

AUGUST 2020

GRACE NOTES

No. 8 pekingrace.org



highlights

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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



PASTOR'S CORNER

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



Pull up the July 19th 9:00am worship service to the 29:00 mark. At that moment you will see the screen shake with an impressive amount of force and the audio will drop out. The service continued, a mediocre sermon (major distraction to the pastor) was shared and people were back online for the 11:00am.

What is impressive is what you didn't see. In the booth, Kyle was trouble shooting major audio and video loss. Chris was at the stage end touching every connection. Trent took the social media to let people know what was going on. The building was likely struck by lightning and many people flinched, but the response was a solid lean into what was needed to keep the worship of Jesus moving forward.

This moment was a micro moment of everything that we have experienced in the last few months. The disruption was powerful and could be frightening, and yet the work of the church was met by the dedication of those who God has equipped to solve the problems.

We are still fixing things. Those same guys were hard at it for many hours tonight finding and fixing the problem of our most recent storm. They didn't stress that another storm will eventually disrupt us again. They simply got to the work of equipping our church to share the gospel in a connecting way for the times we are in.

It is my prayer that each and every member of our church do the same. Discern where God will best use you and when you see the critical need of the church, don't flinch but lean into the moment. Know that the work is frantic and hard but important. It shares the Kingdom of God.

Pastor Eric Swanson
Grace United Methodist Church
www.pekingrace.org



MINI VBS • Nursery to age 4

**Saturday, August 22nd, 10-11:30 a.m.
Grace UMC, 601 N. 4th St.
Meet in the gym!**

**Adults can work through art, music, and play stations
with their littles to FOCUS ON GOD in a variety of ways!**

You can RSVP to Emmy at ethies@pekingrace.org or
ethies@pekinfirst.org.

This event will be open-house style.
Masks are required unless medically unable to wear a mask
or under the age of 2.

Focus on God - VBS 2020 – was all month long in July! The kids were able to focus on God through photography, painting, dancing, music, playing drums, running a ninja warrior course, and playing in water! The kids had a blast getting to know one another and their leaders, too!

Kids expressed how excited they were to be back in the church building and back with church friends. They often weren't ready to leave when the activity was over. And, many new kids joined VBS this year! I loved giving tours of the church sanctuary and explaining what we do during worship; a few of the kids hadn't been to church before and had great questions.



Pictured to the left and to the right is Ally. She took a picture of flowers in a cross planter and then painted a picture of the flowers. This photography and art lesson focused on what we SEE to help us know God better.



God blessed these kids with artistic talent! Painting was a crowd favorite, and we talked about how we could create art to glorify God.

Part of the small group that named themselves "God's Creatures" are seen here to the right drawing pictures of nature - Kayleigh, Alana, Kira, Violet, and Grace.



Owen slid his way along the balance beam after mastering the race hop ball.



Small group "Bible BFFs" gathered outside for a group photo! Emma, CJ, Lucas, Lorelei, and Alyssa were led by Brittany Hill and helper, Halle.



The kids focused on PRAYER during week 3 of VBS. We prayed for God to make us strong and brave, which was helpful for the ninja warrior course we ran that week!



Maegen and Mallory cheered on Hadley as he ran to push the buzzer at the end of the course!

This year's VBS will be one to remember. Each small group met online once weekly and in-person once weekly, for 4 weeks. The extended length of VBS created more opportunity to engage and to strengthen relationships between the kids and their leaders. I hope that when the kids look back on 2020 and all the changes that occurred, they feel the solid foundation of God underneath them and the security of their church family around them.

Thank you to everyone who helped make VBS happen - through prayer, service, and donations!

RADICAL YOUTH

Trent Moberly

Director, Jr. and Sr. High Ministry

What's Coming Up

Radical is now gathering again **in-person** on Wednesday nights from 6:45-8pm throughout the main church building. Small groups of ten or less are meeting in separate meeting rooms. To find which group and room your student is meeting in, please reach out to Trent.

- 7/25 – Grace Cafe at 10am in the church lobby. Wear a mask & help serve a community meal!
- 7/26 – Graduate Recognition at Church Service! Senior Slideshow and acknowledgment of our graduates.
- Picnic at the Park! Tuesdays at 11:30am-1pm. Bring a lunch, chair, and mask!

Current Events: Our group has continued to gather in-person at the church in socially distanced groups of 10. We've recently looked for other ways to have fun as a group. In honor of our "would-have-been" mission trip fun day, we headed to McNaughton Park outside of town for some outdoor adventures. While a smaller group than we'd normally have on our trip fun day, we still had a blast playing disc golf, hiking, and seeing the horses. We even ran across a snake in the woods! Our students and leaders have been meeting up for picnics on Tuesdays, so we can share a socially-distanced lunch together.

The big project for us was our Mission Weekend at Grace July 17-19. We had more than 25 students, adult leaders, and church members helping to complete a whole load of projects at the Mason Building on each level and outside. We began each day with devotions and shared breakfast and lunch together just like we would on our mission trips. It was great to see each crew tackling a project together, whether it was cleaning windows, pulling up logs in the playground, painting, cleaning and organizing rooms, or running ethernet cables; everyone worked really hard to make those spaces look amazing for ministries of Grace to use for years to come.

Where God's at Work

God has been on the move lately in our group. We saw God at work through our time serving together on our Mission Weekend but also within our discussions at Radical. We have been learning what the Bible says about suffering and how, as Christians, we are called to suffer and embrace the persecution we will encounter for following Jesus. It's been challenging for us to dive into together, but it has given us a renewed passion to live boldly for Jesus regardless of the consequences.

Thank you for all your prayers and support!



Mission Weekend 2020



Mrs. Connie E. Disney

Connie Ellen Disney made her first legacy gift in 2010, when she established the Bill and Connie Disney Endowed Scholarship in Bill's memory. Every year, the gift gives Africa University students the opportunity to see their dreams, and those of their families and communities, realized.

Connie and Bill were first generation college students. Bill received undergraduate and graduate degrees in education from Southern Illinois University, while Connie earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Southern Illinois University and Illinois State University, respectively.

Bill, who died in 2007, was a high school counselor with a deep commitment to higher education. Connie is a retired elementary school teacher. She taught for more than thirty years before retiring in 1998. Their lifetime of work and dedication to service helped set many students on course for future success.



As early supporters of Africa University, the Disneys underscored the value of education, and particularly agricultural education. Connie's parents set an example for her through their support of mission projects. They helped people in other countries improve their farming practices and food production.

Seeing the success of students of agriculture continues to excite Connie. She believes that students prepared for careers in innovative agricultural practice and research will make valuable contributions across Africa.

The Bill and Connie Disney Endowed Scholarship currently supports two students in the College of Health, Agriculture and Natural Sciences. Through a second planned gift designating Africa University a contingent beneficiary of her estate plans, Connie further ensures generations to come will benefit from the lessons of generosity she learned long ago.

Strawberry Pecan Salad

The night before you want to eat the salad - make the dressing:

1/2 cup sugar
1 tsp. dry mustard
1 1/2 tsp. minced onion
1/2 tsp. poppy seeds
1 tsp. salt
5 Tablespoons white vinegar
1 cup oil (I usually used canola - but I think any kind will do)

Mix all the above ingredients and refrigerate overnight (or several hours)

Salad:

1 head leaf lettuce
1 head iceberg lettuce
1 quart strawberries, sliced
1 cup pecans (toast 5-7 minutes at 350)

Tear lettuce into bite-sized pieces.
Add strawberries and pecans.

Toss with the dressing just before serving.

Notes: I have also substituted spinach for either the leaf or iceberg lettuce.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

name date

Jane Giddens	2nd
Rob Bucher	2nd
Lauren Russell	3rd
Lucas Bloom	3rd
Paul Pearson	3rd
Emmy Thies	3rd
Dennis Dietrich	4th
Daniel Powell	4th
Josie Wendling	4th
Zach Behrends	5th
Christy Burks	7th
Carla Germann	7th
Jarad Presley	7th
Kenny Crawford	9th
Fred Block	10th
Clayton Powell	10th
JB Witt	12th
Bill Killus	13th
Keri Behrends	13th
Steve Clark	13th
Marian Reid	13th
Terry Weiss	14th
Megan Hinrichsen	15th
Lydia Butler	15th
Liz DeSchepper	17th
Amy Ries	17th
Brian Cox	18th
Betty Allen	18th
Emma Wyman	19th
Lucy Scott	19th
Phil Icenogle	19th
Lucia Nelson	19th
Zoey Collins	20th
Jan Herbig	21st
Jessica Geiman	21st
Gary Towne	22nd
Darrell Becker	22nd
Cooper Herberger	22nd
Nathan Mulvey	23rd
David Bauman	23rd
Kelly Cole-Bloom	25th
Carol Booth	26th
Ron Trimble	26th
Lisa McClain	28th
Hannah Martin	28th
Emma Cole	28th
Hadley Swanson	28th
Ben Bucher	28th
Duane Hill	29th
Sophie Hinrichsen	30th
Georgia Brown	30th
Denise Johnson Teaney	31st



A special thank you to Judy Icenogle and Barb Berardi for sharing their sewing skills with the congregation.

We now have an ample supply of masks available for anyone attending our church activities.

My name is Jason Kennemer, and I am one of the recipients of a Grace Memorial Scholarship. This past month I have been researching the classes I will be enrolling in at ICC this coming fall. The scholarship will help pay for my continuing education to become an Engineer. I am currently working at Pekin Community High School for my second summer with the Buildings and Grounds Crew. Thank you for selecting me for this scholarship.

Best regards, Jason Kennemer

Thank you very much for the generous scholarship. I am excited to put it to good use as I start this new chapter. I will be attending ICC in the fall and will transfer to a 4-year university after 2 years at ICC. I plan to study Elementary Education. Thank you again so very much!

Sincerely, Madison Dunn

Upon hearing that I had received a Grace Memorial Scholarship, I was so excited to be able to use this money for my continued schooling for the next academic year. With nursing school on the horizon of my academic journey, it felt so good to know that I had the support of the church behind me on my way to becoming a pediatric nurse. Thank you so much for this money, and I hope that it aids me in fulfilling the hopes and dreams that I feel God is calling me toward. Thank you so much again!

Kailee Sciortino

Thank you very much for my scholarship this school year. I will be using the money on my tuition at Quincy University as I work toward my undergraduate degree.

Kristen Hunt



*For through me your days will be many,
And years will be added to your life.*

Proverbs 9:11

Connect!

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secretary@pekingrace.org
pekingrace.org

Worship Times
Saturdays 5:30p
Sundays 9:00a & 11:00a
Communion served at all
services.



Thursday, August 13:
Drive-Thru Food Pantry at 4:00 PM

Saturday, August 29:
Drive-Thru Grace Café
11:00– 12:30 PM

Grace Country
Sunday, August 9
6:30 PM



Prayer Requests

Jerry Berardi

Brian Espe, Willowdean's son-in-law

Lois Eertmoed

Jane and Jack Evans

Jack and Margarete Hall

Mike Ingles

Thomas and Carla Jacobson

Norma Runyon

The family of Dr. David Danner on his passing