

**Grace United
Methodist
Church**

318 N Center Street
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CONNECTED



OCTOBER 2024

In Acts chapter 12, we find Peter imprisoned and being guarded by four squads of soldiers. Taking different shifts night and day, they were constantly on high alert. To make matters even worse, we read in verse 6 that, chained down, Peter has to sleep between them.

It is an impossible situation. But remember, we serve a God who specializes in the impossible. From a human standpoint, Peter's situation is hopeless. But in the face of great obstacles, God always comes through in amazing and incredible ways.

Consider the only survivor of a shipwreck washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed nervously for God to rescue him. Every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. After a number of weeks, he managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements.

Then one day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, the smoke rolling up to the sky. The worst had happened; everything was lost. He was stunned with grief and anger.

"Lord, how could you do this to me!" he cried. Early the next day, however, he was awakened by the sound of a ship that was approaching the island. It had come to rescue him. "But, how did you know I was here?" he asked. "We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

Remember, next time your little hut is burning to the ground, it just may be a smoke signal that summons the grace of God. To Him be the glory and honor and praise.

**Encouraging you in Christ,
Pastor Dan**

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Church Council met on September 23, 2024 at 6:00pm. In attendance were Pastor Dan Seibert, Jeff Orton, Mark Lohman, Karen Doy, Brian Humphries, Gayle Barnes, Lynne Haars, Dave Swanson, Jean Hahn, Tom Hitzshusen, Mark Koster, Coral Minge

Pastor Seibert reported that the Staff Parish Committee will complete all evaluations soon. Missions Committee Chair Karen Doy was pleased with the results of Missions Sunday. Church members packed 100 student kits for Midwest Missions. At their September meeting, the committee gave \$2,000 to Abilities Plus and \$500 to the Geneseo Police Department for Child Safety/Drug Prevention Education.

Jean Hahn presented the 2025 Budget for the Finance Committee. The 2025 budget was increased by 5% (mostly due to insurance increases), and cuts were made in other areas. After discussion, the budget was approved.

Trustees Chair Brian Humphries reported that Superior Asphalt has been paid for the parking lot project. It went over budget because the area along the east sidewalk was filled in and covered with asphalt. It was suggested the outlet covers be painted as a safety precaution. Otterbein ceiling tile were discussed. Brian said Wirth, Inc. checked all furnaces. Randy Rutherford will not be able to give an estimate for the foyer roof until spring. Belfry window repair is waiting for use of a bucket lift.

Tom Hitzshusen, Chair of the Worship Committee, reported that the committee has met twice since being reinstated in June. They discussed the following:

- *New volunteer sound techs are currently being trained.
- *Seeking more ushers to cover when needed.
- *Agreed to keep our current method of observing communion.
- *Committee was grateful to Becky Daniels for recently recognizing Sam Mosbarger & Molly Neumann for their service to the church.
- *Liturgists will soon be a part of worship services.
- *Backpack Blessings was successful.
- *All Saints Sunday will be held on November 3.

Mark Koster reported for the Evangelism Committee that the Annual Teachers Luncheon was a huge success. Grace Church will once again host Geneseo Christmas Walk parade participants, on December 14, serving hot chocolate and cookies. He also announced our Youth Group will be hosting Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 27. Church members are invited to participate. Other items discussed:

- * Booths representing the church at community events.
- * Future Couple's Night Out with Youth providing childcare.
- * Flyers/invitations to be taken door-to-door.

Lynne Haars is pleased that they have new choir members. Mark Lohman, Lay Leader, distributed UMC handouts regarding Haitian immigration. Prayers are requested for Springfield, Ohio, & Haitian immigrants

Pastor Dan Seibert is creating his new message series for 2025. He is also presently working on a Bible Study on the Trinity. Along with the Staff Parish he said that intentional effort needs to be made to reach more youth & young adults, and further develop our Men's Ministry.

Jean Hahn mentioned that she & Jackie Mickley are reaching out to encourage all adults to become involved with our Youth's school and other activities. Church members who have children involved in various activities are asked to share with the church office about such activities.

Membership input is welcome on all of the above matters. Next Council Meeting will be November 18, 2024 at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jeff Orton

Missions

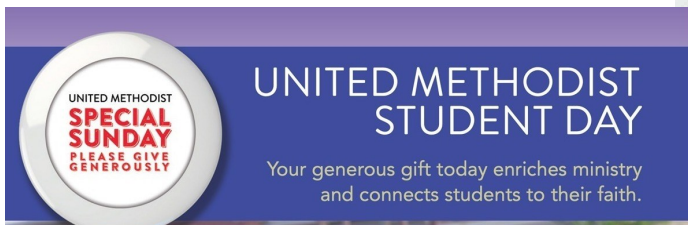
Celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 6

What is World Communion Sunday? World Communion Sunday is one of six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church. World Communion Sunday calls the church to reach out to all people and model diversity among God's children. The special offering provides World Communion Scholarships, the Ethnic Scholarship Program and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program. How does The United Methodist Church distribute the offerings received on World Communion Sunday? The treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration distributes net receipts, after payment of promotional expenses, to the administering agencies: World Communion Scholarships: 50 percent (General Board of Global Ministries), with at least one-half of the annual amount for ministries beyond the United States Ethnic Scholarship Program: 35 percent (General Board of Higher Education and Ministry) Ethnic In-Service Training Program: 15 percent (General Board of Higher Education and Ministry)



"THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST
IS THE SPIRIT OF MISSIONS.
THE NEARER WE GET TO HIM,
THE MORE INTENSELY
MISSIONARY WE BECOME."
-HENRY MARTYN

Celebrate United Methodist Student Day on November 24



What is United Methodist Student Day? United Methodist Student Day is one of six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church. United Methodist Student Day calls the church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge. The special

offering provides scholarships for qualified United Methodist applicants. How does The United Methodist Church distribute the offerings received on United Methodist Student Day? The treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration distributes net receipts, after payment of promotional expenses, to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry for United Methodist Student Day scholarships. How does one apply for a United Methodist Student Day scholarship? To apply for a United Methodist Student



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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309 944-4208



geneseograce.org



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Geneseo Grace

But we will give ourselves continually to
Prayer
and to the ministry of the word. Acts 6:4

Anonymous Requests
Brenna Betcher Callahan
Joey Eaker
Family Members
Lyn Gradert
Bradley Hartman
John
Kevin Ketterman
Andrew Lord
Glenn Sigwalt
Steve & Charlotte Powell's Brother
Mark Stoneberger
Paula Venema

Ashley
Sam Curcuru
Ruth Ann Eaker
Cathy Gaudet
Nikki Haars
Cameron Hodgson
Kerry
Norma Lodge
Ellen Rubino
Jan Seibert
Sally Swanson

Those in Assisted Living & Nursing Home:

Joyce Criddle Mary Lou Deane John Riggs
Connie Ryner Sarah Stees Rita Webb



2024 Offering Needed to meet Monthly Budget

\$31,000.00

Received September 1-22

\$24,804.26

General Fund



Food needs:

chunky style soups, chips, crackers, chili beans, broth, hot chocolate

Non-food needs:

shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant, Pull Ups

Clothing Room needs:

fall & cooler weather clothing items, hats, gloves, men's clothing (all sizes), women's XS clothing, sheet sets, socks

WITH DEEPEST Sympathy

To the Family of Betty Bowman
who passed away on September 4

Our thoughts & prayers are with you all.



- 01 - Paul Flynn
- 05 - Nash Verbeck
- 08 - Jody Rathman
- 09 - Kirk Hodgson, Evie Junior
- 10 - Shaina Lohman, Drake VerStraete
- 12 - Jerry Scott
- 13 - Daniel Lohman
- 14 - Caitlin Pauley
- 16 - Megan VerStraete
- 17 - Perry Farley, Josh Yoder
- 19 - Wyatt Mickley
- 20 - Mackenzie Davison
- 21 - Eliza Shoemaker
- 22 - Brad Dunker, Joy Dwyer,
Dean Johnson, Nancy Koster
- 23 - Claudia Loucks, Claire Rushing,
Diana Scherer
- 24 - Kevin Akers
- 27 - Deanna Clary
- 28 - Harold Johnson
- 29 - Lyla Gorman
- 30 - Cindy Pippin
- 31 - Adam Orton

OWLS Lunch Thursday, October 17 11:30am



Join us for lunch, followed by local historian, Steve Kastorff sharing information about downtown Geneseo, past businesses that occupied many still present businesses' locations and buildings. Please sign up in the lobby.



Grace Book Club met on September 3, and enjoyed discussing two books by Joe Siple: *The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride* and *The Final Wish of Mr. Murray McBride*. Sandy, Joy, Gayle, LaVon,

and Sharon discussed the books about making Wishes and fulfilling these Wishes. For our next meeting on October 1, we will read *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. We are a fun group! Join us anytime!



- 05 - Brian & Emily DeJohn (22)
- 07 - Bronson & Allison Good (7)
- 10 - Tyler & Hilary Junis (9)
- 14 - Ed & Tari Kneen (56)
- 15 - Barry & Lorrie Snodgrass (47)
- 20 - Jimmy & Evan Hill (17)
- 27 - Marty & Libby Anderson (34)
- 30 - Gordon & Betty Bodeen (53)



**You're invited to join us for breakfast,
served by Opal Circle following Worship
Service on Sunday, October 13.**

**If you can donate an egg casserole,
coffee cake, donuts, etc., please contact
Mary Gorman 309-945-2805.**



NOTES

Grace Church,

Thank you so much for the gift card and cross. I am so grateful for your support on my collegiate journey. Tennessee is great! GO VOLS!

Thank you,
Addison Dykstra



I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support you've given to me during my surgery and recovery. I'm doing good and the doctors say only a round of radiation is the only thing needed for complete healing. Your prayers are the reason all is well and I am truly thankful for all of you!

Paula & Cal Venema

Dear Grace United Methodist Church,

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your monetary donation to the Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry. Your generosity will directly benefit the families and individuals served by the food pantry.

Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry

On behalf of all of us, we wish to express our sincere appreciation for your generous donation.

Abilities Plus

The Mission Committee would like to thank the congregation for participating in Mission Sunday. A total of 100 student kits that you helped pack will be delivered to Midwest Mission, and from there will be donated to an area of need.





YOUTH!
FUN

September 15

Youth Group Weiner Roast at James & Avery Mickley's farm. There were games & s'mores for dessert. We celebrated Wyatt Neumann's 17th birthday with a cookie cake and gift from his cousin, Janey & family.

A fun time was had by 18 kids!!!

Happy Birthday



There were 36 attendees at our OWLS Lunch on September 19. A heart felt devotion was given by Bonnie Johnsen. The luncheon was a tasty potato bar with trimmings combined with a huge fresh salad selection. A variety of dessert bars & fruit completed the meal. The program was presented by Dee & Brian Humphries through delightful stories & slides of their European vacation this past summer. A good time was had by all.



GRACE CHURCH YOUTH IN ACTION



This new column is focusing on youth in our church family. We adults wish that youth would become more involved in the life of our church! Maybe we need to reverse this conversation. Maybe we need to ask how each of us can become more involved in the lives of our youth! Where do we start? What are our youths' focus? SCHOOL AND ITS ACTIVITIES!!!! We will highlight youth in our church and specify their activities. We will have a link to the Geneseo Schools Athletics and Extra Curricular Activities. With this information we each can choose to see our Youth In Action. Then, we can interact with them with a note, high five, or pat on the back for a job well done. Let's get to know our youth.

**Need help with Fall Yard Work?
We're here to help you!**

**Contact the GRACE YOUTH GROUP
Jackie Mickley - 309-944-3948**



PUMPKIN PRAYER

God picked you from the patch!
John 15:16

CUT OFF THE TOP



LORD, OPEN MY MIND
AND FILL ME WITH
YOUR WISDOM
AND GUIDANCE.

CLEAN OUT THE INSIDE



TAKE AWAY
ALL MY SINS AND
FORGIVE ME FOR THE
WRONG THINGS I DO.

CARVE OUT THE EYES



OPEN MY EYES
SO I CAN SEE ALL
OF THE BEAUTIFUL
THINGS YOU
HAVE MADE.

CARVE OUT THE NOSE

LORD, I'M SORRY
FOR TURNING MY NOSE
UP AT THINGS YOU
HAVE GIVEN ME.



CARVE OUT THE MOUTH

HELP ME TO
ALWAYS SPEAK
YOUR WORDS
OF LOVE
AND KINDNESS.



ADD A CANDLE



LET ME BE A LIGHT
TO OTHERS, FOR YOU
HAVE FILLED ME WITH
YOUR LIGHT.



On September 25, the first session of Fall GUMDROPS was spent at the Hitzhusen's Farm!



HAYRIDE Adventures



you will always
HARVEST
what you plant

OCTOBER

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 10:00am - Women's Bible Study</p>		<p>1</p> <p>1:00pm - Book Club, Library</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>9:15am - GUMDROPS, Albright</p> <p>7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>3</p> <p>11:30am - Violet Circle</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Regular Sunday Events</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, Library</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00am - Pearl Circle, Library</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:15am - GUMDROPS, Albright</p> <p>7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Regular Sunday Events</p> <p>Breakfast following Worship</p> <p>1:30pm - Charge Conference, Colona UMC</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, Library</p> <p>6:00pm - Opal Circle</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:15am - GUMDROPS, Albright</p> <p>7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>17</p> <p>11:30am - OWLS Lunch, Otterbein</p> 	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Regular Sunday Events</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, Library</p> <p>6:00pm - Missions Meeting</p> <p>6:00pm - Evangelism Meeting</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:15am - GUMDROPS, Albright</p> <p>7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Regular Sunday Events</p> <p>2:00pm-4:00pm</p> 	<p>28</p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, Library</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:15am - GUMDROPS, Albright</p> <p>7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>31</p> 		