



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JULY 2020 | VOL 38 NBR 7

GRACE NOTES

Pause, appreciate, and give thanks

During these difficult days it is important to find peace by taking time to pause and appreciate the positive things happening around you. Colossians 3:15 says, *"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful."*

Thankfulness and appreciation are closely connected and so we want to share our thankfulness and appreciation of you. We invite you pause and appreciate all of the ways Grace Covenant has continued to live into God's calling despite the distancing.

Here are some of the things we appreciate:

- We appreciate our staff. They have done the heavy lifting of research and planning as we navigate our way through this unprecedented time. To Patrick, Miles, Rebecca and Tara – we can't thank you enough.
- We appreciate the Session and all of the elders who have been working on dealing with many unforeseen effects of having to close the building and stop programming. The Session has met far more often than normal and retiring elders have offered gracious support to our new elders as they step into these turbulent times.
- We appreciate our team leaders as they guide their teams through creative visioning as we continue ministry.
- We appreciate the Facilities Team and the leadership of Patrick Bell, who have been planning and executing plans to ensure that when we resume in-person activities we will be as safe as possible.
- We appreciate the Finance Team and the leadership of Tara Hyder, who have guided us through the process of applying and attaining a PPP loan and assisted with financial planning during these uncertain days.
- We have enjoyed online worship. We appreciate the work of Miles McDonald and Eric Lee who have given countless hours to improving our online capability. We appreciate Rebecca Prater, Linda Dover, Donna Goeckler, the Praise Team and all the singers who have blessed us with beautiful music each week.
- We appreciate Kim Krueger and all that she has done to get information out through our website, social media, signage and more.

(continued on the next page)



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.

REAL FAITH
REAL STORIES
REAL GRACE

11100 College Boulevard
Overland Park, KS 66210
913-345-1256
office@gcpc.org
gcpc.org

Online worship every Sunday
on Facebook Live and Zoom.
Visit gcpc.org/online for links!

- We appreciate the Deacons who reach out to their Covenant Groups to stay connected and offer support. Deacon Jami Howe organized a wonderful car parade to shower Glenda Johnson with love and comfort in the loss of Vern and her recovery from COVID-19. Many members also joined a community parade in celebration of Kathy Jonas' birthday and her fight against pancreatic cancer.
- We appreciate the Mission Team as they have found creative ways to continue to care for others. Our drive through donation day in May helped the food pantry at Shawnee Community Services as they feed the hungry. Volunteers continue to provide food and assistance to KCK hot lunch. Members have continued to assist Interfaith Hospitality Network and prepare meals for UpLift as each organization help the homeless through these difficult times.
- We appreciate the Youth Team and Miles McDonald as they have worked to continue online and outdoor gatherings with our youth. Our Confirmation leaders ensured that the confirmands were able to complete their studies and the Session examination. We look forward to the day they can make their profession of faith in the presence of the congregation as they have requested.
- We appreciate the Children's Team who has been busy keeping our children connected. Our Sunday school teachers found creative ways to offer online classes and we ended the year with an online Zoom meet up with teachers and kids present together. They have offered SMASH meetings on Zoom. The team ordered yard signs to thank our teachers and volunteers delivered cards and chalk decorated their driveways with messages of love.
- We appreciate our Vacation Bible School team who used their imaginations to put together a virtual VBS that kept kids connected and learning about how God takes ordinary things and makes them extraordinary. 71 children registered for a week full of music, storytelling, crafts, science and fun with Rivet, the carpenter ant who used ant tunnels and the antcam 3000 to take us from location to location. At our closing Mission Parade, participants and members dropped off 15 paper grocery bags full of supplies and \$630.15 for Sunflower House. A generous donor matched our \$630.15 for a gift of \$1,260.30. THANK YOU! These donations will help children and youth who have been abused as they find safety and support through the Sunflower House program.
- We appreciate the Adult Team as they work on creative ways to offer studies, conversation and support for dealing with the pandemic. Watch for details in future Mid-Week announcements.
- We appreciate those who have been making masks for health care workers, family, friends, church members, and for our church when we resume worship. This act of caring is helping slow the spread of the virus and saving lives.
- There are countless stories of members helping other members, their neighbors, and individuals in need since we have closed our building. We appreciate each and every one of you and want you all to know it.

This list can't cover everything you have done, so if we missed something, please know that we appreciate you, too. We hope that you will pause and appreciate the many things you have been doing, too. Pause, appreciate, and give thanks.

Thanks be to God! —*Sue and Mitch*



July Communion Offering

The July Communion Offering will be collected for Catholic Charities.

Our July Donation Partner is Rosehill Elementary School.

We will be collecting the following items: crayons, magic markers, glue sticks, white glue, pencils, notebooks, rulers, folders, dry erase markers, sticky notes, and headphones

Please watch the July bulletins and mid-week announcements for information regarding "drop off day."

Clerk's Corner

The **June 15, 2020 Session meeting** was held via Zoom with Reverend Sue Trigger serving as moderator. In addition to the ruling elders, some of the retiring elders were there to offer their guidance, as well as Liz Chandler and Jane Knoche. Sue opened the meeting at 7:00pm and Diane Schmit shared a devotion and prayer.

We discussed the online congregational meeting held via Zoom on June 7, 2020. Our Zoom account was supposed to have a limit of 500 but people got the message that there was a limit of 100 IDs to be signed on. We are sorry for the mix-up and will research the issue for possible future use. However, we still had a quorum and, because Robert's Rules of Order doesn't recognize virtual meetings, we'll have to reaffirm the votes taken when the congregation is able to meet in person anyway.

Consent agenda: The minutes of the May 18, May 25, and June 8 Session meetings were approved, as well as the minutes from the June 7 congregational meeting.

Team minutes: The Personnel team has cut their budget as much as is possible, given that we do not want to cut staff, and there is still a difference of approximately \$9,487. After discussion, it was determined that there will probably be funds to absorb this amount. Terry Kolich is researching a program offering 3.75% loans with deferred interest under the EIDL section of the CARES Act.

Clerk's report: With the death of Wendell Sisk, we have 398 members.

Co-Pastors' report: We reviewed the co-pastors' report and there were no questions, but highly complimentary remarks were made about the online VBS program.

Deacons' report: Liz Chandler reported that the deacons discussed their new responsibilities once the church building opens up and they are ready for the challenge.

Presbytery meeting report: The Presbytery meeting was held virtually. Mac Fechtling created a new logo for Heartland Presbytery. There is a video statement from the Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson which is also on the GCPC website. Two new teams were established – one for mediation and one for pastoral care. Rev. Nick Pickerell was commissioned to the New Worshipping Communities initiative.

Old business: The next week to host IHN starts August 2. After some discussion, it was decided to allow IHN to use the building for the regularly scheduled week as they have strict guidelines for guests and volunteers to follow to limit the possibility of COVID contamination. For other groups, such as AA, the Boy Scouts and other groups, the building is still closed for now. The Discretionary Fund was used to help people affected by the pandemic on two occasions.

New business: We need to set a date to ordain the new elders, four of whom have not been previously ordained. After discussion, we decided to ordain one or two elders at a time. They would be in person at the service and some of their family members could be there too, observing social distancing. Because "laying on of hands" would not be a good idea considering the pandemic, Sue has a clever idea to symbolize this. Sue and Mitch reminded the Session that we voted to support the Poor People's Campaign last year and said they want to present information about becoming a Matthew 25 congregation.

After sharing some joys and concerns, Sue closed the meeting with prayer and the meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.



Music Notes

From Rebecca Prater, Director of Music Ministries

Here is a repeat of what I included in the June 10th mid-week announcements in case some of you missed it. There are also some updates below from the Music Ministry.

To sing or not to sing? That is the question. And the answer sent shockwaves throughout the musical community.

On May 5th, a panel of leaders of several professional music organizations in our nation (e.g., ACDA-American Choral Directors Assoc., NATS-National Association of Teachers of Singing). The leaders gathered and invited their members to a webinar on the future of public singing in America given the presence of the Coronavirus-19. **The goal of the panel was "to bring scientists and medical professionals directly to musicians who don't have direct knowledge of these complex issues."**

Here is the bottom line: vocal singing in groups, playing wind instruments, & loud speaking are high-risk actions. The force and sustained breath carrying droplets & aerosol has implications for transmitting the disease - even with masks. For example, a singer's voice as carried by her breath **can contain aerosolized virus as far as 16 feet!** This reality applies to actors, preachers, teachers, wind ensembles, choirs, & congregations. Yes, congregations. (Sigh)

But take heart, Music Team & our Music Leadership have been brainstorming on ways we can still have music - even vocal music within our worship services. We will have instrumentalists such as piano, organ, keyboard, percussion, handbells, dulcimer, guitar, violin, cello, & double bass. We will have pre-recorded vocal solos from some of our wonderful singers (children, youth, or adult). Every age of our choral singers will have the opportunity to rehearse remotely & then the director will download all of it together and make a choral anthem to be shared in worship. They will be pre-recorded, but it will be a recording of our singers!

We'll even have congregational singing (humming)? Yes, humming. When voicing our songs there will be a leader - likely me or Donna Goeckler - singing the hymn or song on a microphone **behind a shield of plexiglass** and the congregation will hum the tune or parts while looking at the text and music. The wonderful thing is that when you hum you don't ever need to open your mouth. Your lips are lightly pressed together and when you need a breath you will breathe through your nose. It can be beautiful & meaningful and God will be blessed.

On June 17, I had the opportunity to email a question to an expert who works with ACDA (American Choral Director's Association). I asked him about the **safety in congregational singing using the plexiglass and humming safeguards.** I was thrilled with his response. He said, **"I would say the scenario below is quite cautious and as safe as anything could be."** – D. Brent Ballweg, D.M.A., Associate Director and Conference Liaison, American Choral Directors Association; **That's a good word!**

The Music Team and Music leadership still have quite a bit of "figuring out" to do as our circumstances evolve. **Please keep us in your prayers.**

God's grace and peace to you,
—Rebecca

If you would like more information on the science and medical implications of singing you can go to: www.middleclassartist.com/post/nats-panel-of-experts-lays-out-sobering-future-for-singers-no-vaccine-no-safe-public-singing





15th Annual Reggie Reynolds Golf Tournament & Fundraiser Announcement

Announcing the 15th Annual Reggie Reynolds Golf Tournament and Fundraiser. The Scramble will take place on Sunday, August 23, beginning at 1:30pm at the Falcon Valley Golf Course. The entry fee for the scramble will be \$42, with a separate donation to the Reggie Reynolds Scholarship Fund (recommended \$25).

If you are interested, contact Bill Turner at 99wdturner@gmail.com or 913-515-5994, and he will provide official entry forms. While the focus of the scholarship has changed, this is still a great opportunity to support the youth of our church and to honor the memory of Reggie! If you would like to make a donation, you can use this link to donate directly to the fund: www.gcpc.org/reynolds.

Announcing our Guest Pastor on July 12

On Sunday, July 12, we are blessed to have **Dr. Tyler Mayfield** as our guest preacher.

Dr. Mayfield, the Arnold Black Rhodes Professor of Old Testament and Director of the Grawemeyer Award in Religion at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, teaches courses in biblical theology, ethical readings of Scripture, and prophetic literature. He leads a triennial travel seminar to Israel and Palestine to explore the ancient biblical sites as well as contemporary Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. His third book, "Unto Us a Child is Born: Isaiah, Advent and our Jewish Neighbors" (2020), helps Christians read the prophetic book of Isaiah liturgically through the lens of the season of Advent and ethically through the lens of love for Jewish neighbor.

The sermon is entitled, "Harry and the Heel." The birth of the next generation – twins! – in Genesis brings with it lingering questions about who exactly is God's chosen. Can the brothers dwell together in unity? Biblical text is from Genesis 25:19-34.



Thank You!

Dear GCPC family,

Thank you for the many expressions of comfort you have extended to me as my family mourns the loss of my brother, David Ludwig. It's such a comfort to be part of this caring community.

—Gay Lee Ludwig-Bonney



**It's a
Water SMASH Sunday!**
July 19, 4-6pm

Get ready for water fun with Diane Schmit! Children entering Kindergarten – 5th grade are invited to put on their bathing suits and sunscreen to splash and play in the church garden. We recommend bringing bug spray, towels, and any other water gear you need. Individually packaged beverages and popsicles provided.

You will need to enter the garden area from outside. Walk around the church on the east side and you'll find Diane behind the church pre-school playground.

The rapid changes that have come with the pandemic have had a great impact on our ministries. We are working on ideas designed to keep everyone connected.

Our Mid Week announcements offer important information about what is going on at GCPC. Visit our website to sign-up to be on our mailing list.

Rev. Jay McKell's Near Death Experience with COVID-19

(Shared story from the June 3, 2020 of The Village Church Good News, published by Village Presbyterian Church. Reprinted with their permission)

Rev. Jay McKell shared a message with the Social Witness & Advocacy Task Force and gave his permission to share with all of you who have been praying for him during his fierce struggle with COVID-19.

All of our hearts are filled with gratitude that Jay came home from the rehab center on Tuesday, May 12, after a 39-day battle with COVID-19.



**Many have asked about my coronavirus struggle.
Here are some of the thoughts that came to me while in isolation. —By Jay McKell**

I am home and happy to be so! Good company, good food, good sleeping and a walk in the backyard are all good medicine. So too are the many ways you have contributed to my recovery. Your frequent contacts reminded me of the world outside my tiny room and the many friends who were and are continuing to encourage my recovery. All is going well.

Charles Dickens began his epic novel "Tale of Two Cities" with the words, "It was the best of times. It was the worst of times." From a distance, these two thoughts seem to contradict one another. But now I know they do not. My experience with COVID-19 has taught me that there are times when the best and the worst dance together like Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire.

It was terrifying when three different doctors looked in my eyes and said, "You almost died!" Of course, there is truth in saying those startling words for the time will come when death will greet each of us with open arms whether we are ready or not.

While I lay at death's door, I encountered that terror-filled truth but also came upon a valuable life-enriching truth as well. On occasion, terror and truth live together. Having survived COVID-19, I have now been given the opportunity to assess my remaining years. Doing so is a good thing to do on a daily basis, but perhaps particularly as our time on earth comes to a conclusion. I think Victor Hugo was on to both this terror and truth when he wrote, "It is nothing to die. It is frightful not to live."

Frightful as it was, my 39-day COVID-19 battle taught me many lessons: the first being live your life to the fullest every day, pay attention to the all too often overlooked crabapple tree blooming in the backyard, the child swinging in the neighborhood park, the helpful and the unhelpful store clerk, the beggar by the roadside.

Our social distancing actually offers us the opportunity for this spiritual connecting in countless creative ways. I have had an abundance of quiet, lonely days that have been difficult for this extrovert. But in isolation, I have heard God more clearly as innumerable thoughts and hopes, fears and wonders have floated up out of my illness-induced fog giving me valuable insights to ponder and pursue in the coming days. If that is to happen, however, I suggest we follow the First Rule of Saint Benedict which is "listen." To which I would add a second rule, that being "look."

For more than two weeks I was totally dependent on others to keep me alive. I couldn't eat or get out of bed or breathe without assistance. The medical community, countless young nurses, perhaps illegal Hispanic housekeepers, therapists with young children at home and doctors sorting through a maze of unknown and unproven theories risked their lives to keep me, a complete stranger, alive. God has worn many faces throughout my illness, theirs among them.

As I went in and out of awareness, these caregivers reminded me that there is something truthful about loving your neighbor and laying down your life that is crucial if we are to make it through life's challenges. Something about giving that, for the sake of survival, must take priority over all else.

Of course, it was Jesus who originated such an idea, not me. Actually, he went beyond having the idea to acting on the idea. In doing so, he became the most influential human to have ever lived.

During those weeks of hospitalization, I depended on an oxygen tank to breathe for me. Increasingly while in that dark, frightening, quiet place, I found the familiar words "breathe in God's mercies ... breathe out God's mercies to the world," rising Easter-like out of my tomb's darkness; calming, reassuring, and encouraging me to be trustful of what was ahead.

Those words plus Elizabeth's constant care, Matt and Lisa's daily FaceTime connections featuring Lila [Jay's granddaughter], the light of my life, and the many prayers, cards, texts, emails and other expressions of encouragement and support that I received from you kept me alive.

Undoubtedly God has worn many faces these last months, yours among them. Had I known what was coming, I would have bought stock in Hallmark cards. Doing so would have made me a rich man. Yet rich is exactly what I am. Like my oxygen tank, it was you who enabled me to breathe in God's mercies, for daily I was reminded of people's love which, if you haven't noticed, is the primary way we encounter God's love.

I got the best of medical care...almost a week of monitoring by our primary care physician, René Bollier, followed by two plus weeks in a highly rated hospital, with well trained and knowledgeable housekeepers, doctors, nurses and aides watching over me, followed by three weeks in a rehab- facility where I was regularly given a workout that clearly contributed to my recovery.

I was blessed because of Medicare and health insurance that was paid for by the congregations I served. But I was also among the elite. My skin is white (unlike the majority of COVID-19 patients), my mind is educated, my income and access to good health care exceeds that of the majority of Americans. How do the poor cover COVID-19 expenses? Most get little or no therapy. Many have medical bills that will likely bankrupt them. Yet we live in the richest country in the world, a country whose Pledge of Allegiance speaks of "liberty and justice for all."

We, who are people of faith, know that we are called to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. We know it is our responsibility to serve as Christ did, paying particular attention to those in need. My hope and prayer is that just as my illness opened my heart and mind, teaching me invaluable lessons, so may this pandemic motivate us to be the best we can be. The opportunity is ours, as is the choice.

Blessings abound, —Jay

While Jay fought for his life with COVID-19, his wife, Elizabeth, tested negative for the novel coronavirus. She later had an antibody test and tested positive. Elizabeth shared, "After Jay was admitted to the hospital and positively diagnosed with COVID-19, I was reminded of one of my refrigerator magnets that says, 'Prayers are always answered. Sometimes the answer is no.' I was fearful that the answer to my prayers might be no. Our friend Glenda reminded me that quote was part of one from President Jimmy Carter: 'God always answers prayers. Sometimes it's 'Yes.' Sometimes the answer is 'No.' Sometimes it's 'you gotta be kidding.' I am so very aware that many, many families have also prayed for their loved ones with COVID-19...and the answer was no. My heart is breaking for those people."

Youth Ministry

Connect:

Our youth have begun to find ways to connect in person while remaining at safe distances, hand sanitizing regularly, and meeting on location rather than traveling as a group. Recently we gathered around a fire pit at church and enjoyed s'mores and conversation. The following week we met at Watt's Mill Park to splash around the creek and play with Miles' dog Stormageddon (Stormy). Later we gathered back outside at church for some 9-square-in-the-air. It is great to see real people face-to-face again even if we can't give hugs and shake hands!

Heartland Youth Encounter/Mission Week

Based on responses from our students, our Youth Team has decided that we will participate in a new youth conference/mission experience set up just for this summer at Heartland Camp. Led by Camp staff this will be a 6 day/5 night experience taking place July 26–31. It will include many of the Heartland activities like horse-back riding, hi-ropes, archery, swimming etc. It will also include some service projects both for the camp and for others. Some activities would be with the full group and others with just our group. Sleeping will be in a GCPC only cabin and we would be treated as a family group and not expected to wear masks when not in activities with other groups. Registration will be available soon.

Service Projects

We have four or five good leads for local service opportunities we can get involved with this summer. Once we lock down our Youth Conference specifics, we will start getting some things booked.

Youth Participation in Worship

Our youth are being encouragement to read scripture and/or a prayer for worship via video. In this time of continued online worship seeing and connecting with others in some way or another is vital. Melanie Townsend is organizing the scripture readers for each week on Signup Genius so we are asking students and adults to sign up there (*ask Miles for a link*). Thanks to our Confirmation students for showing us how this can be successful and impactful!





Book Suggestions

Conversations about race are the seeds of future change.

We have gathered a few books we recommend for your personal reading and to nurture your family conversations this summer.

Pre-school and Early Elementary -

- *Let's Talk about Race*
by Julius Lester
- *Colors Come from God...Just Like Me!*
by Carolyn A. Forche
- *Who is My Neighbor?*
by Amy Jill Levine and Sandy Eisenberg Sasso

Older Elementary -

- *We are All Born Free Mini Edition: The Universal Declaration of Rights in Pictures*
by Amnesty International
- *Something Happened in Our Town: A Child's Story about Racial Injustice*
by Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, Ann Hazzard

Youth -

- *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You*
by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi
- *Dear Martin*
by Nic Stone

Adults -

- *Good White Racism? Confronting Your Role in Racial Injustice*
by Kerry Connelly
- *Race in a Post-Obama America: The Church Responds*
by David Maxwell

Parents-

- *Raising White Kids: In a Racially Unjust America*
by Jennifer Harvey

Learn more about the Presbyterian Church (USA) and what our denomination is doing about racism.
<https://facing-racism.pcusa.org/>

Life of the Church

Note! Pastors Sue & Mitch are out of the office these days...

Revs Sue and Mitch Trigger will be out of the office **July 6th – 12th** and **August 10 – 16th**. In these Covid-19 days, we are unable to conduct emergency visits to the hospital or rehab centers. In case of an emergency, please contact Patrick Bell (785-312-1194) and he will connect you to our pastoral care volunteer. This may change by August so we will keep you posted on any updates in arrangements.

Bethlehem's Children, a novel by Rev. John Indermark

Some of you may remember Rev. John Indermark. In 2006, he led a workshop at GCPC and was guest preacher on a Sunday during the ministry of Rev. Kimby Young. His late aunt, Mary Catherine Cohen, was a member at the time.

Rev. Indermark has now published his first novel, *Bethlehem's Children*, a story of the other children of Bethlehem and how their stories intersect with Jesus. Rev. Indermark is now retired and lives in Tucson, AZ. He has also written a number of spiritual formation books published by Upper Room Books and Abingdon Press. His new novel is available on Amazon.

Wednesday Night Virtual Potlucks taking a hiatus

The Virtual Potlucks are going to take a break for the summer. Get outside and enjoy some time with family!

Guided Meditation Meetings Continue

Kevin Johnson is inviting you to a GCPC 10-Minute Guided Meditation Zoom meeting on Sunday and Wednesday evenings at 9pm.

Agenda:

5 minutes getting connected and seated
10 minute gentle guided meditation
10 minutes optional: meditation questions/answers and practice tips

Join Zoom Meeting using this ID#:
Meeting ID: 488 914 405
Password: 003306

Let Kevin know if you have any questions or issues connecting: krpj01@gmail.com.

grace + family

Front Porch Portraits

We have been brainstorming about creative ways we can connect while we are doing church at home, and have come up with an idea that incorporates "Front Porch Portraits" of our members!

Could you snap a photo or selfie of your family OUTSIDE on your porch, front steps, or patio for this project?

Take a classic photo or have fun and be creative. Dress in your best quarantine PJs or crazy quarantine attire; highlight your crazy hair, your stash of TP, or whatever you else you can think of to bring humor and levity to your isolation. Perhaps, even, have a sign displaying an inspiration message or Bible verse to incorporate in the photo.

The caveat...we'd like to ask that all participants agree to let us use your image for a special GCPC faith community project. It is important to include as many members as possible.

No matter whether you have family surrounding you, or you are quarantined alone, we would love to include everyone in this project. If you are unable to take a photo yourself, please contact Sue & Mitch who will come take a photo, at a distance, for you! Contact Rev. Sue (973-970-5752 or sue.trigger@gcpc.org) or Rev. Mitch (973-970-5751 or mitch.trigger@gcpc.org).

UPLOAD your photo to our website by Thursday, July 23 at midnight: gcpc.org/porch

We will be spotlighting photos in a number of ways on Sunday, August 2 in online worship and through a special Facebook Live event that will be announced soon.

Re-opening Update

After months of extra Session meetings, a survey of the congregation, and lots of research, the Session of Grace Covenant made the decision to again hold in-person worship services beginning Sunday, September 6, Labor Day weekend. For the time being, we will continue to have one service at 10am.

Like anything else going on during the COVID-19 pandemic, this decision could be affected by negative health trends in our community. Until then, we are taking steps to make sure our facility is ready. We're doing a deep cleaning and already have an ample supply of new hand sanitizing stations and face masks. We will practice social distancing and respect each other's personal space.

Some aspects of in-person worship will change. We will put together a complete list of these before opening, but all of the changes are, again, for the health and well-being of our members. These will primarily be in areas of personal contact (*like passing offering plates*) or possible transmission of the virus (*like congregational singing*).

One thing that **will not change** is the availability of our online worship. While we have long wanted to stream our services online, the pandemic forced us to get going and we have been thankful for this new aspect of our worshipping community. We know there will be many of our current members who will err on the side of safety and continue to worship with us online, but there are quite a few other folks with other reasons to worship with us online – physical limitations, travel, needing to care for a family member at home, and many other situations. We look forward to making our online presence a place where anyone of us can stay connected with Grace Covenant, no matter what other hurdles get in the way.

Worship is, however, not the only thing that will change. Our Children's and Adult teams are considering the best way to continue our strong tradition of faith formation for all ages. We're working on more ways to safely engage in mission and fellowship. If anyone has any concerns or questions about our plans (or just wants to chat), please contact Rev. Sue (973-970-5752 or sue.trigger@gcpc.org) or Rev. Mitch (973-970-5751 or mitch.trigger@gcpc.org). Thanks to everyone for your patience, your support, and your kindness during these challenging times. Your Session and your co-pastors are extremely grateful to you all. —Peace!



SafeHome Donations
Collected June 27



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CELEBRATING GOD'S ALL ENCOMPASSING LOVE!

CHURCH STAFF

Co Pastors

- Office hours: Monday-Thursday
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Sue Trigger, sue.trigger@gcpc.org.....ext.15

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Church Administrator

- Office hours: Monday-Friday
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Director of Youth Ministries

- Office hours: Monday-Thursday
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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

Jim Byrd	David Minaschek
Ric Cummings	Terri Monrad
Andrew Frye	Diane Schmit
Tim Hayden	Sophie Shaw
Cheryl Johnson	Jenna Soule
Terry Kolich	Susan Sutherland
Lynn Long	Marcia Turner
Mike Mattix	

SUPPORT STAFF

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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..... Kaki Conti

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

10am Online Worship
until otherwise announced.
Visit gcpc.org/online for links

Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines

August Issue - Deadline, July 16
September Issue - Deadline, August 21