THE Visitor

September 2026

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

Our Time, Our Focus, Our People:
Living Out Social Holiness Through Micah 6:8

We live in a fast-paced world where our schedules are constantly full. Between meetings, daily responsibilities, and endless messages, it is easy to get caught up in what we need to accomplish. In the busyness of ministry and life, we can unintentionally lose sight of the very people God has placed right in front of us.

In the United Methodist Church tradition, we often speak of Personal Holiness and Social Holiness, John Wesley's deep conviction that there is no personal Holiness without social love, and no holiness without active connection to our neighbors. The prophet Micah captured this same truth centuries ago:
"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8
God does not simply ask us for religious routines; He calls for a faith that actively touches lives. When we break down Micah's call through the lens of our time and our focus, three distinct invitations emerge:

- To Act Justly: To see people, regardless of status, age, or circumstance, as beloved children of God. It means noticing the overlooked, the lonely, and those sitting on the margins.
- To Love Mercy: To offer our most precious resource: our presence. Mercy is making time to listen, forgive, encourage, and walk alongside someone through a difficult season.
- To Walk Humbly: To shift our daily prayer from "What must I finish today?" to "Lord, who needs my attention today?"

Social Holiness in Action at Grace UMC

At Grace United Methodist Church, Social Holiness is not just an ideal, it is visible in how we reach out, give, and serve together. Through your faithful hands and generosity, the love of Christ moves far beyond our church walls:

- Nourishing Our Neighbors: Filling local Food Pantries and packing Backpack meals so no child or family in our neighborhood goes hungry over the weekend.
- Caring for Children & Families: Supporting The Baby Fold and Chaddock Homes, providing critical care, housing, and hope to vulnerable children and youth.
- Sharing Joy & Global Relief: Sending warmth across the globe through the Christmas Shoebox drive, supporting the Philippines Mission, and providing crisis aid through UMCOR for international relief, including Ukraine.

Money organizes programs and technology creates connections, but our time and intentional presence communicate God's love in a way nothing else can. As we move through October, let's pause and reflect: Who needs my time today? Who needs to know they are seen, valued, and loved? May our focus remain steadfast not just on completing tasks, but on touching lives.

Pastor Cel



Children's Sunday School Classes
Begin September 13th

The Education Committee is excited to announce Sunday School Classes for children ages 3yrs - 5th grade will begin after church, from 10:15am - 11:15am, on Sunday September 13th. Classes will be held in the 2nd floor FROGS room. After the opening children will be divided into classes of 3 yrs - K and Grades 1 - 5. Two teachers will be present at all times.

In addition to a Bible lesson, the classes will include singing, Bible verse memory, fun activities and crafts.

Our mission is to make each Bible story relevant to the children's daily life.

Any questions can be directed to Jackie Mickley @ 309-502-9228
or jackiemickley@gmail.com

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS!

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
Children's Classes 10:15am

Worship Sunday at 9:00am
Kids Worship (Ages 4-11)
Sunday at 9:00am
Wednesday Worship Service
6:00pm

stayCONNECTED

309 944-4208

geneseograce.com

geneseogumc@gmail.com

Geneseo Grace

YOUR GIVING MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

2026 Offering Needed to Meet Monthly Budget

$30,833.00

August 2 - 23

$23,321.27

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

MEN OF GRACE

Meets every Tuesday at 6:30pm in the library. This group welcomes all men!

Date	Attendance		
	Worship	Sunday School	Wednesday
August 2 & 5	63	11	15
August 9 & 12	67	11	15
August 16 & 19	74	28	8
August 23 & 26	68	23	



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

Participate In Mission Sunday At Grace!
September 13

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.





OWLS Lunch
Thursday, September 17
11:30am



Join us for lunch followed by a program presented by The Green River Band featuring Becky & Tom Daniels, Lynne Haars, and Steve Scherer. Sign up in the lobby or call the office.

Stitchers Garden

Friday, September 18
at 9:37am in the library
Everyone is welcome to join us as we work on sewing, crocheting, crafting, etc. projects & enjoy chatting with each other!

Website

CHECK OUT THE CHURCH WEBSITE
(For needed updates!)

Molly Neumann has volunteered to update our Grace UMC website! If you've noticed, or find, any information that is not up to date, please send that information to Molly's email: mollyjeanneumann20@gmail.com.



Is Served!

Join us for Breakfast on
Sunday, September 20
following Worship Service.

If you can donate an egg casserole, coffee cake, etc. please contact Paula Schulte 309-945-2964
~ Served by Opal Circle ~





Larry and I (Sharon Campbell) wish to say thank you to all our friends at Grace Methodist Church for the many sympathy cards and condolences that we have received in the passing of my father, Harold Thomas, Sr. Dad enjoyed an exceptional life of 100 plus years. He boasted being a father, grandfather, great grandfather, and great-great grandfather. He will be missed, but he was ready to rejoin his wife, Betty, of nearly 79 years, who had passed last September. Farewell, Dad and Mom.



September 5 & 6

15-20 people are needed to install a new ceiling in Otterbein. Looking for men to be on ladders, cutters, hauling old tiles out to the garbage, etc. Adults & Youth are encouraged to help complete this project.

"Many hands make light work!"



02 - Mark Mosbarger
03 - Jack Mickley
05 - Brad Monier, Paula Schulte
06 - Jane Scherer
07 - Andy Radue (50)
11 - Traci Sigwalt
12 - Cooper Humphries
13 - Paisley Junis, Lori Johnson
15 - Wyatt Neumann, Estes Pauley
16 - Cole Toone, Judy VanDeWoestyne
17 - Mike Gorman
18 - Rosemary Boardman, Bennett Mickley
19 - Joseph Mickley
20 - Sam Mosbarger
22 - Marty Anderson, David DeBrock
24 - Tom Daniels, Betty Kerber
25 - Tom Gorman, Dathan Kerber, Claire Toone
28 - Julie Davison
30 - Todd Ashpole, Emily DeJohn, Matt Lohman, Milla Stewart



01 - Jim & Betsy Ruberg (53)
04 - Duane & Lynne Haars (62)
07 - John & Diane Greenwood (41)
11 - Dave & Betty Ernst (44)
15 - Tom & Cindy Hudson (42)
16 - Steve & Lisa Depies (20)
18 - Mike & Chrissy Weir (18)
Jason & Crystal Yost (27)



Chuck Boardman
Corlette
Ruth Ann Eaker
GUMDROPS Families
Margaret Hitzhusen
Clarice Massingill
Cheryl & John Opsal
Mary Petre
Sally Swanson
Kim Brake
John Davis
Family Member
Nikki Haars
Joe & Claudia Loucks
Michelle Matheis
Patty
Ellen Rubino
Alan Yager

Those in Assisted Living & Nursing Home:

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

LOOKING BACK WITH Grace

Each Sunday we have the wonderful tradition of opening the Bible before our service begins. This symbolizes that God's Word is the active foundation, authority, and center of worship. The Bible that is currently on the altar was presented to Grace Evangelical Church by Frank F. Guild in memory of John J. Guild (1860 - 1939). In the photo, the Bible is opened to the book of Micah because John J. Guild's favorite scripture passage was Michah 6:8 "He hath showed thee O man what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly and have mercy and to walk humbly with thy God."





"Go and make disciples of all nations…"
Matthew 28:19

In the spirit of the Great Commission, Grace Church's council has unanimously approved bringing back mailed copies of *The Visitor* – reaching members, participants, shut-ins, nursing home residents, and anyone interested in following our activities. If a name comes to mind – a parent, sibling, child, grandchild, neighbor, or coworker, please share their name and address with the church office. College students' addresses are especially welcome; they'll appreciate knowing their church is thinking of them!

When someone who was raised in Grace Church wants to pursue the ministry, we, as a church, should step-up and support that individual. Courtney (Emerick) Morrison is starting her divinity studies at the University of Dubuque School of Theology. As we all know, post-graduate tuition is expensive and, as parents of twin toddlers, Courtney & Connor could use our help. A fund has been established for Courtney to assist with her mission in serving the Lord. Any donation to that fund would be appreciated. Drop the donation off in the church office or mail it directly.

Courtney Morrison
405 N Washington St.,
Abingdon, IL 61410
309-373-5236



What a joy to share fellowship with one another each Sunday!









Carol Myers, wife of former Grace UMC Pastor David Myers, passed away on July 7. To read her obituary go to: ttps://obituaries.herrfuneral.com/obituaries/carol-myers





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Regular Sunday Events 8:00am - Adult Sunday School 9:00am - Worship 9:00am - Kids Worship 10:00am - Wom-**en's Bible Study** 10:15am - Kids Sunday School		1 1:00pm - Book Club, Library 	2 9:00am - Staff Meeting 9:30am -Worship Staff Meeting 6:00pm - Worship Service	3 6:30am - UM **Men's Bible** Study, Library	4 11:00am - 1:00pm Opal Circle Serving Lunch at Fareway	5 Replacing ceiling in Otterbein
6 Regular Sunday Events Replacing ceiling in Otterbein	7 OFFICE & BUILDIING CLOSED 	8 8:00am - Prayer Group, Library 9:00am - Pearl Circle, Chapel 9:00am - Staff Meeting 9:30am -Worship Staff Meeting 6:30pm - UM Men Meeting, Library	9 6:00pm - Worship Service 7:00am - Choir Rehearsal	10 6:30am - UM **Men's Bible** Study, Library	11	12
13 Regular Sunday Events Mission Sunday Pack Student Bags	14 8:00am - Prayer Group, Library 6:00pm - Opal Circle, Chapel	15 9:00am - Staff Meeting 9:30am -Worship Staff Meeting 6:30pm - UM Men Meeting, Library	16 6:00pm - Worship Service 7:00am - Choir Rehearsal	17 6:30am - UM **Men's Bible** Study, Library 11:30am - OWLS Lunch, Otterbein	18 9:30am - **Stitcher's** Garden, Library 	19
20 Regular Sunday Events 10:30am - Breakfast, Served, Otterbein	21 8:00am - Prayer Group, Library 5:00pm - Finance Committee, Library 6:00pm - Church Council, Chapel	22 9:00am - Staff Meeting 9:30am -Worship Staff Meeting 6:30pm - UM Men Meeting, Library	23 6:00pm - Worship Service 7:00am - Choir Rehearsal	24 6:30am - UM **Men's Bible** Study, Library	25	26
27 Regular Sunday Events	28 8:00am - Prayer Group, Library	29 9:00am - Staff Meeting 9:30am -Worship Staff Meeting 6:30pm - UM Men Meeting, Library	30 6:00pm - Worship Service 7:00am - Choir Rehearsal			