



GRACE notes



GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it."

– Hebrews 13:2

Visitors delight us.

Our goal is simple: make all people feel welcomed, not overwhelmed.

We were all visitors once and remember how it feels to try a new place of worship. Attend as often as you want. Visitors are welcome at all GCPC events, classes and small groups as well as in worship. We will always be glad to see you!

Join us for coffee in between the two services or grab a cup of coffee in Heartland Hall on your way to Sunday School class. Heartland Hall is located next to the Sanctuary. There are always people to visit with or things to learn about if you want to just hang out.

**REAL FAITH
REAL STORIES
REAL GRACE**

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, love and a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1 v 7

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Out of the silence,
Music
Out of the darkness,
Light
Out of uncertainty,
Promise
HOPE
was born that night.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

A Note From the Steens

Thank you for your prayers for the family of our close friend's three-month-old baby boy, Benjamin Aaron. The harsh reality of Benjamin's death is that his loss was due to positional asphyxiation while sleeping in his parent's bed. After researching data on this type of loss, the below information is from one of many websites that speaks to the unfortunate statistics of co-sleeping with babies up to a year. While SIDS deaths have been reduced over past years, co-sleeping deaths have increased at an alarming rate. David and I want to encourage our congregation to share the dangers of co-sleeping with your family and friends in remembrance of this sweet baby boy. Help us save precious lives!

<https://www.today.com/health/co-sleeping-linked-infant-deaths-bed-sharing-remains-popular-1D79912957>

After analyzing data on 8,207 infant deaths from 24 states that occurred between 2004 and 2012, researchers determined that nearly 74 percent of deaths in babies younger than 4 months occurred in a bed-sharing situation, according to the study published Monday in Pediatrics. Among older infants - those aged 4 months to 364 days - the rate was slightly lower at nearly 59 percent.

**Reminder: Fair Trade Sales are
January 6, at the entrance to
Heartland Hall between services
and 15 minutes following
the 11:05 service.**

MUSIC NOTES

January 2019 Music Notes



Sunday, December 2, was a day for gifts – and that's an understatement!

- * Thank you to **Susan Sutherland, Sarah Lodge, Jody Mason, Julie Passett, and Julie Webb** who coordinated this year's **Mission & Music Silent Auction**. The auction seems to get better and better each year thanks to parents like these!
- * **Then our congregation stepped up** to donate all sorts of items to be auctioned off and/or made bids on auction items. *And, boy, did it pay off!*
- * **We were able to raise approximately \$5,800** for our Senior High **Mission & Music Trip** to Corpus Christi, TX, June 22-29 of 2019.
- * **We want to thank** every youth parent, every student, *everybody* who helped in any way to make this holiday auction such a success.
- * **The ones who** spent countless hours designing and developing cash and carry items.
- * **The ones who** set up, cleaned up, & staffed the event.
- * **And to all who** made bids and bought raffle tickets. *"Thank you!"*

December 2 was also an evening for carols – and what an evening it was!

It was festive, fun, & beautiful. **Many thanks to each singer, ringer, and instrumentalist who shared their gifts & to the Youth Band** for leading some of our favorite Christmas songs!

- * **We are grateful to all of our music leaders & accompanists:** Lara Schesser, Angela Krug, Lina McCamon, Donna Heer, Christopher Callender, Donna Goeckler, Trey Bures, Kathy Bures, Chris Krug, and Celia Nicholas.

- * **A shout out to Ray Kowalczewski** who ran sound, **Logan Callender** who ran video, and **Miles McDonald** who helped with so many things! Finally, thank you to **Mac Fichtling & Kim Krueger** for all the graphic designs that turned into posters, Facebook posts, and website promotion.

It was Christmas with an Exclamation!

And what about all of our other Advent musicians?

We are grateful to...

- * all of the **soloists, instrumentalists, and small ensembles** that enriched our Advent and Christmas worship services.
- * **these ensembles:** Praise Team, Chancel Choir, Charter Ringers, Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, and Exaltation!
- * **and their directors:** Denice Trawicki, Chris Krug, Celia Nicholas, and Pam Kelly.

Additional gratitude is expressed to our music staff for their dedicated and excellent leadership:

- * Linda Dover, Organist
- * Denice Trawicki, Contemporary Music Coordinator
- * Daniel Cole, Contemporary Music Drummer

Now...Looking to January 2019



Begin the New Year with music!

After a well-deserved Christmas holiday break, our ensembles will resume rehearsals per director's instructions, but in general:

- * Wednesday rehearsals resume on January 9
- * Sunday rehearsals (including SMASH) resume on January 13
- * **Make it a New Year's resolution to make music with us!** *Contact Director of Music Ministries – Rebecca Prater, or any of the other directors.*

"Thank You" Notes

To **Donna & Kirk Heer** for the donation of a **Padded Height Adjustable Piano Bench** in honor & memory of Donna's parents, **Anne & Paul Bray**, who paid for their four daughters' piano lessons through their growing up years.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH



Visioning Day

February

Date TBD

10 a.m.—2 p.m.

Heartland Hall

GCPC did a great job of preparing for new pastors! Part of that process included a mission study that invited members to share their hopes and dreams for the church. It was more than a tool for the Pastor Nominating Committee, it is an important step in developing a vision for the congregation as we move into the future. It's time to review it!

We are inviting you to a Visioning Day during which we will be your guides. **During the event, we will review the mission study, talk about our hopes and dreams, and listen for where God is calling us.** All members of the congregation are encouraged to attend. *Church officers are strongly encouraged, well, expected to be there unless they are unable to attend.* This meeting meets the PCUSA requirement for a joint meeting of the elders and deacons which is to be held annually and it will be a great help for us as we plan for the future.

We will announce the date ASAP. We look forward to seeing you there!

SMASH into 2019!



All Kindergarten through 5th graders are invited.

Invite a friend and come for a great afternoon of fun

Come and grow with the fruit of the Spirit.

January 13 4:00-6:00pm

Theme: Patience

Gather in Heartland Hall

INFORMATION OF INTEREST

PRESBYTERIANS AROUND THE WORLD:

Discovering the Arapaho:

Part V

Steve Newcomb, in the 1992 document, "Five Hundred Years of Injustice: The Legacy of Fifteenth Century Religious Prejudice," explained the meaning of the Doctrine of Discovery. Newcomb, an American Indian of Shawnee and Lenape ancestry, and researcher of United States federal Indian law and international law, beginning with early Christendom, wrote these words: "When Christopher Columbus first set foot on the white sands of Guanahani Island, he performed a ceremony to 'take possession' of the land for the king and queen of Spain, acting under the international laws of Western Christendom...his act of 'possession' was based on a religious document now known in history as the Doctrine of Discovery." The following statements include two paragraphs, at the beginning of the document, that explain the rationale for the report prepared by the PC(USA).



A conversation on the doctrine of discovery will always entail a discussion of Native American or Indigenous lands. Moreover, because the doctrine has been a central part of U.S. law regarding tribal lands, the Presbyterian Church has played a major role historically in the implementation of the doctrine. As the National Capital overture stated, "[d]uring all ... periods of American history, Christian churches ... have accepted and supported the various forms of the Doctrine of Discovery We have participated both actively

and passively throughout our history in discriminatory behavior directed against Native Americans. We have stood by while Native Americans were killed and their lands taken, while the story of their participation in the history of our country was distorted and suppressed."

The Doctrine of Discovery: A Review of Its Origins and Implications for Congregations in the PC(USA) and Support for Native American Sovereignty — Report to the 223rd General Assembly (2018)

At the 222nd General Assembly in 2016, the Presbyterian Church (USA) adopted recommendations for action on the Doctrine of Discovery. Recommendation 7 of item 11-24 calls upon the PC(USA) to "confess its complicity and repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery, and direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly, in consultation with ACREC [Advisory Committee on Racial Ethnic Concerns], to initiate a process of review of the Doctrine of Discovery." This process includes the preparation of a report that: (1) describes the Doctrine of Discovery and explains its history; (2) makes recommendations of how congregations in the PC(USA) can support Native Americans in their ongoing efforts for sovereignty and fundamental human rights; (3) describes how relationships with specific Native American individuals and tribes can be developed; and (4) suggests specific ways in which congregations may recognize, support, and cooperate with Native American individuals, tribes, and nations who reside within their communities. With this action the PC(USA) joins other denominations who have taken actions to repudiate the doctrine of discovery.

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Gathering, Snow Tubing, plus Skiing/ Snowboarding Rally!

- What: MLK Day Youth Gathering of Heartland Presbytery!
- When: Monday, January 21, 2019 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm or 10pm (not including travel)
- Where: LAMP at Heartland Presbytery Offices – 3210 Michigan, Kansas City, MO

Last year the Presbytery scheduled a youth service project on MLK Monday held at the LAMP campus (where the Heartland Presbytery Offices are located). We weaved mats out of plastic bags for folks who don't have homes and need to sleep outside. It was a great project so we are planning to do it again! We will work on the mats, have some lunch, and then we will head to Snow Creek to enjoy an afternoon of snow tubing. Our GCPC group may stay late to do some skiing after that. Come for all or just part! Registrations for the service event and tubing are due Jan 14 and can be done electronically through Heartland Presbytery. Ski/snowboarding registrations are separate and can be found on the Youth Wall and gracecovenantyouth.shutterfly.com. Friends are welcome!

You can find information about the rally and register online at <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07efwn71fv7cb066dc&llr=7stinjdab>

Thank YOU!

We are so grateful for our team of amazing volunteers who organized and oversaw the M&M Silent Auction on December 2! We are also grateful that our congregation is so very supportive coming together to support our students through your donations, purchases, and spirit of giving! Donations from the various teams and groups like our afternoon bridge club, the woodcarvers, and so many others really make a difference for our students! We couldn't have done it without so much help! Special thanks to event coordinators Jody Mason, Julie Passett, Susan Sutherland, Sarah Lodge and Julie Webb! See the music page for more notes about the auction.

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 3. Donations will be used to help feed our local hungry brothers and sisters in Christ.

Youth Sunday "Behind the Scenes" – Feb. 24

Our seniors have decided on a theme of "Behind the Scenes" for Youth Sunday this coming February. We know about all the great programs and activities at church but what is God doing in the lives of our students – or in all of our lives – behind the scenes? We will explore this topic on youth Sunday and this year it will be just one service starting at 10am.

Upcoming Events

- Tubing/Ski Event – January 21 (registrations due Jan. 14)
- Souperbowl of Caring – February 3 (collecting donations throughout January)
- Youth Super Bowl Parties – February 3
- Youth Sunday – February 24





Your Peace, Justice and Earth Care Team: Did you know your team here at GCPC advocates for peace, justice and earth care locally, nationally, and internationally? Did you know we are identified by PCUSA as both an Earth Care Congregation AND a PCUSA Hunger Congregation? Want to know more? Join us at our next meeting January 13, 2019 after 2nd service (about 12:30pm) in Room 21. **All ages are welcome.**

Items your advocacy team will be addressing in this new year:

RECYCLING: Did you know we have recycling bins in the hallway between the kitchen and Heartland Hall? Sign up to be a recycling hero — cardboard, plastics and metal are collected and can be taken for proper recycling. Paper in the big paper bins in the west end of the GCPC parking lot, plastics and metal to your home collection or to the 119th recycling center. Please sign up for your turn to care for our planet.

CERTIFICATION RENEWAL: Our renewal audit for our PCUSA recertification as an Earth Care Congregation will be conducted in January. This will be our 8th year as a PCUSA Earth Care designated Congregation. As aspects of the congregational life is audited, if you are a team moderator you will be contacted by Jo Randolph to help her in accurately reporting our Earth Care Activities to PCUSA during the past year.

PRISON MINISTRY: Co-hosting an East Hill Singer's concert in November.

ADVOCACY: KAIROS has been following the immigrants as they walk over 2,000 miles from their homelands to our border. PCUSA co-moderator Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri, State Clerk Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, director of the PCUSA Office of Public Witness, as well as Amanda Craft and Theresa Waggener with the PCUSA Office of Immigration Issues, have just returned from a visit to the border. They visited detentions centers as well as some of the immigrants and volunteers working at the border to **Welcome the Immigrant**. Read about their recent experience here: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/presbyterian-church-u-s-a-delegation-crosses-border-into-mexico/?fbclid=IwAR1xO-avOihJIR0FiNGT3tSX2NpWfIEbAbLVzfSOSRbE89U1KAwRG01iwX4>

Ecumenical Advocacy Days April 5–8: the national gathering of the Ecumenical Christian community grounded in biblical witness and shared traditions of justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

The theme this year focusing on John 5:1-9 and Isaiah 43:1-9 is:

Troubling the Water for the Healing of the World

For more information go the PresbyterianMission.org link: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/washington/advocacy-training-weekend/>



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Sunday School

January will focus on the transition from Jesus' childhood (Epiphany) to the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Students will learn more about the good news Jesus brought into the world!

2's & 3's: Lisa Cox and Tatum Cox

Preschool 4's & 5's: Danielle Dalton and Lara Schesser ~ who also directs our choir!

K-1st Graders: Christy Soule and Katie Hearn

2nd-5th Graders: Matt McBride,
Jenny Stromberg and Jerel Williams

NOTICE:

**There is no Sunday School
January 27**

**It is a One Service Sunday
at 10 a.m. followed by the Annual
Congregational Meeting**

When your children are at home, use these tools to explore God's grace and gratitude each day. Find these tools at:

www.pcusastore.com/GGGdownloads

- **Grace Sightings:** the weekly Bible story and 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-books:** the quarter's colorful illustrations, Bible stories and Grace Sightings, in ibook and Kindle formats.



Children and Worship

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. There are on two age levels.

- **Worship Leaders** are invited to light the candles weekly, read in worship, and assist in other ways. Stay tuned on this one! Watch for more news about this in the new year.
- **Children's Choir** will sing in worship occasionally.

**We NEED you.
Can you HELP?**

Awakening to Worship: Scheduling for January—May

It is time to fill our schedule for Awakening to Worship leaders!
We will need greeters and storytellers. To sign up please contact Kristy Shaw at:
kristinashaw@everestkc.net Thank you!

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Session Meeting

Session met on December 17, 2018 in room 5, with Reverend Mitch Trigger serving as moderator. In addition to the elders, Reverend Sue Trigger and Deacon Eileen Thomson were present.

Team minutes: Aaron Soule shared that the Finance team is meeting later this week. He predicted it would be an unpleasant meeting as offerings are running significantly behind this year. Tim Hayden pointed out that statements have not been mailed so that members might not be aware of how far they are behind. Aaron said that had been taken care of. On a related note, the Personnel team brought a motion that Session approve the hiring of a part-time financial administrator to work 20 hours per week. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent agenda: The minutes of the November Session meeting and the transfer of Tatum Specht's membership to St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Denton, TX, were approved, as was the request to move Jim & Susan Bloom to inactive (bringing our total membership to 501). Session approved January 27, 2019 as the date of the annual meeting, as well as having one service on February 24, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. for Youth Sunday.

Deacons' report: David Eileen Thomson reported that the covenant groups are going to be adjusted with some members remaining in their groups and others moving.

Old business: Session heard a report from the Nominating Team. Reinstating the Elder on Duty function was discussed. There needs to be more communication to members that the church doors will be open at 8:00 a.m. and elders will take turns unlocking the doors and turning on the lights. The Executive Committee members will work on changing the bylaws to reflect co-pastors instead of just pastor/associate pastor positions. The changes will need to be voted on at the congregational meeting in January.

New business: Session voted to retain that Aaron Soule as President, Julie Passett as Vice-President, Matt McBride as Treasurer and Cheryl Johnson as Secretary.

After sharing some joys and concerns of the congregation, Mitch closed the meeting in prayer and the meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Missions

Our January Communion Offering is designated for Grace Covenant Youths' Souper Bowl of Caring efforts and will be donated to Harvester's Community Food Network. In addition, we are collecting non-perishable food items to be donated to Harvesters.

January Grace In Action Event! Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 26 from 10AM to noon. We will meet in Heartland Hall to assemble hygiene kits to be donated to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. All ages are welcome!

In addition to assembling the kits, we are also collecting the following items to be placed in the kits. These items should be placed in the donation box in the weekday entrance and are due by January 20.

- 1 — hand towel (approximately 16" x 28", no fingertip or bath towels)
 - 1 — washcloth
 - 1 — wide-tooth comb (remove from package)
 - 1 — nail clipper (UPDATE: nail clippers with metal files or emery boards attached are now accepted; remove from package)
 - 1 — bar of soap, individually wrapped
 - 1 — toothbrush (individually packaged) Donations of toothpaste are not needed.
 - 10 — Band-Aids® or other adhesive bandage strips
- Boxes of one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure.

KDO and PPS

Kid's Day Out and Pioneer Preschool will begin priority enrollment for Fall 2019 on Monday, January 14, through Friday, February 1. Grace Covenant members may enroll during this priority time. Please contact Kathy for KDO, 913-345-8191 or k.connor@gcpc.org, and Geri for Pioneer, 913-338-4282. Forms for KDO are available on the church website and for Pioneer at pioneerpreschool.com. KDO includes ages 2 and 3 years old and Pioneer Preschool includes ages 3, 4, and 5 years.

YOUTH IN ACTION



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Stars and Heavenly Signs!

Epiphany is the name given to special day in the liturgical calendar. January 6 is that day. It is the day we celebrate the arrival of the wise men. This year January 6 falls on Sunday, which means we will be able to truly celebrate this special holy day during our worship services.

During the service, everyone will receive a special star with a word on it. This word is a gift to you for you to reflect upon throughout the year. One year my star word was "keen". I wondered who even says that word any more and what meaning it could have for me. Throughout that year the word kept popping up! I heard it spoken by a British actor. I learned it is the name of a shoe company. And, I saw it in a meditation reminding us to keep a keen eye out for what God is doing in the world around us. Keen became an important word for me.

I hope your family will enjoy your star words, and will use them as a way to reflect on what God is doing in your lives. Take time at meal time to talk about the words your family received, what they mean, and what they mean in your life.

May 2019 be a special time of Epiphany for you!

Rev. Sue

December Children's Ministries

December 6, 13, 20

8:50 and 11:05 Awakening To Worship—Room 12

10:00 Sunday School for Two's & Three's through 5th Graders—

2's & 3's— Room 23

4's & 5's— Room 25

K-1st— Room 14

2nd-5th— Room 10



*January 27 is a
One Service Sunday
Come to worship at 10 a.m.*

Inclusive. Family Oriented. Welcoming.

11100 College Boulevard
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Phone: 913-345-1256
Fax: 913-345-1198

gcpc.org



Facebook: facebook.com/GraceCovenantPresbyterian
Twitter: @GraceCovPres

Worship Schedule

8:50am Praise Team Led Worship
10am Church School All Ages
11:05am Choral Led Worship
Childcare is provided during Worship.

Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines

February Issue - Deadline Jan. 15
March Issue - Deadline Feb.19



CELEBRATING GOD'S ALL ENCOMPASSING LOVE!

CHURCH STAFF

Co Pastors

Mitch Trigger, mitch.trigger@gcpc.org.....ext.18
Sue Trigger, mitch.trigger@gcpc.org.....ext.15

Director of Music Ministries

Rebecca Prater, rebecca.prater@gcpc.org ..ext. 13

Church Administrator

Patrick Bell, patrick.bell@gcpc.org.....ext. 10

Director of Youth Ministries, Miles McDonald
miles.mcdonald@gcpc.org.....ext. 17

Finance Administrator.....Debbie Miller
Organist.....Linda Dover
Contemporary Music Coord......Denice Trawicki
Contemporary Music Drummer.....Daniel Cole
Technical Director for Worship....Miles McDonald
Child Care Coordinator.....Carolyn Chaffin
Kid's Day Out Director.....Kathy Connor
Wedding Coordinator.....Lara Schesser

ELDERS

Jacob Battaglioli	Bryan Evans
Harold Frye	Donna Goecler
Tim Hayden	Judy Hook
Terry Kolich	Lynn Long
Julie Passet	Hilary Schmidt
Aaron Soule	Josh Sutherland
Nelson Townsend	Marcia Turner
Cheryl Johnson - Clerk of Session	

SUPPORT STAFF

Deacon Moderator.....David Sutherland
Executive Committee.....Bryan Evans,
Donna Goeckler, Cheryl Johnson, Julie Passet,
Nelson Townsend
Newsletter Editor Jami Howe
Prayer Chain Cheryl Johnson
Presbyterian Women Moderator vacant

MINISTRY UNITS

Congregational Nurture Unit Moderators
Connections and Care..... Lisa Feyh
Endowment David Steen
Music..... Anne Stroud
Generosity Tony Andersen
Worship.....Sarah Evans & Barb Purvis

Education Ministry Unit Moderators

AdultPat Collins
ChildrenDiane Schmit
Youth..... Susan Sutherland

Reach Out Ministry Unit Moderators

Welcoming.....Kim Krueger
Mission.....Mikki Walker
Kairos.....Dave Pack

Supportive Ministry Unit Moderators

FacilityMarc Feyh
Finance..... Matt McBride
Personnel Linda Bridges