



REAL FAITH | REAL STORIES | REAL GRACE

GRACE NOTES

We Are All in This Together: *A Year Exploring God's Creation*

Grace Covenant is an Earth Care
Congregation of the PCUSA and
have promised to live by the Earth
Care Pledge.

On Sunday, June 5, we will launch
a year of exploring God's creation
that will help us carry out our pledge
together.

Join us for worship as we introduce
you to this year long program on
how we can be stewards of God's
creation in the time we are living in. You will have the opportunity to measure your
carbon footprint, select the book we will read for a summer book group, and sign
onto the PCUSA Climate Change Pledge.

Come find out more! Want to join the planning team?
Contact Rev. Sue at sue.trigger@gcpc.org.

Earth Care Pledge

Our **worship** and discipleship
will celebrate God's grace and
glory in creation.

Our **education** will encourage and
support each other in keeping and
healing the creation.

Our **facilities** will be managed,
maintained and upgraded to respect
and cherish all creation.

Our **outreach** will encourage
community involvement and public
policy to protect and restore the earth.



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.

May SMASH Service, Music, Art, Sports, Hangtime

Happy Birthday, Church!!

Sunday, May 15, 4-6pm in Heartland Hall; SMASH is for K-5th/6th grade kids.

The May SMASH be a party for the church! We will learn about Pentecost and prepare
a special presentation for Pentecost Sunday worship on June 5. We will make a
creative gift for our friends at Aberdeen Village. There will be awesome games and
fun activities that will help us celebrate the birthday of the church.

Please RSVP to Rev. Sue at: sue.trigger@gcpc.org. Please let her know how many
children will attend.

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office@gcpc.org
gcpc.org

In-Person Worship and Online
Worship every Sunday on
Facebook Live and Zoom.
Visit gcpc.org/online for links!



Rev. Sue shares about the UN Conference on the Status of Women and Girls

It was truly a privilege to serve as delegate to the UN Commission on the Status of Women. While the event was virtual, the impact was global. The priority theme for this year was "Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes."

"CSW66 gives us a unique opportunity to come up with strong, action-oriented policy recommendations on this urgent theme, especially in light of the recent UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, which the secretary-general called an atlas of human suffering."

The depth and breadth of the issues related to the CSW theme were staggering but there were several points that stood out to me. The first was how interconnected the issues are. It's obvious that changes in the climate have a direct impact on agriculture, weather, environmental degradation and increased severity of natural disasters; but climate change also directly impacts immigration issues and violence against women and girls. Women are drastically underrepresented in government, finance, and development around the globe. Without their voices, women and girls will continue to be disproportionately impacted these issues. Second, the urgency of climate change advocacy was a flashing neon sign throughout the conference. One gentleman from Zimbabwe said, "While you in the northern hemisphere are preparing for the effects of climate change, we in the southern hemisphere are living them." Third, simple actions like planting trees and recycling are not enough to turn the direction of climate change. It is going to take a global commitment, especially on the part of the nations that produce the most carbon emissions. That means China and the USA will need to make a greater commitment to develop technology, and fuel sources other than fossil fuels. There has been some effort by both nations, but it is too little to slow the acceleration of environmental degradation. Governments need to hear the voices of all people who are willing to speak on behalf of God's creation. Learning practices and advocacy are important steps toward change.

We will have the opportunity to learn and act together through our climate action program, "We Are All in This Together: A Year Exploring God's Creation." I encourage you to join the work of the PCUSA to heal our world.



B-I-N-G-O!

Back by popular demand is BINGO NIGHT, May 6th from 6-8pm in Heartland Hall!

Bring your friends and family, young and old for a night of fun, prizes and fellowship. Cards and dobbers will be provided. We ask everyone to bring a heavy appetizer to share. It sure to be a fun night.



Movie Night!

Mark your calendars for MOVIE NIGHT, June 10th on the west lawn of GCPC.

We will be showing the movie *Encanto* beginning at sunset (around 8:45pm). Bring your lawn chairs, blankets and settle in for a night of movie watching with family and friends. Popcorn, freeze pops, and drinks will be provided. We look forward to seeing everyone for this special night.

MUSIC NOTES



**“Make ‘em Laugh,
Help ‘em Smile,
Give ‘em Joy!”**

Bell Fest XXXII

Sunday, May 1, 6pm

We'll have lots of **joke telling**, **fun songs to sing**,
funny video clips, and **plenty of ringing** by
Charter, Jubilation!, and Celebration! Ringers!

We'll also be **collecting toothbrushes and toothpaste to
donate to Crosslines** so others can have a beautiful smile!

MUSIC IN 9:30am WORSHIP

MAY 1ST – 3rd Sunday of Easter/Earth Care Sunday
Music leadership by Praise Team

MAY 8TH – 4TH Sunday of Easter/(Mother's Day)
Music leadership by Joy! (4s-K), Celebration! (1st-6th
graders) and an Adult Quartet, & Chancel & Exaltation!
Singers

MAY 15TH – 5th Sunday of Easter/Music Appreciation
Music leadership by Praise Team, Chancel & Exaltation!
Singers, Charter Ringers, & Donna Goeckler, soloist

- Praise Team, Chancel & Exaltation! Singers, and soloist
Donna Goeckler will combine to sing "Lead with Love"
by Melanie DeMore
- Charter Ringers will ring a jazzy rendition of
"This Little Light of Mine" arr. Anna Laura Page with
Chris Krug at the piano
- And much more ...

MAY 22ND – 6th Sunday of Easter
Music leadership by Praise Team & GCPC Orchestra

MAY 29TH – 7th Sunday of Easter/(Memorial Day)
Music leadership by Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

JUNE 5TH – Pentecost Sunday
Music leadership by Chancel & Exaltation! Singers



LATEST ON THE MISSION & MUSIC (M&M) TRIP
(See the Youth Page for more information.)

Destination: Mission, SD (Rosebud Reservation)

Dates: Fridays, June 17-24 & Home Worship on June 26

M&M Important Dates to Remember

Thursday, May 26:

5:30-6:20pm Exaltation! Ringers' Rehearsal – Room 1
6:30-7:30pm Youth, Parent, & Sponsor Meeting –
Sanctuary Get tour book & draw secret pal, make prayer
bracelets, etc.
7:30-8:30pm Exaltation! Singers' Rehearsal – Room 6/
Choir Room

Sunday, June 5:

3:40-4:20pm Ex! Ringers – Room 1
4:30-6pm **M&M** Concert Rehearsal – Singers & Script –
Room 6

Sunday, June 12:

3:40-4:20pm Ex! Ringers – Room 1
4:30-6pm **M&M** Concert Rehearsal – Singers & Script –
Sanctuary

Tuesday, June 14:

6-9:30pm **Final Prep Night for ALL going on the trip**
(youth & adult sponsors) – Heartland Hall, Concourse, &
Sanctuary
8:00pm **M&M** Concert Dress Rehearsal – Sanctuary
Family and friends are invited to come and see.

Friday, June 17:

7am Load the Vans
7:30am Head to South Dakota!

Sunday, June 26:

9:30am **M&M** Led Worship at GCPC!



Quest for God's Great Light!

Vacation Bible School, June 6-10

Ages 4 yrs – 5th Grade

Arise! Shine! Your light has come, the LORD'S glory has shone upon you! — Isaiah 60:1

Come for an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time on our quest for God's great light. Participants will become explorers and discover how God's light shines on us and how we can reflect that light as we live each day.

From a whimsical lighthouse on an enchanted island, explorers are guided by a lighthouse keeper and Beacon the puffin on an exciting quest to find five mysterious infinity lanterns to help light their way. Using map coordinates from the reference book (the Bible), children will discover clues to finding each lantern while learning how God's light shines in the lives of familiar biblical characters in Old and New Testament stories.

Volunteers Needed!

We will need plenty of helpers and supplies for VBS. If you would like to volunteer to be a leader or help with supplies, please contact Rev. Sue at sue.trigger@gcpc.org.

Join our VBS Facebook Group!

Connect with us in our private Facebook group created just for our 2022 VBS! It is called "GCPC's *Discovery on Adventure Island Vacation Bible School*." [Click link here](#). A light keeper will approve your request and get you in!

Register Today!

Registration is now open! Everyone is invited, bring a friend!

To register go to: www.gcpc.org/vbs22

VBS Training Meeting

A VBS Training Meeting will be held at 11:45 a.m. on May 15 in Heartland Hall. This meeting is for all volunteers to learn about the theme of the week, the expectations of leaders, safety practices, and more. Site leaders, travel guides and all volunteers are encouraged to attend. We will be serving pizza for lunch. If you have a dietary need, please contact Rev. Sue at sue.trigger@gcpc.org so she can be sure and have a meal option for you.

VBS Donations

Our VBS planning team is seeking donations to create an unforgettable experience on Adventure Island.

If you are able to help, please check our donation board outside the Sanctuary, or check our Amazon wish list. For the next month or so, we will update both lists periodically as our plans develop. Thank you!

[CLICK HERE to view our AMAZON WISH LIST!](#)



May Job Jar! Contact Sue!

A Summer of Grace: Summer Sunday School Teachers

We are looking for a few people who are willing to lead a Sunday school class in July.

We are asking people to lead an intergenerational conversation about something you have been doing during the pandemic that has helped someone else, or a class on a theme that interests you. "Pastoral Care through Communication" will be a class with Mary Sue Thomas in which we will create cards and letters and talk about ways everyone can stay connected to church members by mail.

On Father's Day we will have a Sunday school hour in which we will give thanks for our fathers.

We are open to fresh ideas! Can you help? Please contact Rev. Sue at sue.trigger@gcpc.org. We have openings July 17, 24, and 31.

Vacation Bible School helpers

We have a great slate of activity site leaders for VBS, but we could use helpers. If you could be a travel guide for a class or would like to assist in an activity site (crafts, science, recreation, music, snacks) please contact Rev. Sue at sue.trigger@gcpc.org.

Curriculum Writers

Our K-5/6th grade Workshop Rotation curriculum is created in house. We have resources that we adapt to our program. If you would like to help create lesson plans for the 2022-2023 Sunday school year, please contact Rev. Sue at sue.trigger@gcpc.org. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Children's Librarian

Do you love children's books? Would you be willing to maintain a rotation of children's books that would be kept in our library area in the concourse?

If so, you are the person we are looking for. We are looking for a children's librarian. We have a library full of delightful books that we would like to share with the congregation. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Sue at sue.trigger@gcpc.org or 913-345-1256.

Fellowship Time Refreshments

Volunteers are needed to provide refreshments on Sunday morning. Bagels, cookies, donuts, anything that can easily be picked up without touching its neighbor or individually wrapped treats are perfect.

We ask you to put your treat on trays, put out napkins, plates, cups, and pitchers of ice water on a serving cabinet or a table in Heartland Hall. Coffee will be provided by the Deacons. Please have your treat set out by 10:30am. You can sign-up for a specific Sunday at the link below: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a45a4a722a4fc1-fellowship>

Reminder: The annual team leader calendar planning meeting will be Tuesday, May 17 at 7pm in Room 3.

The Church's Facemask Policy

The Session voted at their April meeting to make mask wearing optional at Grace Covenant. This decision was made with careful consideration, and we are watching the community positivity rates and will revisit the issue as needed, should the rates continue to rise.

We want all our members and friends to have a safe worship experience that works for their preferences and individual needs.

If you do not feel comfortable gathering in a group setting at this time, please take advantage of our virtual worship opportunities via Zoom and Facebook.

Youth Page

Farewell Wisdom

Thanks to **Wisdom Manaka** for the terrific job he has done as GCPC's School Year Youth Ministry Intern this year! Wisdom has done a great job planning and leading Connect group events, communicating with our families and being a strong support for our students.

Please pray for Wisdom as he takes on the head lifeguard position at Heartland Camp this summer! He plans to stay in Kansas City for another year so we hope to see him occasionally in the coming months.

Welcome Lindsay!

We are very excited to welcome GCPC's own **Lindsay Callender** as our Summer Youth Ministry Intern for 2022. Lindsay is finishing up her undergraduate studies at the University of Alabama and has already begun graduate studies.

Mental Health — Sunday School Curriculum

This May we are beginning a curriculum on mental health called D.A.S.H. It stands for: Depression, Anxiety, Suicide, Hope. Mental Health challenges have been at an all-time high this year, and many of us have first-hand experiences to share. We want to address these topics from a loving and spiritual perspective. We will be meeting in the youth space downstairs at church from 10:45am to 11:45am.

Congratulations, Graduates!

Our high school and college grads made it through another extremely challenging year and are starting new adventures. We appreciate the role each have played in our church and the role they each will continue to play as the years unfold. We know God has great plans in store for you!

From Jeremiah 29:11, *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* Grace Covenant will always do our best to be a safe place and a church home for you.

GCPC High School Grads: Andrew Alka, Christopher Alka, Logan Callender, Clara Frye, Madeline Passett, and Kylie Sutherland.

GCPC College Grads: Celia Cox, Rachel Grice, and Lindsay Callender

M&M Trip

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our M&M Tube Fundraiser, we raised nearly \$1,400 for Mission and Music trip to the Rosebud Reservation. We will be staying once again in Mission, SD. Our group will travel June 17–24 and present our home worship service on June 26.

Youth Activities

Youth activities will change up a bit in May in preparation for the summer. We will not meet on Sunday evenings as a full group this month but will have some small group meetings, rehearsals, a youth party to say goodbye to Wisdom, and will do a lot of preparation for a great summer! Weekly Sunday activities will be in full swing most of the summer as well as occasional weekday evening events, and a variety of trips and special events. As usual GCPC will be a very active place for youth this summer!

Notable Dates:

- May 19** M&M Youth, Parent, & Sponsor Meeting
- June 6–10** VBS- We need volunteers of all ages
- June 17–24** M&M Trip to Rosebud Reservation; Mission, SD
- June 26** M&M Home Concert





First Quarter 2022 Financial Report

GCPC had a good year financially in 2021, ending up approximately \$178,786 excess receipts over expenses. Calendar year 2022 is starting off strong, first quarter receipts exceeded expenses by \$93,341. A deficit of \$18,765 was projected for this quarter. We beat the budget by \$112,106 for the first quarter!

1st Quarter 2022

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Revenue	\$272,056	\$176,801	\$95,255
Expenses	\$178,715	\$195,566	-\$16,851
Net surplus/(deficit)	\$93,341	-\$18,765	\$112,106

There are some concerns. The recent stock market decline has reduced our endowment from \$323,000 to \$305,000, a reduction of \$18,000. A similar fluctuation of approximately \$10,000 occurred in our reserve fund investments. In general, the markets have been good to GCPC and will probably rise again. We are conservatively invested. Investment income or loss is not included in the budget.

The month of March had a deficit of \$11,039. This is explained by the fact that three payroll periods ended in March and the church paid 3 months of Per Capita expense in March.

In summary, GCPC is doing well financially. The summer months are typically slower than the rest of the year, and the surplus may decrease during that time, but we are a generous congregation and will do well this year if we continue at this pace.

Easter Love

By Joanna Fuchs

On Easter we celebrate love,
 love coming down from heaven,
 love blanketing the earth
 in a transforming embrace;
 unique and infinite love,
 giving more than we can imagine
 for us, to cleanse our sin,
 a perfect sacrifice, Lamb of God,
 the walking, talking Word.
 He is teacher, role model, friend,
 this God in human form,
 dying, then rising from the dead,
 proving all who believe
 will also rise
 to have eternal life, with Him,
 Lord of all.
 Oh, Happy, Happy Easter!



Clerk's Corner

Session met for our regular stated meeting on April 18, 2022.

At this meeting, the Session entered into an Artist-in-Residence partnership with the EncoreKC! Foundation. EncoreKC! Is a 501c3 musical organization which includes many GCPC members. GCPC will provide office and rehearsal space for this group. We are excited to watch this partnership bear fruit.

We also approved a motion from Personnel team to increase the hourly rate we pay our nursery staff, who haven't had a raise in several years.

Bill Turner is kicking off an effort to rebuild the Reggie Reynolds Scholarship fund to help future GCPC youth.

We voted on some membership matters (*we started and ended the month with 361 members*) and heard from Deacon Terra Howard about the efforts of our Deacons.



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Inclusive. Family Oriented. Welcoming.

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

gcpc.org



Follow us on Social Media!

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.orgext.18

Sue Trigger, sue.trigger@gcpc.orgext.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

Technical Director of Worship

- 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. Carrie DeVries

Contemporary Music Drummer.....Daniel Cole

Child Care Coordinator.....Carolyn Chaffin

Wedding Coordinator.....Lara Schesser

Funeral CoordinatorMary Sue Thomas

ELDERS

Jim Byrd

Ric Cummings

Miles Dalton (youth)

Andrew Frye

Katie Hearn

Cheryl Johnson

Jane Knoche

Angela Krug

Mike Mattix

Terri Monrad

Diane Schmit

Kylie Sutherland (youth)

Susan Sutherland

Bill Turner

SUPPORT STAFF

Deacon ModeratorMeredith Watson

Operating Committee.....Susan Sutherland,

Mike Mattix, Terri Monrad, Ric Cummings

Newsletter Editor/Marketing.....Kim Krueger

Prayer ChainCheryl Johnson

Website AdministratorsKim Krueger,

Patrick Bell

MINISTRY UNITS

Congregational Nurture Unit Moderators

Connections and Care..... Diane Schmit

Worship and Music..... Kathy Bures,

Katie Hearn

Education Ministry Unit Moderators

AdultMaggie Blankers

ChildrenErin Frye, Angela Krug

Youth..... Bill Turner

Reach Out Ministry Unit Moderators

Kairos Rick Randolph

MissionMikki Walker

WelcomingKathy Williams

Supportive Ministry Unit Moderators

FacilityMarc Feyh

GenerosityDavid Sutherland

Finance.....Jim Byrd

PersonnelKevin Mason

Worship Schedule

9:30am Worship

In-Person, Facebook & Zoom

Visit gcpc.org/online for links

Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines

June 2022 issue - Deadline, May 17

July 2022 issue - Deadline, June 21