

THE Visitor

September 2025

Grace United
Methodist Church
318 N Center Street
Geneseo, IL 61254
309-944-4208
geneseogumc@gmail.com
geneseograce.org

Brothers, Sisters, and Friends in Christ of Grace UMC Geneseo

I am writing to inform you all that on Thursday, August 21, 2025, I received an email that Reverend Excelsis Biteng and her family were informed they had passed their final interviews with the U.S. Embassy in Manila, Philippines. Based on this information, Reverend Biteng (Pastor Cel) will start her transition in the near future. As of today, she intends to schedule her flights starting on September 15, 2025. Once I learn of her arrival location and time, I will let everyone know.

In preparation for her arrival, Grace will be enacting a Welcome Task Force. To help coordinate all relevant tasks for this transition, I have enlisted the assistance of Ann Neumann to be my co-coordinator. We have been working hard, listening to others' input, and brainstorming ideas formulating a plan to ensure Pastor Cel and her family have everything they need upon coming to Geneseo. In order to make this happen, we will be asking for the help of everyone in the congregation by signing up for at least one task in this plan. Starting Sunday, August 31, 2025, we will be placing multiple signup sheets in the lobby with various tasks that we anticipate will need to be performed in the immediate stages of Pastor Cel's arrival. No small group of people can do this by themselves. As such, we are breaking the tasks down so that there will be tasks for everyone; from answering questions on phone calls to driving a truck to pick up and move newly acquired furniture. There will even be tasks for the youth to help make Pastor Cel's son feel welcome. Please feel free to volunteer for more than one task as your heart is called.

Additionally, rather than start purchasing items with church money, we will be asking for monetary donations as gifts to the Biteng family to buy the things they need. Once the gifts are exhausted, then we will look to the church's budget to help. The primary reason for starting with gifts is that there may be income tax implications on Reverend Biteng if funds from the church's budget are used. Therefore, also on Sunday, you will find the SPRC locked mailbox to collect monetary donations that they can use to purchase the items that they prefer.

Finally, we will also have a list of items for purchase for immediate use; household toiletries, etc. These items will be on separate tags, similar to our giving tree donations for the Christmas holidays. Take what you want to purchase, but only purchase items on the list. After purchase, all items can be placed in the tote which will be located in the lobby. Please feel free to contact Ann or myself if you see something we have missed or a need that is not represented on our signup sheets.

May the Lord bless you and keep you! May your heart be filled with charity and excitement for the new page that Grace UMC is turning.

George Farley,
Chair, SPRC



Pastor Excelsis (Cel) Biteng
Email: celbiteng@gmail.com

318 N Center Street
Geneseo, IL

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

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

stayCONNECTED



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geneseograce.org



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Geneseo Grace

2025 Offering Needed to Meet Monthly Budget

\$31,800.00

YOUR GIVING MAKES
A DIFFERENCE.

Received August 3-24

\$20,830.12

General Fund



Sunday, September 7

Guest Speaker, Pastor Shawna Bunnell, Outreach & Church Relations
Manager of Chaddock Children's Foundation

Rev. Dr. James Fielder, District Superintendent will lead the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday, September 14

Guest Speaker, Rev. Keith Anderson

Sunday, September 21

Guest Speaker, Chaplain Mike Rubino

Sunday, September 28

Guest Speaker, Courtney Emerick Morrison



#SERVINGSUNDAY @MIDWESTMISSION.ORG/MIDWESTDAY #MIDWESTMISSION

September 14
Participate In Mission Sunday At Grace
** Pack a Bag Following Worship **

You are able to make a world-wide difference right where you are by helping Midwest Mission meet their goal of building 2500 Student Kits in September. That's right! Grace Church is going to do it again! We are going to build 100 Student Kits Sunday, September 14 and deliver them to Midwest Mission so they may be distributed wherever needed. Right after service we are asking each member to build one kit and then celebrate with a donut and fellowship.

Make sure items are here by Friday, September 5, so the Mission Committee can sort and fill in, as needed.

Student Kit:

- 3 notebooks - 1 subject spiral 8" x 10½"
- 1 ruler - 12" long with metric
- 6 pencils - unsharpened
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 pencil eraser - 2" or larger
- 1 box 12 colored pencils
- 1 box 24 crayons
- 1 pair student scissors
- 1 one-handed cloth bag* (copies of instructions to make a bag are on the table in the lobby or Coral can email you a copy)





ATTENTION GRACE MEMBERS!

Due to the size and difficulty of assembly of our large Christmas tree, the Altar Committee has decided to update our situation to smaller, more manageable Christmas trees to decorate our sanctuary for the upcoming Advent season. Therefore, if anyone in our congregation would like the existing tree for their own use, or knows of someone who would like it for **their own home, it's yours! We are opening up** this possibility immediately and would also help move the tree, if needed. As you know, it is beautiful and would make an impressive addition to your decorating - inside or out. If no one shows interest in getting this tree, we will provide it to someone outside our church family or to Goodwill/Salvation Army. Please contact the church office, Paula Venema, **or Helen Akers if you'd like this impressive tree** that includes all the lights.

Thank you

To my Grace Church Family,

Thank you so much for all the love shown to me during my 100th Birthday celebration at Grace. It was the most wonderful time of all!! You are all in my heart and prayers.

May God Bless you,
Norma Lodge



Choir Rehearsal
Begins
Wednesday, September 3
7:00pm
If you would like to join us,
contact Becky Daniels.

Dear Grace UMC,

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



Meets on
Tuesday, September 2
1:00pm

We will discuss the book
Towers Falling by Jewel P. Rhodes.
All are welcome!

OWLS Lunch
 Thursday, September 18
 11:30am



Join us for lunch followed by our program given by Bob Mierop, from the Fire Prevention Program at the Geneseo Fire Department.



- 02 - Mark Mosbarger
- 03 - Jack Mickley
- 04 - Micah Nicke
- 05 - Brad Monier, Paula Schulte
- 06 - Jane Scherer
- 07 - Andy Radue
- 11 - Traci Sigwalt, Sue Vroman
- 12 - Cooper Humphries
- 13 - Paisley Junis, Lori Johnson
- 14 - Jillian Curcuru
- 15 - Wyatt Neumann, Estes Pauley
- 16 - Cole Toone, Judy VanDeWoestyne
- 17 - Mike Gorman
- 18 - Rita Boardman, Bennett Mickley
- 19 - Joseph Mickley
- 20 - Sam Mosbarger
- 22 - Marty Anderson, David DeBrock
- 24 - Tom Daniels
- 25 - Tom Gorman, Dathan Kerber, Claire Toone
- 27 - Betty Kerber
- 28 - Isaabella Curcuru, Julie Davison
- 30 - Todd Ashpole, Emily DeJohn, Matt Lohman, Milla Stewart



- 01 - Jim & Betsy Ruberg (52)
- 04 - Duane & Lynne Haars (61)
- 07 - John & Diane Greenwood (40)
- 11 - Dave & Betty Ernst (43)
- 15 - Tom & Cindy Hudson (41)
- 18 - Mike & Chrissy Weir (17)

Prayer Requests

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Adopted children & families | Anonymous Requests |
| Brenna Betcher | Kim Brake |
| Joseph Titus Countryman | John Davis |
| Ruth Ann Eaker | Family of Allen Ernst |
| Family Member | Deb Fassett |
| Cathy Gaudet | Lyn Gradert |
| Nikki Haars | Hannika |
| Mary Kintigh Family | Andrew Lord |
| Jane Massey | Clarice Massingill |
| Patty (cousin of Shelly Emerick) | Bev Radue |
| Ellen Rubino | Sue Schaefer |
| Barb Sigwalt | Sally Swanson |
| Todd | Powell's Brother |
| Karen Truelove | |

Those in Assisted Living & Nursing Home:

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

Please contact Julie Dahlquist with prayer updates.



Food needs:

juice, coffee, chips, canned fruit, canned vegetables, spaghetti sauce, all kinds of soups

Non-food needs:

toiletries, cleaning supplies, laundry supplies

Clothing Room needs:

all sizes children's clothing, all sizes men's clothing, boys underwear in all sizes, sheet sets, bath towels, washcloths



OWLS Lunch End of Summer Picnic



U.S. AIR FORCE

Tony Simon shared stories about his time as a pilot in the Air Force. Thank you for your service to our country!





September

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>CLOSED</p> <p>6:30pm - Virtual Call with Pastor Cel, Sanctuary</p>	<p>2</p> <p>1:00pm - Book Club, Library</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Regular Sunday Events</p> <p>Rev. Shawna Bunnell, preaching</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, Library</p> <p>6:00pm - Opal Circle Meeting</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:00am - Pearl Circle Meeting</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Missions Sunday</p> <p>Regular Sunday Events</p> <p>Rev. Keith Anderson, preaching</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, Library</p> <p>6:00pm - Evangelism Meeting</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>18</p> <p>11:30am - OWLS Lunch, Otterbein</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p> <p>Regular Sunday Events</p> <p>Chaplain Mike Rubino, preaching</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, Library</p> <p>6:00pm - Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Regular Sunday Events</p> <p>Courtney Emerick Morrison, preaching</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8:00am - Prayer Group, Library</p>	<p>30</p>				