

NOVEMBER 2022

# GRACE NOTES

No. 11 [pekingrace.org](http://pekingrace.org)



## highlights

NOVEMBER 2022

### PASTORS CORNER

Page 2

### CHILDRENS MINISTRY

Page 3-4

### YOUTH MINISTRY

Page 5-7

### CHURCH NEWS

Page 8-11

### BIRTHDAYS

Page 12

### PRAYER CONCERNS

Page 13



For the needy shall not always be forgotten, and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever.

Psalm 9:18

# PASTOR'S CORNER

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



Novembers are strange months for clergy. We are head long into Christmas planning, sermon writing and even looking out into the Lent & Easter seasons that are very quickly coming up on the horizon. We are often times looking at the review of the church in our efforts for the year that we are in. We will typically have the yearly business meeting (Charge Conference) of the church and all of the budgeting, reviews and such that follow that work. Then, we are also called to not only remember the saints that have gone on before us with All Saints Day but we are then rounding out the month with Thanksgiving. Who knew that such a boring month for many could be such a wild ride.

As I buckle up for this November, I am in need of your prayers.

Please pray for all of those things that we have listed in the first paragraph, as well as the work of the church at our denominational level. In 2019, I was elected as one of the delegates to the 2020 General Conference and with that role, to the 2020 Jurisdictional Conference. The General Conference is the work of setting the rules, guidelines and focus of the global denomination and that happens every 4 years. The Jurisdictional Conference happens ever 4 years as well, but it represents 1 of 5 geographic areas in the United States and in this space we elect Bishops to serve and appoint them to locations to serve. We also direct missions and funds around the Jurisdiction based on the priorities seen between all of our Annual Conferences.

Those Conferences were postponed in 2020 due to COVID-19 and the General Conference is now set for 2024 (with COVID came a host of travel bans and restrictions that have made it impossible to get the duly elected delegates from many countries to the US before that date). Because the Jurisdictional Conference is more regional, we are going to be holding conferences to allow Bishops who need to retire to do so and to fill vacated spaces that have required Bishops to serve multiple episcopal areas.

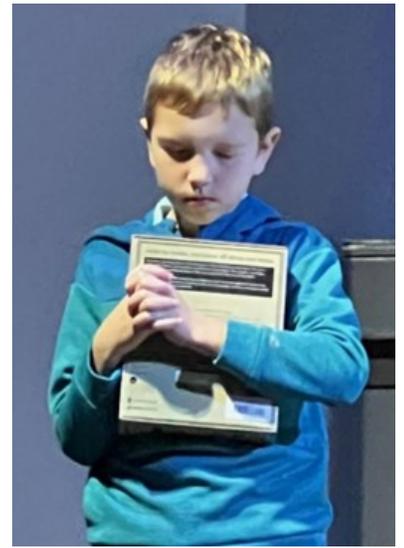
In our Jurisdiction, we are going to be electing 3 bishops at this time. I share all of this with you for two reasons. It is unique to have a lay or clergy person from your church serving in this capacity, and I want you aware of this and thank you for the time and energy that needs to be focused on such an important task. WE all need your prayers in this discernment season so that the church may discern the best possible leaders for the best possible future that God is calling us into. Thank you in advance for those prayers and the work they are offering the United Methodist Church and it's future.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric Swanson".

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**Emmy Thies**  
*Director of Children & Family Ministry*

Twelve children received Bibles at worship and UNITEkids this year! Thank you to the Grace UMC congregation for your giving, which allowed us to buy Bibles engraved with the kids' names. The kids were very grateful for the gifts and excited to start learning from them.





UNITEkids is gathering every Wednesday night from 5:30-6:30 at Grace. The church playground continues to be an awesome space for reaching new kids and families – many of whom are now attending UNITEkids and some starting to worship with us.

**Praise God for connecting us to His children!**

**Save the date for the *Children's Christmas Program*  
–Oh, Boy – it's gonna be a celebration!!**



**Transportation to UNITEkids is available**

Contact Emmy at 309-267-0595 for a ride.

*All children PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited!*

**Greta Long**  
Youth Ministries Director



# **Smashing Good Time**

## ***Youth Fundraiser***

The church van was a blessing for this church to have and it definitely served a wonderful purpose here at Grace. Unfortunately as with all things, time has taken a toll on the reliability of the van. The engine could not be rebuilt due to a cracked block so in the interests of getting the most out of the van (and paying the least to have it hauled away) it was used as a fundraiser for the church youth. You could pay \$20 for 3 swings on the old van. All the donations were given to the youth program. Over \$2,300 was raised through this event.

Once the fundraising time was over.....and everyone had taken their swings, the van was used as training for the fire department. You may ask how the fire department can use a partially smashed up van? The fire department was able to practice using the tools they would use in a real life situation if someone was trapped in their vehicle after an accident. The familiarity they gained with the tools they used provided the fire fighters the experience they need to shave minutes off a rescue.

The plus side for the church is not only could this training save a life someday.....but the van was able to be hauled away without a cost to the church.







This is something to be proud of!! Sunday, October 23 between the morning services, our congregation had the opportunity to help pack Snack Packs in the Hospitality area for Willow, Washington, Edison and Broadmoor Schools. I think many of us were inspired to see so many people working together for the good of the community. People showed up from all three services to help.....it was awe inspiring. Thank you to Gloria Ranney for arranging this event and making it happen. The planning and preparation for this type of program/event doesn't happen on its own.

## Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

### About the program

The snack pack program in Pekin is sponsored entirely by churches of Pekin. Last year Pekin Grace provided snack packs for 70 families a week. This year due to some churches no longer being able to fulfill their commitment, Grace is responsible for 200 a week!! That's a lot of snack packs to pack.

The point of the snack pack program is to be able to send easy snack items home with the children so that they will be able to eat over the weekend. The snack pack program provides 900 children a week with a pack to take home so they don't go hungry over the weekend.

Much of the food items are provided by the Midwest Food Distribution Center at little to no cost. The time consuming part has been keeping track of what donated items can be used in these packs. Sometimes, they send items that aren't as helpful. Gloria, through her volunteer service in all three programs, has been able to pick up the food needed and make sure the snack pack program, the food pantry, and the outreach center has food choices that they really can use.

*Thank you for helping to service children in need!*





This is the finished product from all the hard work of packing the snack packs. Thank you!

## Snack Packs



Even the children were getting into the action of helping others. Hadley's job was to break down the boxes, so they would be easier to transport to the dumpster.



### New Congregation Email Program

The start date for the email program has been pushed back. The office is still in the process of figuring out how this will look in the new app and how you can sign up to be a part of the email. Please call the office if you are not receiving the weekly email and you would like to be on the list.

In addition, 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. Also, if you are finding smaller print hard to read, call the office. We can change you over to the larger print option that we send out.

Just be aware when last minute schedule changes happen, we only send communication through email and post to Facebook.

### Grace Café

This program will start back up the last weekend in January. If you are interested in helping, please mark your calendar for the last Saturday in each month.

Thank you so much for those members who stepped up to lead this program and those who are willing to help. If you are interested in helping but need more information, please call the office.

### Book Club

Book club will meet Tuesday, September 9 at 10:00AM in the library at Pekin Estates. All are welcome. If you need more information or have questions, call Sandy Isenburg 309-241-1411.

### 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.

### GRACE WOMEN IN FAITH BAZAAR

The Grace Women in Faith will not be holding their annual Bazaar again this year; however, we will be selling the following:

- 16 oz. Mascot Mammoth Pecans – \$12.00
- 12 oz. Mascot Chocolate Covered Pecans – \$12.00
- 10 oz. Mascot Glazed Pecans – \$12.00
- 7 oz. Mascot 7-Way Tins – \$30.00
- Grace Church Christmas Ornaments - \$10.00

You can call the church office, 309-347-7131 or Carol Booth, 309-256-0075 to pre-order. Your order will be ready for pickup at Grace United Methodist Church, 601 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Pekin, on a drive-thru basis on the Henrietta Street side of the Church on:

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2022**  
**from 9:00am to 1:00pm.**

Church members may also buy pecans after Saturday night service, 9:00am Sunday service, or the 10:00am Sunday service. We will also be selling RADA dishcloths and there will be a bake sale after each service. If you would like to contribute something for the bake sale, that would be appreciated. IF THERE ARE NUTS IN YOUR ITEM, PLEASE MAKE A NOTE ON THAT ITEM.

Thank you in advance for your participation.  
Carol Booth, Bazaar Chairman

### Amazon Smile

Just a reminder, as the Christmas shopping season is upon us, you can register your amazon account with Amazon Smile and select what organization you would like to support. Once you set this up, a certain percentage of each purchase will be donated to the organization you choose. Every little bit definitely helps to keep the church operating smoothly, especially as we are expecting the energy costs to increase greatly this winter. If you'd like to help, go to **smile.Amazon.com** and **select Pekin Grace** as the organization you are supporting.

### Sermon Series

The sermon series Faith in Real Life will continue until advent. This sermon series we will be asking ourselves some of the tough and yet common questions of faith. Pastor will try to answer these questions and what that Faith in real life would look like.

### October Altar Flowers

October 9

In loving memory of Rich Giddens  
by Jane Giddens to celebrate his  
heavenly birthday

October 16

In loving memory of the parents of John & Jan  
Darnell

### November Altar Flower

November 13

Altar flowers were given by Willowdean  
Stone in loving memory of her husband Larry  
Stone.

### Calendar Dates

Please make sure when your group schedules activities here at the church, you let the office know details especially when and where in the church the event is happening. In the office you will can pick up a short form to fill out. By using this form, you assure that you give the office all the information that is needed. It is preferred that you give the information to the office in writing. Please be direct about any needs the event may have or extra spaces that might be used. With outside groups using our facilities, we want to make sure the church members spaces are reserved. If you happen to go to the website and look at the calendar and do not see your event, it is very likely that the space was not reserved. Please let the office know.

### Commitment Cards

Remember to turn in your commitment cards- the bottom portion only. We only had 32 cards returned as of the last week in October.

### Charge Conference

Charge conference is once again upon us. Every year the church fills out documents to let the district office know what has been going on here at Grace. We turn in the budget and other documents related to the running of the church. Everyone who attends this meeting gets a copy of all documents. If you are unable to attend, you may request these documents from the church office. This meeting is open to all who attend here at Grace United Methodist Church. This year the charge conference will be November 13 at 3pm in Peoria at the Bethel United Methodist Church, 210 N. Pryor Place.

### Mailing

The church will send out a mailing at the beginning of November. If for some reason you did not receive this mailing, please let the office know. It could be that we do not have updated contact information from you.

### Upper Rooms

On the information station in the foyer, you can find the Upper Room publication. These are free to pick up and use for your own devotional time. Currently, we have a few left over every month. If you are interested in furthering your faith walk with a personal devotional time, please pick up one of the Upper Rooms.



*from all of us here at  
Grace United Methodist  
Church! May God richly  
bless you this holiday season.*

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Pat Moser	1	Sharon Danner	18
Patty Onken-Pfeiffer	1	Chris Bergstrand	18
Fred Vogt	3	JJ Tassart	18
Anna Soupos	3	Pat McMullin	19
Nancy Ridgeway	3	Marshall Stoner	19
Chuck Hall	3	Miles Wilson	21
Nancy Kriegsman	4	Ben Bruns	21
Kate Wyman	5	Kaylee Toon	21
Ann Vogt	6	Catherine Englebrecht	21
Peg Gorsage	6	Drew Hannan	21
Holly Hoffman	7	Ashley Stilling	22
Joyce Antonini	8	Kathy Manz	22
Cole Stoner	9	Eloise Feuchter	23
Daniel McKenzie	10	Bryn Golden	24
Melissa Troutman	10	Jaclyn Mulvey	26
Nola Booher	11	Robert White	26
Larry Crouch	11	TJ Orrick	26
Kennedy Bremer	12	Katelyn Tassart	27
Naomi Comstock	13	Jarrold Vaupel	28
Luke Spicher	14	CJ Booher	28
Grace Wyman	14	Charles Dancey	28
Benjamin Clark	14	Irma Sharp	28
Mallory Ingles	14	Mitch Slock	28
David Smith	14	Kai Bermijo	28
Kitty Robinson	15	Jason Kennemer	29
Scott Kimzey	16	Nanette Mulvey	30
Morgan VonDoehren	16	Rebecca Onken	30
Addy Stone	17	Austin Downey	30
John Troutman	17		

# 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, November 6**  
All Saints Day Weekend

**Saturday, November 12**  
Drive-Thru Pecan Sale

**Monday, November 14**  
Staff Retreat, 9:00am-3pm

**Thursday, November 17**  
Drive-through Food Pantry at 4:00pm

**Saturday, November 19**  
Leadership Board Retreat, 9am-3pm

**Sunday November 20**  
Radical Friendsgiving, 2pm-4pm

**Saturday, November 26**  
Drive-thru Food Pantry at 11:00am

## Prayer Concerns

Arlen Booth

Barb Hill

Brittany Sharp

Carol Moorhouse Dahlgren

Cathie Ripper

Duane Hill

For the family of Jim Fogelmark on

his passing

Kyree Travis

Lee Oltmann

Lyla Talley

Margarete Hall

Mark Weber

Nancy Ridgeway

Norma Bell

Norma Rupp and her family

Paul Pearson

Ronald Weyhrich

William Keltner