



CONNECTED

FEBRUARY 2024

**Grace United
Methodist
Church**

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

geneseogumc@gmail.com
geneseograce.org

NEW SERIES – I Have a Friend

Proverbs 18:24 – *“A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”* Of course, this passage is talking about the Lord. We would be hard-pressed to find somebody better to have as our friend. He is the best for so many reasons. Not the least of which is this reminder that comes from Jesus’ own mouth which we find in John 15:13 – *Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.* A good friend will have concern for our eternal salvation. I dare say that Jesus Christ is unparalleled in this. We each have mortal struggles we face in life. There are things which make us weak and seek to distance us from God. A good friend would never intentionally do that. The Apostle Paul writes to the church this sober reminder from 1 Corinthians 15:33 – *“Do not be deceived: ‘Bad company corrupts good morals.’”* See, the wrong friends can bring us down if we do not choose well those we associate with. So, surround yourself with people that will encourage you and are ones you will encourage.

The Christian life isn’t always easy. That is why we need folks that will help us to be better people by lifting us up. As you get re-invigorated in your faith you’ll be able to reach out to someone else and help them when they feel like nothing in their life is going right. Now, this isn’t poking your nose into someone else’s affairs but just simply making yourself available to encourage and support another sister (or brother) in the faith. Few things will please God more than His children helping each other.

Christian unity is another way that expresses our friendships. The Psalmist writes in 133 – *“Behold, how good and joyful a thing it is, brethren, to dwell together in unity.”* Someone very wise has said... *“We can often judge the state of our soul by the friends we keep. If we spend a lot of time with friends who bring us down and lead us into sin, then our soul is in a dangerous place. However, if we associate with friends who encourage us, speak positively, and pray with us, then we are on the right path. Friendship is a beautiful part of life, but it needs to follow after our faith in Jesus Christ.*

Blessings my friends.

Be encouraged,

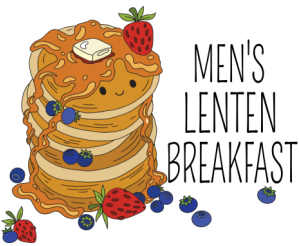
Pastor Dan

Hey friend!

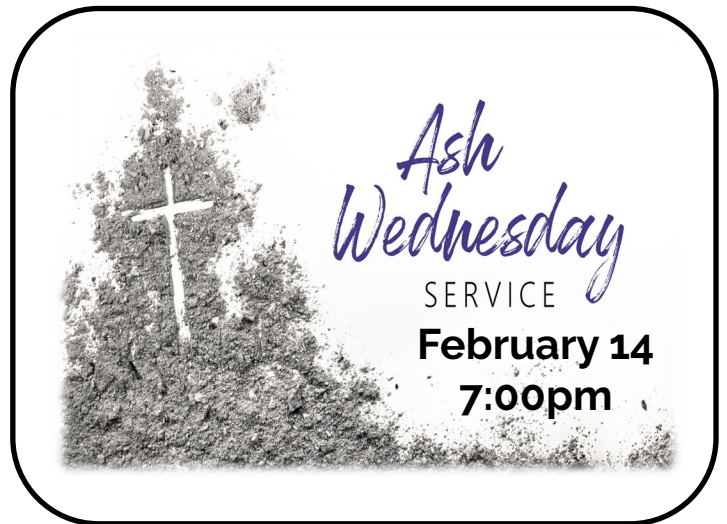


SEASON OF LENT

The Geneseo Ministerial Association has coordinated the schedule for the 2024 Men's Lenten Breakfast series. All men in the community are invited to come enjoy a delicious breakfast at 7:00am on the following Saturday mornings during Lent. A free-will donation is collected at each breakfast.



February 17 at First Lutheran Church, 114 E. Main Street
February 24 at First Congregational Church, 101 W. Pearl Street, hosted in conjunction with First Presbyterian Church
March 2 at Grace United Methodist Church, 318 N. Center Street
March 9 at Saint Malachy Church, 595 E. Ogden Avenue
March 16 at Geneseo First Methodist Church, 302 N. State Street



Sunday, January 21
Gavin Davis, Emmett Hill, Harrison Hill,
Wyatt Mickley, Mark Shoemaker,
Suzie Neumann (not pictured)

Lent
Begins February 14



COUNCIL MINUTES

Special Meeting - January 21, 2024

Attendees: Gayle Barnes, Karen Doy, George Farley, Lynne Haars, Jean Hahn, Mark Mosbarger, Mark Lohman, Jeff Orton, Rev. Dan Seibert, Dave Swanson, LaVon Swanson.

Meeting called to order by Chairman, Jeff Orton at 10:25am

New Business: Mark Mosbarger nominated Jean Hahn as the new Church Treasurer.

Approved unanimously.

Adjourned at 10:30am - Submitted by Karen Doy

Council Meeting Monday, January 22

- * George Farley reported that the Staff/Parish committee was still working on job descriptions.
- * Karen Doy conveyed that the Missions Committee was happy with the turn-out for the blood drive, and that Grace Church had met its giving goal for missions in 2023.
- *Mark Mosbarger reported projected expenses based on the 2024 budget are 7.4% less than 2023 expenses. The committee also invested \$175,000 of reserve funds in two CD's.
- *Trustees, particularly their chair, Brian Humphries, have been very busy with furnace repair, while trying to locate and fix sewers prior to the new floors being laid in the basement.
- *Rev. Dan Seibert informed us that six young people were confirmed on January 21. Grace Church will host the Men's Lenten Breakfast on March 2.

Jeff Orton, Church Council Chair



**2024 Offering Needed to
meet Monthly Budget**

\$31,000.00

Received in JANUARY

\$19,090.08

General Fund



OWLS Lunch
Thursday,
February 15
11:30am



- 01 - Gary Dahlquist, Lynne Haars
- 02 - George Farley, Dee Humphries
- 04 - Lorrie Snodgrass
- 06 - Tom Hitzhusen, Valerie Shoemaker
- 07 - James Mickley, Cal Venema
- 08 - Gayle Barnes, Cathy Cross, Daryl Rice
- 09 - Jeff Orton
- 11 - Kathy Tank
- 12 - Amie Blank, Audrey Toone
- 14 - Levi Neumann
- 15 - Lois Johnson, Hannah Lohman
- 16 - Jerry Snodgrass
- 18 - Peggy Betcher
- 19 - Rachel Sheffler, Lynda Yoder
- 20 - Kaden Davison, Molly Neumann, Dean Yoder
- 24 - Michael Emerick
- 25 - John Dwyer, Ron Neumann
- 27 - Bonnie Johnsen
- 28 - Emma Dunker, Betty Ernest

Come and enjoy our February 15th OWLS gathering as we welcome one of our own, who will be sharing his love of photography with us. Don't miss this friendly time and our guest speaker, Jerry Hahn.

Thank you



- 11 - Art & Sandy French (41)
- 16 - Alan & Connie Yager (61)
- 17 - **Jerry & Pam Snodgrass (45)**

My Dear Beloved, Precious Friends at Grace Church,

Thank you so much for the prayers, calls & just being you. I am progressing very well & I get rave reviews. Thank you my Lord for the many blessings. Once again, thanks for your love, friendship & prayers. I will keep you posted on my progress. Therapy asks me to do challenging work & I do it. Thank you, Lord, for giving me a ton of prayer givers - what a blessing. God bless each & every one of you.

Millie Scales



We want to say "Thank You" to Carolyn & CF Mann of Nevada, for providing the funding of our Confirmation Pizza Party. The Manns are friends of Clarke & Gayle Barnes, and wanted to express their love in this way at Clarke's passing. Thank you for blessing our Confirmation young people.

Dear Grace Church Family,

Thank you so much for the gift of money, it warms my heart that there is still good in the world for us to see. We must remember its not all about the getting, but the giving of love for our loved ones on this wonderful holiday season.

Grace United Methodist Church Confirmation Leadership.

Andy Radue



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 is powerful

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12 NIV

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Ashley | Mathew Bodeen |
| Gene Bouwens | Joey Eaker |
| Ruth Ann Eaker | Jon Espenses |
| Evelyn | Family Member |
| Cathy Gaudet | Wayne Goodwin |
| Nikki Haars | Sheila Haff |
| Cameron Hodgson | Brenna Betcher Holke |
| Jeanette Klavine | Andrew Lord |
| Mary | Bev Radue |
| Steve & Charlotte Powell's Brother | Ellen Rubino |
| Millie Scales | Tony & Ginny Simon |
| 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.**



**Youth Pizza Dinner for Confirmands
Sunday, January 21**

We celebrated our new members (confirmands) with pizza & an amazing cross shaped cake made by Molly & Janey Neumann (YUMMMM). "Congratulations" notes were handed out by Molly & Janey, too!

**WELCOME to the Grace Family!
Gavin, Emmett, Harrison, Wyatt, Suzie, Mark**



Coffee & Donuts Served
Sunday, February 11
following worship



welcome →





FEBRUARY



SUPER BOWL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Regular Sunday Events</p> <p>8:00am - Adult Sunday School 9:00am - Worship 9:00am - KIDS Worship</p>				1	2	3
<p>4</p> <p>Regular Sunday Events</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, LIBRARY</p>	<p>6</p> <p>1:00pm - Book Club, Library</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	8	9	10
<p>11</p> <p>Regular Sunday Events</p> <p>Donuts & Coffee Following Worship, LOBBY</p> 	<p>12</p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, LIBRARY</p> <p>6:00pm - Opal Circle, LIBRARY</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00am - Pearl Circle, LIBRARY</p> <p>12:30pm - Violet Circle, LIBRARY</p>	<p>14</p> <p>ASH <i>Wednesday</i></p> <p>7:00pm - Service, Sanctuary</p>	<p>15</p> <p>11:30am - OWLS Lunch, LOBBY</p> 	16	<p>17</p> <p>Private Baby Shower 10:00am - 4:00pm, LOBBY</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Regular Sunday Events</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, LIBRARY</p>	20	<p>21</p> <p>7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	22	23	24
<p>25</p> <p>Regular Sunday Events</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, LIBRARY</p> <p>6:00pm - Finance Meeting LIBRARY</p>	27	<p>28</p> <p>7:00PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>29</p> 		

Think *Spring!*