

JUNE 2020

GRACE NOTES



No. 6 pekingrace.org

highlights

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So we do not give up. Our physical body is becoming older and weaker, but our spirit inside us is made new every day. We have small troubles for a while now, but they are helping us gain an eternal glory that is much greater than the troubles. We set our eyes not on what we see but on what we cannot see. What we see will last only a short time, but what we cannot see will last forever.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

PASTOR'S CORNER

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



Upcoming Preaching

SERIES: Faith on Film

For the month of June we are going to get some good use out of all those digital movie subscriptions everyone got when COVID19 broke out. Each week we will have a message that looks into a major movie that has come out in the last 18 months (or so) and how it speaks to our faith. It is amazing to find all the ways God can speak to us through the world around us.

Friends,

Normally when I write this section of Grace Notes, I like to say something profound or witty. Today it's simply some practical thoughts for us as we look forward to worshipping in person again. As a church we are looking at July as our start to worshipping in person in Grace again. We are going to follow all of the health and safety guidelines given to us; so be prepared for gatherings of 50 (we have 2-3 gathering spaces within the facilities that seem to be options for simultaneous use). We will experience worship differently. When we open, we want to give you a better worship experience than what we can offer online only, so that will require us to change some of how we worship. Those changes will be spelled out next month and shared all over in church communications. We know that this season of change can be hard; but we also know that God has innovated through his people in such hard spaces, and we have been made all the better for it.

Continue to be in active prayer for each other, for our church, our city, those harmed by COVID19 and this world. Be intentional in reaching out to one another and to us for the needs of the community. We look forward with hope to the future for all that God will bless us with as we get ready to gather again.

Peace + Grace

RE-VISIONING CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Emmy Thies

Director of Children & Family Ministry

For the kids, May was all about determination and getting “unstuck”! Our memory verse was: *Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up.* Galatians 6:9 (NIV). I know I was in need of this month's focus, probably more than the kids! I was starting to feel stuck. How was I supposed to continue Children's Ministry from a distance; how could I engage the kids from home; what was it that God was calling me to do in this time? I spent a couple of weeks stuck. I prayed and tried to re-envision things. Then, as always, God started to provide me with inspiration and excitement. I'll be trying all kinds of new things, as God guides me, to keep the kids connected to Him and engaged with one another.

My favorite part of May so far has been getting to sing our Children's Church songs, along with the Praise Band, at Grace (in my jammies!). I also loved being able to surprise the kids with treats dropped off at their doors for them to find. Just wanted to remind the kids that Jesus loves them, and I'm thinking of them. Let's all pray for God to provide us with encouragement when we get stuck and determination to finish what we start. God is with us – every day.



UNITEkids continues to meet via Zoom on Wednesday nights at 5:30; check your email for a link to connect with us! Children's Church worksheets are emailed out to parents on Sundays. If you have not been receiving emails and wish to, please contact me. I continue to pray for each of the kids and their families. Please reach out to me at 309-267-0595 if you have any specific prayer requests, and I'll be happy to pray for you.



RADICAL YOUTH MINISTRY

Trent Moberly

Director of Jr. and Sr. High Ministry

What's Coming Up

Hopefully this all will pass soon so we can get back to our usual meetings and events. Until then, we will continue to do online learning and gatherings.

- 5/24—Recognizing College & High School Graduates at Worship.
- 5/29—8:30pm Outdoor Movie Night at the Booher's (Socially-distancing, of course)
- Louisville Mission Trip for Summer of 2020 has been cancelled. Thank you for all your support in prayers and fundraising for this trip! We'll do a local mission project once we're able and plan our next full trip for the summer of 2021.

Current Events

While our ministry has had to make adjustments the last couple of months, we've still been meeting together to seek, grow, and live like Jesus. We've been primarily meeting on Wednesdays over Zoom to be able to have a meeting that most closely resembles our usual face-to-face gatherings. For Sundays, we've been sharing online lessons as we continue our study of Paul in the book of Acts. We're planning to switch to a more interactive option for learning on Sundays soon without adding yet another Zoom call for our students. With our guidelines and safety precautions becoming more clear, we are planning to find ways to have some fun together while maintaining social distancing. One idea we've had is to watch a movie together, 6 feet apart, outdoors. We have one planned and are very excited. Aside from that, we are planning ahead for when we can start gathering regularly for youth group. Until then, we will continue to care for our students as best we can during this time. We received the disappointing news that our 2020 Mission Trip to Louisville was officially called off. We had been expecting this news, but it is still heartbreaking for our students to have yet another big event in their lives affected by coronavirus. We will navigate it together though and look forward to our next trip, while making even more efforts to serve our Pekin. Though their high school years ended less than ideally, we are proud of our incredible group of seniors who have now officially graduated. We'll be recognizing them, as well as our college seniors, in worship on Sunday, May 24th. Once we can worship together again in-person, we will have gifts put together for them.

Where God's at Work

We've seen God moving in the lives of our students as we've met together online and as we've been in contact with them throughout this stay-at-home order. It's been awesome to see them set aside the time week after week to make church, and gathering together, a priority. Though there are ample distractions at home, and meeting over Zoom can be awkward for some, so many have been on there every week, and we've seen most of them join in at some point. We've even had a few guests. We've also seen so many people from Grace and the community showing support and love for our senior class. On our Radical Facebook page, we put a spotlight on each of the seniors involved in our Radical group, and it's been awesome to see how so many people liked, shared, and commented in support of these wonderful young adults.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

<u>name</u>	<u>date</u>
Jim McClain	1st
Tori Williamson	3rd
Jed Bruninga	4th
Dale Golden	5th
Tara Presley	6th
Robert Comstock	6th
Brian Garman	7th
Bennett Holly	8th
Rylan Holly	8th
Tom Wojtas	8th
Duane Bruninga	8th
Jordan Ries	9th
Merla Evans	9th
Jeff Hoffman	10th
Jason West	10th
Rod Teaney	10th
Ava McCreary	11th
Judy Holder	11th
Emily Block	11th
Don MacGregor	11th
Mike Holly	12th
Bob Trombini	16th
Dave Trombini	17th
Judy Brown	18th
Alex Farris	19th
Burt Dancey	20th
Dean Allen	20th
Halle Bloom	23rd
Dennis Green	24th
Tom Poole	25th
Sandy Isenburg	25th
June Marsden	28th
Loree Bergerhouse	28th
Tori Burks	29th
Jasmine Schultz	29th
Rhenna McDaniels	29th
Amy Trantham	30th

NOTE FROM JUDY WARNER:

Our Sunday School class is called Tri-Yams. We study the Bible on Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the Upper Room on the third floor. We would love to have you join us when we are allowed to gather together again. Questions? Call Judy Warner at 317-385-9301 or Sandy Isenburg



Our Graduates:

High School:

Austin Downey
 Madison Dunn
 Jason Kennemer
 Drake Marsden
 Reilly Nelson
 Julia Oltmann
 Mary Grace Patton
 Avery Pearson
 Jayson Presley
 Morgan VonDoehren

College:

Keely Cooper
 Morgan Dunn
 Brittany Hill
 Mallory Ingles
 Hannah Martin
 Sarah McKenzie
 Madalyn (Maddie) O'Shaughnessy



I would like to thank the ladies of Grace UMW who helped provide canned goods, cereals, and personal products for the residents at the Rust Transitional Center. Our scheduled meal for April 27 was not possible because of the pandemic, but they did have needs for their residents. I delivered items, and they were very appreciative. Hopefully, our next scheduled meal in October will occur as planned. You are always so generous when there is a need. God bless you all.

Barb Hill



The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Deuteronomy 31:8

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up. Proverbs 12:25

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. John 16:33

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

Connect!

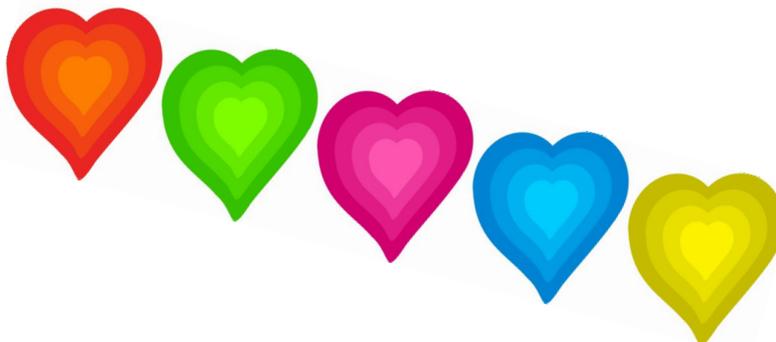
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309-347-7131
secretary@pekingrace.org
pekingrace.org

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



June 11 Food Pantry and June 27 Grace Café:

Our new normal is drive-through pantry pick-up and lunch pick-up. This is a perfect opportunity for the youth and young adults of Grace Methodist Church to step up to assist in bagging and loading groceries and lunches into our guests' vehicles. Right now, the Pantry and Grace Café are driven by mostly senior members of Grace who have a passion for others. Any assistance in facilitating our community outreach would be greatly appreciated.



Prayer Requests

Jerry Berardi
Brian Espe, Willowdean's son-in-law
Lois Eertmoed
Shari Emerson
Jane Evans
Jack and Margarete Hall
Phil Icenogle's brother, Don
Mike Ingles
Thomas and Carla Jacobson
Norma Runyon
Barb Berardi and family on the passing of her brother, Davy
The family of Dr. Robert Wright on his passing
The family of Gary and Gloria Callaway on the passing of her sister