



**CONNECTED**

**MARCH 2024**

**Grace United  
Methodist  
Church**

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

[geneseogumc@gmail.com](mailto:geneseogumc@gmail.com)  
[geneseograce.org](http://geneseograce.org)



Pastor and author Jim Backelor poses a very interesting thought: What would you do if someone gave you one million dollars and then told you to come back as often as you liked and you could have whatever money you needed whenever you wanted? Just ask and it is yours. What if he told you to tell all your friends and they could also come and have a million dollars? Do you think you would tell your friends? Do you think you would show up regularly to receive more from this very wealthy and very generous person?

What would you think if you told your friends and they had you arrested? What would you think if people said you were an idiot for getting money from this generous person? What if people killed you for telling them about this person who was giving away free money? Would you expect people to accuse you of being narrow minded when you told people that they couldn't get free money from any other person? Would you expect people to say things like, "You know if we get our money every week, we won't really appreciate it?" Would you expect people to hunt down this very wealthy, very generous person and kill him?

Welcome to the world of the prophet. If you were to take my recent examples and replace the money with forgiveness, you would exactly describe the insanity that faces the prophet, the apostle, and all the messengers of God. God wants to cover us in His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation and for some reason, that makes people angry. That was also what Jesus faced. It is just too inconceivable for the human mind to accept his marvelous gift of eternal life. So, rather than take it at face value and accept His amazing grace, many people reject it and walk away.

I challenge you this Lenten season to make the decision to accept the mercy and forgiveness of Christ the Lord. He wants to give you what you cannot buy and what you cannot acquire on your own. If you will do that you will experience His peace that passes all understanding. May God richly bless you and use the Holy Spirit to guide you.

*In Christ our Lord,  
Pastor Dan*



Service  
March 28 at 7:00pm



Children Meet  
by the  
South Foyer Door  
Following Worship!



Grace Members,  
I want to Thank You all for the Christmas gift. It was very kind & thoughtful of you all. Your kind words to me and how you praise me on the church brings me much happiness & joy!! Thank you for welcoming me into your church & lives.

Thank you,  
Tia Mariman

Dear Grace Church Friends,  
Thank you for the honorarium. You gave Betsy and me such a warm welcome and a memorable reunion after 40 years. It made for a wonderful New Year's Eve! God bless you.

In Christ,  
Jim Ruberg



LILIES  
Cost: \$11 each

If you would like to honor or remember someone this Easter by ordering a lily to decorate our sanctuary, please complete this form and return it to the office by **Sunday, March 10**. Our Administrative Assistant, Coral, will be placing an order on **Monday, March 11** to allow the florist proper time to fulfill our wishes. You may place your form & money in an envelope, and leave in the office on Coral's desk. Thank you.

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_



SUNDAY, MARCH 10

UMCOR, provides hope for communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by war, storms or other crises. This ministry is achieved exclusively through your generosity. Last year, your generosity (through November 2023) delivered \$1.5 million for direct ministry to persons in need.

**ABOUT UMCOR SUNDAY (UMCOR)**

In response to the devastating global effects of World War II, the 1940 United Methodist Church's General Conference established a relief agency called United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). This agency was created to respond to the needs of human anguish by working globally to alleviate suffering and advance hope and healing. UMCOR is organized into programmatic areas focused on U.S and international response and recovery, sustainable development, global health and migration. Each area is founded on the belief that positive sustainable change is best done alongside and in support of communities. Your generosity on UMCOR Sunday underwrites the "costs of doing business," allowing UMCOR to keep the promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs. The work of UMCOR is managed through the General Board of Global Ministries.



They sang about Zaccheus and climbed up a tree. They also used Lego, Kinetic Sand and rocks to learn about Jesus' parable of building a house on rock vs sand.



Sunday,  
February 25  
FROGS  
Children's Worship







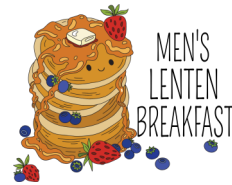
**OWLS Lunch  
Thursday,  
March 21  
11:30am**



March Madness is all about basketball! Jean Hahn, an avid fan of women's basketball, will present our program. Sign up in the lobby or by calling the office.



- 04 - Julie Dahlquist
- 08 - Betty Bowman
- 09 - Wendell Akers
- 11 - Liam Coleman
- 13 - Janice Rutherford
- 14 - Robin Toone
- 15 - Brett Yoder
- 16 - Diane Birmingham, Jim Davison
- 17 - Judy Scott
- 19 - Joan Johnson
- 20 - Steve Scherer
- 22 - Ann Neumann
- 24 - Susan Hatler
- 25 - Art French
- 28 - Ken Pippin



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.

**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



- 04 - Larry & Bonnie Johnsen (57)
- 12 - Ron & Julie Blank (41)  
Joe & Jackie Mickley (47)
- 13 - Ron & Sue Vroman (53)
- 14 - Mark & Jodi Mosbarger (26)
- 18 - Dwayne & Amie Blank (68)
- 22 - Jerry & Judy Scott (49)
- 23 - Mark & Nancy Lohman (33)
- 24 - Cal & Paula Venema (52)



Donuts & Coffee served following Worship Service on Sunday, March 10



**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



309 944-4208



geneseograce.org



geneseogumc@gmail.com



Geneseo Grace

## prayer is powerful

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

Ashley  
Tari DuBois  
Ruth Ann Eaker  
Family Member  
Wayne Goodwin  
Cameron Hodgson  
Brenna Betcher Holke  
Andrew Lord  
Austin McDonald  
Ellen Rubino  
Tony & Ginny Simon  
Steve & Charlotte Powell's Brother

Gene Bouwens  
Joey Eaker  
Jon Espenses  
Cathy Gaudet  
Nikki Haars  
Kerry  
Jeanette Klavine  
Mary  
Bev Radue  
Millie Scales  
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.**

## Our Condolences

**To the Family of JoAnn Knox**  
passed away on February 5, 2024

Daughter, Emily (Brian) DeJohn  
Grandchildren,  
Kylie, Will, Madelyn & Hannah DeJohn

**To the Family of Kristine Talbot**  
passed away on February 14, 2024

### 2024 Offering Needed to meet Monthly Budget

**\$31,000.00**

**Received in FEBEUARY**

**\$22,189.56**

**General Fund**



### Food needs:

cereal, pasta, condiments

### Non-food needs:

shampoo, conditioner, body wash, dish soap, other cleaning supplies



# CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Sewer repairs are progressing. Flooring Installation on the lower level is currently scheduled to be completed between March 25-29.



# March

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue  | Wed                                | Thu  | Fri   | Sat  |
|---|---|--|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| <p><b>Regular Sunday Events</b></p> <p>8:00am - Adult Sunday School<br/>9:00am - Worship<br/>9:00am - KIDS Worship</p>      |   |  |                                    |  | 1   | 2<br><br>7:00am - Men's Lenten Breakfast, Otterbein  |
| 3<br><br>Regular Sunday Events  | 4<br><br>8:00am - Prayer Group, LIBRARY   | 5<br><br>1:00pm - Book Club, Library   | 6<br><br>7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal  | 7  | 8   | 9<br><br> |
| 10<br><br>Regular Sunday Events<br><br>UMCOR Sunday<br><br>Donuts Served after Worship                                      | 11<br><br>8:00am - Prayer Group, LIBRARY<br><br>6:00pm - Opal Circle, LIBRARY   | 12<br><br>9:00am - Pearl Circle, LIBRARY<br><br>12:30pm - Violet Circle, LIBRARY | 13<br><br>7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal | 14   | 15  | 16   |
| 17<br><br>Regular Sunday Events   | 18<br><br>8:00am - Prayer Group, LIBRARY<br><br>6:00pm - Church Council Meeting | 19   | 20<br><br>7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal | 21<br><br>11:30am - OWLS Lunch, LOBBY<br><br> | 22  | 23   |
| 24<br><br><br>Regular Sunday Events       | 25<br><br>8:00am - Prayer Group, LIBRARY  | 26   | 27<br><br>7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal | 28<br><br><br>7:00pm Service                   | 29<br><br> | 30   |
| 31<br><br><br>Egg Hunt, Following Worship |   |  |                                    |  |            |  |