

MARCH 2021

# GRACE NOTES

No. 3 [pekingrace.org](http://pekingrace.org)



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# March 2021



The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. Isaiah 35:1

# PASTOR'S CORNER

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



Recently I was taking some time to reflect on the healings of Jesus throughout the Gospels. In many of the circumstances that Jesus healed someone of the physical limitations that they were up against, he first and foremost healed them of a spiritual and mental/emotional struggle.

Right now we are about a month away from Easter. In Easter we celebrate that when faced with the consequences of sin, Jesus overcame that and proclaimed life. He was not bound by death. Death is a conclusion for many of us. Death is the end of all the enjoyment of things we are experiencing in life for so many of us. Yet we proclaim something different.

When Jesus healed he would tell someone that their sins are forgiven. He would tell them that the definition of their life that was a conclusion did not have power. They could be reborn into actually living. Jesus on the cross held the entirety of our sin and it didn't have the final say, life did.

Right now, the world is desperate to hear about life.

We are stuck in a feeling of death.

As we get ready for Easter, prayerfully consider the way you will bring the healing of Jesus to someone who is broken when you proclaim life to them.



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

*Emmy Thies*

*Director of Children & Family Ministry*

Despite the wintry weather, UNITEkids is back in action! We're working on learning the books of the Bible in order and talking about stories from the Old Testament. The kids love to play active games together too.



Miss Beth leading the kids in a game of "God says" where God said to do jumping-jacks! We talked about how we should follow God's instructions because He has a plan for our lives. UNITEkids meets at Grace UMC in the gym on Wednesday nights from 5:30-6:30 PM. If you have kids in K-5th grade, we invite them to join us! UNITEkids also provides a nursery for pre-school age children to play together while the older kids meet.



Miss Emmy spending time gathering the kids' prayer requests before praying as a group.



UNITEkids is blessed to have a gym to run and play in during February weather!

## Sunday Family Dinners & Fun

Sunday Family Dinners is a great opportunity to help plant the seeds of Jesus in the hearts of our children, while assisting parents with mealtime work.



This ministry for children and families provides a meal, a prayer to say before dinner, and a family activity centered around how God works in our daily lives. We would love to involve YOU in this ministry! If you would like to donate towards our grocery fund or volunteer to help prepare meals, please contact Emmy at [ethies@pekinfirst.org](mailto:ethies@pekinfirst.org).

Ellie, Ben, and Miles created structures with gummies and toothpicks – the activity sent with one of the Sunday Family Dinners. Ben decided to make a courtroom where God is the judge. Miles made a senior living facility, and Ellie made a homeless shelter. Each child was asked to make a building that could be used to glorify God or to be used by God to help people!



*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1*





# EASTER CHALK ART PARTY

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SATURDAY, MARCH 27TH

1:00-3:00 P.M.

PEKIN FIRST UMC, 1315 COURT ST

ARTISTS OF ALL AGES INVITED!  
FOOD! PRIZES! VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE!



## UNITEkids

# Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 3rd

at Grace UMC, 601 N. 4th, Pekin

7:30 p.m. Nursery-Preschool Egg Hunt

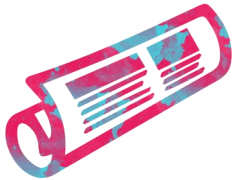
8:00 p.m. K-5th Grade \*Glow-in-the-Dark\*  
Egg Hunt





Please consider joining the Kroger Community Rewards program. You lose nothing, but the church gains money just for your participation. Simply visit <http://www.kroger.com>. Once logged into your Kroger account, search for GRACE UMC either by name or EJ122 and then click *Enroll*. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a rewards card.

## Outreach



The Blanket committee is making knotted fleece blankets to be given away to the homeless that come to the Pekin Outreach House. If you would like to help with this project by donating money to pay for materials, it would be appreciated. Recently, with coupons, we were able to get enough fleece for 14 blankets with cost between \$12 & \$15 each. Please mark your donation for this purpose. Thanks Judy Icenogle

UMW still has pecans for sale at \$12 each. Choose from chocolate, glazed, and regular. Call Carol Booth for more details: 309-256-0075

Mark Your Calendar: UMW Taste of Grace Bazaar will be held Saturday, November 13.

*Be patient, then brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. James 5:7*

Sending you a big "Thank You for Your Thoughtfulness" in sending me the weekly devotions and brain teasers...or is it a test? I do appreciate your consideration. May 2021 be kinder to us all, and may the Lord bless us with the blessings from Numbers 6:24-26. Shirley Moore

There will be a Charge Conference at 2:30 PM on **Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>** to vote on the sale of the 4<sup>th</sup> St. Parsonage. That is also the day for the next committee meetings and Church Council.

### Altar flowers for March:

March 7<sup>th</sup> – In loving memory of Kenneth Garman given by Linda Garman and family

March 14 – In loving memory of Susan Stone given by Willowdean Stone and Julie Espe

March 21<sup>st</sup> – Altar flowers given by Dennis and Sue Crowell

If you wish to provide altar flowers at any time, please call Linda Garman at 387-2924 (home) or 267-1942 (cell).



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

NAME	DATE	NAME	DATE
Sue Hoffman	1	Henry Johnson	16
Greg Ranney	2	Neil Mulvey	16
Jen Stone	2	Tim Trantham	16
June Stoner	2	Pete Wright	16
Faith Harrison	3	Trey Miller	17
Alexandria Comstock	4	Sally Morris	18
Marcia Schwartz	5	Chris Schaefer	18
Jill Bucher	6	Brittany Dorf	19
Henry Cakora	6	Diane Krause	19
Meredith Onken	6	Gloria Long	19
Janet Johnson	7	Jane Plunkett	19
Paula Witt	7	Marissa Sinisi	19
Deidre Cather	8	Bill Stallings	19
Jason Dorf	8	Zachary Tennison	19
Megan Haeffele	8	Martha Cather	20
Cathie Ripper	8	Michelle Hunt	20
Jeanne Harmon	9	Kailee Sciortino	20
Sylvia Telford	9	Lester Seman	21
Leah Tibbs	9	Julia Evans	22
Kathy Towne	9	David Kelly	22
Jaylee Wernowsky	9	Elijah Melloy	22
Joe Schaefer	10	Mary Grace Patton	22
Linda Beverage	11	Dick Wherry	5
Madison Dunn	11	Barb Hill	26
Sarah Hunt	11	Tom Hulting	26
Brenda Nelson	11	Mary Myers	26
Lorelei Swanson	11	Charlie Wyman	27
Barbara Hardt	12	Linda Patterson	28
Beverly Harrison	13	Bob Gill	30
Anna Ingles	14	Anthony Stumphy	30
Tammy Seman	14	Pat Pearson	31
Ruthann Stallings	14	Missy Ranney	31
Tobi Allsup	15	Elizabeth Stone	31

# Connect!

601 N. 4th St.  
Pekin, IL  
3010-347-7131  
secretary@pekingrace.org  
pekingrace.org

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



## Prayer Requests

Lois Eertmoed

Jane Evans

Tony Fulk, son-in-law of Kathy and Rick Manz

Jack and Margarete Hall

Barb and Duane Hill

Joyce Hill

The family of Marge Melchers on her passing

Rev. Tom Neuffer-Emswiler and Sharon Neuffer-Emswiler

Marie Zaayenga



**Thursday, March 11:  
Drive-Thru Food Pantry at 4:00 PM**

**Sunday, March 21:  
Radical Sub Sandwich Fundraiser**

**Saturday, March 27:  
Drive-Thru Food Giveaway  
11:00 AM—12:00 PM**

**April 1, Maundy Thursday Service  
7:00 PM in Sanctuary**

**April 2, Good Friday  
7:00 PM in Sanctuary**

**Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>  
Two services: (9:00 AM and 11:00 AM)**

