

JUNE 2022

GRACE NOTES

No. 6 pekingrace.org



highlights

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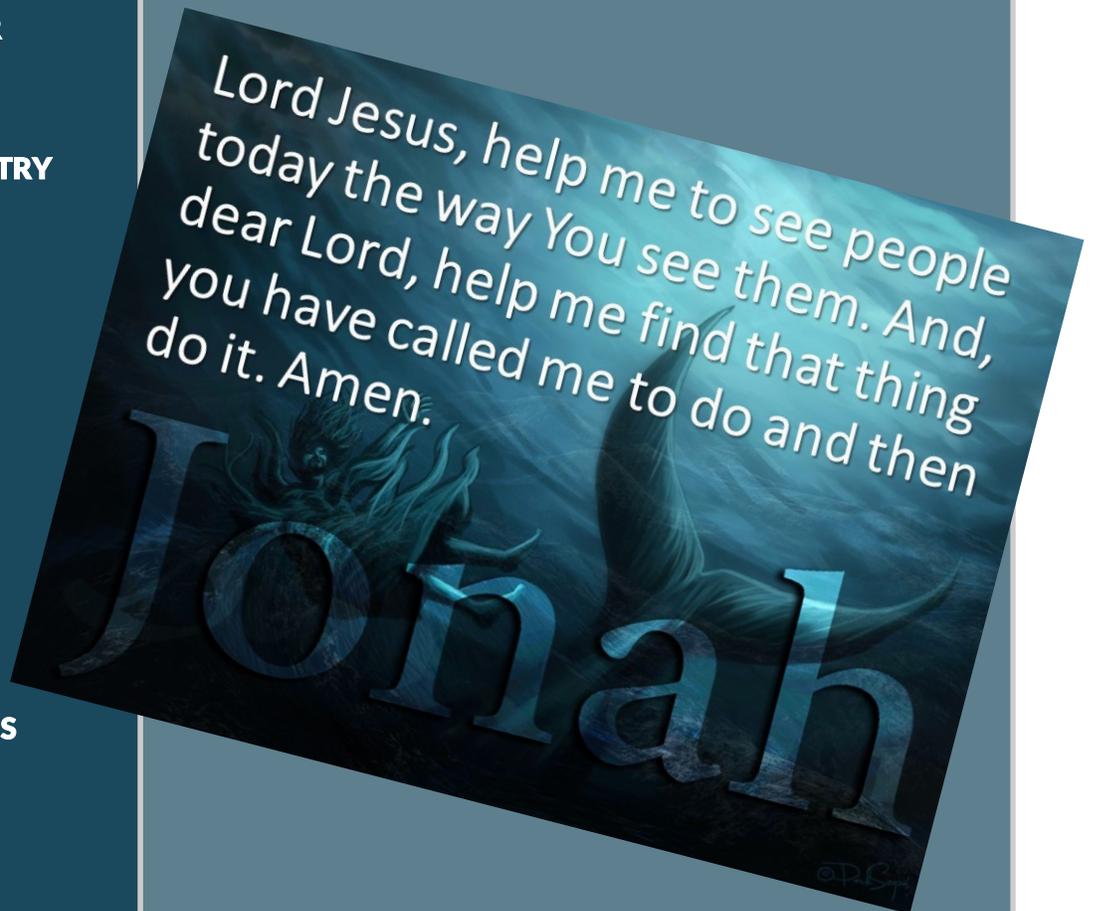
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PASTOR'S CORNER

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



Getting ready for the summer, we had a sermon series on the Sabbath. For those who don't remember what that word is for, it is for the day of rest that God commanded his people to have. The Sabbath is powerful. The Sabbath is for you to know God, Yourself and be ready for the work God has for you in the world.

With Summer here upon us I want to encourage this practice a little more than normal so below is Pastor Eric's Guide to a Sabbath Summer:

Pick a day of rest: This doesn't have to be Sunday, but it could be. You will need to feed yourself, but you really should avoid mowing the grass, doing laundry, etc... you need to find the ability to be content in the moment that you are in. Pick a day where you truly talk to God and choose to savor each moment.

You will fail & that's okay! We are conditioned to work hard every day. We are told that we need to get the most out of life. We have calendars that have less days in them than the desires of our hearts. You will mess this up, but that's no reason to not try it, and we worship a God who forgives.

What should you do? Pray – I try to pray 5 times a day, and when I take a Sabbath day that is my best. Outside of offering prayer, I want you to do the things that might feed you. I plan on reading for fun on my Sabbath days, walking the dog, enjoying coffee with Cori in the morning and a cold beverage with her in the evenings. I will watch my kids play ball, and I hope to “forget” the phone on the charger. I may go for a run, but not one that has a plan to it other than enjoyment. Don't over complicate things here.

Use it! The Sabbath is a day of rest so that you might be your best the other 6 days. Take the growth of your Sabbath and invest it. Invest it in yourself and in the church so that we might grow together.

Enjoy the season friends!

Eric Swanson

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Emmy Thies

Director of Children & Family Ministry

The 2021-22 school year was a year of growth for UNITEkids and Children's Church! UNITEkids engaged with 70 different children throughout the school year, and 14 adults and high school students served as leaders! We praise God for helping us reach out into the neighborhood and the wider community. We thank God for the people who stepped up to serve at UNITEkids. Eight additional children have connected with Grace UMC through Sunday morning worship and Children's Church. That's a total of 78 children who have learned about Jesus, connected with God, and connected with each other!



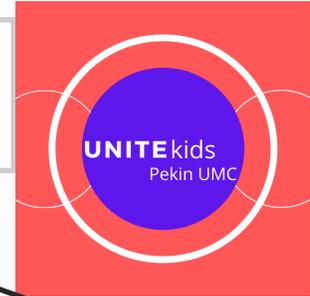
UNITEkids on the bus to our sister church, Pekin First UMC

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Emmy Thies

Director of Children & Family Ministry

**Weekly UNITEkids will resume
August 31st for the 2022-23 school year!**



All kids, nursery through
5th grade,
are invited to join

Keep up-to-date with
UNITEkids by joining
the Facebook group:
UNITEkids Pekin UMC.



Summer Events:

Sunday, June 12th 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM ~ Picnic & Water Games
UNITEkids can join us for food & games at the Pekin First UMC Summer Picnic, 1315 Court St!

Monday, June 27th 6:00-7:00 PM ~ UNITEkids Tee-Night
UNITEkids will decorate their own tees to take home and wear.
UNITEyouth will also lead the kids in fun games. This is a great way for UNITEkids to stay connected over the summer!

Friday, July 8th 6:00-8:00 PM ~ UNITEkids Family Swim
Come out to Dragonland - no cost and bring the whole family!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Emmy Thies
Director of Children & Family Ministry



UNITEkids Tee-Night

Games!

Free Tee!

UNITEyouth will lead activities!

Monday, June 27th
6-7:00 PM
@ Pekin First UMC
1315 Court St

Decorate your own UNITEkids Tee and have your friends sign it!

The flyer is on a red background and features a central white t-shirt with the event title. It includes icons of t-shirts and text describing the event: games, free t-shirts, and youth-led activities. The date, time, and location are clearly stated. A handwritten-style signature is at the bottom right.

Save the Date

Vacation Bible School
July 25, 26, 27
6-8:00 PM

FOOD TRUCK PARTY

ON A ROLL WITH GOD!

The flyer is on a yellow background with a pink and blue border. It features a colorful illustration of a food truck and a school bus. The text is in bold, colorful fonts, announcing the dates and times for Vacation Bible School and a Food Truck Party.

Hello Church!

Quite a lot has happened since I appeared in Grace Notes last, and I can't wait to update you all. I have now finished my first year of seminary (woah!) and I am so excited to be with you all more consistently over the summer! This first year of graduate school has reminded me of how blessed I am to be a part of the Grace community and how your support of the Youth in this Church is something to be very proud of.

In the upcoming months, the youth group will be preparing for another Mission trip through YouthWorks! This year, we are headed to Waco, TX to serve their community in whatever way(s) we can. If you're interested in supporting this trip, please reach out to me, and we can chat about what is needed! Snacks are always appreciated.

Some important upcoming dates:

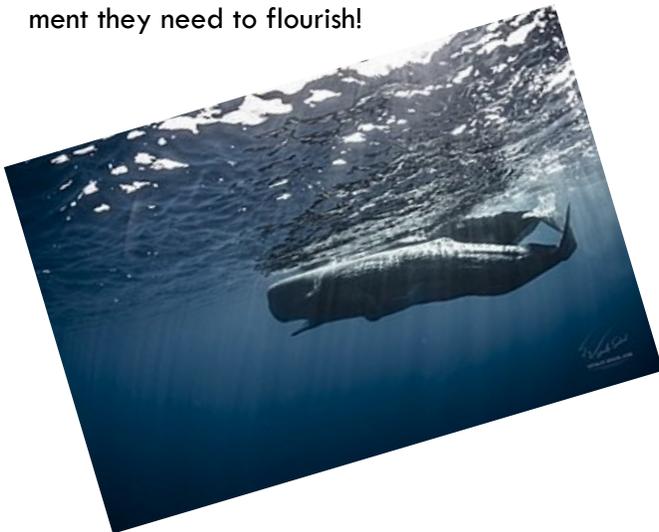
- **June 5th:** Pancake Breakfast fundraiser! From 10am – 1pm the youth will be hosting a pancake breakfast as a fundraiser for the 2022 summer mission trip.
- **July 9-16:** Summer mission trip
- **August 14:** Blessing of the Backpacks for UniteKids and Youth

If you are looking for financial ways to support the youth for the upcoming mission trip:

Gas: \$1,000
Fun day activity: \$300
Fun day meal: \$250
Shirts: \$150

If financial commitment is not possible for you, please reach out to me, and we can brainstorm alternative ways for you to support the youth.

As always, thank you so much for your continual support and prayer for the youth, your loving mentorship and belief in these kids goes such a long way and provides the safe environment they need to flourish!



“This story, [of Jonah] and its message to all of us, is no matter how distant God may seem, or how much trouble we are in, we are never out of his reach. God can deliver us from anything, even when the source of trouble is often of our own making. He can always be found – no matter what the storm.”

Cantata

The Sanctuary Choir and Grace Methodist Orchestra presented a very unique cantata on May 1st. "Once Upon A Morning" is a cantata that focused on the days and events after the resurrection. The appearances of Jesus to the women at the tomb, the disciples on the road to Emmaus, and the doubting Thomas were described by choral text and orchestral music. The cantata concluded with the Ascension and Pentecost.



If you missed the cantata, you can still watch it on Grace United Methodist's YouTube channel.

<https://youtu.be/IgE7Deq67NM>

As a congregation, we have been so grateful that some normalcy was able to continue through this pandemic in the form of music. Truly the music of that day was beautiful and uplifting. Thank you!

For summer, the sanctuary choir will be taking a break. If you'd like to join this group, practices will resume September 7th. Mark your calendars. We'd love to have you join. If you'd like more information, Dr. Jim Rimington can answer any questions.

Reading Program

The United Methodist Women have received some new books for their reading program. You will see these books behind the glass on the bookshelf in the hospitality area. The new reading program cycle has just started. If you would like to be a part of this program make sure you keep a list of the books you read and turn them into Sandra Isenberg by the end of February. On page 2 of your United Methodist Women's book, there is a place to record the books you have read. They ask you to read at least one book from each category. If other people of Grace would like to read these books, please do.

If interested in reading some of these books make sure you check them out.

Sign in and out the books using index cards located in front of each book and place in the 3x 5 card box after filling out. THANK YOU!

Here is the list of books that were purchased for this year's UMW reading program.

Education for Mission

- *Finding Jesus at the Border: Opening Our Hearts to Immigrant Neighbors* by Julia Lambert Fogg
- *A Road Called Down on Both Sides: Growing up in Ethiopia and America* by Caroline Kurtz
- *One Dress, One Year: One girl's stand against human trafficking* by Bethany Wine (Youth)

Social Action

- *Small Great Things: Expands our cultural conversation about race and prejudice* by Jodi Picoult
- *Separated by the Border: A Birth Mother, a Foster Mother, & a Migrant Child's 300 Mile Journey* by Gena Thomas
- *Crocodile's Crossing: A Search for Home* by Yoeri Slegers (children)

Leadership Development

- *Anxious to Talk About It: Helping white Christians talk faithfully about racism* by Carolyn B. Helsel
- *Hidden Figures: The Untold Story of the African American Women Who Helped Win the Space Race* by Margot Lee Shetterly

Spiritual Growth

- *The Journey Between Us: My Faith Walk: Overcoming Grief to Find Joy* by Lisa McGrath
- *Beyond Loneliness: The Gift of God's Friendship* by Trevor Hudson

Nurturing For Community

- *The Boy Who Delivered Joy: A boy battling a rare bone cancer leaves a legacy* by Marvin Bartlett
- *A Brave Face: Two cultures, two families, and the Iraqi girl who bound them together* by Barbara and Teeba Furat Marlowe
- *Before We Were Yours: How Georgia Tann and her Tennessee Children's Home Society unraveled the lives of countless children* by Lisa Wingate
- *Babbit and Joan, a Rabbit and a Phone* by Denise Turu (children)

Just a reminder, the books outside of the glass are free to take, no need to return. They were donated by different members or were extras from church studies. The hope is that if you see a book you are interested in, you will take one home to read. The goal of this is to give the people of our church another opportunity to grow in their faith.

June Altar Flowers

June 5th – Given by Dennis and Sue Cowell in honor of their 53rd Wedding Anniversary.

June 12th- Given by Dean and Betty Allen – In loving Memory of Troy Dean and In Honor of Dean and Betty's 40th Wedding Anniversary.

June 19th – Given by Jay and Terri Zimmerman in honor of their 57th Wedding Anniversary.

Repair Work

We have an expected date for the work to repair our handicap door and building. We expect work to begin June 6th and to be finished around June 13. We anticipate that we will be without power for 3-5 days at the main church building and that any on-site ministries will be moved to the Mason Building during that time. If you need to contact the staff you will have the most success via their emails.

The plan is to have the phone calls redirected to different cell phones during the black out week. For June 12th worship we will be outside in the street between the main building and the Mason building. It is expected that power will not be restored by Sunday. If you have questions, please reach out to the church office.

Grace Softball Team Schedule

Please come out and support this team! Games are scheduled as follows. In the event of rain, the game will be canceled for that night.

6/6 Diamond #2, 8PM
6/20 Diamond #1, 9PM
6/27 Diamond #1, 6PM
7/11 Diamond #1, 7PM
7/18 Diamond #1, 7PM
7/25 Diamond #1, 9PM
8/1 Diamond #1, 7PM

Thank You!

Thank You!

Tuesday Men's Group Says Thank You!

The Grace Men's Fellowship Group has been able to donate over \$1000 to several groups and charities locally and worldwide. The funds were distributed between March 10, 2021 and March 15, 2022. The funds were donated by a benefactor and members. A very special thank you to all involved!

New Sermon Series

Heretic: Understanding Misguided Beliefs is our sermon series theme for June. Summer is the perfect time to open our minds and ask questions that take time to be wrestled with. Someone who is a Heretic is someone who has misguided beliefs and so we are going to investigate some common misguided beliefs that you may encounter in your own life, faith, or church.

Volunteer Opportunities

Call the office if you are interested 309-347-7131 or send an email to secretary@pekingrace.org. We'll get you connected. We are looking for people who are interested in these areas.

Maintenance Team
Technology Team
Praise Team
Sanctuary Choir
Hospitality Team
Lay Speaker
Social Media "Host"
Teaching Bible Studies



Pancake Breakfast

June 5th: Youth Pancake Breakfast, 10am – 1pm the youth will be hosting a pancake breakfast as a fundraiser for the 2022 summer mission trip. Ask Greta for more information.

Lay Servant Class

If you are interested in taking a class to become a part of the Lay Ministry speakers of IGRC and specifically of Grace Church, call the office. We would love to sign you up for one of the one day courses they are offering. Both courses happen on September 24, 2022 at Morton UMC. One course is for beginning lay speakers entitled Introduction to Lay Ministry: The Basic Course. The other course is an advanced course that counts towards being a Certified Lay Speaker. It is Life Together in the United Methodist Connection. Both courses have a book you would be required to buy and read before the day of class. For more information on the lay ministry, please check out this link. <https://www.igrc.org/CLM>

One Service Celebration

Due to the repair work, we will have only one service on the weekend of June 12. This service will be held outside between the two buildings. Bring your lawn chairs from home. Chairs will be available if you forget.

Children's church and the nursery will not be offered this weekend due to the outside venue. Bathrooms will still be available and handicap accessible, although the lighting will be from temporary sources and run from generators and batteries.

Cunningham Homes Fundraiser

June 3-4 Quilt Fundraiser for the Cunningham Home. If interested, check out their web-site for more information. This is a program that the UMW Sponsor.

https://www.cunninghamhome.org/stories_and_media/17th-annual-festival-quilts-june-4

UMW General Meeting

June 9 at 1:00pm UMW General Meeting will be held in the Lounge of the Mason Building. The program, *Bold Women*, will be by Anita Wilkerson.

Donations being collected

Grace United Methodist Church would like to collect following items at the church and they will be transported to Annual Conference for distribution where needed.

All donations must be at the church by:

Wednesday, June 8th, by 10am.

Since opening for ministry in 2000, Midwest Mission has been showing God's Love in practical ways through the distribution of disaster relief supplies, education, health and micro-business assistance meeting basic human needs around the world and around the corner. A "hands-on" mission experience is provided to those who serve at Midwest Mission which brings hope to those receiving supplies. This ministry is in connection with UMCOR.

ITEMS DONATED MUST BE EXACTLY AS STATED.:

- Liquid laundry soap, no larger than 150 oz.
- Dish soap, no larger than 64 oz.
- Liquid household cleaner, no larger 80 oz.
- Five-gallon buckets with lids

For more information on what will happen to your donations and how this organization helps go to <https://www.midwestmission.org/>

Book Club

Book club will meet Tuesday, June 14, at 10:00AM in the library at Pekin Estates. They will discuss the book *Love, Charleston* by Beth Webb Hart. All are welcome! Come with the book read, ready to discuss.



Congratulations to our graduates that were honored in May. If we missed you., please let us know you graduated and what you will be doing. We would love to hear from you.

Highschool

Gabriella Nelson
Grant Bresnahan
Anna Soupos

College

Kristin Hunt
Jaclyn Mulvey

New Members

Grace Church was honored to welcome Ed & Sandy Graber into our church family on May 29. Please take the time to welcome them and their family into our church family.



Church Leadership Board *(Meetings scheduled for 4th Thursday of the month)*

Barb Berardi, Chris Booher, Sue Crowell, John Darnell, Alisha Dault, Kyle Harrison, Rich Kriegsman, Amy Wilson, Greg Ranney, and Brian Garman.

Leadership Board – Article from May 15, 2022

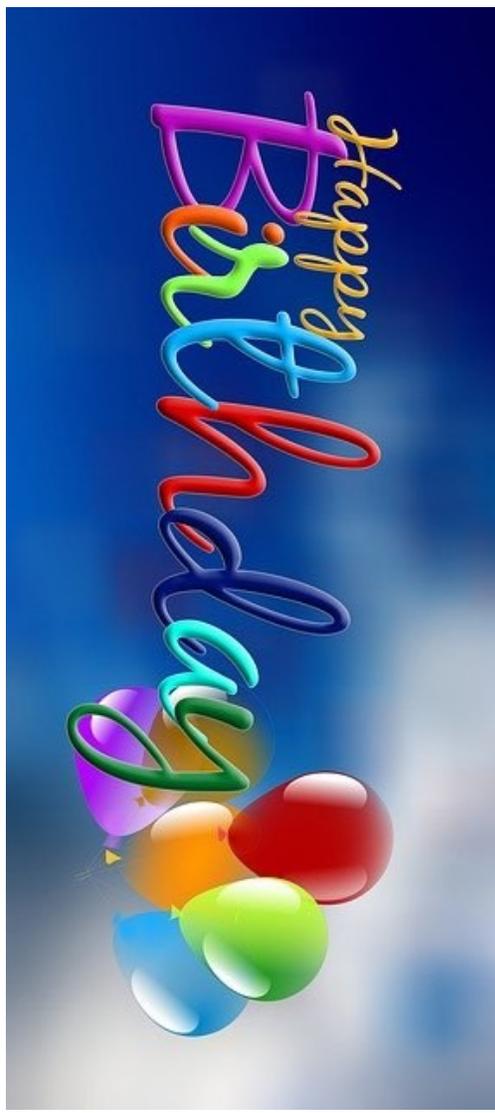
Your leadership board is at work continuing to do all we can to equip staff and members in ministry here at Grace. At our last meeting on May 15, we worked on tasks including –

- Establishing goals of communication, engagement, mission, in-reach, outreach, worship and processes
- Planning for the next Town Hall meeting in August
- Setting a date for a trustee walk-through of the building to access current needs
- Continuing the establishment and work of various teams that carry out ministry
- Preparing for the June repair of the damaged church wall, door, and mechanical systems
- Discussing ways to better reach the members with various physical, health, and wellness needs

These are just some of the topics we discussed and planned for this last month. As always, we encourage you to reach out to any member of this board to express your concerns and questions. And YES, you are welcome to attend our meetings. The next one is Thursday, June 23 at 6:00 PM in the Upper Room.

Jim McClain	1
Annie Heberer	1
Tori Williamson	3
Kira Thies	3
Jed Bruninga	4
Dale Golden	5
Sarah Tennison	5
Heidi Shutt	5
Christopher Rupp	6
Tara Presley	6
Robert Comstock	6
Brian Garman	7
Bennett Holly	8
Rylan Holly	8
Duane Bruninga	8
Jordan Ries	9
Jeff Hoffman	10
Jason West	10
Rod Teaney	10
Ava McCreary	11
Judy Holder	11
Donald MacGregor	11
Mike Holly	12
Elena Sherren	12
Aaron Krause	15
Mai Bashary	15
Bob Trombini	16
Gariella Ranney	16
Dave Trombini	17
Judy Brown	18
Adlee Darnell	18
Marnie Golden	18
Burt Dancy	20
Dean Allen	20
Harlynn Heilman	23
Halle Bloom	23
Dennis Green	24
Mike Poole	25

Kaelyn Stratton	25
Sandy Isenburg	25
Kaylie Long	28
Tori Burks	29
Jasmine Schultz	29
Rhenna McDaniels	29
June Parr	29
Amy Trantham	30



Connect!

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

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

Sunday, June 12

One Service at 10:00AM (No Saturday church)

Thursday, June 16

Drive-through Food Pantry at 4:00 PM

Thursday, June 23

Church Leadership Board Meeting, 6:00PM

Saturday, June 25

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

Prayer Concerns

Linda Beverage's Dad
Arlen Booth
David Champlin
Larry Dial & Family
Carol Moorhouse Dahlgren
Jane Evans
Tony Fulk
Blake Griffin
Jack Hall
Jeanette Hammond
Dale Hicks
David Maxwell
Roberta Moussalli
Paul Pearson
Cathie Ripper
Brittany Sharp
Lois Shields
Derek Stout
Carla Terry
Kyree & Rachel Travis
Ann Vogt
Mark Weber
Ronald Weyhrich
Sharon and those who have covid
Grandson broke his leg, pray for
healing, no need for surgery and
strength of his faith.
Ruth, sister who refuses dialysis
although her kidneys are failing
Pray for God's blessings and
healing for all



Sometimes, like Jonah, your first response to God is, "No!" and you flee as far away as you can. But God is working on your heart because you are the one he wants. Yes, you may not be perfect, yes you may not think you can do the task ahead. But your life will be blessed beyond imagining and changed beyond belief when you decide to follow God's leading and do what he is asking you to do.

Go and be blessed my friends!