

NOVEMBER 2024

GRACE NOTES

No. 11 pekingrace.org



highlights

November 2024

PASTOR'S CORNER

Page 2

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Page 3-5

YOUTH MINISTRY

Page 6-8

CHURCH NEWS

Page 7-13

BIRTHDAYS

Page 14

PRAYER CONCERNS

Page 15

Pastor Eric



A Ministry of Thanks!

PASTOR'S CORNER

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



November is the month that we talk about giving thanks. Now, in our American culture, we do it by eating a year's worth of turkey and pumpkin pie. I am not sure how that display of gastro-fortitude is an act of thanks, but none the less, that is what we are called to do. In the scriptures, we have found many ways to offer our thanks to God. In the early systems, it was through the sacrifices that were offered. Not only could they be for our forgiveness, but they could be for our thanksgiving and maintaining of the relationship with God. As things progressed, we see thanksgiving as a relationship with God and the prayers that flow as a part of the conversation. This is the development of that relationship, when we can recognize when we can give thanks.

Later in the New Testament, we see an interesting turn. We see people have a demonstration of thanksgiving to one another in the letter writing. Paul was exceptional at writing that he was giving thanks to individuals or church communities that had supported his ministry. He would also give thanks for the care that was often demonstrated for providing for the leaders whom Paul would send out to share the message of Jesus. We can also hear the voices of those early church leaders explaining that the ministry they felt called to share in was a direct reflection of the thanksgiving that they were feeling towards Jesus for the way their lives were changed.

In this past month, it was Pastor's Appreciation Day. This is usually done on an October Sunday, and I have always warmly received whatever means of thanks that the congregation has offered. I have received more coffee mugs, beans, and gift cards than I could ever count. This year, you all thought about doing something different. You all collected toilet paper to bring to the church. Now, this could be interpreted in some strange ways. A colleague of mine started cracking every joke that they could think of about you all wanting to flush my sermons down the toilet... but that was not the heart (I hope) you all had. You all knew that we as a church are called to be generous with the community we are in. You all heard that toilet paper and other personal hygiene items are often the hardest items to collect and provide to the community. So, in thanksgiving for the ministry that you have felt through me, you responded to that ministry with a ministry of thanks.

You see what the people of the New Testament or, the early church, demonstrated. Giving thanks with the service of your life's work is really one of the most powerful ways to give thanks. You are ultimately giving thanks to God that he has provided so much for you, that you are now wanting to provide for "your neighbor as yourself." When we can move our hearts into radical generosity and truly provide for ministry that is offering the life that we each get to celebrate in Jesus, then we have become that same church, that church that transformed the world. So thank you! Thank you for being the church in your gifts for all!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Swanson".

TRUNK OR TREAT

Emmy Thies
Director of Children & Family Ministry



Zayne and Tinley dressed up!



Nine cars participated in our Trunk or Treat, with a photo booth station and snack station inside the church for families to enjoy! About 90 people participated in the afternoon and voted for their favorite "trunk."

Congrats to the Jones family who won with their space and alien theme – the kids thought their display was outta this world!!



The Jones family won the 1st Annual Golden Skeleton trophy



The Corgis were kept safe from Cruella . . .

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events!



Children's Art Ministry Night

All PreK-5th graders are invited to a night of painting with Miss Emmy and the Art Ministry leader, Stacey Nannen. The kids will get to create a painting to gift to a family member or friend, complete with card and wrapping.

**Weds, Nov 6th from 6-7:00 PM
at Grace UMC in the basement**

Santa's Prayer Breakfast is back this year!! Save the date for Saturday, Dec 7 at 9 a.m. at Grace UMC. Pre-register your family by emailing Emmy Thies at ethies@pekingrace.org.

EAST BAY CAMP OVERNIGHT

Emmy Thies
Director of Children & Family Ministry



Overnight camp at East Bay was a wonderful way for the kids to spend time in God's Creation with one another and to reflect on what they learned at VBS 2024. The kids remembered that when we are afraid of the dark or spiders or anything else, we need to put our trust in God! We had campfire meals, devotions, games, crafts, and a nature hike. THANK YOU to the congregations at Grace UMC and Pekin First UMC for generously giving to Children's Ministry. Your offering provided for this camp opportunity! It was another step in the faith journey of this next generation of Jesus followers.

VBS 2024
Memory Verse:

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

~Psalm 56:3



Important Dates

- **11/10**- Deadline for WinterXtreme Deposit
- **11/17**- Youth for Tech @ 9 a.m. Service
- **11/28** Happy Thanksgiving
- **12/1** Youth Group will not meet this week
- **12/3** Youth Fundraiser for Ladies Christmas Dinner



- + • We were blessed to be able to present Bibles to Austin Childs and Emmalee Childers in September.

Please reach out to Brionna, Jill, or Megan if you have a youth that we need to give a Bible to.



UNITE YOUTH MINISTRY

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

Thank you to the Ranneys for coming and presenting a talk to UNITEyouth summarizing all that you do for our unhoused community. We really appreciate you being willing to share with us. The discussion helped the youth see the big picture regarding our September focus.



Thank you UNITEyouth for participating in the Trunk or Treat planned by the Community Outreach Committee.

Can't wait to see what the committee has in store for the future!




VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sunday School/ small group
Teachers Needed



Volunteers
and Youth
Drivers
Needed



We're **always** looking for volunteers and van drivers to assist with UNITEyouth. Please reach out to Brionna, Jill, or Megan if you are interested.

Cover the phones in the office

Questions about Children's Ministry or ready to volunteer? Contact Emmy Thies at ethies@pekingrace.org

Ladies Christmas Dinner

Who: YOU!

What: A Ladies Christmas Dinner, celebrating the birth of Jesus through music, food & fellowship.

Where: Grace United Methodist Church

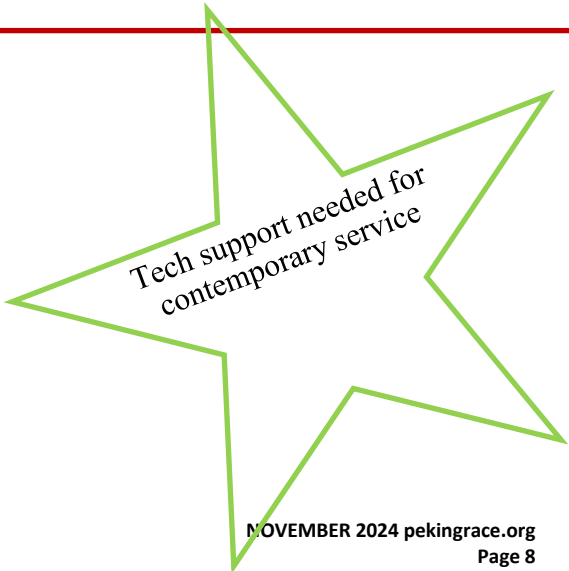
When: Tuesday, Dec. 3. Doors open @ 5:30.

Why: All the proceeds go to our Youth Group's Mission Trip. Tickets are \$15.00 per person.

We are currently seeking "hosts" for our tables. The hosts are responsible for decorating a table, (not purchasing tickets for guests!!)

Santa's Prayer Breakfast

We will once again be hosting the Santa's Prayer Breakfast. If you are interested in being a part of this program please let Emmy Thies know. Email her at ethies@pekingrace.org. Thank you!



Grace United Women in Faith Pecan Sale



**Drive-Thru Order
Pick-up Date:**

November 23

9-11 a.m.

16 ounce packages of Mascot Mammoth Pecan Halves: \$12
12 ounce packages of Chocolate Covered Pecans: \$12
10 ounce packages of Glazed Pecans: \$12
7-Way Tins: \$35

To order, please call:

Church office: 309-347-7131

Carol Booth: 309-256-0075

*Christmas Church Ornaments
are still available for \$10!*

All proceeds will be used toward the mission needs of women and children.



thank you

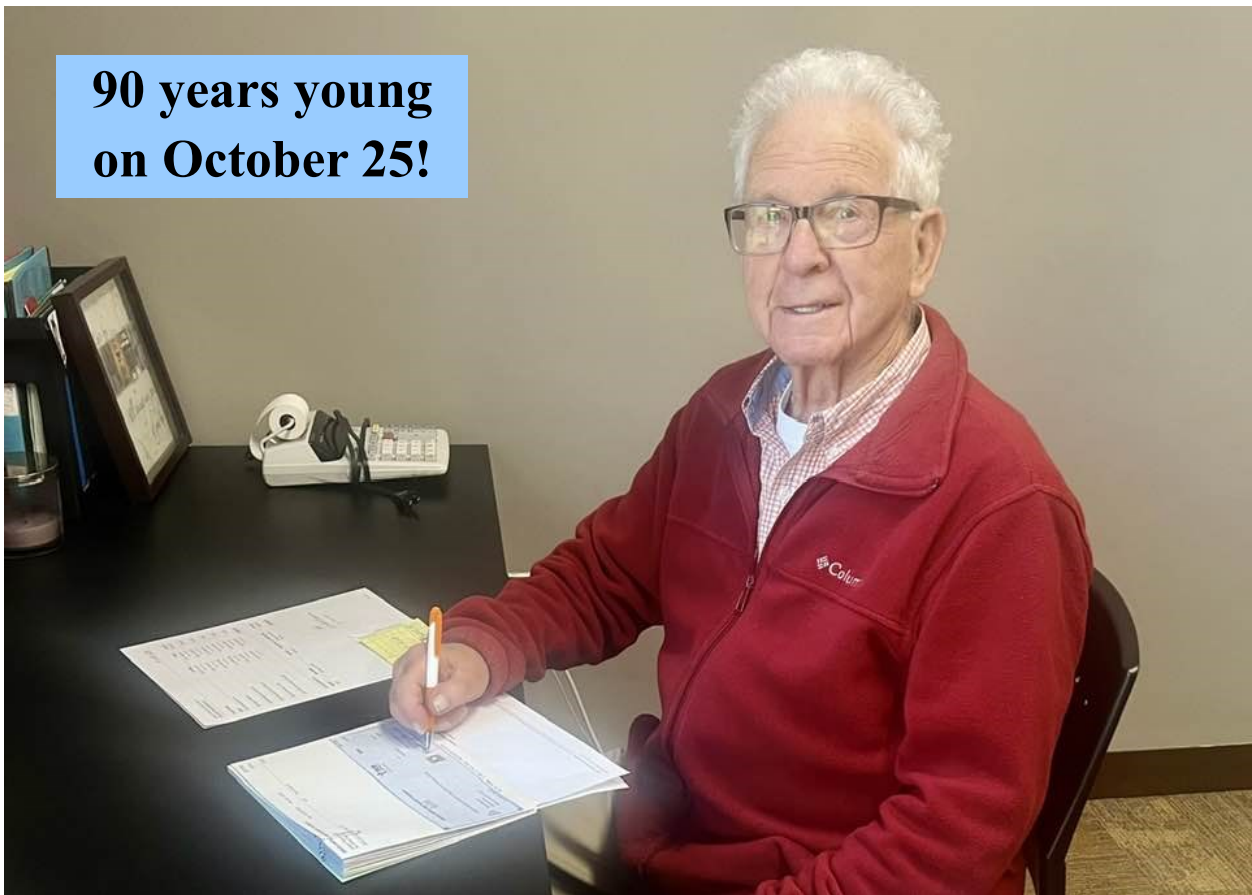
The Mike Caringello Memorial Grace Hunger Walk

On the beautiful morning of October 5, 13 walkers, after prayer, began their walk for hunger around the Mineral Springs Park Lagoon. We were supported by several others who could not join the walk, but gave to help fight hunger in our community as well. We only walked one mile.

The important thing is we raised \$2,570.00, which was equally divided among Grace Food Pantry, Pekin Outreach Initiative, and the Salvation Army. A special "Thank You" to those who walked and those who gave to support the hunger walk.

Happy Birthday to . . . Gene Harmon!

**90 years young
on October 25!**



A 40+ year member of Grace United Methodist Church, Gene transferred his membership here in 1983. He has served our church in many capacities including Treasurer since April 1998 . . . that's 26 years of signing checks every week!! Gene commented that in all those years, he's only had to get a replacement signer twice. Thanks, Gene, for your long-standing commitment to Grace!

All Saint's Day List

Below is a list of people Grace Church has lost during the past year. We will be honoring these people at our All Saint's Day Services on November 3. All our welcome to light a candle for loved ones past and present, even if they are not recognized and named on the screen.

Church Members to be recognized include: Pat Pearson, Mary Clinebell, Calvin Taylor, Margarete Hall, Earline Filyaw, Teri Luft, Willis Runyon, and Jeanne Harmon.

Combined Service/Potluck

On November 10, we will have a combined service at 10 a.m. It will be followed by a soup and sandwich potluck meal. Everyone is to provide a soup or dessert to share with others.

Bible Presentation

Thank you Grace Church for supporting the ministries of Grace! With your financial support, another young person who did not have a Bible at home was presented with one from Grace. Thank you for supporting the ministries of Grace with your presence, your prayers, your service and your financial offerings. Continue to be in prayer for the children and youth that have recently received their Bibles.



Kroger's

Through Kroger's community program, Grace United Methodist Church was given \$69.62 for July 2024 through September 2024. Thank you to those who have enrolled in the program! We appreciate this extra giving.

If you have not entered into the program but you would like to:

1. Sign into your digital Kroger account. To create a new account, go to www.kroger.com/account/create
 2. Select "My Account".
 3. Select "Community Rewards".
 4. Select "Enroll Now".
- Enter "EJ122" then "Save".

New Group Starts: UMC 101

You want to know what it means to be a part of the United Methodist Church? Learn about our history, traditions, and beliefs in this church primer. Starting Tuesdays November 5, at 6:30 p.m. The class will run for four weeks.

New Member

Please say welcome to our new member Randy Ernest.



Men's Tuesday Group

All men are welcome to join this group, which meets every Tuesday from 8 - 9 a.m. Come for God's life lessons, laughs, little-known facts served up with coffee & donuts. This group offers fellowship for men who want to share their Christian life stories.

Co-Rec Volleyball Resumes

Co-Rec volleyball has resumed. They will meet Mondays at 6:30 p.m. Contact the office or Rod Teaney if you would like more information. Pre-registration is not required for this event. Just show up when you are able.

Hot Topics

The Hot Topics Bible class will continue meeting. All are welcome to come even if you did not sign up for the class. There is no prep work required. Class meets in the Gary Ford Family Life Center on Wednesdays from 6-7pm. The last meeting date will be December 4. Hope you can join us.

Town hall

The next Town hall will be November 3 between the Sunday services at 10 a.m. in the Gary Ford Family Life Center. Hope to see you there. The Church Leadership Board will give us an update.

Charge Conference

In the United Methodist Church, the charge conference meets at least once a year and is responsible for recommending candidates for holy orders, establishing salaries for the pastor and staff, and evaluating the ministry of the church. The charge Conference for Grace will be held on November 3 at 3:30 p.m. at East Peoria First. Remember all church members may attend this meeting. If you cannot attend but would like a copy of the report that is turned into the conference, you may pick it up at the office after the conference date.

Update Contact Information

Please let the office know when your contact information changes. This includes moving out of the area. We need addresses, phone numbers, and emails. Birthdays are needed if you'd like to be included on the birthday list! Also, let us know if you would like to be included on our email list.

Notify Church Office of Events

This is a reminder to please make sure your group's events are on the calendar. The office can see and work out conflicts of most activities when these events are on the calendar. All notifications need to be in writing and include the group name, area used, and times needed.

Pecan Sale

It's time to place orders for pecans. We are only going to place **one order**. Please order early by calling either the office (309-347-7131), Carol Booth (309-256-0075), or by e-mailing

carol.booth1939@gmail.com.

Orders should be placed by November 21 to be included.

Selling

- Pecan Halves
- Chocolate Covered Pecans
- Glazed Pecans (not cinnamon glazed)
- 7-Way Tins.

Price will be the same, which is all bags, \$12 and 7-Way Tin \$35.

We will be packing Friday, November 22.

The drive-thru pick up will be on Saturday, November 23 from 9 to 11 a.m.

Angel Tree

Grace will be doing the Angel Tree again this year. On the tree will be children's names who come from families that need a little extra help during the holidays. Please pick a name off of the tree and provide them with a couple of items for their families to put under the tree. You may pick an angel from the tree in the Hospitality area on November 17. Wrapped gifts need to be returned by December 8. Thank you for supporting the community in this way.

Office Closed

The church office will be closed November 28 in observance of Thanksgiving. The office will reopen on December 2.

November Birthdays

Pat Moser	1	Miles Wilson	21
Fred Vogt	3	Ben Bruns	21
Anna Soupos	3	Catherine Englebrecht	21
Nancy Ridgeway	3	Kathy Manz	22
Nancy Kriegsman	4	Jennie Hahn	22
Kate Wyman	5	Eloise Feuchter	23
Ann Vogt	6	Jaclyn Mulvey	26
Peg Gorsage	6	CJ Booher	28
Holly Hoffman	7	Nanette Mulvey	30
Daniel McKenzie	10	Rebecca Onken	30
Melissa Troutman	10		
Derek Stout	10		
Nola Booher	11		
Larry Crouch	11		
Naomi Comstock	13		
Mallory Ingles	14		
Kitty Robinson	15		
John Troutman	17		
Sharon Danner	18		
Chris Bergstrand	18		
Marshall Stoner	19		
Pat McMullin	20		



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 12-1 pm

Prayer Concerns

Austin Childs
Camille Hunter
For Jake, Kaitlyn and Owen
(The Lessen Family)
Gaylord Buss
Gene Harmon
June Parr
Mandi S.
Marnie Golden

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.

November 3

Daylight Savings time begins. Fall back 1 hour.
All Saint's Day Celebration *All Services*
Town Hall Meeting, GFFLC, 10-10:45 a.m.
Charge Conference at First UMC in East Peoria, 3:30 p.m.

November 5

UMC 101 Starts, runs 4 weeks, 6:30 p.m.
Reminder Men's Fellowship meets
every Tuesday from 8 a.m. -9 a.m.
Bible Buddies cancelled tonight.

November 6

Regular children's programs are cancelled.
Special Event: Art Ministry Event (PreK-5) at Grace at 6 p.m.

November 9

Grace Drive-Thru Pantry, Hospitality Area, 11 a.m.

November 10

Combined Service, 10:a.m.
Youth Winter Xtreme \$60 non-refundable deposit due

November 12

Book Club, Pekin Estates, 10a.m.

November 14

Susannah Circle's UAW Café, 9a.m.

November 16

Bill Keltner Wedding Reception
Saturday Servants **will be cancelled** this month.

November 18

Staff Retreat, 9:30 a.m. -3p.m.

November 19

Grace Notes articles are due

November 21

Cut-off date to have your pecan orders in. There will only be one order this year. If we don't have your order by this date, you will not be able to order.

November 22

UWF will divide the orders up for the Pecan Sale

November 23

Pecan Sale, Hospitality Area, 9-11 a.m.

November 24

Angels will be available to pick up from the Angel Tree

November 28

Office Closed-Thanksgiving
Leadership Board Meeting Moved to December 5

November 30

Grace Drive-Thru Pantry, Hospitality Area, 11 a.m.