A Week of Holy Wonder!
March 27 - Easter Sunday!

We are going to remember Holy Week with a series of special activities. Join us!

March 27, Easter Egg Hunt, 10am
The annual children's Easter Egg hunt and games will all be held outdoors (weather permitting). This year all activities will be held outdoors (weather permitting). There will be games and lots of fun as we celebrate Jesus’ resurrection.

We are limiting this event to church families in order to maintain safe distancing. Please remember to wear a mask, even outside. In case of rain or snow, activities will be held indoors and socially distanced.

You can help us by donating individually wrapped Easter candy. Bring your donation to the church on or before March 21. We will collect them Sunday, March 21 at 11:15am under the sanctuary portico. Drive through and drop off your treats. Thank you!

At 11am, March 27, the children are invited to assist in passing out the Palm Sunday branches in our second drive through Palm Parade. Join Revs. Sue and Mitch as we greet our church family under the sanctuary portico and prepare for holy week. Children who wish to participate are asked to wear gloves and masks.

Rain date: In the event of bad weather, cancellation information for March 26 will be sent out through our social media. We will reschedule for Saturday, April 3, 10am. If that gets rained out, we’ll have a treat pick up on Easter Sunday at the 9am in-person service or a drive through pick up following the 11am service under the sanctuary portico. We’re hoping for great weather!
Last year, as February came to an end, Grace Covenant was filled with activities.

Over the course of about 10 days:

- We enjoyed a hearty pancake supper, trivia, Dixieland music, and family fun on Shrove Tuesday.
- The next day, we observed the beginning of Lent with an interactive Ash Wednesday service.
- That weekend, we had our annual visioning meeting and came up with some great ideas for reaching out to our community.
- Our youth led a wonderful worship service and our young children assisted with communion.
- Two days later, we hosted a Red Cross blood drive in Heartland Hall.

And then suddenly this changed on March 17, 2020 when Grace Covenant stopped having in-person worship services and severely limited the use of our facility due to the coronavirus pandemic. Our entire country had to change its way of life.

All of us have had to make some drastic changes to our daily lives and GCPC had to do the same. Grace Covenant has done an outstanding job of creating online worship and educational opportunities. Two of the defining attributes of this congregation are fellowship and service. During the past 12 months, our service to the community has not diminished. If anything, our monthly mission events have been as strong as ever, with strong donations of goods to groups like Rosehill Elementary, Argentine Baby Closet, Catholic Charities food drives, and others. We’ve prepared more meals than ever for KCK Hot Lunch and Uplift. Many of our members have found opportunities to help out with social service charities like passing out groceries at food pantries.

Fellowship has felt the most profound effect. While we’ve done our best to keep in touch via email, texts, Zoom meetings, drive-bys, and anything else we could think of, all of us have missed the simple joy of spending time with friends.

This will soon change. As infection rates continue to drop and as increasing numbers of our members receive COVID-19 vaccine shots, we will begin to resume our in-person activities. We’re excited about the opportunities that are waiting for us – for fellowship, for evangelism, and for new paths of service. We hope and pray that Grace Covenant will understand this is a time of renewal and hope, a time for us to open our hearts and arms as we come through a challenging time together.

— Mitch & Sue Trigger
Sunday School News!

The new year of the pandemic may have stopped us from meeting in person, but it hasn't stopped us from doing some great new things in Sunday school. Until the virus is better under control, we will continue our online Sunday school program.

2's and 3's Preschool Class
Lisa Cox has created a wonderful Facebook Page featuring the weekly Sunday school class. The lesson includes the colorful Bible story page and Lisa's wonderful voice leading the class. You will find the page at GCPC Preschool Sunday School Stories. www.facebook.com/groups/GCPCstories

4 yrs – 1st Grade
We are blessed to have Awakening to Worship (ATW) at GCPC. ATW is an introduction to worship that offers a creative telling of a Bible story as the children learn about the practice of worship. We are continuing to offer the ATW experience online and this will be the Sunday school class for the 4-year-old – 1st grade children. These lessons will be pre-recorded and available for viewing at your convenience. The weekly links will be uploaded to the website's Christian Education/Sunday School Page.

2nd – 5th Grades
We are having so much fun with our Zoom class! We meet each week from 9m – 9:45am on Zoom. We enjoy learning Bible stories, singing with the Celebration choir, and learning about the mission work of our Mission Team. In order to participate, parents will need to register with Rev. Sue at sue.trigger@gcpc.org. Sue will send you the log-in information, including the password, when she receives your email. Please include your child’s name, year in school, and any special needs we need to be aware of for an online class. You can find Sunday school information and the Celebration choir videos on our new Facebook Page. https://www.facebook.com/GCPC25grades
Content will be updated weekly with information about the coming lessons.

Joy! and Celebration! Singers
In addition to our Sunday school classes, we are blessed to have music time available online, too! Links to our music time will be available on the Sunday School page. Each week our 4 yrs – 1st grade and 2nd – 5th grades will enjoy singing and learning about music and faith. You will see the choirs singing during worship in March and April.

Food Donations for Catholic Charities Resume!
Donations can be dropped off at church at one of these times:
1) Weekday mornings between 8:30am–12pm — look for the barrels marked “Catholic Charities” outside the wooden doors.
2) Tuesday evenings between 6 and 9pm, and Wednesday evenings between 5:30 and 6:50pm. Drop items in the Weekday Entrance bin. Check the church calendar to ensure music rehearsals are scheduled on the night you intend to drop your donations off, or the doors may not be unlocked!
3) The 3rd Saturday morning of each month from 8:15-9:15am (the same time as KCK Hot Lunch drop-off). A volunteer will take your donations right out of your trunk or car window!

Thanks for your support!

Adult Classes

Learning to Walk in the Dark
A Lenten Study Continues
Through March 28 at 11:15am
Join us on Zoom using Meeting ID: 883 1302 4210 and Passcode: GCPC2020
Our adult Lenten study will explore the images of light and darkness in Barbara Brown Taylor’s book, “Learning to Walk in the Dark.” Taylor has become increasingly uncomfortable with our tendency to associate all that is good with lightness and all that is evil and dangerous with darkness. In this book, Taylor asks us to put aside our fears and anxieties and to explore all that God has to teach us “in the dark.” Through darkness we find courage, we understand the world in new ways, and we feel God’s presence around us, guiding us through things seen and unseen. Often, it is while we are in the dark that we grow the most. This Zoom online class will be led by a team of members.

There will not be Sunday school on Easter Sunday, April 4. Join us for the in person 9am service or the 11 a.m. online service.
Clerk’s Corner

The February 15, 2021, Session meeting was held via Zoom with Reverend Mitch Trigger serving as moderator. In addition to the ruling elders, deacon Anita Hadel and Reverend Sue Trigger were in attendance. Mitch opened the meeting at 7:00pm and Terri Monrad shared a devotion based on 1 Corinthians 13:4-13 before leading us in prayer.

Consent agenda: The minutes of the January 18 Session meeting, along with those of the annual congregational meeting, were approved, and Session received a letter from Heartland Presbytery stating that the per capita for 2021 was $43.07 per member.

Team minutes:

Kairos team: Several ideas came out of the Matthew 25 Sunday school class for projects. To address transportation issues in the county, GCPC has been invited to work with JCCC on a board.

Generosity team: We have received 130 pledges for $584,000, down around $56,000 from last year.

Finance team: With the absence of unpledged offering and other income sources, our budget is in dire straits, with a shortfall of over $100,000. The Generosity team will be contacting people who haven’t pledged, and teams are asked to consider what the minimum amount needed would be. Realistically, personnel and facilities make up 80% of the budget so there’s not a lot that can be cut out. We can’t continue to operate at a loss every year.

Clerk’s report: The annual statistical survey was submitted. We started the month with 401 members. With C.J. Poirier’s passing and the request of Jody, Mike and Logan McCamon’s request to be removed from membership, that leaves us at 397.

Co-Pastors’ report: Sue reported that she’s finished her Christian Educator Certification of the PC(USA). Mitch received a request from the family of a former member, Gwen Wilson, to hold a memorial service for her and to allow Rev. Jay McKell to officiate. Session approved holding the service and letting Jay officiate, as long as the service was held outside or at a later date when it’s considered safe.

Deacons’ report: Anita Hadel reported the deacons met via Zoom on February 7. She is coordinating with the new deacons to get them all their training materials. The next meeting was scheduled for April 4 (Easter) and it’s been moved back a week to April 11.

Old business: The discretionary fund has been used to help someone with car repairs. There will be a Zoom meeting on March 7 at 10:00am with the elders, deacons and team moderators to discuss procedures going forward once the pandemic is over.

After sharing joys and concerns, the meeting adjourned at 9:10pm and Rev. Mitch Trigger closed with a prayer.

March SMASH!
An Easter Celebration

March 21, 4-6pm for K-5th grades

SMASH has been a great time for our K-5th grade kids! On February 21st we had a great time learning and playing together. Easter is the biggest festival of the church year and we are going to celebrate at our March SMASH! We’ll remember the story, play games, and more.

Please RSVP to help us safely prepare for supplies and social distance. RSVP to Rev. Sue at: sue.trigger@gcpc.org. We can’t wait to see you!

An Online Post-pandemic Conversation

For currently serving officers, team leaders, and staff

Saturday, March 6, at 10am

The end of the pandemic is coming into view and the Session, Deacons, and teams are beginning to think about how we will move forward.

All currently serving officers and team leaders are invited to join the staff for a conversation about next steps. We will be looking at what we’ve learned during COVID, what practices we want to continue, what we don’t, and how we will begin to resume in person activities.

This will be a Zoom meeting. Rev. Mitch will send the link by email.

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“This Is Grace”

**New Member Classes**

Through March 7 at 4:00pm, on Zoom

“This Is Grace” is for anyone interested in learning more about Grace Covenant. The class is open to anyone and is the best way to get an overview of the church, get questions answered and discover more than you can learn from attending online worship each week.

For questions and to RSVP – Contact: Pastor Sue or Pastor Mitch (sue.trigger@gcpc.org or mitch.trigger@gcpc.org). Join the ZOOM meeting using Meeting ID: 878 2974 9481 and Passcode: GCPC2021.

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**KAIROS**

KAIROS, the Grace Covenant social advocacy organization, has been inactive since GCPC started worshipping virtually due to the pandemic. There are many causes for which we should advocate but the choice session made to become a **Matthew 25 congregation** renders the call to advocacy imperative! The areas of racial and social justice, the environment and peace are all manifestations of our call to follow Jesus made manifest in Matthew 25. If you feel called and would like to participate with KAIROS, addressing issues that challenge us, contact Rick Randolph at randolphiii@gmail.com or Marci Turner (Session representative) at mktopks@gmail.com.

On February 10 GCPC/KAIROS submitted its 11th annual report to PCUSA for our 2021 certification as an **Earth Care Congregation**. Grace Covenant was first certified in 2011. Grace Covenant is one of only 3 in the KC metropolitan area of Heartland Presbytery churches to be designated as an ECC – check out this PCUSA earth care congregations interactive map. [CLICK HERE!](#)

**Soles 4 Souls Shoe Collection**

KAIROS would like to extend a BIG thank you to all who have cleaned out their shoe closets over this “time at home” and donated either to our bins at GCPC, to our partner Belléz Design Studios in Lenexa, Kansas, or even just dropped them off on the Randolph’s front door step. The joint donation drive by in August was just amazing with over 480 pairs donated in one morning! We began collecting shoes for the Soles4Souls organization January 2010 for the Haiti Earthquake victims – since that time we have donated shoes to the total of close to 10,000 PAIRS!!!!! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! —Jo Randolph

**GCPC Spring Blood Drive**

The next Blood Drive is March 2, 2–6pm at the church. The Blood Center has added additional COVID-19 precautions for your safety. To make an appointment, please visit savealifenow.org/group, and enter **Group Code: IM**. For more information, contact Sarah Byrd, swbyrdks@gmail.com.

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**Passing the Peace Video Clips Wanted!**

We would love to have our children more involved in our online worship services.

We want to invite you to send us a video clip of your child leading the Passing of the Peace. Just send us a clip of your child saying, “The Peace of Christ be with you.” Families with more than one child may want to add the response with another child saying, “And also with you and all others.” We can’t wait to see you!

We would love videos of Adults and Youth also! Send your video clips to Miles McDonald at miles.mcdonald@gcpc.org.
Music Notes

What’s Ahead in Worship?
See our music ensemble schedule for online worship through Easter Sunday, below. As always, our schedule is subject to change – but we are looking forward to the musical leadership of our gifted musicians.

The Season of Lent Continues with More Music

LENT 3 – March 7 – Youth Sunday!
Musicians: Singers, Ringers, and Instrumentalists
Exaltation!/Jubilation! Ringers
Vocal Soloist – Maddie Passett with Andrew Alka, piano – Christopher Callender, electric bass guitar and Daniel Cole, drum set
Youth Sunday Ensemble with Youth, Young Adult, and Youth Parent Singers – accompanied by Donna Heer, violin – Ky Townsend, cello – Christopher Calender, guitar and bass – Daniel Cole, percussion – Kathy Bures, handbells and Linda Bruns, piano

LENT 4 – March 14
Chancel Ensemble and Chancel Singers I and III

LENT 5 – March 21
Chancel Ensemble and Chancel Singers II

Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY – March 28, 10am
Praise Team, Joy! (4s-1st grade) and Celebration! (2nd-5th grade)

MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 1, 7pm
Charter Ringers I and Carrie DeVries and Ensemble

GOOD FRIDAY – April 2, 7pm
Chancel Ensemble, Chancel Singers I, II, and III

EASTER SUNDAY – April 4
9am – Outside Worship with Flowering of the Cross
   – Praise Team led
11am – Sanctuary Online Worship with continuing of the Flowering of the Cross – Charter Ringers II, Chancel Ensemble, Joon Park - trumpet (Doctor of Musical Arts - candidate, Volker Brass Quintet Fellow, UMKC Conservatory), Daniel Cole - percussion, Chris Krug - 4-hand piano, and Linda Dover, organ

Thank You Church Family!

Feeling Blessed!
I wish to express many thanks of my GCPC church family for being faithful “prayer warriors” prior to and following my recent aortic valve replacement. Your many cards, prayers, phone calls, and acts of kindness touched my heart. I have a feeling of tremendous gratefulness for my medical team at KU and for all your loving concerns. My outcome and healing could not have gone better. I continue to really miss seeing everyone at church. Hopefully, we will be back in regular worship very soon!
God Bless and Peace,
—Rosemary Gibson

Thank you, thank you, thank you for the many cards, meals, phone calls and prayers that you shared with us during Dave’s COVID-19 hospitalization and recovery. Caring for each other is a crucial part of a congregation’s vitality, and we are very blessed to be a part of the Grace Covenant family.
—Karen and Dave Pack

Through your words of support, love and kindness, and actions of meals, cards, calls and prayers, I have been comforted and cared for following the passing of my Mom on January 24. The words you have shared with me regarding the joy you experienced from the stories and photos I shared of our time together on Sunday afternoons, will leave an everlasting peace in my soul. I am truly grateful for my church family, and for the love you have shown me and my family. It meant a lot to Mom to know you were all praying for her. Thank you so very much!
—Kim Krueger
“Adapting to Change” Youth Sunday — March 7

Youth Sunday is just a few days away! It will be an online service at 10am as you have come to expect from “regular” worship lately. As usual it will be geared towards our adults and children but planned and led by our youth and high school seniors will present sermons. Adapting to change is something we have all had to do, and this last year and our students have been challenged in new ways. Where is God in all of this? join us as focus our worship on adapting to change on March 7.

“Souper” Bowl of Caring — Thank You GCPC!

What an AMAZING response we had to our Souper Bowl of Caring Food drive this year! We normally collect four barrels full of food for Harvesters to distribute but this year we needed to ask for an additional four barrels! Thank you GCPC! And thank you to the students who helped move and arrange the food and especially to Patrick Bell for setting out barrels each morning for you to drop off food outside.

Connect

We have done a lot of Zoom meetings lately to plan Youth Sunday, but we have met in person a couple times as well. We were able to get out for some ice skating recently, and this last week, we even rented a movie theater to watch the *The Croods 2* as a group in a socially distanced way.

Sunday Morning Classes

Thanks to Katie Hearn and Donna Heer who have been helping Miles with Sunday morning classes this school year! We haven’t had record breaking numbers of students attending, but our small numbers mean we have been able to meet in person in Heartland Hall on Sunday mornings during the pandemic. And small numbers don’t mean we haven’t had meaningful studies and discussions. Thanks again for your faithfulness and all of your planning, Donna and Katie!

Summer Intern

We don’t know what this summer will bring, but we fully expect to continue and even ramp up our youth activities this summer. With more and more people getting immunized we are hopeful that we will be able to get back to a more regular and active schedule. And we are looking to bring an intern on board again to help plan, lead, and build relationships with our students. If you know a college-aged young adult with a heart for God and for students who might be interested, please contact Miles McDonald — the search is on.
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.org, ext. 18
  Sue Trigger, sue.trigger@gcpc.org, ext. 15

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

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

Director of Youth Ministries
- Office hours: Monday-Thursday
  Miles McDonald, miles.mcdonald@gcpc.org, ext. 17

Finance Administrator
- Tara Hyder, Mon. 8-4; Tues./Weds. 8-12; Thurs./Fri. by Appt.

Organist
- Linda Dover

Contemporary Music Coord.
- Donna Goecckler

Contemporary Music Accomp.
- Carrie DeVries

Contemporary Music Drummer
- Daniel Cole

Technical Director for Worship
- Miles McDonald

Child Care Coordinator
- Carolyn Chaffin

Wedding Coordinator
- Lara Schesser

Funeral Coordinator
- Mary Sue Thomas

ELDERS

Jim Byrd
Ric Cummings
Andrew Frye
Tim Hayden
Cheryl Johnson
Terry Kolich
Lynn Long
Mike Mattix

David Minaschek
Terri Monrad
Diane Schmit
Sophie Shaw
Susan Sutherland
Marcia Turner

MINISTRY UNITS

Congregational Nurture Unit Moderators
Connections and Care
Worship and Music

Education Ministry Unit Moderators
Adult
Children
Youth

Reach Out Ministry Unit Moderators
Kairos
Mission
Welcoming

Supportive Ministry Unit Moderators
Facility
Generosity
Finance

Organist
Contemporary Music Coord.
Contemporary Music Accomp.
Contemporary Music Drummer
Technical Director for Worship
Child Care Coordinator
Wedding Coordinator
Funeral Coordinator

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

Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines
April 2021 issue - Deadline, March 23
May 2021 issue - Deadline, April 20