

# CONNECTED



Grace United  
Methodist Church  
318 N Center Street  
Geneseo, IL 61254  
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## March 2023



We are getting into a certain season which offers a lot of excitement and interest. Some people live for it... it's called March Madness. In case you don't know, March Madness is a college basketball tournament which starts in the middle of the month of March, and from where it gets part of its name.

Now, believe it or not, some people could really care less about March Madness, and being male or female has nothing to do with it. Some people follow certain teams, year after year. While other fans are more fickle and only root for a team on a temporary basis.

Sure, they might create brackets and actually win a little bit of money when it's all said and done, but the next year might find them pulling for a completely different set of teams. So much for team loyalty, huh? Of course, it's always a lot easier to be a fan when you have a winning team or a winning bracket.

Let's step away from sports and think about being on a winning team in life. What does that look like? Some people might say that means having a successful career or a great family, and to some degree, that's true.

But the ultimate sense of being on a winning team means that you have discovered the victory that God intends for us all to find in Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul knew and understood that better than anyone. That's why he could write things like...

- "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" AND...
- "We are more than conquerors" AND...
- "To live is Christ, but to die is gain."

Those are the words of a true champion. They are words of a team player and leader that's completely ready (and willing) to do what it takes to be victorious.

There's a great Christian song from the 80's called *Seek the Victory*. One of the most memorable lines of that song from Brentwood Publishers says "Like a runner for the prize, if we're truly wise, we'll never settle for second best. We must seek the victory, God is worthy of nothing less than the victory." In the midst of Lent 2023 let me encourage you to seek the victory.

*In Christ,  
Pastor Dan*





Opal Circle Invites  
 you to join us for Breakfast & Fellowship  
 Sunday, **March 12** following Worship  
 (We are having our breakfast a week later  
 in the month due to the Kiwanis Club  
 Pancake Breakfast on March 5)

If you can donate a coffee cake,  
 breakfast casserole, or other breakfast  
 items, please contact  
 Joy Dwyer: 309-944-6139



- 04 - Julie Dahlquist
- 08 - Betty Bowman
- 09 - Wendall Akers
- 11 - Liam Coleman
- 13 - Janice Rutherford
- 14 - Robin Toone
- 15 - Brett Yoder
- 16 - Diane Birmingham, Jim Davison
- 17 - Judy Scott
- 18 - Heather Smith
- 19 - Missy Beeth, Joan Johnson
- 20 - Steve Scherer
- 22 - Diana Holbrook, Ann Neumann
- 24 - Susan Hatler, Jacob Pauley
- 25 - Art French
- 28 - Ken Pippin
- 30 - Sarah VanDeWoestyne



## OWLS Lunch

Thursday, March 16  
 11:30am in Otterbein

### PROGRAM

Guest Speaker, Steve Kastorff, local writer  
 & historian.  
 Sign up in the lobby or by calling the  
 office.



- 03 - Randy & Janice Rutherford (11)
- 04 - Larry & Bonnie Johnsen (56)
- 12 - **Ron & Julie Blank (40)**  
 Joe & Jackie Mickley (46)
- 13 - Ron & Sue Vroman (52)
- 14 - **Mark & Jodi Mosbarger (25)**
- 18 - Dwayne & Amie Blank (67)
- 22 - Jerry & Judy Scott (48)
- 23 - Mark & Nancy Lohman (32)
- 24 - Cal & Paula Venema (51)
- 29 - John & JoAnn Knox (54)



### Family of Sharon Dixon

Passed away on  
 February 17, 2023  
 Sister of Larry (Linda )  
 Goodwin



Thru **FEBRUARY 24**  
**\$21,553.91**  
**General Fund**

## Support UMCOR Sunday on March 19



UMCOR is devoted to the alleviation of human suffering without regard to race, religion, origin, or gender. Volunteers offer quick and compassionate assistance after a crisis until a new normal is established within the affected community. UMCOR works with United Methodist churches and partners to address immediate needs and achieve sustainable recovery. Your money allows UMCOR to respond to provide relief and long-term recovery grants. Did you know 100% of your donation goes where you specify? Partner with God and God's people to strengthen Christ's loving presence in a hurting world. From Haiti to Afghanistan, Louisiana to Bosnia, UMCOR works to meet people's daily needs such as health care, food, hygiene and job security. **The Mission Committee is donating \$100 for Grace to be an ambassador for Christ. Please consider giving on March 19 to help relieve suffering.**

# Thank You!

A Big Thank You to Peggy Betcher who designed & created this amazing banner!

Banner is located between the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> floors in the staircase area - take a few seconds to enjoy looking at this beautiful creation!



A big thank you to everyone who helped with Operation Christmas Child this last year. A total of 1,015 shoeboxes were packed! The shoeboxes were delivered to Nigeria, Liberia and Eswatini. Whether you donated items, sewed items, packed shoeboxes, donated towards shipping, or prayed for this vital mission, we THANK YOU!





**Pastor Dan Seibert**  
revseibert@gmail.com

318 N Center Street  
Geneseo, IL

**Worship Sunday at 9:00am**  
**Kids Worship (Ages 4-11)**  
**Sunday at 9:00am**

**Sunday School:**  
**Adult Classes at 8:00am**  
**Men & High School Boys**  
**at 10:00am**

## stayCONNECTED



309 944-4208



geneseograce.org



geneseogumc@gmail.com



Geneseo Grace



Martha Anderson  
Brant Betcher  
Cara & Zane  
Bernie DeKezel  
Joey Eaker  
Jon Espenes  
Friend  
Nikki Haars  
Brenna (Betcher) Holke  
John & JoAnn Knox  
Courtney Morrison  
Bev Radue  
Steve Scherer's mom  
Jann Sigwalt  
Paul Starr  
Tosha Venema  
Phyllis Wiese

Clarke Barnes  
Matthew Bodeen  
John Carlson  
Family of Sharon Dixon  
Ruth Ann Eaker  
Evelyn  
Larry Goodwin  
Cameron Hodgson  
Jeanette Klavine  
Jim Larimer  
Powell's brother  
Rebecca  
Marian Shelton  
Ginny Simon  
Sally Swanson  
Alana Wachtel

### Those in Assisted Living & Nursing Home:

Greta Baugh      Mona Radue Claeys      Joyce Criddle  
Mary Lou Deane      Burdette Floming      Phyllis Keag  
John Riggs      Sarah Stees      Rita Webb

**Please contact Julie Dahlquist**  
**with prayer updates.**

**MEN'S LENTEN BREAKFASTS**

**Saturday, Feb. 25**  
St. Malachy Parish, Geneseo

**Saturday, March 4**  
First United Methodist Church, Geneseo

**Saturday, March 11**  
(no breakfast scheduled)

**Saturday, March 18**  
First Presbyterian Church, Geneseo  
Hosted with First Congregational Church

**Saturday, March 25**  
First Lutheran Church, Geneseo

**Breakfast begins at 7am; a free will donation will be collected to cover costs. All men are welcome.**



**Food needs:** coffee, tortillas, canned fruit, juice, pasta

**Non-food needs:** shampoo, conditioner, body wash, paper towels, diapers (size 3,4,5,6)

# February

fun with  
GUNDROPS!

HAPPY  
Valentine's  
DAY



# MARCH



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>Regular Sunday Events</b></p> <p>8:00am - Adult Sunday School Classes            9:00am - Worship, Sanctuary            9:00am - KIDS Worship            10:00am Men/H.S. Boys Class, Library</p>			<p><b>1</b></p> <p>9:15am - GUMDROPS, Otterbein            7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> 	<p><b>4</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Regular Sunday Events</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, Chapel</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>9:00am - Altar Guild Meeting, Chapel            4:00pm - Book Club, Library</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>9:15am - GUMDROPS, Otterbein            1:00pm - Violet Circle, Albright            7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>  <p>Time to Spring Ahead</p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>Regular Sunday Events</b>            Breakfast following Worship, Otterbein</p>  <p>4:00pm - Girl Scouts, Albright</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, Chapel            9:00am - Library Committee Meeting, Library            6:00pm - Opal Circle, Chapel</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>9:00am - Pearl Circle, Chapel            12:00pm - 3:00pm - PEO Meeting, Otterbein</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>9:15am - GUMDROPS, Otterbein            7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>11:30am - OWLS Lunch, Otterbein</p> 	<p><b>17</b></p> 	<p><b>18</b></p>
<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>UMCOR Sunday</b></p> <p><b>Regular Sunday Events</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, Chapel            7:00pm - Church Council Meeting, Albright</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>9:15am - GUMDROPS, Otterbein</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>
<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>Regular Sunday Events</b></p> <p>4:00pm - Girl Scouts, Albright</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, Chapel</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	