

GRACE NOTES



No. 12 pekingrace.org

highlights

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PRAYER CONCERNS

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11



Service times:

3:00pm, 7:00pm, 11:00pm in person
and on our webpage or YouTube channel all day.

For our in-person worship, it will be an outdoor service off the west end, grassy area, (adjacent to the parking lot) behind the Family Life Center. All the parking spaces touching the grassy area are for those who will remain in their cars for the service and the remaining parking is for those who will walk up into the grass to participate. We do require everyone to be masked for the service. It will last 15 minutes and will include a reading of the birth of Jesus from Luke, a mini-message, and the ability for everyone to sing Silent Night while holding an LED candle we will provide.

Grace will have a full Christmas Eve Worship Service video that will be available on December 23rd for you and your family to enjoy together.

It will be released on Facebook and YouTube

PASTOR'S CORNER

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



Unplannable Christmas

This year has been hard on the planners. Planners are people who investigate the future, set a goal, and then build the world as they know it around those goals and the work that is needed to be done. 2020 is the year that laughs at those plans. I've been told before, if you want to make God laugh then just tell him your plans. 2020 must be a riot then. I say all of this to share that as we have tried to make some plans for a "normal" Christmas offering for people, we have been hit by changes. Each time we get a plan solid, it shifts.

This is also the most Christmas thing Christmas plans can do.

The first Christmas was the birth of Jesus, and on that day, we have a couple, in a situation that is unplanned (having a baby at this moment) in a city they wouldn't have planned on being in if it wasn't for the census and entering a world where all their (and their families) best laid plans are not going to happen.

But the miracle of Jesus was right there with them. They didn't even know what to do with him in his arrival.

This Christmas is going to be different, no doubt about it. We are to a point in our church where we hope to send out a high-quality digital version of our normal services and then offer a 15 minute in-person outside worship with scripture, mini-message, and Silent Night on the lawn. It's not what our planner selves saw as we investigated the future. But we know that Jesus will be there, and we will be equally awestruck and unable to process his arrival. But we will celebrate that gift and do our part in sharing that gift into the world.



I pray that every one of us is surprised by the living Jesus in our midst this Christmas.

Peace + Grace,

Rev. Eric N. Swanson

Multiplying Jesus' Followers Through God's Grace

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Emmy Thies

November UNITEkids was all about GRATITUDE! We found out the kids are grateful for everything from grandmas to the concept of time! We made cards for veterans on Veteran's Day and gratitude gifts for our neighbors.



Karl chased his sister, Madalynn, during a game of line tag – one of UNITEkids' favorites!

Easton made a Veteran's Day card for his dad



On November 18th, UNITEkids Online launched via Facebook and YouTube. This online format will be available on Wednesday nights, when in-person activities aren't permitted due to health guidelines.

Watch the UNITEkids lessons on "UNITEkids Pekin UMC" Facebook page or "Grace United Methodist Church – Pekin, IL" YouTube account.



YOUTUBE.COM
UNITEkids November 18th 2020
Catch Emmy leading us for this weeks lesson on Thankfulne...



Lucas enjoyed the chicken & noodles from his Sunday dinner!

Families are welcome to pick-up an Advent activity kit at Pekin First. I encourage families to anticipate and await Christmas with this meaningful tradition. The kit comes with candles to light each week of Advent, an Advent calendar full of daily activity ideas, and explanations of each candle to learn about and reflect on as a family. We have plenty of kits, so no need to reserve one; just pick-up and enjoy! If you're unable to get your Advent set on Nov 29th, contact Emmy for arrangements to drop-off to your home.

At-Home Advent

Pick-up an Advent Candle Set for your family to light at home throughout the weeks of Advent!

Sunday, Nov 29th
4:30-5:00
at Pekin First UMC

RADICAL YOUTH MINISTRY

Greta Long

Youth Ministries Director



Happy Holidays, friends! This year will certainly look different from years in the past, but I feel so thankful to be a part of Grace UMC throughout the changes we will face. Planning ahead during a global pandemic isn't something that is done easily, but I am working hard to plan fun things for our youth to do in the new year.

One of the most exciting things that Radical does have planned is our annual mission trip. This year we are headed to (drumroll please....) Alamosa, CO! We have booked a trip to Colorado in July of 2021 for a week filled with mission work. I am so excited to work alongside the youth of this church and to see them shine in servant-like work. Mission trips are one of the fondest memories of my church life, and I hope this trip creates positive memories for the youth as well.

So, how does this impact the church as a whole? Creating and raising servant leaders is part of our mission as a church, and supporting Radical through this mission trip is an incredible way to live into our mission. Your prayers and words of encouragement do not go unnoticed.

As we finish out this year, I want to ask for your continued prayers and support of the youth of this church so that we may enter into 2021 feeling rejuvenated and readily equipped to share Christ's love with whomever we encounter! I hope you all have a happy and healthy Christmas season, and I thank you for the support you've given me and Radical during my time here.

Greta





Kindred Spirits Book Sharing

New to the shelves. Good winter reading. Take a book, keep a book. Pass it on to a friend or return it.

1. *Half Finished* by Lauraine Snelling
2. *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See
3. *Three Good Things* by Wendy Francis
4. *Unlikely Angel* by Ashley Smith
5. *Bella's Gift* by Rick and Karen Santorum
6. *One Simple Act* by Debbie Macomber
7. *Becoming Us* by Robin Jones Gunn
8. *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline
9. *The Day the World Came to Town* by Jim Defede
10. *The Atomic City Girls* by Janet Beard
11. *The Secret Daughter* by Kelly Rimmer
12. *The Honey Bus* by Meredith May
13. *Overcomer* by Chris Fabry
14. *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate
15. *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly
16. *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michelle Richardson

The UMW still has some chocolate covered pecans and glazed pecans for sale—these would make great Christmas gifts or to set out on Christmas! Call Carol Booth (256-0075) or the church office (347-7131) if you are interested.



Pastor Eric, Enclosed is a check. I just appreciate getting your weekly updates and I know it costs money to mail them. You're doing a good job. You make me feel like I'm part of the team. Thanks so much.
Norma Bell

Thank you for the chocolate pecans dropped off to me. I'm not sure who delivered them, but I appreciate them!
Kenny Crawford

The Tuesday morning Men's Fellowship Group will not be meeting the rest of this year. They will start meeting again in January 2021.

TOPS will only meet on December 15th this month and then will start meeting regularly on January 5th, 2021.

*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth
peace to men on whom his favor rests.*
Luke 2:14

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

name date

Jane Evans	1st
Theresa Wicker	1st
Gloria Johnson	1st
Jerry Potts	1st
Marianne Oltmann	1st
Luke Stoner	1st
Tyler Kennemer	2nd
Linda Garman	2nd
Connie Disney	2nd
Randy McDaniels	2nd
Edgar Sandoval	2nd
Jack Wyman	3rd
Morgan McDaniels	7th
Sarah Hunter	8th
Kelly Orwick	13th
Katie Bashary	13th
Tana Collins	14th
Kenny Wiggins	14th
Rachel Marsden	15th
Chris Booher	16th
Leila Bashary	16th
Jessica Kennemer	17th
Nancy Hangartner	17th
Patrick Burks	18th
Drake Wallace	18th
Mason Tennell	18th
Jimmy Byrd	19th
Pat Knight	19th
Jim Harrison	20th
Jeanette Hammond	20th
Gary Heiser	22nd
Mary Ellen Bevenour	22nd
Jodi Trombini	23rd
Mike Gazza	23rd
Gene Horton	23rd
Jill Powell	24th
Bruce Burks	25th
Ron Weyhrich	26th
Greg Ries	26th
Ory Patterson	27th
Janet Ray	27th
Jillian Plunkett	28th
Logan Betzelberger	29th
Carla Jacobson	29th
Barbara Faichney	29th
Mike Burks	31st
Christina Lenox	31st
Emily Ranney	31st



2020-2021 Food Pantry Dates:

Thurs, Dec. 10, 2020

Thurs, Jan. 14, 2021

Thurs, Feb. 11, 2021

Thurs, Mar 11, 2021

Thurs, Apr 15, 2021

Thurs, May 13, 2021

Thurs, June 17, 2021

Thurs, July 15, 2021

Thurs, Aug. 12, 2021

Thurs, Sept. 16, 2021

Thurs, Oct. 14, 2021

Thurs, Nov. 11, 2021

Thurs, Dec. 16, 2021

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." Luke 2:15



Thank you to everyone who participated in Mike's Hunger Walk on October 17: Connie Disney, Brian Garman, Gary Gillis, Sally Morris, Brenda Nelson, Pat Pearson, Jill Peterson; Chase, Chloe, Gloria and Greg Ranney; and Joy Wojtas. A total of \$2020.00 was raised to support Grace Café, Salvation Army, Pekin Outreach Initiative and Carol House of Hope. Thank you for your generous gifts.

Greta Long and Pastor Eric discuss "What is Sin?"



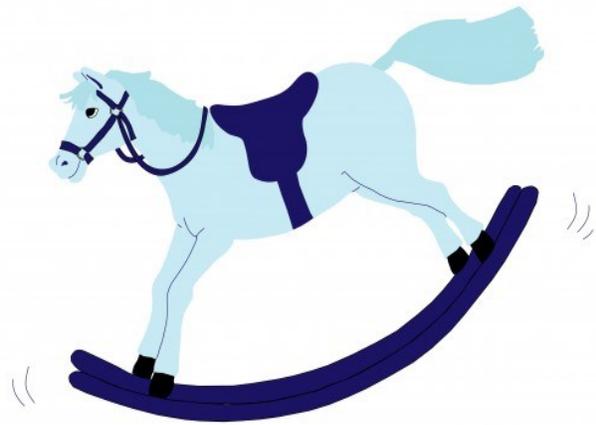
Blessings from the Bells

But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel. Matthew 2: 6

Connect!

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

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



**Thursday, December 10:
Drive-Thru Food Pantry at 4:00 PM**

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



Prayer Requests

Lois Eertmoed
Tony Fulk, son-in-law of Kathy and Rick Manz
Jack and Margarete Hall
Barb and Duane Hill
Dave Johnson
Katie and Wes Icenogle
Mike Ingles
Pat McMullin
The family of Bill Comstock on his passing
The family of Tom Wojtas on his passing
The family of Melda Harrison on her passing
Our country

