

The TOWER

July 2026

From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings, My Friends in Christ,

Happy Summer! I pray you and your loved ones are doing well and that it truly is well with your souls. Enjoy all the fun that this season brings as you gather with family and friends to spend time outdoors at picnics and other events, maybe stay inside where it is cooler and more comfortable, and give thanks to God as we celebrate the 250th “birthday” of our nation. As we are grateful for the many freedoms we enjoy as citizens of the United States of America, may we appreciate even more the freedom from our sins that we have been blessed with through our faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

By the time you read this, hopefully I will be enjoying my vacation with my family in Australia. As I have shared with many of you, and as those of you who are world travelers know, getting to and from Australia is quite a process. It’s definitely not a “hop, skip, and a jump” trip by any means! But I keep my eyes on Jesus and stay focused on what’s waiting for me when I arrive in Melbourne. And then I have all those wonderful new memories to carry with me on the way home. I am so very blessed!

But even when we stay right here at home, it’s still so important where our focus is and who we keep our eyes on. We just never know what new adventure (good or not so good) might pop up before us, each and every day – even on the most routine and ordinary “nothing special going on” days. Those obstacles and distractions can really get us off-course and keep us from enjoying the good life Jesus wants to give us.

Even though I know this and try to live it every day, as I’m sure many of you do, too, I was reminded how important this is once again by an “Upper Room” author a few weeks ago. He told how he was trying to learn how to ride a bicycle – one of those fun summertime things we like to do! But he kept falling over. His brothers told him to quit looking at all of the obstacles and distractions in his path, along with his worries and negative thoughts about the potential dangers he faced. Instead, they told him to focus on where he wanted to go; the path laid out before him. And bingo! He began to master riding his bike with more safety and enjoyable success!



Inside This
Edition:

Front Page
From the
Pastor's Desk

Page 2
From the
Pastor's desk
cont.
Thank-you

Page 3
What's
Happening

Page 4
Finance Report

Page 5
Community
Potluck
National Night
Out

Page 6
Euchre
Dominoes
Birthdays
Anniversaries

Page 8
Calendar

From the Pastor's Desk Cont.

That's how it can be on our daily ride through life. Even on the days filled with fun family adventures or much-anticipated good times with friends, we can still get bogged down with obstacles, distractions, troubles, and worries, especially when things don't go as planned or how we had hoped. Then it's easy to get discouraged and negative and lose sight of all the good God still has in store for us.

But when we give it all to God and keep our eyes on Jesus, we get a whole new, better perspective. We begin to remember we're not traveling through these problems alone and that there's a blessing in there somewhere, even if it's a small one, or something we really have to keep moving forward to find. Our spirits can be made stronger if we remember we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us and endured hard things like we do. We, too, have to throw it off and keep persevering to run (or ride) the race marked out before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, just like Hebrews 12:1-2 tells us.

So, if your summertime plans (or any plans, no matter what season it is for that matter) aren't panning out the way you'd hoped or dreamed, don't lose hope. Don't ever, ever, EVER give up! Jesus is with you and God's put good people in your life to pray for you and be there with you to help you make it through. That's the blessing of having a community of faithful people that love and care for each other is all about! Praise God!

Be strengthened and encouraged by Paul's words from 2 Corinthians 4:16-18: "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

No, we might not see Jesus face-to-face as he is, but because of the Holy Spirit living in each of us, we can see Jesus in the kindness and love shared with us by those who love us and in this beautiful world around us that God has created for us. So, we keep our eyes on Jesus, traveling on until we reach that eternal home of glory. Knowing and believing this, may we travel on, a little stronger, a little more hopeful, and a lot more joyful, because Jesus, our Lord and Savior and Best Friend Forever, is always with us! We are so blessed!

Happy summer, Happy Birthday, America, and happy life in Christ! We've got this! Thanks be to our God! Take care, and keep holding each other in prayer, while loving all of God's people. God is good, all the time! Hope to see you in church!

My Love & Prayers, *Pastor Marilyn*

A SPECIAL THANK-YOU!

Thank you to everyone for all the prayers during my surgery and recovery.

I appreciate my church family.

-Mark Kleparski

While Pastor Is Gone...

Pastor is on vacation now to July 15th. Contact Patti Dunn for prayer requests or any local pastoral needs. Pastor Brenda Morris from Durand UMC will handle any pastoral emergencies. Her number is 815-629-2349.

Church office update:

The Church office email is currently down. We are in the process of getting it back up and running, but we are unsure if this could take a few days or a week or more. Please contact Andrea Mawyer at 815-601-8162 if you need immediate assistance.

If you ever need to meet with Andrea or get into the church and don't have a key, please call her in advance of stopping by the office because her office hours are juggling from time to time.

Christmas in July Sunday

Come and celebrate Christmas in July on Sunday, July 26th!

We'll hear the Christmas story from Luke 2 and sing Christmas carols in Worship. We'll also kick off our Operation Christmas Child collection that Sunday, so if you want to bring some "gifts" to put under the tree for shoeboxes, that would be great! There might even be some Christmas goodies to enjoy at fellowship time! Plan to be here and get in the Christmas spirit in July, for "to you, is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:11)

Free Books for the Taking!

Check out the bookshelves and tables in Fellowship Hall for FREE books! All we ask is that you DO NOT return what you take! They're yours to keep or pass on to a friend! Happy reading!

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

We'll begin collecting items July 26th for Operation Christmas Child shoebox packing party to be held sometime in October. But now is the time to start shopping and looking for those bargains! Back-to-School items are always good. Also, small toys for girls and boys, toothbrushes, combs and hairbrushes, socks, tee shirts, hats, sunglasses, balls, coloring books – the list goes on and on! Have fun shopping! Remember, no liquids, food, candy, war toys, or camouflage items.



Monthly Finance Report

Current Account Balances for 5/9 thru 6/13/26

Pec UMC Balances as of 06/13/2026					
Account	5/9/2026	Disbursements	Deposits	Transfers	6/13/2026
General Fund	\$83,278.76	\$11,689.06	\$15,280.61	\$0.00	\$86,870.31
Building Fund	\$17,682.11	\$0.00	\$170.50	\$0.00	\$17,852.61
Outreach Account	\$1,379.50	\$27.24	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,352.26
PUMC Men	\$4,437.01	\$150.00	\$90.00	\$0.00	\$4,377.01
Memorial Fund	\$3,531.46	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,531.46
Womens Savings Acct	\$8,861.69	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,861.69
Womens Checking	\$3,055.20	\$147.76	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,907.44
	\$122,225.73	\$12,014.06	\$15,541.11	\$0.00	\$125,752.78

Not much financial activity recently, and the above numbers are for a five week period. Because the General Fund and the Building Fund are the liquid assets of the general church, here is what they have been and what they are now:

Pec UMC: General Fund and Building Fund			
Date	General Fund	Building Fund	Total
6/13/2026	\$86,870	\$17,853	\$104,723
1/3/2026	\$72,242	\$21,993	\$94,235
6/14/2025	\$82,018	\$15,359	\$97,377

I will prepare a separate report about the recent Annual Conference, 6/14 – 6/16/26.

John Stelter, Finance Team

Annual Conference report copies can be found in the back of the Sanctuary.

A special thanks to John Stelter for preparing this report.

JULY COMMUNITY POTLUCK

Monthly Potluck



Please join us at the Community Potluck held in our Fellowship Hall on Thursday, July 9th. Doors open at 11:30am and we plan to eat at noon. Please bring a dish to share. Table service and beverages are provided. Plan to enjoy a really good meal and lots of great fellowship! Invite friends and neighbors – everybody's welcome!

DATE:
AUGUST
4TH, 2026

TIME:
5:30-8PM



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
AIMS AT BUILDING
RELATIONSHIPS WITH
FIRST RESPONDERS AND
THE COMMUNITY

POLICE-FIRE-COMMUNITY

Free Event
For ALL- Rain
or Shine!

Come Out and Meet
Your Local Police
and First
Responders -

Free Food and
Drinks Inside Moss
Hall -

Activities for the
Kids -

Touch a Truck -

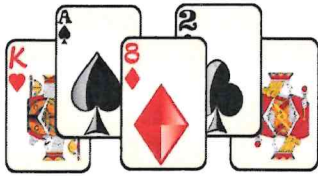
Meet Sparky the Fire
Dog -

OPEN TO ALL
RESIDENTS OF
PECATONICA AND
THE PECTONICA
FIRE PROTECTION
DISTRICT

ADDRESS:
WINNEBAGO
COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS 500
WEST 1ST ST
(ENTER THROUGH
GATE ONE)

Follow us on Facebook for More Updates

Pecatonica Fire Protection District



EUCHRE

Come and join the friends of PEC UMC in playing Euchre once a month. Next game day is Wednesday, July 1st. Join them for dessert at 12:30pm and play cards from 1 to 3 pm. \$2.00 donations are appreciated, and prizes are awarded. Come and join the fun! Invite a friend!



Dominoes!

Come and join the friends of PEC UMC in playing Dominoes once a month! Players choose your game: Mexican Train or Chicken Foot. Next game is Thursday, July 16th at 1p. Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend!

JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happiest Birthday wishes to ...

And Anniversary wishes to ...

1st Pastor Tom Kingery
 7th Keith Klepanski
 Alli White
 Jenny Weber
 9th Todd Leitzinger
 10th Sue Mangus
 12th Amy Salamon
 Linda Serotini
 Dave White
 18th Maryellyn Kinney
 26th Marilyn Zimmerman
 29th Pennie HOLETON
 Arleta Juliano

25th Lee & Arleta Juliano



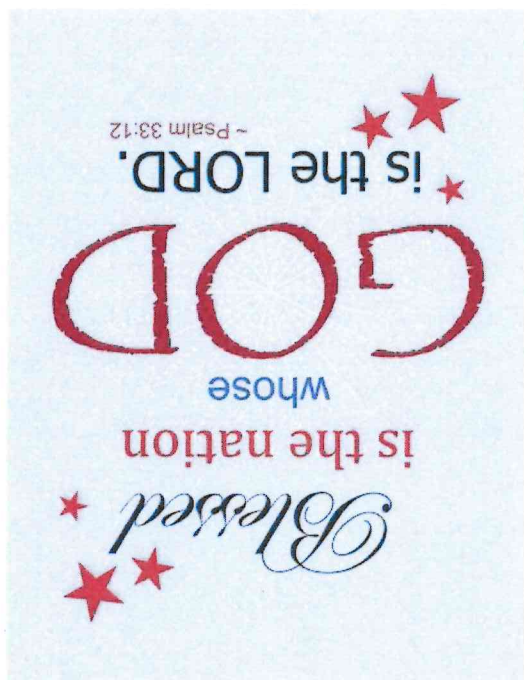
Submissions for The Tower can be mailed, emailed or left in the box outside the Church Office.

DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST NEWSLETTER

IS JULY 15TH.

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Euchre Party 1230p dessert 1p-3p cards	2	3	4 Independence Day
5 9a Worship with Communion followed by Fellowship Guest Pastor: Rev. Julie Bunt Boy Scouts 6:30p-8:30p	6	7	8	9 Community Potluck 11:30a Please bring a dish to share	10	11
12 9a Worship followed by Fellowship Guest Leader: Dave Holland Boy Scouts 6:30p-8:30p	13	14 Council Meeting 615p Finance 630p Committees 7p Full Council	15	16 Dominoes Group at 1p	17	18
19 9a Worship followed by Fellowship Boy Scouts 6:30p-8:30p	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 9a Worship followed by Fellowship Boy Scouts 6:30p-7:30p	27	28	29 Sewing Group 9a-12p	30	31	



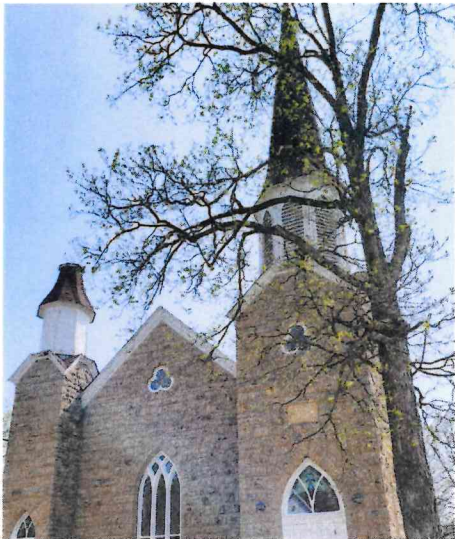
Pastor Marilyn Nolan
Office Hours
 M, T, W: 9am-2pm
 Appointments available, please call the church office
 Pastor Cell: 815-994-2567
 PO Box 169
 Pecatonica IL 61063

Church Office Walk-in Hours
 M: by appointment
 W, F: 10am-2pm
 www.pecumc.org
 Office: 815-239-1110

Pecatonica United Methodist Church
 528 Washington St.
 PO Box 607
 Pecatonica, IL 61063
 815-239-1110



July 2026



Or Current Resident