

**Grace United
Methodist Church**

318 N Center Street

Geneseo, IL 61254

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CONNECTED



JANUARY 2025

The Horses and the Bell

Just up the road from my home is a field with two horses in it. From a distance, each looks like every other horse. But if you stop your car or are walking by, you will notice something quite amazing. Looking into the eyes of one horse will disclose that he is blind. His owner has chosen not to have him put down, but has made a good home for him. This alone is amazing.

If nearby and listening, you will hear the sound of a bell. Looking around for the source of the sound, you will see that it comes from the smaller horse in the field. Attached to her halter is a small bell. It lets her blind friend know where she is, so he can follow her.

As you watch these two friends, you'll see how she is always checking on him, and that he will listen for her bell and then slowly walk to where she is, trusting that she will not lead him astray. When she returns to the shelter of the barn each evening, she stops occasionally and looks back, making sure her friend isn't too far behind to hear the bell.

Like the owner of these two horses, God does not throw us away just because we are not perfect or because we have problems or challenges. God watches over us and even brings others into our lives to help us when we are in need. Sometimes we are the blind horse being guided by the little ringing bell of those whom God places in our lives. Other times, we are the guide horse, helping others find their way. Dear friends, please listen for my bell, and I'll listen for yours. – Author Unknown

**Blessings to You All,
Pastor Dan**

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Due to Thanksgiving and the November Connected deadline, some of the following items we discussed have come and gone. It was a busy and productive Church Council meeting. According to George Farley, the SPRC is looking to update many church policies. George also indicated they will work with Finance about the possibility of hiring a youth pastor.

Karen Doy informed the Council that the student kits were delivered, and some women kits were delivered to Midwest Missions. The mission committee voted to give the Thanksgiving Offering (a floor of \$1000) to Rebuilding Together. The Christmas offering, with a floor of \$5000, will be given to UMCOR Disaster Relief. Karen also suggested volunteermatch.com as a site for volunteer opportunities in our community.

Mark Mosbarger reported on the accounts up to September 30. 89% of giving has been met for the year. Grace Church is the beneficiary of \$50,000 from the Cheryl Johnson Trust. Cheryl was the daughter of Virginia Clayton. This led to a discussion on memorial funds and their uses. Mark brought up the possibility of a Capital Fund campaign for the sewer project and the upcoming roof repairs. In the next five years, the furnaces will most likely need to be replaced. Finance Committee will meet on December 18.

Trustee Chair, Brian Humphries, questioned the council about allowing the renters of the Anderson house to place an 11 x 16 shed south of the garage. It was decided more information was needed before approval. Brian also asked the council about a request from Grow Pediatric Therapy to rent Albright for their Early Intervention Program. The council voted to approve. Lights on the outside doors have been repaired, and the furnaces have been checked. Belfry window is still waiting to be repaired, and it was approved to plant a tree south of the parking lot.

Tom Hitzhusen, from the Worship Committee, announced that cookies and coffee will be served after each service in December. Also, the Christmas tree set-up will be on November 25, and all are invited. The manger scene will also be set-up. Duane Blank will no longer store the manger scene, so the pews in the garage will be sold to make room. If anyone is interested in purchasing a church pew, contact the church office. The committee was pleased with All-Saints Sunday and the Veterans Recognitions Sunday.

Gayle Barnes, from Evangelism Committee, reported that Trunk or Treat was a success. The Youth Group cleaned the gardens at Allure. She also said refreshments will once again be provided by Grace to the Christmas Walk parade participants. A possible Trivia Night was also discussed.

Lynne Haars is working on music for Christmas worship services and may have musical guests.

Pastor Dan reported that Christmas/Advent Message Series will be "Colors of Christmas." He announced that the Men's Soup Supper will be held on November 19 and the Ministerial Association Community Thanksgiving Service will be held on November 24 at Geneseo High School.

Traci Sigwalt reported that she and Jean Hahn are looking into online-giving.

Our next council meeting will be January 20, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

Submitted by Jeff Orton,
Church Council Chair

thank you! Notes

Glenn loved his Grace Church Family - every one! Thank you all so very much for sharing in his wonderful Celebration of Life! So many people commented on what a nice service and great lunch we had. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way and to all who came and shared the time with us.

All our love,
Jann & Traci



To My Many Friends at Grace,
I want to thank all of you for the cards celebrating my 80th birthday. I also appreciated the heartfelt notes. A reminder of my ministry at Geneseo Grace UMC. May our Lord bless each of you.

Shalom,
John Davis

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

Hot Chocolate WEATHER





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



Sunday, January 12
Following Worship Service
Stay for breakfast
served by Opal Circle.

**2024 Offering Needed to
meet Monthly Budget**

\$31,000.00

**Received November 24 -
December 8**

\$34,163.12

PRAYER *Requests*

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Anonymous Requests | Ashley |
| Brenna Betcher Callahan | Joseph Titus Countryman |
| Joey Eaker | Ruth Ann Eaker |
| Family Member | Cathy Gaudet |
| Nikki Haars | Hannika |
| Cameron Hodgson | Kerry |
| Kevin Ketterman | Norma Lodge |
| Andrew Lord | Jane Massey |
| Clarice Massingill | Powell's Brother |
| Bev Radue | Ellen Rubino |
| Barb Sigwalt | Sally Swanson |
| Paula Venema | Dean Yoder |

Those in Assisted Living & Nursing Home:

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

Please contact Julie Dahlquist with prayer updates.





January BIRTHDAYS

- 03 - Lisa Depies
- 10 - Connie Ryner
Christina Zobrist
- 11 - Tom Vorac
- 13 - Tracey Wise
- 16 - Carolyn Stenzel
- 20 - Taylor DeSplinter
- 21 - Helen Akers
Joe Loucks
- 23 - Rachel Daniels
Larry Johnsen
Ginny Simon
Rosella Wentz
- 24 - Marlene Ashpole
Kenneth Miller
- 28 - Ron Blank
Gail Farley
Sharon Yoder
- 29 - Karl Flynn
- 31 - Karen Doy
Jack Neumann



OWLS Lunch Thursday, January 16 11:30am

Join us for lunch & a surprise program!!
Please sign up in the lobby.



The Campbells would like to extend a very big thank you to the Grace United Methodist Church congregation for all the angel gifts that appeared under the Angel Tree this year. It took two RV car loads to distribute the gifts to Hillcrest and the Geneseo Food Pantry. The Chaddock gifts that were picked up by Chaddock were equally abundant. Thanks again, you are a super giving group!

Larry & Sharon Campbell

January ANNIVERSARIES

- 08 - Daryl & Linda Rice (53)
- 13 - Ken & Cindy Pippin (57)
- 19 - Randy & Deanna Clary (5)**
- 21 - Tony & Ginny Simon (69)

The Grace Book Club met on Tuesday, December 3 in the church library. We enjoyed discussing three small Christmas books that looked at Christmas from three different view points. Our fun group was well attended and included Sandy, Sharon (Dee's mother-in-law and new member), Dee, Joy, LaVon, Pat, Gayle, and Sharon. We will meet again on January 7, 2025 and discuss the book *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick. New members are always welcome!



CHRISTMAS

with our GUMDROPS!





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>			<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>1:00pm - Violet Circle, Chapel</p>	3	4
<p>5</p> <p>Regular Sunday Events</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, Library</p>	<p>7</p> <p>1:00pm - Book Club, Library</p> 	<p>8</p> <p>7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	9	10	11
<p>12</p> <p>Regular Sunday Events</p> <p>CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST Following Worship</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, Library 6:00pm - Opal Circle, Chapel</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00am - Pearl Circle, Library</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>16</p> <p>11:30am - OWLS Lunch, Otterbein</p> 	17	18
<p>19</p> <p>Regular Sunday Events</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, Library 6:00pm - Church Council Meeting, Chapel</p>	21	<p>22</p> <p>7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	23	24	25
<p>26</p> <p>Regular Sunday Events</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, Library</p>	28	29	30	31	