

## *Geneva Presbyterian Church*

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Rev. Mary Pullen, Interim Pastor



Dear Friends at Geneva,

I am very concerned about what is happening in our country politically since the Inauguration. Maybe some of you are as well. Randy and I watched as the President's Executive Orders were published, and then watched the protests on the TV, at least one of which turned violent.

As I said to someone this week, in all my years of voting in presidential elections, I've never seen it quite like this. Among our family and circle of close friends there were divisions and discussions, sometimes intense, over which candidate for whom to vote. Some voted for Trump and some voted for Clinton, yet at the end of the day, we still loved each other as family members and friends, even if we disagreed.

Jesus calls us to love one another. Do unto others, as you would have others do unto you. Love one another as God has loved you. Good advice for these uncertain times.

The President of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary (my alma mater) Dr. Michael Jenkins, writes a blog titled "Thinking out Loud." Below is the blog from November 10, 2016, published after our national election in November. Considering the recent unrest in our nation, I thought this was appropriate, and I wanted to share it with you. When I first read it in November, it caused me to do some reflection and prayer for the future of our country. I hope it does for you as well.

November 10, 2016

### **We Build Bridges**

I have never been more proud to be President of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary than I have this week.

In a time when hatred defines public discourse, when there are people actively working to divide our society, provoking opposition and hostility among Americans on the basis of how we differ, I am proud to represent this seminary in our community and the world.

We build bridges. That doesn't mean that we've got it all figured out here. And it certainly doesn't imply that we're building bridges to allow people to join us on "our side" of the bridge, whatever that might mean.

We build bridges because we know we need one another in order to be whole. We build bridges between people of different political, social and cultural perspectives because we know that the truth surely is out there, but we need one another to find it. We build bridges between different faiths because we know God is bigger than we are, bigger than our theologies, bigger even than our biggest hopes and dreams. We build bridges between persons of different races, ethnicities and nations because we know that we are all created in the image and likeness of God, and we cannot know or love God properly if we cut ourselves off from one another. We build bridges between people of different sexual orientations because we know the best way to overcome prejudice is through deep personal relationships.

We build bridges here at Louisville Seminary. And the tears of lament I have seen shed on this campus this week remind us all just how much our mission means to us.

We lament and are anxious because we do not want our country to become less generous, less open, less compassionate, less gracious than it is. We do not want our country to participate in cruelty and violence, nor to justify oppression and hatred in the name of freedom. We want our country to reflect the grace and love of God revealed in and through Jesus Christ because we know there is no power greater than love, and that every claim to power that struts upon this earth threatening to hurt others is full of bluff and bluster.

We have occasion, I think, to fear for the plight of people who are different in our society, to fear for the safety and liberty for gays and lesbians, transgender and bisexuals. We have reason to fear for Black and Hispanic and Asian persons, for Muslims and Buddhists, Sikhs and Jews, indeed for anyone who looks differently or thinks differently or prays differently from the majority. We have cause to fear for the plight of children at the margins, the aged, the poor, the under-insured, the under-educated, the under- or unemployed. But I cannot believe that they or we will be well-served to give in to fear.

"Perfect love casts out fear," we are told by the author of First John, the same author who tells us that God is love, and that it is impossible to love God without also loving people. "Perfect love casts out fear," said a spokesperson for a Christian community who wrote this letter sometime between the reigns of the Roman Emperors Domitian and Hadrian.

How in the world could this author have said this in such a time? Simply because his (or her) faith was not placed in the hands of the one who held the imperial scepter, but the One who holds all history.

We build bridges. The bridges we build bring people, societies and faiths together in the Spirit of Christ. How important that mission is just got magnified.

### **Geneva Bible Study with Carl Perthel**

We are excited to announce the return of **Geneva Bible Study** lead by Carl Perthel. Join Carl on February 12, March 12, April 9, May 14 and June 11 at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. He will be teaching on the Parables of Jesus. "An earthly story with a Heavenly meaning."

### **Music Notes**

by **Ben Shaver, Music Director**

Salutations Geneva!

I'd like to thank you all for your prayers and kind words after I announced I would be having surgery this coming month. It has touched my soul and I am sincerely grateful for such a wonderful and loving church.

This month, our choir returns to our services with anthems and special music! We have already started rehearsals and are eager to return to enhance the worship experience and send forth God's word through song. Our handbell choir will make a return to worship on Wednesday, March 1, for our Ash Wednesday service. They will be providing special music and will be providing the accompaniment for the hymns. We are blessed to have such an incredibly talented handbell choir and devoting an entire service to them is quite the treat and something new we will be implementing in the future! Please be sure to come and enjoy some incredible music!

Mark your calendars! On Friday, February 10, StillPointe Theatre, a Baltimore-based company, will be returning this month to perform a concert version of our current musical production, "Grey Gardens", based off the 1975 documentary of the eccentric, aging relatives of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. Edie Bouvier Beale and her mother, Edith, are recluses of their dilapidated Long Island estate, Grey Gardens. The musical follows the mother-daughter relationship through the years. It has received wonderful acclaim in Baltimore and was a completely sold out run! This is something you're not going to want to miss! This nine-member cast and five-member pit orchestra will simply blow you away and take you on a journey of love, heartbreak, and reflection of the choices made throughout their, and in turn your own, lives. Be sure to invite family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors, anyone whom might enjoy a night of beautiful music! Starting at 7 p.m., we will provide wine and cheese for those who arrive early, and

doors to the sanctuary will open at 7:45. The performance will start at 8 p.m. and will last until approximately 10:00 p.m.

I look forward to worship and concerts at Geneva each week and I hope you will be able to join us!

In Christ,  
Ben Shaver

**Geneva Day School**  
by Suzanne Funk, Director



Amid lots of excitement in seeing friends again, students and staff returned from Winter Break on January 3, 2017. Children quickly settled back in the routine and engaging activities of their classrooms.

During Winter Break, Geneva held two sessions of camp under the leadership of Ms. Megan White. The theme of winter directed many activities of arts and crafts, stories and songs, cooking, games, and science. A Spring Break Camp will be held in April, as well.

The school is currently processing registrations and applications for the 2017-2018 school year. The school is aware that many families are still having financial challenges, so it kept tuition costs nearly the same price as the current year. We want to keep our many wonderful students and their families. We feel Geneva provides an excellent early childhood education program with extra staff and many enriching experiences included. Please tell your families and friends about the school and to schedule a personal tour! They will love "your school!"

Plans are already underway for Summer Camp, again under the leadership of Ms. Daisy Lizama. Themes and in-house programs are being scheduled to direct the many activities of camp. We look forward to another great year.

The school is working with the Geneva Parents' Association (GPA) on a number of future events. The Annual Auction, again on-line this year, will be held from March 18-26. Watch for news in the Church Bulletin about how to sign-up to donate items and to bid. The Spring Carnival will be Saturday, April 29, and the Art School will be Friday, May 19. You are always invited to join the school community in any special events.

Though the new month is short, the school is getting ready for all the fabulous February events of Ground Hog's Day, Valentine's Day, President's Day, plus Dental Health Month. Something fun is always happening at Geneva!

Hope that you have a Fabulous February, as well!

Warm regards,  
Suzanne

## Worship & Music Committee by Ken Sprinkle, Chair

Collective Worship at Geneva is the heart of our life together. Come worship with us and share the time together. You will notice that our Order of Worship has recently changed a little, but all of the familiar elements that we love are still there.

The service has several elements:

**The Gathering:** We gather together in the Sanctuary for our collective worship of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We listen for the chimes to begin our worship, the music of the Prelude and the Introit preparing the way.

We signify our praise with the Responsive Call to Worship and join in the singing of hymns. You will notice that we have moments of silence, our Confession, Announcements, passing of the Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer, and Gloria Patri.

**The Word:** New to Geneva is the responsive reading of a Psalm from the Psalter, in the Old Testament portion of the pew bible. Most Sundays, we will have three readings: the Psalm, the Old Testament and the New Testament. On Communion Sundays, we have only two readings and only two hymns instead of three. There is a shorter Communion Meditation, rather than a full sermon. This is where we have the Children's time, a short object lesson with a biblical theme for the children.

The Thanksgiving is our response to what we have seen and heard in the service. We bring our material gifts to the Lord, there is an Offertory, a Prayer of Dedication and we sing the Doxology.

**The Sending:** We go out into the world renewed and refreshed from Worship. There is a final hymn, a charge and benediction from the Pastor, and the musical Postlude.

Pastor Mary  
Ken Sprinkle, Chair of Worship



## Mission ~ The Lord's Table ~ February 11th 2nd Saturday of the month October – May, 1pm – 3pm

The Lord's Table Soup Kitchen is on Saturday, February 11. Geneva works at the Soup Kitchen from October through May. If you are able, please join us to prepare a hot meal for members of the community who rely on us for this meal. You may sign up using the Sign Up Genius. If you have questions, please see Rosie Perthel.

**Geneva could use your help in serving refreshments after worship on Sunday mornings.**

# Reminder

It is a short time commitment. You can serve coffee or you can serve only lemonade. You can bake cookies or you can serve the store bought cookies we keep in stock. It's up to you! All supplies are provided. It provides a valuable service to Geneva and it is a great way for you to chat with Geneva members and guests after worship. Please sign up using the SignUp Genius or see Rhonda Ricci if you have any questions.

## Fellowship by Rhonda Ricci

The Geneva Fellowship Committee met on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, to plan events through the summer of 2017. Here is a sampling of the events we have planned:

On **Sunday, March 5**, we will have our second Prayer Breakfast. If you attended the first breakfast in December, you feasted on a lovely breakfast and you heard an inspiring message from Carl Perthel. We are excited that our speaker for our March breakfast will be Rev. Mary Pullen. The food will again be ordered by the McCall Family and Manuela promises it will be delicious!

On **Sunday, March 12**, we will have a Lenten lunch after worship. This lunch will be a soup and bread potluck. Please look for information on the speaker and the signup sheet in the next few weeks.

On **Saturday, April 29**, at 5:00 pm, Renee Moloznik will graciously open her home to us again for a potluck dinner.

Our Church **picnic/barbecue will be on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>**. If the weather cooperates with us this year, we hope to picnic outside on our beautiful church grounds.

Over the summer, we will continue with our **Ice Cream Sundays**. They will be **June 25, July 30** and **August 27**. If you have a favorite flavor of ice cream you would like us to serve, please be sure to let Rhonda know in advance.



Refreshments - [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/9040F45ACA82EA20-geneva1](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/9040F45ACA82EA20-geneva1)

Ushers - <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4cabab2ea7fe3-ushers>

Sanctuary Setup & Takedown

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4cabab2ea7fe3-sanctuary>

Communion Servers

[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0F4CABAB2EA7FE3-communion](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0F4CABAB2EA7FE3-communion)

The Lord's Table Soup Kitchen ~

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4cabab2ea7fe3-thelords1>

## Greetings from John and Claudia Cavallini

Hello from Saint Augustine, Florida - the oldest permanently inhabited European settlement in North America! John and I moved to this beautiful, historic area in 2013. We love the relaxed atmosphere of beach living and enjoy the rich culture and small community environment of the area. People here are very friendly and not at all reluctant to wish others a "Merry Christmas" or "a blessed day." Our condo is across the street from a wide white-sand beach, a fishing pier, and a pavilion, lining the beautiful Atlantic Ocean. Every Wednesday at the pier/pavilion area there is a farmers' market in the morning and free concerts from May through September in the evening.

John and I joined Memorial Presbyterian Church. The church was built in 1889 and is truly beautiful. Google it or check it out online at: [memorialpcusa.org](http://memorialpcusa.org). We were impressed by the active membership and high level of community involvement. We participate in several of the church programs and have especially enjoyed the Wednesday night Feast program (dinner and lecture series.)

We moved my mother with us. She is now residing in a senior-living facility about 1.5 miles from our condo. Our son, Evan, moved here from south Florida and is living in a condo community next to my mother's place. John's sister moved here about a year ago and is living in the building next door to ours. John also has two cousins who live in this same complex. Holiday dinners here actually include more family and neighbors than they did in Maryland!

John (who will never completely retire) and Evan (with a degree in Finance) have found a common passion and are working together making and managing financial investments and stock market trades. Evan has become an amazing cook, works out, and is enjoying a healthy life-style. He is studying to become a chartered stock market technician and registered investment advisor. John works out and rides his bike - he also enjoys watching beach volleyball tournaments. I've been active with one of the four PW circles at Memorial, and last year began serving as a deacon. I also serve on the Board of Directors for our condo community. We enjoy excellent restaurants in the area, art walks, community theater, concerts, beach walks, sunrises and sunsets. We feel so blessed to be here. As the local saying goes, "If you're lucky enough to be at the beach, you're lucky enough." So we're pretty lucky.

Wishing each of you health and the peace of Christ.

Claudia Cavallini  
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## **A reminder about Geneva's Inclement Weather Policy.....**

**During the week:** If the Montgomery County Schools are closed, then the church office is closed.

**On Sundays:** If the weather is bad on a Sunday and services are canceled, an all-church email will be sent out, and the Deacons will call people in their family groups if need be. Safety is the first concern! If the weather is iffy, and we have Sunday service, use your own best judgment about coming out. We certainly do not want people to get into a car accident trying to get to church, or worse, to fall and get hurt!



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