



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



The
GRASS WITHERS &
the FLOWERS FADE, BUT THE
WORD *of our* GOD
stands FOREVER.

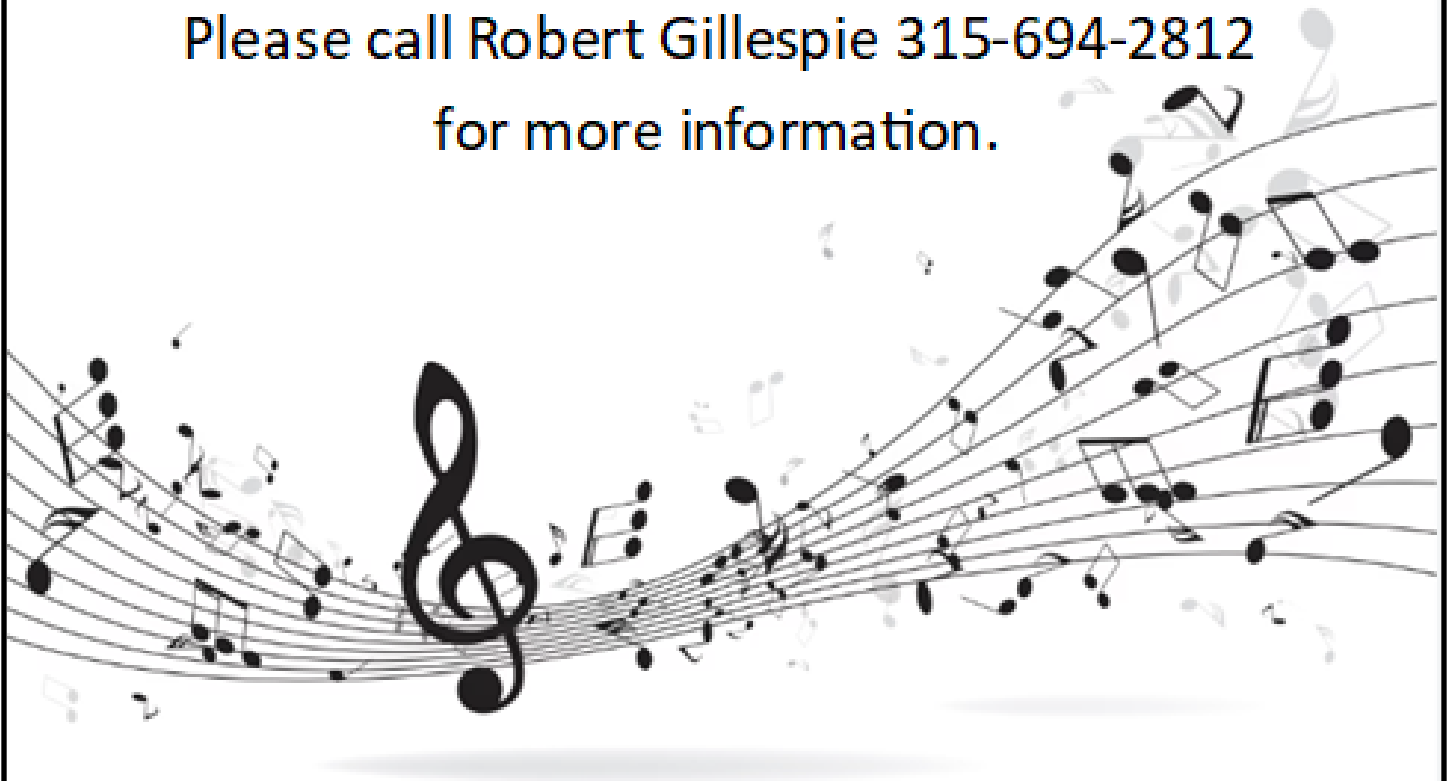
ISAIAH 40:8 NLT



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

Dashing Through the Snow with Favorites We Know:
A Hymn Festival Traveling from Christmas through Lent



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.

Sunday, January 17, 2027
Kenmore Presbyterian Church
Buffalo, New York



[Register here](#)

Dashing Through the Snow with Favorites We Know: A Hymn Festi-

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

Participation 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 Festivaal 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!

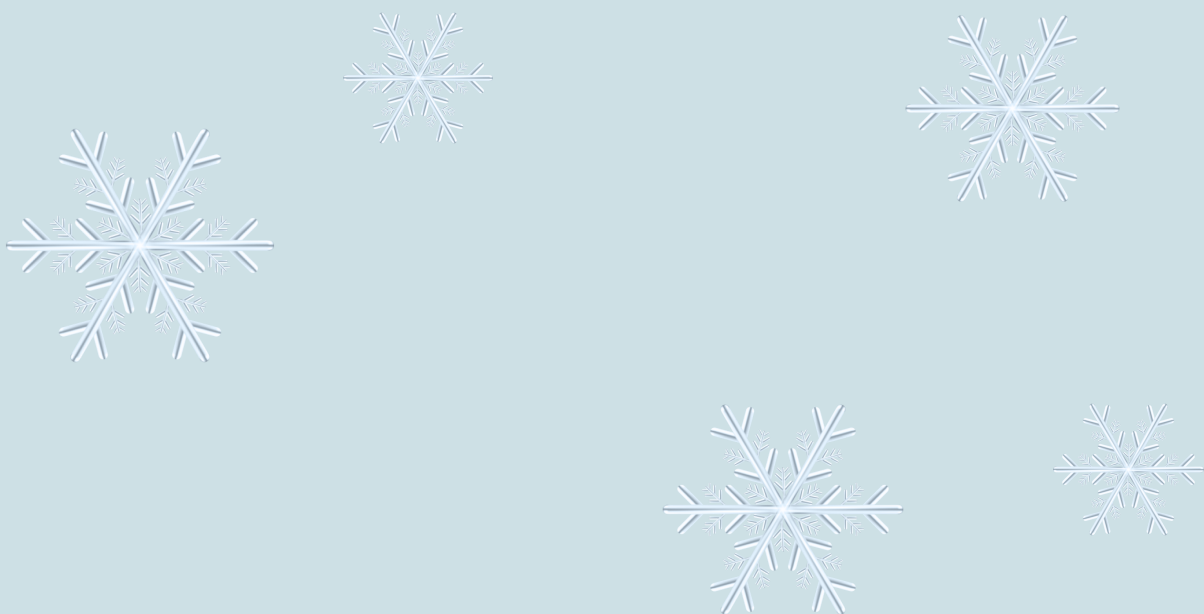
5:30 pm—Cocoa, Cookies and Fellowship following the festival in the KPC Fellowship Hall

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

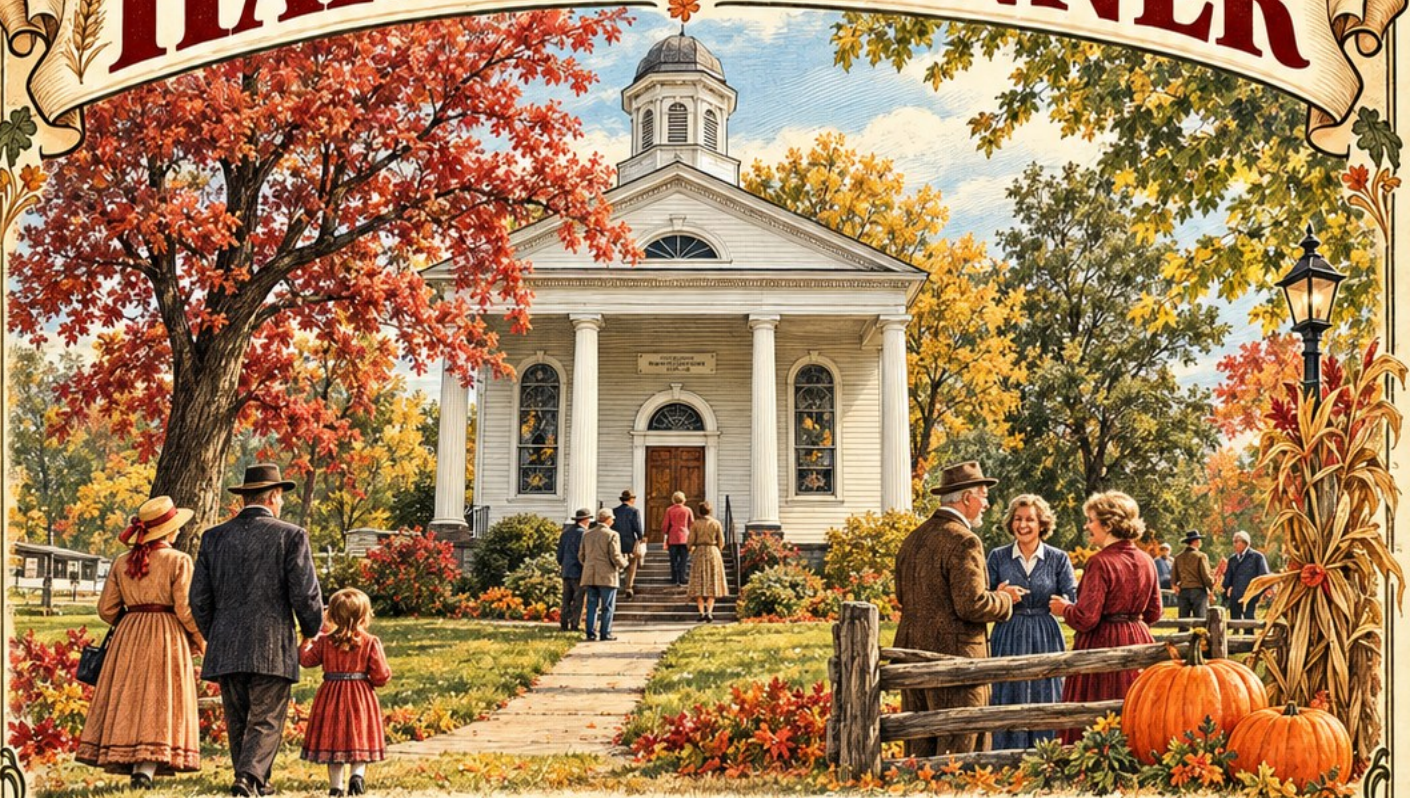
Jeff Trenchard, Office Manager, Kenmore Presbyterian Church—office@kenpres.org; 716-875-7600



OAKS CORNERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

(5 miles north of Geneva on County Road 6, Pre-Emption Road)

HARVEST DINNER



SATURDAY - OCTOBER 17, 2026
4:00-6:30 P.M.

**ADULTS: \$14.00; AGES 5-12: \$4.00;
UNDER 5 FREE**

**CHICKEN & BISCUITS, MASHED POTATOES,
GRAVY, SQUASH, VEGETABLE, APPLESAUCE,
DESSERT & BEVERAGE**

TAKE-OUTS AVAILABLE !!!!





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 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

PRESBYTERIANS FOR EARTH CARE



Climate Ambassador Training

Join us for free! We will host **one-hour, virtual PC(USA) Climate Ambassador training sessions** (over 5 total dates). Learn to talk about climate change with your with confidence, explore real solutions, and take action in your community. Please plan to attend all 5 of the sessions if possible; however, recordings will be available for any sessions you miss.

Dates: Sept. 27, Oct. 11, Oct. 25, Nov. 8, Nov. 15

Time: 7:00-8:00 pm Eastern (4:00-5:00 pm Pacific)

Facilitator: Jane Laping, PEC Member & Past Vice Moderator

We'll watch short videos, join in small-group discussions, and take part in hands-on activities to:

- ✓ Understand key climate science and impacts
- ✓ Connect climate issues to your values and community
- ✓ Explore practical, real-world solutions
- ✓ Build confidence in communication and advocacy
- ✓ Craft your personal message for action

After the training, you'll be invited to join a national network of nearly 5,000 Climate Ambassadors with access to resources, events, and ongoing support.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Craft Show



WHEN:
Saturday,
October 3, 2026



TIME:
10am-3pm



WHERE:
Oaks Corners
Presbyterian Church
"Hitching Shed"
Pre-emption Road
County Rd #6



WHY:
Supporting the
"Sisters in Faith"
to help us
help our community
in need.

*Come see
all the crafty items
that talented people
have for you!*

We will have
**HOT DOGS &
BAKED GOODS!**

*Something for everyone!
See you there!*



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.

2026 FALL CAMP OUT OCTOBER 9-11



Join us at Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake as we venture into a new season, experience breathtaking fall scenes, and create memories that will last a lifetime!



Cool Scenes



Reconnect



Adventures



camp@campwhitman.org

campwhitman.org/youth-retreats



FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS!!

RETREAT AND EVENT INFORMATION

The **Fall Campout** will be a great retreat weekend with **Middle School** and **High School** students from around New York State and beyond! **Church Youth groups** are encouraged to come together as a group. Campers are encouraged to **sign up individually** if they have no youth group affiliation. We will explore reconciliatory justice as it relates to Indigenous People's Day, Camp Whitman's own complicated history with our namesake and our land acknowledgement. Of course, we will have plenty of time to be out in Creation enjoying the fall colors, the beauty of Seneca Lake, and enjoying the Camp Whitman experience together!

Date & Time Details

Event Date: Friday, October 9th - Sunday, October 11th, 2026

Check-in Time: Friday, 6-8 PM

Check-out Time: Sunday, 10 AM

Duration: 3 days, 2 nights, 4 meals & snacks provided



MEALS INCLUDED

Friday Evening Snacks - hot chocolate, 'smares, popcorn, +cold drinks

Saturday Breakfast - nourishing start with protein, +seasonal fruit

Saturday Lunch - hearty midday meal to support afternoon activities

Saturday Dinner - shared community dinner with warm entrée options

Sunday Breakfast - closing meal before departure

Dietary Accommodations - vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, and food allergy alternatives available with advance notice. Please indicate your need on the registration form.

ACTIVITIES & SCHEDULE

Arrival & Welcome w/Snacks - Friday, 6-8 PM

Opening Group Session - Friday, 8:00 PM

Evening Activities - Friday, 9:00 PM

Morning Group Session - Saturday, 9:00 AM

Morning Activities - Saturday, 10:00 AM

Free Time / Recreation / Restorative Options - Saturday, 1:00 PM

Community Projects - Saturday, 4:00 PM

Evening Group Session - Saturday, 7:00 PM

Evening Activities - Saturday, 8:00 pm

Closing Group Session - Sunday, 9:00 AM with check out/camper pick up at 10:00 AM

How to Sign Up

To register, visit <https://forms.gle/hhmk7BKcZeMYh8ho8> and complete the registration form. Then, choose your payment option and submit payment via PayPal (links are below) or by check - either mailed or brought with you to the event. For help at any point, contact camp@campwhitman.org or call/text [\(315\) 220-0084](tel:3152200084).

For GROUP payment, click here : <https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/TZJVJH8BVVRKY>

For INDIVIDUAL payment, click here : <https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/S8NSDQELY3GMY>

Donate to the Presbytery online!

Recently added: Payments, Reimbursements, Events, Etc.

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

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



Payments, Reimbursements, Events, Etc.

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, or Payments, Reimbursements, Events, Etc.





Top PC(USA) News *of the Week*



[Preserving and serving the sacred in an AI-shaped world](#)

PC(USA) Innovation Network explores the Imago Dei, counter narrative storytelling, pastoral care and faithful AI use



[Presbyterian profile: Gabino Rendón \(1864-1964\)](#)

The Presbyterian Historical Society celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month



[New Presbyterian Life & Witness Board finds its footing in a glorious corner of God's Creation](#)

At Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center, 18 board members come together for the first time



[Covenant Presbyterian Church in Austin, Texas, directs \\$200k to help its neighbors overcome financial barriers](#)

The Unburdened initiative is announced Aug. 30 during worship



[Haitian pastors in Ohio and many others face deportation with end of Temporary Protective Status](#)

The Trump administration terminated TPS for both Haiti and Syria this summer



PRC Practical Resources for Churches



[More than a Moment: Children in Worship](#)

Thursday, October 1, 2026

2:00 – 3:00 PM EDT

Leader – Erin Reed Cooper

[Not Just Sundays: Leading the Church in a Changed Culture](#)

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

2:00 – 3:00 PM EDT

Leader: Rev. Dr. Jevon Caldwell-Gross

[Discover How Your Congregation Is Gifted for Justice](#)

Thursday, October 22, 2026

2:00 – 3:00 PM EDT

Leaders – Joy Skjegstad and Heidi Unruh

[What to Do About Stewardship When a Well-Loved Pastor Leaves](#)

Tuesday, October 27, 2026

2:00 – 3:00 PM EDT

Leader - Cesie Delve Scheuermann

[Gen Gap Lab: Understanding Today's Young Adults](#)

Thursday, October 29, 2026

2:00 – 3:00 PM EDT

Leaders – The Changemaker Initiative

[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

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](tel:518-543-8576)

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

(O) [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



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

WEE KIRK 2026

small church
conference

OCT 12-14

OUR PURPOSE

To inspire, equip, motivate and encourage small churches of any denomination and to provide rest and refreshment for the clergy and lay leaders like YOU!



The beloved Hearts and Minds book store will bring a selection of specially curated books to the conference and Bryan Borger will give recommendations for reading and other resources.

SCHEDULE SNAPSHOT

Monday

Noon - 4

**REGISTRATION IN THE
SMALL DINING HALL**

1:00

PRE-Kirk

4-5:00

Networking Hour

5:00

Dinner

7-8:30

Opening session

8:30

Snacks & conversation

Tuesday

7:30

Breakfast

8:30-10

Morning plenary

10:30-12

Workshops

12:15

Lunch

1:30

Workshops

3:00

Choir/Free time

5:00

Dinner

7:00

Communion Service

8:30

Snacks & conversation

Wednesday

7:30

Breakfast

8:30-10

Workshops

10:30-12

Closing session

12:15

Lunch



Mount Pleasant, PA

Laurelville
RETREAT CENTER

Don't miss PRE-KIRK! Monday 1-4 with Jim Farrer

Jim will address a variety of topics like Jesus' model for reaching younger generations and bringing about change and resurrection.

WORKSHOPS

1. "Spirituality of the Gospels"
Tucker Ferda
2. "Small is Beautiful"
Maureen Wright
3. "Asset-Based Stewardship"
Ellie Johns-Kelley
4. "What's it Mean to Show Up?"
Jim Mohr
5. "Vital Ministry in the Third Chapter"
Debbie Smith
6. "One Room, One Hour: Vibrant Worship in Small Congregations"
Sue Washburn
7. "Between Babel and Pentecost; Ai and the Pastorate"
Matt Skolnik

WEE KIRK Northeast
c/o Redstone Presbytery
1004 Mt. Pleasant Road
Greensburg, PA 15601

INFO YOU NEED TO KNOW

Arrangements are made on a first come, first-served basis and assume double occupancy. Triple rooms will be assigned if necessary. One set of bedding and towels are provided. Most facilities are handicapped accessible. Contact Helen Kester for dietary or other special needs or to opt out of photos/media.

SORRY, NO REFUNDS AFTER SEPT. 1

Register online if possible. If not, mail your registration and check to:

Wee Kirk c/o The Presbytery of Redstone
1004 Mt. Pleasant Road, Greensburg, PA 15601-5762

Make Your Check Payable To: Wee Kirk Conference



REGISTRATION WEE-KIRK-NE.ORG

Questions? Contact Helen.Kester@gmail.com or 724-980-9565

Registration confirmation will be e-mailed

Register before August 1 and Save \$25!

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
Church name/Membership: _____
Judicatory (district, presbytery, synod, etc.): _____
Preferred roommate(s) _____

Circle the three workshops #s you plan to attend 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Do you plan to attend PRE-Kirk 101? Yes No

Churches with up to 150 Members: \$225 per person

Churches with 151-200 Members: \$250 per person

All other persons - \$375 each and/or if you want a single room

BEFORE AUGUST SAVE \$25 On Listed Registration Fee

2026 Mileage Rate Increased as of July 1 to 76 cents per mile

The IRS has set the 2026 mileage rate as **76 cents** per mile as of July 1. This is an increase from the 72.5 cents for Jan. 1 - June 30. 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/tax-professionals/standard-mileage-rates>

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



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