

Geneva Presbyterian Church

11931 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, MD 20854

(301) 424-4346

www.genevapotomac.org

Rev. Patrick McElwaine, Pastor



Dear friends,

As Christians, much of our faith is cyclical in nature. Cycles of birth, life, death, and resurrection from generation to generation. Cycles of gathering, worship, and sending in Christ's name each week.

Life together as the Body of Christ is also divided into liturgical cycles centering on periods of preparation followed by periods of celebration. The expectation of Advent leads us to the joy of Christmas. The hard work of Confirmation Class leads to the celebratory claiming of faith by adolescent believers. A mustard seed of faith leads to baptism, the love of two people leads to a marriage in God's name, even death itself gives way to the celebration of eternal life with our Creator.

In the months of March and April we will enter another liturgical cycle of preparation and celebration: the Lent-Easter season.

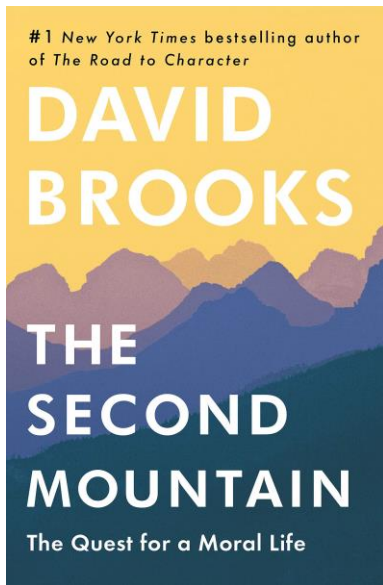
Lent is a time for reflection and repentance as we prepare for the glory of Easter. What part of our life could use atonement, restoration, reparation? What can we let go of for the sake of orienting ourselves more fully toward God? What can we take on or begin anew for the same reason?

Though the work of Lent is serious, it need not be somber. Our reflection, questioning, and seeking are a means to free us from burdens so we may even more fully celebrate God's love at the empty tomb on Easter morning.

This Lent, I hope you will make a special point to attend the Seven Locks Ecumenical Lenten Series. We'll move from church to church through the weeks sharing dinner, fellowship, and programs. This year our theme is a bit tongue in cheek: "1, 2, 3...Not It! A Conversation on Call and Action." The pastor of each participating church (including me!) will share from our personal stories as we talk about God's call: how it's different in every person's life, how to know when it's authentic, and how to respond when God comes knocking. A full schedule is included in this issue of *The Radiant*.

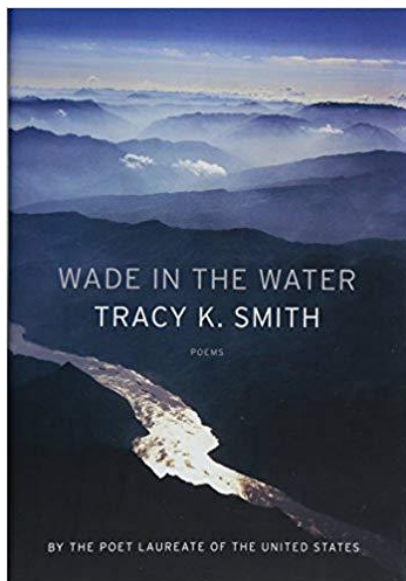
Please also mark your calendar for March 28 at 1:00pm for a one-time event: my Service of Installation as Pastor of Geneva Presbyterian Church. This worship service is an official action of National Capital Presbytery where we will celebrate the new things God is doing at Geneva Presbyterian Church with churches, friends, and pastors from all around the region. There's a reception following, too! Great worship, celebrating our church family, and yummy food: what's not to love?

In this issue of *The Radiant* I'll share two more thought provoking books I've read recently:



The Second Mountain: The Quest For A Moral Life
by David Brooks

Brooks is a regular contributor to *The New York Times*, *PBS NewsHour*, and *Meet the Press*. In this book he explores a “two mountain” shape to life: a move from the self-centered first mountain to the other-centered second mountain. Brooks quotes from a range of Christian (Barth, Tillich, etc.) and interfaith sources to build his case that a truly meaningful life is built on interdependence and commitments made beyond the self.



Wade In The Water
by Tracy K. Smith

As a poet, Tracy K. Smith writes in images to put on paper those deep human experiences that often remain just outside our ability to articulate. As Poet Laureate of the United States, Smith speaks specific truths that must be said at this moment. Her collection of poetry is engaging, unflinching, and boundary pushing. Of particular note for me are her “erasure poems,” wherein she creates poetry by selectively deleting large portions of primary source documents, including the Declaration of Independence and letters written by African Americans enlisted in the Civil War and their family members.

May God's grace and peace be with you as a faithful guide this Lent and Easter season.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Patrick

A Note from Our Music Director!



I hope you've had a blessed year so far! The Handbell Choir just returned from Massanetta Springs where we spent a wonderful weekend ringing with new friends. We've learned so much and have been blessed to be a part of something so magical. Thank you for your continued prayers for travelling mercies and for our wellbeing.

On February 26, we held our Ash Wednesday service and started our Lenten season. During this Lenten season, we will endeavor to continue to have beautiful music sung by our choir and incorporate our handbells into the services. We will continue our tradition to have the handbell choir play on Palm Sunday. This year they will join us on our hymns for the service to dazzle them a bit in praise and welcoming of Jesus!

Maundy Thursday service our choir will sing some new selections by Dan Forrest, a new beloved composer I've discovered. He's particularly adept at resetting familiar text to a new tune. We will be singing "Forsaken", which is based on three separate texts from Psalm 13:1, Luke 22:42, and Matthew 27:46. "How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me?; Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done; And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?". We will also sing a resetting of the well known text "And Can it Be?" Easter Sunday will be a joyous service filled with new arrangements of favorite hymns and descants.

I hope you all have a contemplative and blessed Lenten season. Take this time to reflect on all the blessings God has given you and praise the goodness in His world.

God bless,

Ben

Scripture of the Month



As "People of the Word" it is good for us to meditate on God's Word to us in scripture. Each month we will have a "featured verse" for you to consider and hold close as you go about daily life. Perhaps you'll want to memorize the verse. Perhaps you'll write it on a sticky note, or recite it at stop lights, or make it the background of your phone. We can never have too much scripture in our lives -- what a fun way to focus our hearts together month by month!

March: Psalm 51:10

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

Psalm 51 is traditionally read on Ash Wednesday and is a profound accompanying verse for our Lenten journey to Easter. Repentance, a true turning back to God in word and action, is a key

part of the Lent season. Self examination, honesty with our Creator, and asking for help -- it's all here in this one small verse!

April: Ephesians 2:8-9

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God -- not the result of works, so that no one may boast."

The Presbyterian Church, which flows from the Reformed theological tradition, places special emphasis on grace: God's freely given love that depends only on God's goodness. However you understand salvation, it is God's free gift to the world through Jesus Christ. We cannot earn our own salvation with good works. We cannot do or refrain from doing anything that will make God love us any more or any less than God already does. We are completely, totally loved by God: our responsibility is figuring out how to live in light of that wonderful news.

Pastor Patrick

Update from the Clerk of Session

There is a cartoon published in the New Yorker magazine a while ago entitled "A Presbyterian Thanksgiving". The single panel drawing features a large family seated around a holiday table brimming with food, table settings, centerpiece and, of course, a large turkey. At the head of the table, the patriarch of the family is addressing the table: "Before beginning the celebration of this year's Thanksgiving, we will have a reading of the minutes of last Thanksgiving dinner." A Presbyterian Thanksgiving, indeed!

When I first encountered that cartoon, I was not yet a Presbyterian and so the fullness (and aptness) of the humor eluded me. Having first come to Geneva in the autumn of 2001 and joining soon thereafter, I have come to appreciate that cartoon considerably. All the more so after I became Clerk of Session in early 2014. As Presbyterians, we embrace order, rules and *minutes*!

Prior to being nominated to the office of Clerk of Session, I declined twice when asked by Rev. Anne if I would serve as Clerk. Not wishing to follow Peter's example of three-times denial, on the third persuasive pitch by our dear former Pastor, I accepted. And now as I am completing my second of two three-year terms of service, I am looking to share the opportunity with someone new.

Obviously, the past few years have been years of transitional change. This evolution at GPC is expected to continue in the upcoming years. For the sake of consistency and smooth functioning, I have been asked by Pastor Patrick and Janelle T. (as head of Executive Committee and the Nominating Committee) to stay in the role of Clerk of Session for a bit longer. I have agreed to do so—tentatively for the next six months—or whenever the next Clerk can be found or gently bamboozled into service.

So what does the Clerk actually do? In a nutshell, there is more than the recommended adult dose of record-keeping . . . there is submission of such records to various governing bodies (the National Capital Presbytery being a principle one) . . . there is officiating at certain ceremonies

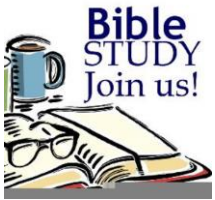
(baptisms, acceptance and presentation of new members, presiding over certain elections etc.). . . there is setting the Session docket (agenda) and participating as an Elder on Session.

On the downside there is a fair amount of minutia in regard to official rules and procedural issues—a former Geneva Clerk of Session from a decade or two ago described the work of the role to me as “not hard, but very precise”. On the upside, the Clerk has among the clearest views of the functioning of our beloved church and the chance to actively participate therein. And one has the considerable joy of working closely with the wonderful officers, staff and other church leaders of GPC.

I am not sure I have done a very good sales job here—but if you have any interest in the office—please seek me out for more information. At that time I will likely dish out the wondrous blessings of the role by the heaping handful—and to find someone to take my place will truly be cause for a Presbyterian Thanksgiving for me (and for GPC)!

Mark Allen

Bible Study Schedule



Carl Perthel's Bible Study class will not meet in March. Dr C's class will meet on Sunday, March 22. She will be teaching on the Ten Commandments.

Geneva Sound System Update

You may have noticed that our church audio has been having intermittent problems lately. This is caused by some recent changes to the public airways that became official this January. The FCC has elected to sell off certain bandwidths used by wireless microphones for use by mobile phones. Our new handheld microphones use the 600 MHz band. These are our newest microphones, purchased in December 2018. But the FCC sold off the 600 MHz band starting in January 2020. Rendering these devices effectively worthless. Sennheiser, the manufacturer has offered a small discount for trade-ins, but it's not much compared to the investment we made to buy them.

Our Lavalier mics, which are used by Pastor Patrick and the Lectors use the 500 MHz band which is still legal. But because of the change to the 600 MHz band, more operators are now using the 500 MHz band. This causes interference, which is impossible to predict. One Sunday, the lector microphone worked fine before the service but erupted in a large noise during service. It had to be turned off. We later re-programmed it for a different frequency in the 500 MHz range, but there is no easy solution for this problem if it occurs during the service.

Geneva received a generous donation from the estate of Owen Allen which was earmarked for the sound system. We're looking into upgrading our microphones, choir mics, and other older equipment. So, there are some sound improvements coming in our future, but there's little we can do about the over-crowding of the airways.

Ken Sprinkle



Join us for our Maundy Thursday service on Thursday, April 9 at 7:00pm.

A Word From Mission

Momentum is gathering behind the work-in-progress, learn-as-you-go Geneva Presbyterian Church Mission efforts. Funds have been approved to give \$500 to a separate cause each month — answering which new or old cause is part of the learning.

Suggestions get made to Jane Campbell more than monthly, and January closed out with us 1 for 1 with doing *something* every month in 2020.

On January 12 there was a showing of 6 Genevans at the Beth Shalom blood drive; 3 Genevans actually bled for the cause! On Sunday February 23 some of us attended the Earth Care movie Hometown Habitat at the Clara Barton Community Center. On March 6th, we (Patrick and Jane, anyway) will be joining Beth Shalom's Social Action Committee to discuss more activities.

On Sunday, January 26, Renee Moloznik volunteered/allowed herself to be volunteered to reach out to the Montgomery County Public Schools Education Foundation, inquiring about one or more of their programs. This may turn up a recipient for the year's first \$500 donation.

Jane Campbell

A Word From the Deacons

The Lent Season began on Ash Wednesday, February 26, and the Deacons and Fellowship Committee have a number of activities planned throughout March and April.

- **Sunday, March 1 – Brunch Church** – We'll meet around tables in the Founders Room and combine Sunday worship, singing, communion and a potluck into one exciting experience. The community, family and friends are invited.
- **Sunday, March 15 – Lent Crafts and Blessing Bags** – We'll meet after our service and create crafts to help us feel inspired during Lent. We will also create Blessing Bags for the Inter-Faith Men and Women's Shelters. The community, family and friends are invited.
- **Sunday, April 5 – Palm Sunday /Easter Crafts** – We'll meet after our service and create Palm Sunday inspired crafts for kids and adults, including folding palms into crosses. The community, family and friends are invited.
- **Sunday, April 12 – Easter Sunday Easter Hunt**– We'll host an Easter Egg Hunt on the grounds behind the Church around 11:45 AM. The community, family and friends are invited.

Ecumenical Lenten Dinner, Study and Worship

The Churches of Seven Locks Road are hosting their annual Ecumenical Lenten Dinner series. The title of the series is "1, 2, 3..... Not it!: A Conversation, Call and Action".

Devotional and Dinner at

6:30 p.m. Programs from 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.

- March 4 – Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 7730 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda
- March 11 – St. James Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac
- March 18 – Seven Locks Baptist Church, 11845 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac
- **March 25 – Geneva Presbyterian Church, 11931 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac**
- April 1 – Ecumenical Celebration – Location TBD

Being a Deacon is a wonderful call to service. Deacons are the "servants" or "caregivers" of the congregation. People have all kinds of needs - they are recovering from surgery, grieving, lonely, ill, or otherwise in a time where they welcome the ministry of care from our congregation. In a very real way, Deacons are the hands and heart of the Church in our ministry of caring.

In a small church like Geneva Presbyterian, pastoral care falls to the Deacons as does the small jobs that allow the Sunday service to run smoothly.

Pastoral care is:

- checking up on our members that we don't see in church on Sunday,
- helping our older members with small jobs around their homes,
- remembering to send a birthday card/anniversary card to members, or
- just calling and talking with a member.

Currently there are only 4 Deacons to tend to these responsibilities and **we need your help!** I challenge you to think about 2 things and step out in faith: first, become a Deacon; or second, **join the Deacons support team by volunteering to help with the weekly service jobs.** You can help with these jobs by **signing up for Sunday service set up on the kiosk in the Narthex.** *Many hands make light work!*

Contact any Deacon or Pastor Patrick for further information or to join our team.

Renee Moloznik	rmoloz@hotmail.com
Bobbie Maxwell	bobbie.k.72@verizon.net
Rosie Perthel	rperthel@hotmail.com
Ludivine Kom Liapoe	ludivinekomliapoe16@gmail.com

Renee Moloznik
Deacon Moderator

Geneva Day School

Geneva is gearing up for the Geneva Parents' Association (GPA) annual Silent and On-line Auction which begins on March 9 and goes through March 15. There is a wide selection of goods including services, restaurants, crab feast, wine and beer baskets, events for children including with some staff, vacation ideas, and more. See the GPA flyer on Page 9 to answer your questions about how to be involved to bid! May your every bid desire win!

An Auction Family Fun Night will be held this year at Badlands, a creative play environment for young children, located close to the school on Randolph Road, on Friday, March 13, just prior to the Auction conclusion. Join the fun between 5:00 – 8:00 p.m., watch children or grandchildren play in various environments and get a peek at some of the wonderful basket items! For more information, go to:

biddingforgood.com/GenevaDaySchool

March also brings a weeklong celebration of Dr. Seuss, one of our favorite children's authors, beginning on March 2. Events throughout the school will be related to such books as *The Cat in the Hat*, *Green Eggs & Ham*, *Wacky Wednesday*, *The Lorax*, and *I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!* Spring Break for Geneva will be April 6-13, with a Spring Break Camp scheduled for April 6-10. After the Break, Geneva will be celebrating two Earth Days for our students on Wednesday and Thursday, April 22 and 23. Join the fun as youngsters enjoy the great outdoors.

April concludes with traditional Spring Conferences held over a 3-day period of April 29-May 1. This is our favorite conference period, as Teachers demonstrate and are happy to discuss the many positive changes and development of all students.

Your Day School Friends wish you a Happy Lent and Joyous Easter!

Warm Regards,
Suzanne Funk, Director

Fellowship Notes

Please note that because of the congregation meeting on Sunday, March 8th, there will not be a 2nd Sunday Potluck in March.

And no potluck in April as Easter falls on the 2nd Sunday.

Our next potluck will be on Sunday, May 17th which will be a barbecue / picnic potluck.

Geneva is looking into a group outing to a Washington Nationals game. If you are interested, please contact Rhonda Ricci.

Rhonda Ricci



ONLINE AUCTION

MARCH 7 - 15TH, 2020

BIDDINGFORGOOD.COM/GENEVADAYSCHOOL

Help Support
Geneva Day School
by bidding on some
amazing Items Online!

Geneva 
 Day School

Encouraging a lifelong love of learning

JOIN US FOR MORE FUN!

MARCH
13TH
5:00 -
8:00 PM

BADLANDS PLAYDATE
& SILENT AUCTION
FUNDRAISER

BUY
TICKETS
ONLINE!



Encouraging a lifelong love of learning

GENEVA TAKES OVER BADLANDS

BADLANDS IS OPENING ESPECIALLY FOR US!

MARCH 13TH FROM 5 PM TO 8 PM

Join us for a Geneva takeover of Badlands with teachers vs parents games, family dance party games and more: all while raising money for Geneva Day School!

Tickets are \$30 for ages 2+

Includes 2 slices of pizza, fruit & Drink

1st Adult Free, additional adults \$5

Children under 2 are free!

- <https://tinyurl.com/qszt4c> -

INVITE FRIENDS, FAMILY AND NEIGHBORS!

VISIT WWW.BADLANDSPLAYSPACE.COM

PURCHASE "GENEVA SPIRIT NIGHT" TICKETS

5200 RANDOLPH RD., ROCKVILLE, MD 20852

Churches of Seven Locks Road Annual Event

ECUMENICAL LENTEN Dinner, Study and Worship

"1, 2, 3...Not It!": Conversation, Call and Action

- | | |
|----------|---|
| March 4 | Emmanuel Lutheran Church
7720 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda |
| March 11 | St. James' Episcopal Church
11815 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac |
| March 18 | Seven Locks Baptist Church
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| March 25 | Geneva Presbyterian Church
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| April 1 | Ecumenical Celebration
location TBD |

**Devotional and Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Program from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m.**

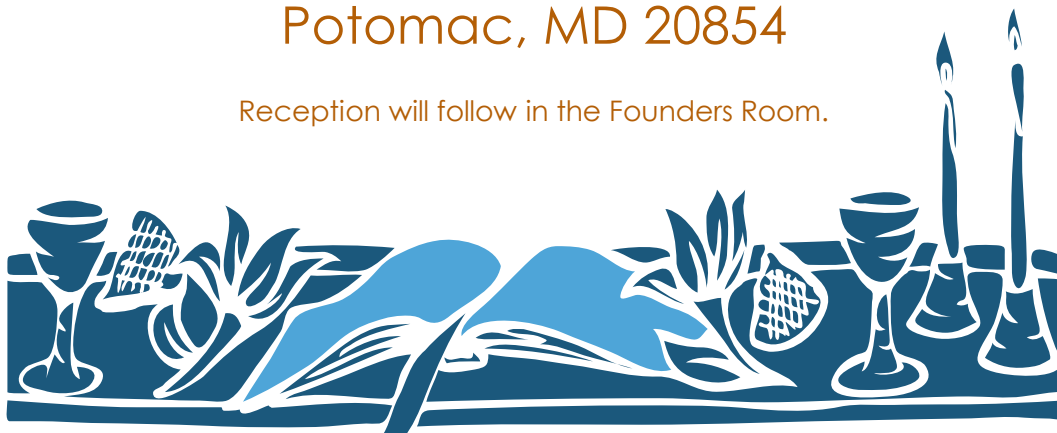


National Capital Presbytery and the Session of Geneva Presbyterian Church invite you to a worship service celebrating the

**Installation of
Rev. Patrick McElwaine as
Pastor of Geneva Presbyterian Church**

Saturday, March 28 at 1:00pm
11931 Seven Locks Rd,
Potomac, MD 20854

Reception will follow in the Founders Room.



March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30am Brunch Church 11:45am Geneva Sanctuary Choir Practice 2:00pm Iglesia 7:00pm AA	2	3 7:00pm Iglesia	4 7:30pm Handbell Choir Practice	5	6	7 7:00pm My Faithful Pastor Ministries 7:00pm Iglesia
8 10:30am Worship 11:45am Annual Congregational Meeting 2:00pm Iglesia 7:00pm AA	9	10 7:00pm Iglesia	11 7:30pm Handbell Choir Practice	12	13	14 7:00pm My Faithful Pastor Ministries 7:00pm Iglesia
15 10:30am Worship 11:45am Lenten Crafts Event 2:00pm Iglesia 7:00pm AA	16 7:00pm Executive Committee	17 7:00pm Iglesia	18 7:30pm Handbell Choir Practice	19	20	21 7:00pm My Faithful Pastor Ministries 7:00pm Iglesia
22 10:30am Worship 11:45am Geneva Sanctuary Choir Practice 2:00pm Iglesia 7:00pm AA	23 7:00pm Session Meeting	24 7:00pm Iglesia	25 7:30pm Handbell Choir Practice	26	27	28 1:00pm Pastor Patrick's Installation Service 7:00pm My Faithful Pastor Ministries 7:00pm Iglesia
29 10:30am Worship 11:45am Geneva Sanctuary Choir Practice 2:00pm Iglesia 7:00pm AA	30	31 7:00pm Iglesia	1 7:30pm Handbell Choir Practice	2	3	4 7:00pm My Faithful Pastor Ministries 7:00pm Iglesia

April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 10:30am Worship 11:45am Geneva Sanctuary Choir Practice 2:00pm Iglesia 7:00pm AA	30	31 7:00pm Iglesia	1 7:30pm Handbell Choir Practice	2	3	4 7:00pm My Faithful Pastor Ministries 7:00pm Iglesia
5 10:30am Worship 10:30am Worship (Communion) 11:45am Lenten Crafts Event 2:00pm Iglesia 7:00pm AA	6	7 7:00pm Iglesia	8 7:30pm Handbell Choir Practice	9	10	11 7:00pm My Faithful Pastor Ministries 7:00pm Iglesia
12 NO SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK 10:30am Worship 11:45am Geneva Sanctuary Choir Practice 2:00pm Iglesia 7:00pm AA	13	14 7:00pm Iglesia	15 7:30pm Handbell Choir Practice	16	17	18 7:00pm My Faithful Pastor Ministries 7:00pm Iglesia
19 10:30am Worship 11:45am Geneva Sanctuary Choir Practice 2:00pm Iglesia 7:00pm AA	20 7:00pm Executive Committee	21 7:00pm Iglesia	22 7:30pm Handbell Choir Practice	23	24	25 7:00pm My Faithful Pastor Ministries 7:00pm Iglesia
26 10:30am Worship 11:45am Geneva Sanctuary Choir Practice 2:00pm Iglesia 7:00pm AA	27 7:00pm Session Meeting	28 7:00pm Iglesia	29 7:30pm Handbell Choir Practice	30	1	2 7:00pm My Faithful Pastor Ministries 7:00pm Iglesia



A GROUP FOR MOTHERS IN EVERY SEASON

FULL OF GRACE

FELLOWSHIP, FUN, AND CRAFTS!

UPCOMING DATES: MAR. 12, MAR. 26, APR. 9, APR. 23
9:00AM – 10:00AM

GENEVA FIRESIDE ROOM
11931 SEVEN LOCKS RD.
POTOMAC, MD 20854



Our group will meet
regularly on the 2nd and
4th Thursdays of the
month!

CHILDCARE PROVIDED – RSVP TO (301) 424-4346

Create in me a clean
heart, O God;
and *renew a right spirit*
within me.

Psalm 51:10



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