

DECEMBER 24, 2021



Christmas
EVE

GENEVA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11931 Seven Locks Road
Potomac, MD 20854
(301) 424-4346
www.genevapotomac.org

Rev. Patrick McElwaine, Pastor

Geneva Presbyterian Church
Lessons and Carols by Candlelight

December 24, 2021

Christmas Eve

5:00pm

Prelude

“In the Bleak Midwinter”
“Ding Dong Merrily on High”
Geneva Handbell Quartet

Welcome to Christmas Eve Worship

Lighting the Christ Candle

Emmanuel Mbi

Call to Worship

J. W. Howell

Leader: Tonight old dreams pass away and new dreams come to life.
The promise is fulfilled!

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Leader: Hope gives way to joy and prayer to proclamation.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Leader: Our candles illuminate God’s story. Dawn comes to the land of midnight.
The Light of the World has come.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Leader: And this light is a light for all; igniting a flame within the soul, warming us
from within, radiating love, lighting our lives with the presence of God-come-
alive in human flesh: within us, among us, now and always.

ALL: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will to all!

Gathering Carol

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

#182 (vs. 1, 2)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold Him,
born the King of angels; O come, let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, Sing all ye citizens of heav’n above;
Glory to God, all glory in the highest: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

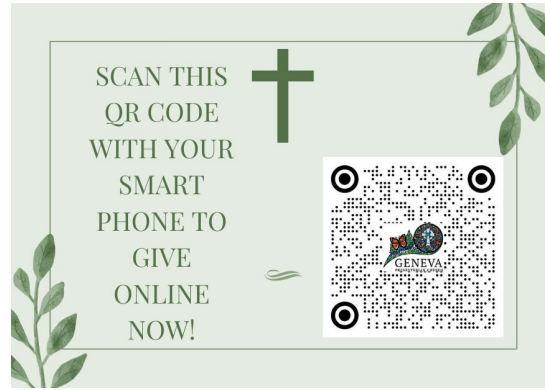
A Christmas Prayer

Time for Children

Our Christmas Eve Offering

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication



Carol **#183 (vs. 1, 2, 4)**

“Once in Royal David’s City”

Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall:
With the poor and meek and lowly lived on earth, our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love;
For that child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heaven above:
And He leads His children on to the place where He has gone.

First Lesson *Mike Sydoriak*

Isaiah 9:2, 6

Carol *Sally Ann Morris*

“The People who Walked in Darkness”

Second Lesson *Kyla Lupo*

Luke 1:26-33, 38

Carol *arr. John Rutter*

“The Angel Gabriel”

Third Lesson *Carl Perthel*

Luke 2:1-7

Carol *Gustav Holst*

“In the Bleak Midwinter”
(lyrics on next page)

In the Bleak Midwinter 144

1 In the bleak mid-win - ter, frost - y wind made moan;
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there;
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim thronged the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 but his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

‡ in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
 ‡ wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Though this text describes winter weather in England rather than in Palestine, the poet is using familiar surroundings as a means of making the Nativity more immediate and personal. The tune name honors a Gloucestershire village near the composer's birthplace in Cheltenham.

TEXT: Christina Rossetti, c. 1872, alt.
 MUSIC: Gustav Holst, 1906

CRANHAM
 Irregular

Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:8-14

Robyn Alexander

Carol

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Geneva Handbell Quartet

Fifth Lesson

Luke 2:15-20

Sara Torrence

Carol

“Away in a Manger”

#203

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He
lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

Christmas Homily

“The Beauty and the Pain”

Rev. Patrick McElwaine



Geneva tradition is to share God's light from the Christ candle at this point of the service. We hope everyone present will participate, whether you're here online or in person. We ask that you please:

- Turn on your video camera if you are worshiping online and comfortable doing so.*
- Lift your candle, tea light, hands, or heart in celebration as the words below are read.*

Passing the Christmas Flame

written by Elaine Brasted

So holy is this wondrous night,
that our hearts are filled with joy,
for God turned darkness into
light, With the birth of a baby boy.
The heavens rejoice, the angels
sing, And the whole world in reply
Praises the Messiah, the anointed king
With glory to God on high.
May the glow of this candle light our
way To reach out to those in need,
So as faithful servants day by day,
We may serve God's people
indeed.

Carol

"Silent Night! Holy Night!"

#186

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child;
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure Light,
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angles let us sing
"Alleluia" to our king;
"Christ the Savior is born!"
"Christ the Savior is born!"

Moment for Silent Prayer

Carol

“Joy to the World”

#179 (vs. 1 & 4)

Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

Benediction

Rev. Patrick McElwaine

Carol

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

#182 (vs. 3)

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to Thee be all glory given; Word
of the Father, now in flesh appearing; O come, let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord. Amen.

Postlude

“Go Tell it on the Mountain”
“We Wish You A Merry Christmas”
Geneva Handbell Quartet





Names in bold are new prayer list additions.

The work, worship, pastor and leadership of Geneva.

Comfort for the Family and Friends of

Elaine Brasted;

Jim Torrence;

The family and friends of John McKenna, friend of Jim and Sara Torrence

Ray Johnson, father of Katie Harris;

Ruth Harris, mother of Jim Harris

Derrick Brown, family of Scott Brown

Healing and Comfort for

Ellie Alexander, health concerns;

Barbara and Paul Prosswimmer, health concerns;

Rosie Perthel, health concerns;

Carole Haller, health concerns;

Jan Sengers, colleague of Sara Torrence, health concerns

Earl Baker, friend of Sara and Jim Torrence, health concerns

Bill Bryan, father of Letitia Denaburg, health concerns;

Pepe Marin, continued treatment for cancer;

Diane Skinner, Allyson McElwaine's mom, shoulder surgery

Jack, friend of Kyla and Vince Lupo

Nancy Rawson, hip replacement surgery

Robin Kough, cancer treatment

Tomoko Alexander, mother of Jeff Alexander, recovering from a fall and hip surgery

Beverly Pitts Cain, friend of Sara and Jim Torrence, surgery from brain tumor

Rachelle, Kyla Lupo's friend, and the helpers at the Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants in Chicago;

Ken Adams, father of Juliet Hiemberg, health concerns;

Briana Cochran, cousin of Thibau Family, health concerns;

Rosalie Ruff, health concerns;

Ellie Croft, friend of Gretchen Winch, health concerns;

George Ehler, relative of friend of Ken Sprinkle, health concerns;

Betty Halls, health concerns;

Lorraine Leicht, Renee Moloznik's mother, health issues;

Dinah Paffrath, aunt of Renee Moloznik, receiving cancer treatments;

Carl Perthel, health concerns;

Isabelle Schuessler, friend of Scott Brown, health concerns;

Joanne Elder, friend of Sara and Jim Torrence, cancer;

Mary Bird, aunt of Renee Moloznik, health concerns;

Justin Pack, nephew of PJ Davis, diagnosed with ALS;

Daniel Adkins, nephew of Kyla and Vince Lupo, health concerns;

Donald Schuessler, friend of Scott Brown, health concerns;

Emilia Monte, friend of Sara and Jim Torrence, recurring cancer;

Jeff Leicht, Renee Moloznik's brother;

Judith Sadler, mother to Tom Sadler, mental illness and PG County guardianship care;

Leland Perthel, recovering from concussion;

Sandra Kichefski, sister of Sheri Sankey, health concerns;

Zoë, friend of Bob and Rhonda Ricci, health concerns;

Prayers for Peace

Daniel Kough, son of Jack and Robin Kough, home from Afghanistan.

Walter Sprinkle, son of Ken and Nan Sprinkle, US Army Special Training



About the music...


Lessons and carols began in December 1918 at King's College, Cambridge to celebrate the end of World War I. The new college Dean, Eric Milner-White, had been an Army Chaplain in WW1 and wanted a more positive way of celebrating Christmas for the choir and people in the college. Since 1919, 'Once in Royal David's City' begins the service and we still read the same lessons/readings today that were set 102 years ago. The BBC radio first broadcast the service in 1928, and apart from 1930, it has been broadcast every year since.

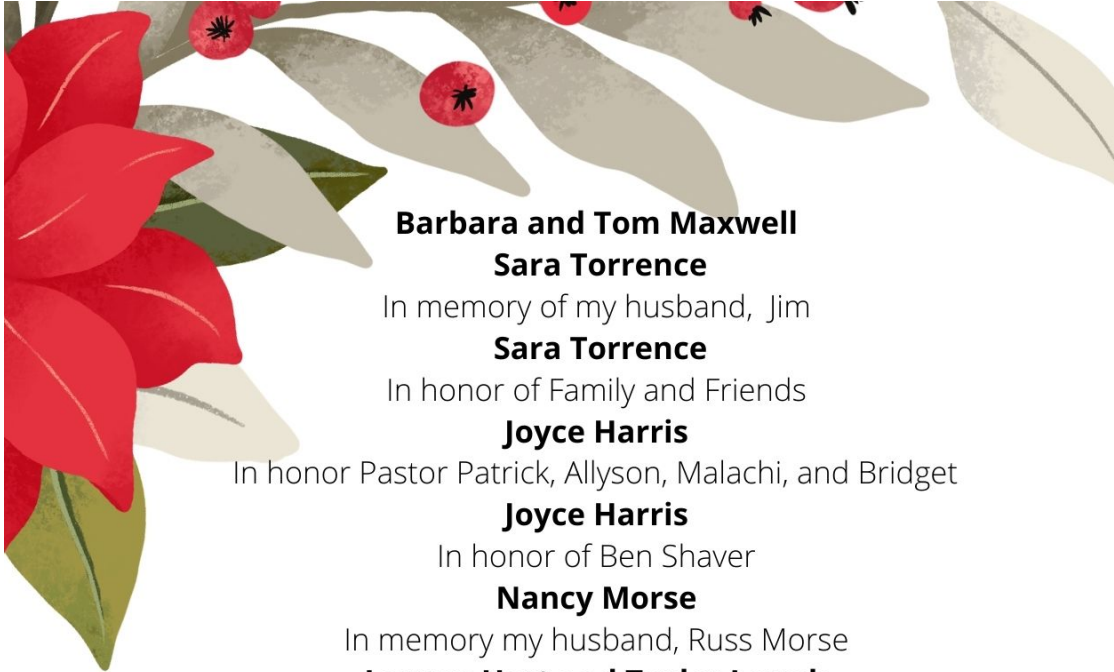
Our tradition at Geneva is to have our Handbell Quartet play on Christmas Eve. This year, they will play some favorites and end with a piece that has become well-known and beloved by all "We Wish You a Merry Christmas". Though the composer and author are unknown, this carol is widely believed to have come out of the 16th century. The carol has quite a colorful history, reflecting on the witty carolers of the Victorian era and their inclination towards a traditional "Christmas dessert." It is also connected to the regeneration of the tradition known as "caroling," - a practice that was banned in the churches during the middle ages. The Protestant Oliver Cromwell had played a key in this, banning all Christmas carols between the period 1647-1660. The church-going public collaborated in a desperate attempt to save the traditional songs - going from door-to-door and performing them in the Victorian era.

December 24, 5:00pm

Christmas Eve Service

History of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" from <https://galaxymusicnotes.com/pages/about-we-wish-you-a-merry-christmas>





Barbara and Tom Maxwell

Sara Torrence

In memory of my husband, Jim

Sara Torrence

In honor of Family and Friends

Joyce Harris

In honor Pastor Patrick, Allyson, Malachi, and Bridget

Joyce Harris

In honor of Ben Shaver

Nancy Morse

In memory my husband, Russ Morse

Lauren Hart and Taylor Lawch

Loyal Whiteside (Taylor's Grandfather)

Lauren Hart and Taylor Lawch

Bob and Helen Chin (Lauren's Grandparents)

Janelle Thibau

In memory of loved ones

Barbara and Paul Prosswimmer

In memory and honor of our family

Renee Moloznik

In memory of Terry Moloznik

Renee Moloznik

In memory of Abe Leicht

The McElwaines

In honor of Our Geneva Family

The McElwaines

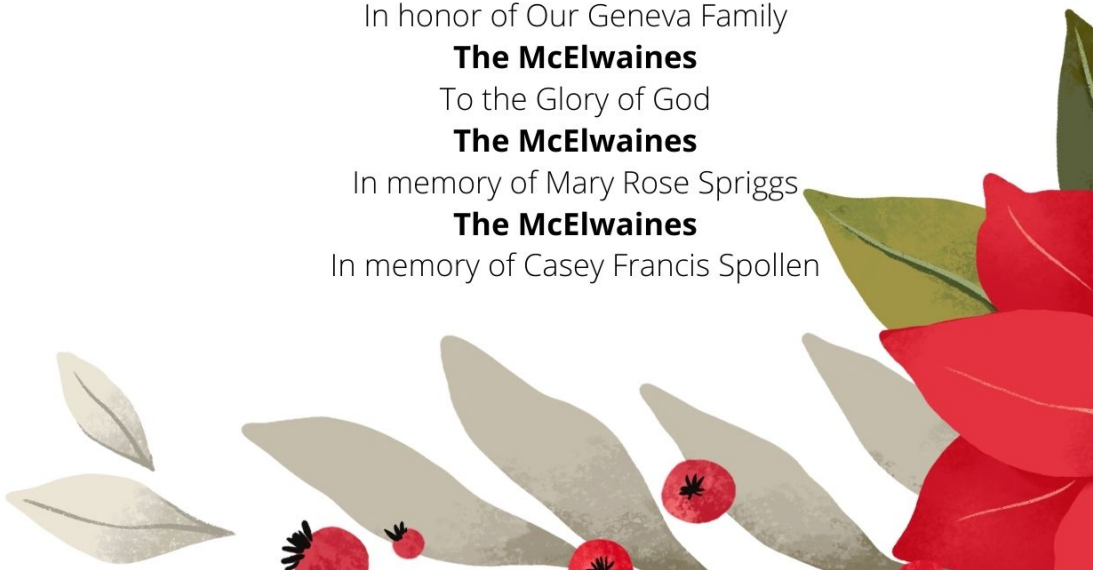
To the Glory of God

The McElwaines

In memory of Mary Rose Spriggs

The McElwaines

In memory of Casey Francis Spollen



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

from

Patrick, Ben & Melissa

- **Pastor Patrick on Vacation**

Pastor Patrick will be on vacation December 27 - January 3. If you have a pastoral need during this time please contact your Deacon. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and many thanks to Stella Lee for leading worship on January 2nd!



- **Christmas Joy Offering**

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need. Thanks in part to support from this Offering, church workers can receive critical financial assistance to support them through life's challenging circumstances.

PCUSA with its historic commitment to higher learning, has long promoted education and leadership development through the establishment and support of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Our future church leaders of color can receive much-needed assistance while they discover and pursue their professional goals at these schools and colleges. Your gifts allow these ministries to continue—sustaining a tradition Presbyterians have carried out for nearly 140 years.

- **JOIN US FOR OUR WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY!**

Bible Study **will not meet** on Dec. 29 to take a break for Christmas, but **will meet** on Jan. 5 when we return for the new year. On Jan. 5 we will continue using the readings on pp. 106-135 of Jill Duffield's "Advent In Plain Sight" as the jumping off point for our conversation



Virtual Bible Study: Wednesdays @ 7:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://bit.ly/3c3kscZ>

Meeting ID: 273 879 363

Password: 978348

- **Updated COVID Guidelines!**

Session has approved an updated set of COVID Guidelines for Geneva Presbyterian that are in line with changing pandemic guidelines and the needs specific to our congregation. Please review and abide by these guidelines to keep our community safe if you come to Geneva in person.

Update Approved Nov. 22, 2021

1. Masks will be worn inside the church building and social distancing will be practiced. If a person is unable or unwilling to wear a mask, they may join us online for worship at this time.
2. The Pastor and Liturgist may remove their masks while leading worship in the chancel area.
3. The sanctuary will open for worshippers at 10:15.
4. Please enter through the main glass doors on the Seven Locks Rd. side of the building.
5. Check in procedure: all worshippers will provide their name for contact tracing, answer the standard "COVID questions," and have their temperature checked upon arrival. Hand sanitizing stations and masks will be available.
6. If any member of a household has a temperature above 100.4 degrees the entire household will be asked to leave and worship with us virtually until safe to return. If you don't feel well, please don't come to church in person.
7. Greeters will help with check in and questions. Ushers will guide worshippers to their seats in the sanctuary.
8. Child care is being offered in a downstairs school classroom. Masks are encouraged if a child is able to wear one. An Usher can help guide caregivers and children to the child care space.
9. Individually sealed communion cups will be provided upon arrival for services when we celebrate the Lord's Supper.
10. Offerings and donations may be made online or in the physical offering plate located next to the sanctuary doors.
11. The congregation may sing with masks on.
12. Geneva Day School areas are strictly off limits to maintain safety for students and staff (with the exception of child care during worship).
13. Please obey all posted signs and do your part to keep our community safe!
14. These guidelines apply to everyone equally, regardless of vaccination status.

- **There is Still Time!**

Have you made your 2022 pledge yet? Now is the time and we need your help to make God's plans for our church family in the coming year a reality.

If you plan to submit a pledge indicating your intentions for financial giving in 2022, you may do so, we invite you to submit your pledge information [online through the church website](#) (no personal financial information is gathered), via mail at the church, or by directly contacting Office Administrator Melissa Cutler at melissa.genevapotomac@gmail.com.



One of Geneva's loveliest traditions is the beautiful Advent wreath and candles that we light in anticipation of Christmas and the birth of Jesus. What makes Geneva's Advent wreath so special to all of us is that it is the result of a labor of love for Geneva by faithful members of our congregation.

Dottie Renoe started the tradition and made the Advent wreath and candles for many years. Thereafter, the Geneva Presbyterian Women took on the task of seeing to the beautiful wreath and the Advent candles. In the early 1990s, and for the next 30 or so years,

Doris Murray began making the candles and both Doris and Barbara Prosswimmer took over the making of the wreath by using the juniper bushes growing on the church grounds. In 2005, when the junipers were not as abundant, the church turned to York Flowers to make the wreath, and the task of making the candles was then taken over by Cynthia Kaufmann. In 2015, Ken Denaburg and some of the staff of York Flowers graciously offered to take over the task of making the unique candles. We wish to express our appreciation to Ken and his talented staff for the lovely candles and beautiful heather wreath.

The Advent wreath is a circle symbolizing God's eternal love. The homemade candles range in color from deep purple signifying the kingship or royalty of Christ, and getting successively lighter each week of Advent ending in white on Christmas Eve celebrating the birth of Christ. The paraments are also changed to white on Christmas Eve. White is the symbol of purity, innocence of the soul and the holiness of life. Finally, the wreath is adorned with heather. The heather is appropriate, not only for its color, but it grows in Scotland, which is also the origin of the Presbyterian Church. John Knox brought the teachings of John Calvin to Scotland in 1560.

Thank You!

On behalf of the Deacons, I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for contributing to the Blessing Bag Ministry with your time, talent, and resources. The bags will be delivered to the Men's and Women's shelters this month. Because of your generosity, the women will be receiving: beautiful, reusable face masks, hats and gloves, sanitary wipes, chapstick, handmade bracelets, hair products and hair accessories. The men will be receiving new socks, shaving cream, razors, and sanitary wipes. It brings us such joy to gather and collect these things so that they may benefit others.

Stay tuned for the next round of blessing bags coming in February 2022, that will benefit Covenant House in D.C. and Stepping Stones Shelter in Rockville. To donate your time, talent, or resources to the Blessing Bag Ministry, please contact Allyson McElwaine at asmcelwaine@gmail.com.



- **Worship Flowers**

Would you like to sponsor Geneva's Sunday morning worship flowers to enhance our gift of worship to God? If so, the cost is \$35 per week and the flowers can be dedicated in honor of or memory of a loved one or for another specified reason.

To sponsor our worship flowers for the week, please use our [SignUp Genius](#) (online payment available) or contact Melissa in the church office at Melissa.genevapotomac@gmail.com or (301) 424-4346.



**PLEASE SUPPORT GOD'S MINISTRY
THROUGH GENEVA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE, TABLET,
COMPUTER OR MAIL!**

Three Ways to Give:

- **Online** - using this link - <https://genevapotomac.org/give/online-giving/>
- **By App:** download **GIVE PLUS⁺**, create an account, and choose Geneva Presbyterian Church (in Potomac) as your home church
- **By Mail:** checks securely received at :
11931 Seven Locks Road
Potomac, MD 20854

- **Virtual Church with Geneva Presbyterian: Sundays @ 10:30am**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://bit.ly/2SL4E76>

Meeting ID: 668 560 374

Password: 240543

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,668560374# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,668560374# US (New York)

- **Geneva Worship Videos**

Geneva Presbyterian worship videos are available on our church website the Monday following each service. Please share worship recordings with friends and family and join us for worship later if you couldn't make it live!

[Click HERE to watch our past Virtual Worship services!](#)



Today's Worship Leaders

Rev. Patrick McElwaine, Pastor; Ben Shaver, Music Director;
Emmanuel Mbi, Lector; Kyla Lupo, Zoom Host.

Church Elders

Jane Campbell, Carl Perthel, Daniel Ricci,
Tom Sadler, Sheri Sankey, Amanda White,
Elaine Winch

Church Deacons

Ludivine Kom-Liapoe, Bobbie Maxwell,
Allyson McElwaine, Renee Moloznik,
Rosie Perthel, Jessie Ricci, Rhonda Ricci

If you have any ideas, suggestions or concerns, please share them with our officers.

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by the entire Geneva Presbyterian family.



Geneva warmly welcomes all our guests joining us today



Geneva Staff:

Rev. Patrick McElwaine, Pastor, pastor.genevapotomac@gmail.com

Ben Shaver, Music Director, music.genevapotomac@gmail.com

Melissa Cutler, Office Administrator, melissa.genevapotomac@gmail.com

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