

JULY 2024

# GRACE NOTES

No. 6 [pekingrace.org](http://pekingrace.org)



## highlights

JULY 2024

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*Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith!  
Luke 12:27-28 NIV*

# PASTOR'S CORNER

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



Summertime is a time for family, fun, fellowship, and picnics. Throughout the summertime, I love to hear the stories of everyone's vacations. The experiences that people have and the memories that they get to make as family is a great joy not only to that family but the greater community. When we know that our community can thrive, we can truly celebrate that shared abundance. We know that people are taking part in the healing work of Sabbath time. We see the types of joy that God has for us all.

One of the other ways that this type of joy and celebration can be experienced in the summer is through the opportunities to gather that are present to us. This summer with the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pekin, we will have many chances for the community to gather as a collective. We will get time to honor our history and dream the God-sized dreams that we pray for our future. These extra times of community, coupled together with our traditional celebration events can be wonderful times of the witness of the gospel of Jesus to be a part of our collective offering to the community.

We are called to be a church that is very much an active and life-giving part of the community that God has us planted in. We know that our ministries are already giving life through the school district and through our generosity in the pantry. We also know that there is always going to be a need for us to do more. It is not always *the more* of serving more people with groceries or reading more books to children (though those will always be important). We also have the obligation of our faith to offer to all people a relationship with Jesus. We do this by having actions that help others ask questions about the type of love and joy that is found in our hearts. It's a joy and a love that is very much like that summertime joy I talked about in the beginning of this note. It's a familial love that is supportive, instructive, and enjoying the gift of being together.

So, this summer I want to challenge all of us to be together as much as we can. Come to church, join in the service of families at VBS. Worship in the shared service and potluck on July 28<sup>th</sup>. But also, go to the park for the Marigold Festival, listen to live music at the pavilion, be in one of the many parades that will happen and represent the Gospel of Jesus, and the people of Grace well as we are community together!

## **Budget Update**

We are not quite done with the first half of the year in our accounting, but we are here in terms of our time. With the May financials we find ourselves behind in the budget, as we often do at this time of the year. Many of our yearly expenses that are fixed are found in Q1, and we find that we have always had our strongest giving at the end of the year with December giving.

2024's total budget is \$488,536. Year to date we have spent \$200,053 on budgeted expenses and our total income has been \$176,956. Though Operating fund giving through tithes and offerings is down about 4% year-to-date, we continue to see significant support in our digressional giving to the various Fund accounts and support to projects like our pantry, the new trailer, and the elevator sprinkler system we are required to install this year.

Though we always desire to be as near a perfect spending-to-income ratio, we continue to feel confident in the call to service that is represented in our budget and we know that with continuing support we can meet our funding goals to embrace our missional work.

### **Maintenance Updates**

The facilities continue to provide us with the opportunity to serve and volunteer in the life of the church! Thank you to the various men and women who continue to make our grounds and buildings look good and function well.

This month we have seen some maintenance work done to the HVAC; most of this work has been standard issue service and repairs. We have a grounds team that received support from the Youth Ministry as they cleaned up the flower beds for the year and spread mulch. Inside the building, we updated signage on doors as was requested by the local fire inspector. The kitchen was renewed in its food service license so that we can host non-church functions again. We have been fixing various bathroom fixtures that have been struggling after many years of Pekin's hard water. We are looking into the last of our fluorescent lighting with all the round can lights in the lobby and chapel areas for LED updates as well as looking at possible upgrade to the security lighting to LED for longer battery backup life as well as cheaper maintenance over the long term. We also found fixes for some of our in-house screens as we had been experiencing some broadcasting issues following one of the downtown brownouts.

We are also completing the bid process for the sprinkler and alarm system for the elevator. This year the inspector informed us that they are no longer allowing us to maintain the elevator in its original state without adding this system. Bids are coming in now, so far, they appear lower than we first estimated. We are now hopeful that this can be completed for around \$20,000 instead of our original estimate of between \$30-50,000.

We continue to move forward with facility repairs and give thanks for all the volunteer hours that continue to keep our costs down so that we might continue to do excellent ministry in the community.



**It's Vacation Bible School time!!**

Hike along with Jesus for this week of camp-themed VBS. Open to kids in **PreK through 5th grade**. Kids will learn through Bible stories, music, science experiments, games, nature – and water. What's VBS without water games?? **\*Wednesday night will be a special celebration at Dragonland from 7:30-9:30 PM, and the whole family is invited!\***

**Join the fun July 22<sup>nd</sup>-July 26th  
6-8:00 PM at Pekin First UMC  
Mon, Tues, Thurs, and Friday**

Register for VBS by scanning the QR code or entering the link



<https://onrealm.org/PekinFirst/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=NWExMjg5NGItMjdmNC00Y2QzLTk1YmQtYjE4M>



**HELP!! Volunteers Needed**

Opportunities available to serve at VBS include - running the recreation station, leading a small group, providing transportation to and from the church, and working the check-in or check-out station. Every volunteer position is VITAL and APPRECIATED!! Please contact Emmy @ [ethies@pekingrace.org](mailto:ethies@pekingrace.org) to volunteer to help.

**Donations needed for VBS include:**

- 8-oz bottles of water**
- Little Hug Barrels punch**
- Individual bags of chips/crackers/animal crackers/popcorn**

Donations can be left in the nursery behind Emmy's desk (the black desk).

## Moments from Creator Bible Buddies



Carla, Aaliyah, Violet, and Alice learned how to activate the watercolor pen with water. This first night focused on black and white pictures with drawings of Creation.



Zoe and Blythe got the hang of making rainclouds by spreading out the watercolor ink and using shading.

# RADICAL YOUTH MINISTRY

**Jill Stoner-Crouch and Brionna Goodin**  
Co-Directors of Youth Ministries

## RADICAL YOUTH JULY DATES

7/3 Not meeting. Enjoy July 4th!

7/10 Elevate- Meet in the hospitality area at 5:30pm. \$3 due for socks. Parent pick up at the church at 8pm

7/13 Lake day- 10am-2pm food and drinks provided. Jill will send address out the day prior.

7/17 Midwest Food Bank- Meet in the hospitality area at 5pm. Parent pick up at the church at 7pm

7/22-7/26 VBS Youth Help Week

Summer Break 7/30-8/21

Resume 8/28

Thank you Radical youth for helping spread mulch in our beautiful gardens!



Radical will be on summer break from 7/20– 8/21.



## COLLEGE GRADUATE

EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD.

- NELSON MANDELA



**Kelen Kendal McDaniels**

*December 2023*

Graduate of UW Milwaukee

Graduated with Honors in Nursing, Kelen had a great experience at UW Milwaukee. She swam for 4 years and made the record board with the 200 free relay team as well as conference finals in many of her individual events.

She is working for St. Luke's Advocate Aurora Hospital in Milwaukee in the post-surgical unit.

The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged

**Deuteronomy 31:8**

# HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

## Lilly J. Doan

### *2024 Pekin High Graduate*

Lilly will attend Illinois Central College in the fall to begin her major in Communications. After ICC, she plans to transfer to a four-year university affiliated with the Disney College Program. She hopes to be selected for an internship that will turn into a career.



## Melissa Grace Oltmann

### *2024 Pekin High Graduate*

Melissa will attend Western Illinois University this fall. She wants to be a counselor in an elementary school. She plans to earn her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education before pursuing a Master's in counseling.



# HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

COMMIT TO THE LORD WHATEVER YOU DO, AND HE WILL ESTABLISH YOUR PLANS. Psalm 20:4



## Rhenna Jane McDaniels

*2024 Pekin High Graduate*

- \*Varsity Swim team....4 years (Captain her senior year)
- \*100 Back Stroke, 100 Free Style and 50 Free were her favorite events
- \*Winning the 100 Back Stroke event at her Conference meet!
- \*Pekin High Student Ambassador.....3 years
- \*National Honor Society....Junior and Senior year
- \*Dragon Day Leader...,3 years
- \*Yearbook Staff.....senior year

Rhenna will attend Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin. She has decided to major in Marketing with a minor in Public Relations. She was awarded the Merit Scholarship at Carthage. A future Firebird swimmer, she will swim for Carthage.

### Registration for VBS

You may now register your children for Vacation Bible School at:

<https://pekingrace.com/>

Advance registration helps us make sure we have enough volunteers. VBS will be July 22-26 at Pekin First UMC.

### Grace Softball

*Schedule may vary in inclement weather*

#### Remaining games at Diamond #1

**July 1** vs PFN at 6 p.m.

**July 8** vs Minier Assembly of God at 7 p.m.

**July 15** vs First UMC at 7 p.m.

**July 22** vs Faith Baptist at 9 p.m.

**July 29** vs CBC at 7 p.m.

**Aug. 5** vs North Pekin Nazarene at 9 p.m.

Hope you can go to at least one of the games this season to support our team!

### Book Club

Book Club will meet on Tuesday, July 9 at 10 a.m. in the library at Pekin Estates. We will discuss the book *A Thousand Tomorrows* by Karen Kingsbury. Any questions or for more information, call Sandy Isenburg 309-241-1411.

### Grace Scholarships

Grace scholarship applications for 2024-2025 are now available on our website. To qualify for this scholarship, the applicant must be a Grace United Methodist Church member. In addition, the applicant and/or family must have attended at least one church service per month (or 12 per year) the prior year. Please fill out the application and return it to the office secretary. [Scholarship Application](#)

### Jurisdictional Conference

This conference will be held in Sioux Falls, July 10-July 13. Pastor Eric will attend this conference. If you are interested in learning more, check out the Illinois Great Rivers website for more information or talk with Pastor Eric.

### Office Closed

The office will be closed on July 4 in honor of Independence Day.

### Combined Worship Week-end

#### END OF VBS CELEBRATION

On July 28, we will host a combined Worship service with Pekin First UMC. It will be held in the street between the two buildings. There will be no Chapel Service this week-end. Please worship with us on Sunday, starting at 10 a.m. An old fashioned potluck and games will follow. What a wonderful way to celebrate the end of VBS and spend time together connecting with our sister church, Pekin First! See you there.

### Donations for Vacation Bible School

If you want to help with Vacation Bible School in any way please let Emmy know how you would like to help. One way you could help is by donating the various items that are needed for the event. Donations needed include:

- 8-oz bottles of water
- Little Hug Barrels punch
- Individual bags of chips/crackers/animal crackers/popcorn

Donations can be left in the nursery behind Emmy's desk (the black desk).

### VBS Leader Training

VBS Leadership Training dates have been scheduled. Mark your calendars and plan to attend the date that works best with your schedule. All youth will attend a training session on July 14 from 2 p.m. -3 p.m. at Pekin First. Other training sessions include:

- July 14, at Pekin First, 1:00 p.m. -2:00 p.m.
- July 17, at Grace Hospitality Area, 5:30 -6:30 p.m.

# Get Involved!

It is amazing how God is currently moving through the hearts and minds of the people of Grace. In looking over our church and the ways it meets the needs of people in the community and here at Grace, we realize we still need to utilize the gifts of all our members. Part of this is talking to people and finding out the needs of the community. Part of it is acknowledging what is in your heart and realizing what you feel called to do. The other part is being willing to step out in faith and start serving in the way you feel God is leading you. There may not always be an existing program you are interested in joining, but talk to the leadership board or the Pastor....together we can figure out how you can use your gifts.....

*As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 1 Peter 4:10*

## Volunteer Wish List....

- Van driver for youth group
- Youth group helpers
- Teachers for children's church
- Bible study teachers
- Adult small group leaders
- Rides for Shut-Ins: to church, appointments, grocery store
- Nursery helpers
- Grace Notes Help
- People willing to lead
- Pantry volunteers
- Pantry drivers for deliveries
- Prayer warriors to pray with those in need of prayer-especially calling people on the prayer list
- Hospitality Greeters and Coffee bar
- Shut-in buddies
- Meal support for those going through difficult times

What is your passion? Let us know. And if you haven't filled out and returned a Spiritual Gift survey you may pick yours up in the office.

# A TIME TO DANCE

**Sue Crowell**  
Lay Delegate



It's not an original idea to say that there are two kinds of people in the world—those who think negatively and those who approach life positively. But this year's Annual Conference left me with a very “glass half full” kind of feeling. A Time To Dance was the theme as legislation was passed, a budget was approved, reports were given, the bishop gave his address, we sang, we prayed, we listened, I was encouraged by a spirit of peace, joy, and determination to continue to transform the world and spread the message of Christ. All of the legislative action and business of AC can be found on the IGRC website if you are interested in details.

A highlight of the conference for me was the address by Chantel Corrie, the director of Midwest Mission, an arm of our conference that works to support and supply missions across the globe. Members of our own Grace church have traveled to Springfield to do a variety of tasks there at the center over the years, such as preparing health kits or food packets to be sent to areas around the world. Last year the Midwest Mission sent \$6.4 million in aid to help people in developing countries. As Chantel spoke, her enthusiasm and “can do” fervor just jumped out and grabbed me. She asked “What is keeping you from doing what God is calling you to do?” Then she challenged us to do 4 things—BEFRIEND, BELONG, BELIEVE, and BECOME. We can all have conversations to Befriend people. Then we can invite them to engage further or link them to others to help them Belong. When these relationships progress (yes, we are building relationships), there may be that moment to share your story or ask their story, maybe a God moment, talking about what you Believe. Finally, they may choose to Become part of the Christian experience as you pray, serve, share with them.

I left Annual Conference with a sense of renewed commitment to take more steps to reach out to those around me and befriend and build relationships. *The goal isn't necessarily to gain members for Grace.* The goal is to build relationships and share the love of God. It is a time to dance and rejoice in the love of our Father, a message of hope and grace for our world.

Sue Crowell, Lay Delegate



# PEORIA CHIEFS

## FAITH AND FAMILY

CLASS A AFFILIATE OF THE  
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS



Wednesday, August 7 @ 6:35 p.m.

**VS. Cedar Rapids**

**Ollie's Bang for your Buck:**

**\$2** Ice Cream Sandwiches,  
Popcorn and Nachos

**Dozer Park**

730 SW Jefferson Ave. in Peoria

**Pekin Grace will be having a  
Family Night at a  
Peoria Chiefs game  
August 7**

Please purchase your tickets in the church office with cash or check (*made out to Grace UMC*) at \$10.00 per person. **Money is due by Monday, July 22.** Invite your friends and family for a summer evening at the ballpark!

**PERKS:**

- Discounted Tickets (*\$10 each*) picked up at Will Call
- Game Highlights: Ice Cream Sandwiches, Popcorn and Nachos (*\$2 each*)
- Summer Evening Activity
- Time Spent Among Church Family and Friends

# \$10 TICKETS

♪ **Composed in 1908** ♪

## Baseball's Anthem

**“Take me out to the ball game,  
Take me out with the crowd;  
Buy me some peanuts and  
Cracker Jack,**

**I don't care if I ever get back.**

**So let's root, root, root for the  
home team,**

**If they don't win, it's a shame.**

**For it's one, two, three strikes,  
your out**

**At the old ball game.”**





## July Birthdays

Cori Swanson	1	Larae Muselman	15
Helen Dietrich	1	Elizabeth Louton	15
Chelsea Tennell	1	Barbara Berardi	16
Peggy Cole	4	Lila Beth Hoffert	17
Janni Harrison	4	Stuart Holder	17
Margaret Kelly	5	Norma Bell	20
Chloe Ranney	5	Jami Burks	22
Trey Tennell	6	Alisha Dault	22
Julie Wallace	7	Matt Fitzanko	23
Joanne Miller	7	Holly Lhamon	24
John Darnell	8	Stacey Melloy	26
Parker Huse	8	Bonnie Hulting	27
Thomas Jacobson	8	Rich Kriegsman	28
Lee Oltmann	9	Leticia Cooney	28
Julia Oltmann	9	Nick Stoner	28
Amy Meron	10	Vicki Garman	28
Sam Poole	12	Bob McCabe	28
Dennis Crowell	12	Nancy Booher	29
		Christina West	30
		Gloria Ranney	31
		Keith Bonnett	31

# Connect!

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

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

**Office Hours**  
**M-TH 8:30 am - 4:30 pm**  
*Closed 12 pm-1 pm*

## Prayer Concerns

*Mandi S.*

*Jo Trombini*

*Joyce Hill*

*June Parr*

*Les Seman*

*For the family of Teri Luft  
on her passing*

*Names are kept on the prayer list for four weeks.  
If you would like to be kept on longer, please  
call the office, 309-347-7131.*

**June 30 -July 7**  
Youth Mission Trip with First UMC

**July 1**

Softball: PFN versus Grace, Diamond #1 at 6 p.m.

**July 4**

Office will be closed

**July 8**

Softball: Minier Assembly of God versus Grace, at 7 p.m.

**July 9**

Book Club at Pekin Estates Library at 10 a.m.

**July 10**

Youth will go to Elevate, hospitality area at 5:30 p.m.

**July 13**

Saturday Servants, hospitality area at 9 a.m.  
Grace Food Pantry, 11 a.m. -12 p.m.  
Radical Pool and Lake Activity, 10 a.m. -2 p.m.

**July 15**

Softball: First UMC versus Grace, at 7 p.m.  
July 17 Radical volunteers at Midwest Food Bank, meet in  
the hospitality area at 5p.m.

**July 22-July 26**

Vacation Bible School, 6-8:00 p.m. at Pekin First UMC  
(Wednesday will be different as there will be a mid-week  
pool party at Dragonland, 7:30-9:30 p.m.)

**July 22**

Softball: Grace versus Faith Baptist, 9 p.m.

**July 24**

Communion at Pekin Estates, 2 p.m.

**July 25**

Leadership Board Meeting, Upper Room, 6 p.m.

**July 27**

Grace Food Pantry, 11 a.m. -12 p.m.

**July 27**

No Chapel Service

**July 28**

Combined Worship and potluck with Pekin First UMC

**July 29**

Softball: Grace versus CBC, Diamond #1 at 7 p.m.