

The Geneva Pres

December



2017

The Presbyterian Church in Geneva

24 Park Place
Geneva NY 14456
(315) 789-1343

Website: <http://www.PresbyterianChurchInGenevaNewYork.org>

Rev. Dr. Deborah Lind-Schmitz - Minister
Fritz Aude - Treasurer
Kathleen Breese - Director, Christian Education
Paula Breese - Coordinator of Youth Ministries
Linda Cox - Church Organist
Richard Cox - Director of Music and Adult Bell Choir
Deb Drennen - Nursery care
Rev. W. James Gerling - Pastor Emeritus
Joe Iannopolo - Assistant Custodian
Kate Komara, Lorraine Jones - Children's Choirs
Art Lewis - Webmaster
Beth Nicholas - Parish Nurse
Alan Schenck - Financial Administrator
Bette J. Schubert - Clerk of Session
Fred Schühle - Asst. Clerk of Session
Mark Springmeier - Custodian
Colleen VanAllan - Secretary

HAPPY ADVENT AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!

*What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.*

“What do you want for Christmas?” My son, John asked me recently. I was asking him for a family list so I can start purchasing. My answer sounded like a Miss America skit, “Peace on Earth”. “No, really”, he replied. “More time with you guys” “No really!”. “Peace, Hope, Joy, Love”, now I was just naming the Advent candles. He laughed and I stopped teasing, “I’ll think about it”.

“All I Want for Christmas is...” My two front teeth is one musical answer. How would you complete that sentence? If you answered with a loved one who passed this last year. I invite you to a new Blue Christmas service that is just for those who are painfully aware of the empty chair at the dinner table. On Sunday, Dec. 17 at 2 pm I will lead a service of healing for those who grieve. Bring an item that represents the gift your loved one gave to you. It may be a tackle box or a favorite book that reminds you of his/her favorite activity. This is a time to share your memories and share the gift he or she gave you.

What Gift Can I Bring? Is another Advent/Christmas question inspired by Christina Rossetti’s gorgeous poem, “In the Bleak Midwinter”. Take time to read this famous poem or carol. It begins in the damp, dark winter that often shuts us in to our homes. Christmas parties and worship have the strong message that there is a light of friendship and Light of Christ that dispels that darkness. What a better time than Advent and Christmas to get out, participate, engage and catch the Christmas spirit.

Don’t miss this year’s extraordinary **Christmas Cantata** and a unique **Christmas Eve Sunday!** What will be do? We have the greatest number of preschoolers and cutest lambs and angels for the Christmas Pageant on Christmas Morning. Yes, The **Children’s Pageant (10:30 am)** and **Christmas Eve Candlelight service (8:30 pm)**. What an exhilarating way to begin and conclude Christmas Eve!

These are a few of the Church’s gifts to you this Christmas.

May you be blessed with Christ’s gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love,

Pastor Deb

Dec. 3 1 st Sunday of Advent Communion	<i>"In the Bleak Midwinter, Hope"</i> Mark 13:24-37
Dec. 10 2 nd Sunday of Advent	8:15 am <i>"Heaven's Peace"</i> Mark 1:1-8 10:30 am <i>"A Baroque Christmas: Vivaldi's Gloria"</i>
Dec. 17 3 rd Sunday of Advent	<i>"The Joyful Way"</i> John 1:6-28
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve	10:30 am Children's Christmas Pageant Luke 1-2 8:30 pm <i>"Traditions with Modern Twists": Lessons and Carols</i>
Dec. 31 New Year's Eve	10:30 am <i>"Prayers for Past and Future"</i> Eccl. 3:1-13



December 24

*Worship service/Children's pageant at 10:30 a.m.
Plum Pudding Feast to follow.
Candlelight service (Lessons & Carols) at 8:30 p.m*

December 31

*There will be one worship service at 10:30 a.m.
There will be no Sunday School or Adult Ed.*



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Our Annual Christmas Pageant will be Dec. 24, during the 10:30 Worship Service.

**DRESS REHEARSAL - (NO COSTUMES)
SATURDAY, DEC. 23 - SPEAKERS - 9:00
3YRS- 9TH GRADE - 10:00**

**DEC. 24 - Everyone meet in the Sanctuary at
9:00 SHARP!!!**

PLUM PUDDING

Watch the bulletins in Dec. to sign up to donate a cake or cookies for our Plum Pudding feast on Dec. 24 following 10:30 worship

We also need cookie donations for the coffee hour after the 8:30 pm worship on Dec. 24 – Lessons and Carols for Christmas

DEC. 31 – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

JANUARY 8, 2018 – CE – 7:00

**BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION
to benefit Geneva Head Start
LOOK FOR THE BASKET**

**2 CENTS – A - MEAL
We will collect 2 cents offerings on DEC. 3
You can make a difference in the lives of hungry people!!!**

Youth Fellowship December Grades 6-12

Caroling



When: Sunday, December 10th

Where: Church

Time: Meet at church at 2:15. We will go caroling 2:30-4:00

Feel free to invite friends, parents, and siblings!

Please RSVP by Tuesday December 5th to

pjfoote25@gmail.com

Family Game Night



When: Sunday, December 17th

Where: Church

Time: 4:00-5:30

Please bring a dish to pass and your favorite game to share with families!

Please RSVP by Monday, December 11th to

pjfoote25@gmail.com

Adult Forum

Meets from 9:15-10:15 on Sunday morning in the South Parlor

Please join us in conversations in which we explore our faith, expand our understanding and learn about opportunities for action.

December: Advent through Different Media

Dec 3: Drama—a reading and discussion of Frederick Buechner’s essay on the first Christmas.

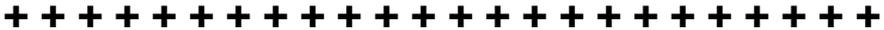
Dec 10: Visual Arts—representations of the Nativity in paintings and sculptures over the centuries

Dec 17: Music—Chris Wertman will lead us in a Carol Sing. We will begin with “Carols from Around the World” and then open it to requests.

Dec 24 and Dec 31: No Adult Forum

January: Reformation—500 years of being reformed and always reforming

The topics are important, the conversation thought-provoking, the company welcoming.



SERRV International Fair Trade Gift Shop

As we move into the holiday season think of how a gift bought in the SERRV shop would provide a double opportunity of gift giving! Not only would you have a unique gift, but you would be creating positive change around the world, helping to lift disadvantaged artisans, farmers, and their families out of poverty.

For the Holidays we have extended our Saturday hours to 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays and after each service on Sunday until Saturday, December 16th.

We would like to thank you for all your support throughout the year and wish you a very Merry Christmas!



Dear Church Family,

I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas!! Please remember the reason for the season and focus on the gift given to all of us, the birth of our Savior. Concentrate on bringing the good news to someone this Christmas. To keep the time with family and friends joyous, I have a few ideas to consider.

First, communicate with people. Look them in the eye and talk to them. Don't text, e-mail or tweet (whatever that is, I'm still living in the dark ages) about important or heartfelt issues. As a society we are losing our ability to really communicate or LISTEN to each other. We send little texts like "R U OK?" This is supposed to instill how much you care? There are people that I cannot carry on a conversation with because their phone is constantly buzzing, dinging or playing some loud tropical tune and they are looking at it constantly. I feel very unimportant. They will answer the phone while I'm trying to talk to them! Don't do this to family and friends. Turn the phone off or put it on silent when visiting others. Give them your full attention and listen to them. Don't misunderstand, I think cell phones are great if used properly. They can be a great tool to get help or contact someone, but they can be very intrusive and disruptive. Some folks keep sending texts all day long to people who are trying to work. You can hear a constant Bing Bing Bing. Who is getting any work done? This Christmas, give family and friends the gift of your undivided attention. Let them know they are more important to you than the phone.

Second, leave the negativity behind. Yes, the world seems to be a mess right now. Yes, ALL the politicians in this country (both sides) are on Santa's naughty list and will be getting a large chunk of coal in their stocking this year (with the last name of Nicholas I know these things!) For the Christmas season at least, leave politics at the door. Reach out to someone in need. Try to mend relationships, do something positive! If you are having troubles, focus on God's love for you and pass that on to someone else with troubles. Resolve to be positive and put others first, it will make you feel good to know you helped someone else in need.

Finally, stay active and don't overeat. People make luscious gooey concoctions for Christmas that you won't get again for another year. Eat a LITTLE bit and quit! Too much of a good thing is no longer good. If you are eating more than usual, exercise more.

Merry Christmas and God Bless You All! Beth

What's that big blue box for?

Heading up the stairs to the Christian Education rooms, you may have noticed a big blue bin with a round hole cut in the top.

That's where Boy Scout Troop 4 collects empty bottles and cans to raise money for high adventure trips.

In previous years, funds from deposit bottles and cans left there helped Scouts and leaders spend 10 days at Philmont Scout Ranch, near Cimarron, N.M., in 2012; and week aboard a 75-foot, three-masted schooner cruising the Florida Keys, based at Sea Base near Islamorada, Fla.

Many folks are now in the habit of bringing whatever bottles and cans they have each time they come to church – for Sunday worship, a committee meeting, or other community event. Pick-up of larger quantities can also be arranged.

We appreciate your help.

– Fred Schühle,
Assistant Scoutmaster



Stock Photo - esp158

+++++

Bethany House is an organization which provides temporary housing for women and children and helps those victims of violence and abuse find shelter and get back on their feet.

A former student of Ryan Kincaid's is helping this organization for her senior project. She's sewing and filling bags for them to hand out to the women so they have something of their own. The types of things she would like to put in the bags include nail polish, lip gloss, lotions, bubble bath, shower gel, and other personal care items, as well as nonviolent activities and games to do with their children. If you would like to donate items, boxes will be available here at the church near the entrances.



DEACONS

The Deacons prepared and served a chicken “Comfort Dinner” on Pledge Sunday, November 12, after the 10:30 worship service. Many helped to shop, set up, cook, and clean up as part of this event. Thanks go out to all who supported this fundraiser for the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund!

Christmas gift bags will be filled and delivered to our shut-ins on December 10 by the Deacons.

Finally, two November birthdays are milestones this year for congregants. Barbara Merrill celebrated her 99th birthday on November 10. On November 30th, Betty Winship will be 100!

Cards would be very thoughtful! It is a joy to be able to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us in this life.

== == == == == == == == == == == == == == == == ==

ECO COMMITTEE –

**Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 2
at 6:30 p.m.**

== == == == == == == == == == == == == == == == ==

Congregational Retreat Report

On Saturday November 4 about 50 people gathered in Fellowship Hall to discuss the activities we do in eight areas of ministry:

1. Adult education and fellowship
2. Children and youth ministry
3. Congregational care
4. Finance and administration
5. Local and global mission
6. Membership and evangelism
7. Property
8. Worship

What are the main things we learned?

1. People are passionate about these ministries and have good suggestions on how to improve.
2. There are LOTS of activities going on that many of us don't know about.
3. We need to share the work of carrying out these ministries among more people.
4. Reorganization of our committee structures is needed to more efficiently carry out our mission activities.

What's next?

The retreat committee will work with our facilitator, Rev. Jennifer Kottler, to develop proposals for changes in committee structure and ways to encourage more people to volunteer for short-term responsibilities.

If you'd like to read a summary of the retreat comments, it will be posted on our website.

Jackie Augustine, Faith Benedict, Virginia Champlin, Ellyn Colquhoun, Lisa Gage, Walt Gage, Chris Gerling, Gary Harman, Donna Newcomb, Beth Newell, Beth Reiners

The Wassail Bowl Committee of the Geneva Historical Society
presents the

49th Annual
Wassail Bowl
Holiday Sale



Holiday Greens
Food

Attic Treasures

Christmas
Shoppe

Handcrafted
Gifts

The Presbyterian Church
Pulteney Park, Geneva

December 2, 2017
10am-2pm



From the church office

The secretary's hours are Monday – Friday, 8:30 – 2:30.

Please note that information for the Sunday bulletin needs to be in the office by 8:30 a.m. on Tuesdays.

The monthly newsletter deadline is noon on the third Wednesday of each month.

Annual reports will be due in the office by noon on Wednesday, January 10, 2018.

The church office sent two mass emails last month. If you did not get emails about November Upcoming Events and the Fall Clean-up, then please check your email Junk folder. If you didn't receive these emails or you found them in your Junk, please call or email the church office.



SAVE THE DATE !!

Sunday, January 14 - Celebrate the "Joys of January" here at the church with food, music and fellowship as we celebrate Pastor Deb's 5th anniversary.

February 9 - Our annual Soup, Supper, Bible Study begins for the Lenten season.

A Note from the Treasurers –

Thank you for your contributions this past year.
Your donations help to maintain all of our exciting programs.

Per IRS rules, in order to receive credit for your 2017 taxes, the church must receive and record your contributions on or before Sunday, December 31. A final deposit for 2017 will be made with those contributions. If you have questions, please call Alan Schenck at (315) 789-1343 or (585) 414-0175. Thank You.

We are just completing the third full year of the Enhancing Our Mission - Phase 1 and the first full year of the Phase 2 capital campaigns. Any contributions toward either of these should be made out to the church and designated 'EOM-1' or 'EOM-2' on the memo line.

A law enacted two years ago allows IRA Charitable Rollovers anytime during the year. This allows folks 70-1/2 or older to transfer IRA's to non-profit organizations tax-free.

Do you normally pay monthly bills either through a keystroke on your computer or through automatic transfers from your account? Would you be interested in paying your church pledge the same way? Several members already contribute this way. If you would like to pay electronically, the Church can easily accommodate you. Your monthly, quarterly or annual pledge may be transferred through an ACH/EFT electronic funds transfer. This may be set up either as an automatic transfer on a specific day of the month, or at a time chosen by you when you are making other payments through your online banking.

Please contact Alan for more information on these options.

If you requested or would like weekly contribution envelopes for 2018, they will be available any Sunday in December or you may contact Alan or the church office.

Have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!!

Fritz and Alan

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The Christmas Joy Offering celebrates the coming of Jesus Christ, the “wondrous gift” of God with us. What a “wondrous gift” indeed!

In gratitude to God for the wondrous gift of Jesus, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) invites you to join this celebration of God’s presence with us by supporting those in need of help and hope.

The Offering distributes gifts to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions to provide essential financial support to current and retired church workers and their families who experience need because of tragedy, health issues, or financial hardship.

Gifts also go to Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. These schools and colleges provide education and spiritual development to emerging leaders from underrepresented groups so leadership in the church will better reflect the diversity of God’s people.

Thank you for your support of this life-changing offering.





Thank you so much for the box of goodies! It came right at the beginning of exam and project season, and helped me get through some study session

Kim Oswald

Thank you for the goodies! It was so nice to see it waiting for me after a long day of classes. It has been so wonderful to enjoy some home baked cookies while studying. Thank you again,

Kristin Oswald

Thanks so much for the care package! The stuff was delicious!

Prashanta Augustine



Presbyterian Women

Needles/Crafts

Thursday, December 7th – 1pm – South Parlor

“Thank You” to all the participants that baked and worked at the recent Election Day Bake Sale, sponsored by the Presbyterian Women. It was very successful and we took in \$499.00 as sales.

“Thank You” to all the members of the church that volunteered their services – to help on the recent Geneva Presbytery meeting hosted by the Presbyterian Church in Geneva to make it a successful day.

Best wishes from the Presbyterian Women for a Happy Holiday and a Blessed New Year 2018!

Take Note



I don't know when it began really, but the music from the Baroque Era has been one of my favorite styles of music for a very long time. Its appeal led to my immersion in the music and craft of the period for over 15 years when I was a harpsichord builder. This music has a particular sense of beauty and order, of movement and expression that I find very enriching and moving. One of the times I find this music most meaningful is the Advent and Christmas season. So this year the choir and orchestra will be bringing to our worship a Baroque Christmas.

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Thus, in a grand flourish with an orchestra of strings, trumpet, oboe, bassoon, and keyboard, begins the famous "**Gloria**" by Antonio Vivaldi. This piece was composed for the chorus and orchestra at the Ospedale della Pietà, a convent, orphanage, and music school in Venice where Vivaldi was employed. The text of the "**Gloria**" comes from a hymn whose words probably date from the 4th Century and which are an integral part of the Ordinary of the Mass and, in some form, in all communion services.

This beautiful work will be the centerpiece of our Christmas Music service at the 10:30 service on December 10th. The service will also include "**The Christmas Gospel**," a Baroque setting from the 17th century of Luke's Christmas story by Martin Mayer with guest soloists Charles King, Mariami Bekauri, and Marilla Lipker-Gonzalez. The **Overture** from **Handel's Messiah** and the **Pastorale** from **Arcangelo Corelli's Christmas Concerto** played by the orchestra will be the Prelude and Offertory for the service. As the response to the Benediction, the choir will sing the final chorus and hallelujah fugue from Philipp Heinrich Erlebach's cantata "Siehe, ich verkuendige euch grosse Freude."

Come and join us on December 10th for this service celebrating the promise and birth of Jesus!



December 1	Bob Marshall Stuart Sewell	December 13	Dan Champlin
December 2	Tucker Fishback Judith Terrell	December 14	Mary Burgess Dennis Campbell
December 3	Jeffrey Newcomb John Terrell	December 15	Dexter Benedict
December 5	Jean Mattick Doris Moses Tiffany Wixom	December 16	Faith Benedict Tim Merwarth
December 6	Donald Wertman	December 17	Dylan Wiesner
December 8	Fritz Hovey	December 18	Sarah Lahr
December 9	Marilyn Nellis	December 20	Sophie Augustine Brennan Bates
December 10	Lindsey Breese	December 23	Pete Pettinger
December 11	Janice Allen Steve Costa	December 27	Tim Cortelyou
December 12	Judy Curtis Stephanie Newcomb	December 28	Ben Meyer
		December 29	Ann Burt Allison Chapin
		December 30	Beth Lahr Scott McKinney



. . . and a very special birthday wish on December 25 . . .
Jesus Christ!!!!

Sunday worship services: 8:15 in Chapel, 10:30 in Sanctuary, 9:00 Sunday School, 9:15 Adult Education Class

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 SERRV Shop 10:00-4:00 Wassail Bowl 10:00-2:00 Cantata rehearsal 11:00
3 First Sunday of Advent Communion 2-cents-a-meal offering Food collection Hanging of Greens 11:30	4 Bell choir rehearsal 5:15 Interpretation & Stewardship Committee 7:00	5 Ont/Yates Hospice Bereavement Group 1:00 Columbarium & History Committee - noon Adult Ed. Committee 5:30 Property Committee 7:00	6 Alzheimer's Support 1:30 DEACONS 7:00 @ Pastor Deb's home	7 Needles Group 1:30 Choir rehearsal 7:00	8	9 SERRV Shop open 10:00 - 4:00 Cantata rehearsal 10:00
10 Christmas Cantata at 10:30 service Blood Pressure screenings Deacons fill gift bags Youth caroling 2:15	11 Bell choir rehearsal 5:15 Boy Scouts Court of Honor	12	13 Worship Committee 7:00 Finance Committee 7:30	14 Choir rehearsal 7:00	15 Twilight Group 10:30	16 SERRV Shop open 10:00 - 4:00
17 P.W. meeting - 11:30 Blue Christmas service 2:00	18 Bell choir rehearsal 5:15	19 Ont/Yates Hospice Bereavement Group 1:00 Communications Committee 7:00	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - NOON SESSION 7:00	21 Friendship Circle 1:30 Choir rehearsal 7:00	22	23 Children's Pageant Rehearsal 9:00-11:00
24 One morning service!! Christmas Pageant 10:30 Plum Pudding Feast 11:30 Candlelight Service 8:30 NO Adult Education class	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!! O COME LET US Adore HIM 	26 SERRV meeting 7:00	27	28 Choir rehearsal 7:00	29	30
31 One worship service at 10:30 No Sunday School or Adult Education class						