



REAL FAITH | REAL STORIES | REAL GRACE

GRACE NOTES



FIND HOPE THIS EASTER

We welcome you to join us as we gather in-person (*on Easter Sunday morning outdoors at 9am*) and online to celebrate and experience new beginnings in Christ. We hope to connect with you, your family and friends during this most holy time of the year as you encounter God through Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church!

For bulletins, announcements, Zoom links and more, visit our website at gcpc.org.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 7PM

Join us for Online Worship on Facebook and Zoom.

This service of remembrance will take us to the Lord's table where Jesus gave the great commandment and instituted the Sacrament of Communion. Participants are asked to gather their own bread and drink to participate at home. Music will be shared by the Praise Team and Charter Ringers I.

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 7PM

Join us for Online Worship on Facebook and Zoom.

This service of darkness calls us to remember the depth of God's love for us in the sacrifice Jesus made for us. The service will include beautiful video interpretations of the story. This will be a moving service that will prepare our hearts to more fully experience the joy of Easter morning. The service concludes with the stripping of the sanctuary and tolling of the bell for each year of the life of Jesus. Music will be shared by the Chancel Ensemble and Chancel Singers I, II, III.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4

— **Outdoor Worship at 9am; Service outdoors in West parking lot at GCPC***

Join us as we gather outdoors, just as Mary and the disciples did that first Easter, to celebrate the joy of Christ's resurrection. The service will include the joyful traditions of great music, flowering the cross and the Sacrament of Communion. Scripture: John 20:1-18. Sermon by Revs. Sue & Mitch Trigger. Music Leaders: Praise Team. We ask participants to bring their own Communion bread and drink and a lawn chair. We will gather in the West parking lot. Please wear a mask and sit socially distanced. (*Held outdoors, weather permitting; if cancelled, it will be held online on Facebook and Zoom - see website for details)

— **Online Worship at 11am; Service shown on Facebook and Zoom.**

This online service will rejoice in Christ's resurrection with beautiful music, the flowering of the cross and the Sacrament of Communion. The service will enjoy the flowering of the cross from the previous service and the worship leaders. Those at home are reminded to have bread and drink ready for the Sacrament of Communion. Scripture: John 20:1-18. Sermon by Rev. Sue & Mitch Trigger. Music Leaders: Chancel Ensemble, Charter Ringers II, & Linda Dover – organist, with Joon Park - trumpeter from UMKC Conservatory, Chris Krug - 4-hand piano, Daniel Cole – percussion, Katie Hearn – flute, and Bob Dover – clarinet.

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church celebrates God's unbounded grace and all-inclusive love.



May 23!

As we get closer and closer to some semblance of church “normality” (**re-opening for in-person services on Pentecost Sunday, May 23**), we’d like to emphasize appreciation. It feels great to be appreciated, but it also feels great to appreciate other people. It’s true! In 2010, the journal *Psychiatry* pointed to research showing that people who demonstrate their appreciation for others, however it’s done, are themselves happier once they’ve done it. But why? Essentially, by pointing out someone’s good qualities or giving them thanks, you’re telling them how they’ve enriched your life. This in turn means you’re focusing on something positive in your life too, which will make you happier.

That’s not, however, the only personal benefit. Telling the people in your life how much they mean to you helps strengthen your relationships, both at work and at home. A Healthcare Training Institute study even found that people who show their appreciation for others on a regular basis are healthier and live longer than those who don’t, which might sound crazy, but the link between overall life satisfaction and longevity has been shown often enough times for this to make sense.

If you’re uncomfortable telling someone how much you appreciate them, you don’t have to miss out – keeping a gratitude journal and writing about one person, event, or thing you’re happy you have in your life every day will have a similar effect. (And then you can always tell your journal you appreciate it, if you like.)

And if you think about it, what else is all the praise to God found in the Bible except people showing their appreciation to God?

Something to think about...

—*Mitch & Sue Trigger*

Resuming Work on Workshop Rotation

Would you like to help?

Resurrection Energy abounds as we pick up where we left off in 2020! The Children’s Team is excited to announce that we are going to resume plans for the Workshop Rotation Sunday School to begin in late summer or early fall! We are building a new and exciting experience for our children to learn Bible stories through workshops in art, science, music, puppetry, games and more. Each week the children will experience a story through one of these workshops.

Leaders will select a favorite area (science, art, etc.), partner with a friend, and lead a workshop for two weeks in a row. There will be 6-8 weeks between your workshops. This is a great way for children to build relationships with our adults.

Rev. Sue will host an IN PERSON workshop on Sunday, May 2 at 11:15am in Heartland Hall to re-introduce the program. Participants are asked to enter through the Weekday Entrance. You must wear a mask, sign in at the registration table in the entrance way and sanitize your hands as you enter Heartland Hall.

If you love working with children and would like to be part of this program, please contact Rev. Sue at sue.trigger@gcpc.org.

Thank You Church Family!

Thank you for your care and concern for Paul and me during this winter with Paul’s health issues. All the prayers, calls, EM, cards, and meals are a testimony to our thoughtful GCPC family. We both feel comforted and blessed from all of you.

—*Sincerely, Paul and Ginny Wirtz*

Gay Lee Ludwig-Bonney is filled with gratitude and appreciation for all the cards, calls, emails, food, and visits she (and Bob) have received since her foot surgery. “Thank you, GCPC family, for your support and concern!”

—*Gay Lee and Bob Bonney*

Music Notes

What's Ahead in Worship?

See our music ensemble schedule for online (and outdoor in-person at 9am on Easter) 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.

Holy Week



MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 1, 7pm

- Charter Ringers I – Celia Nicholas, director
"At the Table" arr. Jason Krug
- Praise Team – Carrie DeVries, director
"Lord, I Need You" by Matt Maher
"Come As You Are" by David Crowder
"Say Something" by Mike Campbell
"Remember" by Stephanie Gretzinger
"Broken Vessels/Amazing Grace" by Hillsong



GOOD FRIDAY – April 2, 7pm

- Chancel Ensemble – Hymn Leadership
- Chancel Singers I
"Behold the Lamb of God" by Craig Courtney
- Chancel Singers II
"My Song Is Love Unknown" arr. Molly Ijames
- Chancel Singers III
"Kyrie Eleison" (Lord, Have Mercy) by Dana Mengel
- Rebecca Prater, director - Linda Dover, accompanist



Easter!

EASTER SUNDAY – April 4

—9:00am – Outside Worship with Flowering of the Cross and Communion.
(In case of rain, the 9am worship will be held in the Sanctuary and Online only.)

Music Leadership by: Praise Team

- Carrie DeVries, director with Daniel Cole, percussion – Melanie Townsend, keyboard and Michelle Gailliez-Frye, Donna Goeckler, Jami Howe, and Terri Monrad, vocals

—11:00am – Sanctuary Online Worship with continuation of Flowering of the Cross and Communion.

Musical Leadership by:

- Charter Ringers II – Celia Nicholas, director – Chris Krug, accompanist
"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" arr. Lloyd Larson
- Chancel Ensemble – Rebecca Prater, director and Linda Dover, organist
"Lift High the Cross" setting by Paul Leddington Wright
"Gaelic Alleluia" arr. Craig Courtney
"Rejoice This Day!" arr. Douglas E. Wagner with Joon Park, trumpeter from UMKC Conservatory - Daniel Cole, tambourine - Bob Dover, clarinet - Katie Hearn, flute - and Chris Krug, 4-hand piano

Bright Sunday - April 11

Watch for more information from Worship Team and the Triggers regarding this joyful Sunday, but you can expect the music to get your toe a tappin' and a smile on your face!

Sunday School

The Joy of Easter has come and Jesus has risen! Our Sunday school teachers are creating wonderful ways to celebrate and learn more about Jesus' teachings. **There will not be Sunday school on Easter Sunday, April 4.** Join us for the in person 9am service (*Bring your own lawn chair and Communion bread and drink*) or the 11am online service.

Our online Sunday school will continue through May 16, 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 9am – 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 April and May.

Adult Classes

The Resurrection of Risus Paschalis

April 11 at 11:15am on Zoom

This year Revs. Sue and Mitch will resurrect (*pun intended*) an old Easter custom begun by early Christians. Come learn more about the tradition and have some fun as we learn about this ancient tradition.



IMAGINE! GOD'S EARTH & PEOPLE RESTORED.

Kairos Team Led Class

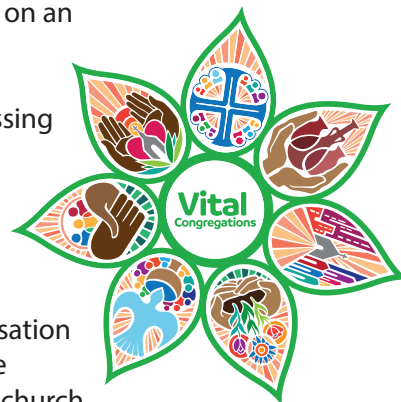
April 18 at 11:15am on Zoom

Join Jo and Rick Randolph preparing for the 51st annual worldwide celebration of Earth Day and its theme of "Restore Our Earth." We will explore how 'Restoring Our Earth' compels us to work for the healing of those who Jesus called 'the least of these.' The Earth and its people are groaning. We are called to respond!

Matthew 25: Vital Congregations Revitalization study

April 25 - May 16 at 11:15am on Zoom

Join us as we embark on an honest conversation about GCPC, sharing unique stories, confessing our realities and discerning the Spirit's call. Each week our leaders will guide us through Bible study, reflection and conversation that will help us as we work to revitalize the church in missional action and faithful discipleship in Jesus Christ throughout our neighborhoods, our nation and the world.



By the King's Decree...

The Date is set for Vacation Bible School!

June 7 – 11 from 9am – 12pm

To register go to: gcpc.org/Quest

Come to North Castle and join the quest for the King's Armor. All children are invited to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power by exploring how we put on the armor of God. All will take on the role of brave Knights and begin their quest each session by opening the King's Book. They'll explore Old and New Testament stories and discover different pieces of protective armor—the Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Justice, the Shoes of Peace, the Shield of Faith, and the Helmet of Salvation—at work in the lives of familiar Bible characters, and explore how that armor works in their own lives as they follow and serve God. Get ready to take up the gauntlet and accept the challenge to "armor up" and be strong by remaining with God and sharing God's love in a world that needs it more than ever.



NOTICE: In order to maintain COVID-19 safety protocols, this year's VBS will be open to children and grandchildren of church members only. Next year we'll welcome everyone to join us.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We will need plenty of helpers and supplies for VBS. If you would like to volunteer to be a leader or help with supplies, please contact Rev. Sue at sue.trigger@gcpc.org.



April SMASH! A Matthew 25 Event

April 18, 4-6pm for K-5th grades

SMASH has been a great time for our K-5th grade kids! The name SMASH stands for Service, Music, Art, Sports, Hangout. Our April SMASH will learn about Jesus' parable in Matthew 25. We will enjoy activities to help us see Jesus by meeting the needs of those around us—the hungry, the thirsty, the estranged, the poor, the sick, and the imprisoned. We'll read the parable, play games, and more.

Please RSVP to help us safely prepare for supplies and social distance. RSVP to Christy Soule at christysoule@yahoo.com. We can't wait to see you!

Mission Focus for April

The GCPC Mission Team has chosen Safehome, a nonprofit domestic violence shelter, as our donation partner for the month of April.

Needed items include: Paper Towels, Kleenex, Toilet Paper, Band-aids, Q-Tips, Advil/Ibuprofen (sealed in the package), Twin Sheet Sets (new only), Bath Towels (new only), and Bathroom Hand Towels/Washcloths (new only).

Donations can be dropped off at GCPC on Saturday, April 17, between 8:15 and 9:15am (same time as KCK Hot Lunch drop-off).

This will be a drive-up/drop-off event such as we have had in the past few months.

Thank you for your support!

Clerk's Corner

The **March 15, 2021**, Session meeting was held via Zoom with Reverend Sue Trigger serving as moderator. In addition to the ruling elders, deacon Jerel Williams, Reverend Mitch Trigger, Jane Knoche, Linda and Joe Hoffman and Joel and Teresa Ilten were in attendance. Sue opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and shared a devotion asking that we be in prayer about where God is leading this congregation.

Session welcomed our new members – Joe and Linda Hoffman and Teresa and Joel Ilten – and asked them to introduce themselves. Afterwards, a motion was made to accept them as new members. The motion passed and they will join the congregation at the Palm Sunday service on March 28.

Jane Knoche asked that Session approve letting IHN use our facility during our May rotation. A motion to do so was made and passed. *(Note: IHN subsequently informed Jane that other congregations were not open to using their building yet so guests will continue to be housed in a motel instead.)*

Consent agenda: The minutes of the February 15 Session meeting were approved.

Team minutes: There was a gentle reminder to teams that their minutes need to be sent to Patrick each month.

- **Personnel team:** Session approved three motions submitted from the Personnel team – to approve changes to the job description of part-time staff positions, to approve changes to the vacation and sick-leave policy and to add the phrase “Technical Director of Worship” to Miles McDonald’s title in recognition of the myriad duties he’s assumed during the pandemic.

- **Generosity team:** There will be a link added to the Facebook worship services to allow people to donate to GCPC using the link or texting.

- **Finance team:** We have 138 pledges for a total of \$639,382, putting the church in a better position than last month. All the teams submitted a “bare bones” budget so that the current asking budget is \$139,000 less than 2019 and \$9,000 less than what was spent in 2020 when the building was closed for most of the year. The estimated operating deficit is \$33,000 but income from investments is expected to be enough to meet that. The team made a motion that Session approve the budget and it passed with two negative votes. It was asked that monthly budget and YTD expenses be listed in the newsletter each month.

Clerk's report: Emily Monrad Boston asked to be removed from the membership rolls *(but says she'll still come sing for us)*, which leaves us with a membership of 396 *(the new members will be added once they have answered the membership questions in front of the congregation)*.

Co-Pastors' report: The co-pastors' report wasn't received but no one had any questions for Sue or Mitch.

Deacons' report: Jerel Williams asked when the new deacons will be installed. Sue will get with Anita Hadel and the new deacons to pick a Sunday after Easter.

Presbytery report: Marcia, Susan and Diane reported that two new pastors were admitted to Heartland Presbytery, and that Dee Cooper's and Brian Ellison's terms were extended to June. The Presbytery voted to recommend that the KC Police Commissioner and Police Chief be removed from office.

Old business: The discretionary fund has been used to help someone. Building reopening – Session approved the teams, elders and deacons moving forward with plans for tentatively reopening the building May 23, using the notes from the March 6 meeting and recognizing that the situation may change pending updated recommendations from the CDC and/or the denomination. Children's team asked Session to approve having an indoor and outdoor VBS on July 19-23 for GCPC families only, as long as safety protocols are followed. It passed. A motion was approved to increase the number of people allowed in our three rooms that are big enough to 25 from 15. It was also decided that the youth group could meet in the youth rooms again. Session approved Johnson County Community College to use Heartland Hall for oil painting classes beginning in October.

After sharing joys and concerns, the meeting adjourned at 9:50pm and Rev. Sue Trigger closed with a prayer.

Youth Page

Thank You for Youth Sunday!

Leave it to our AMAZING youth for "Adapting to Change" and pulling off an almost completely virtual Youth Sunday. We have received so many overwhelmingly positive comments that it's clear our students touched the hearts of those who joined us online. It was a heartfelt and meaningful message of hope ... and fun at the same time. If you missed it for any reason or want to watch again, here is a link to it on our website:

www.gcpc.org/youthsunday

Youth Space

Session has approved us meeting again in the youth space downstairs at church!!! When we open the partitions in room 19 it is quite a large space and we will also open some windows to keep the fresh air following. Of course, we will remain masked and distanced and will not eat there (*hard to do in a mask*). We look forward to moving back "home".

Summer Trips

We will not be renting a bus this summer and taking a Mission and Music trip as has been our tradition for many years. We are, however, looking into options for a youth and family canoe trip. We are also starting to think creatively about how we could safely travel to the Montreat Youth Conference this summer. They are moving ahead with in-person youth conferences this year and have put several new safety protocols in place. Finally, we are looking into local or regional service opportunities for the group so please pray for continued safety and progress towards creative solutions and adaptations!

Little Pantry

If you have driven by the church lately you may have noticed that we now have a beautiful little pantry to help us serve our neighbors. You will find it on the east side of the building near the benches just outside the lower level east doors. This pantry was built and installed by Jenna Soule as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award project. Our youth will keep it stocked on Sundays but there may be some opportunities to help keep it stocked on other days. More details to come as we see how the pantry is utilized. Thank you, Jenna, for helping us reach out in kindness to our neighbors in need!





GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Inclusive. Family Oriented. Welcoming.

11100 College Boulevard
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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

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. Donna Goeckler

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	David Minaschek
Ric Cummings	Terri Monrad
Andrew Frye	Diane Schmit
Tim Hayden	Sophie Shaw
Cheryl Johnson	Jenna Soule
Terry Kolich	Susan Sutherland
Lynn Long	Marcia Turner
Mike Mattix	

SUPPORT STAFF

Deacon Moderator Anita Hadel
Operating Committee..... Tim Hayden,
Cheryl Johnson, Susan Sutherland, Mike Mattix,
Diane Schmit
Newsletter Editor/Marketing..... Kim Krueger
Prayer Chain..... Cheryl Johnson
Website Administrators .. Kim Krueger/Patrick Bell

MINISTRY UNITS

Congregational Nurture Unit Moderators

Connections and Care..... Vacant
Worship and Music..... Melanie Townsend,
Katie Hearn

Education Ministry Unit Moderators

Adult Maggie Blankers
Children Erin Frye, Angela Krug
Youth..... Kaki Conti

Reach Out Ministry Unit Moderators

Kairos Rick Randolph
Mission Mikki Walker
Welcoming Vacant

Supportive Ministry Unit Moderators

Facility Marc Feyh
Generosity David Sutherland
Finance..... Jim Byrd
Personnel Kevin Mason

Worship Schedule

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

Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines

May 2021 issue - Deadline, April 20
June 2021 issue - Deadline, May 18