November 2026
the Visitor

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

A Heart of Thanksgiving

"Give Thanks in All Circumstances"
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18) As we celebrate the season of Thanksgiving, I find myself reflecting on the many reasons our family has to be grateful. This past year has been a journey of faith, growth, challenges, and blessings. Through it all, God has remained faithful. One of our greatest blessings has been the opportunity to serve as pastor here in the Grace United Methodist Church USA. When we arrived, we faced many adjustments: learning about a different culture, Elish as my second language, adapting to new surroundings, and embracing unfamiliar ways of life. At times, these changes were difficult, but God continually reminded us that His grace is sufficient for every season. One of the hardest sacrifices has been being separated from our child in the Philippines. No parent desires to be apart from their child, and there are days when we deeply miss having her with us in person. Yet even in this challenge, we trust God's loving care and provision. We are reminded that God's presence unites us even when miles separate us. Living on a single income while supporting a family of four has also required faith, careful budgeting, and daily dependence on God. Since two adults in our family are not permitted to work, we have learned to appreciate God's provision in new ways. Time and again, He has supplied our needs through His faithfulness and through the kindness of His people. I am especially grateful for the loving support of Grace United Methodist Church. Your generosity, understanding, encouragement, and willingness to listen have been a tremendous blessing to our family. God has used this congregation to remind us that we are not alone. Your kindness reflects Christ's love in meaningful ways, and we thank God for each one of you. Thankfulness is not only about recognizing life's major blessings. It is also about appreciating the small gifts that God provides every day. I often thank God for something as simple as hot water for a bath. Coming from a tropical country, I never took that blessing for granted, especially during the colder months. When I think about the millions of people around the world who lack access to clean water, I am reminded of how richly blessed I am to have clean hot and cold water readily available in our parsonage and throughout our community. The Apostle Paul reminds us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 to give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. If we are unwilling to follow God's will in something as simple as being thankful, how can we expect Him to lead us into greater opportunities and responsibilities? Many people long to know God's specific will for their lives, yet God has already revealed much of His general will through Scripture: rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances. As I continue to grow in faith, I am intentionally forming a habit of expressing gratitude not only to God but also to the people He uses to bless and help me. A thankful heart honors God, strengthens relationships, and reminds us of His constant goodness. This Thanksgiving, may we pause to recognize God's blessings, both great and small. Let us give thanks for family and friends, for our church community, for daily provisions, and for God's unfailing grace. Above all, let us cultivate hearts of gratitude, knowing that thanksgiving is not merely a holiday but a way of life that glorifies God. To God be the glory, and to all who have walked alongside us on this journey, thank you. We are deeply grateful.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Pastor Cel

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

Sunday School:
Adult Classes 8:00am
Ladies Bible Study 10:15am
Sunday School 101 10:15am
Children's Classes 10:15am
Sunday Worship Service 9:00am
Wednesday Worship Serive 6:00pm

CONNECT WITH US

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
October 4 - 25
$18,800.75



Date	Worship	Sunday School	Wednesday Worship
October 4 & 7	86	22	14
October 11 & 14	68	34	17
October 18 & 21	90	15	11
October 25 & 28	84	32	16

ONLINE GIVING

For your convenience, we have 3 ways to give online.

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

MEN OF GRACE

Meets every Tuesday at 6:00pm in the library. This group welcomes all men!



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.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

01 - Dave Swanson
05 - Hannah DeJohn,
Mark Shoemaker, Cody Sheffler
06 - Steve Depies
07 - Susy Coleman, Evan Hill,
Bodey Mickley, Sue TeStrake
10 - Mark Koster
12 - Jerry Hahn
15 - Kylie DeJohn
16 - Duane Haars, Margaret Hitzhusen,
Tony Simon
20 - Dave Johnson, Hilary Lohman
21 - Julie Blank, Dick Gradert,
Randy Rutherford
22 - Barry Snodgrass
23 - Mark Lohman
25 - Clarice Massengill
27 - Nancy Mickle
28 - Ethan Orton
30 - Libby Anderson, Jenni Lindberg,
Ron Obrecht

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

03 - Dathan & Betty Kerber (8)
05 - Mike & Ellen Rubino (38)
08 - Wendall & Helen Akers (62)
18 - Jerry & Jean Hahn (59)
Shannon & Carly Verbeck (9)
19 - Dean & Sharon Yoder (66)
Steve & Christina Zobrist (9)
26 - Tom & Margaret Hitzhusen (61)

Breakfast

Sunday, November 15
You're invited to share breakfast with us following Worship Service. Breakfast will be served by Pearl Circle.

PRAYER list

Kim Brake
John Davis
Ruth Ann Eaker
Art French
GUMDROPS Families
Margaret Hitzhusen
Clarice Massingill
Cheryl & John Opsal
Ellen Rubino
Tony & Ginny Simon
Alan Yager
Corlette
Don
Family Member
Dick Gradert
Nikki Haars
Joe & Claudia Loucks
Michelle Matheis
Mary Petre
Friend of Nick Rubino
Sally Swanson

Those in Assisted Living & Nursing Home:

Amie Blank
Joyce Criddle
Tari Kneen
Marla Shedlosky
Carolyn Stenzel
Virginia Clayton
Mike & Ginger Jacocks
John Riggs
Barry Snodgrass
Karen Venter
Bev Cooper
Lois Johnson
Connie Ryner
Sharon Stevens
Rita Webb

OWLS Lunch
Thursday, November 19
11:30am



Join us for good food & fellowship followed by our program shared by Dietician, Anna Reiser, from Hammond Henry Hospital. She will talk about planning healthy meals, especially for individuals with diabetes. November is National Diabetes Awareness Month. If you are planning to attend, please sign up in the lobby or by calling the office.



Stitcher's Garden
Friday, November 20
9:30am

Everyone is welcome to join us as we work on sewing, crocheting, & crafting projects and enjoy chatting with one another!

Christmas Time IS HERE



Our Angel Tree will be up & filled with lots of angels the week of November 2! Grab one, two or more, and help make this a joyful Christmas for these special children & senior citizens. Please place your unwrapped gifts under the tree. Please attach the angel tag to the correct gift.

****Gifts must be turned in NO LATER than Tuesday, December 1****

Thanksgiving & Christmas Offerings

Thanksgiving offering will go to Henderson Settlement.
Christmas offering will go to the Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry.

Poinsettia order forms will be availlable as soon as we are notified with the price for each plant.



Advent begins Sunday, November 29

November

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Regular Sunday Events	**2** 8:00am - Prayer Group 6:00pm - Worship Committee	**3** 1:00pm - Book Club, Library 6:00pm - Men's Group, Library	4 9:15am - GUMDROPS 6:00pm - Bell Choir 6:00pm - Worship 7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal	5 6:30am - Men's Bible Study, Library	6	7
8 Regular Sunday Events	9 8:00am - Prayer Group 6:00pm - Opal Circle, Chapel	**10** 9:00am - Pearl Circle, Chapel 5:30pm - Evangelism Meeting, Chapel 6:00pm - Men's Group, Librarey	11 9:15am - GUMDROPS 6:00pm - Bell Choir 6:00pm - Worship 7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal	12 6:30am - Men's Bible Study, Library	13	14
15 Regular Sunday Events 10:15am Breakfast	16 8:00am - Prayer Group 5:00pm - Finance Committee, Library 7:00pm - Church Council, Chapel	17 6:00pm - Men's Group, Library	18 9:15am - GUMDROPS 6:00pm - Bell Choir 6:00pm - Worship 7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal	19 6:30am - Men's Bible Study, Library 11:30am - OWLS Lunch	20 9:30am - Stichers Garden, Library	21
22 Regular Sunday Events	23 8:00am - Prayer Group Coral out of the office	24 6:00pm - Men's Group, Library Coral out of the office	25 6:00pm - Worship Coral out of the office	26 Office & Building Closed Happy Thanksgiving	27 Office & Building Closed	28
29 Regular Sunday Events	30 8:00am - Prayer Group					

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
318 NORTH CENTER STREET
GENESEO, IL 61254

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GENESEO IL
PERMIT NO 54

