



GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2020 | VOL 38 NBR 1

GRACE NOTES



2020 VISION

Visioning Day, Saturday, February 29

In 2019 we had a wonderful visioning day that was a wonderful source of information for our new pastors and a time to vision for 2019.

We established three priorities for 2019:

1. Increase communication about the financial needs of the church.
2. Determine how we can effectively prioritize and mobilize the resources of people, finances, and facilities to carry out the mission of the church.
3. Increase awareness of what is happening in the life of the church and opportunities for participation.

We made some great strides on these priorities! Every team, committee and board (Deacons and Session) has spent time evaluating their job descriptions and mission with the result being a fully revised and updated Operating Manual. The manual was approved at the November Session meeting and is available from the church office and on the church website at www.gcpc.org/opmanual.

Some of the teams made significant changes in their priorities. The Connections and Care team has developed the concept of intentional fellowship. They have created 4 churchwide events designed to bring the entire congregation together for fun and fellowship. We enjoyed the Barbeque Cook off and look forward to their next event! The Mission Team is creating new ways of thinking about mission and created our first Workshop Sunday. It was a wonderful day of worship, service, and community. We look forward to a second event in April 2020. The Children's Team and Adult Team collaborated on summer Sunday school and the Advent Fair to create intergenerational educational activities to bring all ages together.

2020 gives us an opportunity to take another look at our ministry and see where God is calling us next! **Our 2020 Visioning Day will be held on Saturday, February 29 from 9am-2pm. All those interested are invited.**

- 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

► January 5, *"The Living Nativity,"* Advent Bible Study

We will conclude our Advent Bible study, "The Living Nativity" by Larry J. Peacock, on January 5. The study will conclude with reflection on the meaning of Epiphany. Come learn about the traditions behind the magi who followed the star. Be sure and get your Epiphany star! Leader: Nancy Kalesz. **Meets in Room 3 at 10am.**

► January 12, *A Conversation About Worship Part II*

We had such a wonderful response to the Conversation About Worship in November! Thank you to everyone who attended. The Worship Team has collated all of the information you shared and want to tell you about it. **Meets in Heartland Hall at 10am.**

► January 19, *Bail Project of the PCUSA*

Each year, on the third Monday of January, our nation remembers the work and ministry of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It is a time to remember the injustices that Dr. King fought. A time to remember his fight for the freedom, equality, and dignity of all races and peoples through nonviolence.

We will be addressing cash bail, one of the social issues that greatly impacts the African American community. **The Bail Project of the PCUSA** has been making a great impact around the nation. By paying bail for people who are without ready resources, The Bail Project seeks to combat mass incarceration, ease jail crowding and recycle its bail funds up to three times each year by, once the person has paid bail, helping him or her to show up for their court dates to ensure the bulk of the bail money is refunded. *"It's the gift that keeps giving,"* she says. Heartland Presbytery is working to partner with The Bail Project in the Kansas City area. Come and hear about the program and make a cash bail donation. **Meets in Room 3 at 10am.**

► January 26, *Annual Meeting, 10am*

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation, a **"One Service Sunday"** and **"Sit Together Sunday"** luncheon.



Epiphany Stars

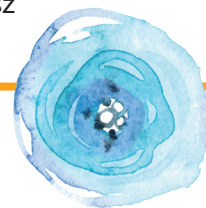
Epiphany ends our season of Christmastide — Advent for preparing, seeking, looking in hope — Christmas Eve when we celebrate the birth of the hope of the world, who came as foretold by the prophets — a son, a child — a star to lead us to him. Epiphany ends the cycle of anticipation, wonder, peace. This year, as in years before, the Epiphany stars we receive lead us forward into a new year and the promise of God with us. Always!

It is with great thanks that I share the star cutters' names this year. I am so grateful for their help and careful cutting that makes the assembling so much easier.

Cutters this year: Joy Wilson, Terra Howard, Mary Anne Weyforth, Gay Lee Bonney, Caryn Firebaugh, Kristy Shaw, Nancy Taylor, Donna Dearmore, Lynn Long, Jody Mason, Jo Randolph, Jamie Howe, Judy Mason, and Chelly King ("Assembler Extraordinaire")

*"What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.
Yet what I can give him. Give my heart."
—Christine Rossetti, 1877*

Peace and joy in 2020 — Nancy Kalesz



Thank you!

With all of the prayers said, the get well cards sent and the visits made to help heal these issues that I went through, how could I not heal?

The Mehl family would like to thank all of you and feel blessed to have all of you in our lives.

Thank you so much!
- The Mehl Family

Music Notes



Sunday, December 8, was a day for gifts!

- Thank you to **Jody Mason, Julie Passett, Susan Sutherland, and Julie Webb** who gave us a Sneak Peek into a Brand-NEW fundraiser to support this year's Senior High Mission & Music Trip to Milwaukee, June 2020: It's called Poster Palooza & it will begin on February 2nd of 2020. *Watch for more promotional info to come!*
- December's fundraiser was our annual **M&M Candy-Tube** fundraiser where you get to eat all the candy inside & then return the empty **M&M** with **your coin, cash, or check donation inside to the BIG GREEN M&M in the concourse.** We've asked for them to be turned in by the end of December, but we will still take them!

December 8 was also an evening for carols!

It was festive, fun, & beautiful. Many thanks to each singer, ringer, and instrumentalist who shared their gifts and to the Youth Band for leading some of our favorite Christmas songs!

- We are grateful to all our music leaders and accompanists: **Katie Hearn, Emily Hussey, Lara Schesser, Angela Krug, Pam Kelly, Donna Heer, Christopher Callender, Trey Bures, Kathy Bures, Chris Krug, and Celia Nicholas.**
- To our Music Librarians: **Ellie Nelson** – children's and youth music and **Mikki Walker** – handbell music.
- A shout out to **Miles McDonald** who ran sound and helped with so many things and **Logan Callender** who ran video.
- Finally, thank you to **Kim Krueger** for all the graphic designs that turned into posters, Facebook posts, and website promotion and **Patrick Bell** for all the office help.

It was Christmas with an Exclamation!



And what about all our other Advent musicians?

We are grateful to...

- all of the **soloists, instrumentalists, and small ensembles** who enriched our Advent and Christmas worship services.
- **these ensembles:** Praise Team, Chancel Choir, Wind Ensemble, Chamber Orchestra, and Exaltation!
- **and their directors:** Donna Goeckler and Pam Kelly

Additional gratitude is expressed to our music staff for their dedicated and excellent leadership:

- Linda Dover, Organist
- Donna Goeckler, Contemporary Music Leader/Coordinator
- Denice Trawicki, Contemporary Music Pianist
- Daniel Cole, Contemporary Music Drummer



Now...Looking to January 2020

Begin the New Year with music!

After a well-deserved Christmas holiday break, our ensembles will resume rehearsals per director's instructions, but in general:

- Wednesday rehearsals resume on January 8
- Sunday rehearsals resume on January 12
- **Make it a New Year's resolution to make music with us!** Contact Director of Music Ministries, *Rebecca Prater*, or any of the other directors.

"Thank You" Notes

To **Jim and Pam Kelly** who donated a stand/cart for our orchestra bells. They gave the stand in memory of their friend and percussionist, **Rosa Adams-Bussard**. *"Thank you for giving."*

Children's Ministries

Happy New Year! Take a Look at What's Happening in Sunday School in January!

Christmas has just ended and we will quickly move to the beginning of Jesus' ministry in January. The month begins with the story of the holy family's escape to Egypt. The next week Jesus is suddenly 30 years old and beginning his ministry by being baptized by his cousin John. Children will celebrate baptism and its claim on our lives. They will be invited to explore how they can be a blessing by learning and doing what Jesus taught his followers.

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.

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.



Explore God's Grace Each Day

When your children are at home, use these tools to explore God's grace and gratitude each day. Find these tools at: www.pcusastore.com/GGGdownloads

Grace Sightings: the weekly Bible story and age appropriate activities for your family to do at home.

Audio Recordings: the weekly Bible story brought to life by endearing readings and sound effects.

E-books: the quarter's colorful illustrations, Bible stories and Grace Sightings, in ibook and Kindle formats.

2nd Graders Invited!

Gather at the Table Workshop Series with Rev. Sue

For 2nd Graders & their Parents

Sharing the stories and practices of faith will have an impact on your child throughout a child's life. The Sacraments of Baptism and Communion are two of our treasured practices.

I am inviting you to join me for a very special program about the Sacrament of Communion called, "Gather at the Table". Together we will learn about Communion, what we do and why we do it. This is a family workshop and all families of 2nd grade age children are invited to attend.

Workshop Dates:

Sundays, February 9, 16 and 23

Time: 4-6 p.m.

Where: Heartland Hall

The program will conclude with your child participating in the **Sacrament of Communion (their first Communion) on Sunday, March 1 at both the 8:50am and the 11:05am services.** If you will be attending, please RSVP to me at sue.trigger@gcpc.org.

January SMASH

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would be with us to comfort and guide us after he ascended. **Our January SMASH will consider our covenant with the Holy Spirit!**

Our lesson will be inspired by the wind window of our Sanctuary stained glass. SMASH is for 1st -5th graders and meets on Sundays, from 4-6pm in Heartland Hall.

The January 19 theme is:
Wind, Covenant of the Holy Spirit

Clerk's Corner

Session met on Dec. 22, 2019 (*rescheduled because of weather*) in room 5, with Reverend Mitch Trigger serving as moderator. In addition to the elders, Deacon Kathy Williams was present. Harold Frye shared a devotion based on Psalm 24 and led us in prayer.

Special business: There was a discussion about the bad weather policy. The Operations Manual states that the church office follows the Blue Valley school district's closing dates, but it was unclear as to whether that applied to evening meetings too. The Personnel team will revisit the issue and Nelson Townsend asked that anyone with comments about the issue forward them to him.

Consent agenda: The minutes of the November stated Session meeting, as well as a few membership requests, were approved. The slate of deacon candidates – Jennifer Battaglioli, Karen Pack, Anne Stroud, Julie Webb and Jerrel Williams was approved, and January 5 was set for their installation.

Team minutes: The Adult Ed team submitted a motion to keep the current budgeted amount of \$500 in the budget for the Young Adult Fellowship group, and to remind the group there is \$250 in a 02 account for their use. The motion passed. The pledge drive stands at 69 pledges received for a total of \$414,858. Letters are being sent to members who haven't pledged.

Clerk's report: The Operating Committee submitted a request that Session approve removing members from the rolls who haven't attended worship in more than two years and who didn't respond positively to the letter sent asking them about their membership status. The motion passed. There are 81 members on this list – which brings our membership to 408.

Co-Pastors' report: There were no questions about the co-pastors' report.

Deacons' report: Kathy Williams reported the deacons worked diligently to contact members on the list mentioned earlier. There will be new covenant groups assigned for 2020 and the deacons' retreat will be January 3, 2020.

Old business: Nominating Team – Harold Frye reported that the Nominating Team is ready to start working on elder candidates. Worship attendance – We will continue tracking worship attendance.

New business: Annual meeting – The annual meeting will be on January 26, following one church service at 10:00 a.m. Teams are asked to submit their reports to the church office by January 10, 2020. **Visioning Day** – February 29 will be the next Visioning Day. **Corporation Meeting** – The trustees of the corporation (the elders) elected the following officers to serve in 2020: President – Diane Schmit; Vice-president – Susan Sutherland; Treasurer – Aaron Soule; Secretary – Cheryl Johnson.

After sharing some joys and concerns of the congregation, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m. and Rev. Mitch closed the meeting with a prayer.

Life of the Church

How about a Hospitality Team?

We are looking for volunteers who love to organize events. There are times when we have lunches after worship, dinner before Thanksgiving, and more. We would like to create a team whose only responsibility is to organize these meals. If you love to entertain or prepare meals for large groups, we would love to have you on our team. Interested? Please contact Rev. Sue at sue.trigger@gcpc.org.

KDO & PPS Enrollment

Kid's Day Out and Pioneer Preschool will begin priority enrollment for Fall 2020 on Monday January 20, through Friday, January 31. Grace Covenant members may enroll during this priority time. KDO includes ages 2 and 3 years and Pioneer Preschool includes ages 3,4, and 5 years.

Contact Kathy for KDO at 913-345-8191 or kathy.connor@gcpc.org; and Geri for Pioneer at 913-338-4282.

Forms for KDO are available on the church website or the KDO office and for Pioneer at www.pioneerpreschool.com.

Articles to continue in the February Issue

The articles, "Presbyterians Around the World" and "Pew Dwellers' Health Notes," will continue in the February issue of *Grace Notes*.



Youth Page

MLK Service and Snow Tubing Event!

- **What:** MLK Day Youth Gathering of Heartland Presbytery!
- **When:** Monday, January 20, 2020 from 9:00am – 4:00pm (not including travel)
- **Where:** LAMP at Heartland Presbytery Offices – 3210 Michigan, Kansas City, MO then we head to Snow creek for an afternoon of snow tubing!

This year we will be packing lunches for students through the Harvesters “Give Lunch” program. Then we will have some lunch ourselves before heading to Snow Creek to enjoy an afternoon of snow tubing. Come for all or just part! Registration info and other details coming soon. Friends are welcome!

Red Bag Sponsor

GCPC youth sponsored two children for the annual Red Bag project this year. On December 1st, our youth went shopping to pick the best presents for those sweet children! We had a great time buying and wrapping presents. We hope that they had a wonderful Christmas!

A Christmas Exclamation

On December 8th, our church had our Christmas Exclamation! Our youth were involved in all different aspects of the night, from sound booth, bells, singing and more! We are so proud of them using their gifts to worship!

Souper Bowl of Caring

Please mark your calendars for the Souper Bowl of Caring. We will be collecting non-perishable food donations and monetary communion offering gifts throughout January and finalizing on February 2. Donations will be used to help feed our local hungry brothers and sisters in Christ.

M&M Tube Fundraiser

Thanks to everyone for your support of our youth by contributing to our M&M candy tube fundraiser in December!

Upcoming Events

- **MLK Tubing/Service Event** – January 2 (registrations due Jan. 14)
- **Souperbowl of Caring** – February 2 (collecting donations throughout January)
- **Youth Super Bowl Party** – February 2
- **Youth Sunday** – March 1

Poster Palooza!!!

DID YOU KNOW?

The GCPC Poster Palooza sponsoring Youth Summer Trips is launching in February.

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

So that GCPC members can continue to support Youth fellowship and mission.

It costs on average \$400 for a youth to participate on a summer trip. GCPC is so blessed to have 25-40 youth and adults involved in trips including M&M (Milwaukee 2020), Montreat (Montreat, NC), and Massanetta (Massanetta Springs, VA).

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

By creating a poster for something you can **teach, host or supply**. *(All poster materials provided)*

The posters will advertise and list a “price” for a class (teach), an event (host) or an item they will receive (supply)! People will “sign-up” by agreeing to the activity, event, or item on the poster and the fee associated with it.

WHAT TYPES OF ACTIVITIES, CLASSES, EVENTS OR ITEMS?

Lego building, lasagna, craft, wine, sewing, handyman, heavy-lifting assistance, BBQ, singing telegram, makeup session, cookie dough session, cookie baking, tea party, bingo gathering, trivia session, basement organizing, scan family photos, etc.

EXAMPLE - LASAGNA (A poster in 3 ways)

Teach: Teach a class on how to make a cherished lasagna recipe and each person takes one home.

Host: Gathering of people to eat lasagna created/ hosted by the “poster maker.”

Supply: Everyone who signs up receives a lasagna provided by “poster maker.”

WHO CAN MAKE A POSTER?

Kids, youth, singles, young adults, parents, grandparents, members...anyone who wants to help!

We know that this is a extremely talented church who want to share and continue to build community.

We are excited to see what the Poster Palooza brings!!



January Offerings

Communion Offering & Donation Partner

The January Communion Offering will be collected for the **Heartland Presbytery Cash Bail Project**. This project provides funding for people being held in jail due to minor offenses but are unable to pay their bail.

Our January Donation Partner will be **Harvesters Community Food Network**. Non-perishable foods will be collected by the youth group for "Souper Bowl of Caring."

MLK Day of Service at the LAMP Center

January 20, 2020 from 10am-2pm

Join us as we celebrate MLK Day with a morning of service at the **Linwood Area Ministry Place (LAMP)**, 3210 Michigan Ave., KCMO 64109. We will be packing lunch bags for HARVESTER'S "Give Lunch" program. Everyone is invited to join us and we will combine our efforts with the youth gathered that day.

There are TWO WAYS you can help:

1. Joining us to put the bags together.
2. Donating the following items (we hope to make 500-1,000 bags based on donations).

DONATIONS NEEDED for lunch bags:

- Whole grain cracker packs (Such as 6-8 crackers in individually wrapped snack packs)
- Protein item (such as individual cans of tuna or chicken with pop-top or in tear pouch; Vienna sausage in pop-top cans)
- Juice box, 6-ounce + size
- Fruit cups, 4-ounce size (with pop-top or plastic tear off lids)
- Reduced sugar dessert (Such as shelf-stable pudding or snack pack gelatin)

Please drop off donations at the Presbytery Office by Tuesday, January 14, or contact Jim Gordon, jgordon@pineridge.org or Buzzy LeCluyse, blecluyse@pineridge.org to schedule a pick up of your items or for more information. Call the GCPC Office for details about leaving your donations at the church. Thanks in advance for your support of this special project.

Inclusive. Family Oriented. Welcoming.

11100 College Boulevard
Overland Park, KS 66210
Phone: 913-345-1256
Fax: 913-345-1198

gcpc.org



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Facebook: facebook.com/GraceCovenantPresbyterian

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.....ext.18
Sue Trigger, sue.trigger@gcpc.org.....ext.15

Director of Music Ministries

- Office hours: Monday-Wednesday, Friday
Rebecca Prater, rebecca.prater@gcpc.org .. ext. 13

Church Administrator

- Office hours: Monday-Friday
Patrick Bell, patrick.bell@gcpc.org ext. 10

Director of Youth Ministries

- Office hours: Monday-Thursday
Miles McDonald, 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..... Sarah Evans, Barb Purvis,
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 Linda Bridges

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

February Issue - Deadline, January 21
March Issue - Deadline, February 18