



GRACE NOTES

Bridge Pastor Update From Your Session

The Session has signed a contract with the **Rev. Karen Wright** to serve us as a bridge pastor starting November 1, 2023. This contract still must be approved by the Commission on Ministry, but we don't expect any issues there. The contract is for three months and is renewable for up to a total of nine months if needed (*and can be canceled by either Karen or our Session with 30 days notice*).

As a bridge pastor, Karen will plan and conduct worship services and moderate Session. She will be available to conduct memorial services if necessary. Karen plans to spend one day each week at the church to coordinate with other staff and be available to congregation members. She will not be doing "transitional" work with us or staffing teams (*although she will certainly coordinate with teams regarding worship related activities, etc.*).

More information about Karen will be available as we get closer to her arrival date. Feel free to ask any member of Session if you have questions about the Bridge Pastor position or the search process for the interim and permanent pastor in general.

Many thanks to **Tom Stroud, Jane Knoche, and Barbara Douglas** who vetted and interviewed bridge pastor candidates on behalf of the Session!

GCPC Annual BBQ & Potluck

Saturday, October 7, 5-7pm

Mark your calendar for the GCPC Annual BBQ and Potluck on Saturday, October 7th from 5:00 - 7:00pm.

Show off your BBQ skills and sign up to be a griller/ smoker! Contact Kevin Johnson to get involved at krpj01@gmail.com.

Aren't a griller? Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share! Sign-up before or after church on a clipboard in the concourse on October 1 to indicate how many in your group will be attending, and what dish/dishes you would like to bring. You can also call the church office with the same details at 913-345-1256. This event is sponsored by the Connections and Care Team.



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.

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

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

Visit gcpc.org/online for links!

Getting to know

GCPC Teams:

Connections and Care Team

The Connections and Care team was formed with the purpose of keeping the Grace Covenant family connected by providing social gatherings, such as, bingo nights, movie nights, trivia night, potlucks, barbeques, chili suppers just to name a few.

We have a team member who focuses on acclimating and checking on new church members. Several team members send cards and or notes to those on the prayer chain. A couple of the team members provide care to those church members who might need more support with phone visits or in person visits.

We have a team member who coordinates the small interest groups listed in the Ministry Groups pamphlet. These groups include Garden Angels, Young Adults and Families, Presbyterian Women Circles, two book groups, Thursday Bible study, Dinner for Seven or Eight, the men's group It's Only Breakfast, Ladies Lunch Bunch, day and evening craft groups, bridge groups, bunco, poker night, the prayer chain, and the most recent group, Sunday Brunch Bunch.

The team tries hard to provide activities that connect church members and care for those members having challenges. New members are always welcomed to the team.

—Mary Ann Weyforth, moderator

Good Faith Network

Earlier this year, GCPC joined the Good Faith Network. GFN is a network of 27 Johnson County faith communities that works to make systemic improvements to problems in our local area. The issues they are currently addressing include expanding access to mental health crisis care, ending homelessness, and the lack of affordable housing. Every year, GFN's annual cycle starts with a series of listening session hosted by team leaders at each member church. GCPC's team leaders are Tim Hayden, Dave Pack, Don and Joy Wilson, and Mikki Walker. These listening sessions are an opportunity for all of us to talk about the problems facing our communities and potential solutions to them. Listening sessions are planned for September and October. If you haven't already been personally invited and would like to attend a listening session, let Dave, Tim, Mikki, Don or Joy know!

Clerk's Corner

Session met as scheduled on September 18, 2023. We are currently in negotiations with a potential Bridge Pastor. Hopefully by the time this newsletter is published, we will have news to share with the congregation. Thanks to Barbara Douglas, Tom Stroud, and Jane Knoche for all the work they have done in this area. *(News on the cover of this issue!)*

We also approved the Ministry Discernment Form which our Interim Pastor Nominating Committee has assembled. This is the next major step in moving toward an Interim Pastor.

Rebecca Prater, Patrick Bell, and Tara Hyder have been taking on additional responsibilities right now while our staff is so small, so we approved Personnel Team's request to give each of them a one-time bonus. Please thank them for all their hard work when you see them! (Or drop them a note.)

We appreciate all the work the Stewardship Team did to put together the Town Hall meeting on September 10. We hope you appreciated it and that it will smooth the pledge/budget process this fall.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please reach out to any of the Session members. We can't address issues if we don't know what they are.

—Melanie Townsend, Clerk

Beautify GCPC

Did you sign-up to help **Beautify and Improve GCPC on Wor(k)ship Sunday?**

If so, the Facilities Team would like you to **CLICK THIS LINK** to sign-up for a specific task ahead of Wor(k)ship Sunday!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0848ABAE28A5F4C16-44467782-facilities#/>

Baker/Reynolds Golf Scramble

The 18th Annual Baker/Reynolds Golf Scramble was held on Sunday, August 27 at the Falcon Valley Golf Course. This year's field included 22 golfers distributed into 5 teams. The Baker Family Team came in with the lowest score for the round.

As usual, we also included 4 contest holes and awarded prizes. This year's winners were:

Bill Turner – Closest to the Pin on Hole #2

Jason Bontje – Closest to the Pin on Hole #5

Chris Cabe – Longest Drive on Hole #8

Fred Starrett – Longest Putt on Hole #9

Fundraising: This turned out to be a banner year in raising funds to support the Baker/Reynolds Scholarship Program. There were a significant number of members of the congregation who did not golf, but still made contributions. Once all of the expenses were deducted from the Donations and Fees, we raised more than \$4,400 in profits this year. That huge effort has left the Fund with more than \$17,500!

Thank You!!! —Bill Turner

Team 1	Laura Bontje
Team 1	Jason Bontje
Team 1	Johnnie Baker
Team 1	Jonathan Baker
Team 2	Dave Peck
Team 2	Ryan Peck
Team 2	Fred Starrett
Team 2	Aaron Rickey
Team 3	Robert Wilhite
Team 3	Richard Gibson
Team 3	Stan Niederhuser
Team 3	Bob Ness
Team 4	Jake Schmidt
Team 4	Chris Cabe
Team 4	Andrew Sellers
Team 4	Ryan Hussey
Team 4	Liam Hussey
Team 5	George Bures
Team 5	Bill Turner
Team 5	Joel Ilten
Team 5	Andrew Frye
Team 5	John Gilbert



MUSIC NOTES

Music in Worship

October 1st – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion
Praise Team led worship

October 8th – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Wor(k)ship Sunday
Carrie DeVries and Donna Goeckler will be leading our time of worship

October 15th – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Organ led worship. Rebecca Prater will be facilitating Worship in Scripture & Song. Anthems: "Concertato on 'For the Beauty of the Earth'" arr. Mark Hayes shared by Chancel & Exaltation! Singers (CHEX), Charter Ringers, & Donna Heer, violin; "And the Father Will Dance" by Mark Hayes; Charter Ringers: "Celtic Grace" by Tammy Waldrop

October 22nd – Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
Organ led worship. CHEX shares the anthem "Draw the Circle Wide" by Mark A. Miller; Joy! Singers (4s-1st graders) & Celebration! Choir (2nd-5th graders) will also share their songs.

October 29th – Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
Reformation Sunday
Praise Team led worship. Spirit! Ringers ring "Colors of Joy" by Brenda E. Austin

LOOKING AHEAD TO SEASONAL MUSIC IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 22nd

6:45pm Gathering Music by Cal Sweeten, hammered dulcimer
7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Service Begins



"A Christmas Exclamation!"

**Mark your calendars for
Sunday, December 3rd at 6pm**

This fun holiday program is a "don't miss event!"



"Songs of the Season"

will be presented the following Sundays at 9:30am

On December 3rd – the 1st Sunday of Advent
songs will be shared in worship by
Praise Team, Carrie DeVries, director

On December 10th – the 2nd Sunday of Advent
songs will be shared in worship by
GCPC Orchestra, Pam Smith Kelly, director

On December 17th – the 3rd Sunday of Advent
songs will be shared in worship by
Chancel & Exaltation! Singers & Instrumentalists
Rebecca Prater, director



Getting to know GCPC Teams:

Music Team

"THANK YOU" FOR GIVING MUSIC IN SEPTEMBER OF 2023

CHORAL ANTHEMS

For "Draw the Circle" by Mark A. Miller
*This anthem was donated by
Bob & Linda Dover and Jim & Pam Kelly
in memory of Co-Pastor, Rev. Mitch Trigger's
father, Wayne R. Trigger.*

For "Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day"
arr. Howard Helvey
*This anthem was donated in memory of Mary Ann
Wilson from the Mary Ann Wilson Choral Music
Grants.*

For "Where Shepherds Lately Knelt" by Kyle Haugen
*This anthem was donated by Celia & Mike Nicholas
in honor of Linda Dover's 25 years of
making beautiful music at GCPC.*

For "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" arr. Stacey V. Gibbs
*This anthem was donated in memory of
Joe Hoffman from his memorial funds.*

For "Christmas Gloria" arr. Lloyd Larson
*This anthem was donated in honor of all who
facilitate & lead the GCPC Music Ministry
by the Music Team.*

HANDBELL PIECES

For "Very Soon I'll Fly Away" arr. Benjamin A. Tucker
*This handbell piece was donated in memory of
Luther Smith, Sr. (who loved gospel music)
by his daughter, Celia & Mike Nicholas.*

For "Deck the Halls" arr. Benjamin A. Tucker
*This handbell piece was donated in memory of
Kent Smith by his sister, Celia & Mike Nicholas.*

The GCPC Music Team coordinates all things music in the congregation. Under the leadership of Rebecca Prater, Director of Music Ministries, we work closely with the Worship Team to plan for weekly worship and special services.

We are proud to offer a wide variety of musical experiences to enhance worship and spirituality at GCPC, including our Praise Team, Chancel Choir, handbell choirs, children's choirs, and instrumental ensembles. All levels of experience are always welcome — if you've ever wondered if you'd enjoy making music, join today! We'd love to have you.

The Music Team's portion of the budget goes toward our various musical ensembles — purchasing new music, licensing, maintaining our instruments and equipment, hiring instrumentalists when necessary, supporting our volunteer directors, and providing accessible options for all of our musicians. Music Team is always accepting new members. We typically meet the first Monday of each month over Zoom.

Hunger Action Congregation

Continuing a tradition at GCPC, we recently renewed our certification as a Hunger Action Congregation.

Part of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, this certification is awarded to PCUSA congregations who are active in six areas related to food insecurity:

hunger alleviation, development assistance, hunger education, lifestyle integrity, corporate and public policy witness, and worship. There are only 65 churches nationwide who are active in all six areas! For many years, GCPC has addressed hunger in our local community through many parts of our mission work, such as making meals for Uplift, collecting food for ReNewed Hope Food Pantry, stocking the Little Free Pantry, volunteering at KCK Hot Lunch, supporting IHN, holding the SouperBowl of Caring, and more.

Thanks to all who participate in this great work! Find out more about the Presbyterian Hunger Program at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/hunger/> — teach for "Hunger Action Congregations."



Getting to know GCPC Teams:

Worship Team

Christ with our Hearts is the Core Value of Worship Team. We strive to Worship Creatively:

- Immersed in Music and other Arts
- Embracing various styles, abilities, and ages
- Compelling, Imaginative, Relevant

We gather to worship. We equip to share faith. We send to serve.

Worship Team strives to make sure our worship continues to meet all these values in a variety of ways:

- We oversee a small army of people who work to make sure regular Sunday worship and special services go smoothly. Each of these groups has someone in charge that is a part of Worship Team (though they aren't required to attend meetings):
 - Tech Crew
 - Facebook "Moderators"
 - Ushers
 - Scripture Readers
 - Weekly Flowers
 - Communion Prep and Serving
 - Coordinators for Weddings & Memorials Services
 - Sanctuary Decorating
- **At our meeting:**
 - We provide feedback on past services. Did the service go smoothly? Was the service too long? Are there things that we could have done better, or that we would like to do again?
 - We provide support for upcoming services. We might talk about ideas for Thanksgiving Eve or give feedback on an idea for the 5:00pm Christmas Eve service.
 - We talk about worship related things like wearing masks, how to Pass the Peace and how to serve Communion. Those conversations continue as the COVID (RSV, Flu, etc.) landscape changes. Some of those decisions are made by Session, but we often make recommendations.
- **And when we don't have pastors (like now!),** we are responsible for finding pulpit supply from recommendations and the list Presbytery gives us. Sometimes that means finding liturgy and prayers for worship, and people to lead them, and sometimes it doesn't.

It sounds like a lot, but much of it is handled by people who quietly do their jobs, week after week. Worship Team meets on the 1st Monday of the month at 7pm (usually) and usually lasts an hour or less.

If you have an opinion on worship, you are qualified to be on the team!

—Kathy Bures, Worship Team Moderator

Can
Renew
Our
Promise

ENDING
HUNGER
ONE STEP
AT A TIME
CROP
HUNGER
WALK



CROP Walk

Saturday, October 14, at 10am

CROP started as a relief effort for Europe after World War II based on the collection of agricultural goods by American farmers (the acronym was Christian Rural Overseas Program). Over the years the acronym became Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. What acronym can you think of for CROP?

Grace Covenant's CROP Walk tradition, started by our founding pastor, will continue on Saturday, October 14, at 10am at the Country Club Christian Church at 6101 Ward Parkway.

Twenty-five percent of the funds contributed benefit local agencies – Community Assistance Council, Kansas City Community Gardens, Lazarus Ministries, Metropolitan Lutheran Ministries, and Seton Center. Church World Service uses the other 75% of the funds primarily in support of displaced persons and refugees. Unbelievably, there are estimated to be about 110 million such persons in the world, with millions having resulted from the war in Ukraine.

Click here to get involved with our team: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/grace-covenant-presbyterian-church>. Or see Karen or Dave Pack in Heartland Hall after a Sunday worship service.

Generosity Team Update For Good – Living in God’s Grace

Here is our pledging update as of September 19, 2023, which is 71% of the calendar year.

There’s been consistent progress with 70% of both Submitted pledge and Rollover pledges received! We are thankful for the consistent generosity of our members. As always, we greatly **appreciate your generosity and commitment** to Grace Covenant. Please provide feed back to our team: Dave Sutherland, Ryan Hussey, Bill Brown, Rick Randolph and Jane Knoche.

Here is our giving progress shown by numbers of pledges:

Submitted Pledges (103)	April 12	May 16	June 19	August 15	September 19
0% fulfilled	32	24	22	15	14
1-25% fulfilled	33	12	10	4	5
26-50% fulfilled	29	52	50	18	10
51-75% fulfilled	0	3	8	44	49
76-100% fulfilled	7	11	13	22	25
\$527,258*	\$187,129	\$211,292	\$259,907	\$337,665	\$371,416

Rollover Pledges (27)	April 12	May 16	June 19	August 15	September 19
0% fulfilled	11	9	8	6	6
1-25% fulfilled	6	1	1	0	0
26-50% fulfilled	9	9	10	5	4
51-75% fulfilled	1	5	3	8	8
76-100% fulfilled	1	4	6	8	9
\$101,369	\$15,480	\$53,965	\$59,355	\$68,930	\$71,680

5 groupings are used to show giving progress and calendar relationship. They are 0%, 1-25%, 26-50%, 51-75%, 76-100%. Each pledge falls into one of these groups. *Slight decrease in Pledge totals due to adjustments by members. We are very grateful for the feedback on pledge amounts.

2024 Pledge Drive

Our theme for the pledge drive is **What the Future Holds**. We are basing our campaign on this scripture from Jeremiah 29:11 *“I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”*

We will kick off our Pledge Drive on Wor(k)ship Sunday October 8, and Pledge Sunday is November 5, 2023. Various members will be sharing our campaign message on Sundays. Please join us in creating an amazing future in 2024!

IHN starts again November 5, 2023

Please mark your calendars for our November Host week. We are welcoming our second support church, Shawnee Mission Unitarian Universalist Church (SMUUCH) to this rotation.

An orientation will be held at 4:00 – 4:45pm for our new volunteers and any of our current ones that wish to get an update. Tentatively SMUUCH will cover Wednesdays including overnight and Saturday morning host and breakfast.

Children's Team



SERVICE - MUSIC - ARTS - SPORTS - HANG-OUT

Smash

Sunday October 8, 4pm-6pm

In September, we started our Children' of the Bible series during SMASH. We heard stories of how Miriam exhibited responsibility, encouragement and courage. We talked about how even a small child can make a difference. Check out our bulletin board outside the sanctuary to see how our children felt they exhibited encouragement and courage too. If you feel so inclined, share with the children how YOU exhibit encouragement and courage. Each one of us can live like Miriam!

We continue our Children of the Bible series during our October SMASH with the story of **Timothy**. Children in Kindergarten through 5th grade/6th grade are invited to join us for some learning and LOTS of fun. To avoid fall break, we have moved our October SMASH to Sunday October 8, 4pm-6pm. RSVP via our GCPC Children's group Facebook event or e-mail gpcchildren@gmail.com. We could also use additional volunteer helpers, our sign-up is found here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a45a4a722a4fc1-smash1#/>

Trunk or Treat

October 29 11:45am-1pm

Join us for Games, Trunk or Treating AND we are bringing back our hot dog lunch!

Weather permitting, this event will be held outside GCPC under the portico and in the west side of the parking lot. We will be collecting nonperishable donations for our little food pantry as well. Please invite family, friends and neighbors!

We are looking for folks to host a trunk and a few other donation items. If you would like to help make this event a terrific success, please see our sign up genius here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a45a4a722a4fc1-trunk2#/>

Bible Workshop

We are excited to offer our 3rd grade children a Bible Workshop in the coming weeks. Our workshop will be held on November 12th at 11:45am. Our children will receive a Bible on behalf of GCPC during worship shortly after. Melanie Townsend and Cheryl Johnson will be leading this workshop. Thank you ladies for helping make this happen for our children.



Stay Informed

Our Children's Team will utilize e-mail, mid-week and worship announcements and our GCPC Children's Facebook group to share important information.

Our Facebook group can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2555575044593497>

Children's Events at a Glance

- Oct 1 ATW and Music and Sunday School
- Oct 8 Workship Sunday — No ATW or Sunday School classes. SMASH, 4pm–6pm
- Oct 15 ATW and Sunday School (Music for our entire Sunday School session)
- Oct 22 ATW, Music and Sunday School
- Oct 29 ATW, Music and Sunday School; Trunk or Treat following Sunday School

If you have any questions or comments about our children's programs or pictures of our children's events, please e-mail our Children's Team at gpcchildren@gmail.com.

Awakening to Worship

Our Awakening to Worship (ATW) 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). Parents may pick your children up after worship concludes from our ATW room. This program is run by our coordinator Kristy Shaw. She works to train our worship storytellers and greeters. We appreciate everyone's hard work to introduce our children to the important practice of worshipping God. Thank you volunteers!

Here are a few photos of our ATW program in action.



SAINT VINCENT | MARIAN DENTAL | DUCHESNE

October Communion Offering and Donation Partner

Our October Communion Offering will be directed to **Duchesne Clinic**, and they'll be the October Donation Partner as well.

Located in Kansas City, Kansas, the Duchesne Clinic serves very low-income people who have no insurance and live in Leavenworth and Wyandotte Counties.

Founded on the belief that health care is a basic human right, the clinic provides services to indigent patients, regardless of religious affiliation, with an emphasis on the values of compassion, respect of personal dignity, and a sensitivity to human suffering.

Here is a list of the items we'll collect for the Clinic in October!

- Tylenol
- Ibuprofen
- Decongestants
- Multi-Symptom Cold
- Allergy Relief Meds (Allegra, Zyrtec, etc.)
- Coricidin HP
- Vapor Rub
- Mucinex
- Lip Balm
- Hand Cream (personal size)
- Hand Sanitizer (personal size)
- Tissues (cube-sized box preferred)
- Knit Gloves (1 size fits all preferred)
- Sugar-Free Cough Drops (bag count approx 18-30)
- \$5 Walmart Gift Cards for Prescription Medications



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Inclusive. Family Oriented. Welcoming.

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CHURCH STAFF

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

Youth CoordinatorLindsay Callender

lindsaymichelle0130@gmail.com

Finance AdministratorTara Hyder

.....finance@gcpc.org

Organist Linda Dover

Audio/Visual Technician Jason Turner

Contemporary Music Coord. Carrie DeVries

Contemporary Music Drummer.....Jill Endaya

Child Care Coordinator.....Carolyn Chaffin

Wedding CoordinatorKristy Shaw

Funeral CoordinatorMary Sue Thomas

10

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

Deacon Moderator	Anne Stroud
Operating Committee.....	Angela Krug, Lara Schesser, Katie Hearn, Tom Stroud
Newsletter Editor/Marketing.....	Kim Krueger
Prayer Chain	Cheryl Johnson
Website Administrators	Kim Krueger, Patrick Bell, Christy Soule

Follow us on Social Media!

Facebook: facebook.com/GraceCovenantPresbyterian

Instagram: @gcpc_overlandpark

MINISTRY UNITS

Congregational Nurture Unit Moderators

Connections and Care....	Mary Ann Weyforth
Worship and Music.....	Kathy Bures, Katie Hearn

Education Ministry Unit Moderators

Adult	Tom Stroud
Children	Angela Krug
Youth.....	Lara Schesser

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.....	Beth Lillian
Personnel	Kevin Mason

Worship Schedule

9:30am Worship

In-Person, Facebook & Zoom

Visit gcpc.org/online for links

Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines

November 2023 issue - Deadline, October 17

December 2023 issue - Deadline, November 17