



GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JOY - GRATITUDE - COMMUNITY

GRACE **NOTES**

September 2025
Vol 43, Nbr 9

God draws us together into a welcoming community, embracing our curiosity and questions, to worship with creativity, learn from God's word, share our gifts, and grow in faith.

With gratitude and a spirit of adventure, we are sent to serve Christ in the world—spreading kindness to all and striving for justice grounded in God's boundless love.

11100 College Blvd.
Overland Park, KS 66210
913-345-1256
office@gcpc.org
gcpc.org

In addition to in-person worship, our service is also livestreamed on our website, Facebook and YouTube channel.

Fall Kick-Off – And We're Off and Running!

Fall is here at Grace Covenant, and we are off and running! Programs are underway, groups are gathering, and the energy of a new season of ministry is all around us.

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 7**, when we'll worship together in the park followed by a picnic. This is our second year of worshipping outdoors, and while it may not be a long-standing tradition just yet, it's quickly becoming a favorite!

We'll also gather for a **Stewardship Town Hall on Sunday, September 14**, as we begin reflecting together on the gifts God has given and how we share them for the life of the church.

GCPC is a busy place, with groups meeting for study, service, fellowship, and worship. I invite you to find places to engage—there is something for everyone, and there's always room for more.

Let's lean into this season with joy, curiosity, and gratitude for all God is doing in and through Grace Covenant! —Pastor Karen



Dear Grace Covenant Family,

I am overflowing with gratitude after my installation service. What an amazing day it was! The sanctuary was filled with love, joy, and the unmistakable presence of the Holy Spirit. I am overjoyed to do ministry alongside you all.

Thank you to everyone who made the service such a celebration of God's goodness—the choir who lifted our hearts in song, those who led in worship with such grace, and all who came to share in this milestone. Thank you as well for the beautiful reception, the thoughtful cards, the flowers, and the many expressions of kindness.

This is such a special place, and I am deeply grateful to be your pastor. I believe God has much for us to do together in this new season of ministry—work that will grow from the joy, faith, and love that already run so deeply through this congregation.

With gratitude and joy, —Pastor Karen



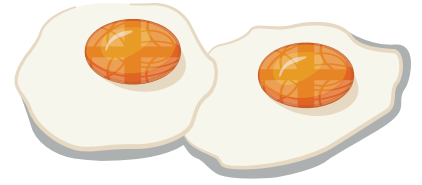


Stewardship Stories & Scrambled Eggs

"Sharing a meal, sharing our mission"

**Sunday,
September 14**

Following Worship
in Heartland Hall



RSVP BY 9/7 to gcpc.org/eggs

Join us for a joyful and meaningful morning of fellowship, storytelling, and inspiration at our Generosity Town Hall — over a delicious brunch! Together, we'll explore how your giving supports the heart of our ministry: missions, staff, programs, outreach, and the place we call home.

Through shared stories, scripture and prayer, we'll reflect on how generosity takes root and grows — and ask, "What legacy are we planting today?" and "Who taught you to live generously?"

This is more than a meal. It's a moment to celebrate how far we've come and dream faithfully about where God is calling us next. **Mark your calendar for September 14.** Don't miss this eggs-tra special event — where faith, food, and fellowship are all **sunny side up!** **RSVP so we have enough food...and bacon!**

Worship in the Park

Sunday, September 7, 9:30am (Lunch following)
Meadowbrook Park, 91st & Nall (SE Corner)

Join us for worship on Sunday, September 7 at 9:30am, at the Meadowbrook Park Grand Pavilion, located at 91st and Nall (SE Corner) in Prairie Village. Worship will be followed by a potluck picnic. Brats, beef & veggie burgers and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side or dessert to share.

Come together with your church family for worship and savor the fellowship and beauty of the park! We are an Earth Care congregation, so remember to bring your own plates and silverware, and bring along camp chairs in case extra seating is required.

Fall BBQ Potluck!

Save the date for our annual fall BBQ potluck on **Saturday, October 4, 5-7pm.** We are giving our generous grillers a break this year, and we will be providing pulled BBQ pork (hot dogs for the kids). Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share. Please plan to bring your own re-usable or compostable products for your tableware. The Dixieland Band will once again bless us with great music.

A goodwill donation will be collected to support The Renewed Hope Food Pantry. Sign-ups will be available before and after church, starting on September 14!
"Let the good times roll!"

Our Thanks!

Thank you to our church family for taking such good care of us following Kevin's most recent hip replacement. The meals, the prayers and the cards were so appreciated, as well as the gardening help from an expert! —Kevin and Cheryl Johnson

Adult Christian Education

Because of other scheduled church events, there will be no Adult Education classes on Sunday, August 31, September 7, and September 14.

We're excited to begin our fall session on Sunday, September 21, with two engaging class options:

Topical Class – Exploring current events that affect our church and community.

Lectionary Bible Study – A weekly study of the PCUSA lectionary, including reflections on the sermon.

We look forward to expanding our Adult Education offerings this fall as we grow together in faith and encourage one another in our spiritual journeys.

Save the Date! Microplastics! Current analysis indicates that the average person in the US consumes 250 grams of microplastics per year. Join Rick Randolph on Sunday School on 28 September for a class discussion on the nature of microplastics and their short and long term effects on health.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please reach out to Kevin Johnson, Adult Ministries Team Moderator.



Mission Spotlight: Uplift

On the 2nd Saturday of each month, a group of volunteers gathers in the GCPC kitchen to prepare meals for Uplift, a mobile street outreach organization caring for the homeless people of Kansas City. Three nights each week, Uplift vans take food, clothing, and other essential supplies out to the parks, overpasses, camps and other locations where they can be found. Uplift is funded and powered 100% by volunteers and donations. **You can find out more about Uplift's work at uplift.org.**

Kevin Johnson has led our efforts for Uplift for several years. As well as coordinating the meal preparation, Kevin also occasionally lets us know of donations needed — either ingredients for the meals, or items to care for our homeless siblings (remember when he asked us all to send him underwear?)

Email Kevin at krpj01@gmail.com if you'd like to help, or just to get on his mailing list.

Clerk's Corner

At the August Session meeting, we renewed our commitment to causes dear to Grace Covenant. We approved changes to the Baker/ Reynolds scholarship fund (you'll hear details from Bill Turner in the coming weeks) and we approved a gift to the Covenant Network. We also approved some language changes in the Operations Manual and moved several non-participating members to inactive status. We also celebrated the new members who have joined Grace Covenant this month.

Our building has several expensive updates that will need to be undertaken soon, and we are starting to discuss how we will pay for that work. We saw a very early draft of the overall budget proposal for 2026. The 40th Anniversary Team shared their final report; thanks to their fundraising and gifts received, approximately \$8,500 is now available to the Facilities Team beyond their current budget.

Several teams reported that they have new people interested in participating in their team leadership or activities based on experiences at the Ministry Fair. Fall programming has started with good attendance numbers and several guests in worship and at SMASH.

We look forward to Worship in the Park on September 7 and Stewardship and Scrambled Eggs on September 14. Please reach out to any Session member if you have questions or concerns about the governance or activities at Grace Covenant.

—Melanie Townsend, Clerk of Session



Rev. Karen Wright Installed as Pastor of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church

On Sunday, August 24, our congregation gathered for the Service of Installation for Rev. Karen Wright – a milestone moment celebrating her formal installation as our pastor. The service featured inspiring leadership from guests including Madeline Dasch (Southminster Presbyterian), Rev. Sally Wright (Pastor in the wild), Rev. Scott Philips (Northminster Presbyterian & Moderator of Heartland Presbytery), Kim Carter (Linwood United), Rev. Dale Jackson (Presbyter for Vision & Fellowship, Heartland Presbytery), and GCPC member, Harold Frye.

Beautiful music from the Chancel Choir filled the sanctuary, and a joyful reception followed in Heartland Hall. Thank you to everyone who helped make this celebration so meaningful!

Rev. Wright shared these heartfelt words in her benediction during the service, *“Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, I’m excited for what God has in store for us together, for all gathered here. Let us build a house where all are named, where songs and visions are heard, where those songs and visions are loved and treasured. Where we are taught and claimed as words within the word, we are God’s beloved children. We are called as God’s beloved children. To take that love back out into a world that is very much in need of places that from floor to rafter resonate, that all are welcome.”*

Charge to Rev. Wright from Harold Frye

“Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church celebrates the spirit that has already been underway in doing, calling you into this ministry, knitting your gifts into the life of this congregation, and inviting you to lead with both joy and courage. And I charge you to lead GCPC with joy. Let your laughter, your music, your stories, and your presence, remind us that this church, that faith is not a burden, but it’s a gift. And celebrate with them the faithfulness of 40 years of ministry and keep pointing them toward the abundant future. God is preparing. I charge you also to lead with courage when challenges come. GCPC is a congregation that values thinking deeply and living faithfully in a complex world. Don’t shy away from the hard questions. Speak truth in love. Challenge the people to see God at work even in places of disagreement. And trust that those very tensions can be the spirit’s forge for growth and renewal.

“I charge you to keep your eyes open for the movement of the Holy Spirit in worship that stirs hearts in fellowship, that binds lives together in service that blesses neighbors near and far. Help this congregation remember that the spirit is alive not only within these walls, but also in the wider community of Overland Park in Kansas City and to the ends of the earth. And finally, Karen, remember that you do not lead alone. This is Grace Covenant, a church with a rich past and a hopeful future of people who will walk beside you and pray for you and serve with you. Laugh with them, weep with them, dream with them and let them carry you when you are weary for together you are the body of Christ stitched into one fabric of grace. So go Pastor Karen with joy and with courage and humility and with hope, love, and serve this community trusting the spirit of God that it is not finished with you, nor with Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church. And may all that you do together be in the glory of God.”

Charge from Madeline Dasch, Southminster Presbyterian

“It’s your turn Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church. Today you have heard God’s call confirmed Pastor Karen has been installed as your pastor. This is not only her calling, it is yours as well. Receive her with joy, welcome her gifts, her vision, her leadership, and her humanity. Celebrate with her when the spirit moves in surprising ways and be patient with her. When the work of ministry is demanding and the road feels long, I charge you to walk alongside her as partners in ministry. The church is not built by pastors alone. It is the body of Christ with many members, each with different gifts. Bring your gifts forward boldly. Your teaching, your music, your compassion, your wisdom, your hospitality, your prayers. Share them freely so that this congregation may flourish.”

“I charge you to let her challenge you when she proclaims the word that pushes against your comfort. Listen with open hearts. When she asks you to step out in faith, trust that God goes before you. When disagreements arise, let them be opportunities for growth, not division where the spirit often moves through. Holy be tension. I charge you to pray for her and for one another. Ministry is not easy. Hold each other up with grace. Forgive as you have been forgiven. Bear one another’s burdens and rejoice in one another’s joys. Above all, remember that this is God’s church. The spirit has brought you together for such a time as this pastor and people you belong to one another and the body of Christ love one another. Deeply serve your community faithfully, and yet let your life together be a living witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ. So go now, grace Covenant Presbyterian Church and welcome Pastor Karen as your pastor, not as one who leads alone, but as one who walks with you that together you may be the body of Christ in this place.”

A video of the Service of Installation for Rev. Karen Wright can be found at <https://gcpc.org/about-us/rev-karen-wright-installation.html>





Music in Worship September & Early October

Join us each Sunday in September and into early October for a variety of meaningful musical worship experiences:

- **September 7:** Worship in the Park with guitar-led campfire-style music in the beauty of nature.
- **September 14:** Organ-Led Worship with Chancel & Exaltation Singers presenting "An Offering" by Dan Forrest.
- **September 21:** Organ-Led Worship with Chancel & Exaltation Singers presenting "Be Not Afraid" by Craig Courtney.
- **September 28:** Praise Team leads us in joyful and spirited worship.

Music & BBQ!

The lively Dixieland Band will once again set the tone with toe-tapping music, food, and fellowship. Join us on Saturday, October 4, from 5-7pm.

Thank you from Patrick

As we begin the school year and resume our musical rehearsals, I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our music leaders and volunteers. Your time, talent, and dedication are what make our music program truly exceptional, and we are deeply grateful for everything you do to enrich worship and our community.

Teeing Off for a Good Cause

20th Annual Golf Scramble Supports Youth Scholarships

Mark your calendars and shine up your clubs—it's time for the 20th Annual Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church Golf Scramble/Fundraiser for the Baker/Reynolds Scholarship! This beloved tradition returns on September 21, 2025, with a 1pm tee time at Falcon Valley Golf Course in Lenexa, Kansas.

This 9-hole golf scramble is more than just a friendly competition—it's a meaningful fundraiser that supports the Baker/Reynolds Scholarship Fund, established in loving memory of Larry Baker and Reggie Reynolds. Larry and Reggie were long-time, faithful members of GCPC who had a passion for both golf and encouraging the youth of our church. Their legacy lives on through this event and the young people it helps support.

Here's what you need to know:

- Format: 9-Hole Golf Scramble
 - Entry Fee: \$100 (Covers green fees, riding cart, prizes, and a donation to the scholarship fund)
 - Lunch Option: Falcon Valley offers a lunch special (cheeseburger or grilled chicken sandwich, chips & a drink for approx. \$11-\$12).
- Indicate your interest on your entry form.

Whether you're a seasoned golfer or a newcomer to the scramble format, we hope you'll join us for an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and purpose. Not golfing this year? You can still contribute to the scholarship fund and show your support.

Your entry form and check need to be received no later than Sunday, September 14th in order to reserve your spot.

To register:

1. Complete the entry form (available in the church office or online).
2. Send your form and \$100 check (payable to Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, memo: Baker/Reynolds Scholarship) to: Bill Turner, 9119 W. 157th Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66221

Alternatively, you can pay online at: <https://onrealm.org/gcpc/-/form/give/KKHVZUJVDW> (Be sure to select "Memorial Scholarships – Reynolds/Baker" from the drop-down menu.)

Note: If you pay online, please still email or mail your entry form to Bill Turner at 99wdturner@gmail.com so he can organize scramble groups.

Thank you for continuing to make this event a success year after year. Your participation keeps Larry and Reggie's memory alive while investing in the next generation of GCPC youth. Let's make the 20th annual scramble our biggest yet!





GCPC's Little Food Pantry Help Wanted

For almost five years, our little food pantry has been serving our community. Our congregation and the GCPC mission team helps provide funds to purchase supplies. We also appreciate any donations given to the pantry throughout the year by our members. We even have neighbors who leave items in the pantry too. The pantry is checked and restocked twice a week with the help of Christy Soule and Andrew Cox. Andrew recently graduated from high school and will be attending University of Kansas. We appreciate the years of his service to the pantry. Thank you, Andrew! We wish you all the best in your next adventures. If anyone is willing to help check the pantry one day mid-week, please contact Christy Soule (christysoule@yahoo.com). Thank you GCPC for your dedication to this mission project!

Communion Offering Totals January-July 2025

Below please find the totals collected for each month's Communion Offering Recipient in the first half of 2025. Thanks as always for GCPC's amazing generosity!

- January - Renewed Hope Food Pantry - \$205.00
- Feb - Rosehill School - \$365.00
- Mar - IHN - \$825.00
- Apr - One Great Hour Of Sharing - \$1,365.00
- May - Crop Walk - \$1,200.00
- June - Pentecost Offering - \$1,435.00
- July - Presbyterian Mission Agency - \$245.00

Weekend Crafters Fall Workshop - October 3rd!

GCPC Weekend Crafters will be hosting a **Fall Workshop on October 3rd from 6pm- 8pm** in Heartland Hall. Come enjoy an evening of creativity, fellowship, and fun!

This fall, we're painting 32" x 16" pre-assembled winter trees with Katee Smith of Barefoot Builders LLC. Choose from a Chevron Tree, Boxy Design Tree, Standard Design Tree...or get all three for a festive set! Cost (supplies included): 1 tree, \$20; 2 trees, \$40; and set of 3 trees \$55



Register by September 26 at gcpc.org/crafters (Payment also due Sept. 26) Whether you're a seasoned crafter or just looking for a relaxing night out, this is for you! We hope you will join us and invite a friend.



Intergenerational Friendship Bracelet Making Party

Are You Ready for It?

Saturday, November 15, 1-3:30pm, Heartland Hall

Open to all friends and family of GCPC members!

RSVP by November 8 at gcpc.org/friendship so we can reserve a table for you.

This isn't just about beads and string—it's about tying those invisible strings of connections across ages and celebrating the joy of friendship. Expect music, conversation, and plenty of fun as we make bracelets to keep, share, or gift.

Whether you're a kid, teen, parent, grandparent, or friend, this is the perfect chance to gather, share stories, and string together something beautiful. No experience? No problem! There are people who can teach you!

- **Supplies:** To keep this event free, please bring your own bracelet-making supplies. (Supply list at gcpc.org/friendship)
- **Snacks:** Please bring a dozen cookies to share. Bring your own beverage (*with a lid*).
- **Dress Code:** (*optional*) Come in your Swiftie Era outfit, something sparkly, or Chiefs shirt or Travis Kelce jersey!

Contact Kim Krueger or Kristy Shaw for details.

CHILDREN & YOUTH FAMILY MINISTRIES

September Calendar for Children and Youth

- Sept. 7** (Worship in the Park) – NO ATW, NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
- Sept. 14** (Town Hall Sunday/Combined SS) – ATW, Combined Preschool and combined Elem-HS Sunday Schools, No Adult Ed, 4-6pm SMASH
- Sept. 21** Regular Programming ATW, Sunday School, Teacher Training Noon-1pm
- Sept. 28** Regular Programming ATW, Sunday School

A Word About SMASH

SMASH stands for Service – Music – Arts – Sports – Hangout

We had our first SMASH of the new school year on August 17 and it was awesome! After our youth joined the party to help with the water games, we ended up with almost 50 people!

We gather once a month for fellowship with our K-5th graders. This is a great community builder and an awesome way to spend a Sunday afternoon!

Our theme this year is the WINTER OLYMPICS! We're exploring where Olympic athleticism and our own faith practices meet in places like, teamwork, friendship, excellence, training, and more!

Our focus scripture is Phil 4:13.

As SMASH continues to grow, we need MANY volunteers to help keep it running smoothly for our kids. That is why we are asking each family who has a SMASH participant to sign up for at least 2 SMASH dates this year, BUT ALSO, we rely heavily on those saints who don't even have a kiddo affiliated to help volunteer as well. It takes our whole village to pull it off! If you'd like to assist in this great effort, please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A45A4A722A4FC1-smash1#/>

The lesson plans are created, we just need help from you with things like craft cleanup, assisting children with activities, snack distribution, and just having fun as you fulfill the promises made to these kiddos at their baptisms to raise them well in the church.

Thank you for signing up to help AND for continuing to support our programs like SMASH that help the GCPC kiddos know they are loved and seen!

Youth Group

Our youth group is growing! We are meeting for Middle School and High School Sunday school every Sunday and are meeting once a month at the same time as SMASH. We will do our own programming but will occasionally help the children—as we helped lead water games in August. Otherwise, we will be using this time to explore some youth music opportunities, play fun games, do service, and have many faith-filled conversations.

We need support from our congregation to continue our youth group growth! If you would like to help support our youth, you can sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A45A4A722A4FC1-57367467-gcpc>

October in Family Ministries

Saturday, Oct 4 BBQ – all families invited

Sunday, Oct. 5 Regular Programming ATW, Sunday School

Sunday, Oct. 12 Worship, ATW, FULL MUSIC hour for Sunday School for PreK-5th, regular SS for everyone else, **SMASH and YOUTH GROUP 4-6pm.**

Sunday, Oct. 19 JOY! And Celebration! Sing in Worship, ATW, Sunday School

Sunday, Oct. 26 Regular Programming ATW, Sunday School, **TRUNK OR TREAT** after Sunday school, Youth help lead games for children at Trunk or Treat

Sunday, Nov. 2 Regular Programming ATW, Sunday School, Bible Workshop for 3rd graders and a beloved adult after Sunday School.

Lend a Hand, Grow Young Hearts!

We have an awesome and fun Sunday school program! But it takes MANY hands to pull it off every Sunday!

Please consider signing up for a couple of spots to help with our amazing programs!

Toddler Sunday School: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A45A4A722A4FC1-50460725-gcpc>

Preschool Sunday School: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A45A4A722A4FC1-50460836-gcpc>

Elementary Sunday School: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A45A4A722A4FC1-50460455-workshop>

Youth Sunday School: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A45A4A722A4FC1-57367467-gcpc>

Awaken To Worship: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A45A4A722A4FC1-57764339-awaken>

SMASH: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A45A4A722A4FC1-smash1>



Generosity Fulfillment August Update

Generosity through the Generations

Grace Covenant's pledge fulfillment update is in! As of August 5, 2025, the Generosity Team is excited to share how we're tracking toward our 2025 commitments through July.

We have received 61% of our total pledges and 58% of this 2025 year has gone by us. Often our summer giving drops due to travel, vacation and absences; so, it very refreshing to see everyone's summer commitment so strong. There is a slight revision in our pledge total due to some members having to decrease their pledge amount.

We certainly understand and recognize the value of this update. *We appreciate everyone who has contributed to the ministry and programs of Grace Covenant.*

Here is our giving progress shown by numbers of pledges:

Submitted Pledges (114)	March 31	June 6th	August 5th
0-25% fulfilled	98	56	38
26-50% fulfilled	18	51	27
51-75% fulfilled	4	6	42
76-100% fulfilled	12	12	28
\$722,179	\$226,719	\$324,383	\$442,532

Four groupings are used to show giving progress and calendar relationship. They are 0-25%, 26-50%, 51-75%, 76-100%. Each pledge falls into one of these groups.

Our Generosity team meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the Month at 8:30pm in person or by Zoom. We are always glad to have new team members. The current team is Eileen Thomson, Jane Knoche, Rev. Karen Wright, Keith Langabee, and Kim Krueger. Please contact Eileen if you are interested in joining this spirited team!

Join us for Stewardship Stories and Scrambled Eggs on Sunday September 14th. Mark this date on your calendar! RSVP by September 7 to gcpc.org/eggs.

Workshop 2025 Delayed

Recently we announced that Workshop 2025 would be on September 28. However, due to some difficulties with timing, Workshop 2025 will be delayed until spring 2026. We may be able to still schedule a Fall GCPC Workday to do needed work in and around the building. Stay tuned for more information!



New Aprons, Same Heart for Service!

Our KCK Hot Lunch volunteers now have fresh new aprons, beautifully embroidered by Nancy Taylor and generously provided by Cristine Hutchins! These aprons proudly identify Grace Covenant as we serve meals with care and compassion at the Wilhelmina Gill Service Center (645 Nebraska Ave., KCK).

Want to join the mission? Each month we need: *Dessert Bakers* – Drop off three dozen cookies at the GCPC kitchen by noon on the Friday before our service day (3rd Saturday of each month); and ***Kitchen Helpers*** – Line servers or dishwashers (closed-toed shoes required!) from 10:45am through lunch clean-up.

Let's keep feeding the hungry and sharing hope, one meal at a time.



Welcome New Members!

"This is Grace," our new member orientation class, is for anyone interested in learning more about Grace Covenant. The class is open to all guests and visitors and is the best way to get an overview of the church. Contact the church office if you would like to be a part of the next new member class, or visit gcpc.org/newmember

We were joyous to welcome eight new members to GCPC during worship on Sunday, August 17. Welcome Erin Huff, Anne Hirner, Leslie Jones, Walter Erselius, Anne Parelkar, Kevin O'Halloran, Deb O'Halloran, and Patrick O'Halloran. (Anne Parelkar is not pictured above.)



Garden of Peace
Isaiah 32:14-18

PEACE WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2025

KAIROS KLUES

September 1–October 4 is Season of Creation 2025 (Isaiah 32:14–18) This year we will unite around the theme “Peace with Creation” with the symbol “Garden of Peace,” inspired by Isaiah 32:14-18. <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

“The world is in crisis, and our ministry and service are ever more needed as we seek justice, unity, peace, and reconciliation.” —Rev. Prof. Dr. Jerry Pillay, World Council of Churches

This description in Isaiah of devastated cities and wastelands eloquently stresses the fact that human destructive behaviors have a negative impact on the Earth. The season of creation is worldwide interfaith celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. Pope Francis challenged us: “What is the goal of our work? What need does the Earth have of us? Leaving an inhabitable planet to future generations is up to us” (Laudato Si’, 160). <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

ENVIRONMENT:

Engage Keepers of Nature: Visit a local nature reserve or protected wildlife area. Invite Park rangers, wildfire response teams, farmers, foresters, shepherds, beekeepers, or scouting groups to share their experiences and insights. Advocate and write to your congressional representatives to SAVE the EPA. <http://bit.ly/4lKoAlq>

JUSTICE:

Take part globally in climate, agriculture, and biodiversity efforts, grounded in theology and a prophetic call for repentance and justice. *“Then justice will dwell in the wilderness and righteousness abide in the fruitful field.”* (Isaiah 32:16)

PEACE:

Pray for humanity, for every community, and every person in it. Grant that we may treat our fellow human beings with respect: that we may accept all in their diversity, that we may support and uphold the human dignity of our neighbors. Creation is God’s sacred gift, entrusted to our care. Only through reconciliation with and genuine justice for all living beings will Creation find peace, fulfilling Isaiah’s vision. (32:14–18)

Be sure to take note of activities to be posted to the KAIROS bulletin board outside Heartland Hall during this season.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Labor Day - Office Closed

Monday, September 1

Worship in the Park

Meadowbrook Park (91st & Nall)
Grand Pavilion (SE Corner) Prairie Village
(Lunch following)

Sunday, September 7, 9:30am

Generosity Town Hall

Stewardship Stories & Scrambled Eggs

“Sharing a meal, sharing our mission”
(Brunch following worship)

Sunday, September 14, 10:30am

RSVP by September 7 at gcpc.org/eggs

Weekend Crafters Mini-Retreat

Friday, October 3, 6-8pm

Details and Registration at gcpc.org/crafters

Fall BBQ w/Dixieland Band

Saturday, October 4, 5pm

World Communion Sunday

Sunday, October 5, 9:30am

CROP Walk

October 12, 2pm

Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 26, 11:45am-1pm

Intergenerational

Friendship Bracelet Making Party

Saturday, November 15, 1-3:30pm, Heartland Hall

RSVP at gcpc.org/friendship

A Christmas Exclamation!

Sunday, December 7, 6pm

The Longest Night

Sunday, December 21, 7pm

Christmas Eve Worship

Wednesday, December 24, 5pm and 8pm

Bingo Night

Friday, January 23, Time TBA

Trivia Night

Saturday, April 18, Time TBA

Details on these events and services are shared in the midweek email, bulletin, newsletter, and Facebook and Instagram.

For an online church calendar, visit gcpc.org/calendar



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Inclusive. Family Oriented. Welcoming.

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

gcpc.org



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Follow us on Social Media!

Facebook: facebook.com/GraceCovenantPresbyterian

Instagram: @gcpc_overlandpark • YouTube: @gracecovenant443

CHURCH STAFF

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patrick.ohalloran@gcpc.orgext. 20

Praise Team Director.....Carrie DeVries
cdevriesbe@olatheschools.org

Organist.....Linda Dover

Audio/Visual Director.....Jason Turner
Email both addresses if you need a video or audio played in worship. Send on the Wednesday prior to Sunday's worship. darktrainfilms@gmail.com;
gcpc.media@gmail.com

Praise Team Drummer Jill Endaya-Allen

Child Care Coordinator.....Carolyn Chaffin

Wedding CoordinatorKristy Shaw

Funeral CoordinatorVacant

ELDERS

Johnnie Baker	Frank Slovick
Paul Bruns	Jaylee Soule
Chris Cabe	Eileen Thomson
Debbie Campbell	Michala Walker
Barbara Douglas	Mary Ann Weyforth
Kevin Johnson	Melanie Townsend
Andrew Sellers	Session Clerk
Kristy Shaw	

SUPPORT STAFF

Deacon Moderator	Nelson Townsend
Operating Committee	Lara Schesser, Tom Stroud, Barbara Douglas, Mikki Walker, Melanie Townsend, Rev. Karen Wright
Newsletter Editor/Marketing	Kim Krueger
Prayer Chain	Cheryl Johnson
Website Administrators	Kim Krueger, Patrick Bell

MINISTRY UNITS

Congregational Nurture Unit Moderators
Care and Connections...Mary Ann Weyforth
Worship and Music..... Kathy Bures,
Barbara Douglas

Education Ministry Unit Moderators
AdultKevin Johnson
Children Kristy Shaw
Youth.....Chris Cabe

Reach Out Ministry Unit Moderators
Kairos Rick Randolph
MissionMikki Walker
WelcomingKathy Williams

Supportive Ministry Unit Moderators
Facility Paul Bruns
GenerosityJane Knoche,
Eileen Thomson

Finance..... Beth Lillian
Personnel Kevin Mason

Worship Schedule

9:30am Worship

Streaming on YouTube, Facebook, gcpc.org
Visit gcpc.org/online for links

Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines

October 2025 issue - Deadline, September 19
November 2025 issue - Deadline, October 24