

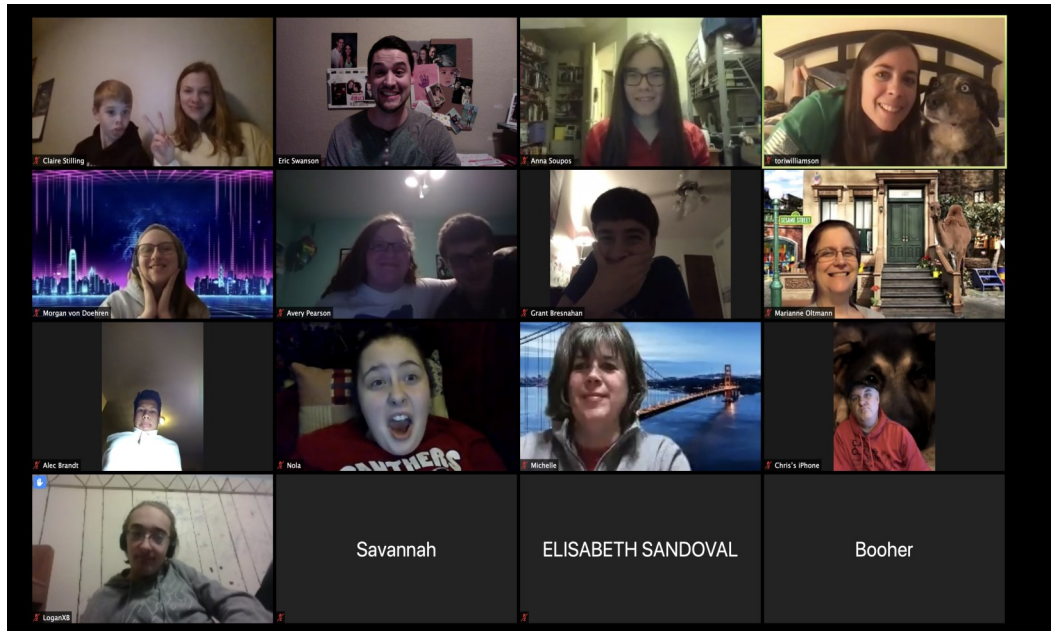
MAY 2020

GRACE NOTES



No. 5 pekingrace.org

Welcome to our New Normal!



highlights

PASTOR'S CORNER

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Food Pantry
Thursday, May 14
4:00 PM.



Grace Café
Saturday, May 30
11:00 AM– 12:30 PM.

PASTOR'S CORNER

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




Sermon Series - Upside Down


For May the primary sermon series is going to be about how we live when the world around us seems to be Upside Down. We will look at stories from the Bible when God flipped people, communities, and the world upside down, and how in those spaces, God acted. We will strive to give hope, grace, and relief for many of us who are wondering what we will experience next.

Pastor's Notes:

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. ISAIAH 43:18-19

The Prophet Isaiah gave us words that as Christians we use to help us focus on our new lives in Jesus. Our society has a desire for nostalgia; that's why I can't get enough of Frank's Pizza and Whitey's ice cream from the Quad Cities. They remind me of the great times I had growing up. Yet in the Bible God is looking in a forward direction. God is always evolving the relationship God has with the people and bringing it into a better place. There will be things in our world that will not ever be the same after COVID19. We will mourn those losses. But God will call us forward into the new thing that is being born, and once we perceive it the wilderness/wasteland we normally see will be cleared, and the new land of promise will be before us. Friends, I don't want to diminish the hardship of this moment. It is hard! But know that God sends us forward with hope, and the primary mission of the church is to make that hope known and real for all. Let us be about that work today.


**Would you like a May/June
Upper Room ? Call the office at
347-7131, and we will mail you one.**


**Would you like a printed copy of May Grace
Notes? Just call, and one will be mailed.**

RE-VISIONING CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

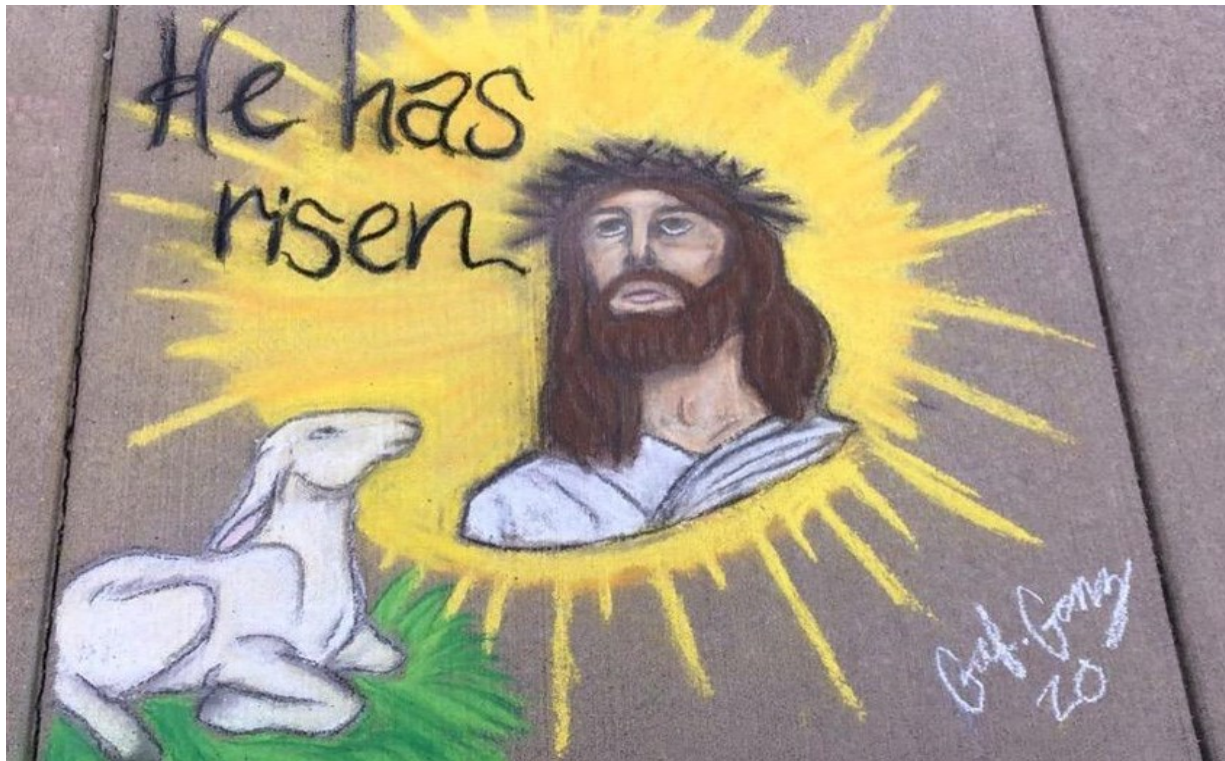
All children ages K-6th grade are welcome!

April's emphasis for UNITEkids was humility. We talked about how Jesus showed the most humble and loving act by dying to save us from our sins. Our memory verse was: *Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* Philippians 2:3 (NIV) The kids learned that they can show humility in their own lives by putting others first, asking their friends what games they want to play, offering their family members the last cookie instead of taking it, playing with a younger sibling – even when they feel like doing their own thing!

Throughout Holy Week, kids from Grace UMC and Pekin First UMC participated in the *He Is Risen* chalk art competition. There were submissions from nursery age up to high school, each sharing the Good News in a beautiful way!

After Easter, we focused on The Great Commission and praying for people to know Jesus. We made prayer chains, similar to a holiday countdown chain, and wrote the name of someone to pray for on each link in the chain. Kids were encouraged to take a link off the chain each day and pray for the person listed on the link. This is a wonderful activity to do as a family, to start family prayer time!

Children's Church worksheets are emailed out to parents on Sundays. If you have not been receiving them and wish to, please contact Emmy. I continue to pray for each of the kids and their families during this time of change. Please reach out to me if you have any specific prayer requests, and I'll be happy to pray for you! Emmy 309-267-0595



Chalk art by Gabby Gonzalez, high school student

Events for May 2020

#1

Scholarship Applications from members of Grace UMC must be turned in to the office by noon on Friday, May 15.



#2

Food Pantry

Thursday, May 14
4:00 PM

Grace Café

Saturday, May 30
11:00 AM–12:30 PM

Website: www.pekingrace.org

#3

Sunday Morning Service

Until further notice

Live stream on our Facebook and YouTube pages.



RADICAL YOUTH



What's Coming Up:

- 4/26 – Online Mission Trip Meeting
- 6/13 - Radical Dessert Auction
- 7/19-7/24 - Louisville Mission Trip

Current Events

As you might imagine, most of our previously scheduled events have either been called off or postponed to a later date. The current state of our world has forced us to adapt how we do youth ministry, shifting much of our communication and gatherings online. We've been able to continue our usual Radical gatherings on Zoom each Wednesday night, which has been great! While not nearly the same as gathering in person, it's allowed us to still see each other and meet in a way that allows us to do a fair amount of our usual youth group meetings. In place of our Church Group Time discussions on Sundays, I've been sharing Adobe Spark pages to help guide students through our study of the Apostle Paul's missionary journeys in the book of Acts. As we've been unable to gather, our adult leader team has been doing its best to stay in touch with students and support them however we can. It's been great to get to speak with many students over the phone to hear how they're doing and let them know we're praying for them. While our students usually lead a special worship service on Easter Sunday, those plans were also altered. Instead we adapted, and our students compiled a [video](#) to share with everyone. If you saw it, I hope it helped make your Easter special as you reflected on the resurrection of Jesus!

Where God's at Work

This is a bit harder to gauge than usual given the circumstances, but we've seen God show up throughout our time apart. It's been amazing to see how our students have responded to wanting to join in our gatherings and continue to grow in their relationship with Jesus. In addition to our online meetings we've been sharing devotionals & prayer prompts on social media. We've also done a devotional as a group through the YouVersion app. It was neat to see how God was able to use our [Sunrise Service video](#) as we saw people's responses shared with us. As I was checking in with students, it was amazing to experience God using me to care for them; I was encouraged by their positive attitudes and how they are remaining hopeful in the midst of such uncertainty and change. God truly is active and moving even when we can't see Him.

What's Coming Up

Hopefully, all this will pass soon so we can get back to our usual meetings and events because we have a lot of exciting things coming up. Until then, we will continue to do online learning and gatherings. Thank you for all your prayers and support!

God Bless,

Trent Moberly
Youth Ministry Coordinator
W: (309) 347-7131 C: (309) 830-8094



MAY BIRTHDAYS

<u>name</u>	<u>date</u>
Kat Doering	1st
Anna Booher	1st
Dianna Miller	3rd
Kendra McDaniels	4th
Kyle Nelson	4th
Joan Heiser	5th
Lucy Whitman	5th
Tom Dault	6th
Marti Smith	6th
Joe Hunt	7th
Kristen Hunt	8th
Dale Hicks	8th
Emmanuel Hunter	9th
Marge Monroe	9th
Devin Burks	10th
Gene Wyman	10th
Hailey Rodcay	10th
Alex Betzelberger	12th
Sharon Lohnes	12th
Jill Garman	13th
Mike Schaefer	14th
Nick Hill	15th
Cari Ranney	15th
Neal Johnson	16th
Sydney Hinrichsen	17th
Roy Johnson	17th
Dawn Turnbow	18th
Harriet Canopy	19th
Chase Ranney	19th
Michael Ripper	20th
Evan Pearson	20th
Madilyn Stranz	21st
Jan Darnell	22nd
Vickey Farson	22nd
Brandie Stranz	22nd
Heather Harrison	23rd
Kendall Garman	24th
Lucas Holly	25th
Shirley Moore	25th
Kelen McDaniels	27th
Miley Volz	28th
Sam McClain	29th
Willowdean Stone	29th
Joe Stoner	29th
Seth Ranney	29th
Andrew Hannan	31st

Blanket making recently donated 11 fleece blankets to be given to children going into the foster system. We were asked to help provide comforting blankets for these children. They are all soft fleece with children's designs on them.



Grace church has collected empty clean medicine bottles and has 27 pounds (4 garbage bags full) ready to be taken to Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham. They will deliver (no cost to us) to a convent in Kansas City, MO. There they will be sent to poor foreign countries to be used to distribute medications. Thanks for donating and cleaning.



Food Pantry, Thursday, May 14, 4:00 PM

Grace Café, Saturday, May 30, 11:00-12:30 PM

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

Worship Times
Sundays 9:30a & 10:45a



How do you re-open a church?

This is a major question for us and for so many other churches around the world who have been impacted by COVID19. We cannot pick the time or the amounts of people that our government and health officials give us guidance over, but we can consider some best practices. As a church, when we re-open for "normal" operations we know that there will be a new normal. You will notice us regularly cleaning higher-touch surfaces. We will likely move from a traditional passing of the plate for offering to something like what we do on Saturday night with a common location. We will make health conscious choices around communion, and we are even preparing to use multiple worship spaces at a single time for "overflow" if there are gathering number restrictions. We have learned that people need more connections, and so we will continue to grow the points of connection we have started. We have learned that this church can still accomplish much while under adversity, and so we will lean into our growing edges, offer grace and ultimately share the same old message of Jesus' love but in new and (hopefully) more profound ways. We look forward to being together again, but wait till we can trust the safety of all those who gather in Jesus name.

Peace + Grace,
Rev. Eric N. Swanson

Prayer Requests

Brian Espe, Willowdean's son-in-law
Jane Evans
Duane Hill
Mike Ingles
Jill Garman

Margie and Dave Kelly on the passing of their daughter, Julie

In addition, please remember our "Homebound" friends:

Joyce Antonini	Marge Melchers
Norma Bell	Pat Moser
Loree Bergerhouse	Roberta Moussalli
Linda Beverage	Larae Muselman
Mary Clinebell	June Parr
Kenny Crawford	Janet Ray
Charles Dancey	Marian Reid
Dr. David Danner	Willis and Lois Runyon
Evelyn De Long	Norma Rupp
Lois Eertmoed	Mabel Seed
Merla Evans	Pat Stark
Barbara Faichney	Willowdean Stone
Clarence & Earline Filyaw	Ron & Barb Trimble
Peg Gorsage	Eris Vidoni
Sidney Graffis	Emily & Ron Weyhrich
Margarete Hall	Kathleen Woodley
Melda Harrison	Dr. Buck Wright
Theodore Hebner	Gerry Zuercher
Joyce Hill	
June Marsden	