

GRACE NOTES

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highlights

PASTOR'S CORNER

Page 2

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Page 3

RADICAL NEWS

Page 4

UMW BOOKS AND RADICAL PICS

Page 5

BIRTHDAYS, THANKS YOU'S UMW MEETINGS

Page 6

SANCTUARY CHOIR AND GRACE BELLS START

Page 7

PRAYER CONCERNS

Page 8

*Be patient, then, brothers,
until the Lord's coming. See
how the farmer waits for the
land to yield its valuable crop
and how patient he is for the
autumn and spring rains. You
too, be patient and stand firm,
because the Lord's coming is
near.*

James 5:7-9



PASTOR'S CORNER

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



Friends,

One of my favorite sayings from Bishop Palmer is "never wasted a good crisis." This COVID19 crisis has been shaping how we live for the past 5 months, and it will continue to shape us for much longer. We have adapted to services with partially recorded sections. People now work remotely more than together. Sports appear to be radically changed. One of the things I have been in prayer about and working on for the past year has now surfaced as a priority for change in this season as well. As a lifelong United Methodist, I have seen how our systems help connect people and how they usually take forever to get anything done. Working on a more nimble church has long been a passion project of mine, and today we are looking to take some practice steps in that direction.

I am proposing that as we look further into the coming year, we move all committee meetings to a shared time from 1-2pm on the second Sunday of each month with a full Church Council meeting following from 2:15-3:30. Committees can partner with each other for a meeting if that makes sense, and then everyone can quickly share questions in the Council meeting that follows. We can use technology to help team members who, for whatever reason, cannot be in person; and it is my hope that these unified meeting times will help us take down some of the silos that each committee can occupy in our current structure.

The goal of the church is to always meet the emerging needs that God presents before us in a faithful manner. This fall we will work towards this system, and by the end of the year we hope to have it in full function.

Peace + Grace,

Rev. Eric N. Swanson

Multiplying Jesus' Followers Through God's Grace

www.pekingrace.org

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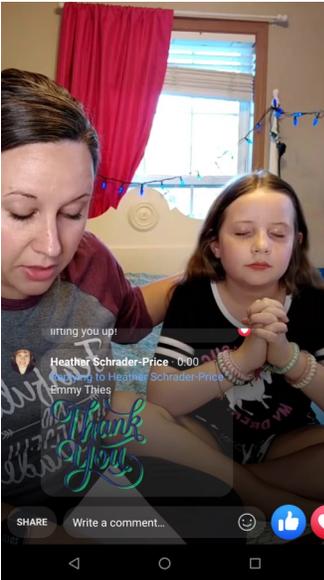
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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Emmy Thies

Director of Children & Family Ministry

Families are preparing for the school year ahead, so we met online to have a Back-to-School time of prayer for our UNITEkids on August 18th. If you haven't already, I encourage you to join our Facebook group: UNITEkids Pekin UMC to stay up-to-date and see pictures of what the kids are doing!



We prayed: Dear Heavenly Father, please protect each child; please surround each student in Your peace as we begin a new school year. Things may be different this year, or may change during the school year, but we move confidently forward, knowing You are constant. You give us the solid foundation we live on and prepare a path of growth ahead for us. You love us always!

Please help us to help our fellow students. Please support and strengthen our teachers and school staff. Please guide the adults that are making decisions to keep us safe and healthy.

We give this school year over to You, dear God. Your Will be done. Help us to learn the lessons You have prepared for us. Dear God, please reveal to each of us the way in which You created us to serve You and to love the people around us. We trust that You are FOR us today and every day ahead.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Church family, please be in prayer for the children, their schools and teachers, school staff and administration, and for parents and caregivers. This year provides a back-to-school season like no other; some kids are ready for class in-person and other kids are prepared for online learning. There will be new situations to navigate and routines that look much different than in years past. I know our families appreciate the extra prayers now - and throughout the school year!

As always, I'm here to serve you, so please reach out to me with prayer requests or needs via my email at ethies@pekingrace.org.

Thank you in advance for your prayers! Emmy



RADICAL YOUTH MINISTRY

Trent Moberly

Director of Jr. and Sr. High Ministry

What's Coming Up

- 8/26 – Nerf Battle from 6:30-8pm at the Church in the Fellowship Hall! Wear a mask; bring some nerf guns and darts!
- 8/30 – Church Group Time starting back up! We'll meet Sunday after services at 12:00pm. Wear a mask and bring a lunch if you'd like! Series on Apologetics
- 9/12 & 9/13 – Potato Bar for the Marigold Festival! Check Facebook or your email for a volunteer sign up!

Current Events

Following our Mission Weekend, our students had a bonfire together by the Mason Building and enjoyed some s'mores and the stars! Better late than never was the feeling around graduation this year! Our 2020 high school seniors had a long overdue graduation ceremony, and we finally recognized them at worship the Sunday after their ceremony! It was an amazing group of faithful students whom God is going to use in big ways as they head into their schools and careers! We've continued some more of our projects at the Mason Building that we started during our Mission Weekend, but have plenty more to go that we'll continue working on in the weeks ahead to make that building an even better place for ministry to take place for our youth and beyond! We had fun with a new game we learned a couple weeks back called *The Kingdom*. This game involves playing cards with monopoly money to see who can end up with the most cash at the end! It created lots of laughs, and I'm sure we'll play it again.

Where God's at Work

Our latest series at Radical led us to confront some of the false ideas we might have about Jesus. We talked about a few "Jesus Imposters" we've likely encountered and may have been following, who might seem like Jesus but are actually leading us away from the true Jesus. Some examples we looked at were *Political Jesus*, *Hollywood Jesus*, and *Legalist Jesus*. This helped open our eyes to the way we might have misconceptions of who Jesus was and the Jesus we are following in our lives. As we sent off our seniors to college, it was great to get to celebrate, encourage, and pray for them as they head into a new adventure in their college years!

What's Coming Up

Our group has continued gathering in-person using social distancing guidelines on Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm. We moved our meeting back to Zoom for one week with the office closing down due to a potential cross-contamination scare, but are back to "normal" this week! We'll kick off the school year with a game that can be done from a safe social distance, a good old-fashioned Nerf Battle! We will also be starting our Church Group Time discussions back up on Sundays at 12pm following worship until 1pm. We'll do this similar to our picnic at the park, so wear a mask and feel free to bring lunch! We'll meet outside if it's nice or spaced out inside if it's not. Our potato bar is still happening this year; it'll just be drive-thru style! So, if you're interested in volunteering, keep an eye out for an online sign-up via Google Forms either in your email or on Facebook!

Thank you for all your prayers and support!



New Books in the UMW Library for 2020

Education for Mission: *When Others Shuddered* by Jamie Janosz. Eight women who refused to give up and followed God's lead risking their own safety and reputation.

Social Action: *Midnight Teacher* by Janet Halfman. In 1800 Mississippi when slaves were not allowed to learn to read and write, hundreds were taught in a cabin in a dark alley at midnight.

Nurturing for Community: *Tilly and the Crazy 8's* by Monique Gray Smith. Tilly drives 8 elders on their ultimate bucket list trip and all are transformed in ways not predicted.

Social Growth: *Working Class Rage* by Tex Sample. A field guide to white anger and pain.

Children:

Owen and Eleanor Move In by H. M. Bouwman. A story about what it means to have a home and what it means to be a friend.

Where Will I Live? by Rosemary McCarney. Where do you go if your home is no longer safe?

Youth/Young Adult: *A Cage Without Bars* by Anne Dublin. The hope of freedom.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

name date

Carol Weiss	1st
Sue Crowell	1st
Ron Robinson	2nd
Grady Nelson	2nd
Alan Comstock	2nd
Eric Swanson	3rd
Tom Patterson	4th
Morgan Turner	4th
Ron Garman	5th
Barbara Wright	6th
Joann Alberts	7th
Matt Behrends	8th
Morgan Dunn	8th
Alice Cakora	8th
Jay Zimmerman	10th
Barbara Trimble	11th
Kevin Stark	12th
Robyn O'Shaughnessy	12th
Ken Bradshaw	13th
Marv Brown	14th
Sarah McKenzie	16th
David Stone	16th
Roberta Moussalli	16th
Ed Mulvey	17th
Barbara Harper	18th
Jim Stallwitz	18th
Haley Hoffman	18th
Nick Patterson	20th
Nancy Wherry	20th
Linda Smith	20th
Mallory Miller	20th
Zach Bruns	21st
Cindy Carlson	21st
Vera Byrd	21st
Ellie Wilson	22nd
Linda Stoner	24th
Sara Golden	25th
Ann Tunis	25th
Chris Onken	25th
Judy Warner	25th
Lilly Doan	26th
Tammy Denning	26th
Shannon Tebben-Sandoval	26th
Aria Moberly	27th
Vicki Mckinley	27th
Brady O'Shaughnessy	29th
Ryan Trantham	29th
Bruce Ripper	30th
Gerry Zuercher	30th

Thank you for awarding me this scholarship for this upcoming school year. I will be using it to further my education as I transfer from Heartland Community College to Illinois State University this coming Fall.

Jaclyn Mulvey

Grace UMC Family, Thank you so much for the *Make College Count* book and for thinking of me as I head to college! I really appreciate it. I will miss you all, and I am excited to continue my faith in Edwardsville!

Sincerely, Ashley Stilling



Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings from the wicked who assail me, from my mortal enemies who surround me. Psalm 17:8

UMW Executive Meeting

Thursday
September 3
1:00pm
Fellowship Hall

Miriam Circle
Wednesday
September 16
Noon
Hospitality Area



Caramel Apple Salad

- 1 small package instant butterscotch pudding
- 1 8-oz. carton Cool Whip
- 1 8-oz. can crushed pineapple with juice
- 1 cup miniature marshmallows
- 1 cup peanuts
- 3 cups chopped apples

Mix dry pudding and Cool Whip well. Add pineapple with juice and mix well. Stir in marshmallows, peanuts and apples. Refrigerate.

You may want to double the recipe, because everyone enjoys it!



Welcome Sanctuary Choir and Grace Bells



We hope that everyone is staying safe and that you will be willing to join us this fall for what should be a very interesting season making music for Grace Methodist Church. We have been keeping up with the research and notices about both singing in the congregation and instrumental performances such as the brass and bells. Our own and the congregation's safety is high priority for us at this time.

Our **Sanctuary Choir** will rehearse and perform in small ensembles. Most performances will be on video for the safety of the congregation. We will rehearse in masks and distance properly in the sanctuary.

The Sanctuary choir ensembles will begin rehearsing on **Wednesday September 2nd at 6:15pm**. This first rehearsal will be approximately 30 minutes long and we will discuss briefly how these ensembles will work. Each ensemble will rehearse for 30 minutes beginning on September 9th. The overall schedule will be sent to all choir members this week in an email.

Bells:

Bells will begin **Monday, September 13th at 4:45pm**. All rehearsals and performances will be in the sanctuary balcony for one hour. Performances will be live and in-person on the first Sunday of each month starting in October. We will move the bells up to the balcony after the choir rehearsal on Wednesday, September 2nd at 6:45pm.

We welcome any new members to both groups. There is always room for more musicians at Grace. Please consider joining either group this fall. It is a wonderful and meaningful manner of serving our congregation. Talk to Dr. Rimington for more information.

rimationj@yahoo.com or jrimington@pekingrace.org

Connect!

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



**Thursday, September 17:
Drive-Thru Food Pantry at 4:00 PM**

**Saturday, September 26:
Drive-Thru Grace Café
11:00—12:30 PM**

**Grace Country
Sunday, September 13
6:30 PM**



Prayer Requests

Jerry Berardi
A child named Deegan
Lois Eertmoed
Tony Fulk, son-in law of Kathy and Rick Manz
Jack and Margarete Hall
Duane and Barb Hill
Katie Icenogle
Mike Ingles
Thomas and Carla Jacobson
Norma Runyon
Judy Streid
Terri Zimmerman
First United Methodist Church
Willowdean Stone and Julie Espe
on the passing of Julie's husband, Brian
Norma Caringello and family on Mike's passing

*Let us fear the Lord
our God, who gives
autumn and spring
rains in season, who
assures us of the regu-
lar weeks of harvest.*

Jeremiah 5:24

