

GRACE NOTES

JULY 2020

No. 7 pekingrace.org

highlights

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God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1



WELCOME HOME



**PLEASE WEAR
A MASK**



**USE APPROPRIATE
SOCIAL DISTANCE**



**SANITIZE YOUR
HANDS**



**PLEASE DON'T ATTEND IF
YOU'VE BEEN SICK IN THE
LAST 14 DAYS**

PASTOR'S CORNER

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



* Please begin by opening your Bible and reading Psalm 13

This is the Psalm that is connected to Sunday June 28th's worship if we were to follow the lectionary at this time. This is also a powerful Psalm for our world right now. It is one of David, and it is a cry that so many of us are feeling. We feel as if our (insert your cause/desire here) has been forgotten. With the rally of the Black Lives Matter movement, it is the forgotten feeling from our country not dealing with systemic racism. The allowing for implicit bias to continue to hold people of color back and maintain hurtful judgements has caused irreparable harm. As fellow UMC pastor Rev. Jasper Peters has reminded us, we are asking for reconciliation, but that is not what we need. To reconcile for many is to return to a state of things, but that state of things in the past has allowed for our harm. We need to move forward into a state of salvation and the creation of a relationship that is not predicated on the harm done to another.

This Psalm makes us uncomfortable because in this Psalm we hear a lament about the feelings of distance in this relationship with God. The desire from the Psalmist is to have the relationship in a powerful, loving, and connected form. That hasn't happened in the feelings of David, and it is not clear when it will be resolved. Many of us have a feeling that what we want has been forgotten, that those who don't desire a future like we do are winning and gloating about it. The world we desire is not the one we have.

But David persists. He ends with, *I trust in your unfailing love. I rejoice because you have rescued me. The Lord is good to me.* Regardless of our now feelings, we know in our hearts that the intent of God is for God's love of us to be made known in our hearts and lives. We cling to that hope when we don't see it before us. Friends, I pray that you trust in that hope today, especially if you do not see the world as where it should be. I also pray that instead of talking about it, that together we do something about it as the body of Christ.

**Vacation Bible School
All Month Long in July!**

June has been a month of preparation—for VBS!! Yay! We will have VBS all throughout the month of July.

Focus on God - VBS 2020 includes the memory verse:

*Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this journey of faith.
And He is the one who completes the journey of faith.*
Hebrews 12:2a (NirV)

This year provides us an amazing opportunity to spread VBS out longer than one week and to conduct it in small groups. The kids will get to FOCUS on God in different ways, through fun activities, all month long! Kids will focus on God through what they SEE, what they HEAR, through PRAYER, and through the way they LIVE. Please be praying over VBS, for it to be impactful and bring the kids and volunteers closer to God, and closer to one another.

I am SO looking forward to getting to see the kids again and getting to learn, play, and praise God together! If you would like to register your child, please email Emmy at ethies@pekingrace.org. Children will be placed into small groups of similar ages; small groups will meet online once weekly and in-person once weekly with their adult leaders.

There's still time to get involved with VBS! If you would like to donate items for our "VBS Celebration in a Box" that each family will receive at the end of VBS or if you would like to lead a small group, please contact Emmy! 309-267-0595

RADICAL YOUTH MINISTRY

Trent Moberly

Director of 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 10 or less are meeting in separate meeting rooms. To find which group and room your student is meeting in, please reach out to Trent!

- 6/23 - Picnic in the Park each Tuesday from 11:30am-1pm weather permitting. Bring a mask, lunch, and something to sit on!
- 6/27 - Grace Cafe at 10am in the church lobby. Wear a mask & help serve a community meal!

Current Events

We're back meeting together!!! It's been so great to get to see everyone the last couple weeks as phase 3 allowed for us to start to gather in person again. We've been able to serve at Grace Café & Food Pantry, have an outdoor movie night, meet for a picnic in the park, and even have youth group! While we are limited to socially distanced small groups of 10 or less for Radical right now, the response of students wanting to come back to church was so encouraging and uplifting. After being away from school and friends and having so much interrupted in their lives, our students were thrilled to come back to church and be together again. The masks and some other safety practices will definitely take some getting used to, but it is well worth it to get to seek, grow, and live like Jesus together again. We're excited to explore other ways we can get together for fun, service, and spiritual growth as the summer goes on!

Where God's at Work

Being able to be with others is such a vital part of how we grow in our faith and relate with God. While we did our best to virtually stay in touch with each other for encouragement in following Jesus, God has been working and speaking in our small group discussions since we've gotten to meet in person again. Our group has recently been learning about some specific "Hard Prayers" that are difficult but valuable to pray. The prayers we discussed were **search me, Your will be done, send me, and live justly**.

We actually shifted gears for the last week of that series in light of the events unfolding in our country related to police brutality and conversations about racism. This was something that God prompted me to do and led to some important conversations with students as they tried to make sense of what was happening and how they can be agents for change in their circles of influence. Our new series has been exploring the topic of fear. What fears do we face, and how does God come alongside us to overcome them? There's a lot to be fearful of right now, and our other adult leaders are lending their voices to these conversations by leading our lessons in this series.

On Sundays, we're still primarily doing online lessons with Adobe Spark but are trying to move towards gathering together for our discussions. We've concluded learning about Paul's Missionary Journeys in Acts and are now starting to learn about Apologetics. Apologetics is a big church word but it's basically just exploring the "why" behind our faith to become more confident in our Christian faith and be better equipped to have conversations with others who either don't believe or are first exploring Christianity. We're excited for how God can help us to find new depth in our relationship with Jesus through this time together as we use our heads to think through our faith. Thank you for all your prayers and support!



JULY BIRTHDAYS

<u>name</u>	<u>date</u>
Cori Swanson	1st
Helen Dietrich	1st
Janni Harrison	4th
Margaret Kelly	5th
Chloe Ranney	5th
Trey Tennell	6th
Julie Wallace	7th
Joanne Miller	7th
John Darnell	8th
Thomas Jacobson	8th
Lee Oltmann	9th
Julia Oltmann	9th
Amy Meron	10th
Sam Poole	12th
Dennis Crowell	12th
Larae Muselman	15th
Barbara Berardi	16th
Lila Beth Hoffert	17th
Stuart Holder	17th
Alex Farris	19th
Norma Bell	20th
Jami Burks	22nd
Alisha Dault	22nd
Rex Hough	23rd
Melda Harrison	24th
Dane Wallace	25th
Stacey Melloy	26th
Bonnie Hulting	27th
Rich Kriegsman	28th
Wayne Holly	28th
Nick Stoner	28th
Vicki Garman	28th
James Beard	30th
Gloria Ranney	30th
Keith Bonnett	31st
Debbie Cather	31st
Mary Clinebell	31st
Pat Stark	31st
Mary Johnson	31st



Congratulations to our eight recipients of Grace Scholarships:

Madison Elizabeth Dunn

Julia Claire Evans

Kristen Ann Hunt

Jason Thomas Kennemer

Jaclyn Grace Lorraine Mulvey

Julia Marie Oltmann

Meredith Christine Onken

Kailee Elizabeth-Ruth Sciortino



Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

Psalm 33:12



Dear knitters and sewers of
Grace Methodist Church,

Judy brought the most beautiful stole to me last week, and I am overwhelmed by your generosity. I will use it proudly. My husband, Dr. Wright, would have thought the colors perfect. I hope to do something for you all soon.

Sincerely,
Gwen Wright

Lenten gifts collected before the pandemic were dispersed as follows:

Cunningham House:

- 1 body wash
- 7 sets of gloves
- 50 bars soap
- 26 tubes of toothpaste
- 45 toothbrushes
- 24 deodorants
- 12 combs
- 10 shampoos

Dignity Bags prepared by Radical for distribution to needy:

- 1 Micro-USB Cable
- 8 Chapsticks
- 1 sun screen
- 1 shave cream
- 2 body wash and lotion applicators
- 9 deodorants
- 12 toothbrushes / 7 toothpaste
- 22 bars soap
- 60 ponytail holders
- 6 shampoos

A special thank you to Bennett and Rylan Holly for their food and monetary donations to the Grace Food Pantry. For their birthdays, the boys asked for donations to the pantry instead of birthday gifts.

It is more blessed to give than to receive.
Acts 20:35



Connect!

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Pekin, IL
309-347-7131
secretary@pekingrace.org
pekingrace.org

Worship Times
starting July 5
Saturdays 5:30p
Sundays 9:00a & 11:00a



Thursday, July 16:
Drive-Thru Food Pantry at 4:00 PM

Saturday, July 25:
Drive-Thru Grace Café
11:00—12:30 PM



UMW: No meetings until September.

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

Gloria Ranney

Melissa Baldwin-Troutman's daughter

Rachel Baughman's father

The family of Evelyn DeLong on her passing

The family of Theodore (Ted) Hebner on his passing

The family of Betty and Dean Allen on the passing of her sister