

SEPTEMBER 2022

# GRACE NOTES

No. 9 pekingrace.org



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## SEPTEMBER 2022



*Let them praise His name with  
dancing; Let them sing praises to  
Him with timbrel and lyre.*

*Psalm 149:3*

# PASTOR'S CORNER

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



September gives me all of the good feels. It's my birth month and the last blast of summer in the beginning of it. I have always loved the excuses we can have to do something fun and celebrate. The routine of a school year (regardless of your student status, most of us like to live on a school year schedule) is a comfort to me. Then by the end of September I am usually wearing jeans and a hoody and for some reason that just feels right.

In the life of our church, September is a great moment. The life of our UNITEKids and Radical Youth programs is humming with the energy that only can come from children. The sounds of the choirs and worship teams is increased as people re-engage after a summer of travel and trips. The church pauses for one big community push with the local Marigold Festival. We process the hopes and dreams of the coming year together in our Mission and Vision sermon series. We have the hopeful talks about what Christmas will look like and how on earth we can make this year even better than the last.

You see, September is a great time to be reminded of the promise that is our relationships together in Christ. This is a profound gift for each of us, and it is a profound opportunity.

We get the opportunity, like the resuming of school, to resume our regular commitment to worship, study, and community. If you have found the summer drawing you away from those commitments, the month of September offers you a starting point to re-engage

We find ourselves in very comforting (like those hoodies) situations around many of our social circles. This may be at a local football game, an evening community bonfire, or any other event. Those situations are wonderful opportunities for us as Christians to share the invitation to community at Grace. To invite people into a growth, a life, a purpose that they may have not thought about before. Many people remember the new connections that were a simple matter of life when they were young that came as a natural result of Septembers in their youth and many find this time of year a good time to find new connections. We should be like the students who welcome the new persons to our lunch tables.

With intentionality we remember what we have done in September, what we have learned, and then we focus on where we are going. By participating in our September Mission and Vision series we will be reviewing what God has done and we will see where the Holy Spirit is leading us.

September is a great month, and I cannot wait to spend it with all of you at Grace!

Grace + Peace,  
Pastor Eric

# VBS 2022

## By the numbers



**10**

**Pre-K Kiddos**



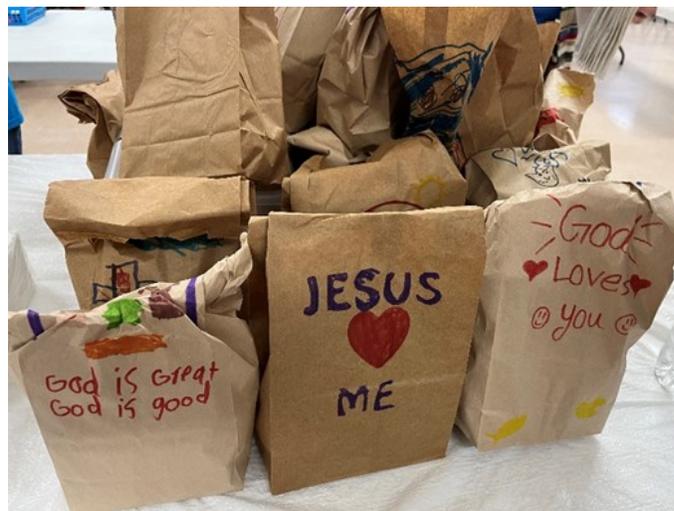
**11**

**Small Groups**



**Total kids attending VBS**

**75**



# 110

**To-go dinner  
sacks decorated  
and packed for  
Pekin Outreach  
Initiative**



**40**

# Adult Volunteers



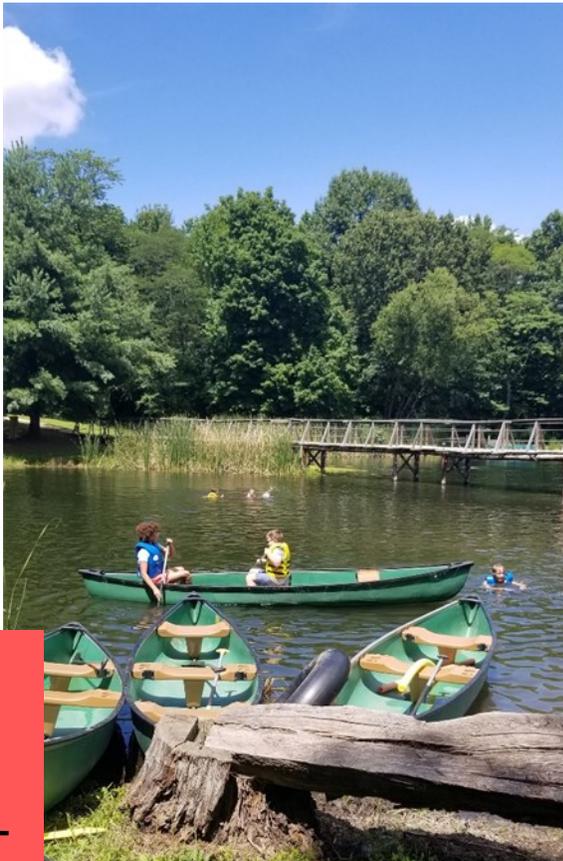


# Youth Leaders



3

**Nights of  
Christ-Centered  
fun and learning**



1

**Saturday of family  
fun at Great Oaks**

Hello Friends,

This past month seemed to fly by! Pekin Schools are back in session and the familiarity of routine offers us comfort as we approach the fall.

In August, Radical didn't embark on too many adventures, but we have begun a new bible study as a group that keeps us involved with our bibles and reinforces the popular stories that many of us know and love! We prepared for the Marigold Festival and are beginning to explore what awaits us in the fall and winter months.

Radical needs YOUR help in inviting students into our ministry! ALL are welcome here and I hope to expand our group by next summer so that we can take a larger group on our annual mission trip.

As always, we are so lucky to have this church's support and enthusiasm backing us and I look forward to sharing more adventures and stories with you all soon!

Blessings,

Greta Long



### Update Contact Information

Please let the office know when your contact information changes. We need addresses, phone numbers, and emails. Birthdays are needed if you'd like to be included on the birthday list! Volunteers will be calling on the office's behalf to update.

### Communication Preferences

We are still trying to communicate with people the way that is convenient for them. Currently for our mailings and weekly communications, we offer printed communications, large print communications, and email.

For last minute schedule changes at church, we are doing email and Facebook posts.

### Annual Hunger Walk

For several years, Mike Caringello organized and lead a Hunger Walk for Grace United Methodist Church. The money raised was divided equally among local charities. The last Walk raised over \$3,495. We want to continue this tradition in memory of Mike.

We have set Saturday, October 8, 10:00 AM at Mineral Springs Park for the Walk.

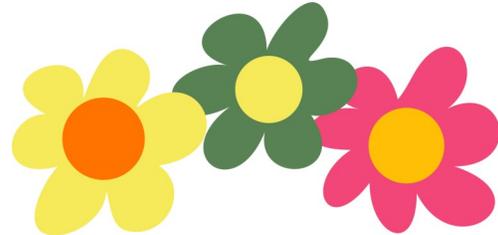
Here is what you need to do. Sign up to participate in the Walk, get people to sponsor you, and make a donation yourself. We will walk as many times around the lagoon as we want.

This year's money will go to the Salvation Army, Grace Food Pantry, Pekin Outreach Initiative, and House of Hope. Call the church office or Phil Icenogle 309-620-8290.

### Sermon Series

FOR: PEKIN we will look at the theology behind our faith, why we are called Grace, our mission work and so much more. Before we can be sent out to do the work that our Mission and Vision series will be all about, we need to be sure that we are all on point for the "why" we believe and do what we do as a church and as individuals.

Thank You



for your Kindness

Dear friends at Grace United Methodist Church,

I want to thank all of you who donated school supplies again this year. Your kind hearts and generous spirits fill me with gratitude, as I give backpacks and needed supplies to Pekin's homeless and needy children. My partner liaison and I have assisted more than 30 children in August, using supplies donated by Grace members.

Throughout each year, GUMC helps our community in a multitude of ways. From school supplies to food pantry, Grace Cafe, and Angel Tree... your hearts always share love to Pekin's poor. I am blessed and happy to be a member of a church that cares deeply for others.

Thank you all for your generosity.

Lynne Johnson, Parent Liaison  
Pekin Public Schools

### College Student Addresses

Please let the office know the address of your college student. We would like to send them an Upper Room devotional for the months they are at school.



## **Congratulations to the softball team! They made it into the tournament!**

They ranked 3rd Place overall! Thank you to those who supported this team and cheered them on. We are so proud of them keeping God's name and Grace Church out there in the sports community! Thanks for spreading love and care. If you see one of these fine, young men please make sure to tell them thank you.

Team includes:

Brian Behrends, Brody Bernshausen, Carlos Felix, Chris Booher, Chris Onken, David Dunn, Derek Stout, Don Miller, Eric Swanson, Jerry Witt, John McLaughlin, Mason Tennell, Matt Fitzanko, Rod Teaney, Tommy Dault, Trey Tennell

### Community Worship Service

The Marigold Festival will be happening September 9-11. On September 11, the 9:00AM PURPOSE service will be cancelled as Pastor Eric will be sharing the message at the community worship service. The other services here at Grace that weekend, will continue as usually scheduled: 5:30PM Chapel and 11:00AM Faith Service.

Make sure you come and enjoy the service at the park. **Bring your own lawn chairs and water** as seating may be limited. Hope to see you there! **Wear your Pekin Grace Shirt** if you have one and stop by the Pekin Grace Potato bar booth to thank those working.

### Leadership Team Meeting August

The Leadership Team met twice this month to finish planning the Town Hall and check off other church business items on our list. We have been working diligently to improve the Congregational Care for our church. Kathy Towne and Pastor coordinate these efforts and lead some volunteers who call, send cards, and visit persons at home, in nursing homes, and in the hospital. You can help by calling the office when a family member or close friend might need someone to reach out to them. Our Team is also updating our means of Process Review, taking a look at the many documents and forms needed to do things like reserve a room in our building for an event, approve spending funds from church accounts, or booking a wedding at our beautiful church. One more task has been to schedule the Leadership Retreat to be held in November for new and current members of the Leadership Team to help with the transition to occur in January. Our agenda is always full, and you are always welcome. Reach out to any board member, or come and visit our meetings. The next one is September 29. See you at Grace.

### Dedication of Flowers

Due to a sharp increase in supply pricing we went to the artificial flowers. We would like to see if there is still any interest in dedicating the sanctuary's artificial flowers in memory of loved ones.

It seems there has not been as much of an interest in dedicating the flowers since we went to artificial flowers. The office is wondering if this program should continue. We currently have 3 months without any dedications and no one to organize and change out the artificial flowers.

Please let the office know if you are interested in continuing to support this or organize it.

### Giving

If you are watching Grace Church from home, you can still give to continue the ministry of this church. Check out the Pekin Grace App. There is a place where you can make a donation. It also lists upcoming events, past sermons, and has a place where you can send in prayer requests. Check it out!

### Potato Bar Sign-Up

Currently, we don't have enough helpers. If you are interested in helping with this fundraiser event, please follow this link to make the commitment:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4CABAD2DA7F8C34-grace1>

OR reach out to Greta directly!

### Return Keys/Cards

Please return any church keys/cards that you are no longer using.

### **Bible Presentation Sunday**

On Sunday, September 25 at 9:00AM the children of the church will be receiving their bibles. This is such a special moment in the christian walk and the life of our church.

I hope you remember fondly receiving your very first bible. I hope you remember being very proud to read God's word from your bible. I hope you remember the bible races that helped you become familiar with the bible.

It says in Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

Not only are these children receiving a bible but they are also receiving encouragement to learn more about God. The best thing we can do to support these children is show up to this service and join as a congregation in praying over them and their lives. As the Pastor said, "Let's make a big deal of this!"

Aaliyah Nicole Conover  
Samuel Dean Conover  
Arionna Christine Doubet  
Owen Thomas Dault  
Hayden Grubbs  
Maegen Haylie Miller  
Blythe Roberson  
Zaiden Roberson  
Brooklyn Marie Samms  
Violet Cheyenne Welbourne  
Willow Aurora Welbourne  
Elizabeth Rose Wilson

### **Please pray with us for these children :**

Dear Heavenly Father, please make yourself known to these children as they read your Word. And by the power of your Holy Spirit, guide them along the paths that will lead to full life in You. Help us as a church family to support these children in their learning, growing, and understanding of You through Your Word.

In Jesus' name, we pray. AMEN

### **New Congregation Email Program**

This month the office will be working towards using the new program, Flouro, to send out the weekly email. The first week they will send out two of the same weekly email: one from Realm, the usual program, and one from Flouro, the new program. If you do not receive two emails please check your junk folder and add to the safe senders list. If you do not have access to email or this is not your preferred way to communicate, please let the office know and we can add you to the printed communication list. If you are finding the smaller print hard to read, call the office. We can change you over to the larger print option that we send out. Currently when last minute schedule changes happen here at church, we only send communication through email and post to Facebook.

### **Potato Bar**

Just a reminder, our church will have a potato bar in the food court of the Marigold Festival. After you look at all the interesting crafts and enjoy the Marigold Festivities, make sure you stop by to chat or stop to enjoy some yummy food.

### **Grace Café**

We have someone that is interested in planning for Grace Café. Yay! We are still in the need of volunteers to help set-up, serve the meals, and clean up when the café is open. If this sounds like something you are interested in, please let the office know. We do not have a firm date for the return of this program.

### **Book Club**

Book club will meet Tuesday, September 9 at 10:00AM in the library at Pekin Estates. All are welcome. The next book is, *The Atonement Child* by Francine Rivers. If you need more information or have questions, call Sandy Isenburg 309-241-1411.

<b>Carol Weiss</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Cincy Carlton</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Sue Crowell</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Vera Byrd</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Ron Robinson</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Ellie Wilson</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Jamie Nelson</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>John Pfeiffer</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Alan Comstock</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Linda Stoner</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Eric Swanson</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Sara Golden</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Tom Patterson</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Sue Werner</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Morgan Turner</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Ann Tunis</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Laura Swearingen</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Chris Onken</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Ron Garman</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Judy Warner</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Tony Vogt</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Tripp Taylor</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Barbara Wright</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Lilly Doan</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Bella Horton</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Tammy Lynn Denning</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Joann Alberts</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Shannon Tebben Sandoval</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Matt Behrends</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Aria Moberly</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Morgan Dunn</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Vicki McKinley</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Alice Cakora</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Brady O'Shaughnessy</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Jay Zimmerman</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Ryan Trantham</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Barbara Trimble</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Bruce Ripper</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Kevin Stark</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Gerry Zuercher</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Robyn O'Shaughnessy</b>	<b>12</b>		
<b>Leeah Booth</b>	<b>12</b>		
<b>Ken Bradshaw</b>	<b>13</b>		
<b>Marv Brown</b>	<b>14</b>		
<b>Sarah McKenzie</b>	<b>16</b>		
<b>David Stone</b>	<b>16</b>		
<b>Ed Mulvey</b>	<b>17</b>		
<b>Barbara Harper</b>	<b>18</b>		
<b>Jim Stallwitz</b>	<b>18</b>		
<b>Tracy Parkin</b>	<b>18</b>		
<b>Haley Hoffman</b>	<b>18</b>		
<b>Nick Patterson</b>	<b>20</b>		
<b>Nancy Wherry</b>	<b>20</b>		
<b>Linda Smith</b>	<b>20</b>		
<b>Mallory Miller</b>	<b>20</b>		
<b>Zach Bruns</b>	<b>21</b>		

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

# 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**

**Thursday, September 8**

United Women of Faith General Meeting  
Hospitality Area, 1PM

**Sunday, September 11**

Community Worship Service at Park, 9:30AM

**Monday, September 12**

Weekly Bell Rehearsal Resumes, 4:45PM

**Wednesday, September 14**

Weekly Choir Practice Resumes, 6PM

**Thursday, September 15**

Drive-through Food Pantry at 4:00pm

**Saturday, September 24**

Drive-thru Food Pantry at 11:00am

**Sunday, September 25**

Bible Presentation Sunday!  
GFFLC, 9AM

## Prayer Concerns

Arlen Booth

Brittany Sharp

Carol Moorhouse Dahlgren

Cathie Ripper

Evan Bonnett

Jack Hall

John & Christy Hill

Family of Judy Icenogle on her  
passing

Kyree Travis (Mom - Rachel)

Larry Snell

Lee Oltmann

Lyla Talley

Mark Weber

Nancy Ridgeway

Norma Rupp

Paul Pearson

Ronald Weyhrich

Tony Fulk