



**Grace United  
Methodist  
Church**

318 N Center Street  
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## **NEW SERIES FOR AUGUST 2024**

During Jesus' earthly ministry, he said many things that challenged his listeners. In fact, he often spoke in, parables. Or, as we will see in this series, he spoke stories in metaphors. He used figurative language to relate common objects, or concepts with himself or his kingdom, so that people could better understand his character and purpose.

In the book of John, there are seven times in which Jesus says "I am \_\_\_\_\_." Each statement gives us a glimpse into God's character and what he's like. One important point is: it's imperative to read these "I am" statements in context, so we form an accurate understanding of what Jesus was really saying.

John 8:56-58. Jesus says, "Your ancestor Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day; he saw it and was glad." Then the Jew said to him, you are not yet 50 years old, and have you seen Abraham? Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am." (see and compare with Exodus 3:13-14).

The first half of this series will contain four messages and at a later time we will visit the other three. Here are the first three titles by week...

- Week #1 – "I am the bread of life"
- Week #2 – "I am the light of the world"
- Week #3 – "I am not of this world"
- Week #4 – "I am the gate and the good Shepherd"

**I Am.**

This would be a good time to invite a friend or family member to attend worship with you.

*Encouraging you in Christ,  
Pastor Dan*

# COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Church Council met July 22, 2024. For Staff/Parish, LaVon Swanson reported that evaluations will be completed before the Charge Conference. Karen Doy reported that Mission Sunday will be September 15, and that volunteers will pack Student Kits. The next Mission Committee meeting will be August 12.

Brian Humphries reported that the Trustees have replaced the parsonage front door, and that the belfry window replacement is underway. A bid from Rutherford Roofing has been requested for the foyer. The Council moved and approved to accept the bid of \$23,500 from Superior Asphalt to resurface and stripe the parking lot, tentatively scheduled to be completed this fall.

The Evangelism Committee met on July 18, and Gayle Barnes reported that the New Teachers' Luncheon will be August 8. Their next meeting will be September 19. Worship Committee will meet August 5. Mark Lohman discussed the Charge Conference that will be held at Colona Methodist, October 13.

David and LaVon Swanson attended the Annual Conference, June 6-8 in Peoria. They reported that Bishop Beard will be taking permanent medical leave beginning September 1, 2024. Co-Bishops David Bard & Lynnette Plambeck will take office beginning September 1, 2024.

There was no Finance Committee report. Other items discussed at Council were the Nominations Committee, Men of Grace's church brunch on August 11, and the Staff/Parish's need to review our Wedding Policy. The Church Council's next meeting will be September 23 at 6:00pm.

Submitted by  
Jeff Orton  
Church Council Chair

## A BACK-TO-SCHOOL PRAYER

Loving God, thank you for the rest and relaxation we enjoyed over the summer. Today, we pray for our children as they begin their new school year. Bless them with joy at seeing friends, excitement at new experiences, and a love of learning. Watch over all who learn, replacing fear with joy, anxiety with peace, and tiredness with energy. Grant teachers wisdom, patience, and joy in serving their students. In Jesus' name we pray.  
Amen



**HAVE A GREAT  
SCHOOL YEAR!**





**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**

## stayCONNECTED



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Geneseo Grace

## PRAYER list

Ashley	Brenna Betcher Callahan
Aunt Chris	Sam Curcuru
Joey Eaker	Ruth Ann Eaker
Family Member	Cathy Gaudet
Lyn Gradert	John Greenwood
Nikki Haars	Cameron Hodgson
John	Kerry
Kevin Ketterman	Jeanette Klavine
Andrew Lord	Tia Mariman
Margaret McDowell	Ellen Rubino
Jan Seibert	Sigwalt Family
Matt Swanson	Sally Swanson
Paula Venema	Steve & Charlotte Powell's Brother

### Those in Assisted Living & Nursing Home:

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

### 2024 Offering Needed to meet Monthly Budget

**\$31,000.00**

Received June 30 - July 28

**\$31,574.09**

**General Fund**



**SEPTEMBER 2**



### Food needs:

baked beans, pizza crust mix, cereal, crackers, cake & brownie mixes, pancake mix, syrup

### Non-food needs:

cleaners, toilet paper, paper towels, toothpaste, laundry detergent

### Clothing Room needs:

men's clothing (all sizes), women's XS clothing, new underclothes, sheet sets



**SCHOOL SUPPLIES ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED!**

# We're Back!

**Thursday, August 15  
11:30am**



Our fall OWLS gatherings kick off with a musical program by John Puentis. He has once again agreed to share his musical guitar and singing. Please join us for a fun gathering of food, fellowship, and entertainment. Please sign up in the lobby.



- 02 - Todd Davison, Allison Good
- 03 - Edith Shoemaker
- 04 - Larry Campbell
- 06 - Sandy French, LaVon Swanson
- 07 - Eliza Farley, Steve Wheelock
- 08 - Tari Kneen
- 12 - Cora Gorman
- 13 - Corey Neumann
- 15 - Hilary Junis
- 17 - Rich Betcher
- 18 - Bryce Johnson, Kelly West
- 20 - Deb Magerkurth, Glenn Sigwalt, Kyle Toone
- 21 - Hilary Junis
- 23 - Maud Depies
- 24 - Pat Wheelock
- 25 - Jodi Mosbarger, Linda Rice
- 26 - Dave Ernst, Harrison Neumann
- 27 - Linda Oertel, Shalee Johnson
- 30 - Mike Rubino, Pat Ufkin



- 03 - Brad & Robin Toone (28)
- 06 - Joe & Claudia Loucks (59)
- 07 - Rich & Peggy Betcher (53)
- 08 - Ron & Sheila Clary (63)  
Justin & Valerie Shoemaker (16)
- 19 - Harold & Johnson (66)
- 24 - Mike & Molly Hamer (39)
- 31 - Todd & Julie Davison (39)

  **FAREWAY** 

**Friday, August 23**

**COOKOUT**  
Served by Opal Circle

**Stop by for a quick lunch!**

**Proceeds go to  
Opal Circle**

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



# WITH DEEPEST Sympathy

**To the Family of Carol Rathman**  
who passed away on July 10

Mother of Jody Rathman

**To the Family of Jack Seibert**  
who passed away on July 12

Father of Pastor Dan Seibert & Debbie Byrne  
Grandfather of Laura Seibert

*Our thoughts & prayers are with you all.*



# Thank you

Words simply can't adequately express our appreciation for your caring hearts as we celebrated our son's life. So many kind acts - all the help in the kitchen, visits, food, cards and memorials deeply touched us.

Thank you dear friends! You blessed us.  
Dick & Lyn Gradert

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Sue Vroman would like to thank the congregation for their prayers during and after her recent surgery and for all the beautiful cards.

Blessings, Sue & Ron

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Dear precious Grace family,

Words cannot express my appreciation and gratitude for the outpouring of love shown to me through the notes, cards, food, and fellowship. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. May God richly bless you as you have been a blessing to me.

Love in Christ, Pastor Dan

# Baptism

Sunday, July 21

Vivian Jane Verbeck  
was baptized into Christ.

Daughter of  
Shannon & Carly Verbeck

Brother of Nash Verbeck

Granddaughter of  
Brian & Dee Humphries

"You are a child of God. You are wonderfully made, dearly loved and precious in His sight."  
Psalm 139





Norma Lodge  
turned 99 years  
young on July 20.

God Bless You!



Join us for breakfast!

**Sunday, August 11  
following Worship Service**


**Served by  
United Methodist Men**

# BREAKFAST

Opal Circle would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to the  
brunch & to those who joined us on July 14!



# August

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            10:00am - Women's Bible Study</p>				1	2	3
4	<p><b>Regular Sunday Events</b></p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, Library</p> <p>6:00pm - Worship Committee Meeting</p>	<p>6</p> <p>1:00pm - Book Club, Library</p> 	7	<p>8</p> <p>New Teachers Lunch 12:00pm</p> 	9	10
<p>11</p> <p><b>Regular Sunday Events</b></p> <p>Breakfast Following Worship</p> 	<p>12</p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, Library</p> <p>6:00pm - Missions Committee Meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:00pm - Nominations Committee Meeting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>First Day of School</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>11:30am - OWLS Lunch, Otterbein</p> 	16	17
<p>18</p> <p><b>Regular Sunday Events</b></p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, Library</p>	20	21	22	<p>23</p> <p>Fareway Cookout Served by Opal Circle 11:00am - 1:00pm</p> 	24
<p>25</p> <p><b>Regular Sunday Events</b></p>	<p>26</p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, Library</p>	27	28	29	30	31