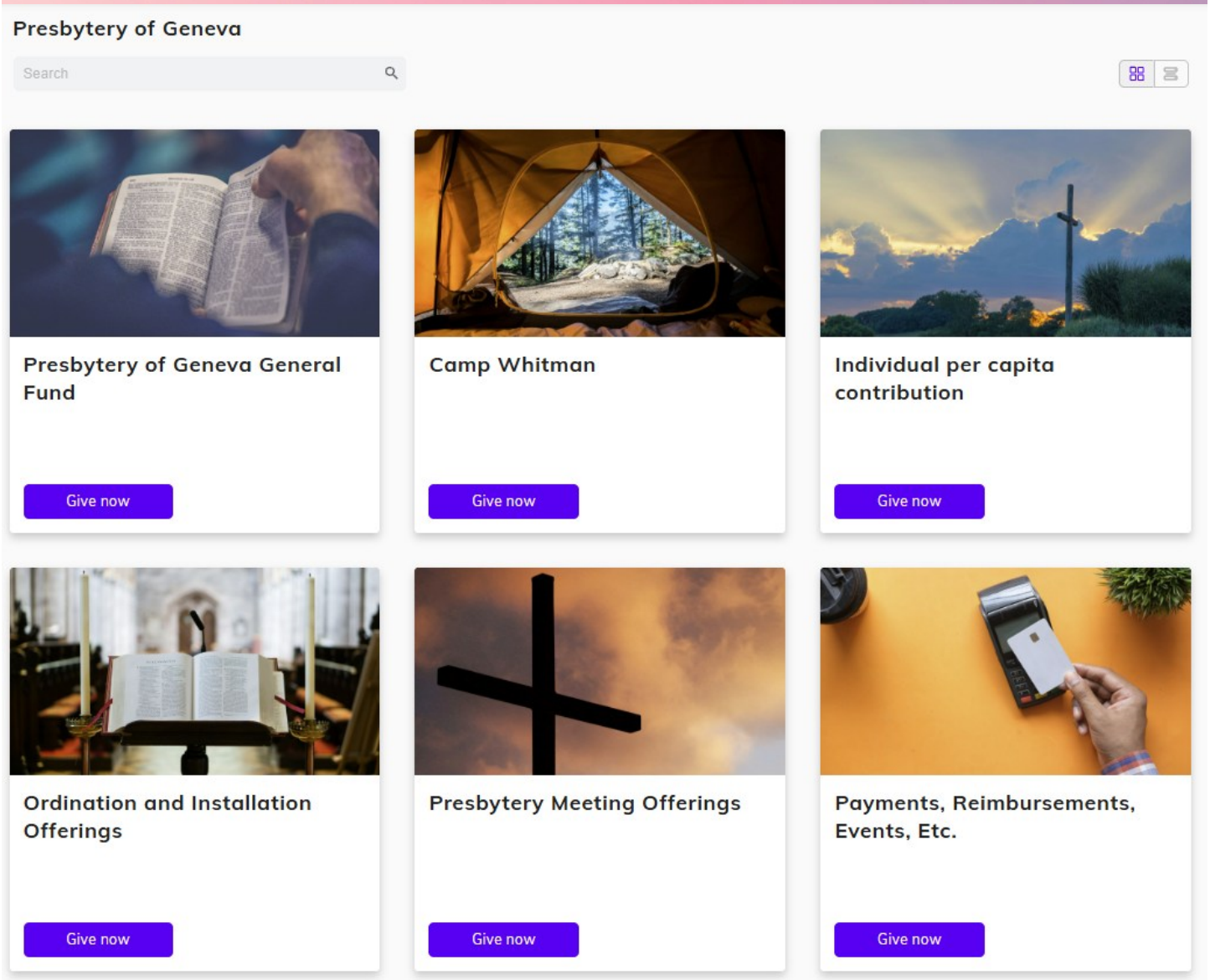
Give to PW's Annual Mission Fund

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Donate to the Presbytery online!

Recently added: Payments, Reimbursements, Events, Etc.

This is a new category for non-charitable items, like planning calendars.



Online Giving for Camp Whitman and the Presbytery of Geneva is available from our web-site. 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, or Payments, Reimbrsements, Events, Etc.

Top PC(USA) News *of the* Week



A horizon full of clouds of witnesses

New manager for 1001 New Worshiping Communities describes the future of the movement and a new grant process



Final session of religious liberty webinar series to explore church's responsibility in civil life

The Oct. 30 session will feature the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly and the Director of Advocacy and Witness for PL&W



Presbyterian Heritage: history embedded

A preview from the fall 2026 edition of Presbyterian Heritage, available now



Beloved Presbyterian hymnwriter Joy F. Patterson dies at age 94

Her significant body of work was ‘an important part of congregational song’



(re)Imagining worship together

1001 NWC annual gathering experiments with rituals centered on art, conversation, sketch comedy and dramatic reimagining of Scripture





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

The Church as Community Hub: Reimagining Church Property for Mission

Tuesday, November 17, 2026

2:00 – 3:00 PM EST

Leader – Loren Richmond, Jr.

Understanding Christian Forgiveness, Part 1: Church and Science

Thursday, November 19, 2026

2:00 – 3:00 PM EST

Leader – Ev Worthington, Science for the Church

Understanding Christian Forgiveness, Part 2: How to REACH Forgiveness

Thursday, December 3, 2026

2:00 – 3:00 PM EST

Leader – Ev Worthington, Science for the Church

PASTORAL RESPITE PROGRAM

The fall season of our Pastoral Respite Program is off to a wonderful start! This is a reminder that we still have rooms available for the fall and winter season and would love for you to experience respite and renewal here at Silver Bay.

As we are in our 26th year of offering respite for those who serve in ministry, the Spiritual Life Center at Silver Bay is pleased to invite ministers and their families to apply for a complimentary retreat on the beautiful shores of Lake George. This unique, donor-supported program is our way of honoring your service by providing time and space for renewal.

Below are the dates we *currently have available,* which are subject to change as they fill.

SINGLES OR COUPLES: October 6, October 4 - 7, 18 – 23, 25 – 28, October 31 - November 26, November 30 - December 22, January 5 - June 15.

FAMILIES: October 21 – 28, November 3 – November 5, November 8 - November 26, November 30 - December 22, January 5 - March 7, March 10 - May 10, May 16 – May 27, May 31 - June 3, 7 - 10, June 12 – 15.

The Pastoral Respite Program runs from **September 1 through June 15** and is open to all who serve in ministry.

Apply here: https://silverbay.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Pastoral-Respite-Ministry-1.pdf

If you have any additional questions or require more information, feel free to contact me.

I look forward to assisting you with your respite reservation and greeting you soon!

Warm regards,

Ashley

Pastoral Respite

SILVER BAY YMCA

87 Silver Bay Road, Silver Bay, NY 12874

(P) 518-543-8576 ext. 293

(E) pastoralrespite@silverbay.org (W) silverbay.org

(O) Facebook | Twitter | LinkedIn

The Y: We're for youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility.

Grant Opportunties

The Synod of the Northeast is inviting churches and ministries to apply for two grants that invest in the faith, gifts, and leadership of young people. The application period for the **Campus Ministry Grant** and the **Youth and Young Adult Leadership Development Grant** is now open and closes December 5, 2026.

Young people are gifted and essential leaders in the church and the world today. That conviction guides the Synod's investment in ministries where students find belonging, explore faith, build relationships, serve their neighbors, and help shape the future of the church.

The Campus Ministry Grant, with awards of up to $3,500, supports new and continuing ministries serving students and campus communities. Applicants will be asked to describe their ministry's connection to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and its presbytery, share what students are experiencing through the ministry, and explain what Synod funding will make possible.

The Youth and Young Adult Leadership Development Grant, with requests of up to $7,500, supports initiatives that equip young people to lead. The Synod welcomes proposals that take their ideas seriously and give them meaningful roles in planning, making decisions, creating, serving, and evaluating the work. Applicants will be asked to explain how youth or young adults helped shape the initiative, how they will share in its leadership, and what they hope will change as a result.

Applicants are required to share relevant stories and supporting materials such as photos and/or videos of your ministry and/or photos that show the impact of your ministry

Applications may be downloaded in English, Spanish, or Korean through the Synod's website https://synodne.org/grants/ to help applicants review the questions and prepare their responses. All responses must be translated into English and submitted in English through the Synod's online grant interface.

Across the Northeast, young people are already bringing creativity, compassion, and courage to their communities. The Synod is eager to walk alongside the ministries that welcome their gifts and make room for them to lead.

For further information, please email our Grants Coordinator – Michael Yeoman at michael.yeoman@synodne.org

The application portal opens October 1, 2026. Completed applications are due December 5, 2026. Applicants are encouraged to review the questions and gather their budget materials early.

Click here for Campus Ministry Grant Application

Campus Ministry Grant Application

Click her for Youth and Young Adult Leadership Development Grant

Youth and Young Adult Leadership Development Grant Application

A quick note from the office admin…

As of October 31, I will be stepping down as office administrator for the Presbytery of Geneva. I will be taking on more responsibilities at North Presbyterian Church. I'd like to thank all of you for being so kind during my time with you. The Presbytery of Geneva really is a wonderful group of people. Replacing me will be Samantha Mashewske. Some of you may already be familiar with Samantha. She is the office manager for Camp Whitman and the bookkeeper for the Presbytery of Geneva. She'll be a wonderful asset to you as office administrator, as well.

Blessings,
Gretchen Duffy

THE PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA ADDRESS HAS CHANGED!!

Please take note and change our address in all places you maintain it.
The new address is:

PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA
FINGER LAKES NY

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

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