



**GRACE COVENANT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 2020 | VOL 38 NBR 3

# GRACE NOTES



## So what exactly IS Lent?

The simple answer is the 40 days from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday evening before Easter (not including Sundays), a time for Christians to prepare for Easter. A lot of churches observe it (*Anglican/Episcopalian, Eastern Orthodox, Lutheran, Methodist, Moravian, Oriental Orthodox, Reformed, and Roman Catholic Churches; some Baptist and evangelical churches*), but we don't all agree on **how** to observe Lent.

Anything we do today to observe Lent is easier than Christians had it back in the 13th century. The rules for penance in those days included:

- Ash Wednesday & Good Friday were "black fasts," meaning no food at all.
- Other days of Lent: no food until 3pm, the hour of Our Lord's death. Water was allowed, and as was the case for the time due to sanitary concerns, watered-down beer and wine. After the advent of tea and coffee, these beverages were permitted.
- No animal meats or fats.
- No eggs.
- No dairy products (*lactinia*) – that is, eggs, milk, cheese, cream, butter, etc.

And here's a little known fact for much of us – the prohibition on meats, eggs, and dairy, according to St. Thomas Aquinas, is because they cause human beings "very great incentive to lust." And we certainly can't have any of that going on while we're concentrating on penance and our sinful natures (*according to the early church*).

We Presbyterians take a different approach. Lent is definitely a time to re-examine our faith, but not to beat ourselves up about how sinful we are. It's a time to give careful consideration of how we live out our faith. We don't try to **deny** ourselves things like chocolate or pizza for Lent, but instead we're encouraged to see what we can **add** to discipleship. Lent is a time for reflection, but also appreciation of all that Jesus taught us and all that Jesus sacrificed so that we could truly know how much God loves us all.

And that's what we think Lent is – more good news of God's grace.

Sue & Mitch

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church celebrates God's unbounded grace and all-inclusive love. God gathers us in a welcoming community, with our curiosity and questions, to worship creatively, learn from God's word, share our gifts, and deepen our faith. With grateful hearts and a spirit of adventure, we go to serve Christ in the world, sharing kindness with everyone, and working for justice rooted in God's love.

## Visitors delight us.

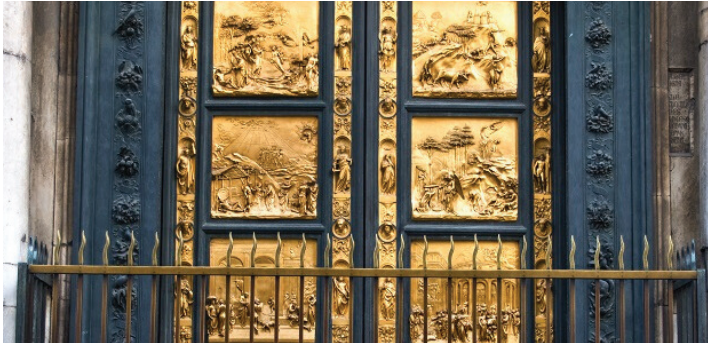
We were all visitors once and remember how it feels to try a new place of worship. Visitors are welcome at all GCPC events, classes and small groups as well as in worship.

Join us for coffee in between our two services or grab a cup of coffee in Heartland Hall on your way to Sunday School class. Heartland Hall is located next to the Sanctuary. There are always people to visit with or things to learn about if you want to just hang out.

**REAL FAITH**  
**REAL STORIES**  
**REAL GRACE**

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Overland Park, KS 66210  
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## Grace Studies



### Adult Studies in Bible, Theology, Faith and Life, Christian Witness and Justice

► **Images of Faith - Gates of Paradise**  
**Lenten Study with Jan Cummings**  
**Sundays, March 1, 8, 15, 29**  
**10am, Heartland Hall**

Begun in the year 1425 and installed in 1452 *The Gates of Paradise* are Ghiberti's celebrated bronze doors on the Florence Baptistery. About 30 years ago it was decided that the doors should be taken out of the weather, conserved and placed in a museum. The doors were faithfully reproduced and placed on the baptistery. A 2nd set was reproduced at the same time. That set of doors are now housed in the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.

The 4-week class will look at and discuss each of the 10 panels/stories that make up the door, using biblical references, and other art pieces that depict the references.

Class participants will have an opportunity on the afternoon of March 29 to go to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art to see the doors in person, if desired.

### Please note:

Articles for **Presbyterians Around the World** and **Pew Dwellers' Heath Notes** will continue in the April issue of *Grace Notes*.



## K-5th Grade New Model

### Introducing a New Model for K-5th Grade Sunday School Sunday, March 22

The Children's Team is working on a new Sunday school format that is sure to get our K-5th grade classes coming back for more! Imagine coming to church on Sunday to create a work of art, bake cookies to share with others, conduct a science experiment, or play relay games ALL while learning the stories of the Bible. That's exactly what we want to do! We would like to create a workshop rotation program designed just for our church.



Teaching these workshops will require teams of teachers. Teams can specialize in an area of their choice: **art, drama, Bible skills and games, science, cooking, photography, music, video, nature walks, and more.** These activities will rotate weekly so that teams will teach one or two Sundays in a row every 6–8 weeks. We will also need Shepherds who are willing to be a consistent presence with each class. Shepherds do not teach (unless you want to) but offer support to the teaching team and assist with classroom management weekly.

The workshop rotation model is a great way for our children to learn the Bible in creative ways and build relationships with more adults in the congregation. It's also an opportunity for busy adults, who would like to volunteer with our children, to not have to teach every week. Most of all, it's a lot of fun!

### It sounds exciting doesn't it?

The only thing we need to make this dream come true is you! Please consider joining Rev. Sue for an introductory presentation on Sunday, March 22, at 10am in Heartland Hall. She will show you how the program can work and discuss when we hope to launch. You'll have the opportunity to connect with others and perhaps find a teammate! You will be able to sign up for dates to volunteer. Even if you are not interested in participating, you are welcome to come and learn about the program.

# Clerk's Corner

Session met on February 17, 2020, in room 5, with Reverend Mitch Trigger serving as moderator. In addition to the elders, Deacon Anne Stroud, Barb Purvis and Sarah Evans were present. Susan Sutherland shared a devotion taken from the D365 app about challenges being an invitation from God to change our perspective, followed by a prayer.

**Consent agenda:** The minutes of the January stated Session meeting and the January 26, 2020, Congregational meeting, as well as a few membership requests, were approved.

**Team minutes:** Sarah Evans and Barb Purvis, soon to be ex-co-moderators of the Worship Team, presented information gathered from their listening sessions about what the congregation wants to have happen regarding worship services. No proposals were made but it was noted that members asked for a report on what is eventually decided. The Worship Team submitted a proposal that Session **approve holding a 7:00 a.m. Easter**

**Sunrise Service** on April 12, 2020, in addition to the regular services at 8:50 and 11:05 a.m. After discussion, the motion carried. Depending on attendance, Session will decide whether to hold it again next year, and possibly add a breakfast.

**Finance Team:** After the annual meeting, more pledges were received, many members increased their pledges and a software glitch was identified which caused some pledges not to be recorded. We **have 142 pledges for a total of around \$614,000**, which is still not enough to fund the 2020 Asking Budget. Five Session members offered to call some members who haven't yet pledged. Session was reminded that members asked for a flyer summarizing the financial situation. Aaron and Tara are going to provide that information to Patrick to send out in the mid-week email, as well as having printed copies available by Sunday. Currently, the church is operating under last year's budget. The Operating Committee submitted a motion to **separate the Finance and Generosity teams**. David Sutherland has agreed to be the moderator, and we'll need an elder to serve as the Session liaison. The Operating Committee also presented two invoices from Debbie Miller, the former financial administrator, one was for hours she spent training Tara and the other was for hours worked in April last year. The training invoice has already been paid and research is being done about our agreement with her and hours worked.

**Clerk's report:** The statistical survey and the clerk's annual questionnaire have been submitted to the denomination. We started the month with 409 members. Brock Webb, Amy & Rick Thompson, and Casey & Chris Porter asked to be removed from the rolls, leaving us with 404 members.

**Co-Pastors' report:** There were no questions asked about the co-pastors' report. Mitch reported that they've started having coffee with visitors in his office after services.

**Deacons' report:** Anne Stroud reported that the Annual meeting and potluck went very well, though it was suggested that the greeters have a list on hand of where all the groups are assigned for the potluck so everyone doesn't have to walk to the narthex first. The deacons also discussed holding a combined potluck for each wing before groups adjourn to their assigned rooms.

**New business: Safety Task Force** – The Safety Task Force is developing a plan to present to the congregation, hopefully in May. They will ask Session to appoint a committee to oversee implementing the plan and meeting periodically to keep things updated. There will be three teams trained to handle medical emergencies, natural disasters and other threats to security.

After sharing some joys and concerns of the congregation, the meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m. and Rev. Mitch closed the meeting with a prayer.





# Children's Ministries

## Take a Look at What's Happening in Sunday School in March!

The Spring quarter of Sunday school begins with the Season of Lent. This is an excellent time to invite our children to think about the season as a time of personal reflection about how Jesus wants us to live. Each week the children will connect a practice with an aspect of worship: praying the Lord's Prayer, sharing God's message, declaring who we believe Jesus is, asking for and offering forgiveness, and serving others. Jesus' teachings from the sermon on the mount will sit well alongside the pastor's Lenten sermon series. We encourage you to come and worship as a family. Our great team of teachers look forward to seeing you each week!

**8:50 and 11:05am:** Awakening to Worship

**10am - Sunday school:** 2-3 years old, Room 23; Preschool, Room 25; K-2nd, Room 14; 3rd-5th, Room 10; 10:45am - Celebration Choir rehearsal in Room 15

## Children and Worship

**Awakening to Worship** is our wonder and worship program for children ages 4-1st grade and meets following the children's sermon weekly. We invite children in elementary school to continue participating and experiencing worship as they move into the sanctuary for worship with the wider family of Grace Covenant.

**Worship Bags** are in place to help busy hands and hearts.

**Worship Bulletins** are available from the ushers every week and are on two age levels.

Through the first chapters of Matthew, we follow Jesus from birth to his early ministry as crowds are drawn to him, to hear his word, to feel his touch. Their hearts and souls yearn for his good news. To those who have very little, he finds their blessings and encourages them to be a blessing to others—to be salt, flavor, and spice in a world in need, and to be light, illuminating God from the hilltops. Jesus sifts through the worries people carry to the kernel of truth—seeks first God's kingdom and everything else will be all right. Through the metaphor and imagery—salt, light, birds of the air, dressed-up flowers in the fields, and specks and logs—Jesus knows where people are in need and how to capture their imaginations and their hearts.

In the final story of the quarter, Jesus tells of two house builders, a wise one and a foolish one, a house built on a sturdy foundation and a house that will be washed away in the storm. Jesus calls for his hearers to not only hear but also do what he has taught. His message is to bless others, be salt and light, seek God first, do not judge others, and follow his teachings. Will we be like the wise builder or the foolish one?

**Celebration choir** We are so excited to have Lara Schesser and Pam Smith Kelly leading the Celebration singers. The children are not only singing; they are ringing chimes!

**Worship Leaders** are invited to light the candle weekly, read in worship, and assist in other ways. If you would like to be a worship leader, please contact Rev. Sue. She is looking for you.



## Get Ready for a Journey to the North Castle!

**Mark your calendar for VBS June 1-5.**

**Ages 4 yrs – 5th Grade**

**Want to volunteer?**

Contact Lindsay Bucl at [lindsaybucl@gmail.com](mailto:lindsaybucl@gmail.com).

**Registration is now open and on our website:**

**[gcpc.org/vbs](http://gcpc.org/vbs)**

## Hear ye! Hear ye! Calling all Crafty Princesses and Knights of the North Castle!

We are getting excited for our next Vacation Bible School, and we need your help. If your Royal schedule permits, please join us in yonder Christian Education Office during the Sunday School hour to make decorations and share ideas.

You can also pick up a "kit" to work on at home. Thank you for sharing your creative gifts and God's love with our GCPC kiddos in their Quest for the King's Armor!

# Music Notes

## MISSION & MUSIC HAPPENINGS and other important Youth Stuff!

### SUNDAY, MARCH 1

YOUTH SUNDAY 8:50 & 11:05am

Worship Music led by Exaltation!, Ex! Ringers,  
& Youth Band and don't forget...

### M&M POSTER PALOOZA

Buying fun & yummy stuff as well as buying  
opportunities to do very cool things at **M&M POSTER  
PALOOZA ENDS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 1**

So, hit the hall from the Concourse to the Weekday  
Entrance & buy, buy, buy!

### SUNDAY, MARCH 8

#### M&M Trip Registration

**M&M Forms and Fees are due, and you can do it all  
on our website.** (Thanks to Kim Krueger!)

You can access the registration form here:

[gcpc.org/mm20](http://gcpc.org/mm20)

Also, payment can be made through the **online  
giving TAB** on the gcpc.org website, then at the  
bottom of the page under "Grace Covenant Online  
Giving Portal."

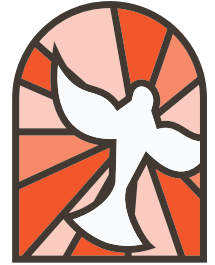
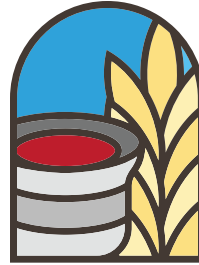
"Thank you, GCPC, for helping our senior high  
students **travel to Milwaukee for a life changing  
experience: Fridays, June 12th – June 19th!**"

## WHAT'S NEXT?

**GCPC Wind Ensemble will play in both worship  
services on Sunday, March 29th**

Rehearsals: Thursday, March 26th 7:30-8:30pm &  
Saturday, March 28th 10:30-11:30am

The GCPC Wind Ensemble is open to instrumentalists  
in 8th grade – adult. **Please contact Pam Kelly if  
interested in playing.**



## HOLY WEEK MUSIC

**4/9 – MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:30pm COMMUNION**  
Jubilation! Ringers, Solos, & Ensembles

**4/10 – GOOD FRIDAY 7:30pm**

The Music Ministry of GCPC

presents

### *The Seven Last Words of Christ*

by Théodore Dubois

presented by

Chancel Choir, Soloists, Timpani,  
and Linda Dover, organist

**4/12 – EASTER SUNDAY**

8:50am Praise Team, Solos, & Ensembles

11:05am Chancel Choir, Charter Ringers, & Brass

**4/25 – A SATURDAY OUTREACH CONCERT**

**PRESENTED by Chancel Choir & Charter Ringers**

10am at Colonial Village – Senior Living, 12500 W.

137th St., Overland Park, KS 66221. All are welcome!

**5/3– BELL FEST XXXII at 6pm**

**This year's theme is: "Make 'em Laugh!"**

Come see & hear our handbell pieces, dance numbers,  
sing-a-longs, and our jokester of an emcee that will  
*make you laugh, help you smile, & give you joy!* A fun  
time will be had by all!

## "THANK YOU" NOTES

Thank you to **Mike & Celia Nicholas** for donating the  
Chancel Choir anthem, "Like a River in My Soul"  
by Tim Osiek and the handbell piece, "Let Everything  
That Breathes Praise the Lord" by Cathy Moglebust in  
honor of GCPC's music ministries.

*"Thank you for giving."*



# Youth Page

## “Light The Fire” Youth Sunday

Our Youth Sunday theme is “Light the fire” this year and our students are planning and will lead two heartfelt worship services on March 1, exploring how God has set a fire in our souls and how we are to help light the fire in others. Almost all of our 6th–12th grade students will be participating in leadership in one form or another and sermons will be delivered by our seniors.

## POSTER PALOOZA wraps up Sunday March 1 after worship!

It’s the final week to sign your name a to one or more of the amazing opportunities offered on the posters! Look for the posters on the walls leading from the concourse and weekday entrance to Heartland Hall. Put a pen to the paper and use camera with QR code, write a check, or pay cash to support our youth summer trips. There is something for Every member-Young, old, parent, grandparent, single, married. Come build community while supporting the Youth of GCPC! AND THANK YOU!

## Summer Intern

GCPC welcomes applications for the Summer 2020 intern position. If you are interested in the position or know someone who is, please contact Miles McDonald for more information on the application and interview process.

## M&M Trip Details

This year our Mission and Music trip travelers will be heading to Milwaukee, WI! We will be leaving on Friday, June 12, and returning Friday, June 19. We are looking forward to serving in the Milwaukee area. There are several opportunities that we are currently looking at, and our planning team is discussing which option will be a good fit for our youth. Registrations are due March 8. You can find the registration form at:

[www.gcpc.org/mm20](http://www.gcpc.org/mm20)

## Many Thanks for your “Souper” Donations!

Thank you for participating in our annual Souper Bowl of Caring! It is very exciting to see the church help support our brothers and sisters! We are grateful that GCPC gets to be a part of Harvester’s mission — we collected 556 pounds of food this year!

## Summer Events

Mark your calendars now for the following youth summer events:

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>June 1–5</b>   | VBS — need volunteers of all ages                 |
| <b>June 12–19</b> | M&M Trip to Milwaukee<br>completed 8th–12th grade |
| <b>July 11–18</b> | Montreat — completed 8th–12th grade               |



# Mission Team

## Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) Training offered

Church members who interact with our homeless IHN guests in May, August, November or February are required to have completed a two-hour training session. The **next training opportunity is Tuesday, March 10, 6–8:30pm**, at Overland Park Christian Church, located at 7600 W. 75th Street. Retraining is recommended every three years.

An IHN volunteer need that does not require interaction with our guests is laundering the bedding and towels used by guests during their stay with us. This is coordinated by Cathy Haun, who seeks people from a volunteer list to help with the laundry. If you are willing to help, please contact Cathy at [cathylhaun@everestkc.net](mailto:cathylhaun@everestkc.net).

## March Communion Offering

The March communion offering will be donated our **Mission Co-Workers Leslie Vogel and Jeff and Christi Boyd**.

## March Donation Partner

Our March donation partner is **Crosslines Community Outreach** in Kansas City, KS. We are collecting the following items for their food pantry: canned soups, peanut butter, canned fruit, canned vegetables (other than green beans.) **Please place your donations in the box in the Weekday Entrance.**



## Congratulations to our Communicants Class

We are proud to announce that six 2nd grade children have completed training about the Sacrament of Communion at the *"Gathering at the Table"* workshop series with Rev. Sue. They will be celebrating on Sunday, March 1, as they participate in serving Communion to the congregation.

Be sure to ask them about the stoles they made. Look for their art and more on the bulletin board outside the Sanctuary.

Congratulations to Jackson Bucl, Alexander Circo, Chance Connell, Caitlin Hussey, Abigail Lee, and Teagan Rickley!

# Chili Cook-off & Pie Bake-off

## Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 28th at 5pm for fun and fellowship.

The Connections and Care team is sponsoring a Chili Cook-Off AND a Pie Bake-Off with proceeds going towards the replacement of the Peace Pole.

### How it works:

Church members will sign up on our website at [www.gcpc.org/chili-pie](http://www.gcpc.org/chili-pie) to bring chili and/or pie for judging. Your entry needs to be at the church by 4:30pm that day (March 28).

We will not be judging by category so there will be one chili winner and one pie winner. Diners will vote by placing money in the cups in front of each entry and those will be tabulated. You will vote for your favorite food OR your favorite chef. Or both!

Feel free to bring chili and/or pie even if you DON'T want to compete. Have fun with it. Labels will be available so we know if your item is spicy, vegetarian, sugar-free, etc. The deadline to sign up is Monday March 23!

Sign up to bring pie, chili or both at [www.gcpc.org/chili-pie](http://www.gcpc.org/chili-pie)!



**Inclusive. Family Oriented. Welcoming.**

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Twitter: @GraceCovPres

Instagram: @gcpc\_overlandpark

## CELEBRATING GOD'S ALL ENCOMPASSING LOVE!

### CHURCH STAFF

#### Co Pastors

- Office hours: Monday-Thursday  
Mitch Trigger, [mitch.trigger@gcpc.org](mailto:mitch.trigger@gcpc.org).....ext.18  
Sue Trigger, [sue.trigger@gcpc.org](mailto:sue.trigger@gcpc.org).....ext.15

#### Director of Music Ministries

- Office hours: Monday-Wednesday, Friday  
Rebecca Prater, [rebecca.prater@gcpc.org](mailto:rebecca.prater@gcpc.org) .. ext. 13

#### Church Administrator

- Office hours: Monday-Friday  
Patrick Bell, [patrick.bell@gcpc.org](mailto:patrick.bell@gcpc.org) ..... ext. 10

#### Director of Youth Ministries

- Office hours: Monday-Thursday  
Miles McDonald, [miles.mcdonald@gcpc.org](mailto:miles.mcdonald@gcpc.org).. ext. 17

**Finance Administrator**..... Tara Hyder  
Mon. 8-4; Tues./Weds. 8-12; /Thurs./Fri. by Appt.

**Organist**..... Linda Dover

**Contemporary Music Coord.** ..... Donna Goeckler

**Contemporary Music Accomp.**.... Denice Trawicki

**Contemporary Music Drummer**..... Daniel Cole

**Technical Director for Worship**.. Miles McDonald

**Child Care Coordinator**..... Carolyn Chaffin

**Kid's Day Out Director** ..... Kathy Connor

**Wedding Coordinator**..... Lara Schesser

**Funeral Coordinator** ..... Mary Sue Thomas

### ELDERS

Harold Frye	Diane Schmit
Tim Hayden	Aaron Soule
Cheryl Johnson	Dave Stalling
Terry Kolich	Josh Sutherland
Lynn Long	Susan Sutherland
Kat Mason	Nelson Townsend
David Minaschek	Marcia Turner
Julie Passett	

### SUPPORT STAFF

Deacon Moderator ..... Kathy Williams  
Operating Committee..... Tim Hayden,  
Cheryl Johnson, Julie Passett, Diane Schmit  
Nelson Townsend  
Newsletter Editor ..... Kim Krueger  
Prayer Chain..... Cheryl Johnson  
Website Administrators .. Kim Krueger/Patrick Bell

### MINISTRY UNITS

#### Congregational Nurture Unit Moderators

Connections and Care..... Lisa Feyh  
Worship and Music..... Melanie Townsend,  
Katie Hearn

#### Education Ministry Unit Moderators

Adult ..... Maggie Blankers  
Children ..... Erin Frye, Angela Krug  
Youth..... Jody Mason

#### Reach Out Ministry Unit Moderators

Kairos ..... Rick Randolph  
Mission ..... Mikki Walker  
Welcoming and Marketing ..... Rosemary Gibson,  
Kim Krueger

#### Supportive Ministry Unit Moderators

Facility ..... Marc Feyh  
Generosity and Finance..... Matt McBride  
Personnel ..... Kevin Mason

### Worship Schedule

8:50am - Praise Team Led Worship  
10am - Church School All Ages  
11:05am - Choral Led Worship  
Childcare is provided during Worship.

### Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines

**April Issue** - Deadline, March 17  
**May Issue** - Deadline, April 21