



Service of Worship — December 24, 2023

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that Some have entertained angels without knowing it.” — Hebrews 13:2

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! Thank you for worshiping with us today.

ELDER ON DUTY: Jane Knoche

HEAD USHERS: Eric Burdette & Steve Becher

HEARING ASSIST DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE. Please ask at the sound booth.

RECORD YOUR ATTENDANCE AT TODAY’S WORSHIP SERVICE WITH OUR VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE

PAD: Click this link: <https://bit.ly/GCPCattendance>, or scan the QR Code below, and it will take you to the link.



CONTACTING STAFF: The office is open 8am to 4pm, M–F. To reach a staff member by e-mail:

- **Karen Wright (Bridge Pastor):** karen.wright@gcpc.org
- **Rebecca Prater (Music Dir.):** rebecca.prater@gcpc.org
- **Lindsay Callender (Youth Coordinator):** lindsaymichelle0130@gmail.com
- **Patrick Bell (Office Admin.):** patrick.bell@gcpc.org
- **Tara Hyder (Finance Admin.):** finance@gcpc.org

“Pray for one another” — James 5:15

We encourage you to remember the following in prayer:

All Grieving the Death of a Loved One: Sandy Adams and family in the death of Jim Adams.

Surgeries/Hospitalizations/Illnesses

Cancer Treatment: Pam Kelly, Harold Farren, Katie Rickley

Aging Challenges

Military Service: David Zak, C.J. Bradley, Seth Lorimer, Mary E. Johnson II, Alanna Funk, Shannon Lorimer, Clara Frye. **All veterans, deployed military, and reservists.**

Our Mission Co-Workers: Jeff and Christi Boyd in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Leslie Vogel, PC (USA) Regional Liaison for Guatemala and Mexico.

Peace and Relief Workers; Unemployed and Underemployed; Families Struggling with Separation and Divorce; Individuals Struggling with Depression; Those Contemplating Suicide and Those Left Behind.

Heartland Presbytery Partnership of Prayer: Kaw Prairie Community, Lenexa, KS; Heartland Presbytery Committee on Representation; support staff and volunteers of our churches.

(If you have a prayer request you would like to include in the bulletin, please contact the church office at office@gcpc.org, or send to gcpc.prayers@gmail.com.)

SPOTLIGHT

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE AT GRACE COVENANT:

- **5pm — Family Service** — Service music will be shared by Joy! Singers; Celebration! Choir; a Christmas Eve Handbell Ensemble with ringers Andrew Alka, Elizabeth Bures, Lindsay Callender, and Kat Mason; and Christopher Callender, guitar, will lead “Silent Night.”
- **8pm — Traditional Service** — Service music will be shared by Chancel & Exaltation! Singers and instrumentalists. **7:45pm Prelude Music** — Including music by Andrea Dover, violin ~ Bob Dover, clarinet ~ and Linda Dover, organ

REMINDER: The church offices will be closed Monday and Tuesday, December 25 and 26.

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS PLEDGE UPDATE: Our pledge Goal is \$635,000. We have received 99 pledges totaling \$538,200! Thank you so much to all our folks that are walking with us to build our future! This is the firm number that your Session is using to work out the 2024 budget. We

believe that there are at least 27 pledges that haven't come in yet for 2024. These would significantly help us reach our pledge goal. We hope this gentle reminder will have you go to our Generosity Bulletin Board and pick up a pledge slip and envelope and fill it out, and then put it in Tara Hyder's office inbox. You may also go to our pledge portal [https://onrealm.org/gcpc/AddPledge/ 2024 pledgedoffering](https://onrealm.org/gcpc/AddPledge/2024_pledgedoffering) and enter it there! Tara always appreciates e-mails(finance@gcpc.org) or phone calls — leave a message. Please write yourself a note or tear this part of the bulletin/newsletter out for a reminder! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dave Sutherland, Ryan Hussey, or Jane Knoche.

ADULT

AS THE PAGE TURNS BOOK GROUP will meet January 3 at 1:30pm in Room 3 at the church. The book selection is *The Book of Hope* by Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams. Please join the group for discussion and fellowship. It is optional, but bring a wrapped book for the New Year book exchange.

PAGE TURNERS will meet Thursday, January 4, at 7pm in Jean Hampton's home. We will discuss *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann. You can RSVP on the GCPC Page Turners Facebook page, or by e-mailing Jean at hamptonjean@gmail.com, or by calling her at 913-485-5856. Jean's address is 9112 West 116th Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66210.

CHILDREN

THE GCPC CHILDREN'S TEAM would like to wish all our families, volunteers and entire congregation a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Our programs will take a two-week break and begin again on January 7.

MISSION

CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF THE BABY JESUS BY HELPING BABIES! Grace Covenant has generously supported Argentine Baby Closet for the past 30 years; ABC is once again our December donation partner and Communion Offering recipient. ABC is a ministry of Argentine United Presbyterian Church, now in its 37th year serving families in their community. This year their most-needed items include:

- diapers and wipes, especially sizes 4&5
- blanket sleepers — sizes 9 mos–3T
- shoes — sizes 2–6
- socks
- new or gently used clothing, sizes 9 mos–2T.

Put your donations in the Weekday Entrance bin during the month of December, or if you like, give a financial donation. Be sure to mark it as Communion Offering — online or in the offering plate any Sunday in December. Thanks as always for GCPC's generous support of our donation partners and Communion Offering recipients in 2023. Your support is especially appreciated during this year that has been difficult for many! *Two trunk loads have already been delivered to*

the Baby Closet. Thank you and keep the donations coming! They are much needed and very much appreciated.

ALTERNATIVE GIFTS HELP OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS AROUND THE WORLD gain the basic resources needed to live and create sustainable livelihoods for their families. Check out the interesting and unique gifts available through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog (<https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org/gifts/>). You can give gifts related to education, water, agriculture/livestock, or aid kits; prices start at just \$25.

Another great source of alternative gifts is Heifer International (<https://www.heifer.org/>). Heifer offers gifts related to animals, women's empowerment, and caring for the earth. Prices start at \$20; Heifer does offer a gift card option, so that the recipient can choose the gift most meaningful to them.

Both Presbyterian Giving and Heifer offer methods of giving a gift in honor of someone else. On Heifer's site, look for "Create an Honor Card"; on presbyteriangifts.com, look for information about sending an e-card in the checkout process. Happy Alternative Shopping!

GCPC SENDS THE FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS collected in the Weekday Entrance bin to Renewed Hope Food Pantry. We also regularly send volunteers to their weekly food pick up events. Sadly, donations at Renewed Hope have dropped significantly since the end of the COVID Public Health Emergency declaration. Please consider donating during the holiday season. Donations may be left in the bin anytime the church building is open.

**Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church
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