

CONNECTED



MAY 2024

Grace United Methodist Church

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geneseograce.org

There's a true story that comes from the sinking of the Titanic. A frightened woman found her place in a lifeboat that was about to be lowered into the raging North Atlantic. She suddenly thought of something she needed, so she asked permission to return to her stateroom before they cast off. She was granted three minutes or they would leave without her.

She ran across the deck that was already slanted at a dangerous angle. She raced through the gambling room with all the money that had rolled to one side, ankle deep. She came to her stateroom and quickly pushed aside her diamond rings and expensive bracelets and necklaces as she reached to the shelf above her bed and grabbed three small oranges. She quickly found her way back to the lifeboat and got in.

Now that seems incredible because thirty minutes earlier she would not have chosen a crate of oranges over the smallest diamond, but death had boarded the Titanic. One blast of its awful breath had transformed all values. Instantaneously, priceless things had become worthless. Worthless things had become priceless, and in that moment, she preferred three small oranges to a crate of diamonds.

There are events in life, which have the power to transform the way we look at the world. Jesus' parable about the ten virgins offers one of these types of events, for the parable is about the Second Coming of Christ, but Jesus doesn't come right out and say this. Rather, he lets the story describe it for him.

The woman on the sinking Titanic understood, in the light of her current circumstances, that she must make preparations for living on a lifeboat. Diamonds would not suffice, only the precious resources of an orange were good enough. Likewise, in this world where Christ may return at any moment, the parable warns, we must be ready.

*In Christ our Lord,
Pastor Dan*



Council MINUTES

In Attendance: Pastor Dan Seibert, Jeff Orton, Mark Lohman, Traci Sigwalt, Karen Doy, Brian Humphries, Gayle Barnes, Lynne Haars, LaVon Swanson, Dave Swanson, Jean Hahn, Lisa DePies, Coral Minge

Church Council met March 18. Karen Doy reported that the Mission Committee will hold a Blood Drive on June 7, 2024 (7:30am – 12:00pm). Grace Church has met two of its 5 Star Missions Challenge goals. Native American Ministries Sunday is April 14, and the Easter Offering will go to Backpack Blessings. Karen has been keeping in touch with our people in Haiti, during their chaotic situations.

No Staff/Parish report was given, and the Finance Committee reports were handed out. Many commented and appreciated the financial report Mark Mosbarger gave to the congregation on Sunday, March 17.

Brian Humphries updated us on the sewer project. Sewer should be completed by Friday, March 20. Ky Wirth told camera will be run through the pipes again to be sure all is well. The hole in Albright will be filled in soon. Dirt pile in front of church will be cleared by Wirth after it has settled. Brian also said the Trustees are looking into the parking lots, which need to be resurfaced, and of course, the foyer's ceiling leaks.

Mark Lohman, Lay Leader, mentioned that the Men's Lenten Breakfast held at Grace on March 8 was a great success.

Gayle Barnes reported that 1,045 names were transferred to our new membership database, and that 350 members are currently active. 695 names have been archived. Our conference responsibilities are based on 250-500 members.

Lisa Depies gave the council an update on our technology progress. Lisa and her husband, Steve, created and manage our website. She explained our website's progress and analytics. The council also discussed with Lisa about creating an Instagram account to reach our younger adults, as well as a YouTube account and Online Giving options. Council members expressed their appreciation for their work.

Pastor Dan Seibert reported on Holy Week events. He announced that a new Bible Study will begin April 3 - "Your Way Isn't Working." The April sermon series will be "Graceland." He is also considering a Revival to be held at Grace Church.

Next Council Meeting: May 20, 2024 - 6:00pm

Submitted by Jeff Orton, Chair



Molly Neumann,
daughter of Landon &
Sharon Neumann

Molly will be attending
the University of
Minnesota (Minneapolis/
St. Paul) to major in
Biochemistry.

Celebration at
Central School House
June 1, Saturday
4:00 - 7:00pm

Addison Dykstra,
daughter of Curt & Sara
Dykstra

Addison will be attending
the University of
Tennessee, Majoring in
Pre-Law with a Minor in
Journalism.

Celebration at
Geneseo Country Club
June 8, Saturday
4:00 - 8:00pm
RSVP 309-714-1220
if you plan to attend.



Sam Mosbarger,
son of Mark & Jodi
Mosbarger

Sam will be attending the
University of Northern Iowa and
plans to major in Business /
Accounting.

Sam would like to thank his
Grace Church family for all of
the support shown to him over
the years.

No party is planned.



Daniel Coleman,
son of Steve & Susy
Coleman

Daniel will be
attending Iowa State
University to study
accounting.

Celebration at
Central School House
June 1, Saturday
4:00 - 7:00pm



Pastor Dan Seibert
revseibert@gmail.com

318 N Center Street
Geneseo, IL

Sunday School:
Adult Classes at 8:00am
Ladies Bible Study at
10:00am

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

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Geneseo Grace

PRAYER Requests

Ashley	Peggy Betcher
Joey Eaker	Ruth Ann Eaker
Family of Jon Espenses	Family Member
Cathy Gaudet	Nikki Haars
Cameron Hodgson	Brenna Betcher Holke
Kerry	Kevin Ketterman
Jeanette Klavine	Andrew Lord
Austin McDonald	Ellen Rubino
Glenn Sigwalt	Tony & Ginny Simon
Sally Swanson	
Steve & Charlotte Powell's Brother	

2024 Offering Needed to meet Monthly Budget

\$31,000.00

Received in March 31-April

\$27,325.95

General Fund



Those in Assisted Living & Nursing Home:

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



Food needs:

coffee, sugar, creamy peanut butter, cereal, rice sides, 100% juice, crackers, pasta sauce, granola/cereal bars, cake & brownie mix, chunky soups, pancake mix

Non-food needs:

toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, cleaners, body wash, laundry, detergent, Kleenex, paper towels

Clothing Room needs:

All sizes men's & children's clothing, towels, sheet sets



July 1-7
John Deere Classic

Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry is a 2024 Birdies for Charity Recipient

To pledge to donate, please pick up a sign up form in the lobby!



A group of 20+ members met on Tuesday, April 9 to brainstorm ideas as we look ahead into the life of Grace Church.

We opened with prayer for God's leading followed by a devotion. We took a look at our shoes and thought about the different kinds of shoes we have. Some shoes are our favorites but have become worn out. Getting rid of them is difficult and breaking in a new pair can be uncomfortable for a time. As we think about the things of our church life, what are our "worn out shoes" that may need to be replaced with something temporarily uncomfortable, but which may be better for us in the end?

LaVon Swanson passed out green index cards and invited each of us to write on the card one thing we would like to see at Grace and why. When the cards were passed in she shared the ideas and comments with the group.

Here is a summary of ideas shared:

- Better communication about the things that are going on as well as reaching out to the community.
- Intergeneration activities
- Ways to interest the younger families to engage with the church
- Encourage connections with activities-mens, womens, families, Sunday School
- Evangelism outreach-activities, VBS, sharing testimonies, etc
- Scheduling of services to reach more

We also took some time to talk about the many activities we do have going on:

- OWLS
- FROGS
- GUMDROPS
- Youth-
- Bible studies (on campus and off)
- Sunday school classes-three currently
- Brunches
- Book Club
- Discussed the need to promote these activities via pre-service slides, etc so the church knows what is going on . as well as being available to help as needed with these activities.

We followed up with discussion of what we can do to get going on some of the suggestions. It was decided that some of the committees that were disbanded should be reinstated so we can have more focused energy in those areas. Those specifically mentioned were education, worship and evangelism.

We discussed our personal preparation for worship and drawing near to God. We need to get excited about our faith because that is how we tap into God's supernatural power to accomplish His will.



To the Family of Leslie Rauch

Brother of Helen (Wendell) Akers
Passed away on March 30



Celebrate Our Mothers
Past, Present, Future & All Women

Sunday, May 12



- 03 - Gordon Bodeen, Greg Bodeen
- 05 - Devonne DeBrock,
Elizabeth Yost, Emily Yost
- 06 - Zachary Yoder
- 08 - Ty Johnson
- 09 - Hazel Curcuru
- 10 - Anders Erickson
- 12 - John Tank
- 13 - Tami Monier
- 15 - Olivia Mosbarger
- 19 - Elaine Call
- 22 - Pamela Betcher
- 25 - Sharon Campbell,
Ellen Rubino, Addison Smith,
Easton Smith
- 26 - Rod Magerkurth
- 28 - Addison Dykstra,
Courtney Morrison, Hanna Pace
- 29 - Ariel French
- 30 - Jacob Koster



Sunday, June 9
following Worship
Served by United Methodist Men



- 01 - Jeff & Mary Orton (48)
- 02 - Dick & Lyn Gradert (60)
- 07 - Kevin & Jody Akers (36)
- 11 - Steve & Paula Schulte (33)
- 14 - Doug & Shelly Emerick (36)
- 28 - Dean & Shalee Johnson (29)
- 29 - Cody & Rachel Sheffler (3)
- 30 - Tom & Diane Birmingham (37)
- 31 - Larry & Sharon Campbell (16)
Brett & Lynda Yoder (27)



OWLS Lunch
Thursday, May 16
11:30am

Our guest speaker will be Johnathan Grafft from our local Richmond Hills Players theater. He will share information on the organization, the maintenance, and the production of several plays using primarily local talent. Please come and enjoy learning more about our local theater. Sign up in the lobby or call the office.





APRIL OWLS LUNCH

OWLS had a strong attendance of 39 super fun people. Our program speaker was Joel Vanderbush, Curator of Preservation and Education at Niabi Zoo.



GUMDROPS

SPRING 2024





MAY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Regular Sunday Events 8:00am - Adult Sunday School 9:00am - Worship 9:00am - KIDS Worship 10:00am - Women's Bible Study			1 9:15am - GUMDROPS 6:00pm - Bible Study	2	3	4
5 Regular Sunday Events	6 8:00am - Prayer Group, Library	7 1:00pm - Book Club, Library	8 9:15am - GUMDROPS 6:00pm - Bible Study 7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal	9 6:00pm - Staff Parish Meeting, Library	10	11
12 Regular Sunday Events 	13 8:00am - Prayer Group, Library 6:00pm - Opal Circle	14 9:00am - Pearl Circle 12:30pm - Violet Circle	15 9:15am - GUMDROPS 6:00pm - Bible Study	16 11:30am - OWLS Lunch, Otterbein 	17	18
19 Regular Sunday Events Graduation Sunday Reception Following Worship 	20 8:00am - Prayer Group, Library 6:00pm - Church Council Meeting	21	22 9:15am - GUMDROPS	23	24	25
26 Regular Sunday Events Peace with Justice Sunday	27 CLOSED 	28	29	30	31	

 *Coming Soon!* **SUMMER**