



REAL FAITH | REAL STORIES | REAL GRACE

GRACE NOTES



75th IHN Rotation!

Grace Covenant is hosting IHN May 7-14, 2023 for our 75th Rotation!

Our IHN Executive Director, Vicki Dercher wrote: Each of you have shared the gift of your love with our past and current guest families. Your gifts of time, talents and treasures have lifted up and lightened the load of **502 children, and 94 single women**. As of April 2023, your combined gifts of time, talents and treasures, have lifted up **875 total individuals**. Our IHN Family has provided **56,602 bednights, and 169,806 meals**. Remarkable numbers for such a beautiful ministry!

We are finalizing all the details for our guests coming in just a few days. Thanks to everyone that has volunteered as a host, to help prepare meals, set up, tear down, drive, laundry. It takes a team effort! With our Bell Fest the same arrival day, we won't be able to offer a separate orientation to current or prospective volunteers.

However, we are signed up for an additional rotation in June - June 11th through June 18th.

To our volunteers, please mark your calendars.

We will be covering all of Tuesday and Wednesday meals and evening hosting as Indian Heights UMC couldn't help this extra time. We hope to have an orientation available on June 11th.

Our guests often remark on how much love is put into the meals made and how welcome they feel at Grace Covenant. You truly make a difference in the week they spend here. Please lift up our guests and volunteers in prayer this week! Thanks so much!

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.

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

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

Visit gcpc.org/online
for links!

MUSIC NOTES



Bell Fest XXXIII

Sunday, May 7th, 6pm

In-Person, and via Facebook and Zoom

Enjoy familiar tunes from
Broadway and Disney musicals!

Dress up in your favorite character's costume and join us for this fun evening of music and mirth!

We'll have Disney songs to sing, video clips, a live performance of a showtune by Ben Lodge, and plenty of ringing by **Charter, Jubilation!, Spirit! Ringers, and Celebration! Chimes!**

Music Team will be collecting the following items at Bell Fest to donate to the Music & Art programs at Rosehill Elementary School to "Support the Arts!"

- Permanent markers (black & colors)
- Non-permanent markers (like Crayola)
 - Glue sticks • Kid-sized scissors
- Individual boxes of crayons • Sharpened pencils
- Rhythm sticks ([Here's a link! Amazon.com: 60 Pack Rhythm Sticks for Kids, Wood Lummi Sticks Music Percussion Sticks, 6 Colors : Musical Instruments](#))

MUSIC IN WORSHIP

May 7th – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Praise Team led – "Heart of God" by Zach Williams
Cal Sweeten, hammered dulcimer solo

May 14th – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Organ led. Chancel & Exaltation! Singers will join Celebration! Choir (2nd-5th graders) to sing "Through the Window" by Ruth Elaine Schram and Joy! Singers (4s-1st graders) will sing "We All Belong to God" by Ruth Elaine Schram

May 21st – Seventh Sunday of Easter

Organ led. Chancel & Exaltation! Singers anthem: "One Faith, One Hope, One Lord" by Craig Courtney – Darryl Prater, trumpet

May 28th – Pentecost Sunday

Praise Team led.

June 4th – Trinity Sunday

Organ led. Chancel & Exaltation! Singers anthem: "The Majesty and Glory of Your Name" by Tom Fettke David Sutherland, soloist with an instrumental ensemble

Summer Choir Dates in Worship

July 16th, August 6th, August 27th

Summer Choir is open to all singers

6th grade – Adults who would like to sing

congregational favorite anthems over the summer.

We will rehearse the morning of each of these

Sundays. No robes required.

Contact Rebecca Prater for more information.



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

We are about 30% through our 2023 calendar year and we wanted to give you an update on our pledge progress. Most years we feel that our financial giving starts to stabilize after the first three months, so we don’t usually take a detailed look til about April. As of April 11, 2023 for the 101 submitted pledges, we have received about 35% (\$187,129) of their total \$533,192 commitment. Of the 28 Rollover pledges we have received about 15% (\$15,480) of their total \$101,369 commitment. We use 5 groupings to show giving progress and calendar relationship. They are 0%, 1-25%, 26-50%, 51-75%, 76-100%. Each pledge percentage progress falls into one of these groups.

Here is our giving progress shown by numbers of pledges

| <u>Submitted Pledges (101)</u> | | <u>Rollover Pledges (28)</u> | |
|--------------------------------|----|------------------------------|----|
| 0 % fulfilled | 32 | 0 % fulfilled | 11 |
| 1-25% fulfilled | 33 | 1-25% fulfilled | 6 |
| 26-50% fulfilled | 29 | 26-50% fulfilled | 9 |
| 51-75% fulfilled | 0 | 51-75% fulfilled | 1 |
| 76-100% fulfilled | 7 | 76-100% fulfilled | 1 |

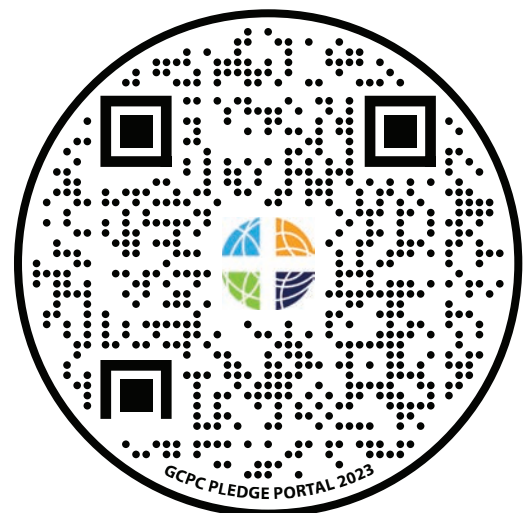
As you can see, our pledged giving is a bit varied. We are hoping to see our 0% fulfilled numbers start moving into the other groups. For example, if you haven’t given any funds yet toward either your Submitted or Rollover pledge in 2023, you are in the 0% fulfilled category. We trust that by sharing this information, you will be gently reminded to check on your pledge status. As always, we thank you for your generosity and commitment to Grace Covenant.

If you have questions about the above information, please contact any of the members of your Generosity Team: Dave Sutherland, Ryan Hussey, Bill Brown, and Jane Knoche.

Faith and Hope Campaign Update

Since we had a Budget shortfall shown for this year, we initiated a \$50,000 Faith and Hope Campaign last fall. We have had 33 people come forward and give a supplemental pledge amount. Thank you so much for your prompt response! As of April 11, 2023, only 42% of our goal has been raised for a total of \$21,535. This is not what we have been aiming for. We would like to ask you to please consider joining our Faith and Hope Campaign with a supplemental pledge. Ryan Hussey wants to add 58 more virtual balloons to our Faith and Hope picture!

Can you help? You can access it through our giving portal and choosing the **2023 Faith and Hope Fund** or by sending an email to Tara Hyder, finance@gcpc.org. Here is the link if you don’t want to use the QR code. [Give Now \(onrealm.org\)](https://onrealm.org)





Hero Hotline

Called Together to Serve God!

Vacation Bible School June 5-9, 9am-Noon
Ages 4 – 5th Grade

Register at gcpc.org/vbs

Our Vacation Bible School registration is live!

Visit gcpc.org/vbs to register children age 4 through those who have completed 5th grade for our Hero Hotline VBS. During our fun filled week, our heroes will learn how they can use their skills to bring peace and build one another up! We hope you will join us and invite a friend too! VBS will be held daily from Monday June 5 - Friday June 9 from 9am - 12noon.

VBS planning needs your help!

We are looking for helping hands to assemble decorations to be used for VBS. We will meet on Friday, April 28, 6-9pm in Heartland Hall. If you are able to help, please contact Christy Soule, christysoule@yahoo.com, or Kristy Shaw, kristinashaw@everestkc.net.

The decoration committee is also looking for donations.

Please check the board outside the sanctuary if you are able to help purchase a few items that will help transform our church into Hero Hotline Headquarters. Thank you in advance!

SMASH Sunday!

Service, Music, Art, Sports, Hangtime

May 21, 4-6pm, Heartland Hall

Our monthly event where we welcome all children Kindergarten through 5th/6th.

During our April SMASH, our children learned ways they can care for the earth including how to properly dispose of our trash or find ways to recycle it!

Smash will meet again on May 21st from 4-6pm in Heartland Hall. We will get a preview of some of the ways heroes can help one another and share peace. Does this sound familiar? Yes, these are topics we will focus on for our VBS which is coming up in a few short weeks!



Getting to know GCPC Committees:

Children's Team

At Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, one of our core values is that we are Christ with our heads. We equip through education. The Children's Team guides this work for those in our church who have just been born all the way through those completing 5th or 6th grade. There is always plenty of work to be done, but it is joy-filled work!

Currently, we are beginning to look ahead to the next school year. We are making sure we have appropriate curricula in place and teachers to help carry out those plans. We are also deep into preparing for Vacation Bible School guided by our planning team. What better way to learn about the love of God through a fun and engaging week of stories, music, crafts, science, and activity! (Oh, and don't forget the snacks!)

Grace Covenant Children's Team is proud of our Awakening to Worship (ATW) program as coordinated by Kristy Shaw. ATW is a worship service for our four-year-olds through first graders. Children learn Bible stories and are encouraged to connect those Bible stories to their own lives. They learn about the church calendar and traditions and participate in worship practices such as the feast (communion).

SMASH stands for service, music, art, sports, and hangout. SMASH takes place once a month and is overseen by the Children's Team with the bulk of the planning being done by Christy Soule in conjunction with Sue Trigger. SMASH is a chance for the kids to get together outside of Sunday School to learn more about the love of God. A favorite aspect of SMASH is the gift made each session that is then shared with the residents at Aberdeen Village.

We also host some events throughout the year. Just last month, we hosted the annual Easter Egg Hunt. We were happy to be able to invite families from Pioneer Preschool for the second year since the pandemic began. We look forward to once again hosting Trunk or Treat in October.

One of the special parts of being on the Children's Team is getting to witness children grow up and celebrating special milestones with them on their faith journey. Two of those milestones that we organize the celebrations for are the Gather at the Table Communion training for second graders and the Bible Workshop and presentation of Bibles for third graders.

If being involved in overseeing any of the work of the Children's Team sounds like a good fit for you, please contact any member of the Children's Team. We would be happy to welcome you aboard!

Angela Krug & Erin Frye (co-moderators), Sue Trigger (staff liaison), Kristy Shaw, Christy Soule, Emily Hussey, Amy Sellers.



40 Days. 40 Items. Recap

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 40 Days/40 Items decluttering challenge during Lent.

As the pictures show, we collected a small mountain of clothes and household items for Blessings Abound; a table full of books for the Johnson County library; another table full of items for Scraps KC; and several bags of coats for Uplift. Although not pictured, we also collected 114 pairs of shoes for Soles for Souls! All these items will go to help our community and neighbors in need in various ways; good work GCPC!

Special thanks to Meredith Watson, Linda Hoffman, Dave Pack, and Christine Hutchins for helping to unload cars and sort donations.



Do You Drive an Electric Vehicle?

On Sunday, June 18, our Grace Summer Session will be about electric vehicles. This will be an opportunity to show your electric vehicle (cars, vans, bikes) to members and friends who want to learn more about it. This intergenerational session will begin at 10:45am in Heartland Hall with a brief presentation and then move to the west-end parking lot to see the vehicles.

If you would be willing to display your vehicle, please sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A45A4A722A4FC1-electric>

Blood Drive

We're excited to host the Community Blood Center donation drive on June 27 during their Royals' promotion week. This means two tickets for everyone who comes in to donate! New donors are always welcome!

We'll be making appointments (2-6pm) in May and June. For questions, contact Sarah Byrd, 913-909-1559 or swbyrds@gmail.com.

Congratulations to Reynolds/Baker Scholarship Winners

This year's scholarship recipients are Lauren Callender, Kelly Kowalczewski and Ben Mason.

The scholarship named in memory of Regina Reynolds and Larry Baker, is presented each year to graduating seniors from GCPC who have been active in Youth and/or Music Activities during their high school years. The scholarship is intended to reward and recognize students who embody commitment to church, community service/mission, and education. This is a onetime only award intended to help pay for tuition, fees, or books.

Grace Studies: For Kids

Pre-school 2-4 years:

The pre-school children will continue to 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.



Remember that 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:

Everyone is welcome to check out our workshop rotation classes, take a walk down the first-floor hallway in the east wing and see what's happening.



Children's Ministry Opportunities

Awakening to Worship is our wonder and worship program for children ages 4-1st grade and meets following the children's sermon weekly. We invite children in elementary school to continue participating and experiencing worship as they move into the sanctuary for worship with the wider family of Grace Covenant.

Worship Bags are in place to help busy hands and hearts. Worship Bulletins are available from the ushers every week and are on two age levels.

Joy! Singers: Our 4 year olds – 1st grade children enjoy singing under the leadership of Emily Hussey and Hilary Schmidt.

Celebration! Choir: Pam Smith Kelly, Lara Schesser, and Angela Krug bring their talents to leading the Celebration! Choir. The children are not only singing; they are ringing chimes!

SMASH: Once a month, SMASH happens! We ordinarily meet the third Sunday of the month from 4-6pm in Heartland Hall. This popular program is an activity for kindergarten through 5/6th graders combining sports, music, arts, service, and "hangout" time and offers a time for children to be nurtured in faith by building relationships with a variety of adults of all ages.

Clerk's Corner

At the April Session meeting, we visited with members of Heartland Presbytery's Commission on Ministry (our first "triennial" visit in about 13 years). We discussed many of the strengths of our congregation as well as some of our challenges.

We received a grant from Heartland Presbytery to cover \$1000 of our membership cost in the Good Faith Network this year. The Good Faith Network's Nehemiah Assembly will take place on May 2 at Church of the Resurrection and we hope to be well represented.

Youth Team has program coverage through the end of May and is still looking for a male sponsor to go on the Massanetta trip July 15-23.

Facilities is still working on logistical details for our participation in the Compost Collective.

Finance Team will provide monthly updates to the congregation through the 2nd quarter of 2023.

We approved a motion from Personnel Team to create an Audio Visual Technician position.



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Inclusive. Family Oriented. Welcoming.

11100 College Boulevard
Overland Park, KS 66210
Phone: 913-345-1256

gcpc.org

Follow us on Social Media!

Facebook: facebook.com/GraceCovenantPresbyterian
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
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Youth Ministries

Sue Trigger, sue.trigger@gcpc.orgext.15

Finance AdministratorTara Hyder
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Organist Linda Dover

Contemporary Music Coord. Carrie DeVries

Contemporary Music Drummer..... Ben Mason

Child Care Coordinator.....Carolyn Chaffin

Wedding CoordinatorLara 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 ModeratorAnne Stroud
Operating Committee..... Terri Monrad,
Ric Cummings, Katie Hearn, Angela Krug
Newsletter Editor/Marketing..... Kim Krueger
Prayer ChainCheryl Johnson
Website AdministratorsKim Krueger,
Patrick Bell, Christy Soule

MINISTRY UNITS

Congregational Nurture Unit Moderators
Connections and Care.....Jake Schmidt
Worship and Music..... Kathy Bures,
Katie Hearn

Education Ministry Unit Moderators
AdultTom Stroud
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..... Terra Howard
Personnel Kevin Mason

Worship Schedule

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

Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines

June 2023 issue - Deadline, May 19
July 2023 issue - Deadline, June 22