



March 2025 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 newsletter, please send the information to officeadmin@presbyteryofgeneva.org by **March 26, 2025**.



Sign up by visiting us at <https://www.campwhitman.org/dates-rates>

➤➤ Summer 2025 Registration is OPEN!!!

Holiday Weekend Family & Community Camps—
Memorial, Independence and Labor Day weekends

Traditional Youth Summer Camps—Mini-Camp, Trail-blazers, CITs & Trip Camp

Pathfinder Special Needs Adult Camps— 2 June & 2 July sessions



*A place of belonging
and connection*

150 Whitman Rd
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Phone: 315-220-0084
Email: camp@campwhitman.org



Filled with HOPE, Packed with LOVE!

The Presbytery of Geneva
invites you to a
Church World Service
Packing Party

Saturday, March 8, 2025; 10 AM to Noon

at

The First Presbyterian Church of Bath
6 East Morris Street
Bath, NY 14810



Refreshments Provided!

(sponsored by the Committee on Mission and Witness)


If you'd like to help, please RSVP to Rev. John Woodring at the First Presbyterian Church of Bath at 607-776-646 or officepreschurch@gmail.com.



Donate to the Presbytery online!


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Camp Whitman

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Individual per capita contribution

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Ordination and Installation Offerings

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Presbytery Meeting Offerings

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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 (known for offering envelopes from 'way back) 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, and others in the future as we roll them out.



Building Bridges Across Boundaries: Presbyterian Retreat for everyone



Friday May 9 – Saturday May 10, 2025, at Camp Whitman
(150 Whitman Rd, Penn Yan, NY 14527)

Open for ministers and church members of the PC(USA)
in the seven presbyteries of the Upstate NY network

Objective is to have fun while getting to know each other
across the Presbyteries of Upstate NY

Overnight with 3 meals
with optional Friday lunch (\$12 extra)

Rustic cabins (no running water) **\$70 per person**

Cottage-style cabins (limited availability) **\$95 per person**

For more info on cabins, go to: susvalpresby.org/2025retreat

Register at susvalpresby.org/register from Feb. 1 to April 25

*Event organized by the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley's
Commission on Christian Leadership Formation (CCLeF)
and members of the Presbytery of Geneva's General Council.*

Registration & payment questions:

Scott Kindig, CCLeF Co-chair, Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley,
cclefchair@susvalpresby.org or 607-323-4477.

Want to help with program & worship planning?

Contact Connie Franks, Moderator, Presbytery of Geneva,
cfranks1128@aol.com or 315-589-2896.

UPDATE - Commuter option \$40/person (includes 3 meals): If you prefer to stay overnight off-site, there are a number of hotels and B&Bs within half an hour of the camp.

2025
PASTORS' RETREAT
Athenaeum Hotel,
Chautauqua, NY

Wed. May 7 - Fri. May 9

Single room \$500 pp
Double room \$358 pp



All packages are for a two-night stay and include all meals and gratuities

This retreat is offered to clergy and commissioned pastors, including the retired, in the Presbyteries of Cayuga/Syracuse, Genesee Valley, Geneva, Lake Erie, and Western New York.

Guest Speaker, Rev. Dr. Glen Bell
"The Gift of One's Self: Identity, Belonging, and Purpose"

Join us as we talk about identity, belonging, and purpose in ways that will invite participants toward their own reflection and spiritual growth.



Rev. Dr. Glen Bell is Senior VP of Development at the Presbyterian Foundation. Before serving the Foundation, he dedicated 30 years as a pastor in a wide variety of Presbyterian congregations in North Carolina, Indiana and Florida. His roles and duties included preaching, teaching, and pastoral care; leadership, management, and operations; stewardship and funds development. Glen received his Doctor of Ministry from McCormick Theological Seminary and his Master of Divinity from Union Presbyterian Seminary.



[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

Washington, DC—Arrabon Experiential Learning Trip



Event Details

The Calvin Institute of Christian Worship is excited to partner with Arrabon, a spiritual formation ministry that equips Christ-followers to actively and creatively pursue reconciliation and racial healing in their communities, to offer three curated experiential learning trips to Montgomery, Alabama, Washington, DC, and El Paso, Texas.

This experiential learning trip is to Washington, DC, and is centered on [The National Museum of African American History and Culture](#).

An Arrabon experiential learning trip guides communities into spaces of disintegration to hold a trauma-informed space framed by our “Foundation of a Reconciling Community” workshop. The work of racial healing and reconciliation is often impacted by fear, anger, shame, and grief. During this experience, participants process these complex emotions to gain confidence in their ability to lead their communities as ambassadors of reconciliation.

[Experiential Learning](#) | [Learn More on Vimeo](#)

EVENT INFO

Dates

📅 Monday, April 28 to Thursday, May 1, 2025

Time

🕒 12:00 AM

Location

📍 Washington D.C.

What to Expect

- Integration of spiritual formation and experiential learning related to race, class, and culture
- Interactive engagement alongside others in your community
- Guided discussion through our Foundations of a Reconciling Community workshop exploring the complicated emotions of fear, anger, shame, and grief
- Guided morning sessions followed by afternoons journeying through various experiences
- Access to an app-based spiritual formation guide that creates space for prayer, meditation reflection, and spiritual transformation
- Integration of the theology and sociology that have informed our shared history around race in America
- [Experiential Learning | Kevin on Vimeo](#)

Who should apply

Two or three pastoral or nonprofit leaders from the same organization. The goal is for participants to maximize and contextualize their learning as they strive to embody and integrate the work of reconciliation into their own community context.

**Trip capacity is limited.*

[Experiential Learning Interest Form](#)

Travel and Costs

- Each participant will pay a **\$100 non-refundable trip deposit due to Arrabon no later than March 5, 2025.**
- Each participant will be responsible for their own travel to and from Washington, D.C.
- The Calvin Institute of Christian Worship will cover all program costs, including lodging, meals, and transport between DC locales and the hotel.

[Arrabon – Cultivating the Soul of Reconciliation](#)

MISSION AND WITNESS UPDATES



The 2025 Matthew 25 grants applications are available on the Presbytery website (www.presbyteryofgeneva.org). Please note that the deadline has been extended until Monday, March 31, 2025, although you are encouraged to submit applications as soon as possible. The remaining deadlines will be adjusted, but at this time have not yet been determined. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Juana (Joanne) Tunison, lalocat@aol.com.

[2025-MATTHEW-25Committee-on-Mission-and-Witness-2025-Session-Endorsed-Grant-Application-7-FEB-2025-2-1.docx](#)



Presbyterian Youth Triennium Event

This year the Presbyterian Church (USA) will welcome thousands of its high school age youth and their adult youth workers to Louisville, Kentucky for four days of worship, recreation, bible study, outreach, and faith formation all around the theme of, "As If We Were Dreaming". The event takes place from 28-31 July. A committee of eleven from five presbyteries met on January 26 and shared the following details:

- The Geneva Presbytery will combine with Genessee Valley, Susquehanna Valley, Northern New York, and Cayuga-Syracuse to send one large delegation.
- Transportation will be by bus and all the anticipated costs for the weekend are estimated to be between \$700 and \$800.
- This year, there will also be a program for young adults 18-25, due to the (Covid) cancellation of the 2022 event.

Themes for this year's event:

Monday, July 28th

Born to Dream

Joel 2:28-32
Acts 2

Tuesday, July 29th

Collective Dreaming

Joshua 1:9
Genesis – Jacob's Ladder, Wrestling

Wednesday, July 30th

Facing the Nightmares

Genesis 37 – Joseph
Exodus 2 – Moses

Thursday, July 31st

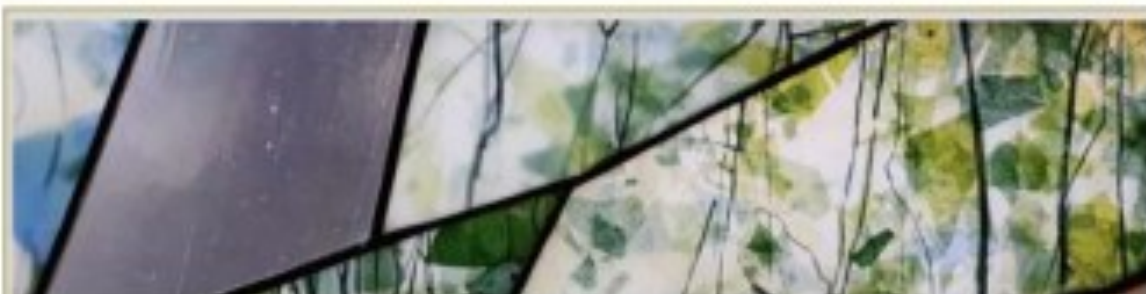
Wake Up and Dream

Matthew 2
Isaiah 55:12-13



The Presbytery of Geneva, in a combined effort with the Presbyterian Hunger Program, "Cents-Ability" initiative needs your support. Once monthly, presbyterian churches are asked to collect the equivalent of five cents per person per meal per day. These funds go to benefit the Matthew 25 grant program, specifically donated to food insecurity. Please visit the website:

<https://pcusa.org/resource/cents-abilityguide>.



ECUMENICAL LENTEN STUDY

"The Hardest Part: Hurt We Carry, Hope We Find"

Thursdays, March 13th - April 10th

Soup Supper at 6 p.m., Study & Discussion at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Community Mennonite Fellowship Church

290 Park Avenue, Corning, NY

(entrance on Hammond Street)

Life is a strange, tender mix. Joy and sorrow. Love and loss. Wins and failures.

Lent is a season that invites us to acknowledge and explore
the heaviness of this tension.

Need to carve out some prayer/meditation time to reflect?

What's the next right step?

Ontario Center Presbyterian is offering a

Labyrinth Meditation

Meeting God in the Midst of Extremes

"Intention . . . Action: and everything in between"

Wednesday, March 5, 4-5 pm

1638 Ridge Road, Ontario, NY; Sanctuary on Ridge Hall

Walking labyrinth, Finger Labyrinths, Scripture and Sanctified Art Materials will be available for your reflection, prayer, and/or meditation.

(A labyrinth is a prayer tool to help one focus while praying and/or meditating.

Unfamiliar? A facilitator will be available.)

Questions? Call the church office: 315-524-8561, email ocpcadmin@verizon.net,

Facebook page: First Presbyterian Church of Ontario Center

First Presbyterian Seneca Falls

THE HARDEST PART



LENT 2025

hurt we carry, hope we find

This Lent join us for the Study, *The Hardest Part*. We will meet on Tuesdays, from 12-1 (please, bring your lunch) from March 4- April 15, in the Social Hall. All are welcome.

From Kate Bowler: Lent is a season of truth-telling—a time to stop pretending everything is fine and admit how hard life can be. Lent invites us to sit in the wilderness, to confront the heartbreak, the waiting, and the fragile hope that lives in the tension. And yet, it's also where God meets us—in the mess, in the ache, in the strange, beautiful way love sneaks in when everything feels like it's falling apart.

These Lent guides are designed to be a companion through this season as you pause, reflect, and find the courage to stay with the hard part, trusting that the good part is still coming. Life is this strange, tender mix, isn't it? Joy and sorrow, love and loss, heartbreak and hope, all tangled together. This year, we invite you to embrace Lent as it is—raw, honest, and tender. This is the season that asks us to stop pretending we're holding it all together. It's a time to pause, sit with what's fragile and unfinished, and let God meet us in the hardest parts of our lives.

For the Daily Guide, Click [Here](#)