THE Visitor

July 2026

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

The Power of Visitation

Why visit? Why is the church called to visit the sick, the grieving, the struggling, etc. Why are pastors charge to visit? Methodist view visitation as an essential act of Christian discipleship
and Pastoral care.

Pastoral visitation serves as a profound demonstration of Christ's love, extending beyond the pulpit to encompass various facets of individuals' lives. By engaging with congregants in their homes, healthcare facilities, workplaces, and during pivotal life moments, pastors convey a message of recognition, worth, and divine affection. These visits offer a platform for personalized prayers, renewed hope, and fortified faith. Simple gestures such as conversations, shared Scriptures, or silent prayers have the potential to provide solace to the isolated, motivation to the disheartened, and tranquility to those navigating uncertainties. Through consistent visitation, relationships are cultivated, trust is nurtured, and a supportive church community is fostered, ensuring that no individual feels overlooked.

Jesus Himself modeled this ministry by going where people were meeting them in their homes, on the roads, by the sea, and at their tables. He listened, healed, taught, and loved them. As followers of Christ, pastors and the church are called to continue this ministry of presence, reminding every person that with God everyone matters. When we are called to involve in Jesus' ministry, pastors and Christians alike are called to emulate His example of meeting people where they are, actively listening, offering healing, imparting wisdom, and demonstrating love. By embodying this ministry of presence, we affirm the perpetual closeness of God to all individuals. Let us not underestimate the transformative influence of a visit, a smile, a prayer, or a compassionate ear. Through dedicated pastoral visitation, we serve as conduits of God's grace, spreading His love and empathy to every soul we encounter or soul that we minister.

Pastor Cel

Grace United Methodist Church

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
Wednesday Worship Service
6:00pm

stayCONNECTED

309 944-4208

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Geneseo Grace

YOUR GIVING MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

2026 Offering Needed to Meet Monthly Budget

$30,833.00

May 31-June 21

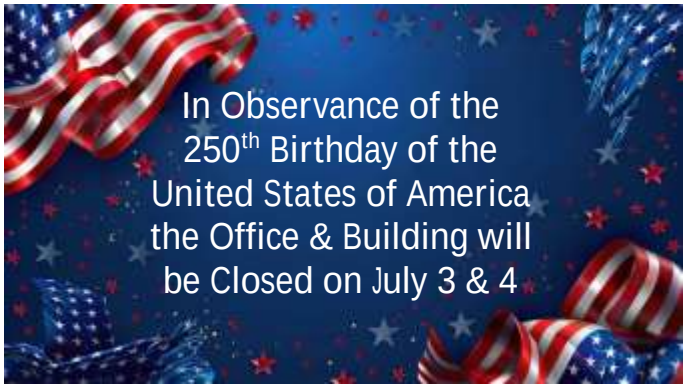
$19,566.58

General Fund

ONLINE GIVING

For your convenience we have 3 ways to give online!

Scan the QR code | website: geneseograce.com | Download the "Vanco" mobile app



UNITED METHODIST MEN

Meets every Tuesday at 6:30pm in the library. All men are invited!



United Methodist Men meet for Bible Study in the library every Thursday, 6:30am-7:30am. We are starting with the book of Romans. Discussions are facilitated by Mike Rubino & Steve Wildemuth. Come with questions!

Date	Attendance		
	Worship	Sunday School	Wednesday
May 31 & June 3	76	21	No service
June 7 & 10	74	14	7
June 14 & 17	131	13	12
June 21 & 24	62	14	No service

Participate In Mission Sunday At Grace!

You are able to make a world-wide difference right where you are by helping Midwest Mission build 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 13 and deliver them to Midwest Mission so they may be distributed wherever needed.

You may participate in three ways:

1) Purchase any of the school supplies listed below and place them in the container in the lobby by September 1.
2) Make one-handled cloth bags and place them in the container in the lobby by September 1.
3) Right after service on Mission Sunday, September 13, build one or more kits and then celebrate with a donut and fellowship.

Midwest Mission, located in Illinois and Iowa, was founded by United Methodist Church to support disaster relief, education, health, and micro business by bringing God's people together to transform resources into humanitarian relief.

Student Kit
3 notebooks - 1 subject wide rule spiral 8"x10 1/2"
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-handled cloth bag*

* INSTRUCTION SHEETS FOR THE CLOTH BAG CAN BE FOUND ON THE TABLE IN THE LOBBY.

* STUDENT KIT SHOPPING LISTS ARE ALSO ON THE TABLE IN THE LOBBY.

The Mission Committee appreciates your participation.



JULY BIRTHDAYS

01 - Steve Schulte, Paizley Stewart
02 - Jackie Mickley
03 - Ryan Coleman, Steve TeStrake
06 - Connor Morrison, Betsy Ruberg
07 - Annalise Morris, Cora Sheffler
10 - Terry Anderson, Tammy Dunker
11 - Crystal Yost
12 - Jann Sigwalt
14 - Diane Greenwood, Billie Hulting
18 - Brian Humphries
19 - Connor Coleman, Steve Wildemuth, Jason Yost
20 - Ron Clary, Roger Hulting, Norma Lodge (101)
21 - Steve Coleman, Olivia Yost
24 - Avery Dunker
26 - Gloria Shoemaker, Vivian Verbeck
27 - Seth Daniels, Steve Doy, Ross Dwyer, Tom Wise
28 - Ruth Ann Eaker, Maci Gorman Alan Yager
29 - Karen Merten

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

04 - Tom & Becky Daniels (39)
05 - Steve & Lynette Wildemuth (54)
17 - Brad & Tami Monier (15)
21 - Gary & Julie Dahlquist (64)
23 - John & Kathy Tank (49)

JOBS WANTED

Are you looking for some help with summer projects? Yard work? Help around the house? ER Biteng is ready to work for you! Please contact Pastor Cel if you are interested 309-507-4628.

PRAYER list

Peggy Betcher
Mike Clark
John Davis
Family Member
Nikki Haars
Kelly Middleton
Clarice Massingill
Karen Myhre
Patty
Ellen Rubino
Jann & Traci Sigwalt
Alan Yager
Kim Brake
Corlette
Ruth Ann Eaker
GUMDROPS Families
Margaret Hitzhusen
Joe Loucks
Michelle Matheis
Cheryl & John Opsal
Mary Petre
Barb Sigwalt
Sally Swanson

Those in Assisted Living & Nursing Home:

Joyce Criddle
John Riggs
Carolyn Stenzel
Lois Johnson
Connie Ryner
Karen Venter
Linda Oertel
Barry Snodgrass
Rita Webb

LOOKING BACK WITH Grace

Did you know that Drew Bodeen and Paul VanDerSchaaf drew up plans for a cross to hang in front of Grace Church's sanctuary? Charlie Lowe, using his carpentry skills, made it in his woodworking shop. Art French was part of the team that hung the cross in August, 2013. "So [we'll] cherish the old rugged Cross . . . and exchange it some day for a crown."





Our Director,
Molly Hamer





Molly,
Grace UMC thanks you for everything you did to make VBS happen this year!

* Devoting so much time & energy
* Hours of planning & organizing
* Helping kids grow in Christ
* Leading the many volunteers
* Faithfully serving this program & so much more!

God Bless You!!

DAY 1

Tango

God creates the world.

(Genesis 1)

























Wow, God!











God is our creator.



DAY 2

Seymour



David celebrates all God knows.

(Psalm 139)





























Wow, God!









God knows everything.



DAY 3

Dottie



David hides from Saul.

(1 Samuel 23–24)
























Wow, God!



God is our safe place.

DAY 4

Tia



Jesus dies and comes to life to show God's love.

(Luke 22:39–24:12)



























Wow, God!

God is love.

DAY 5

Howie



God gives John a vision of heaven.

(Revelation 7:17; 21–22)



Wow, God!



















God is forever.

Adventures with God



During worship service, June 14, VBS children sang three songs from Rainforest Falls!



















Thank you VOLUNTEERS!















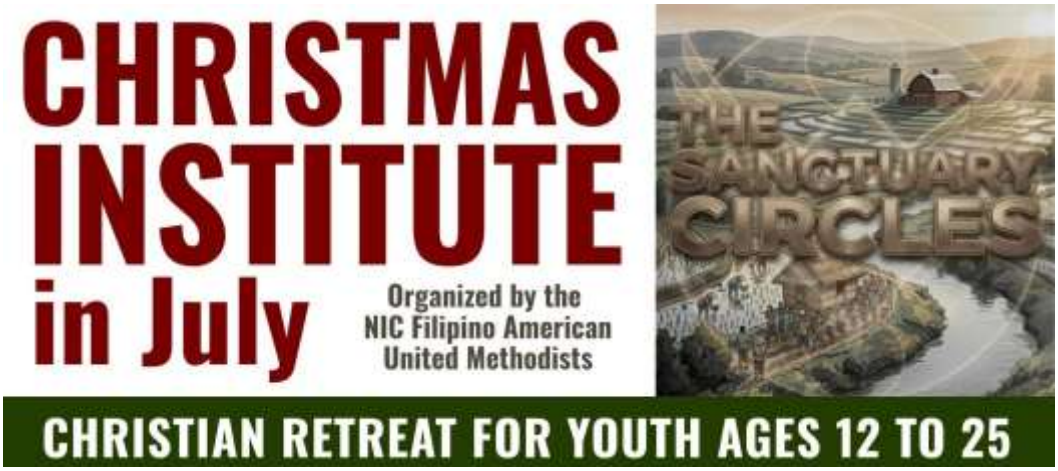










Sponsored by the NIC Filipino American United Methodists and the NIC Council on Young People's Ministries.

July 19 to 21
Camp Sullivan, Oak Forest, IL

Open to youth ages 12 - 25 across our conference and beyond.
While it is organized by the NIC Filipino American United Methodists, all youth are welcome to attend regardless of background.
Cost: $50 per person, covers lodging, meals, and activities
Registration is first-come, first-served until July 10.

Check in will be at 3:00pm on Sunday, July 19. The event ends at 2:00pm on Tuesday, July 21.

Theme: Safe in God's Arms, Together in God's Heart
Theme Verse: Psalm 91:4
"He will cover you with his wings; you will be safe in his care; his faithfulness will protect and defend you."

Participants must complete the following waivers and follow Safe Sanctuaries guidelines:
*Waiver / Permission Form (Required)
*Camp & Safety Documents, Camp and CI Safety Rules/Covenant
*Sleeping with Tent Use Policy
*For General questions, contact: Gigi Mencias, 708-769-2238
*For Registration questions, contact: Marie Esguerra, 779-361-9462 (text only)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Regular Sunday Events 8:00am - Adult Sunday School 9:00am - Worship 9:00am - KIDS Worship 10:00am - **Women's** Bible Study			1 9:00am - Staff Meeting 9:30am -Worship Staff Meeting 6:00pm - Worship Service	2 6:30am - UM **Men's Bible** Study, Library	3 Office & Building Closed	4 
5 Regular Sunday Events	6 8:00am - Prayer Group, Library	7 6:30pm - UM Men Meeting, Library	8 9:00am - Staff Meeting 9:30am -Worship Staff Meeting 6:00pm - Worship Service	9 6:30am - UM **Men's Bible** Study, Library	10	11
12 Regular Sunday Events	13 8:00am - Prayer Group, Library 6:00pm - Worship Committee, Library	14 6:00pm - Evangelism Committee Meeting, Chapel 6:30pm - UM Men Meeting, Library	15 9:00am - Staff Meeting 9:30am -Worship Staff Meeting 5:30pm - Maple City Band Pizza Party, Otterbein 6:00pm - Worship Service	16 6:30am - UM **Men's Bible** Study, Library	17	18
19 Regular Sunday Events	20 8:00am - Prayer Group, Library 6:00pm - Church Council Meeting, Chapel	21 5:30pm - Staff Parish Meeting 6:30pm - UM Men Meeting, Library	22 9:00am - Staff Meeting 9:30am -Worship Staff Meeting 6:00pm - Worship Service	23 6:30am - UM **Men's Bible** Study, Library	24	25 2:00-5:00pm - Maple City Band Music Sorting, Otterbein
26 Regular Sunday Events	27 8:00am - Prayer Group, Library	28 6:30pm - UM Men Meeting, Library	29 9:00am - Staff Meeting 9:30am -Worship Staff Meeting 6:00pm - Worship Service	30 6:30am - UM **Men's Bible** Study, Library	31	