

# Grace United Methodist Church

318 N Center Street  
Geneseo, IL 61254  
309-944-4208

geneseogumc@gmail.com  
geneseograce.org

## CONNECTED



### DECEMBER 2023

## New Advent Series – Christmas Wonderland

Christmas is full of wonder. With all of the wondering there come questions. Scripture says, “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6) Plan now to be with us all the weeks of Advent to hear the answers to many of our questions. As Advent grows closer, may you experience the Joy that Christ’s birth brings.



Encouraging you in Christ, Pastor Dan

*Merry Christmas  
and a Blessed New Year  
from your Grace Staff*

*Pastor Dan Seibert  
Becky Daniels  
Lynne Haars  
Coral Minge  
Tia Mariman  
Steve Doy  
Traci Sigwalt  
Andy Radue*



# CHURCH COUNCIL



November 13, 2023 - 6:00pm

Members Present: Jeff Orton, Mark Mosbarger, Mark Lohman, Karen Doy, Gayle Barnes, Lynne Haars, George Farley, Traci Sigwalt, Brian Humphries, Helen Akers, Jackie Mickley

For Staff/Parish George Farley reported that staff evaluations are ongoing & expected to be completed by the end of December 2023. Job descriptions should also be completed by January 2024.

Karen Doy, Missions Chair, reported that there will be Blood Drive on December 28. She also said the Thanksgiving Offering will go the Heifer International while the Christmas offering will go to Chaddock and Baby Fold.

Mark Mosbarger, reported that the Finance Committee, approved the 2024 budget. At the end of September General Fund was up by \$4,000.00. The Finance Committee also discussed Online Giving and Enhanced Giving to make donating to the church easier. Centennial Financial (offices in Davenport & Moline) has been chosen to oversee our financial accounts beginning January 1, 2024. The cost will be \$6,200.00 per year. Coral has been assigned to disperse checks for payment of invoices & reimbursements.

The Trustees are always busy according to Brian Humphries outside wire connecting to the garage was recently replaced at the Anderson house. Concrete for the parsonage drive has been completed. It was decided to postpone purchasing new stoves/ovens. A gas leak alarm has been installed in the kitchen. Ceiling leaks in the lobby were repaired by Randy Rutherford & no leaks have been found since. Security cameras have arrived & will be installed in the lobby by Landon Neumann. George Farley moved to approve new flooring for Otterbein, Albright, and the kitchen. Gayle Barnes seconded, and the motion was approved.

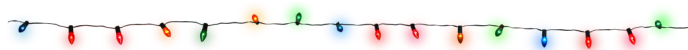
Mark Lohman, our Lay Member to Annual Conference, passed along a prayer from the Bishop for the Middle east. He and others gave a short report on the Charge Conference held at Colona Methodist on October 22.

Response to Membership letters that were sent has been low according to Gayle Barnes. Another Membership letter will be sent next year.

Lynne Haars reported the new sound system is installed but there some concerns about the online sound.

Next Council Meeting: January 15, 2024, at 6:00pm

Jeff Orton, Council Chair



Please place unwrapped gifts under the tree (attach the angel tag to the correct gift).

**Gifts must be dropped off by Sunday, December 3**



**BLOOD DRIVE at Grace**  
Thursday, December 28  
7:00am - 12:00pm

If you would like to schedule an appointment on:  
[https://login.bloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/120649](https://login.bloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/120649)



- 01 - Mary Gorman
- 02 - Karen Venter
- 03 - Rita Webb
- 07 - Daniel Coleman
- 09 - Paula Venema
- 10 - Suzanne Neumann
- 12 - Izabella Stewart
- 13 - Pam Snodgrass
- 16 - Randy Clary, Emma Shoemaker, Brad Toone
- 17 - Jean Hahn
- 18 - Russ Gray
- 19 - Mary Orton
- 21 - Karoline Hasson, Kenzi Hasson
- 22 - Linda Goodwin, Sharon Neumann
- 27 - Avery Mickley, Lora Lea Miller, Jenna Rushing
- 28 - Ben Burris
- 29 - Landon Neumann



**Sunday, December 10**  
 following Worship Service  
 Served by Opal Circle.  
 If you can donate an egg  
 casserole or coffee cake,  
 please contact  
 Paula Schulte 309-945-2964



- 14 - George & Gail Farley (21)
- 16 - Brian & Jean Berry (6)
- 18 - Steve & Karen Doy (47)
- 21 - **Mark & Nancy Koster (10)**  
**Steve & Sue TeStrake (55)**
- 28 - Steve & Jane Scherer (38)

**OWLS LUNCH**  
**Thursday,**  
**December 14**  
**at 11:30am**



OWLS is happy to welcome back the fantastic music duo of Lynn and Becky. They will perform in a sing-a-long of our favorite Christmas songs.



First Lutheran Church will host a free Community Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Our mission is to bring our neighbors and friends together to celebrate Christ's birth and to extend this meal as a free gift to our community. We welcome you to join us for this warm Christmas dinner including: turkey, ham, mashed potatoes & gravy, stuffing, green bean casserole, salads and special Christmas cookies. **Home delivery** will be provided for to those in Geneseo/Atkinson/Cambridge communities who are unable to leave their home. **Home or curbside deliveries can be scheduled by calling the church office at 309-944-3196 by December 23 to reserve meals to be delivered on December 25.**



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

318 N Center Street  
Geneseo, IL

**Sunday School:  
Adult Classes at 8:00am**

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

## stayCONNECTED



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Geneseo Grace

## Prayer Requests

Ashley	Family of Brant Betcher
Mathew Bodeen	Cara & Zane
Joey Eaker	Jon Espenses
Evelyn	Family Member
Revs. Mike & Beth Fender	Wayne Goodwin
Nikki Haars	Sheila Haff
Cameron Hodgson	Brenna Betcher Holke
Jeanette Klavine	Andrew Lord
Niece, Mary	Bev Radue
Ellen Rubino	Tony Simon
Sally Swanson	Carolyn Werner
Steve & Charlotte Powell's Brother	

Those in Assisted Living & Nursing Home:

Greta Baugh	Betty Bowman	Joyce Criddle
Mary Lou Deane	Phyllis Keag	John Riggs
Connie Ryner	Sarah Stees	Rita Webb

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

## Our Love & Sympathy to...

**The Family of Brant Betcher**  
who passed away on November 13, 2023

Son of Rich & Peggy Betcher  
Dad of Logan Betcher



**2023 Offering Needed to  
meet Monthly Budget**

**\$31,000.00**

**Received in NOVEMBER**

**\$35,141.57**

**General Fund**



**Food needs:** 100% juice, coffee,  
low sodium chunky soups,  
crackers, tortillas

**Non-food needs:** laundry  
detergent, denture cream,  
deodorant, lotion, size 4, 5, & 6  
diapers



We will meet on  
December 5 at 1:00pm at  
the **home of LaVon  
Swanson**. Our next book  
is *I Know an Old Lady* by  
Margaret Sandafer .



# December



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>Regular Sunday Events</b></p> <p>8:00am - Adult Sunday School            9:00am - Worship            9:00am - KIDS Worship</p>					1	2
<p>3 <b>Regular Sunday Events</b></p> <p>6:00pm - Confirmation Class, Albright</p>	<p>4 <b>Chaddock Pick Up Gifts</b></p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, Chapel</p>	<p>5 1:00pm - Book Club, Library</p>	<p>6 7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal, Chapel</p>	7	8	<p>9 <b>Geneseo Christmas Parade Line Up 3:30pm - 5:00pm</b></p>
<p>10 <b>Regular Sunday Events</b></p> <p>Breakfast following Worship</p> <p>6:00pm - Confirmation Class, Albright</p>	<p>11 8:00am - Prayer Group, Chapel            9:00am - Library Committee, Library</p> <p>6:00pm - Opal Circle, Chapel</p>	<p>12 9:00am - Pearl Circle, Otterbein</p> <p>12:30pm - Violet Circle, Albright</p>	<p>13 7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal, Chapel</p>	<p>14 11:30am - OWLS Lunch, Otterbein</p> 	15	16
<p>17 <b>Regular Sunday Events</b></p> <p>5:30pm - 7:00pm - Youth Meal Prep, Dinner &amp; Bible Study</p>	<p>18 8:00am - Prayer Group, Chapel</p>	19	<p>20 7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal, Chapel</p>	21	22	23
<p>24 <b>Regular Sunday Events</b></p> <p>Candlelight Service</p>	<p>25 <b>Merry CHRISTMAS</b></p> 	<p>26 Coral out of Office</p>	<p>27 NO Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Coral out of Office</p>	<p>28 Blood Drive 7:00am - 12:00pm Lobby</p> <p>Coral out of Office</p>	29	30
<p>31 <b>Regular Sunday Events</b></p> 	<p><b>WELCOME 2024</b></p> 					