

APRIL 2020

# GRACE NOTES

No. 4 [pekingrace.org](http://pekingrace.org)



## highlights

### PASTOR'S CORNER

Pastor Eric shares updates on our Easter season.

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### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

UNITEkids learns a *bitter* lesson.

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### MAUNDY THURSDAY



Thursday April 9  
7:00 PM  
Zoom Worship

### EASTER SERVICES:



Sunday, April 12  
Live stream on our Facebook and YouTube pages.

# PASTOR'S CORNER

*Thoughts, dreams and ramblings of someone who just wants to connect you to Jesus*



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As with most of the prayers I offer, we start with a spirit of thanksgiving. We have been blessed with a season of families connecting deeply; our church is still leading the way in giving unto our city, and the Holy Spirit has gathered us into some amazing lessons of life, worship and grace. We recognize the hardships of this season of COVID19, our social standstill and those who have been shaped/hurt/scared by this all. We ask for God's presence to be felt and made known. I want to give a few updates of what this will mean for our Palm Sunday through Easter worship experiences.

**Palm Sunday** - We will keep our normal livestream schedule and finish our *Between* series. We are asking if you can make a homemade palm branch and shout "Hosanna" while recording it; then send it to me ([eswanson@pekingrace.org](mailto:eswanson@pekingrace.org)) so I can combine them for use on Sunday.

**Maundy Thursday** - We are asking everyone to gather around the table with their families and we will be doing a Zoom worship where everyone will be able to see each other and participate in a 30-minute worship experience. The link will be emailed out next week.

**Good Friday** - Pekin First will be leading this worship (as originally planned) and we will share the link to this experience next week.

**Easter Morning** - Surprise! We were working on a series of plans for the safety of everyone; we are continuing to modify those plans. We will have an amazing experience of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter morning, but we will also have an Easter worship once we have been given the all-clear to resume in-person worship for the entire church family.

Again, friends, we thank you all for your continued prayers, love and support. Keep informed through our webpage ([www.pekingrace.org](http://www.pekingrace.org)), watch our live stream on our [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages, and support our ministries through [online giving](#). If you know of someone who needs help, please let us know.

Grace + Peace,  
Eric Swanson, Pastor  
Grace United Methodist Church  
[www.pekingrace.org](http://www.pekingrace.org)



**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

*This link will be emailed out next week.*



**GOOD FRIDAY**

*We will share the link to this experience next week.*

# RE-VISIONING CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

All children ages K-6th grade are welcome!

## volunteer w/kids

### SUNDAY MORNING CHILDREN'S CHURCH AND NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

During our 9:30a worship service we have children's church from 9:45-10:30a. Volunteers assist our Children's Ministry Director Emmy with lessons and crafts.

Nursery Volunteers work either of our Sunday morning services as an assistant to our paid staff with Infant - 4 year old's.

If you are interested in volunteering with UNITE kids or Children's Church, please contact Emmy at 309-267-0595 or [ethies@pekingrace.org](mailto:ethies@pekingrace.org). Volunteers can teach online lessons or create Facebook challenges to keep the kids focused on Jesus during this time of change.

### UNITEKIDS (FORMERLY JAMTIME)

The UNITEkids Youth Group is for Kindergarten through 6th grade and meets on Wednesday's during the school year from 5:30p-7:00p. The Children's Choir practices from 6:00p-6:30p, and all children are welcome. A simple meal is served at 5:30p before our youth group lessons and activities.

UNITEkids and Children's Church focused on forgiveness for the beginning of March, with the memory verse: "Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13, NIV

The kids learned that holding onto a grudge is sour, like holding a lemon in your mouth! God forgives us; we should extend that grace and forgive the people around us when they make mistakes.



After the school shutdown, UNITEkids remained UNITED through Facebook Live nightly bedtime Bible stories, virtual lessons on Wednesday nights, and Children's Church lessons emailed to families on Sundays. I've enjoyed conversations with the kids and their parents over the phone, kept up-to-date with texts, and loved receiving pictures from the kids. We have learned to keep connected as the Body of Christ in new ways and have stretched our creativity!

Picture from the build-your-own fort challenge during shelter-in-place.



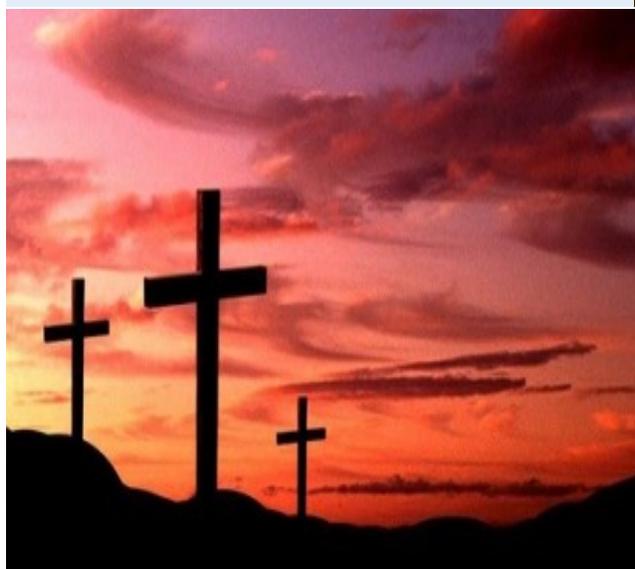
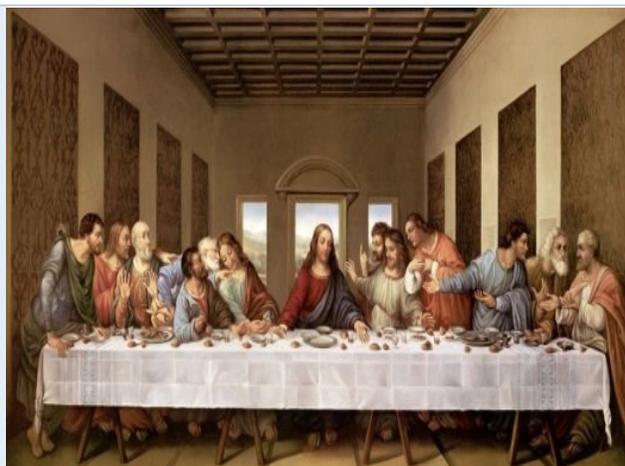
# Events for April 2020

#1

MAUNDY THURSDAY

*Thurs, April 9, 7:00 PM*

Link will be emailed next week.



#2

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

*Friday, April 10, 7:00 PM*

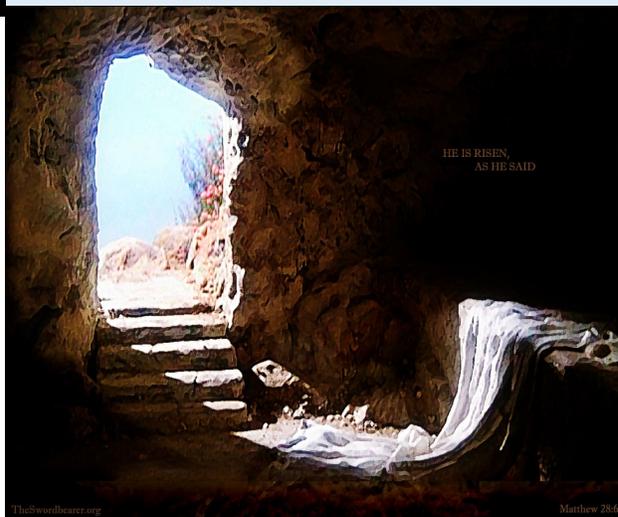
Link will be shared next week.

#3

EASTER

*Sunday, April 12*

Live stream on our Facebook and YouTube pages.



# RADICAL YOUTH



**What's Coming Up:** Hopefully this all will pass soon so we can get back to our usual meetings and events because we have exciting things coming up! Until then, we will continue to do online learning and gatherings.

**Current Events:** It seems like everything has been affected by the COVID-19 outbreak and our ministry has had to adjust like many others. Luckily we were able to still do our High School and Middle School Retreats before things started being cancelled. Our High Schoolers went up to East Troy, WI to Timber-lee Camps for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row. It was an awesome experience! The weather was perfect, we had a ton of fun, and most importantly had some amazing time of spiritual growth. The speaker focused on several of Jesus' key teachings from the sermon on the mount in Matthew 5-6, which led to some really deep conversations. Our Middle Schoolers went to CIY Believe, which was in Bloomington, IL for the first time this year. The theme was on prayer and our students learned an acronym, TACOS, to help them in their prayer life. They brought home neat wristbands with the acronym as a reminder and committed themselves to a prayer challenge back home. As the virus news kept breaking, we have adjusted to taking a reprieve from in-person gatherings for the time being. Instead we have been using online tools to continue to keep in touch and seek, grow, and live together. In place of our Sunday meetings we are following a notes outline using Adobe Spark, and for our Wednesday gathering we'll be trying out a video conference call in place of youth group. Though it's not ideal, we are making it work in hopes that we'll be back to our normal routine before too long!

**Where God's at Work:** We saw God moving in the lives of our students at each of the retreats we attended. Hearing their thoughts as we had conversations about the different topics, it was clear to see that God was moving not only in their heads but changing their hearts. Our students took our group discussion time seriously and were wanting to really understand the scriptures and see how they can live them out. One of the praises that has come up recently has been God prompting our students to make the profession of faith in front of the congregation and be baptized. We have already had one High School student baptized recently, Katrina Doering, and have a couple others that are ready to have that conversation and make that step as well. It's exciting how God is using that positive momentum as we celebrate it to open up more of those conversations with our students to take the next step in their relationship with Jesus, whether that's confirmation, baptism, or just deeper discussions about faith. Thank you for all your prayers and support!



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# BIRTHDAYS

<u>name</u>	<u>date</u>
Scott Kriegsman	1st
Ryan Cakora	2nd
Robert Irby	2nd
Trent Moberly	3rd
John Beard	3rd
Alicia Marsden	4th
Ryan Hinrichsen	5th
Mariah Teaney	5th
Maegen Miller	5th
Chuck Shields	8th
Zachary Garman	9th
Diane Ingram	10th
Judy Gordon	10th
Rachel Doan	11th
Jennifer Otey	11th
Scott Taylor	12th
Angela Hannan	12th
Peggy Golden	13th
Nancy Spencer	13th
Sterling Burks	14th
Matt Bloom	15th
Richard Kelso	15th
Carol Gustoff	15th
Garrett Williamson	16th
Lydia Collins	16th
Karson Orrick	16th
Diane Aupperle	16th
Zed Marsden	17th
Ray Long	17th
Charlie Hanley	18th
Asher Moberly	19th
Anna Evans	19th
Norma Rupp	19th
Jill Crouch	19th
Drew Hicks	21st
Jaclyn Cakora	22nd
Sarah Butler	22nd
DJ Hicks	23rd
Wilda Carlton	23rd
Carol Groch	24th
Brennan Jacobson	24th
Kendra Swisher	25th
Mike Caringello	28th
David Johnson	30th



**Food Pantry, Thursday, April 16, 4:00 PM**

**Grace Country, Sunday, April 19, cancelled**

**Grace Café, Saturday, April 25, 11:00-12:30 PM**

601 N. 4th St.  
Pekin, IL  
309-347-7131  
secretary@pekingrace.org  
pekingrace.org

**Worship Times**  
Saturdays 5:30p  
Sundays 9:30a & 10:45a



*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.* Psalm 100:1-2

## Prayer Requests

Linda Beverage  
Brian Espe, Willowdean's son-in-law  
Jane Evans  
Pastor Gary Ford  
Duane Hill  
Mike Ingles  
Margie and Dave Kelly  
Brittany Sharp, granddaughter of Jim and Pat McMullin

### **In addition, please remember our "Homebound" friends:**

Joyce Antonini  
Norma Bell  
Loree Bergerhouse  
Mary Clinebell  
Kenny Crawford  
Charles Dancey  
Dr. David Danner  
Evelyn De Long  
Lois Eertmoed  
Merla Evans  
Barbara Faichney  
Clarence & Earline Filyaw  
Peg Gorsage  
Sidney Graffis  
Margarete Hall  
Melda Harrison  
Theodore Hebner  
Joyce Hill  
June Marsden

Marge Melchers  
Pat Moser  
Roberta Moussalli  
Larae Muselman  
June Parr  
Janet Ray  
Marian Reid  
Willis and Lois Runyon  
Norma Rupp  
Mabel Seed  
Lucile Snedden  
Pat Stark  
Willowdean Stone  
Ron & Barb Trimble  
Eris Vidoni  
Emily & Ron Weyhrich  
Kathleen Woodley  
Dr. Buck Wright  
Gerry Zuercher