



**CONNECTED**

**JANUARY 2024**

**Grace United  
Methodist  
Church**

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

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[geneseograce.org](http://geneseograce.org)

## **A Small Act of Kindness**

The original author of this story is Nancy Leman. This is what she says about a man named Floyd. "According to the standards of the world Floyd was nobody. He traveled around the country looking for work. Since he had no home a couple invited him into their home and gave him a home-cooked dinner. Floyd said very little as they ate. The woman offered to wash his clothes for him but Floyd declined the offer. He picked cherries in the orchard next to their home that day and slept under the trees that gave him his livelihood.

Early the next morning Floyd returned to the couple who had shown him kindness. While he finished one last project in the orchard, the woman wrote him a letter telling of God's love. Then she tucked it with a little cash into a New Testament. She found his backpack in the yard, and stuck the packet inside.

She imagined him traveling, looking for work, and at the end of the day bedding down somewhere under the stars, weary and all alone. She was warmed by the thought of Floyd's surprise when he discovered her note, the New Testament, and the cash she had planted in his backpack.

This Christian couple never saw Floyd again. Four years later Floyd's sister wrote to them, telling of his death. As Floyd's sister was going through his few belongings she found the New Testament and the letter telling of God's love. "They must have been very dear to his heart," Floyd's sister concluded, "for he carried them with him until he died."

It was such a simple gesture – a note, a Bible, and a little cash. But little counts for a lot in the kingdom of God. I don't know about you, but I want to be surprised at finding myself among the sheep on the day of judgment. More importantly, I want to possess a faith that's real. I want to take advantage of one of the most joyous opportunities Christ gives us... that is to minister for him.

*Blessings & Peace,  
Pastor Dan*



**2024**  
Happy New Year!



# Baptism



December 10, 2023  
Owen Stephen Lindberg  
was baptized into Christ

Son of  
Mitchel & Jennifer  
Lindberg

*"You are a child of  
God. You are  
wonderfully made,  
dearly loved and  
precious in His sight."*

Psalm 139

# Welcome

Sunday, December 17, 2023  
Mark Stoneberger joined the  
Grace Church Family!

*"Therefore welcome one another as Christ  
has welcomed you, for the glory of God."*  
Romans 15:7

## News from Circle Groups

Christmas Joy,

One of the purposes of our church circles is to contribute to local charities or other missions. Thanks to the congregation's support at Pearl Circle's November Sunday Brunch, we were able to provide some gifts for Christmas to a family through the Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry. We also gave a donation to the city of Geneseo to help defray some utility expenses for households in need.

Thank you for your generosity and know that you helped make Christmas a happier time for people in your community.

The Ladies of Pearl



Opal Circle would like to thank all who have attended, and so graciously supported our Sunday brunches. Through your donations, we have been able to present gift cards to Geneseo school nurses; purchase gifts for Angel Tree recipients; give support to Pregnancy Resources; donate to the Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry; and contribute to Back Pack Blessings. We were even able to buy a few new tablecloths to use at our church brunches! Blessings to all!

# January BIRTHDAYS

- 03 - Lisa Depies
- 10 - Connie Ryner, Christina Zobrist
- 11 - Tom Vorac
- 13 - Tracey Wise
- 16 - Joci Hasson, Carolyn Stenzel
- 20 - Taylor DeSplinter
- 21 - Helen Akers, Joe Loucks
- 23 - Rachel Daniels, Larry Johnsen, Ginny Simon
- 24 - Marlene Ashpole, Kenneth Miller
- 28 - Ron Blank, Gail Farley, Sharon Yoder
- 29 - Karl Flynn
- 31 - Karen Doy, Jack Neumann, Mike Robinson

# January ANNIVERSARIES

- 08 - Daryl & Linda Rice (52)
- 13 - Ken & Cindy Pippin (56)
- 19 - Randy & Deanna Clary (4)
- 21 - Tony & Ginny Simon (68)
- 25 - Glenn & Jann Sigwalt (61)



The Grace Book Club would like to thank LaVon for inviting us all into her home on December 5. An enjoyable discussion of the book *I Know An Old Lady* by Margaret Standafer took place.

Our January 2 meeting will return to the church library. We will discuss the book *Skipping Christmas* by John Grisham. We welcome new members



## OWLS LUNCH Thursday, January 18 at 11:30am



Our program will be presented by Mike Sigwalt, director of the Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry. Mike will share information about all the services that are provided by the Food Pantry to our community.

## OWLS *Christmas*





**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**

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Geneseo Grace

## PRAYER

*Requests*

Ashley  
Mathew Bodeen  
Joey Eaker  
Evelyn  
Cathy Gaudet  
Nikki Haars  
Cameron Hodgson  
Jeanette Klavine  
Andrew Lord  
Bev Radue  
Tony & Ginny Simon  
Steve & Charlotte Powell's Brother

Gene Bauwens  
Cara & Zane  
Jon Espenses  
Family Member  
Wayne Goodwin  
Sheila Haff  
Brenna Betcher Holke  
Kurt  
Niece, Mary  
Ellen Rubino  
Sally Swanson

Those in Assisted Living & Nursing Home:

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

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

**2024 Offering Needed to  
meet Monthly Budget**

**\$31,000.00**

**Received in DECEMBER**

**\$33,850.08**

**General Fund**

**December 24 & 31 are  
not included. Will show  
in January.**



*Our  
Condolences*



**To the Family of  
Greta Baugh**

Passed away on December 6, 2023



Join us  
FOR  
Breakfast  
& Fellowship

**Sunday, January 21  
following Worship Service 10:00am  
Everyone is Invited!  
SERVED BY UNITED METHODIST MEN**

**MEN: If you can donate fresh fruit, juice, an egg  
casserole, or coffee cake/pastires  
please contact Mark Lohman  
phone/text: 563-209-7067  
email: UMM@Lohman.bz**

*Thank you*  
FROM THE  
**STAFF**

We would like to thank you for your thoughtful gift at Christmas. We consider it a high privilege to worship with all of you at Grace each week, and feel blessed to be a part of this church family.

Lynne & Becky

Thank you so much for the wonderful Christmas gift I received from Grace. I treasure all of you and I am grateful to be able to continue to serve you! Wishing you many blessings in 2024!

Coral Minge

Thank you for your kind generosity shared with me through the Christmas gift given to me on Sunday, December 17th. It is a pleasure and joy serving all you fine folks at Grace Church. May God richly bless you with a wonderful Christmas and an incredible new year.

In Christ, Pastor Dan





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>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>HELLO 2024</b></p> <p><b>CLOSED</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>1:00pm - Book Club, Library</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal, Chapel</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>
<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>Regular Sunday Events</b></p> <p>6:00pm - Confirmation Class, Albright</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, Chapel 6:00pm - Opal Circle, Chapel</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>9:00am - Pearl Circle, Otterbein 12:30pm - Violet Circle, Albright</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal, Chapel</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>
<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>Regular Sunday Events</b></p> <p>6:00pm - Confirmation Class, Albright</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, Chapel 6:00pm - Council Meeting, Albright</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal, Chapel</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>11:30am - OWLS Lunch, Otterbein</p> 	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>
<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>Regular Sunday Events</b></p> <p>Breakfast following Worship Service</p> <p>5:30pm - 7:00pm - Youth Meal Prep, Dinner &amp; Bible Study</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, Chapel</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal, Chapel</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>
<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>Regular Sunday Events</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, Chapel 6:00pm - Missions Committee, Library</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>7:00PM Choir Rehearsal</p>			



**SNOW**  
*Much Fun*

