



REAL FAITH | REAL STORIES | REAL GRACE

GRACE NOTES

If there's anything we've learned over the years, it's that we don't have a monopoly on good thoughts to share.

As we begin another new year filled with anticipation and anxiety, we want to share with you these **words from Gradye Parsons, the former Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):**

Abraham Lincoln said "The best thing about the future is that it comes only one day at a time." I wonder if Abe would say that today with our high-speed high-definition world. To review the speed at which the first home computer became today's tablet does seem to reflect a future that shows up faster and faster. I also wonder if the president had the same patience for the news of the American Civil War ending. Everything I have read says he did not.

The distinction is that good news can't get here soon enough and bad news, please take your time. Please Lord, express ship the cheesecake but let the Brussels sprouts come parcel post. If my daily bread is pleasant bring it on, but if it is not then I am in no hurry to receive it.

We are beginning another new year. It will have the regular 365 days. Fifty-two of those days will be Sundays when the community of faith gathers. In those communities they will bring words of worship and prayers to God that cover the range of "Thank you with all of my heart" to "Why did you let my heart break?" The Lord will answer those prayers faithfully one day at a time.

This dance requires discipline. The discipline to have the eyes of faith that see what God is calling us to do today. The eyes to not see what God is calling us to do tomorrow but we are willing anyway. Or, as my wife says when we dance, "Why don't you just let me take the lead!"

So why do we lose sleep on our tomorrows? Is it the fear that there is a big bag of Brussel sprouts bad news coming our way? God has got that sleeping part down too. From Psalm 121:3-4,

*He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel will neither slumber or sleep.*

So take this New Year one day at a time. Get some rest at night. God is already working on tomorrow.

Looking forward to another year of ministry with each and every one of you...

—Sue & Mitch Trigger



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

Clerk's Corner

The **December 20, 2021, Session meeting** was called to order at 7:00pm with Reverend Mitch Trigger serving as moderator. In addition to the ruling elders, deacon Liz Chandler, Reverend Sue Trigger, Rebecca Prater and Miles McDonald were in attendance, as well as the members of the Core Values task force – Maggie Blankers, Nelson Townsend and Kathy Bures – and Melanie Townsend, who will be the Clerk of Session starting in January. Cheryl Johnson shared a devotion, based on Matthew 20:20-28 about being servant leaders and offered a prayer.

Open Forum: Nelson Townsend presented the list of core values that the task force had identified, stemming from discussion on Visioning Day. Session will discuss the values presented and decide by the January 17 meeting what to approve so that the values can be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting in January.

Consent agenda: The minutes of the November 15 Session meeting were approved, as well as affirming the results of an electronic vote regarding the craft retreat.

Team minutes: Worship team: Session approved the 2022 Communion dates as submitted by the team. Continuing to hold one worship service at 9:30am was also approved, except there will be two services on Easter Sunday. Generosity team: We received 97 pledges, and Tara is confirming with members who pledged last year if they intend to continue with the same pledge amount. Finance team: Jim Byrd reported the team projects the church will end the year with \$63,000 above expenses. He presented a proposed budget which predicts a possible \$70,000 deficit. Session approved the budget since the church would be able to cover the deficit from its investments. Nominating team: The team is searching for deacon candidates. Emily Hussey, Vicky Peck and Jerel Williams have joined the team. Diane Schmit wondered if it'd be easier to find people to serve as deacons if the first thing they had to do wasn't organize a meal for Sit-together Sunday. We also wondered if we could have fewer deacons.

Clerk's report: We have 395 members, but letters have been sent to 29 members who have been inactive for a few years asking if they want to retain membership. Depending on that response, we'll have fewer members by the end of December.

Co-pastors' report: There were no questions about the co-pastors' report submitted by Rev. Mitch Trigger.

Deacons' report: Liz Chandler reported that Meredith Watson is going to serve as the Moderator in 2022 and Anne Stroud will be the Vice-Moderator. She wondered if the attendance QR code could be expanded to allow members to volunteer to serve on a team. Susan Sutherland reported she's been working with Dave Peck and Meredith Watson to re-organize the covenant groups.

Presbytery report: Diane Schmit reported presbytery approved requiring churches to extend new pastors a three-month sabbatical every seven years. They encouraged churches to offer existing pastors the same benefit. Angela Krug reported it was very interesting to see the different New Worshipping Communities.

Old business: The pastors and elders are keeping an eye on Covid statistics.

New business: Session elected the following to serve as corporate officers for 2022: President, Susan Sutherland; Vice-president, Ric Cummings; Secretary, Melanie Townsend; and Treasurer, Aaron Soule. Melanie Townsend will begin serving as Clerk of Session in January 2022.

After sharing joys and concerns, the meeting adjourned at 9:40pm and Rev. Mitch Trigger closed with a prayer.

January
SMASH
Service, Music, Art, Sports,
Hangtime

The Baptism of Jesus!

Sunday, January 16 from
4-6pm in Heartland Hall

Our January SMASH will look at the Sacrament of Baptism as we remember the baptism of Jesus. We will make a creative gift for our friends at Aberdeen Village and enjoy games and activities that teach about the importance of water. SMASH is for K-5th/6th grade kids are invited.

Please RSVP to Christy Soule at christysoule@yahoo.com. Please let her know how many children will attend.

There's room for everyone in Sunday School!

Nursery: Room 22

Two's & Three's: Room 23

Preschool 4's & 5's: Room 25
(10:45 a.m. gathers here for Joy! Singers)

Kindergarten: Room 25 (10:45 a.m. gathers here for Joy! Singers)
Grace Makers Workshop Rotation classes move each week

1st—5th/6th Grades: Room 15
(10:45 a.m. gathers here for Celebration! Singers)
Grace Makers Workshop Rotation classes move each week

6th—8th Grades: Room 19b

High School: Room 19a

January Sunday School Classes

The Greek word for baptize, Baptizo, means to dip under, immerse or submerge. That's just what we'll do in Sunday school in January. Through baptism waters, we become part of God's family. Through baptism, the community of believers celebrates God's claim on us and that we have become a part of the universal family of God. How do we respond to this gift of grace? Come find out in Sunday school.

Adult Education

When Jesus says, "Follow me," we are being invited into God's reality of reconciling love. When we choose to follow Jesus, to become a disciple, we are choosing to be taught and formed into someone who is Christlike. Jesus shows us what we are choosing; restored fellowship with God and one another.

Follow Me is a Biblical study of the practices of faith in a whole new learning format. The curriculum is divided into 4–6 week units that address a particular faith practice.

The January study will focus on, "Baptism."

Come for a unit, come for a class, or come every Sunday! The adult class meets in Room 3.

Take a look at our January Grace Studies for Adults:

January 2 The Practice of Memory: Join Pastor Sue for this fun and meaningful way to begin the new year. Participants will reflect on their experiences and faith during the pandemic and more. Journals will be provided. Bring your own scrapbook, time capsule container and supplies if you want to create something more elaborate. *(This is for adults only, in Heartland Hall.)*

January 9–February 6

Follow Me Baptize: Remember Your Baptism; Cross the Divide; Die and Rise; Honor the Body. This class meets in Room 3. **You can Zoom in at:** <https://tinyurl.com/yanmupj9>.

January 9 – February 20

The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism.

Timothy Keller, the founding pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church (PCA) in New York City, addresses the frequent doubts that skeptics, and even ardent believers, have about religion. Using literature, philosophy, real-life conversations, and potent reasoning, Keller explains how the belief in a Christian God is, in fact, a sound and rational one.

To true believers he offers a solid platform on which to stand their ground against the backlash to religion created by the Age of Skepticism. And to skeptics, atheists, and agnostics, he provides a challenging argument for pursuing the reason for God.

We recommend participants use a copy of the book as well as the discussion guide. The discussion guide is available from Pastor Sue today. The books have been ordered.

The book is also available on Kindle from Amazon for those who prefer an electronic copy. Get yours at: <https://www.amazon.com/Reason-God-Belief-Age-Skepticism/dp/1594483493>

This class will meet in Room 4.

You can Zoom in at: <https://tinyurl.com/krd5pz84>



Sit Together Sunday

There will be no Sunday School on January 30, join us for worship at 9:30 a.m. and stay for the Annual Congregational Meeting and lunch.

Follow Me Café Conversations

If you are looking for a more reflective, light conversation about discipleship, join Rev. Mitch for a Café Conversation. These conversations provide brief information and invite a self-guided study. **This class meets in Room 21.**

Join the Sunday School Team!

We are in need of Sunday school teachers for our 2's and 3's Sunday school class as well as substitute teachers for all grades.



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

MUSIC NOTES

As we step into 2022, a new year of music making begins. We will continue to make music in 2022 as we did in 2021. We made progress in number of ensembles and even some live presentations in 2021.

We will continue to do so *while always looking at what is safe for our musicians and congregation.* Changes in safety protocol may occur, as needed. Remember: everyone must be masked while inside the church – including at all music rehearsals.

Please contact the listed director or Rebecca Prater for more information regarding our ensembles.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2022

Our Ensembles will be basically the same as fall of 2021

Beginning dates will be communicated by the directors

CHILDREN'S ENSEMBLES

10:45am on Sundays, Joy! Singers (4s-K) will have their music time at the beginning of Sunday school under the direction of Emily Hussey. **Room 25.**

10:45am on Sundays, Celebration! Singers & Ringers (1st-6th graders) will have their music time at the beginning of Sunday school under the direction of Pam Kelly, Lara Schesser, and accompanist, Angela Krug. **Room 15.**

NEW SAFETY PROTOCOL FOR YOUTH, YOUNG ADULT, ADULT SINGERS, & WIND INSTRUMENTALISTS

*As with last semester, all these musicians need to be fully vaccinated to participate. **Because of the Omicron variant, beginning January 2022 all eligible individuals also need to have their booster shot.** This includes participants in Praise Team, Chancel & Exaltation! Singers (CHEX), and Wind Instrumentalists.*

YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS, & ADULTS

7pm on Tuesdays, Praise Team (Youth-Adults) will rehearse in **Sanctuary** under the direction of Carrie DeVries.

On Wednesday evenings, Chancel + Exaltation! Singers (aka CHEX – 8th grade-Adults) will rehearse in **Sanctuary** under the director of Rebecca Prater, director & Patrick O'Halloran, assistant director.

HANDBELL ENSEMBLES

6pm on Wednesdays, Charter Ringers (Adults) Rehearses in **Room 1** under the direction of Christ Krug & Celia Nicholas, co-directors.

4:30pm on Sundays, Jubilation! Ringers (Youth & Adults) Rehearses in **Room 1** under the direction of Kathy Bures.

INSTRUMENTALISTS

As scheduled by the director, the GCPC Orchestra (8th graders – Adults) rehearses in **Sanctuary** under the direction of Pam Kelly.

THANK YOU NOTES

The choral anthem, "Shepherd, Play Your Pipes Tonight" by Mark Shepperd was donated **in honor of Linda Dover, GCPC organist & accompanist** by Mike & Celia Nicholas, October 2021.

The handbell piece, "Shepherds Nowell" arr. Michael W. Joy was donated by Celia & Mike Nicholas **in memory of Celia's mother, Celia Smith.** October 2021.

The choral anthem, "Lead With Love" by Melanie DeMore was donated by DeAnna Hensley and the Mary Ann Wilson Endowment **in memory of friend and fellow singer, Harold DeBoer.** December 2021.

The handbell piece, "This Little Light of Mine" arr. Anna Laura Page was donated **in honor of Charter Ringer's co-director, Chris Krug** by Celia & Mike Nicholas. October 2021.

"Thank you for giving!"

If you would like to donate a piece of music (vocal, handbell, or instrumental) in honor or memory of a person or event, the first of the year is a great time to do so. Contact Rebecca Prater for more information.

*Blessings in the new year,
Rebecca Prater, Director of Music Ministries*





Youth Page

Connect

In January 2022 as the GCPC (Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church) youth ministry we are going to focus on the ministry of Jesus Christ based on of the best Christianity TV series called The Chosen. The Chosen is a television drama based on the life of Jesus of Nazareth and it portrays Jesus through those who met him. As we do this, we will incorporate games and activities to add some serious fun and entertainment to the spiritual journey.

Reggie Reynolds Scholarship

The Reggie Reynolds Scholarship was created 15 years ago as a memorial to Reggie and has been a blessing to GCPC high school seniors ever since. Management of that award has shifted to our Youth Team along with instructions to use the funds in a way that the team determines best to benefit our students. The scholarship is still funded primarily from the outcome of the annual GCPC Golf Scramble held each year, as well as any private donations directed to the scholarship

Scholarships will now be awarded be to a wider circle of GCPC youth. Applicants must complete an application, that will include an essay question, to be considered for the scholarship. High school youth (grades 9–12) active in Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church activities such as Sunday School, volunteer activities, Youth Connect, worship, music and mission are eligible to apply. The number of recipients will vary and is based upon the amount of funds available and the number of youths who have submitted applications. To donate to the scholarship fund, checks can be written to GCPC with the memo line as Reggie Reynolds scholarship or on the GCPC website to Memorial Scholarships – Reynolds.

MLK Weekend

We have often joined the others in Heartland Presbytery for an annual service event and tubing at Snow Creek on MLK Monday. This year we have decided against the large group service project to avoid gathering the large group indoors. And due to the warm weather, Snow Creek is not able to provide snow for tubing. We will plan our own service event so stay tuned for details and if we have snow ... we plan to play in it!

Souper Bowl of Caring

Please mark your calendars for the Souper Bowl of Caring. We will be collecting non-perishable food donations and monetary communion offering gifts throughout January and finalizing on February 13. Donations will be used to help feed our local hungry brothers and sisters in Christ.

Upcoming Events

- **MLK Service/Fun Event** – January 17
- **Souperbowl of Caring** – February 13 (*collecting donations throughout January*)
- **Youth Super Bowl Party** – February 13
- **Youth Sunday** – March 6



GIVING

Per Capita

Per Capita Sunday, January 23, 2022

WHAT IS PER CAPITA?

Per capita is an annual per member apportionment assessed by the General Assembly (Book of Order, G-3.0106), and by many synods and presbyteries, to enable Presbyterians mutually and equitably to share the ecclesiastical and administrative costs of sustaining our witness to Christ through the Presbyterian Church (USA).

As one expression of commitment to God, and to the larger faith community, congregations of all sizes are called to participate. In 2022, the amount requested from each member of a Heartland Presbytery congregation is \$43.07.

Would you like to serve the church as a Deacon?

One of the most important aspects of church membership is the opportunity to share in the ministry of the whole church and one of the most important ways to do that is to serve as a deacon.

One deacon described serving as the caring and nurturing arm of the church as putting deacons in tune with the needs, joys and sorrows of the congregation and community. "We are commanded to minister to those in need, to the sick, to the friendless and to those in distress within and beyond the community of faith."

The office of deacon is primarily one of communications, keeping in touch with church members and being aware of any special needs. Deacons share with others in helping care for those needs and all of us at GCPC are here to support the work of the deacons. **Won't you consider serving as one of our deacons?**

If you'd like more information, please contact either Pastor Mitch (mitch.trigger@gcpc.org) or Pastor Sue (sue.trigger@gcpc.org), or the moderator of the Nominating Committee, Andrew Frye (andrewsterrettfrye@gmail.com).

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Chili, Soup + Pie!

Mark your calendars for the Chili, Soup, Pie supper to be held on **Saturday, February 26, 5-7pm in Heartland Hall.**

A sign-up will be available in early February so you can make a reservation and sign up to bring soup, chili or pie. Hope to see you there for good food and good fellowship!

Weekend Crafters MEGA Edition Mini-Retreat

Would you enjoy 11 hours of crafting with other creatives? Then save these dates — **Friday, January 21, 6-10pm, and Saturday, January 22, 9am-4pm, Heartland Hall**, for the "Weekend Crafters Mega Mini-Retreat."

Open craft time, 3 instructor-led classes, fellowship, fun surprises, craft supplies donation table and more!

\$40 registration fee/per person to cover the supplies cost for the instructor-led classes (1 Friday night for charity and 2 on Saturday), and meals/snacks on Saturday. FULL

DETAILS and registration form at www.gcpc.org/megacraft. Open to ALL — members, friends and family. Age 16+ only. For more information, contact Kim Krueger, Christy Soule or Lauren Bond. Sign up soon!!

This Is Grace New Member Classes

We will be holding a "This Is Grace" Class for anyone interested in learning more about Grace Covenant. The class is open to anyone and is the best way to get an overview of the church, get questions answered and discover more than you can learn from attending worship each week. If you are interested in attending, contact Kathy Williams at kathykaskewilliams@gmail.com.



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Inclusive. Family Oriented. Welcoming.

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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	Mike Mattix
Miles Dalton (youth)	Terri Monrad
Andrew Frye	Diane Schmit
Katie Hearn	Kylie Sutherland (youth)
Cheryl Johnson	Susan Sutherland
Jane Knoche	Bill Turner

SUPPORT STAFF

Deacon ModeratorMeredith Watson
Operating Committee.....Susan Sutherland,
Mike Mattix, Terri Monrad, Ric Cummings
Newsletter Editor/Marketing..... Kim Krueger
Prayer ChainCheryl Johnson
Website AdministratorsKim Krueger,
Patrick Bell

MINISTRY UNITS

Congregational Nurture Unit Moderators
Connections and Care..... Diane Schmit
Worship and Music..... Melanie Townsend,
Katie Hearn

Education Ministry Unit Moderators
AdultMaggie Blankers
ChildrenErin Frye, Angela Krug
Youth.....Kaki Conti

Reach Out Ministry Unit Moderators
Kairos Rick Randolph
MissionMikki Walker
Welcoming Vacant

Supportive Ministry Unit Moderators
FacilityMarc Feyh
GenerosityDavid Sutherland
Finance.....Jim Byrd
Personnel Kevin Mason

Worship Schedule

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

Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines

February 2022 issue - Deadline, January 18
March 2022 issue - Deadline, February 18