

AUGUST 2023

# GRACE NOTES

No. 8 [pekingrace.org](http://pekingrace.org)



## highlights

August 2023

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*Gracious and loving God, we understand that You call us to be the stewards of Your abundance, the caretakers of all You have entrusted to us. Help us always to use Your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the Love of Christ in our lives.*

# PASTOR'S CORNER

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



I want to start off with gratitude. I am ever so thankful to the church for all that has been done to help while I was on renewal leave. It has always been the entire church together that has made the work of the church able to be accomplished. So for all those who came to preach, those who did extra liturgical work, those who helped with the little things that come up each week and those who finished our preparations for painting... THANK YOU!

We will spend the first two weeks of August with me finishing up our sermon series of Summer in the Psalms. Following that series, we will enter into a fun and different sermon series based off of the work of the mini-series Ted Lasso.

## **“Believe”**

Later this month, I will begin a new series of sermons based on some quotes from the fictional TV character and series, “Ted Lasso.” Ted Lasso is the story of a semi-successful, mid-level college football coach in the USA who is surprisingly hired as the new manager (coach) of the Richmond Football (soccer) Club in England. It’s a classic “fish out of water” trope that is compelling because of Coach Lasso’s intentional and genuine optimism.

To be completely honest, I was initially hesitant to offer this series. The TV show tells a great story and has compelling characters and there is much to like about it. At the same time, it is not “Christian programming,” as it contains adult language and adult situations that are not appropriate for all audiences. I felt a little strange about using such a show for illustrative purposes, even though we will not be showing any video clips in worship. But sometimes God speaks to us through the secular world. And other times, finding common ground in the secular world can help the Church reach people who might not otherwise be interested in what the Church was doing.

It is entirely up to you whether or not you watch the show. You will not need to watch the show in order to understand the sermons. I’m planning to share a few of Ted Lasso’s best one-liners and use them as the starting point for sermons that are aimed at helping us be better and stronger disciples of Jesus Christ. I’m calling the series “Believe” based off of his poster that inspires the team just when they need it.

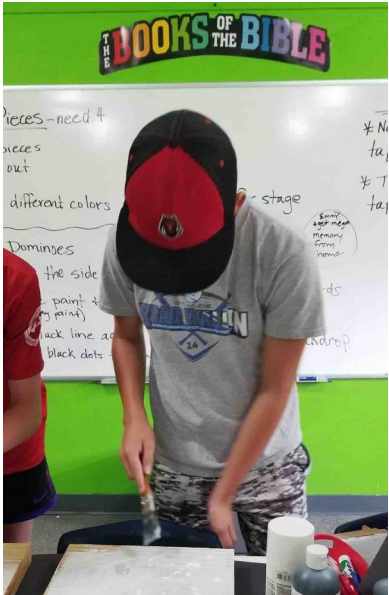
My prayer is that God speaks to us in powerful ways. I also hope you will invite a friend to meet you here for worship during this series.

With love, and joy, serving as your pastor,  
Pastor Eric

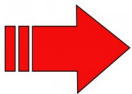
# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

VBS props ... work gets done quickly when there are many kids and youth to help!



# VBS Preview!



# YOUTH MINISTRIES

Jill Stoner-Crouch and Brionna Goodin  
Co-Director's of Youth Ministries

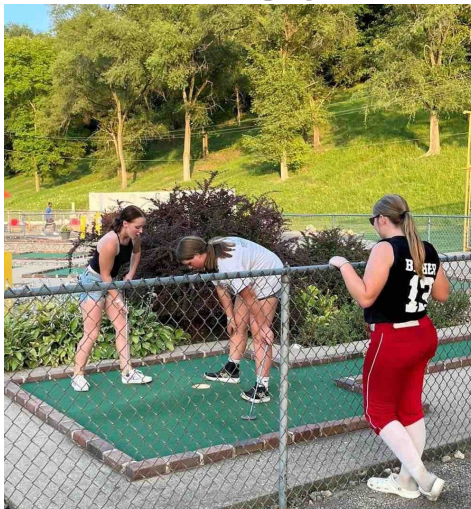
# Kartville



Bumper  
Boats



Mini Golf



G  
O  
  
C  
A  
R  
T  
S



Dune  
Buggies



# August

August 2<sup>nd</sup> - Water fun at Jill's 1pm-3:30pm

August 9<sup>th</sup> - End of the summer fun!!!

Radical Youth Wednesday nights 6:30pm-8pm

August 16<sup>th</sup> - Youth group summer break.



If parents have any questions, please reach out to Jill and Brionna.  
[bgoodin@pekingrace.org](mailto:bgoodin@pekingrace.org)  
[jstonercrouch@pekingrace.org](mailto:jstonercrouch@pekingrace.org)

August 23<sup>rd</sup> - Youth group summer break. Enjoy First Day of School

August 30<sup>th</sup> - Youth group summer break. Join us going places September 6<sup>th</sup>!

8/2-Bring sunscreen, towel and swim gear for the water fun.

Thinking ahead.....

- Potato Bar for the Marigold Festival happening 9/9 & 9/10. Sign up to Volunteer with Jill or Brionna.
- Sunrise to Sunset day of Prayer coming 9/16. Sign up for hour time slots with Brionna or Jill.

### Grace Notes Articles

Interested in letting the church know about your group? 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.

### Food Pantry

In looking over all the food pantry schedules in the area, our organizers found out that many groups provide food pantries on the same Thursday. In order to provide better for those in need, it was decided to change the food pantry dates to a more consistent schedule. The more consistent schedule allows for ease of communicating dates to organizations that help and to people in need.

Grace pantry will now be open on the 2nd and last Saturday of each month. The month of September, the schedule will change to accommodate the Marigold Festival. The dates in September will be September 16 and September 30. Volunteers should arrange to come at 9:30 a.m. on food pantry days. Gloria has requested people talk to her if they are interested in helping.

Thank you Grace Church for supporting this ministry!! We also would like to thank the volunteers and leader who help make this possible. Truly organizing this is a full time job.

The adjusted dates for the rest of the year have been set and posted to the web-site.

### Book Club

Book club meets at 10 a.m. on the second Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be August 8 in the library of Pekin Estates. All are welcome! If you need more information, have questions or want to know what book they are reading, please call Sandy Isenburg at 309-241-1411.

### Congratulations!

Scholarship Applications were accepted and reviewed. Grace United Methodist Church would like to extend congratulations to Madison Dunn and Ryan Trantham as the scholarship recipients for 2023. We are truly thankful as a church to be able to help you realize your goals. Please take a few moments to say prayers over these recipients and may God bless their future plans.

### Saturday Servants

The next Saturday Servants will meet August 12 from 8 a.m. –12. Different projects will be worked on around the church. If you are interested in helping, all you have to do is show up. Pastor Eric will have some projects you can help with.

If you have a particular maintenance skill you would like to share with the church, please let the office know, and we can get you plugged in.

### Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School happens the first week of this month. The children should have a fun time. They'll have games, crafts, snacks, and science experiments. Plus, Friday night will be a celebration at Dragonland! VBS will be held Monday through Thursday at First United Methodist Church located at 1315 Court Street, from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. If you haven't registered, please come anyway. This event is planned for children preschool through 5th grade. On Friday, August 4th, the group will meet at Dragonland from 6p.m-8 p.m. This will wrap up an exciting week of fun and fellowship.

### Happy 75th Birthday TOPS

This year TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) nationwide is celebrating its 75th birthday. It is older by 15 years than Weight Watchers. It doesn't sell products and is very affordable. The group has always made donations to Grace Church in gratitude for allowing them to meet here.

TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) # 0983 has been meeting weekly at Grace Methodist Church for 55 years. TOPS is nationwide and in some other countries. None of our original TOPS members remain. Anyone is welcome to join.

TOPS meet every Tuesday morning at 8:00 a.m. for weigh in followed by a program. You are always welcome to come for a visit to meet us and to get more information. The only other TOPS group in Pekin meets at First Methodist Church Tuesday evenings at 5:30 pm.

### Town Hall Meeting: Sunday, August 20th

We are excited for the August Town Hall meeting. Please gather in the Gary Ford family Life Center on August 20th from 10:15 a.m. -10:50 a.m.

Pastor Eric will share a little about his renewal leave. We will be giving updates on the sanctuary painting, as well as the solar project. We will also be sharing plans for the 175th Celebration. We are looking for fundraising ideas and volunteers!

Of course we encourage attendance at this meeting. We will have time for questions. If you are unable to attend, please see a board member for updates.

This is your church and this venue is an opportunity to learn about some things that have been going on at Grace.

### Last Game for the Softball League!

Come out and support the softball team from Grace! This is your last chance to see them in action this year. Hope to see you there!  
8/7 at 8 p.m. at diamond 1

### Children's Volunteers

As our children's program at Grace is growing, Emmy is always looking for more people to help with the program. If you are interested in getting involved in the Wednesday program, Vacation Bible School or Children's Church, please let the office or Emmy know. We need more volunteers to help with this growing program.

### Kroger Community Rewards

April 1 - June 30: 20 Households = \$57.02  
Donations for Grace UMC!

### Nominations Committee

The committee will be meeting on August 10 at 6:00 p.m. If you know of a candidate to recommend to the committee, please let one of the members of the committee know. The committee members include the following:

Jennifer Booher	Nanette Mulvey
Tommy Dault	Ryan Plunkett
Carla Jacobson	

### Potato Bar Sign Up

Marigold Festival is coming! The youth group is needing help. They are still not big enough to pull this off without the support and help of the congregation. If you are interested in helping serve at the Potato Bar, please let Brionna or Jill know. This event allows the name of Grace United Methodist Church get out in the community. It also enables the youth to go on the mission trip. The mission trips are not free. One way the church has been able to reduce the student's expenses is by having the potato bar fundraiser.

### Stewardship Prayer

Prayer on the front cover is taken from <https://archkck.org/> What a wonderful way we as a church can make room for the future generations to continue to worship God. It is hard to say what the church of the future will look like. I am proud that Grace Church has taken the time to vision cast for the future. May God continue to be present here at Grace. May his presence be felt and shown amongst our members.

### Painting

Reminder: painting will be going on in the sanctuary during the month of August. All services will worship in the Gary Ford Family Life Center while painting is being completed. The tentative schedule to resume worship in the Sanctuary will be August 27. This is a tentative date as it is hard to gauge how long the painting will take. We will do our best to keep you updated as we find out more.

### Choir/Brass

Our Choir will be back for rehearsals starting September 6th from 6:00-6:45 p.m, and continue every Wednesday. On Sunday, September 17th, the choir will sing at the 11:00 a.m. service. Grace Brass will play the 2nd Sunday of each month.

### Bells

Soon it will be time to begin Grace Bells rehearsal. They will begin their rehearsals the first Monday after Labor Day, September 11th, and will continue to rehearse from 4:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. each Monday.

The Bells will play the first Sunday of each month, starting with October 1st at the 11:00 a.m. service. In addition, Grace Bells will also play on October 22nd during the combined service in celebration of our church's 175 years. This should be a wonderful worship event.

### Upper Rooms

There are still many Upper Room devotionals left. Please help yourself to a booklet. They are located on the information rack in the entryway near the office. Some large print are located near the elevator. Be watching for the September/October devotional around the middle of month.

### Thank You

Many thanks to those who filled in while Pastor Eric was away. We really do appreciate the members who stepped out of their comfort zone to grow in God's Grace and presence. Thank you!



### Solar for All

On the front page, you will see a picture of the solar installation. The crew was courteous and kind even when they were hot and miserable. We would like to thank the solar installation staff for being gracious and understanding as well as respectful while here at Grace.

Solar installation  
is complete!





## August Birthdays

Jane Giddens	2	Lydia Butler	15
Rob Bucher	2	Liz DeSchepper	17
Lauren Russell	3	Jeff Allsup	17
Paul Pearson	3	Amy Ries	17
Emmy Thies	3	Betty Allen	18
Dennis Dietrich	4	Phil Icenogle	19
Amanda McDuff	7	Gary Towne	22
Christy Burks	7	Darrell Becker	22
Carla Germann	7	Nathan Mulvey	23
Jerry Witt	12	Kelly Cole-Bloom	25
Keri Behrends	13	Carol Booth	26
Steven Clark	13	Lisa McClain	28
Terry Weiss	14	Michelle Rogers-Sinisi	28
Megan Hinrichsen	15	Danielle Clark	28
		Emma Cole	28
		Hadley Swanson	28
		LeAnne Slock	28
		Paul Wicker	29
		Duane Hill	29
		Denise Johnson	31

# 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*

## **Prayer Concerns**

Bev H.

Dean Alb.

Grant G.

Jim R.

For the family of Theresa Smith (sister of Judy Williams), on her passing;  
Prayers for her daughter, Karen S, and grandchildren, Alexis, and Eden

Kellen N. and her family

Les S.

Mark W.

Melissa T

Paul P.

Sharon R.

August 1

Solar Panel installation work is on target to finish up. The system will need to be tested.

August 2

Pastor Eric will be back from the renewal leave and available

August 2

Radical Water Fun at Jill's, 1p.m -3 p.m.

August 4

Vacation Bible School

Wrap up Night at Dragonland, 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

August 9

Radical Meeting in Mason Building,  
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

August 10

Nominations Meeting, 6 p.m.

August 12

Grace Food Pantry, 11 a.m.

August 12

Saturday Servants, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

August 16

No Radical Meeting

August 20

Town Hall Meeting, GFFLC,  
10:15 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.

August 23

School Resumes in the Pekin area

August 23

No Radical Meeting

August 26

Grace Food Pantry, 11 a.m.

August 27

Worship will resume in the sanctuary (tentative)

August 30

UNITEkids Kick-Off, 5:30 p.m.

August 30

No Radical Meeting...Fall kick off  
will be next week

September 16

Radical Sunrise to Sunset Day of Prayer