

Geneva Presbyterian Church

11931 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, MD 20854

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www.genevapotomac.org

Rev. Patrick McElwaine, Pastor

Dear Friends at Geneva,

These past weeks have been filled with many “firsts” for me here at Geneva Presbyterian Church, and now it’s time for me to add my voice to The Radiant for the first time. I will begin by saying thank you for your warm welcome of the entire McElwaine family. Your support and kindness have made all the difference during our transition to a new home and new rhythms of life.



An important goal of mine is for us to get to know each other better in the coming weeks and months. As we have begun to worship, eat, and meet together, three things are already clear to me about Geneva Presbyterian Church:

This is a church of deep relationships. We are deeply connected with God and keep that relationship at the forefront of our daily lives. We are deeply connected with each other and are bound together by Christ’s own love. We are deeply connected with God’s good world: our neighbors, creatures great and small, and all of creation that testifies to God’s glory.

This is a church of generosity. We are tangibly generous with our love and energy like Jesus. We commit our time and financial resources to God’s work like the early Church. We share generously knowing that all our blessings are gifts from God.

This is a church with a great future ahead. The Holy Spirit is preparing us and leading us into a new day of life together here at Geneva Presbyterian Church.

God is doing a new thing and each one of us is specifically gifted and chosen to participate in our own way.

Jesus, the Head of the Church, has called us together in this place for a reason. God is using Geneva Presbyterian Church to build up the Kingdom and our job is to listen, trust, and step out in faith together. Thank you for inviting me and my family to walk alongside you on this journey: it is a joy and an honor to serve the Lord with you.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Patrick

Thank You from the McElwaine Family

Do you remember the final scene in Miracle On 34th Street when Susie gets her house from Santa Clause? Ever since we first pulled onto Milbern Drive, that is how I've felt. As Susie says, "It's just as I knew it would be!"

The house on Milbern Drive is more than just a house. It is where Malachi and Bridget will grow up, where so many of our dreams have already come true, and where we now call home.

I feel like Susie in that final scene of the film: grateful, awestruck, and gleeful all at once. Not just for our new home, but also because of the kind and wonderfully warm welcome that y'all have given us. From home cooked meals in the refrigerator, a stocked pantry, cleaning supplies, and beautiful flowers to line the front porch, the whole experience feels very much like something out of a Norman Rockwell painting.

In one of the night time stories we read Malachi and Bridget it reads, "Even the smallest of things that you do blossom and multiply far beyond you. A kindness for instance may triple for days or set things in motion in different ways..."

Your kindness has multiplied in so many ways for our family.

I know that God has blessed the road that led us to be with you all here and now. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you.

*Thank
You*

Allyson McElwaine

Geneva Ladies' Lunch!



Our next Geneva Ladies Lunch will be on Saturday, **October 12th at Noon at Mama Lucia in Fallsgrrove.** Our very special guest will be Allyson McElwaine. Join us for lunch and get to know Allyson. If you need transportation, please contact Rhonda Ricci at rhondaricci@aol.com

HOMEcoming SUNDAY BBQ!

On **Sunday, September 22** we will have a church barbecue. Join us for hot dogs, hamburgers and veggie burgers. Plan to bring your favorite dish to share with your friends. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Please sign up to grill, set up or clean up. Many hands make light work!



AN UPDATE FROM OUR TREASURERS

From a budgetary perspective, this has been an interesting year. Normally, every November the Executive Committee develops and presents a budget to Session for the following year. In this process, we look at our income and expenses for the current and prior years, and then attempt to predict what the next year's income and expenses will be. At times it is an art as much as a science.

During years when not much changes, our "predictions" - the budget - can be fairly accurate. But this year in particular has not been a typical year. Several things have changed during the year, which have had a major impact on our budget.

Our interim minister Reverend Mary retired at the end of January. During the search for a Stated Supply pastor, we were (fortunately) able to hire Reverend Mary again for a 3-month period, from March through May. Then, of course, our Pastoral Nominating Committee completed their work and found our new permanent minister, Pastor Patrick. And that involved creating a new financial contract - none of which we knew in the prior November budget meeting.

In addition, we renovated both our church (the Narthex, upstairs bathrooms, etc.) as well as the Manse, which also had a major impact on the budget. And although we attempted to estimate most of this in our prior year budget meeting, I am sure the estimates will turn out to be different from the actual expenses - we will see at year's end.

Having said all that, Geneva is doing well. Executive and Session continue to carefully monitor our expenses and income each month, and I do not foresee any major financial issues that will derail our work and mission to our community.

Please continue to faithfully support our church with your time, talents and treasure, and please be patient with me at our next congregational meeting, if our budget and the actual numbers did not exactly match up for the year.

Thank you,

Rolf Winch

Dates to Remember!

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Sunday, Sept. 22 | 11:45 AM Homecoming Sunday BBQ! |
| Sunday, Oct. 6 | 11:45 AM World Communion Sunday |
| Friday & Saturday, Oct. 11 & 12 | 8:00 PM Songs For A New World – Concert |
| Saturday, Oct. 12 | 12:00PM Geneva Ladies' Luncheon |
| Sunday, Oct. 13 | 9:00 AM Breakfast Potluck! |

Support the Rotary and own a Classic car for as little as \$25



Would you like to own a classic 1969 Chevrolet Impala convertible for as little as \$25? You can if you are the lucky winner of a classic car raffle being conducted by the Rotary Club of Gaithersburg! And, by participating in the raffle, you will contribute to the numerous charities funded by the Gaithersburg

Rotary Foundation , such as dictionaries for 3rd grade students in Gaithersburg, college scholarships for students of Gaithersburg and Quince Orchard High Schools, and numerous grants to local and international charitable organizations.

A ticket drawing will be held in late October at a date to be announced. If not enough tickets are sold to pay for the car, the funds will be split with the Gaithersburg rotary Foundation and the winner as a 50/50. So, buy your tickets now! More information about the car can be viewed online

www.gaithersburgrotary.org!

AN UPDATE FROM MISSION

Everyone in the congregation belongs to at least two committees. Everyone belongs to Fellowship, and everyone belongs to Mission.

The #1 mission of Geneva Presbyterian Church is the Geneva Day School. It's easy to forget that the day school is our mission — it's a grownup now, and it doesn't always need us. But it is right in the middle of everything we do, and we need to keep doing it well.

The day school welcomes volunteers from the church to do things like read to children, do scissor work, do art projects with children, and more. If you are willing and able to volunteer at the day school, please call or email Amanda White.

That said, we have other resources of time, treasure, and talent. I (Jane) continue as a mission chair in search of one or more mission themes. What is (our) mission?

Who is The Little Church with the Big Heart? 

What contributions do we make to our community and our world? 

Now that I'm asking this question, I'm getting some really helpful input! Please keep it coming!

-**Jane Campbell**, Chair of Mission



Geneva Day School has had a very busy summer, and an especially amazing summer camp! 200 youngsters enrolled with 40 volunteer counselors and 90 paid staff working at various times over the 11 week period! Weekly themes guided the many activity choices each day, with at least one special interactive program presented during the week. Ms. Daisy Lizama is commended for her amazing organization of another summer of appropriate yet exciting experiences. She and Ms. Debra Lieberman both celebrated their 20th anniversary of working summer camp this year!

The Geneva office staff have been busy over the summer responding to many requests for information about the school and providing personal tours of the



facility. It continued the application and registration process, tracked the return of required forms and payment, worked with families to design the best program for children and their families, and concluded many tasks involved at the end of a school year. It was also getting ready for the new year, the 55th of the school! It updated staff and parent handbooks, planned and conducted August training and meetings, disseminated summer mailings to all families, prepared information for the Parent-Child visitations, and supported staff in a wide range of administrative tasks as requested. Many thanks to Mrs. Amanda White and Mrs. Amantha Linkie for their usual great work!

Geneva was ready for its new and returning students for the first days of school which officially began on September 3. Some parents had as many tears as they young children at first, especially those who had never been apart, but now both young and older seem comfortable. We celebrated with the traditional Welcome Back Social on September 6. Pizza, popsicles, and play on the playground were enjoyed by all! The gathering made a large celebratory circle by holding hands to create a human conductor circuit to demonstrate how important everyone is at Geneva – And we made the light shine!

Several Geneva staff resigned last year and were replaced by new faces this fall. Mrs. Carol Rushing is working in Kindergarten, Mrs. Carrie Mazur is working in Mrs. Landres' Class, and Mrs. Joyce Oranje is working in Ms. Lizama's Class. Geneva was not able to "replace" Mrs. Heidi Gharib, our special Extended Care Coordinator and Teaching Assistant of 39 years, but it was able to collect several staff to provide this important coverage for students in the early morning and after school. Mr. Lucas Johnson will be the After Care Coordinator each afternoon.

Classes have all been thoroughly cleaned, painted, with carpets and all toys washed, and furniture has been repositioned. Bulletin boards are covered and awaiting pictures from new students. Please feel free to walk around and notice the amazing rooms where so much learning and fun are already taking place! You can really imagine how staff are "encouraging a lifelong love of learning" in every classroom!

Have a beautiful fall season!

Warm Regards,

Suzanne Funk

Director - Geneva Day School

An Update from our Music Director!

Good Day Geneva!

I wanted to start off by welcoming our new pastor, Rev. Patrick McElwaine, his wife Allyson and their two children Bridget and Malachi. His riveting sermons, prayers, and positive energy are most gratifying and refreshing at Geneva! I'm looking forward to working alongside Pastor McElwaine in the years to come.

As the school year is gearing up to go, I too am gearing up for an exciting Fall at Geneva! Our choir will join us for services starting September 8th, so you'll want to be sure to come and hear them! Amber, Katie, and Derrick will be joining Rolf, Elaine, and Jane in the choir loft again! If you would like to join our forces, all are invited and encouraged to do so. We meet Sundays at 9:30 am to warm-up and go through hymns & service music. Then we rehearse after church until 1:00 p.m. All are invited and welcome!

On August 21, our Handbell Choir began rehearsing! We have two new ringers, Beth Shermann and Allyson McElwaine. We are elated that they will be joining our team! I would also like to welcome back Robin Kough to the choir. This year we are 11 ringers strong. I'm overwhelmed with gratitude and excitement for the possibilities. We will have a concert on November 22, at 7:30 p.m. Mark your calendars! You'll not want to miss it! We'll be playing some wonderful arrangements of familiar songs such as Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" and "Fly Me to the Moon".

The first concert of the season will be in October 11th & 12th at 8:00PM. We will be performing Jason Robert Brown's "Songs for a New World". This musical theatrical song cycle is tied together by a theme: "the moment of decision." Composer Brown has said "It's about one moment. It's about hitting the wall and having to make a choice, or take a stand, or turn around and go back." Amongst our four person cast will be Amber, Katie, and Derrick, so some familiar faces doing what they love to do most- perform musical theater! So mark your calendars and invite your family and friends for a wonderful, free concert!

There's so much to look forward to at Geneva and I hope you're getting as excited as I am!

With Peace,

Ben Shaver

CLERK OF SESSION

Fans of old movies may occasionally reference a cinema classic from Hollywood's Golden Age to illustrate some point or other. There may be some honest debate about what constitutes an "old movie". For some of us, it would seem odd to refer to Shawshank Redemption as an "old movie", however it was released in 1994, thus making it 25 years old this year.

So please indulge me as I reference Shawshank Redemption and draw a strained and stretched-out analogy between Tim Robbins' character Andy Dufresne and the GPC's Clerk of Session (me). A climatic moment being Andy, after years of incarceration, escaping through a 500 foot pipe of raw sewage to gain release/redemption in the purifying rain of freedom—that is just like your Clerk's situation early in the summer (minus the raw sewage, admittedly).

After years of ignoring the call to have the Session records reviewed by the National Capital Presbytery, on May 29th the minutes/records of the past several years were reviewed with comments/recommendations made by Sara Coe. The records received "Approval with exceptions noted" --the exceptions being more clerical and administrative than substantive. Like Andy of Shawshank, it felt liberating and cleansing after so many years to be free of the yoke of oppression . . . perhaps I am overstating matters a little bit!

One small issue that came up during the review of Geneva's Session records was that of Congregational Minutes . . . they are entered into the record, however there is not a clear mechanism for sharing them with the congregation. With the publication of this issue of the Radiant, it seems appropriate to share them with you all now.

Please find them immediately below:

Congregational Meeting of Geneva Presbyterian Church--Meeting Minutes—July 07, 2019

A Congregational Meeting of Geneva Presbyterian Church was called to order on July 07, 2019 by the Reverend Ed Taylor serving as Moderator. As the meeting opened, the congregation was led in prayer by the Moderator.

Verification of a Quorum: Rev. Taylor asked the Clerk of Session to verify the presence of a quorum in keeping with GPC Bylaw 3.9. Mark Allen (C. of S.) confirmed that a quorum of more than 20 members in good standing was in place.

Appointment of a Secretary to the Congregational Meeting: In keeping with GPC Bylaw 3.4, Rev. Taylor announced that Mark Allen as Clerk of Session was to serve as Secretary of the Congregational Meeting.

Confirmation of Appropriate Notice for Scheduling the Congregational Meeting: Rev. Taylor requested and received verbal confirmation from the Clerk of Session, M. Allen, that the guidelines (GPC Bylaw 3.2) had been followed in scheduling and announcing this Congregational Meeting.

Stated Purpose of the Congregational Meeting: Rev. Taylor outlined that the purpose of the Congregational meeting was for the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), who had requested the meeting, to present its report to the Congregation. There will be an opportunity for the PNC to receive questions from the Congregation. It is expected that at the conclusion of the PNC Report and response to any questions, the name of a candidate for Installed Pastor will be put forward, a ballot distributed to all active members in attendance at this meeting and a vote taken regarding the candidate.

Report from the PNC: Each member of the PNC (Jane Campbell, Renee Moloznik, Bob Ricci, Sheri Sankey and Elaine Winch) shared with the congregation brief narratives describing their experiences, insights and conclusions regarding the search for new pastor for GPC. The PNC also expressed great appreciation to the leadership and collaboration of Terry Murray who served as the Liaison from the National Capital Presbytery to GPC's PNC. The PNC offered their strong and unanimous endorsement of the Rev. Patrick E. McElwaine and officially nominated him for the position of Installed Pastor of GPC.

Rev. Taylor solicited any questions to the PNC from the congregation regarding any aspect of the process of arriving at the selection of Rev. McElwaine as the nominated candidate.

While several general comments expressing appreciation for the effort and outcome of the PNC were voiced, no questions were posed.

Explanation of the Voting Process: Rev. Taylor explained that all active members of the GPC rolls in attendance would be able to vote. The ballot contains three options (Yes, No, and Abstain) and each member receives one vote. The vote is for both for the nominee (Rev. Patrick McElwaine) to be offered the position of Installed Pastor and for the “Terms of Call”.

When all members have received and marked their ballots, the three designated counters (Mark Allen, Katie Harris and John Wright) will collect the anonymous ballots and tally the votes in accordance with directions provided to them previously by Rev. Taylor.

Results of the Vote: The counters having tabulated the ballots and re-checked them a second time for accuracy, provided the outcome to Rev. Taylor who announced the results to the congregation. There were 42 ballots collected and counted. All 42 were marked as “Yes” with no abstentions or “No” votes. A member of the PNC, Sheri Sankey, provided the voting results to Rev. McElwaine who had been sequestered in the church office during the congregational meeting held in the sanctuary.

Presentation of Rev. McElwaine: The vote having been conducted and the results announced, Rev. McElwaine and his wife, Allyson were heartily welcomed into the GPC sanctuary to join the congregation for the conclusion of the Congregational Meeting.

Dissolution of the PNC: Their arduous task having been successfully completed, a motion was made, seconded and carried to dissolve the PNC. The members were dismissed with the GPC congregation’s profound appreciation for their outstanding service.

Adjournment of the Congregation Meeting: The business of the Congregation Meeting having been concluded a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and carried. The Congregational Meeting was ended with a prayer led by Rev. McElwaine.

*Submitted to the Radiant on August 23, 2019 by **GPC Clerk of Session, Mark Allen.***



GPC needs your help!

Geneva Presbyterian Church is actively searching for help in the nursery on Sunday mornings and special occasions (concerts and holidays). Individual(s) must have a background check, be CPR certified, have reliable transportation and ideally would have experience with special needs children.

Help is needed from 9am to 12pm on Sunday mornings. If you have any recommendations, ideas, or referrals please contact Allyson McElwaine at asmcelwaine@gmail.com

In related news...

Coming soon! Right here at Geneva Presbyterian Church, we will be starting a Mom's group. We plan to gather together to support one another along the journey of parenthood. Remarkable things happen when moms come together, face to face. Come join us for fellowship, fun, and wonderful conversation. Can't wait to see you there! Details to follow!



Manse Update 2019



The Manse update began on June 15, as soon as the tenants moved out of the manse.

Actually, the planning began as soon as PNC determined that Pastor Patrick was our new pastor! The Manse committee included Renee Moloznik, Sheena Galliani, Rhonda Ricci, Amanda White, Rolf Winch and our amazing contractors – Alberto and Lilly Alvarado. The planning and work included gutting the kitchen, new appliances, removing the wall between the kitchen and dining room, new flooring in the dining room and kitchen, updating 2 ½ bathrooms, refinishing the living room floors, removing the



After...



broken sink in the family room, painting inside the entire house, replacing plumbing in the laundry room, replacing all the window locks, washing all the windows, power-washing the outside of the house, painting the front door and front of the house. Whew!

The project was completed on August 1, just as Pastor Patrick and Allyson, rolled into town. Many issues were discovered as we worked through the house and those issues were handled and fixed, so our Pastor and his family have a safe and comfortable home. A huge Thank You to Alberto and Lilly and all the contractors – electricians, plumbers, cabinet installer, who helped to make the manse as beautiful as it is. Pastor Patrick and Allyson, Bridget and Malachi love their new home. Welcome Home!



Before...



After...



Geneva Presbyterian Church

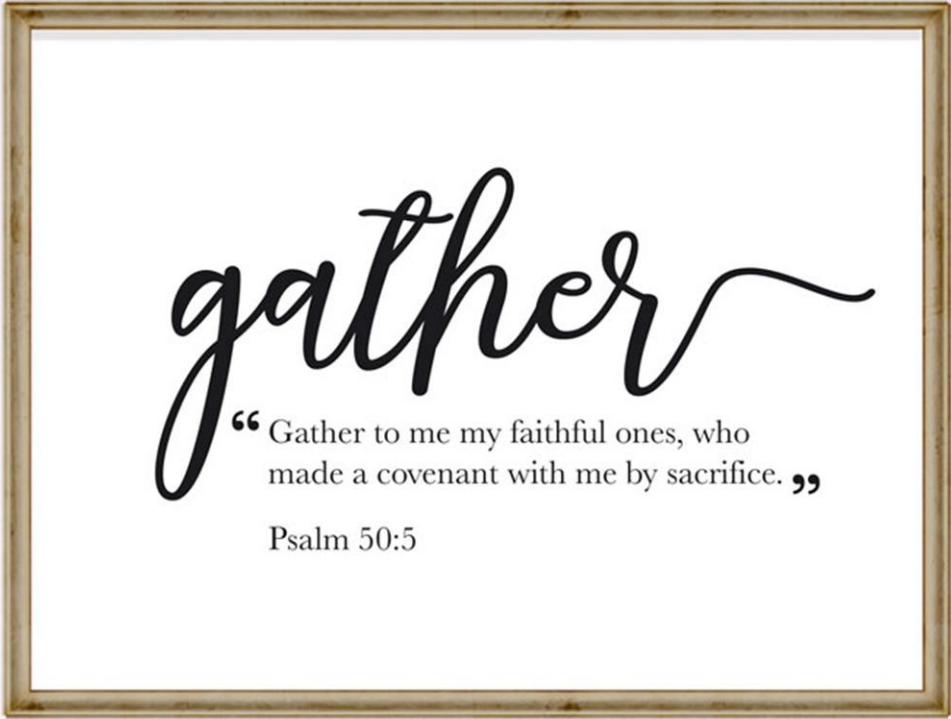
September 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|-----------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|---|
| 1 10:30am Worship (Communion) 2:00pm Iglesia 7:00pm AA | 2 | 3 7:00pm Iglesia | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 7:00pm My Faithful Pastor Ministries 7:00pm Iglesia |
| 8 10:30am Worship 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 Geneva Sanctuary Choir Practice 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 HOMECOMING BBQ! 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 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 | 1 7:00pm Iglesia | 2 7:30pm Handbell Choir Practice | 3 | 4 | 5 7:00pm My Faithful Pastor Ministries 7:00pm Iglesia |

Geneva Presbyterian Church

October 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|-----------------------------|---|-----------|---|--|
| 29 10:30am Worship 11:45am Geneva Sanctuary Choir Practice 2:00pm Iglesia 7:00pm AA | 30 | 1 7:00pm Iglesia | 2 7:30pm Handbell Choir Practice | 3 | 4 | 5 7:00pm My Faithful Pastor Ministries 7:00pm Iglesia |
| 6 10:30am Worship (Communion) 11:45am Geneva Sanctuary Choir Practice 2:00pm Iglesia 7:00pm AA | 7 | 8 7:00pm Iglesia | 9 7:30pm Handbell Choir Practice | 10 | 11 8:00pm Songs For A New World | 12 12:00pm Geneva Ladies' Luncheon 7:00pm My Faithful Pastor Ministries 7:00pm Iglesia 8:00pm Songs For A New World |
| 13 9:00am Breakfast Potluck at GPC! 10:30am Worship 11:45am Geneva Sanctuary Choir Practice 2:00pm Iglesia 7:00pm AA | 14 | 15 7:00pm Iglesia | 16 7:30pm Handbell Choir Practice | 17 | 18 | 19 7:00pm My Faithful Pastor Ministries 7:00pm Iglesia |
| 20 10:30am Worship 11:45am Geneva Sanctuary Choir Practice 2:00pm Iglesia 7:00pm AA | 21 7:00pm Executive Committee | 22 7:00pm Iglesia | 23 7:30pm Handbell Choir Practice | 24 | 25 | 26 7:00pm My Faithful Pastor Ministries 7:00pm Iglesia |
| 27 10:30am Worship 11:45am Geneva Sanctuary Choir Practice 2:00pm Iglesia 7:00pm AA | 28 7:00pm Session Meeting | 29 7:00pm Iglesia | 30 7:30pm Handbell Choir Practice | 31 | 1 | 2 7:00pm My Faithful Pastor Ministries 7:00pm Iglesia |



gather

“Gather to me my faithful ones, who
made a covenant with me by sacrifice.”

Psalm 50:5



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