

The Geneva Pres

September

2020

The Presbyterian Church in Geneva

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

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

Rev. Dr. Deborah Lind – Minister
Rev. John Milne – Parish Associate
Rev. W. James Gerling - Pastor Emeritus

Fritz Aude - Treasurer
Kathleen Breese - Director, Christian Education
Virginia Champlin – Assistant Clerk of Session
Linda Cox - Church Organist
Richard Cox - Director of Music and Adult Bell Choir
Deb Drennen - Nursery care
Joe Iannopollo - Assistant Custodian
Lorraine Jones – Director of Children’s Choirs
Art Lewis – Information Technology Director
Beth Nicholas - Parish Nurse
Alan Schenck - Financial Administrator
Fred Schühle - Clerk of Session
Colleen VanAllan – Office Administrator

Pastor Deb's Final News Letter Article

“For Such a Time as This” (The Book of Esther 4: 14)

At my first installation, the presiding minister spoke on the key verse in the liberating story of Queen Esther. You have been called to this ministry *“For such a time as this”*. I believe that God definitely called me to The Presbyterian Church in Geneva as well as each church in my thirty-one years of ministry. And, I am grateful to God and all of you.

Thank you for welcoming me into your lives and your hearts! I will miss you. As much as I long to be closer to my growing family, this will be a major change. I will hold you in my hearts and prayers as we go bravely into the future. This month of sermons and celebrations will be focused on God's steadfast love and guidance.

Thank you for listening to my sermons each week and giving me the respect of a teaching elder as a woman and as an outsider. I've been shifting during these seven and a half years from saying, “You” to “Us”. I am a Genevan and New Yorker for another month. And, I've enjoyed immersing myself in this community as well as Seneca Lake. I pray that your next pastor will be as delighted and blessed.

These are trying times for the country and this world. I believe you and I are called to speak up, step up and share our faith. “For such a time as this” we are called.

May God bless you and keep you, may God's light guide your future and grant you peace.

Pastor Deb

September

- 6 “Hum a New Song?” (Communion)
 Psalm 149: 1-4, Matthew 18:15-20
- 13 “For Such a Time as This”
 Esther 4: 14, Matthew 18:1-5
- 20 “New Vistas and Vision”
 Numbers 27: 12-13, Philippians 2: 1-13
- 27 “Grateful!”
 Psalm 136, Philippians 1: 1-10



Celebration of the Baptism

Ezra Williams, baptized August 27, 2020,
son of Aaron and Phoebe Williams

NEW MEMBERS

On August 30 we welcomed seven new members to our congregation:

Sophie Augustine, Aaron Carle, Lauren Champlin,

Elizabeth Komara, Kendall Snook,

Luke Weber, Ezra Williams



DEACONS' PAGE

We seek to become a beacon of hope,
A lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.

We learn, year by year,
to let love shine through
Until we see Christ in each person we meet.
(Glory to God Hymn 767 Together We Serve: verse 2)

The Board of Deacons met on August 5 via Zoom to consider ways to continue serving our God and our congregation during a time of transition and ongoing concerns about Covid 19.

Several Deacons have joined members of our Membership Committee to reach out to all congregants by phone. The purpose of these calls is to find out how people are doing and to inform everyone of upcoming events in the life of our congregation. This program is known as Membership Connection.

At the end of September Pastor Deb will be retiring and beginning an exciting new chapter in her life. We are so grateful for the time Pastor Deb has been with us and wish her God's bountiful blessings into the future. We also wish Deb a wonderful birthday on September 11!

Deacons have been busy keeping in touch with shut-ins and those who live alone during these challenging times. Deacons have visited when allowed, sent cards, called on the phone, and helped with errands. We all long for the time when we are again able to worship in our sanctuary safely. We have discussed plans for reopening using suggested guidelines when the time is right.

Prayerfully consider how you can reach out to others during these unusual times. "Together we serve in Spirit and truth." (Hymn 767)

Blessings, The Deacons



From the church office

Have you moved, changed your email address or your phone number recently? If you have, help us keep your contact information accurate by calling the church office or by emailing the information to: secretary@pcgny.org

Would you like to receive updates from the church about our online and YouTube worship services? If the answer is yes, please email the church office at info@pcgny.org with your name and email address.

If you didn't receive the email check the home page of our website at <https://www.pcgny.org>. The home page is updated by Saturday morning to announce Sunday's service and includes the Zoom Meeting Information.



*Church members, neighbors, and friends are having a **Car Parade** to celebrate Pastor Deb's birthday and retirement. If you'd like to join in the fun, please meet at Geneva High School parking lot at **5:30 on Friday, September 11** (Pastor Deb's 70th Birthday). We'll start the car parade promptly at 5:45.*

The route: Carter Road to North Street and head south on N. Brook. Decorating cars is encouraged and there will be containers for well-wishers to toss cards.



Dear Church Family,

As I write this, I am seeing news that Russian president Vladimir Putin is going to register the first COVID 19 vaccine. It has been named Sputnik V. There are questions about the safety and efficacy of Sputnik V as they have just begun the phase 3 testing. (So don't allow anyone to inject you with Sputnik just yet!!)

The Chinese government has authorized a COVID 19 vaccine for use in members of their military. A Chinese drug company, CanSino Biologics, has supposedly only reached level 2 testing of a vaccine that is showing promise. They plan to go ahead and inoculate their military without going through level 3 testing. That's a little scary if you are a member of the Chinese military!

I guess this may be a good time to talk about vaccines and how they work. The US Department of Health and Human Services explains on their website [vaccines.gov](https://www.hhs.gov/vaccines) there are 4 main vaccine types: live-attenuated, inactivated, toxoid, and subunit, recombinant, polysaccharide, conjugate (this is all one category).

The live vaccine is the germ itself in a weakened form. Because it is so weak it is easier for your body to fight off and create antibodies. These vaccines give a strong immune response that can last a lifetime. They may not be safe for people with compromised immune systems or serious health issues. The MMR and chickenpox vaccines are examples.

Inactive vaccines have dead germs in them. The immune system can still see this as a germ and creates antibodies. These vaccines are weaker and do not create a lasting immunity. They need to be given many times. Examples are Flu and Rabies vaccines.

Toxoid vaccines are created to attack a toxin that a germ gives off rather than the germ itself. The vaccine would contain the toxin and your immune system would create a defense against it. Examples are Diphtheria and Tetanus.

Subunit, recombinant, polysaccharide, and conjugate vaccines use only a portion of the germ. They are created to make inactive or destroy the portion of the germ that allows the germ to enter into a cell (a spike that penetrates and injects the germ's contents in the case of COVID 19). If that portion is not able to work, the germ cannot infect cells or replicate. These vaccines are considered among the most safe to use on folks who are immunosuppressed or have chronic health issues.

These vaccines may require periodic booster shots. Hib, HPV, Pneumococcal, and Shingles are examples.

According to the Washington Post, there are over 170 vaccines being researched presently. There are a number of steps involved in getting FDA approval for a vaccine.

The Pre-Clinical phase is when experiments are conducted in a lab with test tubes and animals. In this phase a certain level of human safety and effectiveness of the vaccine need to be demonstrated prior to starting human trials.

Phase 1 is a vaccine trial using healthy, young volunteers to test the vaccine for safety and accurate dosages. This is usually a small number of volunteers, 20 to 100.

Phase 2 trials include larger numbers of people (several hundred), including some individuals considered “high risk”. This trial focuses on dose correlation between when optimum immune response begins and at what dose side effects occur.

Phase 3 vaccine trials test large groups of people encompassing many demographics (age, health conditions, gender, ethnicity, etc.). These trials generally have many thousands of people involved. The effectiveness of the vaccine is determined in these trials. A percentage of the volunteers in phase 3 are given a placebo. There are 7 Phase 3 trials being closely watched in the US. A vaccine must show a high percentage of efficacy to seek approval from the FDA.

To be approved, a vaccine must be determined to provide benefits that outweigh known potential risks. Much of the research on COVID 19 vaccines began in late January. Some of the initial work had already been done in Pre-Clinical testing when SARS was being researched. The two organisms are very similar.

Once approval is gained and the product is given to the general public, it is still studied. The VARS (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System) has been set up for doctors and the public to report an “adverse event” (health issue) that occurs following a vaccination.

We will hopefully have a safe and effective vaccine for COVID 19 sometime next year. I for one am very sick of wearing a facemask, but for the time being it is a necessary annoyance! Call me with questions 315-759-9039.

Stay Well and God Bless! Beth



Happy Birthday

Sept 1	Andrea Robertson	Sept 23	Kelly Allen
Sept 2	Marge Bailey	Sept 24	Tammy Bates
Sept 4	Christine Wertman		Kathy Davies
Sept 5	Agnes Hoefler		Jane Donegan
Sept 8	Joan Morley	Sept 27	Caitlin Ryan
Sept 10	Sandra Hartsfield	Sept 28	Barb Belliveau
Sept 11	Prashanta Augustine		Pamela Bishop
	Pastor Deb		Liz Hall
Sept 14	Dot Newcomb		Dave Hornbeck
Sept 15	Karen Shoemaker		Art Lewis
Sept 16	Kenneth Carle	Sept 29	Jackie Augustine
	Richard Cox		Marilyn Castle
Sept 17	Jonah Williams		Lorraine Jones
Sept 20	Christopher Jones		Susanne Otterbacher
Sept 21	Sage Gerling		
	Rita Reissig		



HELP WEST STREET SCHOOL MEET OUR \$1,000 GOAL

**HOW TO EARN
BOX TOPS MAKES IT EASY.**

No more clipping. No more sending Box Tops to school. All you need is your phone. Download the ALL-NEW Box Tops app, shop as you normally would, then simply scan your store receipts to find participating products. The app will automatically credit your schools Box Tops earnings online.

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It's SEPTEMBER!!!!

Because of COVID the church is still closed.

Beginning the weekend of Sept. 13 we will be posting a Sunday School lesson for 3yrs-6th grade on the church website that you can watch at any time. Hopefully the kiddos will tune in. It will be a short lesson with a brief message for the week. We will present a new message every weekend until we can be back together again. Any questions call Kathy Breese.

THANKS to everyone who donated school supplies.

CONGRATULATIONS to our youth who were received at the Confirmation Service on August 30:

Elizabeth Komara, Lauren Champlin, Sophie Augustine, Kendall Snook, Luke Weber, Ezra Williams, Aaron Carle.

**BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION
to benefit Geneva Head Start**

**CENTS-ABILITY
Formerly 2 Cents a Meal**

**PLEASE save your 2 cent donations until we are back to church
You can make a difference in the lives of hungry people!!!**

When will we be back worshipping in the Church?

No one knows at this point the answer. It is the million-dollar question everyone is asking.

At the July Worship Committee meeting, it was discussed at length. The Worship Committee recommendation was endorsed by Session the next week.

Worship Committee Recommends:

Wait until data is available from

- other Community & Presbytery Churches on the results of their openings
- the status of our local and state
- the opening of the public & private schools in the area

Right now, the churches in the Presbytery that have begun opening are much smaller congregations, and sitting the recommended distances is easily possible. There are other churches that are holding parking lot services. When the weather becomes cooler, then what happens?

Both PCUSA and Synod meetings are not to be held in person until at least the end of 2020. Our Presbytery will not hold any face to face meetings until at least the end of January 2021.

When we do return to worshipping in the pews, we will not be able to hold services in the Chapel because it would be hard to sit our required distances.

We would hate to hastily open then have to reclose.

In the meantime, the Staff, Session, Deacons, and volunteers are working very hard on producing the YouTube worship services. We all need to be patient and be encouraging. This is all a new way forward for our congregation.

Session did approve that church meetings may be held in our building. All the mandatory sanitization is required before and after each meeting by the meetings' participants.

Thank you everyone for your understanding. Be safe and be healthy.



FPOC - WE DID IT!

\$26,000 RAISED

IN THE AMAZING BED RACE

TO END FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

A special note of thanks to all the congregations and volunteers who made this year's FPOC Virtual event a big success. Your generosity continues to be a blessing to our guests. We had 14 teams and a good dose of competitive fun racing to the finish line.

Our Event Winning Team was Leonard's Express!

A drive through awards ceremony was held the week of August 18th, to pick up trophies, medals and prizes for daily winning teams, Matching Challenge winners and Bed Race Champions.

A graphic illustration of a white door with a yellow and blue striped carpet leading up to it. The text "Our next steps" is written in large, bold, black letters across the carpet. To the right of the door, there is a paragraph of text in italics and a line of text in a regular font.

FPOC is opening apartments for emergency shelter. Because of the commitment and generosity of you, our volunteers, three new families will have a furnished home.

Thank you is not enough!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Friendship Study Group –Everyone is encouraged to join the Wednesday Noon Study group

Needles/Crafts – Will not meet in September



Thank you to my church family for all of your prayers, cards, phone calls, flowers, gifts, and drive by birthday greetings! The way you have all reached out to me to show your care and concern has been so wonderful and uplifting! You have brought me such joy during difficult days! I have truly felt the blessings of your love and support each step of my journey! With love and gratitude,
~Jackie Schmit

Adult Education

“God sends the Church to work for justice in the world: exercising its power for the common good; dealing honestly in personal and public spheres; seeking dignity and freedom for all people...” — *Book of Order*, W-5.0304

One of the three tenets of the Matthew 25 initiative is the dismantling of systemic racism. Systemic racism refers to the system of structures, procedures and/or processes that disadvantage a specific race. According to the NAACP, it refers to the rules, practices and customs once rooted in law with residual effects that reverberate throughout society. Systemic racism creates disparities in many "success indicators" such as wealth, the criminal justice system, employment, housing, health care, politics, and education.

For many of us, our response to this charge is undoubtedly “what can we do?” We understand that change is needed, but we are not sure where to start. Author Layla F. Saad says the better question to ask ourselves is “How have you managed not to know?” Why haven’t we asked these questions before and how has our privilege prevented us from seeing these inequities before? In her book, *Me and White Supremacy*, Saad challenges readers to do the work of dismantling systemic racism by first understanding their connection to the history that perpetuates it.

Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor by Layla F. Saad.

Adult Ed will be using this critical text in our Fall session to help us do the necessary and vital work that can ultimately lead to improving race relations. Included are historical and cultural contexts, moving stories and anecdotes, definitions, and examples, giving us the language to understand racism, and to dismantle our own biases. It will help us to:

- Understand Anti-blackness, racial stereotypes, and cultural appropriation
- Change the way that we view and respond to race
- Demonstrate how to continue the work to create social change

Set up as a 28-day reflection study, we will use our Sunday forum to discuss the previous 7 days of work. Discussion will continue to occur via ZOOM at this time. If you would like to join us, please email Adulted@pcgny.org so we can send you an invitation and information on obtaining a copy of the book. All are welcome!!!

Schedule of Study:

- Sept 13: Welcome to the Work
- Sept 20: The Basics
- 7: Sept 27: Anti-Blackness, Racial Stereotypes & Cultural Appropriation
- Oct 4: Allyship
- Oct 11: Power, Relationships, and Commitments
- Oct 18: Now What? Continuing the Work after Day 28