

Geneva Presbyterian Church

11931 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, MD 20854

(301) 424-4346 Office

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Rev. Mary Pullen, Interim Pastor

Dear Friends at Geneva,

On January 13, 2019, church services were closed due to the snowstorm we experienced in our area. That Sunday was Baptism of the Lord Sunday. The gospel reading for the day was Luke 3:15-17, 21-22, which tells us of John the Baptist's prediction of the baptism of Jesus, and the actual baptism of Jesus.

With new pastoral leadership coming to Geneva in the near future, we hope that we will have many occasions for baptism if we have new families/babies/children coming to the church at some point. Session has to approve baptisms of course. As a congregation, and as individual Christians, let us remember our baptismal vows.

Please read the article below on the meaning of baptism below from The Rev. David Gambrell, the associate for worship for the Presbyterian Mission Agency's Office of Theology and Worship. It was published in the January/February 2019 issue of *Presbyterians Today*.



To baptize or not to baptize?

On Jan. 13 — the Baptism of Our Lord Sunday — baptismal fonts will be filled, and worshipers will be invited to remember their own baptism. But what does baptism mean? Why are some parents allowing children to decide, when they get older, to be baptized or not? What about families who ask for a baptism but have no ties to a church? How did baptism become a misunderstood sacrament, and is it ever right for a church to say no to a baptismal request? *Presbyterians Today* takes a closer look.

A baptism refresher

By David Gambrell | Presbyterians Today

“As a sacrament in the Reformed tradition, baptism is a divine and human action. Baptism is a gracious gift of God, who claims us in love even before we can speak for ourselves. Baptism is also our grateful response, in which we devote our lives to the giver of life.

The theme of covenant is especially important in the Reformed understanding of baptism. Through the grace of Jesus Christ, we are claimed in the covenant of God’s steadfast love. Furthermore, the community of faith witnessing the baptism makes a commitment to guide and nurture this new member of the body of Christ. Baptism thus involves multiple dimensions of promise: God’s promise to us, our promise to God and our promises to one another.

Out of this strong theme of covenant comes our understanding of baptism as the source or foundation for other commitments in Christian life and ministry, including the promises made at confirmation, ordination and marriage. Just as we rely on God’s grace in baptism, we undertake these new phases and stages in Christian vocation with God’s help.

We understand baptism to be such a serious commitment in Christian life. Baptism is so much more than a way to celebrate a new child. It is the beginning of a new way of life in Jesus Christ, marked by authentic faith, reconciling love, dedicated discipleship and humble service.

It takes a community of faith to support and sustain such a way of life. Therefore, the liturgy for baptism includes the affirmation of the session; promises from parents, sponsors or mentors; and questions to the whole congregation.

Baptism is meant to be a life-changing commitment. Yet, in the mystery of our faith, all this serious business starts in the simplest way imaginable — just a little water and a few words, surrounded by the prayers of the people of God. That’s how new life in Christ begins.”

Blessings,

Mary

Pastor Mary

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE!

Your Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has the ultimate responsibility for nominating a minister to the congregation for election as the next Pastor. The PNC continues to meet weekly and journey through the pastoral search process, seeking to hear the call of Christ and “to participate in God’s own choice” for your next pastor.

As of this writing, the PNC has interviewed several candidates. While, we have more interviews scheduled and we are keeping our candidate funnel open. We continue to believe that the Lord, who works in mysterious ways, is doing so even as we speak . . .

In the pastoral call process, the PNC’s responsibilities include:

- ❖ Completing the congregation’s MIF and submitting it to session and presbytery for approval;
 - DONE!
- ❖ Entering the approved MIF online with Church Leadership Connection (CLC);
 - DONE!
- ❖ Receiving, reading, and evaluating Personal Information Forms (PIF) in a spirit of prayerful openness to the movement of God’s Spirit;
 - DONE!
- ❖ Regularly providing reports to the congregation on the pastoral search progress;
 - ON GOING
- ❖ Narrowing the field of prospective pastors through listening to sermons, reference checking (by both the PNC and the presbytery), and phone conference interviews—all while sharing, listening, and praying together;
 - ONGOING
- ❖ Interviewing face-to-face the “short list” of prospective pastors, providing for a welcoming and hospitable visit to our church community;
 - Our next step!

- ❖ Arranging with the presbytery for the necessary examinations and approvals of our finalists;
- ❖ Selecting one nominee to present to the congregation and negotiating the terms of call;
- ❖ Obtaining presbytery approval of the call;
- ❖ Presenting the nominee to the congregation for its vote;
- ❖ Following the affirmative vote of the congregation, signing the pastoral terms of call for the new pastor;
- ❖ Notifying Church Leadership Connection (CLC) when a call has been extended and accepted.

If you have any questions about the progress of the PNC or the procedures, please feel free to contact any of the PNC members

Jane Campbell – *Co-Chair*

Elaine Winch – *Co-Chair*

Bob Ricci

Sheri Sankey

Renee Moloznik



Geneva Day School

Geneva Day School, your school, wishes its many church friends a Happy Advent and Christmas Season, and a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year of 2019! During December, the school was very much engaged in making holiday gifts and cards for parents, learning new songs with actions, and making decorations for school and home. The annual Kindergarten Winter and Holiday Program was amazing with many songs, movements and props to put a smile on everyone's face and the holiday spirit in their hearts.

Geneva was closed for a two-week Winter Break period, with the school offering a one-week Winter Break Camp under the leadership of Ms. Daisy Lizama. Everyone will return to school on January 2.

The new and mid-year period often brings great strides in learning of our young scholars. By then, they are comfortable in the new school year, have made some new friends, and are starting to demonstrate new skills and talents. This, of course, takes time and Geneva teachers are patient as they allow each child to develop at their own rate and in their own time. Though this happens every year, it is always amazing to witness the growth in every student.

Families are getting ready to register their children for the next school year of 2019-2020. Please recommend family and friends to consider Geneva for their own youngsters. They are invited to take a personal tour at their convenience to visit classes and the facilities.

The school looks forward to the continuation of a great year of playing and learning with wonderful children. Again, have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Warm Regards,
Suzanne Funk
Director - Geneva Day School

GENEVA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2019 LENTEN AND EASTER SERVICES

Ash Wednesday, March 6, 7:00 pm
Passion/Palm Sunday, April 14, 10:30 am
Maundy Thursday, April 18, 7:00 pm
Easter Sunday, April 21, 10:30 am



GPC DEACONS UPDATE

Advent is a time for bringing people together to get ready for Christmas and celebrate the Birth of Jesus. To publicize all our wonderful traditions, Veronica designed a postcard and flyer with all of Geneva's Advent events and the postcards were mailed to our local communities and all students at Geneva Day School. Geneva's deacons and all their willing helpers did Geneva proud getting all the traditions completed.

First, Geneva was decorated inside and out on Saturday, Dec. 1, during the Hanging of the Greens. Wreaths were hung, trees were decorated with lights and ornaments. Pizza lunch was provided to all our helpers.

On the first Sunday of Advent, our members and friends enjoyed making Christmas ornaments and beverage coasters. They also created 70 Blessing Bags filled with shampoo, soap, socks, toothbrushes, snacks and gift cards. The Mission committee provided \$25 gift cards for the bags. Each church member took several bags to spread Christmas cheer to someone less fortunate. The bulk of the bags were donated to Stepping Stones Shelter in Rockville.

The second Sunday of Advent was the Chili Cook-off and Sing-a-long. Maria, again, was our "official" judge for the best tasting chili. We had a variety of chilis – mild, spicy, vegetarian, vegan; along with delicious cornbread and desserts. The sing-a-long was led by Ben Shaver on his piano and everyone had a wonderful time.

The highlight of our third Sunday of Advent was the choir's singing of the Messiah during our service. A reception was held after the service.

The fourth Sunday of Advent was highlighted by the Geneva Bell Choir performance during the service and donuts afterward.

Our Christmas Eve service was beautiful with both choirs – Singing and Bell Choir playing and singing Christmas carols. One of my favorite highlights was the singing of Silent Night with our candles. After the service, each person was given a special ornament for their tree. Thank you to Rhonda Ricci and Sheena Galliani for organizing the ornaments.

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.

These small jobs that allow our Sunday service to run smoothly include:

- setting up of the Sanctuary,
- greeting those attending the service,
- ushering,
- serving communion once a month,
- taking down the Sanctuary after the service.

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 Rev. Mary for further information or to join our team.

Renee Moloznik
Bobbie Maxwell
Rosie Perthel
Ludivine Kom Liapoe

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CHRISTMAS 2018



**Hanging
of the
Greens!**





Christmas Crafts and Hot Cocoa Day!



Geneva Presbyterian Church

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 10:30am Worship 11:45am Sanctuary Choir Practice 2:00pm Iglesia 7:00pm AA	31	1 7:00pm Iglesia	2 7:30pm Handbell Practice	3	4	5 7:00pm My Faithful Pastor Ministries 7:00pm Iglesia
6 10:30am Worship (Communion/Intinction) 11:45am Sanctuary Choir Practice 2:00pm Iglesia 7:00pm AA	7	8 7:00pm Iglesia	9 7:30pm Handbell Practice	10	11	12 7:00pm My Faithful Pastor Ministries 7:00pm Iglesia
13 10:30am Worship 2:00pm Iglesia 7:00pm AA	14 7:00pm Executive - Session Joint Meeting	15 7:00pm Iglesia	16 7:30pm Handbell Practice	17	18	19 7:00pm My Faithful Pastor Ministries 7:00pm Iglesia
20 10:30am Worship 11:45am Sanctuary Choir Practice 2:00pm Iglesia 7:00pm AA	21 OFFICE CLOSED	22 7:00pm Iglesia	23 7:30pm Handbell Practice	24	25	26 7:00pm My Faithful Pastor Ministries 7:00pm Iglesia
27 10:30am Worship 11:45am Sanctuary Choir Practice 2:00pm Iglesia 7:00pm AA	28 7:00pm Executive - Session Joint Meeting	29 7:00pm Iglesia	30 7:30pm Handbell Practice	31	1	2 7:00pm My Faithful Pastor Ministries 7:00pm Iglesia

Geneva Presbyterian Church

February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 10:30am Worship 11:45am Sanctuary Choir Practice 2:00pm Iglesia 7:00pm AA	28 7:00pm Executive - Session Joint Meeting	29 7:00pm Iglesia	30 7:30pm Handbell Practice	31	1	2 7:00pm My Faithful Pastor Ministries 7:00pm Iglesia
3 10:30am Worship (Communion/Intinction) 11:45am Sanctuary Choir Practice 2:00pm Iglesia 7:00pm AA	4	5 7:00pm Iglesia	6 7:30pm Handbell Practice	7	8	9 7:00pm My Faithful Pastor Ministries 7:00pm Iglesia
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17 10:30am Worship 11:45am Sanctuary Choir Practice 2:00pm Iglesia 7:00pm AA	18 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00pm Executive Committee	19 7:00pm Iglesia	20 7:30pm Handbell Practice	21	22	23 7:00pm My Faithful Pastor Ministries 7:00pm Iglesia
24 10:30am Worship 11:45am Sanctuary Choir Practice 2:00pm Iglesia 7:00pm AA	25 7:00pm Session Meeting	26 7:00pm Iglesia	27 7:30pm Handbell Practice	28	1	2 7:00pm My Faithful Pastor Ministries 7:00pm Iglesia

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

The inclement weather policy for Geneva is as follows:

If the Montgomery County Schools are closed, the church office is closed. If the Montgomery County Schools close early, the office will close early. If the Montgomery County Schools open late, the office will open at the regular time of 10:00 am.



Sundays: If inclement weather is predicted for a Sunday, a decision will be made by Pastor Mary and the Elders on the Saturday immediately before the Sunday Service in question.

For example, if a snow/ice storm is forecast for Sunday, Jan 20, the decision would be made on Saturday, Jan 19, and an all-church email will be sent out. Phone calls will be made to those who do not have email.

Please use your own judgment about coming to services if the weather is "iffy." We don't want anyone to get in an accident coming to church, or fall on ice/snow in the parking lot. If in doubt, err on the side of caution and stay home.



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