

The Geneva Pres



2021

The Presbyterian Church in Geneva

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

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

Rev. Colin Pritchard – Pastor

Rev. John Milne – Temporary Supply Pastor

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

Mark DeRuyter - Custodian

Deb Drennen - Nursery care

Joe Iannopolo - Assistant Custodian

Vacant – Director of Youth Bells/Orff

Vacant – 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



This month we will celebrate a secular holiday and a sacred Sunday. Mother's Day and Pentecost both happen in May. It may seem that they have little to do with one another. One is all about thanks, cards, flowers, and brunch. The other is all about fire, surprise, strangers, and the language of God. Both of them, however, are opportunities for connection and understanding.

Those who nurture life in others, biological parents and all who invest in the life of a next generation, translate and transmit the mystery of love into the hearts of children. No one can adequately explain the depth and breadth of love, but a child who is loved knows it. There is a face and feeling attached to the grace of that truth. There is connection to the one who names them beloved, and some understanding of ineffable beauty.

On Pentecost there were strangers divided by language, culture, and social strata. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit that transmitted and translated to them the reality of divinity, they began to understand. They were all God's people capable of speaking the story of the Holy. They were suddenly connected in ways that were not possible before. Through a shared story and equally gifted by God, they touched the truth of being beloved.

Deep Christian community does not simply lay out facts and doctrines for others to affirm. Deep Christian community loves others so fully that they know they are connected and safe, and they begin to understand what cannot be explained. Let us love one another and the world so well that all are assured of their place at the table. Let us tell the story of our living God with such fire and truth that all are amazed at what God is doing.

Pastor Colin



The Church World Service Blankets program was created to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone. When our neighbors are in need, even \$10 for a single blanket goes a long way. Envelopes are in the

May newsletter. The collection will be taken May 9th. If you do not receive a paper copy of the newsletter. Please send your check to The Presbyterian Church in Geneva, 24 Park Place, Geneva, NY 14456, and write on the memo line **CWS Blankets. Thank You!**

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DAY OF PENTECOST – MAY 23





Dear Church Family,

Flowers are blooming, winter and spring are in their age-old struggle between warm and cold days (warm seems to be winning), and the COVID positivity rates are dropping. All great signs of Spring!!! If you have had problems getting signed up for a COVID vaccine, call me and I will help you. If you have questions about COVID or the vaccine, I have had both! Feel free to call me.

I recently had the “pleasure” of experiencing an echocardiogram stress test. It is an interesting test that I thought I would share with you. I was slightly nervous going into this test having been shot off a treadmill into a wall at the YMCA years ago. (Always be completely familiar with workout equipment you use, and don’t use it if it doesn’t seem to be working correctly.) The Echo technician assured me she would stop the machine immediately if I said stop!

Stress echocardiograms are used to assess how well your heart valves are working, how well your heart operates when exercising or when you are stressed, and evaluates for coronary artery disease.

There are two ways this test can be performed. For those who can physically walk fast up an incline, that is what they make you do. For those that physically cannot walk on the treadmill safely, a drug called dobutamine (or its equivalent) is given via IV. This drug will cause your heart to speed up as if you were exercising.

If you are doing this test on a treadmill, wear comfortable clothes and good sneakers or walking shoes. You will have EKG electrodes attached to your chest. Your heart will be monitored throughout the procedure. Prior to getting on the treadmill, a sonogram video (video created by ultrasound vibrations) will be taken. For this you need to lay on a stretcher on your left side. A technician will use a transducer (a rounded wand placed on your chest) to take the video. Your blood pressure will be taken and then you will be asked to get on the treadmill and start walking. It will be a nice stroll at first, but don’t let them fool you, by the end you will be panting. They keep increasing the angle of incline and speed every 3-5 minutes. The Dr. has calculated a target heart rate that they “stress” you up to. They keep you at the target rate for a minute or so and then stop you. My time on the treadmill was around 12 min.

As soon as you stop you get back on the stretcher on your left side (panting and hyperventilating) and the technician takes another sonogram video of your heart. Your blood pressure is taken lying, sitting, and standing.

If you feel well, you can go. It takes about 1 ½ hrs. from when you arrive. You will see a cardiologist to go over the results.

I've run out of room! Call me with questions! 315-759-9039

God Bless, Beth



Dear Friends,

Many of you know that some months ago (early November), I suffered a stroke, moderate I was told but serious nonetheless. After three weeks away, I returned to our lovely home here in Geneva, to be welcomed by literally dozens of thoughtful and concerned cards wishing me quick bettering, most of them penned by you, the members of our remarkable congregation. It was my wife, Jenn Morris, a long-time member, who first introduced me to you in 2009. From my first encounters, now more than a decade ago, I was delightfully impressed with the kind and loving welcome I received. "Here at last," I thought, "is a truly *Christian* congregation," and, not too long a time later, "a group I would be proud to call myself a member of." The passage of years has only deepened this sense of pride and gratitude. And so, as I continue to make my progressive way along this post-stroke rehabilitation road, I want to type a few words of thanks to you all: for your ongoing concern and encouragement during this new and complex time, and for just being your good and kindly selves. I am so proud to be one of your, *our(!)* number!!

With gratitude and great appreciation,

Jim Spates



TALENT SHOW

As most of you know, our church has produced a talent show every Spring since 2006. It was always combined with a ziti dinner served by the board of deacons, with a suggested donation to benefit the pastor's discretionary fund. This didn't happen in 2020 for obvious reasons.

We have decided to revive the talent show this Spring, this time virtually. The ziti dinner and suggested donation will be saved for the future when we are all able to produce events like this in person.

Lisa Gage, with a year's worth of expertise creating our wonderful virtual worship services, has kindly agreed to put the show together. There isn't a definite date to complete this. But, we would like to release it sometime in mid/late May or early June. Basically, when enough talent videos have been received, Lisa will work her tech magic, and e-mail a link to it when it is done. Then, everyone can enjoy it at a time that's convenient.

One of the obvious advantages of the virtual approach is that anyone, near or far, young or older, can record their performance and e-mail it to Lisa (liscagage584@gmail.com). That would give people who have moved, are away on the date of the "release," in college, or for any other reason, might not participate, the opportunity to perform. Also, performing something while being videoed is much less stressful than performing in person for a live audience.

We will contact several young people and adults who have performed in previous years. But, as the saying goes, "The more the merrier." We need your help to recruit and encourage anyone, young people or adults, to get involved.

Using a smart phone is the easiest way to create a video. Lisa says that if you do that, please hold your phone horizontally rather than vertically when recording. That gives the video a better visual quality. This can be done at home, in another space if you're out of town, or in our church. If you do not have access to a smart phone with a family member or friend to operate it, contact Lisa (315-759-9440), myself (315-521-5316), or call the church office (315-789-1343). Someone can meet with you and make the video in church. If you already have a YouTube video completed, that would certainly work for this event.

Talent segments can feature vocal solos, duets, trios, etc., instrumental solos (piano, guitar, other instruments), short recited poems or humorous stories, dance routines, or any other talent that people would enjoy.

We encourage everyone young or older to get involved. It will be another way that our congregation can share fellowship.

Sincerely,
Tom McClure (dthomasmcclure@gmail.com)
Lisa Gage (liscagage584@gmail.com)

TAKE NOTE



We had a service in the sanctuary last Sunday and I was great ... but ...not everyone could be there and there was no congregational singing, no choirs singing. So, in the midst of celebration there was also some sadness. This week I searched the web to find some reassurance that soon we will be back together singing. From what I read, it just might be soon that some of us will be able to worship together in the sanctuary but still a much longer time until before we can safely sing together. How shall we sing to God when singing can bring sickness and death, pain and suffering? Brian Wren's anthem text came to me.

***How shall I sing to God when life is filled with gladness,
loving and birth, wonder and worth?
I'll sing from the heart, thankfully receiving,
joyful in believing, This is my song, I'll sing it with love.***

***How shall I sing to God when life is filled with bleakness,
empty and chill, breaking my will?
I'll sing through my pain, angrily or aching,
crying of complaining. This is my song, I'll sing it with love.***

***How shall I sing and tell my Savior's story; Passover bread,
life from the dead? I'll sing with my life, witnessing and giving,
risking and forgiving.***

***How shall I sing to God when life is filled with gladness,
loving and birth, wonder and worth?
I'll sing from the heart, thankfully receiving,
joyful in believing, This is my song, I'll sing it with love.***

For a while yet, we will sing with our hearts, with our lives and our giving, with our comforting words extended, joyfully living our Savior's all-embracing Love.



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

New address for Rev. Deb Lind:

715 Hilltop Lane, St. Croix Falls, WI 54024

Reminder: monthly newsletter deadline is noon on the third Wednesday.

We have been blessed with many opportunities to “gather”, virtually, for our worship services, meetings, adult education classes, weekly Bible study, and special moments like our OGHs Palm Sunday auction. So even though the church building is unable to host events like these, obviously our Church is still very active. You have been faithful stewards and continued to support the efforts and missions of The Presbyterian Church in Geneva, and it has not gone unnoticed. You have continued to send in or drop off your pledges and special offerings and donations for things like the Souper Bowl of Caring and Family Promise and the Center of Concern and monies for various charities as you purchased virtual Holiday flowers. Thank you so much for continually carrying out these acts of giving!

As we move forward, please be reminded that you can always mail things to the church or if you prefer to drop something off, the church office is generally open Monday – Friday from 8:30 – 3:00. Food donations for the Geneva Area Center of Concern are accepted at the chapel entrance the first and second Monday and Wednesday of each month from 9:00 – 3:00.

You are invited to ***TED Talks with Pastor Colin.***

If you are not familiar with TED Conferences/Talks, they are gatherings of creators, thinkers, artists, medical professionals, scientists, sociologists etc. who share “ideas worth spreading”. These talks are 10-20 min long and are collected in video form for all the world to see. We have curated

6 wonderful talks that inform, intrigue, and begin great conversations.

Please join these adult education opportunities hosted by Pastor Colin. You can come to any one or all of them. Each session will include watching the video talk together and engaging in conversation guided by Pastor Colin. Each session will be one hour long and there is no need to prepare in advance. Just come with an open heart and willing spirit.

The TED Talks will be offered every other Thursday evening at 7:00 beginning April 15. You can sign up for this opportunity by contacting the church office at 315-789-1343 or email us at info@pcgny.org.

April 29: *Lesley Hazleton “The Doubt Essential to Faith”*

May 13: *Karen Armstrong “Let’s Revive the Golden Rule”*

May 27: *Hass and Hahn “How painting can transform communities”*

June 10: *Kate Bowler “Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I’ve Loved”*

******This talk is quite emotional and will engage extremely difficult questions of faith. Please be discerning about the context and community in which you choose to share.******

June 24: *David Steindl Rast “If You Want to be Happy, Be Grateful”*



SUNDAY SCHOOL lessons are on the church website each weekend. **MAY 23** will be the last Sunday School lesson for this program year. Hopefully we'll be together in September. Have a wonderful summer!!!

GRADUATES: if you are graduating from college this spring or did so in December please call the church office and let us know.

HELP!!!
It's that time of year again. **WE ARE HOPING WE ARE BACK IN THE BUILDING** in September!!!!
So we need to start planning and we need teachers for fall, winter and spring. The classes will be
3yrs-K 1st-3rd 4th-7th 9th-12th
It's 11 weeks of commitment on your part. If you can help let Kathy know. Thank you.

**It's time to think SUMMER CAMP –
CAMP WHITMAN THAT IS.**

THANK YOU AGAIN!!! So far we have received \$615 to give to the hunger programs in our community from **SOUPER BOWL**.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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

Needles/Crafts – Will not meet until further notice.

News from the Interpretation & Stewardship Committee

Thank you to all that participated in the OGHS Auction!

The Interpretation and Stewardship Committee hosted a very successful One Great Hour of Sharing virtual auction leading up to Palm Sunday. The auction raised over \$7,400 on bids for 59 items. We had 68 participants at the auction, with the range of the number of bids (per person) from 1 to 41! Thank you to the 40 people/families who donated a wonderful variety of items to bid on. Thank you also to the hardworking staff members at church who helped make this “virtual auction” a huge success. We have heard from several people about their experience, but if you have any feedback or suggestions about this year’s auction (especially if you did not participate), please contact one of the committee members with your ideas.

Many people who were the “top bidders” also included an additional donation for the OGHS mission. This amount is not included with the auction totals. The church is still gladly accepting donations to the OGHS effort for this special mission work. Checks can be mailed directly to the church. Again, thank you all for your generosity! We hope all those bidders had fun with this new form of a silent auction!

I&S Committee: Don Damick, Gary Harman, Jennifer Morris,
Beth Reiners

Because we are the church, together.

DEACON'S PAGE



The tiny dandelion is a sure sign of Spring and Summer. It really is an especially useful plant. Instead of considering it a weed, look upon it as a gift.

- Every part of a flowered dandelion is edible. The flower, the greens, and the root are useful in nutritious and healing ways. A Google search gives recipes for teas, wines, and greens that are packed with vitamins and minerals.
 - Their deep roots break up packed soil and allow more water and air flow.
 - They are a regular source of food for bees and butterflies, especially in the spring before many flowers blossom. Bees are necessary for pollinating plants that we need for food as well as beauty. Bees' food sources are dwindling, so dandelions are important for them
- So, something we call a weed, and often pull out of the ground or kill with poison is really a gift from God that serves many purposes.

God's gifts to creation, like the dandelion, can sometimes be misunderstood. Sometimes we don't recognize or understand or use the gifts God has given to us individually.

Some ways people in our church use their gifts:

- Friendly calls and cards from Deacons
- Contribute food to the Center of Concern Food Pantry on the 1st and 2nd Monday and Wednesday of the month
- Contribute change to the Cents Ability Collection the 1st Sunday of the month (funds the Presbytery of Geneva Hunger Grants)
- Are part of the prayer chain
- Join a committee

- Provide gift cards for teen moms in the Village Leinks mission
- Volunteer at the Community Lunch Program
- Teach Sunday School
- Say “Yes” when asked to be an Elder or Deacon
- Sing in choir – So thankful for those on our Zoom services
- Usher (coming soon!)
- Help with Coffee Hour (we will, again, someday!)
- Attend the Adult Education programs
- Help Family Promise safely house and care for homeless families
- Help on church cleanup days
- Help with worship services
- Prepare Communion
- Help keep the kitchen tidy
- Lead an Adult Education program
- Help arrange for flowers
- Tidy the library
- Join Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team



EMAILS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

The church staff regularly sends email to members and friends in the congregation. Most official emails are sent from email addresses ending in @pcgny.org or @presbyterianchurchingenevanewyork.org. Many of our elected church leaders and/or standing committees have email accounts ending in @pcgny.org. The current list of email accounts in use by church staff are listed below:

Staff Member/Special Purpose	Email Address
Alan Schenck	finadmin@pcgny.org schenck@rochester.rr.com
Art Lewis	amlewis@pcgny.org
Beth Nicholas	parishnurse@pcgny.org parishnursebeth99@yahoo.com
Church Office	info@pcgny.org
Colin Pritchard	colin.pritchard@pcgny.org pastor@pcgny.org pastor@presbyterianchurchingenevanewyork.org
Colleen VanAllan	secretary@pcgny.org
Kathy Breese	breeser@rochester.rr.com
Mailchimp Email Blasts	mailchimp@pcgny.org

Should you receive an email claiming to be sent by or for The Presbyterian Church in Geneva and it was not sent by one of the email addresses listed above nor does the email address end in “@pcgny.org” or “@presbyterianchurchingenevanewyork.org”, there is a very high probability that the email is fraudulent. If you suspect that a church related email that you received is fraudulent, do not open it. Instead, forward the email to abuse@pcgny.org and delete the email from your inbox.



May 2	Cindy Chapin Lucille Stewart	May 17	Sandy Ansley Jeff Henderson
May 8	Alaina Miller	May 18	Hugh Baxter
May 9	Sharon Kuromiya	May 20	Sigrid Carle
May 10	Dina Strasser	May 21	Kristin Mooty
May 11	Mia Alexander	May 23	Joan Hastings
May 12	Ann Hovey	May 24	Natalie Berg-Pappert Bruce Reed
May 13	Darlene Cieri		Ken Steadman
May 14	Calla Magee	May 25	Derek Garretson
May 15	Trevor Burrall Ed Frick Judith McKinney Emily Williams	May 27	John Fouracre
May 16	Brad Broyles	May 28	Beth Carle
		May 31	Scott Butler Jennifer Morris Robert Williams



SPRING CLEAN-UP

Spring Clean-up will be Saturday, May 8, from 9:00 a.m. – Noon.

Inside and Outside projects are available

Let's spruce up the grounds

and prepare the Sanctuary for in-person worship.

Bring your own rakes, shovels, work gloves, etc.



Virtual Worship service each Sunday morning at 10:30 with Zoom social time beginning at 10:00 and additional Zoom social time following the worship service. (Worship services are always available via You-Tube, and you can find a link on our church website (www.pcgny.org) / Adult Education class each Sunday morning at 9:15 via Zoom and TED Talks every other Thursday evening at 7:00 beginning April 15.

May 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Food collection for Geneva Center of Concern 9:00 – 3:00	4 Red Cross Blood Drive 12:30 – 5:30	5 DEACONS MTG 7:00 Food collection for Geneva Center of Concern 9:00 – 3:00 CAMP WHITMAN SUPPLY	6 DROP OFF AT CHAPEL	7 ENTRANCE 9:00 – 3:00	8 Spring clean-up day 9:00 – 12:00
9 Mother's Day Blanket Offering	10 Food collection for Geneva Center of Concern 9:00 – 3:00 CAMP WHITMAN	11 COMMUNICATIONS 7:00 SUPPLY DROP OFF AT	12 WORSHIP 7:00 Food collection for Geneva Center of Concern 9:00 – 3:00 CHAPEL ENTRANCE	13 Adult Ed TED Talk 7:00 9:00 – 3:00	14 Red Cross Blood Drive 12:30 – 5:30	15 Camp Whitman Work day
16	17 MEMBERSHIP 7:00	18	19 SESSION 7:00 Newsletter deadline NOON	20	21	22
23 Pentecost Communion today	24	25	26	27 Adult Ed TED Talk 7:00	28	29
30 Trinity Sunday	31 MEMORIAL DAY Church office closed					

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN GENEVA
SURVEY # 2 – WHEN to RE-OPEN CHURCH for WORSHIP

In the fall of 2020, a survey was created to ascertain how the congregation felt about returning to church for in-person worship. We feel it is important to revisit the question in light of vaccinations being more readily available and now that many of our members have been vaccinated.

As in the previous survey, we are using a model created by Kevin Meyers of 12 Stone Church, Atlanta Georgia. He uses a traffic light's colors to describe 3 different sets of views congregants have about returning to church at this time. The **Green Light** signifies people who are ready to come back now. They feel relatively safe with the protocols set in place. The **Yellow Light** group is more cautious. They want to wait to see how the initial re-opening phase goes. The **Red Light** group does not intend to return any time soon. They want to feel that everything is very safe before returning. Many people who are in the red light group are in the "most vulnerable" category. There are no wrong or right answers. We need your honest response to decide when and how it makes sense for the church to open for in-person worship.

Session had extended consideration of an in-person start up until the end of May 2021. Much can change between now and then! We will be following the NY State guidelines for church re-openings, requiring the use of masks, social distancing, and sanitizing. Our questions to you include how do you feel about coming back to church and under what circumstances would you feel safe coming back. Please fill out this survey to help guide us on how to proceed. Your survey responses will remain anonymous. Thank you for your answers.

Which group do you feel best fits your view about re-opening in person worship?

GREEN Light

YELLOW Light

RED Light

What criteria need to be met to make you feel comfortable with returning to in-person worship?
(indicate all that apply)

- 1) Compliance with proper cleaning and sanitization of the church/Sanctuary as per current NYS Guidelines
- 2) Compliance with masking and social distancing
- 3) Being vaccinated, either yourself or others
- 4) Other _____

As the church reopens, it will be necessary to reserve a seat (by household) each week. Your pew assignment will change each week based on the overall reservations. Masks covering the mouth and nose must be worn when entering and exiting the building as well as when moving around. Using hand sanitizer will be required prior to entering. Results of the survey as well as weekly reservations will help us determine the number and timing of Sunday services. Three questions that pertain here:

- 1) Would you be willing to contact the church office in advance each week to reserve a seat? Yes No
- 2) Would you be willing to attend church at a different time from what you are accustomed to in order to be able to maintain social distancing? Yes No
- 3) Would you attend in-person worship if the ushers directed you where to sit/assigned seats? Yes No

(Continued on Back)

