



**GRACE COVENANT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## GRACE NOTES

DECEMBER 2019 | Vol 37, N12

*"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." – Hebrews 13:2*

### Visitors delight us.

Our goal is simple: make all people feel welcomed, not overwhelmed. We were all visitors once and remember how it feels to try a new place of worship. Attend as often as you want. Visitors are welcome at all GCPC events, classes and small groups as well as in worship. We will always be glad to see you!

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

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, love and a sound mind.*  
- 2 Timothy 1 v 7

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## "Christmas time is here..."

Well, not really. Christmas Day is December 25, but there is also a time period in the church liturgical year known as Christmastide. It begins at sunset on Christmas Eve and runs through the evening of January 5, Epiphany Eve (also known as Twelfth Night). And so, Christmastide is the 12 days of Christmas. Epiphany is January 6 and is not part of Christmastide, but it is celebrated as the revelation of Jesus to the non-Jewish world (as represented by the Magi).

We'll bet this is news to many of us. For most of the next month, we'll be observing Advent (Dec. 1 through daylight on Dec. 24). Advent comes from Latin and means "coming." It's a time when we remember that the world was waiting for the birth of Jesus, and it's a time when we prepare our hearts for the time when Jesus comes again into the world.

One of the challenges today is that Christmas has become more than just a religious observance. Many of us feel that the "Christ" has gone out of "Christmas," and children associate the holiday more with Santa Claus than Jesus. There are different ways of responding to this. One, do our best to keep the secular aspects of Christmas at arm's length. Another is to take the time to educate, explain, and understand where the message of Jesus is found in the celebration of Christmas in today's culture.

We'll be doing some of that last approach during our Advent exploration of the classic Advent themes of peace, hope, joy and love. *"Because of our God's deep compassion, the dawn from heaven will break upon us, to give light to those who are sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide us on the path of peace."* (Luke 1:78-79)

A blessed Advent to you all! - Mitch & Sue Trigger

## A Classic Christmas An Advent Sermon Series

Every year television networks celebrate the Christmas season with classic children's programs that have been loved by children and adults for generations. These famous stories have wonderful lessons that can point to the true meaning of the season. Each Sunday, Revs. Sue and Mitch will draw from the wisdom of Charlie Brown, the little drummer boy, Rudolph, and the Grinch. Join us for worship each Sunday as we consider the unexpected ways God has worked in the world, especially in the coming of the Messiah.



# Grace Studies

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

### ► Advent Fair, December 1, 10am

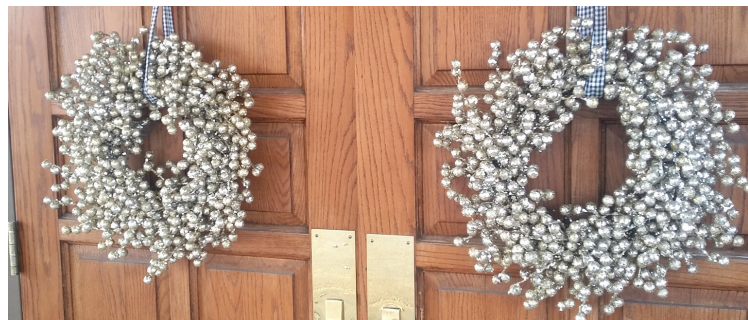
The Season of Advent begins December 1. Come to the Advent Fair during the Sunday School hour that morning and enjoy creative ways of learning about the meaning of the symbols of Advent.

### ► “The Living Nativity” Advent Bible Study

On December 8, 15, 22, and January 5, join our Advent Bible study, “The Living Nativity” by Larry J. Peacock. The study will capture and bring to life Saint Francis of Assisi’s understanding of the incarnation. The book will invite participants to ponder the Christmas story and find creative, imaginative ways to celebrate with hope and joy. Leaders Cindy Schendel, Jennifer Battaglioli, and Harold Frye. The class will meet in Room 3.

### ► No Sunday School on December 29 One Service Sunday

December 29 will be a one service Sunday with no activities to follow.



## Upcoming Young Adults and Families (YAFs) Events:

### Holiday Progressive Dinner December 7th at 4pm

We’ll start with appetizers at Chris and Erin Frye’s (10243 Nieman Pl., Overland Park, KS 66214), then move on to dinner at Hilary and Jake Schmidt’s (14455 S. Summit St., Olathe, KS 66062), and end with dessert and hot chocolate at the church in the Youth Room 18.



## Anticipate and Celebrate the light of the world...God with us!

Worship with us this Advent and Christmas season as we surround ourselves with music (the antidote to anxiety), remember those who are no longer here, meet characters from the ancient Christmas story and discover their messages for us today. Sunday worship times: 8:50am and 11:05am (childcare available)

## Songs of the Season

Sunday, December 15, 8:50am and 11:05am

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church singers and instrumentalists share their love of music and celebrate the songs of Christmas during regular worship services. Praise Team presents music at the 8:50am service and Chancel Choir at the 11:05am service.

## The Longest Night (*Blue Christmas*)

Sunday, December 22, 7pm

This service is designed for those who find the holidays a not so joyous time, either missing loved ones or in other life circumstances that are difficult.

## Christmas Eve Services

Tuesday, December 24

5:00pm - Family Service; Live Nativity; Exaltation! Youth Choir  
7:30pm - Sermon; Chancel Choir; Candlelight  
10:45pm - Communion; Scripture; Soloists; Candlelight

## Sunday, December 29

One worship service, 10am

## Epiphany – Star Sunday.

Sunday, January 5, 2019, 8:50am and 11:05am

What will your star word mean for you this year?

# Music Notes

## Music in Worship

### *The Season of Advent*

In addition to Praise Team & Chancel Choir:

**Sunday, December 1st – First Sunday of Advent**

Miles McDonald, alto sax

Christopher Callender, electric guitar

**Sunday, December 8th – Second Sunday of Advent**

GCPC Wind Ensemble – Pam Smith Kelly, director



**Sunday, December 15th – Third Sunday of Advent**

### **Songs of the Season**

8:50am - Solos and ensembles

11:05am Chancel Choir - Linda Dover, accompanist  
string quintet, woodwinds, and percussion

Songs include settings of:

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" arr. Dan Forrest

"In Dulci Jubilo" arr. Matthew Culloton

"Wexford Carol" arr. Elaine Hagenberg

"Bell Carol" arr. Heather Sorenson and

*A Medley of Carols with Congregation:*

"Sing Joy" arr. Mark Hayes

**Sunday, December 22nd – Fourth Sunday of Advent**

8:50 Special Vocal Solos

11:05 Cal Sweeten, dulcimer

**Tuesday, December 24th – Christmas Eve**

5:00pm Exaltation! and

Lindsay and Christopher Callender, duet

7:30pm Chancel Choir and

Donna Goeckler, solo

10:45pm Cal Sweeten, dulcimer – Prelude

Bob Dover and Sue Trigger, soloists

**Sunday, December 29 – Sunday after Christmas**

10:00am One Worship Service

The singing of many Christmas Carols  
and Linda Dover, organ



**Sunday, December 8th at 6pm**

It's time again for

### **A Christmas Exclamation!**

music program in the Sanctuary

*presented by*

Littlest Music Makers (4s & Pre-K)

Celebration! Singers & Ringers (K-5th grades)

Youth Band (6th-12th grades)

Exaltation! & Exaltation! Ringers (8th-12th grades)

Jubilation! Ringers (Adults)

Charter Ringers (Adults) and ...

*...You! joining in on singing carols and Christmas songs*

*Come one, come all!*

### *M&M Holiday Silent Auction*

Also, the M&M Holiday Silent Auction is being transformed  
into something new and different! We are flip-flopping  
and mixing it up this year. Here's the plan...

**December 2019 Senior High**

**Mission & Music Trip Fundraiser News!**

Instead of our M&M Candy Tube Fundraiser  
being in February it will be in **December**.

**Beginning Sunday, December 1st you can get your candy  
tube of M&M's at the 10am Advent Fair in Heartland Hall.**

Enjoy the candy and then bring the empty tube back  
to the **BIG GREEN M&M** by the end of December with  
your donation for the M&M Trip inside.

**Then on Sunday, December 8th instead of the  
Silent Auction we will have some items to bid on in  
Heartland Hall like the ever-popular "parking spot for a year"  
and "reserved pew for the 5pm Christmas Eve Service"  
plus more! (See the Youth Page for more information.)**

**Thank you for giving back during Advent by supporting  
the M&M Trip next summer. Trip dates are  
Fridays, June 12-19 and our location is Milwaukee.  
M&M-Led Worship will be on Sunday, June 28th.**

### **~ Looking Ahead to 2020 ~**

January 5th – Star Sunday

January 8th – Wednesday rehearsals resume

January 12th – Sunday rehearsals resume

February 9th – Music Appreciation Sunday

# Children's Ministries

## What's Happening in Sunday School!

December is the time to prepare for our celebration of the birth of Jesus! December 1st there will not be Sunday school classes, but we will be learning together at the Advent Fair. This year's theme is Why Advent? We will gather in Heartland Hall for a variety of activities that will teach us why we do what we do during the Advent season. The fair is at 10am in Heartland Hall. As we wait for the Messiah, the children will learn about Jesus' ancestors, faithful through the generations, and the announcement of his birth to a worried father, Joseph. An angel assures him that God is with us. The story of Jesus' birth will remind the children that wise ones still seek him and bring their gifts and worship him.



Our great team of teachers look forward to seeing you each week!

**December 1 - 10am** - Why Advent? Advent Fair in Heartland Hall

**December 1, 8, 15, 22 - 8:50 and 11:05am** - Awakening to Worship

**December 8, 15, 22 - 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](http://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.

# Job Jar!

## Are you interested in including our children more fully in worship?

We are looking for **Children's Worship Assistants** who will help children to light the Christ candle weekly, read in worship, and assist in other ways. If you would like to be a Children's Worship Assistant, please contact Rev. Sue at [sue.trigger@gcpc.org](mailto:sue.trigger@gcpc.org).

## 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](mailto:sue.trigger@gcpc.org).

## Mission & Music Trip Poster Palooza Coming Soon!

Join us for a Sneak Peak  
on December 8,  
10-11am and 5-6pm.

See the Youth and Music Pages  
for more details.



# Presbyterians Around the World

## Update on H.R. 6207 — Democratic Republic of the Congo Democracy and Accountability Act of 2018

Christi and Jeff Boyd, two of our Mission Co-workers, assigned to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), do act to facilitate the provision of humanitarian support to people in the DRC. This article focuses only on the facts related to the current status of H.R. 6207.

H. R.6207 urges the President to support efforts at the United Nations "with respect to the humanitarian and political crisis in the DRC, ( 2 ) provides statutory authority sanctions related to the Congo, and ( 3 ) requires the Department of the State to report on human rights abuses and corruption there."

The bill does contain references for the inclusion of faith-based organizations in the implementation of this bill. For example, Sec 2. ( b ) ( 1 ) reads "promoting partnerships with organizations that have had a long-term presence in the country and have achieved measurable impact including ... faith-based organizations ... to address local needs."

Latest Action: On November 28, 2018, the bill was received in the Senate ( three versions ), read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. The bill was introduced and passed by the House. The Bill has had 1 roll call vote.

## 2019 Financial Cutoff Date

All requests for payments and reimbursements for 2019 must be submitted to Tara Hyder, Finance Administrator, no later than Friday, December 27. Any submittals after that date will not be paid until January 2020 and will not be paid from teams' 2019 budgets. Thank you.

Please join us in making your pledge for  
the upcoming year 2020, giving from your  
heartfelt gratitude to God?  
Submit online to [www.gcpc.org/2020pledge](http://www.gcpc.org/2020pledge)



# Pew Dwellers' Health Notes

## Salt

An explanation of the expression "Salt of the Earth" introduces this article. The information that follows includes:

1. An explanation about the body's need for salt.
2. Daily requirements for salt for individuals who have no restrictions due to potential or existing changes in health status.
3. Excessive use of salt as a risk factor for the development of specific diseases.
4. Changes in behavior to help reduce the daily intake of salt.

The Bible contains many references to salt. One Biblical resource listed 40 references about salt which included a scripture that referred to eating and using salt. Job states in Job 6:6-7, "Can something tasteless be eaten without salt. Or is there any taste in the white of an egg? My soul refuses to touch them. They are like loathsome food to me." Some Biblical experts write that some of the scriptures about salt are metaphors or words used to represent or serve as symbols for something else.

In Matthew 5:13 (NLT), the scripture states, "You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless." Some of the Biblical experts state that "... the disciples were not literally the salt ... the salt is preservative ... the disciples have a life preserving influence on the people ..." Easton's Bible Dictionary noted the use of salt to season food and serve as a measure of hospitality, "to eat salt with one is to partake of his hospitality, to derive subsistence from him."

Part II of this article will begin with the topic on the body's need for salt.



## Medical/Mobility Equipment Available to Borrow

The church and Chelly King have the following items available if needed: three wheelchairs and a large shower chair (at church); a walker, 4-legged cane, shower seat, and over the toilet or bedside commode available from Chelly. Call Chelly, 913-634-4450, if you need to borrow any of these or to let her know you are using one of the church items.

# Clerk's Corner

Session met on Nov. 18, 2019 in room 5, with Reverend Sue Trigger serving as moderator. In addition to the elders, Deacon Meredith Watson, Reverend Mitch Trigger and several new members were present.

**Special business:** Session welcomed and, after hearing their faith histories, approved the following as new members: Pam Hearn, Rebecca Chase, Paul and Linda Bruns, Kinsey and Casey Kudrna, and Bob Wilhite.

**Consent agenda:** The minutes of the October stated Session meeting, as well as a few membership requests, were approved (membership is 482).

**Team minutes:** The Personnel Team submitted a motion identifying Dec. 26, 2019, as a holiday for the church staff, as well as the dates for 2020. The team also submitted a motion asking Session to approve position descriptions for the co-pastors. Both motions were approved by Session.

The Finance Team submitted a motion asking Session to approve the 2020 Asking Budget. Aaron Soule reported that the budget allows GCPC to meet expenses, including significant facilities improvements, without holding a capital campaign. It is hoped that members will consider that when they make their pledges. Session approved the Asking Budget.

The Connections and Care Team submitted a list of members who have not attended worship in at least a year. The list has been reviewed by the staff and the deacons, as well as the Connections and Care Team. The team submitted a motion that Session approve proceeding with sending letters to these members asking if they want to remain on the membership rolls. If no positive reply is received, they will be removed from the rolls. After reviewing the list, Session approved starting the process.

The Facilities Team asked about the procedure for starting the electric heater that melts ice off the sidewalk in front of the church. After discussion, it was decided that more information was needed.

**Clerk's report:** After approving the requests of five members to be removed, we have 482 members. *(This number will change significantly after the letter-writing process is completed.)*

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

**Deacons' report:** Meredith Watson reported the deacons have been hard at work trying to contact members on the list. She also reported that the deacons will not be organizing the KCK Hot Lunch service starting in 2020. Instead, members will be able to sign up for the month that meets their schedule.

**Old business: Nominating Team** – Harold Frye reported that the Nominating Team almost has all the deacon candidates. Session approved scheduling a congregational meeting on December 22 to elect the deacons.

**New business: 2020 Presbytery Dates** – February 22, April 21, June 13, September. 19 (at GCPC) and November 17.

**Operations Manual** – Session approved the updated Operations Manual, as well as two new policies. The first is an alcohol policy which states that GCPC doesn't permit alcohol consumption on the premises (except for the sacrament of Communion) unless approved by the Session on a case by case basis. The other new policy states that, when a team wants to invite a guest preacher, requests with information about the presenter shall be submitted to the Worship Team for approval. **Workshop Sunday** – Session approved holding a Workshop Sunday on April 26, Earth Day.

After sharing some joys and concerns of the congregation, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m. and Rev. Sue closed the meeting with a prayer.



## The Longest Night, *(Blue Christmas)* Sunday, December 22, 7pm

This service is designed for those who find the holidays a not so joyous time, either missing loved ones or in other life circumstances that are difficult. While some Christians are alight with joy during the Christmas season, for many others it is a painful time as they grieve the death of someone they love or the loss of a dream, experience financial concerns, or work through relational difficulties. This service is for those who feel the brokenness of the world at Christmas time. We all need to be reminded that Christ did not enter the world immune to its brokenness. Rather, he experienced it all and overcame death so that we too may join him eternally in a world where there will be no more tears. Led by Revs. Mitch and Sue Trigger.



## Psalm 24:1, and Numbers 35:3

DID YOU KNOW: [Weather.com](http://Weather.com)'s **Climate Disruption Index** ranks Kansas City fifth of all U.S. cities to be most negatively impacted by climate change.

GCPC has been in the forefront here in Kansas City, since 2010, when session signed the Earth Care Pledge to: *Care for God's Creation!* Help us make a difference here at Grace and in your own home!

*In 2010 GCPC session committed to the "Earth Care Pledge" that Peace and Justice is God's plan for all creation. There are 4 areas of focus (Worship, Education, Facilities, Outreach) that the audit focuses on — we will learn two this month and continue as we finish our audit next month on what we committed to and what we have done to live up to the commitment AND what our goals are to improve our commitment to care for God's creation in the coming year 2020!*

Congregations are required to file an audit each year to re-certify — because of this passionate GCPC congregation AND this hard working KAIROS team, Grace Covenant was accepted as a PCUSA Earth Care Congregation in January of 2011 and has recertified EVERY year since!

As we complete our audit this year, we will be contacting our GCPC Worship, Education, Facilities, and Outreach teams.

PCUSA "CALL TO RESTORE THE CREATION" resolution was simplified to a four-part pledge in 2010 – (Two of which are below)

1. Our **Worship** and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation and declare that God calls us to cherish, protect and restore this earth.
2. In **Education**, we will seek learning and teaching opportunities to know and understand the threats to God's creation and the damage already inflicted. We will encourage and support each other in finding ways of keeping and healing the creation in response to God's call to earth-keeping, justice and community.

## Fair Trade Sales\* for Christmas Gifting, Cooking and More!

December 1, Between Services in Heartland Hall  
Please choose your purchases wisely — not only for your health BUT for the health of producers and the Godly earth we live on. \*a movement whose goal is to help

producers in developing countries to get a fair price for their products so as to reduce poverty, provide for the ethical treatment of workers and farmers, and promote environmentally sustainable practices. \*<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/fair-trade>

We have been and are contacting GCPC teams! We ARE developing Sustainability Guidelines for the GCPC Kitchen/Hospitality and welcome you to help us identify our strengths and our weaknesses in addressing the care for creation. (Contact Jo Randolph, [jrandolph4407@gmail.com](mailto:jrandolph4407@gmail.com))

### Are YOU concerned about this earth around you?

Would you like to be part of a sub-committee working on GCPC wide environmental policies? Please contact us at [GCPCKAIROS@gmail.com](mailto:GCPCKAIROS@gmail.com), or drop a note in the folder outside the office, or contact the KAIROS moderator Rick Randolph at [GCPCKAIROS@gmail.com](mailto:GCPCKAIROS@gmail.com). We hope to define policies and submit for our 2020 renewal early next year!

Thank you for following our discussions about the commitments your Grace Covenant session have approved. We have addressed the commitments your sessions have made to the PCUSA Peacemaking Commitment and a PCUSA Hunger Action Congregation. Be sure to check out our January Column as we finish these visits AND report our audit for the 10th year of being an Earth Care Congregation!

## Upcoming Peace, Justice and Earth Care Events:

**December 6, 6–9pm: STAND UP KC; First Friday's Photography Exhibit, "Let America Be America Again,"** 1921 E. Truman Rd., KCMO 64127.

**December 8, 5:30–8:30pm: Poor People's Campaign Strategic Dialogue, *Is Healthcare a Human Right???*** First Central Church of the Brethren, 103 N. 13th St., KCKS. **RSVP no later than December 6 to [letiah.fraser@gmail.com](mailto:letiah.fraser@gmail.com).**

**December 16, 7–9pm: Sustainable Sanctuaries: *The World Crisis in Human Security: Climate Change*,** Village Presbyterian Church.

**February 10: WEALTH Day;** Environmental Advocacy and Education at the Capitol Water-Energy-Air-Land-Transportation-Health, Topeka, KS.  
<http://www.climateandenergy.org/page.59.wealth-day>

**April 24–27: Ecumenical Advocacy Days: Image! God's Earth and People Restored** Washington, DC. <https://advocacydays.org/>

If peace, social justice, earth care or any combination appeals to you as a member of Grace Covenant, please join us and walk with the Kairos Team. We welcome anyone/any age to contact KAIROS moderator: Rick Randolph, [rlandolphiii@gmail.com](mailto:rlandolphiii@gmail.com), or Rev. Mitch Trigger, [mitch.trigger@gcpc.org](mailto:mitch.trigger@gcpc.org). Our next meeting is December 8 after the second service in Room 21. Bring a sandwich and join us.

# Youth Page

## Homeless Night Event

The youth met at the church on November 23 for our annual Homeless Night. We learned more about homelessness from our visit to My Father's House in Paola where we were able to help serve the homeless community. Our students taped up cardboard boxes and huddled under their blankets to stay warm that night. They were also able to experience what it was like to shop for their own dinner on \$3. It was a wonderful night full of lessons about the life situations of some who can't afford housing.



## TOPCON

This last week I (Miles) was able to attend a new conference developed by the PCUSA called the Theology of Play Conference or TOPCON. The subject matter concerned how play of various types can be valuable for spiritual growth and community building at all levels of age and maturity. In a society where traditional religious understanding and practice is shifting, the need to explore creative and perhaps more effective means to refresh our connectedness to God and each other as a family in Christ is becoming increasingly important. The conference was designed to explore impact of fun and creativity inspired by board games but expanded to other types of gaming and play as well. The result of intentional play could help bridge age gaps and other barriers while bringing us closer to the desires of the creative and even playful God who loves us.

## Thank you Brad Schmit

As a way to acknowledge Brad Schmit's many years of accompanying and caring for our students as a youth advisor, trip chaperone, confirmation mentor, and more, the group showed up at his house on a Sunday evening last month. They came armed with images of Brad's face on a stick to add silly twist to the surprise. Through the sharing of food, devotion time, and stories the group wanted to make the message clear that "we love you Brad!"



## Red Bag Sponsor

GCPC youth are sponsoring two children for the annual Red Bag project this year. On December 1, our youth will go shopping to select gifts for the children! We are excited to help make Christmas a little brighter for these two this year!

## Progressive Dinner

This year the Progressive Dinner and white elephant gift exchange will be held on December 22 for high school and middle school youth combined. Any college students who are in town are welcome to join us for this annual fete for food, fun, and fellowship!



## Mission & Music Trip Poster Palooza

This year we will not have a silent auction as we have in years past but are instead creating a brand new event called the Poster Palooza! We are planning the Palooza to start in February, but you can get a sneak peek on December 8 during the Sunday School hour and from 5-6pm on December 8 just before a Christmas Exclamation! We will have a couple items available for bid on the 8th and some examples of how you can get involved in the palooza in the spring.

## M&M Tube Fundraiser

Our M&M tube fundraiser will begin December 1 this year as part of the reverse advent calendar! You will receive your M&M tubes as a part of our Advent observance. Thanks in advance for your support of our high school youth who will be heading to Milwaukee in the summer of 2020 for our M&M trip.

## WHY ADVENT?

Intergenerational Advent Fair  
Sunday, December 1  
10am in Heartland Hall



### An Intergenerational Advent Fair Sunday, December 1, 10am in Heartland Hall

Have you ever wondered why we do what we do during the season of Advent? Maybe you've wondered why we have an Advent wreath? What do the candles mean? Why do we sing those songs and hang those ornaments?

The Season of Advent is rich with meaning and we're going to ask "Why?" Sunday, December 1st. Each worship service will include special moments that will explain a bit about some of our favorite traditions.

During the Sunday school hour (10am in Heartland Hall), we will have an Intergenerational Advent Fair. Come learn more about Chrismons and Advent calendars, Advent wreaths, the nativity and more. Each activity site will have information and activities for everyone to enjoy.

A light breakfast will be available during the fair. Bring your family, bring your friends, and find out why Advent?.

## Thank You Church Family

Thank you cannot begin to express my gratitude for the cards and hospital visits from my old and new friends at Grace. I am so grateful for the prayers, and offers to help with transportation from all of you; I know you have lives but you put them aside for me in time of great need. Thanks to your prayers the meds are working their magic and the "numbers" (as the doctor refers to them) are very good. I personally am looking for great but I will take good for now. I am very fortunate to call you my friends. Thank you is so inadequate but know I will not forget your kindness. —Jane Weaver

Thank you church family for your kindness, support and encouragement when I made my way through some health issues in November. The visits, meals, cards and messages on Facebook were so meaningful to Donna and I. We are so blessed to be a part of this community of friends at GCPC.

- Kim Krueger

## Mission Team

### December Communion and Donation Partner

The December communion offering will support the **Argentine Baby Closet**, located in Argentine Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, KS. The Argentine Baby Closet will also be our donation partner for December. We are collecting the following items for the Baby Closet: Similac brand powdered baby formula, diapers sizes 4 and 5, baby wipes, rice cereal and baby foods, and coats sized 3, 6, and 12 months. Please place your donation items in the box in the Weekday Entrance.

### The Mission Team will be selling Alternative Gift Cards in Heartland Hall between services on the following dates: December 1, 8, 15, 22

Purchasing gift cards is a great way to minimize the stress of Christmas shopping while supporting organizations in need.

The following organizations will be included in the list of gift cards for sale:

- Happy Bottoms Diaper Bank
- Children's Nutrition Program — Haiti
- Montrices (nurses) — Haiti
- Rosehill
- Maya Quiche
- Water for South Sudan
- Heart to Heart International
- Mission Co-workers
- GCPC Kitchen Wishes
- Heifer International — baby chicks

### PCUSA Christmas Joy Special Offering will be collected in December

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering you are providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges who are equipping communities of color.



# *a* CHRISTMAS EXCLAMATION

**An evening for  
Christmas carols & songs**  
**Sunday, December 8, 6pm**

If you enjoy children singing, bells ringing  
and carols swinging, you are in for a treat at  
our Christmas Exclamation! concert  
Sunday, December 8, at 6pm.

Hear 4-year-olds through 12th graders singing!  
Enjoy kindergarteners through adults ringing!

## **We're shaking it up a bit!**

We will also be having a **fundraiser to help fund the High School Mission & Music trip next June to Milwaukee, Wisconsin**. We are flip-flopping and mixing up our fundraisers a bit this year.

From 5–5:55pm on Sunday, December 8th (right before “A Christmas Exclamation!” begins at 6pm) come into Heartland Hall to bid on the following:

- ✦ A reserved parking spot at GCPC for all of 2020.
- ✦ A reserved pew at GCPC for the 5pm Christmas Eve service.
- ✦ Guess the number closest to those in the M&M jar and you'll win it!
- ✦ And more ...

We are moving our **M&M Candy tube Fundraiser to December this year**. You can pick up your candy tube beginning **Sunday, December 1st at our 10–11am Advent Fair** in Heartland Hall at the Mission Team's table. During the weekdays of Advent place some sort of coins (children), bills or checks (adults) into your empty candy tube. Return the \$-filled tubes to the **BIG GREEN M&M by Sunday, December 29th** in the concourse. The giving back of your M&M \$-filled tubes will be part of our “Reverse Advent Mission Giving” this season. *Thank you!*

**SING  
RING**  
mission  
& music  
*Give  
gather  
create*

*Christ  
Born!*



**Bring  
your friends,  
family and  
neighbors.**

**Pull out those  
Christmas  
sweaters  
and ties or  
you might  
even pull  
out your  
Santa hat!**



**GRACE COVENANT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11100 College Boulevard  
Overland Park, KS 66210  
913.345.1256 | [gpcpc.org](http://gpcpc.org)



**GRACE COVENANT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Join us as Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church musicians share their love of music and celebrate the songs of Christmas on Sunday, December 15 during our regular worship services.

Presented in 8:50am worship by Praise Team with solos and ensembles and presented in 11:05am worship by Chancel Choir with Linda Dover, accompanist, string quintet, woodwinds and percussion.

***All are welcome!***

# Songs of the Season

**Sunday**  
**December 15**  
**8:50am and 11:05am**

11100 College Blvd.  
Overland Park, KS 66210  
913-345-1256  
[gcpc.org](http://gcpc.org)

**Inclusive. Family Oriented. Welcoming.**

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

**gcpc.org**



**Follow us on Social Media!**

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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..... 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

**January Issue** - Deadline, December 10  
**February Issue** - Deadline, January 21