

AUGUST 2024

GRACE NOTES

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highlights

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Camp Firelight Day 2



*When I am afraid,
I put my trust in
you.*

Psalm 56:3

PASTOR'S CORNER

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



Matthew 28:19-20 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

We have had a great time working our way through the summer and our Ordinary People sermon series. Making sure that we can see how God has helped, healed, transformed, and used people for God's work is so important to how we see ourselves and the relationship with God that we have today. As we finish this series mid-month, we are also preparing for what comes next.

In later August and early September, we will focus on what I'm calling, "Everyday Evangelism".

Matthew 28 has the great commission to all of us who are believers in Jesus. We are called to share this Jesus with the world. This work is the most important thing that we do, and at the same time, it is often the hardest work for the church to accomplish. We currently live in a world that has seen several decades of decline for religious belief of all kinds, across the globe. We have seen mainline church decline at a rapid rate since the 1970's. Yet, there is great hope.

The church has always been at its most powerful when it has been outside of the traditional norm. What I mean by this is not that the church has been its best when persecuted (though that has happened) and that we should start picking fights to get persecuted. What I mean is that, when the church can truly show the world around it, that the way of Jesus is different than just "more of the same," then the church can stand outside the culture and offer the message and teachings of Jesus.

Those teachings were not all done in sermons. Though Jesus did teach to us in a mode that is like the sermons we hear today, that was not his exclusive way of teaching. It was the shared message of hope in healing, in study, in prayer, and in community with one another.

In this sermon series we will explore the ways that every one of us is called and equipped to be an evangelist. Each of us can offer the world a message of hope that is outside the world around us. All of us who are being resurrected can invite more people into that beautiful promise of new life. So, I cannot wait to join you in some evangelism and the proclamation of new life in Jesus.



On August 18, we are asking the students to bring their backpacks to the 9 a.m. service. There will be a time for them to come forward to be prayed over. We encourage parents to step forward with their children.

Looking ahead, our Fall programming for UNITEkids will kick off in September. Please make plans to have your children join us! Follow us on Facebook, UNITEkids Pekin UMC, for the most current information about this group and their activities.

Save these dates:

Unitekids, (Pre-K through Second) resumes weekly meetings on September 4 at Pekin First UMC from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Buddies (Third through Fifth) resumes weekly meetings on September 4 at Pekin First UMC from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Monday Bible Buddies (Third through Fifth) resumes weekly meetings on September 9 at Pekin First UMC from 5:30-6:30 p.m.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CAMP FIRELIGHT

July 22-July 26



Camp Firelight VBS was a huge success in bringing kids, youth, and adults closer to God and each other over the week!

The kids learned and applied Psalm 56:3, "Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in You, God!"

The PreK class enjoyed bubbles, science experiments, a sensory walk, and playtime together. Jaxon bravely searched for bears who had over-run the campsite! And scientist Julie put her trust in God that scientist Anna would not dump water on her head during an experiment about air pressure.



The Fox group bonded over the week with their leader Deb and helpers Peyton and Adri.





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CAMP FIRELIGHT

July 22-July 26



Snacks included a boat on the stormy sea, depicting when Jesus calmed the waters for the disciples

Bailey prayed with her teacher, while Owen D. and Kingston worked on a tie-dye experiment about surface tension. Owen S. and other kiddos made mega bubbles! God made so many incredible things for us to experience.



The Squirrel group loved the music, dance, and glow lights!





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CAMP FIRELIGHT

July 22-July 26



Camp Firelight chant at Opening Ceremony and outside for bubbles on the lawn! The Cardinals had a great time with leader Fred.



Kenzlei and Amelia enjoyed snacks from the Camper Snack Shack, while Linley and Tinley danced away.



THANK YOU VBS VOLUNTEERS!!!!

Announcements

Youth Group Summer Break (7/17-8/21)

Resume start day and time may be subject to change

Marigold Festival-Potato Bar

Start thinking about volunteering for the potato bar. We are asking all youth to sign up for 2 shifts since this fundraiser goes towards their mission trip.



We had such an amazing opportunity to join **Pekin First UMC** for their Mission Trip.

Can't *wait* to start planning our **2025 Mission Trip!**



Flex and Obey was a lesson that we learned all week. The kids and adults learned the importance of being flexible and obeying what God puts in our path. Can't wait to see what the 2025 Mission Trip brings.



It is that time of year again!

Our Youth will be having their Amazing Spud Potato Bar at Pekin's Marigold Festival. Mark your calendar! Festival dates are September 7 & 8. Each year, it is our church community that helps make this happen, and we could not be more grateful!

If you feel a "call" to help...there are several ways you can be involved.

- Volunteer to help sell at our booth**
- Volunteer to bake at the church**
- Volunteer to "Run" food from church to booth**
- Volunteer for set-up and tear-down**

We also are asking for people to donate \$30 for a bag of potatoes. *A volunteer sign-up sheet is available in the office.*

We really appreciate anyone that is willing to help!

Jill 309.241.2917 / or Brionna 309.922-6239



Grace Softball

Schedule may vary in inclement weather

Remaining game at Diamond #1

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

Book Club

Book club meets at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, August 13 to discuss *Stories That Bind Us* by Susie Finkbeiner. We meet in the library at Pekin Estates. All are welcome. For questions or more information, call Sandy Isenburg 309-241-1411.

Nomination Committee

The nominations committee considers our lay leadership within the church. They chose members for the leadership board, participants to Annual Conference, and help us identify people with gifts to be shared in the church through ministries to the community, preaching, teaching, etc. The committee is comprised of six people divided into three two person classes.

The current list of those who serve on nominations are the following:

Nanette Mulvey, Jennifer Booher, Ryan Plunkett, and Randy McDaniels.

They will be meeting and discussing nominations for 2025 in early August.

Pecan Sale-Reduced Price

United Methodist Women still have cinnamon glazed pecans to sell. Selling for \$10 a bag. Contact Carol Booth or the office if interested.

Peoria Chiefs Game

Reminder to those who signed up for the Chiefs game: the game will be Wednesday, August 7, 6:35 p.m. at Dozer Park, 720 SW Jefferson Ave in Peoria. You may still be able to get tickets at a discounted rate. Call the Chiefs box office and ask to be included with our group.

People may still purchase tickets at the door for \$18. Pekin Grace will be sitting behind home plate in section 109.

UMW and Springerles

Several people have asked the United Women in Faith if we will make springerles again. We would love to say yes, but at this point, we will not be making them anymore. We don't have the organizers or the workers needed.

If anyone is interested in helping in any way to restart this fundraiser again, please contact the office. Lots of help is needed. In the past, this process consumed two weeks with baking days on Thursday and Friday.

Organizers needed include:

1. Someone in charge of ordering and purchasing supplies
2. Someone in charge of dates, workers, etc.
3. Approximately 10-12 people needed each day to mix, bake, roll out dough, bake, bag and clean-up.

Usually, we made the cookies the last 2 weeks of October, which this year would be the 17th and 18th and then the following week on the 24th and 25th. In the past, we would sell the cookies the first weekend of November. New organizers might run things a little different. Any suggestions are welcome.

Carol Booth and United Women in Faith

School Resumes this Month

Please be in prayer for the teachers, children and the school staff as they return to school. School in this area resumes August 21.

Christian Education

As a church, we are focusing on adding some opportunities for adults to learn and grow in their faith. We shall start getting the word out about these opportunities this month. Check the website, Facebook, weekly emails or the app for information.

Vacation Bible School Combined Worship Celebration



Vacation Bible School Combined Worship Celebration

To **celebrate** the end of VBS Camp Firelight both churches came together to celebrate a successful faith-filled fun week. Both churches worked together making a lasting impact on young children's lives. Both youth groups were instrumental in being role models for the young children that attended. Both facilities were utilized in a way that brought all of us together in a special and meaningful way.

Schedule for the Day

Combined worship with
Pekin First UMC, 10 a.m. at
Grace

Both Pastor Eric and Pastor
Sean lead the Worship ser-
vice

The VBS Children shared
some of the songs they
learned during the week.

After worship we enjoyed
a potluck at the church.
Brats were provided by
Raber's. There were some
games set up for all to en-
joy.

Thank you to all who
helped with this event!



August

Jane Giddens	2
Lauren Russell	3
Emmy Thies	3
Dennis Dietrich	4
Randy Turner	5
Christy Burks	7
Carla Germann	7
Dr. Jerry Witt	12
Keri Behrends	13
Steven Clark	13
Terry Weiss	14
Megan Hinrichsen	15
Lydia Butler	15
Brooke Nelson	15

August Birthdays

Liz DeSchepper	17
Amy Ries	17
Betty Allen	18
Phil Icenogle	19
Jan Herbig	21
Gary Towne	22
Darrell Becker	22
Nathan Mulvey	23
Kelly Cole-Bloom	25
Carol Booth	26
Lisa McClain	28
Michelle Rogers-Sinisi	26
Emma Cole	28
Hadley Swanson	28
Paul Wicker	29
Duane Hill	29
Denise Johnson	31



Connect!

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

Gerry Zuercher

Dave

For Jake, Kaitlyn and Owen

(The Lessen Family)

June Parr

Mandi S.

Mary Johnson

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.

August 5

Last Game, Grace vs. North Pekin. Nazarene, 9 p.m.

August 7

Pekin Grace Family Night at Dozer Park

6:30 p.m.. -9 p.m.

August 10

Saturday Servants, Hospitality Area at 9a.m.

Grace Drive-Thru Food Pantry, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

August 13

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

August 18

Backpack Blessings, GFFLC 9 a.m.

August 22

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

August 28

Communion at Pekin Estates, 2 p.m.

August 31

Grace Drive-Thru Food Pantry, 11 a.m. –12 p.m.