

OCTOBER 2021

# GRACE NOTES

No. 10 [pekingrace.org](http://pekingrace.org)



## highlights

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*While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.*

Genesis 8:12

# PASTOR'S CORNER

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



## State of the Church: Part 2

Part 1 looked at who we have been in the past year, our strengths and weaknesses. Part 3 will be a projection of the ministries, costs and call to action that we will be directed towards in 2022. This letter, Part 2, will be about the functional adaptations that are before us to modernize the ministry, remain faithful to our calling and establish the tools that we need. Much of this letter will be about our structural changes that we are proposing through the Simplified Accountable System of Church governance and changes to the Endowment that will help propel our ministries though we hope to also address some of the ways we are trying to place ministry resources into the hands of all of our members.

### **Simplified Accountable System (SAS) church governance**

We have been researching a model of church governance that was born out of both the largest and smallest churches in our denomination. This system was modeled by a set of provisions in our Book of Discipline to allow for flexibility in the contexts that originally our denominational leaders saw were in need of adaptation. The thing is that many of the “normal” sized churches appreciated this model, and it has since been blueprinted by Kay Kotan and a group of conference leaders across the central and southern United States.

What this proposes is a combination of the traditional boards into one larger board for the development of church governance and vision casting. This board would be in a nine-person structure with the SPRC, Finance, Trustees, Endowment, Memorials, Council all being formally absorbed; and each person on the committee would represent the interests of all committees. The only formal outlier committee would be the nominations team so that the board is not self nominating. From this group there would be an expectation that they serve for three years and no more than two terms in a row. The Chair person would be the Lay Leader and Chair for each of the past committees responsibilities. Then the actionable work of the previous groups could still be done by short term teams or specific goal based ministry teams. For example, there would be a trustee team that would do projects around the church but without the active persons having to also be on the committee for formal work. They might bring issues to the larger board, but they could also act within the guidance that the new board gives them for normal operations.

Each year this group would have a visioning retreat, sign a leadership covenant that they operate under and generally be prepared for the guidance and governance of the church so that others can be set free to do active hands-on ministry. We have a guidance book that we have been using to begin the process of implementing this system in our church call "Mission Possible" by Kay Kotan; and if anyone wishes to know all of the details of this work you may come to the office for a copy from Pastor Eric.

### **Endowment Ministries**

Our Endowment currently lives under an original structure that was developed in the 1980's and has largely remained unchanged aside from the custodian of the Endowment. Last summer we began a process of looking at our returns and our connection to the existing trustee (Busey Bank). We had not had the type of connection we were seeking; as we began looking at the relationship more we took a closer look at the documents that guide the Endowment itself. What happened since then was an acknowledgement that our document was dated and confining in nature. We looked at documents from other United Methodist Church endowments that were under three years old and with guidance from those documents we re-drafted our document. We also made the choice to seek a more local investment group.

We are currently waiting for approval from the District office to formally vote on changes to our governance document (you can freely get copies of the draft from the office). We have also already made the move to Morton Community Bank's investment firm, and in September the final  financial transition was made from Busey.

### **Realm – Church management for the entire church body**

One of the long-term projects in our office is the database management system called Realm. This system has a lot of great features. One of those features is that every member can have their own account. You can manage your information, make donations, see the master calendar, find out about small groups, register for events and... we think you get the point. This system is robust, and we are not even using all of it yet.

To help us all out, we are going to be sending invites to people through their email to join Realm. We will continue to grow this tool and offer help in understanding all of the ways you might use it to keep in touch with us as well as all the ways you can empower your favorite ministry through it.

A training video on how to use this on your web-browser or through their app should be up in the beginning of October.



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

*Emmy Thies*  
Director of Children & Family Ministry

We are back to school and back in the swing of weekly UNITEkids! Starting October 6<sup>th</sup>, UNITEkids will meet at Grace UMC in the gym from 5:30-6:30.



UNITEkids met on Wednesday nights in September to reflect on God's gifts to us – first we talked about water, second we focused on nature, next we discussed the talents God gave each one of us, and finally we reviewed the gift of God's Word through Scripture.

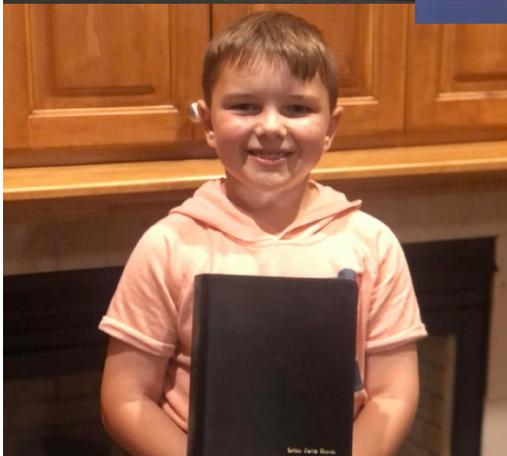
Maegen and Mallory completed their nature scavenger hunt, with helper Kira, at UNITEkids' field trip to the Pekin Park!



Kennedy and Easton competed in a water preservation relay race.

If you are feeling God nudging you to help out at UNITEkids or Children's Church, please contact Emmy Thies via email: [ethies@pekingrace.org](mailto:ethies@pekingrace.org).

Grace UMC got to celebrate Bible Sunday on September 26<sup>th</sup> by presenting Bibles to our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. Please be in prayer for Lucas Bloom, Karl Fowler, Mallory Miller, Lucia Nelson, and Hadley Swanson, all who received their very own Bibles!



**Pray** for the Word to nourish their souls and grow their faith. And please pray for the leaders in Children’s Ministry to use the wisdom in the Bible to teach the children how to follow Jesus, how to love God, and how to love the people around them.

**Happy Autumn all,**

As the school year begins and we settle into new routines, it is my pleasure to say that Radical is settling into a new routine as well. Meeting on Sunday nights is going well and I look forward to the growth that will transpire over the next few months.

It is my joy to say that the 2021 Potato Bar fundraiser was a success! Thanks to all of YOUR help, we raised just over \$2,500 for the 2022 mission trip! To those of you who volunteered your time and efforts into this fundraiser, thank you so much for supporting the youth of this Church. I am so blessed to interact with you all, and I extend thanks on their behalf.



**Looking ahead** to fall and winter months, RADICAL has some fun events planned!

**October 31st– Halloween Party 5-7PM at the Church**

**November 21st– Friendsgiving 5-7PM at the Church**

**December 29th-LOCK-IN at the church 5pm-8am on the 30th**

**January 7th-9th Winter X-treme Retreat**

As always, thank you so much for your continued prayers and support of the youth. Please continue to pray for student development and for the fellowship we engage in to be inviting to more students in the Pekin community!

Grace & Peace, Greta Long

## October Altar Flowers:

### October 10th

In loving Memory of Rich Gidden  
given by Jane, Tom, and Tam.

### October 17th

In loving Memory of our parents given  
by John and Jan Darnell

### October 24th

Celebrating our  
32nd Wedding Anniversary given by  
Ed and Nanette Mulvey



Check our lost and found. Items will be donated to Goodwill if not claimed.

## Amazon Smile

*If you are an AmazonSmile customer, you can now support Pekin Grace United Methodist Church in the Amazon shopping app on your device! Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations.*

- 1. If you have the latest version of the Amazon Shopping App, open the App on your device.*
- 2. View Settings and select AmazonSmile. Follow the in-App instructions to complete the process.*

*If you do not have the latest version of the Amazon Shopping App, update your App.*

Please remember to turn your pledges in at any UMW meeting or mail to Gloria Ranney, 3324 Sheridan Rd., Pekin IL 61554 or drop them at the church office. Thank you!



**New Group:** We want to invite the parents of our UNITEkids and other similarly aged and interested persons to join us in a new small group beginning Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM. We will meet over in the Mason Building on the second floor in the Youth room. We will discuss faith, life, current events and be a safe place for people in any stage of the faith journey. This is a place for you to belong.



Lynne Johnson says thank you for the generous gifts for her job/ministry as the Parent Liaison for the Pekin Public Schools, District 108. She was extremely excited to be able to help the families in her care with these donations. She appreciates our support!

## October Birthdays:

Pat Mitchell	1	Ben Wilson	20
Angie Anliker	1	Chad Lhamon	20
Brian Carroll	2	Terri Zimmerman	21
Brody Carroll	4	Mike Ingles	21
Mack Cakora	5	Chuck Evans	21
Wyatt Weidner	5	Carol Stallwitz	21
James McKinley	5	Dave McDuff	23
Lisa McKenzie	6	Brody Teaney	23
Beverly Harvey	6	Marjorie Miller	24
Shannon Cox	7	Kim Nierstheimer	25
Karen Sassman	8	Melissa Oltmann	25
Charles Dietrich	8	Judy Becker	25
Aaron Spicher	9	Gene Harmon	25
Mitch Mitchell	10	Jan Block	26
Carter Garthaus	10	Donna Sassman	26
Christie McDuff	12	Judy Kimzey	26
Molly Ingles	12	Jill Rimington	26
Tammy Hicks	12	Jennifer Manchester	27
Timothy Irby	14	Jill Peterson	28
Jennifer Booher	15	Ken Herbig	28
Kathy Davis	16	Sarah Williamson	29
Bradley Shindledecker	16	Amy Wilson	30
Doug Orrick	17	Tonya Bruns	30
Trent McClain	19	Bill Feuchter	30
Mabel Seed	19	Keelie Knotts	31
Donna Bradshaw	19	Carolyn Huls	31
Melanie Tennell	20	Sheridan Wage	31



# Connect!

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**Worship Times**  
**Saturdays 5:30pm**  
**Sundays 9:00am & 11:00am**



## **Sunday, October 10**

Church Committees at 1:00 PM  
Church Council will follow at 2:30 PM  
Grace Country at 6:30 PM

## **Thursday, October 14**

Drive-through Food Pantry at 4:00 PM

## **Saturday, October 30**

Drive-through Food Giveaway, 11:00AM—Noon

## **Prayer Concerns**

Bishop Beard  
Arlen Booth  
Ron Doyle  
Lois Eertmoed  
Jane Evans  
Tony Fulk  
Linda Garman  
Jack Hall  
Duane & Barb Hill  
Joyce Hill  
Wes Icenogle  
Jerry Klopfenstein  
Nancy Kriegsman and Family  
Roberta Moussalli  
Paul Pearson  
Nancy Ridgeway  
Brittany Sharp  
Ann Vogt  
Terri Zimmerman  
Pray for the leadership here at  
Grace Church  
The family of Jeff Lange on his  
passing.

