



GRACE NOTES

Sneak-a-Peek & Ministry Fair

Sunday, August 13, 10:30am

10:30am – Sneak-a-Peek

Everyone interested in Sunday School will want to begin with Sneak-a-Peek activities. Stop by all of our Sunday school rooms to see what we have in store for you this coming school year.

- Families with infants and children/youth through 12th grade can stop by the Noah's Ark mural for a map of all the stations to visit.
- Are you interested in Adult Sunday School programming? Head over to Room 3 to learn more.

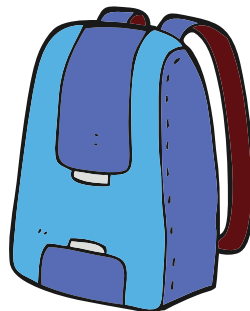
10:30am – Ministry Fair

Come to Heartland Hall to find out more about the life and work of GCPC. Each ministry team and committee will have a table where you can learn about their work, volunteer opportunities, ask questions, and more.

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 13, 9:30am during worship

The new school year is beginning, and we want to send our teachers and students back with a blessing. Join us for worship on Sunday, August 13, during which we will bless the backpacks of those who bring one. We will also present a backpack tag that will be a reminder of this blessing all year.



GCPC Makes It Rain for Communion Offering Recipients and Donation Partners

The weather outside might be dry but our giving still falls like rain from heaven! Thanks as always for GCPC's continued generosity to our monthly donation partners and Communion Offering recipients. The totals below for Communion Offering in spring and early summer are amazing! And the bin in the weekday entrance is always full. Good work GCPC!

March	\$620	IHN
April	\$1,346.51	One Great Hour of Sharing
May	\$210	Summer Youth Activities
June	\$280	Johnson County Christmas Bureau



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.

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In-Person Worship and Online
Worship every Sunday on
Facebook and Zoom.

Visit gcpc.org/online for links!

Pastoral Transition Process – What's next?

The Rev. Dale Jackson from Heartland Presbytery moderated our July Session meeting and talked the Session and some team moderators through our upcoming transition process.

Here's what we know right now:

- **In August a Transitional Liaison will be appointed to us by Heartland Presbytery's Commission on Ministry (COM).** That person will moderate our Session meetings until a more permanent moderator is in place.
- **A different representative from COM will be at the next Session meeting to conduct an exit interview.** This is standard practice when an Ordained Pastor leaves a church.
- **For now, our Worship Team is hard at work developing Worship Services and finding people to lead them.** Session, Deacons and the Teams will be working together (with Patrick, and Rebecca) to maintain ministries throughout the church.
- **We may be able to hire a Bridge Pastor for a few months.** This is a new thing in the Presbyterian Church. A Bridge Pastor would be a part time employee who would preach and moderate Session. This person would NOT provide pastoral care and would not staff teams. The main advantage of hiring a Bridge Pastor is taking a significant load off of our volunteer worship team. Session will discuss this in August and September.
- **Our next big step is calling an Interim Pastor.**
 - An Interim Pastor Nominating Committee (IPNC) is being formed by the Session as you read this. That team is formed by the Session and is not elected by the Congregation and will have about 7 members. If you have suggestions for members of that committee, please share those names with Bill Turner
 - The IPNC will use the PCUSA's online matching system and review candidates. They will likely interview candidates via Zoom and when they find one who is promising, that person will probably have an in-person interview with the Session.
 - The Interim Pastor will be hired by the Session (*NOT the Congregation*). This is a contract position, not a called position. Session will work with Personnel and Finance Teams on appropriate contract terms.
- **An Interim Pastor will walk us through a period of discernment.** This may or may not include a formal Mission Study like we've conducted before. This person will also be able to help us determine an appropriate staffing model for our congregation at this time. Interim Pastors operate on annual contracts with exit clauses included for both parties.
- **Once we've been through an appropriate period of discernment** (*the consensus is that this should be relatively short because we've focused so much on our Core Values and engaged in Visioning Days for the last few years*) the church Nominating Committee will assemble a Pastor Nominating Committee which will commence a search for a new Called and Installed Pastor/Head of Staff.
 - The PNC will need to be a group that represents the cross section of our Congregation. Members of the IPNC will be eligible to be members of the PNC (although we probably won't want the same group) as well as members of the discernment team.
- **Our 2024 Budget will need to include salary and moving expenses for an Interim pastor.** We will also need to plan to provide moving expenses for our next Called and Installed Pastor.

Some notes for those of us who have been through a Presbyterian Pastoral transition before.

- PCUSA's online matching system changed July 1, 2023, it is now the Church Leadership Connection (CLC). PIFs and MIFs have been replaced with Pastoral Discernment Profiles (PDPs) and Ministry Discernment Profiles (MDPs).
- Neutral pulpits are no longer required because we can watch prospective pastor's videos online.

MUSIC NOTES

Music in Worship

August 6th

Organ led worship. Anthem, "Foundations" arr. Joseph Martin, piano 4-hand accompaniment by Linda Dover and Chris Krug. The anthem will be sung by Summer Choir (6th graders – Adults), and Kat Mason, flute solo.

August 13th

Organ led worship. Terri Monrad, soprano soloist.

August 20th

Praise Team led worship, Carrie DeVries, director.

August 27th

Organ led worship. Anthem, "Here I Am, Lord" arr. Jack Schrader. The anthem will be sung by Summer Choir (6th graders – Adults).

Ministry Fair - August 13th

After 9:30am Worship in Heartland Hall

Please stop by the Music Team table to sign up to sing, ring, or play your instrument in one or more of our music ensembles. From 4-year-olds to senior adults – we have a place for you!

Welcome Jill Endaya!

The Music Team is excited to welcome our new Contemporary Music Drummer, Jill Endaya to GCPC!



Jill is a Percussion Instructor at Liberty North High School, Director and Percussionist with Kansas City Current Teal Thunder Drumline, Percussionist with Kansas City Chiefs Rumble Drumline, Percussionist and Member of Rezound! Handbell Ensemble, and her "day job" is teaching Chemistry at Liberty High School. You can see why we are excited to have Jill join our Music Ministry staff. "Welcome, Jill!"

Music Ensembles Resume in August & September

Mark the following tentative dates & times for our ensembles to resume & plan to join us!

Tuesday, August 8th – 7:00-8:15pm

Praise Team (Youth & Adults)

Vocals, Instruments, & Keys

Carrie DeVries, director

Sunday, August 20th – 10:45-11:05am

(at the beginning of Sunday school)

Joy! (4s-1st graders)

Emily Hussey & Hilary Schmidt, directors
and

Celebration! Choir & Chimes (2nd-5th graders)

Pam Kelly, director – Lara Schesser, assistant director

Angela Krug, accompanist

Wednesday, August 30th – 7:05-8:30pm

Chancel Choir & Exaltation! Singers (Youth & Adults)

Rebecca Prater, director

Linda Dover, accompanist

Sunday, September 17th – 12:00-12:35pm

Spirit! Ringers (5th-8th graders)

Rebecca Prater, director

Sunday, September 17th – 12:45-2:00pm

Jubilation! Ringers (9th graders-Adults)

Kathy Bures, director

Wednesday, September 13th – 6:00-7:00pm

Charter Ringers (College – Adults)

Chris Krug & Celia Nicholas, co-directors

Rehearsals Thursday, December 7th - 7:00-8:00pm

& Saturday, December 9th - 10:30-11:30am

Play in 9:30am worship on Sunday, December 10

GCPC Orchestra – (8th graders – Adults)

Pam Kelly, director



GCPC Loves Our Children



During our time of staff transition, the GCPC Children's team is committed to continuing our quality children's programs all throughout the school year.

Our team moderator is Angela Krug. Our team members are Amy Sellers, Christy Soule, Emily Hussey, Erin Frye and Kristy Shaw. If you are interested in participating in our planning, we'd love to have you. You can reach us at our shared email address any time at GCPCChildren@gmail.com.

There's Room for everyone in Sunday School!

Our Sunday School programming begins Sunday August 20th at 10:45am – 11:45am

Our nursery is open for infants and above during worship and Sunday School. Carolyn, Cathy and Meg are always excited to see our kiddos. Stop by and say hello! We are in Room 22

Grace Studies

Our youngest ones, 2 through 5 are introduced each week to some of our favorite stories of the Bible.

- 2's/3's will meet in Room 23 at 10:45am.
- 4's/5's will meet in Room 26 at 10:45am for music, then will be escorted to Room 25 at 11:05am for Sunday School.



Grace Makers

Our kindergarten through 5th grade students will begin a new season of creative learning through art, cooking, and drama. We will begin by looking at the diversity of God's creation and Biblical teachings that call us to love one another equally.

- **Kindergarten – 1st Grades:** Room 26 - 10:45 am gathers here for Joy! Singers and will be escorted to their workshop rotation after. Please know our workshop rotations move each week, so check the wall just outside the basement stairwell for each week's activities.
- **2nd—5th/6th Grades:** Room 15 - 10:45 am gathers here for Celebration! Singers and will be escorted to their workshop rotation after. Please know our workshop rotations move each week, so check the wall just outside the basement stairwell for each week's activities.



ATW - Awakening to Worship

Sunday August 20th – 9:30am

Our Awakening to Worship program invites children age 4 – 1st grade to join us for a special children's worship experience. Children should attend worship with their families and immediately following Children's Time, one of our ATW greeters will meet them in the back of the sanctuary to escort the children to our ATW room (Room 12). You may pick your children up after worship concludes from our ATW room. Contact our Children's Team at GCPCChildren@gmail.com with any questions.

How can you get involved with our Children's Programs?

Our largest need is **one or two Sunday school teachers for our Toddler/Preschool Sunday school class**. These teachers join a team of teachers who work together to ensure we have 2 teachers available each Sunday. This class is a small class of adorable children who will reward you each week you spend with them!



We Need You!

Along with **needing an additional shepherd for our Grace Makers workshop rotation**. This person shepherds the children to their workshop rotations each week. The shepherd is an assistant to the lead instructor and the shepherd does not need to do any lesson planning. We have multiple shepherds for our two age groups to allow you to take time off when needed but You'll build a good relationship with the children as you experience the various workshops together throughout your time together.

Our Grace Makers workshop rotation also needs help executing our fun and engaging workshops. We provide training if you haven't already received training and lesson plans! You can find our sign-up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a45a4a722a4fc1-workshop#/>

We also welcome substitute Sunday School teachers to be added to our call list when a need arises. Substitutes are used for all age levels.

Our ATW program could use a few more adult storytellers and Adult/youth greeters. Our ATW program helps the younger children experience their own worship and learn the various parts we experience as we worship God. Training is provided for this too. Join us and see what worship looks like through the eyes of our younger elementary kiddos.

Our **SMASH program** is organized by our Children's Team co-coordinators Amy Sellers and Christy Soule. This program meets once a month on a Sunday afternoon from 4pm – 6pm. We will **need a few extra helping hands for general crowd control** and to help enhance our children's participation in our fun activities.

If you are interested in helping, check out our sign up genius here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A45A4A722A4FC1-smash1>

If you would like to learn more about any of these opportunities , please email our Children's Team at GCPCCChildren@gmail.com and someone will be in touch with you soon. Thank you!

SMASH Sunday!

*Service, Music, Art,
Sports, Hangtime*

**August 20, 4–6pm
Heartland Hall**

**Our monthly event where
we welcome all children
Kindergarten through 5th/6th.**

Our August SMASH will mark the start of our new year of SMASH with an end of summer celebration! Please wear your swimsuit and bring a towel. We will meet in the courtyard for water play. Invite a friend! **RSVP to GCPCCChildren@gmail.com or look for our Facebook post.**

Children's August Events at a Glance

Sunday August 13

Sneak a peek/Ministry Fair/
Blessing of the backpacks

Sunday August 20

Sunday School resumes and
SMASH

Sunday August 27

Sunday School

We hope to see you there!

YOUTH PAGE

Message from Lindsay

Hello everyone! I am so excited to be back with the Youth this summer in this interim period! Last summer was full of memories and served as a great foundation for some amazing friendships, and I am excited to continue that into this summer/school year! Thank you and your youth for welcoming me back, as well as extending some grace as I fill the massive shoes of my predecessor. I have some amazing ideas for the future and have loved reconnecting with the youth so far. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, PLEASE do not hesitate to reach out!

Band (Nothing to do with Music)!!

Please join the BAND! Band is an app that creates a place for groups to post events and information in a central location. Since our contact information is currently being updated, BAND helps Lindsay provide updates and announcements promptly (instead of reaching out to everyone individually). You could miss out on future events and gatherings at fun locations such as BRKthrough, RoKC, so join the band!



SCAN QR CODE
FOR BAND APP

July Events

Lake Olathe: We had such an amazing time at Lake Olathe for our Kickoff event (halfway through summer!) We had a great turn out, and every seemed extremely excited to get the ball rolling this year. Bradley earned the title of "King of the Hill" as he successfully put everyone in the water while playing on the Aquapark. Connor and Morgan earned 1st and 2nd place on the paddle board race, while Maggie, Sophie and Jaylee successfully created a mega-paddle board. Thank you to the youth for making this a successful first event!



Food Service Event: The youth will soon head to a food service event to do some community service! We are pairing with Curt Rosche and company and are looking forward to making a difference on our community!

August Events

BRKThrough: To kick off the school year, the youth will be heading to BRKThrough for some healthy competition! BRKThrough is a huge building filled with about 30 individual rooms that contain physical, skill and mental challenges. From running up a wall, to figuring out geographic puzzles and escape rooms, we will break into teams to compete against each other to see who can win the high score! The date is currently TBD, as numbers are extremely important to solidify at BRKThrough, so keep your eyes peeled for more information!



The Gathering

The youth program is exploring the idea of combining with Village on Antioch's youth program for the upcoming school year. Our youth have made some amazing connections with Village's youth, so we are looking forward to building on cross church relationships! We have been working though some final details but look out for future events and details! We are super excited to launch this new program!



Clerk's Corner

The July Session meeting was moderated by Heartland Presbytery's Presbyter for Vision and Leadership, Dale Jackson.

We heard reports from most committees; much of their work is reported elsewhere in this newsletter and in the mid-week announcements. Big upcoming events include the Ministry Fair on August 13, a Stewardship Town Hall on September 10, and Workshop on October 8.

Dale Jackson spoke to us about how we proceed as a Congregation without an installed Pastor/Head of Staff. The Worship Team, moderated by Kathy Bures, will be doing some heavy lifting to keep Sunday morning worship rolling, the Deacons will be the first point of contact for Pastoral Care issues, and Children's and Youth Teams will be busy starting a new program year without staff. We acknowledged that Rebecca and Patrick will be taking on additional responsibilities and encourage the entire congregation to be thoughtful and supportive of them whenever possible.

Details for our transition process are elsewhere in this newsletter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or any member of Session. — Melanie Townsend

Weekend Crafters Fall workshop

Friday August 25 at 6pm in Heartland Hall

We welcome Katee Smith who owns her own small business out of Ottawa Kansas. Check her out on her Facebook page, "[Barefoot Builder LLC](#)". She will lead us through making 3 wood block pumpkins that you can personalize to your liking. Cost will be \$25 per person for workshop supplies. Light snacks provided.



Hope you will mark your calendar and bring a friend with you! Additional registration details coming soon, watch the mid week announcements or our Facebook page. Contact Christy Soule with any questions.

Massanetta Thanks!

Dear GCPC, Thank you for supporting the youth trip to the Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference! Below are messages from each youth that attended describing something about their experience.

- *I had so much fun meeting new people. —Morgan Krug*
- *The giant slip and slide was so fun! —Natalie Walker*
- *I had fun spending time with the advocate I had, and I got to show kindness to her. — Connor Schesser*

Getting to know GCPC Committees: Finance Team

The Finance Team of GCPC is made up of individuals with backgrounds in accounting and finance. The main job is to review and report the financial health of the church to Session. The Team is responsible for working with all other teams in the church to design an operating budget each year for approval by Session. The Finance Team does not control how funds are spent, nor do they approve any expenditures.

This year, the Finance Team has been working with the Generosity Team on budget planning and the stewardship campaign. Our congregation has not had the opportunity to go through the budget process and ask questions to gain a better understanding of what it takes for the church to operate. The congregation typically sees the budget that has already been approved by Session at our Annual Congregational meeting in January, and there's been no opportunity for input.

To that end, Generosity will be hosting a Town Hall meeting September 10th following worship to give the congregation a chance to understand why each team needs funds. GCPC members are urged to attend with an open mind and heart and learn what part each person plays in the ministry of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church.

5,000 Pairs Donated!

We were honored to receive the certificate pictured below from Soles4Souls, recognizing our long participation in this program and more than 5,000 pairs donated. That's 5,000+ people who were given a helping hand and 10,000+ shoes potentially kept out of landfills — 2 excellent goals for the price of one. Good work GCPC! Many thanks to Jo and Ric Randolph and the other members who keep up with packing and shipping donations, and everyone who has donated shoes over the years!



Our Thanks to GCPC

Words cannot express the heartfelt warmth and love we have received these last weeks. We greatly appreciate your kind messages and generous gifts. We will always carry you in our hearts and will pray that God's blessings shine from you always. Please know you have been a blessing to our family. We will miss you all greatly. Our new address is 3008 Parkway Ave., Louisville, KY 40206. —Revs. Sue and Mitch Trigger

Thank You

The beautifully designed sympathy cards and expressive messages from so many people are very uplifting and meaningful following Paul's passing in June. All the many ways everyone reached out to my family and me will stay in our memories forever. GCPC, you are a most thoughtful, kind, and caring congregation. Thank you, —Ginny Wirtz, Tom Wirtz and Karen and Dave Lien



Follow us on Social Media!

Facebook: facebook.com/GraceCovenantPresbyterian

Instagram: @gcpc_overlandpark

Inclusive. Family Oriented. Welcoming.

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Organist Linda Dover

Contemporary Music Coord. Carrie DeVries

Contemporary Music Drummer Jill Endaya

Child Care Coordinator Carolyn Chaffin

Wedding Coordinator Lara Schesser

Funeral Coordinator Mary Sue Thomas

ELDERS

Joy Circo	Jaylee Soule
Barbara Douglas	Tom Stroud
Katie Hearn	Melanie Townsend, Session clerk
Jane Knoche	Bill Turner
Angela Krug	Michala Walker
Lara Schesser	Mary Ann Weyforth
Jake Schmidt	
Kristy Shaw	

SUPPORT STAFF

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Patrick Bell, Christy Soule

MINISTRY UNITS

Congregational Nurture Unit Moderators

Connections and Care Jake Schmidt

Worship and Music Kathy Bures,
Katie Hearn

Education Ministry Unit Moderators

Adult Tom Stroud

Children Angela Krug

Youth Bill Turner

Reach Out Ministry Unit Moderators

Kairos Rick Randolph

Mission Mikki Walker

Welcoming Kathy Williams

Supportive Ministry Unit Moderators

Facility Liz Chandler

Generosity David Sutherland

Finance Terra Howard

Personnel Kevin Mason

Worship Schedule

9:30am Worship

In-Person, Facebook & Zoom

Visit gcpc.org/online for links

Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines

September 2023 issue - Deadline, August 18

November 2023 issue - Deadline, September 19