

Grace United Methodist Church

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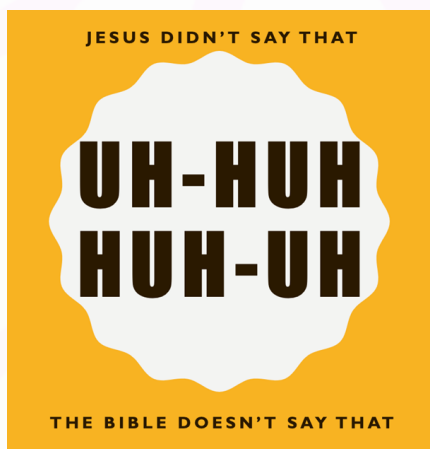
CONNECTED



FEBRUARY 2025

There are lots of things set an all the time the people really believe are in the Bible, but the truth of the matter is they aren't. Whether it's a fact or an object, a thought or a saying; there are lots and lots of things that people credit Jesus or the Bible with saying when it's not really true.

Now that I've got us thinking about it, I'll mention a few:



1. It wasn't necessarily a Whale that swallowed Jonah. The Bible just says "a great fish." The most reliable texts translate it that way.
2. "God works in mysterious ways." Also, not in the Bible. It certainly is a true statement but none-the-less does it appear in the Bible.
3. It wasn't necessarily an apple that Adam and Eve ate off of the forbidden tree. See Genesis chapter 3 for this story.
4. This last one we hear at Christmastime. It has to do with three kings that visited Jesus shortly after his birth. The Bible indicates that there were three gifts and "Magi" (which is plural for wise men).

There are many others. In fact, in the month of February, we will be looking at several more of these supposed things either said by Jesus or printed in the Bible. Perhaps you are thinking of one that I did not yet mention. It may very well be included in the series. Why not invite someone to join you for Worship and this interesting topic? The name of the series is "Uh-Huh Huh-Uh"

Blessings to You,
Pastor Dan

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 23, 2025 Church Council Meeting Summary

Mark Lohman and Dave Swanson reported for the Staff/Parish Relations Committee which met on January 21, 2025. The committee is currently working on updating church policies. Surveys will be sent out to all members for opinions on church policies.

The Mission Committee appreciated Karen Doy's facilitating the donation of the church van to the Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry. The church should be very pleased that the under-utilized van is going to a worthy cause. A mission trip to Midwest Mission is being planned. If interested, contact Karen Day or the pastor. A blood drive will be held at Grace Church on March 13, 2025. The next Mission Committee meeting will be Monday, February 3, 2025.

The Finance Committee last met on December 18. Mark Mosbarger, chair, reported that the current CDs have matured, and he is investigating interest rates for six months. The 2024 End of the Year Report is completed, and the 2024 audit will be completed in February. At the last meeting, the committee voted to utilize memorial funds for expenses, such as repairing the roof over the lobby, etc. The memorial money from the estate of Cheryl Johnson has been received and temporarily placed in the Building Fund.

Brian Humphries sent the Trustee's report. He said the lights in both parking lots will be repaired by VanOpDorp Electric soon. The belfry "window" has temporarily been repaired on the inside. In the spring, the outside will be repaired. The garage door opener and the seals on the bottom of both doors were replaced. One load of items has been removed from the garage. Mark Stoneberger has volunteered to clear our sidewalks of snow. Thank you, Mark.

The Worship Committee will meet February 3, and Evangelism needs a chairperson. New Directories are now available.

Lynne Haars is looking ahead to Lent and Easter (Can spring be far away?)

Mark Lohman, Lay Leader, shared "What Is the Mission of the Church?"

Pastor Dan Seibert was pleased with the turnout at the Men's Soup Supper in November. The Ministerial Thanksgiving Service was enjoyed by those in attendance. Confirmation Classes were discussed for 2025.

Other Items discussed were the challenge of filling committee assignments. The possibility of having VBS this year was discussed, as well as offering a "post-Gumdrops" ministry. It was brought up about the need for a security camera in the FROGs classroom. We are currently not in safety compliance since adults are not present. Our internet will be upgraded the first week of February. Fiber optic has been installed up to our building. Its monthly bill will now be lower. Mark Mosbarger signed the contract for the new service.

Next Council Meeting: March 24, 2025 - 6:00pm

**Respectfully submitted by Jeff Orton,
Church Council chair.**



We would like to thank you for your thoughtful gift at Christmas. We consider it a high privilege to worship with all of you at Grace each week, and feel blessed to be a part of this church family.

Lynne & Becky

I want to thank you for your kind generosity shared with me through the Christmas gift given to me on Sunday, December 22nd. It is a joy serving all the fine folks at Grace Church. May God richly bless you with an incredible new year.

In Christ, Pastor Dan

I would like to thank the church for their wonderful Christmas gift and thank you for all the love you have shown me over the years. I thank you so much for everything.

Andy Radue

Thank you so much for the wonderful Christmas gift I received from Grace. I treasure all of you and I am grateful to be able to continue to serve you! Wishing you many blessings in 2025!

Coral Minge

I was very surprised by the generosity of Grace Church! I am very thankful to be a part of this congregation and try to do what I can to support it. It's good to know my efforts are appreciated! I'll do my best to keep supporting this Church any way I can. Thank You for the gift!

Steve Doy

Dear Grace Church Family,

The very generous Christmas gift was a nice surprise and a blessing. Thank you for being so kind and caring.

**Love,
Traci Sigwalt**



Council Chair Jeff Orton, Rev. Dan Seibert, and Finance Chair Mark Mosbarger stand near a tree planted in memory of Cheryl Ann Johnson (October 25, 1955 - August 7, 2024). At the passing of Ms. Johnson, Grace United Methodist Church was named as one of the recipients of memorial money. In appreciation of the memorial, an Imperial Locust was planted on church green space which had, in previous years, been owned by Ms. Johnson's Great-Aunt Millie (Mix) Gilbraith. Mrs. Gilbraith, grandparents William & Helen Mix, and mother Virginia (Mix) Johnson Clayton, were all Grace Church members.

"But blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water." --Jeremiah 17: 7-8



Pastor Dan Seibert
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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



Join us for breakfast!

Sunday, February 16
Following Worship Service
If you are able to donate an egg
casserole, coffee cake, etc., please
contact Paula Schulte 309-945-2964

**2025 Offering Needed to
meet Monthly Budget**

\$31,800.00

**Received December 15 -
January 26**

\$58,031.95

PRAYER *Requests*

Anonymous Requests
Brenna Betcher
John Davis
Ruth Ann Eaker
Cathy Gaudet
Nikki Haars
Margaret Hitzhusen
Kerry
Norma Lodge
Jane Massey
Bev Radue
Ellen Rubino
Sally Swanson
Steve & Charlotte Powell's Brother

Bishop Frank J. Beard
Joseph Titus Countryman
Joey Eaker
Family Member
Lyn Gradert
Hannika
Cameron Hodgson
Kevin Ketterman
Andrew Lord
Clarice Massingill
Angie & Dave Rice
Barb Sigwalt
Dean Yoder

Those in Assisted Living & Nursing Home:

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



Food needs:

tea, low sodium soup, cereal, crackers,
100% juice

Non-food needs:

lotion, feminine hygiene products,
household cleaners, pain relievers, Ziploc
bags

Clothing Room needs:

fall & cold weather clothing items, hats,
gloves, boots, snowpants, men's clothing
(all sizes), women's XS clothing, bath
towels, blankets

OWLS Lunch Thursday, February 20 at 11:30am



Join us for lunch followed by our program which will be presented by Andrew Hofer from Geneseo Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He will be sharing the purpose of this organization as it works with our local youth. Please sign up in the lobby.



- 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, Daryl Rice
- 09 - Jeff Orton
- 11 - Kathy Tank
- 12 - Amie Blank, Audrey (Toone) Smutzer
- 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

From Our Lay Leader, Mark Lohman

What is the Mission of the Church?

Everything we do at the church is to accomplish our mission that Jesus Christ has given to us.

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

– Matthew 28:18-20

The mission of The United Methodist Church is to “Make disciples of Jesus Christ for transformation of the world.”





- 11 - Art & Sandy French (42)
- 16 - Alan & Connie Yager (62)
- 17 - Jerry & Pam Snodgrass (46)



The Grace Book Club met on Tuesday, January 7. It was well attended for our discussion of *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick. Attendees included Gayle, Joy, LaVon, Sharon H., Dee, Sandy, Pat, and Sharon C. Our next book to read to enjoy is *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lanhon. We will meet again on February 4 at 1:00pm in the library. New faces are always welcome.



FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	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>						1
<p>2</p> <p>Regular Sunday Events</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, Library</p> <p>6:00pm - Missions Committee, Library 6:00pm - Worship Committee, Chapel</p>	<p>4</p> <p>1:00pm - Book Club, Library</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>2:00pm - Maple City Band Board Meeting, Library</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Regular Sunday Events</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, Library</p> <p>6:00pm - Opal Circle, Chapel</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00am - Pearl Circle, Library</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> 	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Regular Sunday Events</p> <p>BREAKFAST SERVED Following Worship</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, Library</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>20</p> <p>11:30am - OWLS Lunch, Otterbein</p> 	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Regular Sunday Events</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, Library</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	