

JUNE 2023

GRACE NOTES

No. 6 pekingrace.org



highlights

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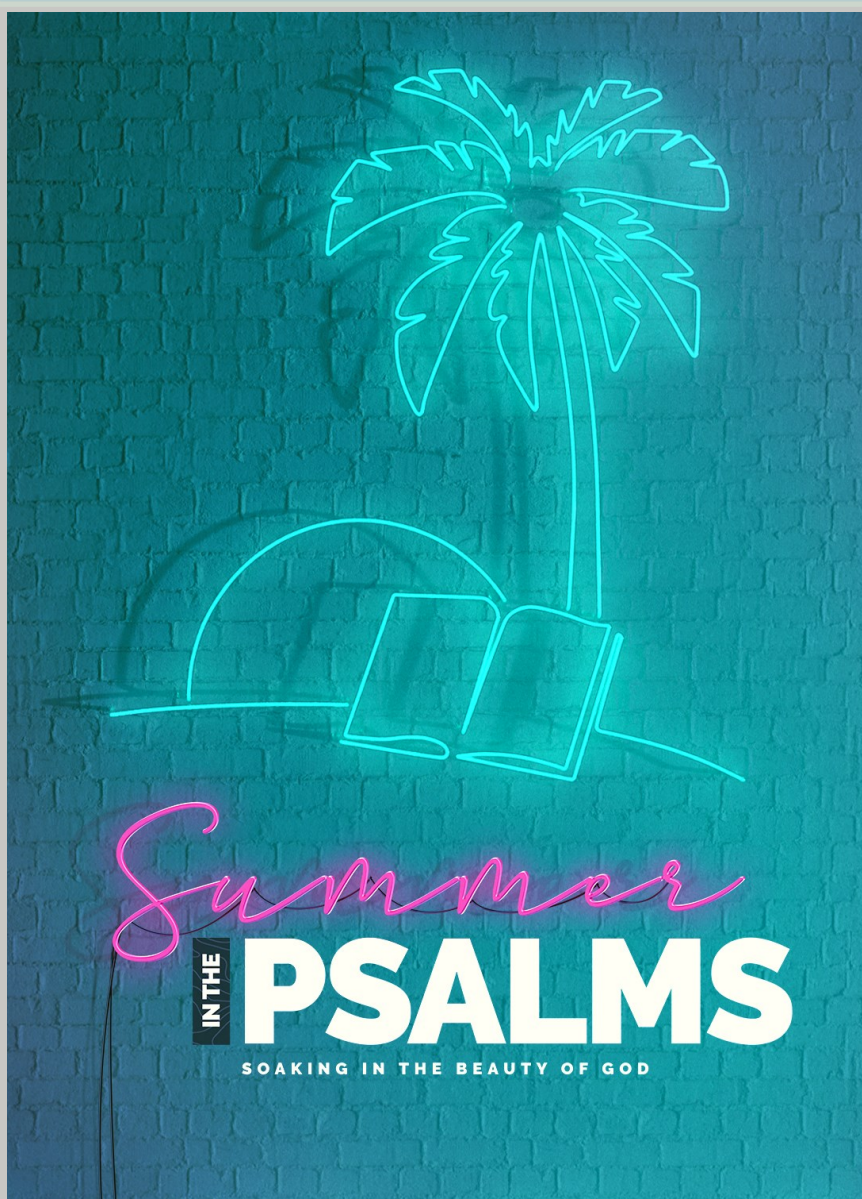
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PASTOR'S CORNER

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



Planning for our 175th Anniversary and for the ministry of our future is a major priority for this coming summer. From humble beginnings, our congregation has grown from being a house-based church, to the church that we are today by trusting that the message of Jesus Christ offers life to the community. Along the way, we have lived through multiple generations of leaders, helped our community through the vast social and technological transitions that have happened over that time, and constantly innovated and invested in that message.

Clearly, we have always invested in our buildings. We all know and love the traditional sanctuary we celebrate in today, but the predecessor building was so grand that the yearly gathering of Methodists of our area (now known as Annual Conference) was in Pekin, at our church. The congregation re-invested after the building was destroyed by fire. We built our 1912 facility and innovated by using a local organ shop, modern construction models and made a space to expand our ministry as we would grow. In the 1950's, we knew that the church needed to innovate again as children's ministry changed and space for administrative work grew in need. The Mason building was a product of its time in practicality and in functioning much like an elementary school of its day. We innovated into new forms of ministry that met the needs of our community.

Ten years ago, we did that work once again. We re-imagined the footprint of our primary worship space with the addition of new offices, lobby, nursery, family life center and renovations to the basement and chapel. Things had changed since the 1950's and we responded to those changes by investing in a facility that could offer the needs of a church of the 2000's.

With the course of time, our ministries have changed. Our worship styles have changed, in both the traditional and the contemporary worship services. In some ways, the church of 175 years ago would not recognize this no longer German speaking church. Yet, in so many ways the church of 175 years ago would fully understand who we are today and who we are attempting to become. Like the church of yesterday, we want to be the best vehicle to share the good news of Jesus in Pekin. We have a passion for investing into our future. We care for the ongoing innovation and renovation of the church, and we plan to do that again in honor of the 175th.

With the 175th, we hope to raise \$175,000 above and beyond the budget to do this innovation work once more while also honoring our past. We want to raise these funds for four specific goals. The first and second goals relate to our worship services. We plan on painting the 1912 sanctuary, the stairwells, and the cry room. This includes paint, plaster work, sanding, etc. We want to purchase and install acoustic tiles for the Family Life Center. This will make the worship music more balanced and crisp. This will also greatly help when we are eating in that space and talking, so that it isn't so loud, and we will be better able to hear one another. The third thing we want to do is set aside some of these funds to support our annual work. We know that even though fundraisers like this one are to be above and beyond the budget, they still always impact our giving to the annual budget. For that reason, we want to set aside about 10% to go back into our budget and keep us in the black for the year of fundraising. Lastly our fourth goal enhances evangelism. By the time we celebrate the 175th, we should have returned to about 175 in average attendance, in person, per weekend. We want to set aside the largest amount of funding for this, so that for three years we can fund a series of plans to double our in-person worship size and equip Grace to be a church that will support the next 175 years in Pekin.

Just as our founders didn't know what we could become today, we don't know what our future will exactly look like. But as we look back, as we see the ways that those who came before us invested in the future we now enjoy, we want to be a part of the work of the church that invests in tomorrow. We want to be faithful to that Good News of Jesus.

We will formally begin this campaign at the end of July, but we want to share with you today what we feel is the movement of the Spirit in our church as we honor our great past and dream of the future.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric Swanson". The signature is written in a dark ink and is centered on the page.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Emmy Thies

Director of Children & Family Ministry

UNITEkids wrapped up the school year by focusing on what they're thankful for, including the moms, grandmas, great-grandmas, and other women in their lives. They acknowledged that God put these ladies in their lives to care for them!



K-2nd grade group working on Mother's Day cards



UNITEkids will have special events throughout the summer, starting with WATER GAMES in June! Join the fun and bring a friend!! Join the Facebook group to get other exciting news about UNITEkids.

Bring a towel and we'll provide the water balloons and fun!!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Emmy Thies

Director of Children & Family Ministry



If you have a 3rd – 5th grader who is ready to study Scripture in a deeper way with a small group, Bible Buddies is for them! Bible Buddies Group 2 kicks off in June. The first small group of Bible Buddies filled up quickly! Please contact Emmy at 309-267-0595 to reserve a spot for your kiddo in Group 2!

Bible Buddies **Group 1** at
Double D's for ice cream night



SAVE THE DATE!
JULY 31 - AUG 4

VBS 2023



It's not too early to start thinking about **VBS 2023**, which will end with a night out at Dragonland!

VBS is open to all kids in preschool through 5th grade.

Get it on your calendar now, you won't want to miss out on this impactful and fun week!

Registration will begin in July



When Greta went on to finish her schoolwork in January, we found our youth leadership to have a hole in it. We continued to see **solid leadership** with Marianne Oltmann and Chris Booher for the last several months, while the board explored how to fill the leadership role of Youth ministries. After reviewing what the other local programs could offer and seeking applicants, the board was presented with the opportunity to hire two of our own.

Jill Stoner Crouch and Brionna Goodin will begin to lead our Jr. & Sr. High Youth Ministries programs starting this summer. They both bring unique giftings to the ministry area and we ask for your prayers over them and our youth as we seek to grow our programs.

If you need to contact them, their email addresses are listed below:

- Jill Stoner Crouch jstonercrouch@pekingrace.org
- Brionna Goodin bgoodin@pekingrace.org

Jill and Brionna have made a commitment to find fun, inspiring ways to share the message of Jesus with our youth. As they nurture positive relationships with the youth and their families, please pray that God will guide and encourage them as they use their gifts and talents.

Grace Notes Articles

Interested in letting the church know about your group? The office can only share information that has been shared with them. If you take pictures of an activity your group is having and are interested in having it put in the Grace Notes or onto Facebook, please send the pictures and brief information about the activity to the secretary's email, (secretary@pekinggrace.org). Make sure you communicate clearly how you would like the article shared. **The deadline for the Grace Notes is always the 3rd Tuesday of the month before.** Send a variety of pictures, but be aware that not all pictures may be used if space is limited.

Sermon Series

This month we will start the series Summer in the Psalms. Each of these sermons are stand alone and take one of the Psalms to look further in depth and learn what we can glean from them. We hope you can come as you are able. This series will continue on into July. Each week in July, we will have a different guest speaker who will share their knowledge and interpretation of one of the Psalms.

Close Wood Church Doors Firmly

Old wood door exits from the sanctuary swell in the summer. If exiting from these doors, please take a few minutes to make sure they close completely.

Upper Rooms

The church provides Upper Room devotionals free of charge for the congregation. This last time we had many left. If you'd like to start making quiet time a priority and use the Upper Room, please help yourself to the booklet.

The new Upper Rooms are always placed in the foyer by the office as soon as we get them. It is first come first serve.

Thank you!

Nanette Mulvey would like to extend her sincere thanks to all her Grace friends who reached out, prayed, and comforted her during her mother's illness and passing. She feels extremely blessed to have you all in her life.

Book Club

Book club meets at 10 a.m. on the second Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be June 13 in the library of Pekin Estates. All are welcome! If you need more information or have questions, call Sandy Isenburg at 309-241-1411.

Scholarship Applications

Applications are now being collected in the office of Grace Church. They must be returned by **June 15**. Recipients will be notified by mail and funds will be distributed in late July. Applicants must be members of Grace United Methodist Church. Applications can be downloaded from the Grace website.

Saturday Servants

Sign up to be a Saturday Servant or just show up! This ministry will have its second meeting on June 10 from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. They will start the day in the hospitality area and go from there to do different tasks.

This group will help with some of the maintenance items here at Grace. Pastor Eric will be leading this group. Some days they will be working on projects outside, and other days they will be working inside. This group will meet on a monthly basis on the second Saturday of the month. Let Pastor Eric or the office know if you are interested in being a part of this group or need more information. Or, just show up on the second Saturday when you have time free. All are welcome and any help is appreciated!

Hawaiian Celebration all Summer

Pastor is encouraging us to wear our favorite Hawaiian shirts to church in honor of the Summer of Psalms sermon series. Let's party!

Welcome



Hayes Ryan Tennell

Mason and Chelsea Tennell welcome their son, Hayes Ryan Tennell. He was born April 11th. He was 8 lbs 15 oz and 20.5 inches long.

Every good gift, every perfect gift, comes from above. These gifts come down from the Father, the creator of the heavenly lights, in whose character there is no change at all. James 1:17

Church News

Church Softball League

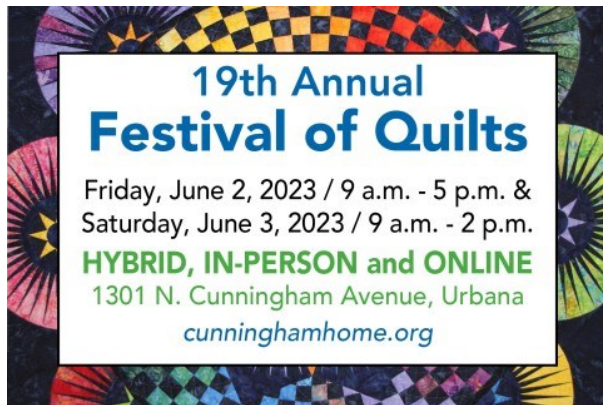
Come support the softball team from Grace! The rainout line is 309-226-4060 or check the app. Scheduled Monday games are listed below. Let's play ball!!

6/5 at 8 p.m. at diamond 2
6/12 at 7p.m. at diamond 2
6/19 at 9 p.m. at diamond 1
6/26 at 6 p.m. at diamond 1
7/10 at 7 p.m. at diamond 1
7/17 at 7p.m. at diamond 1
7/24 at 9 p.m. at diamond 1
7/31 at 7 p.m. at diamond 1
8/7 at 8 p.m. at diamond 1



Cunningham Festival Of Quilts

The United Women of Faith a women's organization here at Grace support the Cunningham Homes organization. One of Cunningham Home's fundraisers is this Festival of Quilts. You can see these quilts in person or online.



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

Alisha Dault, Brian Garman, Mason Tennel , Michelle Hunt, Greg Ranney, Rich Kriegsman, Dale Golden, Marj Oesch, and Pastor Eric Swanson

During the last Leadership Board meeting on April 27, the board discussed the youth ministry position, painting the sanctuary, reviewed various church documents, discussed preparations for the town hall meeting, discussed a marketing proposal, and discussed a plan for the church's 175th anniversary. Pastor Eric shared that there had been two applicants for the youth ministry positions and an interview including a few members of the board who are available would happen soon. The board discussed the quote for painting the sanctuary from CentraPro Painters and voted to accept the bid. The board discussed necessary changes that should be made to the endowment document, injury/ accident report, and the wedding planning document. It was decided that the focus of the town hall meeting should be Pastor Eric's Renewal leave, and the 175th anniversary of the church. The board started to discuss a marketing proposal which included a cost estimate from McDaniels Marketing, but this discussion was tabled for next month. The discussion about the 175th anniversary included the idea to fundraise \$175,000 for the church. The money will be split for painting of the sanctuary, acoustic panels in the Gary Ford Family Life Center, and marketing evangelism. This plan was voted on and approved by the board.

High School Graduates

Church News

As a church we want to recognize the hard work of these graduates. We are asking the church to take a few moments to lift them up in prayer, asking God to bless them as they pursue their chosen life paths. Pray that God will put people in their lives to help shape them for the work in which He would have them to do. Many blessing upon them as they continue to grow and change. We recognized these persons as a church on May 21.

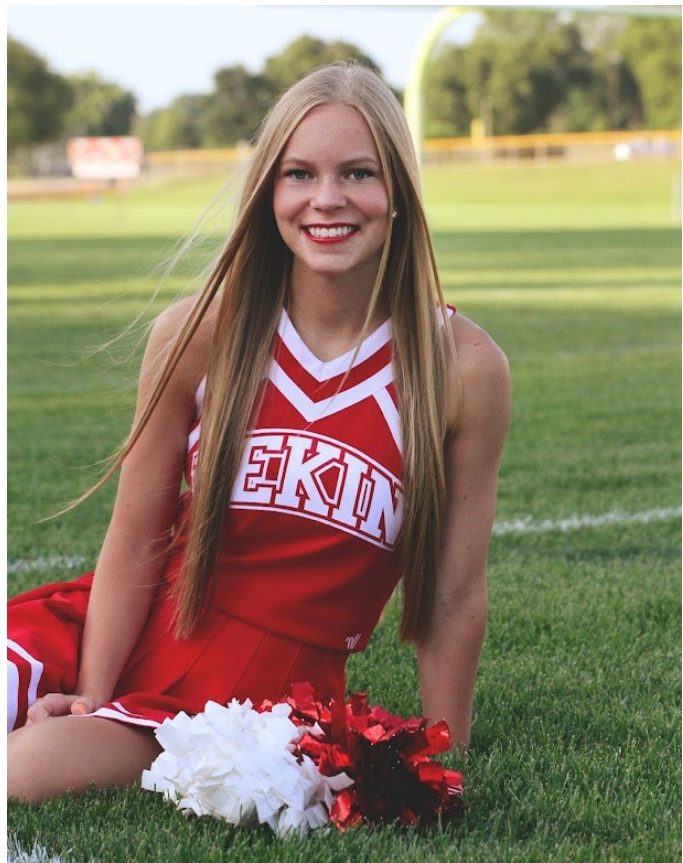


Nola Booher-She graduated from the New Hope Academy in Pekin. She will be exploring what her future holds.

Tara Jayne Presley-She will be going to Illinois State University working toward a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. She has been accepted into the honors program.



Jack Wyman- Jack is graduating from PCHS with plans to enter the workforce.



Church News



Owen Selock- Upon graduation, he will be attending Iowa State University to pursue a degree in Civil Engineering.



Brooke Calvert-She is a member of the National Honor Society, the Tri-M National Music Honor Society, and was the recipient of several awards and scholarships including the National School Choral Award, a PCHS Academic Excellence Scholarship, the Lloyd Delahunt Scholarship, and an Illinois State Redbird Scholarship. During high school Brooke was involved in many organizations including the Noteables Show Choir, Student Council, Key Club, Girl Up, theater, concert choir, and the Close Up program. This year she was honored to sing the National Anthem at commencement. Next year, Brooke is excited to be attending Illinois State University where she will pursue a career in Social Work.

This is (OUR) prayer: that your love might become even more and more rich with knowledge and all kinds of insight. I pray this so that you will be able to decide what really matters and so you will be sincere and blameless on the day of Christ. I pray that you will then be filled with the fruit of righteousness, which comes from Jesus Christ, in order to give glory and praise to God."

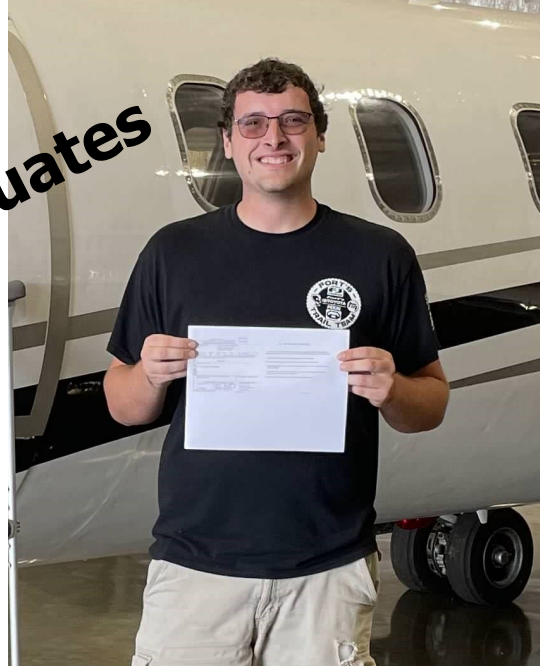
1 Philippians 1:9-11

The Good News: God's hope for us is that with time, a constant love will enable us to learn more, and discover what is truly needed within our lives to make us happy.



College Graduates

Paige Calvert-She graduated with a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance at The University of Illinois in Urbana Champaign! Her senior year was very busy. She played Charlotte in A Little Night Music, completed her senior recital, played the Angel City Alto in City of Angels, sang with the UIUC Chamber Singers, and helped world premiere two operas, one in Portuguese and one in Ukrainian! This fall, she will begin working towards her Master's Degree at Oklahoma City University, where she received a full tuition scholarship. She's looking forward to singing at Grace this summer!



Elijah Melloy- Elijah will graduate on May 13 from Southern Illinois University with his Bachelor's in Aviation Technology. He has a job as a Systems Engineer at Collin's Aerospace in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He will start there on May 31.

Ashley Willette-She is graduating from Bradley with a Doctorate of Physical Therapy. She has plans to move to New York and find employment there after completing her core exam.



Doctorates



Daniel McKenzie- He is graduating as a Doctor of Dental Medicine from Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine. He will then attend the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Dentistry - Nashville for an Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency.



The child grew up and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him. Luke 2:4



Dane Nelson Golden

Dane Nelson Golden made his appearance on 4/27/2023 at 8:26 a.m. He came in at 9 lbs 9 oz and 19 inches long. Mom and Dad, Sarah and Dale Golden are already so in love with him. He is snuggly and makes the cutest noises.

June Birthdays



Tori Williamson	3
Jed Bruninga	4
Dale Golden	5
Sarah Tennison	5
Brian Garman	7
Duane Bruninga	8
Jordan Ries	9
Jason West	10
Rod Teaney	10
Judy Holder	11
Donald MacGregor	11
Mike Holly	12
Dave Trombini	17
Judy Brown	18

Marnie Golden	18
Burt Dancey	20
Dean Allen	20
Lisa Regan	21
Halle Bloom	23
Dennis Green	24
Mike Poole	25
Sandy Isenburg	25
Chris Louton	25
Carla Terry	27
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

Office Hours

M-TH 8:30am-4:30pm

Closed 12pm-1pm

June 8

United Women in Faith, General Meeting, 1 p.m.

June 8-10

Annual Conference

June 10

Saturday Servants Meeting

8 a.m. -12 p.m., Hospitality Area

June 14

UNITEkids Water Games @ First, 6 p.m.

June 15

Grace Food Pantry, 4 p.m.

Scholarship Applications **Due**

June 24

Grace Food Pantry, 11 a.m.

June 29

Pastor Eric's last day before renewal leave

Prayer Concerns

Ann Vogt

Barb Hill

Bev Harrison

Carol Moorhouse

Carla Terry & Family

Dave Champlin

David Cole

Debbie Shallenberger

Grant Golden

Julia Albertson

Kellen Norman and family

Margarete Hall

Mark Weber

Paul Pearson

Sharon Robinson