



REAL FAITH | REAL STORIES | REAL GRACE

GRACE NOTES

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

Help the Environment

Environmental advocates have been telling the public to recycle, reduce, and reuse for decades now, and that advice is still relevant today. Another way to make a difference is to work for systemic change to alter our current global trajectory toward a more sustainable and biocentric worldview. Together, thought and action can add up to make a real difference.



Free “Vote Climate! For Our Children” yard signs will be available for you to take home beginning Sunday, October 2. We have ordered 25 signs. If we run out we will order more. You will be able to pick up your sign in Heartland Hall. For more information, contact Jo Randolph at jrandolph4407@gmail.com.

Learn More About the Flexitarian Diet

Save money, improve your health, and help the planet! **Please join us September 11 for a Lunch and Learn on the Flexitarian diet**, which emphasizes eating less meat and other animal products, and more plant-based foods. **Just after Sunday school ends, come and enjoy a delicious vegetarian lunch** and presentation on this healthy and easy way of eating and why it has less environmental impact than a standard American diet. *(The menu will include foods familiar to most Midwestern palates — not just wheatgrass and tofu — and kid-friendly options as well.)*

Come and be part of the “We’re All in This Together” year-long study on earth care. Use this link, www.gcpc.org/lunchlearn, to **RSVP by September 2** and save your spot! We’ll collect a free will offering to help defray costs (suggested \$5 per person or max \$20 per family).



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 Boulevard
Overland Park, KS 66210
913-345-1256
office@gcpc.org
gcpc.org

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

Calendar Planning Meeting

All Program and Deacon Moderators
Tuesday, September 20, 7pm

All program team and Deacon moderators are encouraged to attend the 2023 calendar planning meeting on Tuesday, September 20, at 7pm in Room 3. This meeting will schedule events from January–August 2023.

If a moderator is unable to attend, please send a representative from your group. For more information contact Rev. Sue at sue.trigger@gcpc.org.

BINGO was a B-L-A-S-T!

While many families were on vacation or getting ready for back to school, a small but mighty group of BINGO enthusiast showed up for a night of fun and fellowship. There was a guest BINGO caller for the night and many fun and interesting ways to call and get BINGO were learned, Post Card and Horseshoe BINGO were called, as well as calling Math (*this was tough for the caller!*) and just the numbers (*NO letters*).

Multiple winners for the night included yours truly, Diane Schmit, with 3 wins; Donna Heer; Pastor Sue; and Susan Fitzgerald. Susan was our blackout winner and won a \$25 Texas Roadhouse gift certificate. A BIG THANK YOU to all who showed up, Patrick for setting up tables, Care and Connections Team for set-up and take-down, and most especially our guest BINGO caller, Kirk Heer.



This is Grace

New Member's Classes

October 2 - 30; 10:45am, Room 5

This new member's class is open to all and is the best way to get an overview of the church. There is no assumption on our part that you will join when you attend the class. First time visitors and long-time friends are encouraged to attend to get questions answered and to discover the exciting ways Grace Covenant carry's out God's work.

This Is Grace covers the following:

- Introductions and discussion on the history of Grace Covenant and its ministries, and what Presbyterians believe.
- Discussion on the meaning of membership and "Everything you've wanted to ask a pastor but have been unable to ask!"
- Conversations about worship, and other information.

After the final session, if you are ready to join Grace Covenant, you will be invited to meet with the Session (the governing body that oversees the ministry of the church). They will welcome you into our faith family in official Presbyterian style.

If you decide you are not interested in joining, or not quite ready to join, we hope you will have a much better sense of Grace Covenant and we will continue to delight in your presence with us as a visitor and friend.

To sign up for the class, please contact Rev. Sue at sue.trigger@gcpc.org.

Grace Studies: For Kids

Pre-school 2-4 years:

Pre-school children will grow in grace and gratitude this year! They will gather to explore and respond to God's grace and be sent out to love and serve God by being:

- Rooted in the foundation of Presbyterian identity where God's grace and our gratitude are the heartbeat of our faith, life, and worship;
- Invited to discipleship that inspires them to learn and practice hospitality, generosity, and love; and
- Encouraged to reach beyond Sunday mornings and church walls to live their lives as an expression of God's grace.



When our children are at home, families can use these tools to explore God's grace and gratitude each day:

- Grace Sightings: the weekly Bible story with age-appropriate activities for your family to do at home.
- Audio Recordings: the weekly Bible story brought to life by endearing readings and sound effects.
- E-book: the quarter's colorful illustrations, Bible stories, and Grace Sightings in iBook and Kindle formats.

Find these tools at:

www.pcusastore.com/GGGdownloads.

K- 5/6th Grace Makers:

At Grace Covenant, our elementary grades enjoy a program that is unique to GCPC. We create our own lesson plans that encourage learning through a variety of learning modes: art, music, drama, science, cooking, kinesthetic learning and more. These classes will begin the year exploring God's diverse creation and how we can honor all that God has made



There's Room for everyone in Sunday School!

Nursery: Room 22

Toddlers/Preschool: Room 23

Kindergarten – 1st Grades: Room 25 (10:45am gathers here for Joy! Singers and will be escorted to their workshop.) *(Grace Makers Workshop Rotation classes move each week.)*

2nd—5th/6th Grades: Room 15 (10:45am gathers here for Celebration! Singers) *(Grace Makers Workshop Rotation classes move each week.)*

6th–8th Grades: Room 19b

High School: Room 19a

Join the Sunday School Team!

If you love working with children and would like to teach, please contact Rev. Sue at sue.trigger@gcpc.org.

SMASH Sunday!

Service, Music, Art, Sports, Hangtime

Arise! Shine With Trust

September 18, 4–6pm

Our September SMASH will focus on ways we can shine with trust. Join us for story time, crafts, games, snacks and more! Does this sound a lot like VBS? Yes! We are going to remember the VBS pathfinder verses, sing our favorite songs and have a great time!

SMASH meets in Heartland Hall. Please RSVP for your children to Christy Soule at christysoule@yahoo.com.



Grace Studies: Adult Study Opportunities

Follow Me: Honor God's Diversity

September 4-11; Meets in Room 3

Zoom in at: <https://tinyurl.com/mv9w72ky>

God calls us to honor diversity that God has created in our world by diving deep beyond just accepting diversity. When we recognize and celebrate the different gifts, abilities, and voices in all creation, we honor the diversity in the world that God has created.



Faith Working Through Love:

A video course with N.T. Wright

September 4-11

Zoom in at: <https://tinyurl.com/2tnr6n3s>

We are all engaged in some kind of work, whether it comes with a paycheck or not. Regardless of the kind of work you do, from bussing tables, to taking care of your home and family, to managing a business, chances are you want to find meaning in your endeavors. We will enjoy this video study with Dr. Wright from St Mary's College in the University of St Andrews, Scotland.

GA in Review and the Fossil Fuel Divestment Overture

September 18; Meets in Heartland Hall

Rev. Mitch will share about his experience as a commissioner to the 225th General Assembly of the PCUSA. He will also address one of the most publicized and controversial overtures regarding divestment from several fossil fuel corporations. The presentation will be held in Heartland Hall.

Follow Me: Make Peace

September 25 – October 23; Meets in Room 3

Zoom in at: <https://tinyurl.com/2s3eu83a>

There are many ways of understanding and living peace, from the absence of conflict to a quiet, inner calm. God has a vision for peace, shalom, wholeness that God's people need to keep at the forefront of mind and heart. Jesus spoke about God's blessing for those who make peace in his Sermon on the Mount. Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty, the author of the foundational essay for this practice, observes that making peace is like climbing a mountain. There are many paths to the summit. Peacemakers need to identify the path they will navigate on their journey toward God's peace. This class meets in Room 3. Leadership is shared.

Running For Our Lives: A Story of Faith, Politics, and The Common Good

September 25-October 23; Meets in Room 4

Zoom in at: <https://tinyurl.com/2tnr6n3s>

Participants will discuss this book by Robb Ryerse. Empowered by the Brand New Congress initiative in 2018, this evangelical pastor and progressive Republican embarked on a long-shot, grassroots congressional campaign against Steve Womack, one of the most powerful Republican incumbents in Washington, DC. After he ultimately lost his race, Ryerse worked with the Vote Common Good campaign, traveling across the United States to help turn Congress blue. Join Dave Pack and Tom Stroud for a conversation about the book. Copies of the book are available from the church office or during the class for a suggested donation of \$15.00. You can also find the book on Kindle. The class meets in Room 4.

GCPC 8th Annual BBQ Cookoff

Saturday, October 8, 5pm

Bring your family and friends to GCPC's annual BBQ Cookoff on Saturday, October 8, at 5pm in Heartland Hall. Bring a side or dessert to share. Vote for your favorite BBQ'er.

Wanted: Grillers and Smokers who want to show off their BBQing skills and expertise and be the GCPC Master BBQ'er for the year. Sign up to BBQ/grill your favorite meat. Watch for more details in upcoming announcements.



Young Adults and Families Group

The Young Adults and Families Group is resuming their activities after a long COVID break. Mark your calendars and get ready for two wonderful opportunities for our young adults and families to enjoy some autumn fun.



September 11, 5–7:30pm

Back to School BBQ at Quivira Park or other rentable shelter. Hot dogs and burgers will be provided. Bring a side or dessert to share.

October 9, 4–7pm

Pumpkin Patch Outing at Schaake's Pumpkin Patch, followed by dinner at McAlister's in Lawrence.

Contact Emily Hussey so we know how many to plan for at ekthussey@gmail.com.

Clerk's Corner August 2022

After a two-month summer hiatus, Session met on August 15, 2022.

Over the summer some unidentified cremains were found in the church. After unsuccessfully reaching out to anyone who might be able to identify them, we held a Memorial Service for this unknown person and scattered the ashes in the Memorial Garden prior to our meeting.

Several teams have been discussing how their work ties into Grace Covenant's Core Values. All teams are asked to do this and we will aggregate that information.

Our insurance carrier has not paid as much for the HVAC repairs/replacement as we had anticipated, so we will be using \$58,350 from our Reserve Fund to pay the remainder as continue to pursue additional reimbursement from the insurance company. As a result of this draw down, we will resume adding \$3000/month into our reserve fund knowing that we will have additional costly repairs in the future. Please talk to a member of finance team if you have questions.

The August 7 offering was not immediately taken to the safe and disappeared. Extensive searches have been made (*including the dumpster*). The same night, several doors to the church were found to be unlocked (*including the two near the chancel*). Everyone is asked to be cognizant about open/unlocked doors.

We discussed procedures for locking up the church on Sunday mornings which will ensure the building is safe, but also respect people's time.

New Elder Liaison assignments to teams were distributed.

The Reynolds/Baker golf tournament is shaping up nicely.

Concerns were shared about ensuring that the Stewardship campaign goes smoothly this year, we celebrated the MANY ways that GCPC members care for each other and the community, and we thanked Susan Sutherland, Diane Schmit, and Mike Mattix for their service as they retire from the Session.

— Melanie Townsend

MUSIC NOTES

MUSIC IN WORSHIP

September 4th

Organ led worship. Anthem: "Creation Will Be at Peace" by Anna Laura Page. The anthem will be sung by Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

September 11th

Praise Team led worship

September 18th

Organ led worship. Anthem: "Grace" arr. Mark Hayes. The anthem will be sung by Chancel & Exaltation! Singers. The GCPC Orchestra will also lead in worship.

September 25th

Organ led worship. Anthem: "Shalom" by Dan Forrest. The anthem will be sung by Chancel & Exaltation! Singers. Joy! (4s-1st graders) & Celebration! (2nd-5th graders) will also sing.

THESE MUSIC ENSEMBLES RESUME IN SEPTEMBER

Wednesday, September 7th from 6:00-7:00pm

Charter Ringers (College – Adults) Room 1

Chris Krug & Celia Nicholas, co-directors

Sunday, September 11th – Rehearsal Time TBD

Jubilation! Ringers – (6th grade – Adults) Room 1

Kathy Bures, director



THESE MUSIC ENSEMBLES HAVE ALREADY BEGUN

But there's still time to join!

Sundays at 10:45am

(at the beginning of Sunday school)

Joy! (4s-1st graders) – Room 25

Emily Hussey & Hilary Schmidt, co-directors

and

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

Pam Kelly, director – Lara Schesser, co-director

Angela Krug, accompanist – Room 15

Tuesdays from 7:00-8:30pm Praise Team

(Youth – Adults) – Sanctuary

Carrie DeVries, director

Wednesdays from 7:05-8:30pm

Chancel Choir & Exaltation! Singers

(6th grade – Adults) – Sanctuary

Rebecca Prater, director

GCPC ORCHESTRA REHEARSAL & WORSHIP DATES THIS SEMESTER

REHEARSAL DATES:

Thursday, September 15th

7:00-8:00pm, Sanctuary

Saturday, September 17th

10:30-11:30am, Sanctuary

WORSHIP DATE:

Sunday, September 18th, 9:30am, Pam Kelly, director

REHEARSAL DATES:

Thursday, December 1st

7:00-8:00pm – Sanctuary

Saturday, December 3rd

10:30-11:30am – Sanctuary

WORSHIP DATE:

Sunday, December 4th, 9:30am, Pam Kelly, director

Please contact any of the directors listed above or Rebecca Prater if you are interested in participating in any of the ensembles. We want to be ready for you!

"THANK YOU" FOR GIVING MUSIC IN AUGUST OF 2022

The anthem, "Brightest and Best" arr. Shawn Kirchner, was donated by **Celia & Mike Nicholas** in honor of the music program at GCPC.

The anthem, "On This Day Earth Shall Ring" arr. Bryan L. Greer, was donated in memory of **Jane Weaver** from the Mary Ann Wilson Memorial Choral Music Grants.

The anthem, "Shalom" by Dan Forrest, was donated by **Jerel & Kathy Williams** in honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary – January 9, 2021.

The handbell piece, "Medley for Thanksgiving" arr. Sondra Tucker, was donated by **Lynn Long** in memory of her father, **James McCartney** (June 24, 1930-November 23, 2021).

The handbell piece, "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need" arr. Claude T. Smith and transcribed for handbells by Linda Boatright, was donated by **Pam & Jim Kelly** in honor of all the bell choirs at GCPC.

The handbell piece, "Prayer for Healing" by Michael Helman, was donated by **Celia & Mike Nicholas** in memory of their dear friend, **Brenda Hooper**.

The handbell piece, "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" arr. Ron Mallory, was donated by **Celia & Mike Nicholas** in honor of their grandchildren and keeping the magic of Christmas alive.

BELIEVE THERE IS GOOD IN THE WORLD



CROP Hunger Walk

CROP Hunger Walk Saturday, October 8 at 10am

This logo came from Church World Service (CWS), the ecumenical organization that raises funds through CROP Hunger Walks to support its anti-hunger work. Grace Covenant is a long-term supporter of the Kansas City Heart of America CROP Hunger Walk. This year's walk is being held at Central United Methodist Church Saturday, October 8, at 10am.

A significant part of CWS's work deals with refugees. The world refugee count has grown to a staggering 26.6 million in 2022.

Go to events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/grace-covenant-presbyterian-church to join the Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church Team as a walker or to make a donation to someone who is walking or to our team of walkers.

Please contact Karen or Dave Pack if you have any questions.



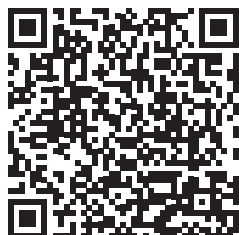
Youth Page

Fall Youth Events

This Fall we will be mixing up the schedule to include some longer Sunday events. We will still have Sunday School for middle and high school students but plan to lengthen some weeks to include a lot more fun and craziness and will also likely include a meal. We will combine the original feel of Sunday school and Connect into this time, focusing on the biblical text, as well as participating in games and activities. We are currently calling these Sunday morning events "Reconnect." Then, instead of weekly Connect events on Sunday evenings, we plan to do a large event once or twice a month and a regular length Sunday School class that week.

Presbytery Retreat Sept. 23–24, "When Did We See You"

- Early Registration (\$15)
Deadline is Sept 11
- Late Registration (\$40)
Deadline is Sept 19



It's time to register for our Heartland Youth Fall Presbytery retreat September 23rd-24th at Heartland Camp. And because it is coming up soon the registration deadline is even sooner! The retreat is based on Triennium theme of "When Did We See You" and is for youth in grades 6-12. It promises to be AMAZING! The materials are great, and we have recruited some excellent local youth leaders to lead worship, recreation, and small groups. [Click this link to register](#) or scan the QR code.

The Fall Is Off to a Great Start!

We had a lot of fun in August with some golf themed events (Top Golf, and Craft Putt), a full presbytery event at Main Event, and a big youth and family party at Miles' house. We had 35 youth and adults at the party and had a great time playing, eating, and discussing many things involving youth ministry. It's always good to connect as a larger group to share God's love and remember we are part of a bigger family.

Sunday Mornings

We also kicked off Sunday School for the fall in August. It is exciting to start a new school year and welcome new students into our youth program with fresh ideas and energy! We also welcome some new leadership. Thanks to Charlie Trigger and Emily Baker who are helping out this fall in addition to Brandon Hearn!





Baker/Reynolds Golf Scramble

By Bill Turner

August 21 was a great day to play golf at Falcon Valley for the Baker/Reynolds Golf Scramble. There were a total of 29 golfers this year, *(although there were a few last minute cancellations due to some family issues)*. 33 golfers paid to play in the Scramble.

Golfers paused at the 2nd hole to toast Larry Baker and Reggie Reynolds!

We want to send out a special shout out to Ryan Peck and 3GEN Wealth for their financial sponsoring for 2 of our special event holes.

The winners of the special events were:

- Drew Monrad - closest to the pin on the 2nd hole
- Jason Bontje - closest to the pin on the 5th hole
- Pat Fitzgerald - longest drive on the 8th hole
- Connor Spake - longest putt on the 9th hole

Between the fees for the scramble, and the free will donations made for the event, over the last few weeks, we raised nearly \$4,500 for the Baker/Reynolds Scholarship Fund. Donations can still be made through the GCPC website at www.gcpc.org/give.





News About Our Artists in Residence: ENCOREKC!

We are excited to provide meeting space and support for this wonderful organization, which includes many GCPC members. ENCOREKC! is a choir for singers age 50+.

The Fall season begins September 12 with rehearsals Mondays from 11am to 12pm in the sanctuary.

To register go to: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7a28y3>. For more information contact Pam Kelly, director, Bob or Linda Dover, or Lauren Bond.



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	Angela Krug
Ric Cummings	Jake Schmidt
Miles Dalton (youth)	Terri Monrad
Andrew Frye	Joy Circo
Katie Hearn	Tom Stroud
Melanie Townsend	Lara Schesser
Jane Knoche	Bill Turner

SUPPORT STAFF

Deacon ModeratorMeredith Watson
Operating Committee..... Terri Monrad,
Ric Cummings, Katie Hearn, Angela Krug
Newsletter Editor/Marketing..... Kim Krueger
Prayer Chain Cheryl Johnson
Website Administrators Kim Krueger,
Patrick Bell

MINISTRY UNITS

Congregational Nurture Unit Moderators
Connections and Care.....Jake Schmidt
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
Welcoming Kathy Williams

Supportive Ministry Unit Moderators
Facility Liz Chandler
Generosity David Sutherland
Finance..... Jim Byrd
Personnel Kevin Mason

Worship Schedule

9:30am Worship
In-Person, Facebook & Zoom
Visit gcpc.org/online for links

Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines

October 2022 issue - Deadline, September 20
November 2022 issue - Deadline, October 21