



## Service of Worship — April 16, 2023

*“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” — Hebrews 13:2*

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP!** Thank you for worshipping with us today.

**ELDER ON DUTY:** Joy Circo

**HEAD USHER:** John Gilbert

**HEARING ASSIST DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE.** Please ask at the sound booth.

**RECORD YOUR ATTENDANCE AT TODAY’S WORSHIP SERVICE WITH OUR VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE**

**PAD:** Click this link: <https://bit.ly/GCPCattendance>, or scan the QR Code below, and it will take you to the link.



**CONTACTING STAFF:** The office is open 8am to 4pm, M–F. To reach a staff member by e-mail:

- **Rev. Sue:** [sue.trigger@gcpc.org](mailto:sue.trigger@gcpc.org)
- **Rev. Mitch:** [mitch.trigger@gcpc.org](mailto:mitch.trigger@gcpc.org)
- **Rebecca Prater (music dir.):** [rebecca.prater@gcpc.org](mailto:rebecca.prater@gcpc.org)
- **Patrick Bell (office admin.):** [patrick.bell@gcpc.org](mailto:patrick.bell@gcpc.org)
- **Tara Hyder (finance admin.):** [finance@gcpc.org](mailto:finance@gcpc.org)

*“Pray for one another” — James 5:15*

We encourage you to remember the following in prayer:

**All Grieving the Death of a Loved One**

**Surgeries/Hospitalizations/Illnesses:** Bill Harris

**Cancer Treatment:** Bob Shadburn, Pam Kelly

**Aging Challenges**

**Military Service:** David Zak, C.J. Bradley, Seth Lorimer, Mary E. Johnson II, Alanna Funk, Shannon Lorimer, Clara Frye. **All veterans, deployed military, and reservists.**

**Our Mission Co-Workers:** Jeff and Christi Boyd in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Leslie Vogel, PC (USA) Regional Liaison for Guatemala and Mexico.

**Peace and Relief Workers; Unemployed and Underemployed; Families Struggling with Separation and Divorce; Individuals Struggling with Depression; Those Contemplating Suicide and Those Left Behind.**

**Heartland Presbytery Partnership of Prayer**

(If you have a prayer request you would like to include in the bulletin, please contact the church office at [office@gcpc.org](mailto:office@gcpc.org), or send to [gcpc.prayers@gmail.com](mailto:gcpc.prayers@gmail.com).)

**SPOTLIGHT**

**TODAY WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS** to Grace Covenant! See the end of these announcements for more about the new additions to the GCPC family.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR AN INTERGENERATIONAL TRIVIA NIGHT** on Friday, April 21, 6–8pm in Heartland Hall. Bring a light appetizer/snack/finger food to share. (To be environmentally friendly, please consider bringing your own plate/service ware.) Childcare will be provided for 5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger, but older children are encouraged to join in the fun. Please indicate if you need childcare when registering. We will have prizes for the winning team! You may sign-up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a45a4a722a4fc1-intergenerational>. Contact Lynn Long, [llong82@gmail.com](mailto:llong82@gmail.com), with questions.

**THE YOUTH TEAM IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE** that this year’s Baker/Reynolds Scholarship recipients are Lauren Callender, Kelly Kowalczewski, and Ben Mason.

**THERE WILL BE A BRIEF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**, Sunday, April 30, immediately after worship for the purpose of electing at-large members of the Nominating Committee and electing Elders who will begin service in June of this year.

## ADULT

### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES RESUME TODAY:

#### Questions of Faith Adult Class

Don Wilson will be leading our first Questions of Faith class this Sunday, April 16. The topic will be "What Persuades You To Follow Jesus Christ?" In this age of multiple faiths, people practice the Christian faith for various reasons; we'll explore some reasons offered by individuals and discuss issues this raises for our own lives. Come, join in the discussion. This class will meet in Room 4. You can join on Zoom at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83815237214?pwd=TVh4VWZldC9hbGJCL1k5dIVjWVlwUT09> or Meeting ID: 838 1523 7214, Passcode: GCPC2022

#### Follow Me Adult Class

Forgiveness is one of the most difficult practices of faith. Beginning this Sunday, the class will focus on the practice of forgiveness. Genuine forgiveness entails a process that includes naming the wrong that was done or the wrong that was suffered. Forgiveness does not deny the realities of sin: betrayal, violence, anger, jealousy. It ensures that wrongs do not have the last word. The final word in forgiveness is God's grace, available to those who seek to forgive and to move beyond separation and brokenness to restored relationship with God and one another. This class meets in Room 3. Leadership is shared. You can join on Zoom at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83829790055?pwd=MnpSL1MwS2VBbWN0OEU5aFJGaTJLdz09> or Meeting ID: 838 2979 0055, Passcode: 723297

*On April 23, the Follow Me class will attend the Earth Day Sunday school class led by Jo and Rick Randolph. The class will meet in the choir rehearsal room. (Room 6)*

## CHILDREN

**AWAKENING TO WORSHIP CONTINUES TODAY** for children ages 4–1<sup>st</sup> grade. Children depart with leaders from the Sanctuary following the time with children. Parents may pick up their children in Room 12 on the lower level following worship.

**IT'S A SMASH SUNDAY!** Children K-5/6th grade are invited to come and explore ways we can care for the earth. SMASH meets in Heartland Hall, from 4–6pm. Bring a friend!

**VBS PLANNING IS UNDERWAY! 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](mailto:christysoule@yahoo.com), or Kristy Shaw, [kristinashaw@everestkc.net](mailto: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!

## YOUTH

**OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH** are ready to head to Massanetta Springs, July 15–24. We just need one more thing — a male adult advisor. If you would be interested in enjoying this opportunity, please contact Bill Turner at [99wdturner@gmail.com](mailto:99wdturner@gmail.com) or Rev. Sue at [sue.trigger@gcpc.org](mailto:sue.trigger@gcpc.org).

## MISSION

**GCPC + GOOD FAITH NETWORK:** In February, Session voted for GCPC to join the Good Faith Network, an interfaith group composed of 25+ congregations across three faith traditions in Johnson County. The Good Faith Network's mission is to pursue justice around our local community's most pressing problems. This year, the Good Faith Network is working on solutions to mental health, housing, and homelessness in Johnson County. The membership fee was funded partially by donations from members; we're also seeking some supplementary PCUSA grant funding. (Further donations would be welcome from anyone else who wants to support our participation in this work!)

We are seeking GCPC members who are interested in participating in this work. Anyone who is interested is invited to schedule a 30-minute meet-up with the organization's lead staff person, Aileen Ball. These meetings will be informal conversations that let Aileen learn more about us and our congregation, as well as letting you ask any questions you may have about Good Faith Network. Attending a meeting does not create any obligation to participate further unless you want to! For convenience, Aileen has put her calendar online, so you can just click this link and schedule with her directly: <https://calendly.com/aileenball/meet-with-an-organizer-from-good-faith-network>. But if you are having trouble with the link, you can just contact her directly to get something scheduled--her email is [aileen@thegoodfaithnetwork.org](mailto:aileen@thegoodfaithnetwork.org).

### **Nehemiah Assembly in May**

All GCPC members, regardless of other involvement with GFN, are also invited to attend the main event of the year, the Nehemiah Assembly on May 2 at 6pm, at the Church of the Resurrection, 13720 Roe in Leawood. At the Nehemiah Assembly, over 1,000 justice-seeking people of faith will gather to seek commitment from our local officials to implement solutions to make real change in Johnson County. It's important to have lots of people in that room to make an impression on the county officials. Attending the Nehemiah Assembly doesn't create any obligation to participate further with GFN. Please mark your calendars and bring a friend! Please contact Mikki Walker and Rick Randolph with any questions. ([michala.walker@gmail.com](mailto:michala.walker@gmail.com); [rrandolphiii@gmail.com](mailto:rrandolphiii@gmail.com)).

**APRIL DONATION PARTNER: A GATHERING OF FRIENDS** — Our April donation partner is A Gathering of Friends, a grassroots organization serving those experiencing homelessness and food insecurity in Johnson and Wyandotte counties. A Gathering of Friends relies on donations and volunteers for everything needed to make sure those they serve have a good, home cooked meal each week, along with sandwiches, snacks, and fresh fruits to eat later, as well as supplies

to ensure their safety, health, and comfort. Please see the list below for what you can donate to support their mission. Donations can go in the Weekday Entrance bin anytime in April. *If you'd like to provide a QuikTrip or Wal-Mart gift card, please put those in the plastic holder outside the church office door.*

- AAA batteries
- backpacks
- reusable shopping bags
- flashlights
- lighters
- men's large/xl t-shirts (used, okay)
- hoodies (used, okay)
- men's jeans/sweats/cargo (used, okay)
- tents
- sleeping bags
- insect repellent
- \$5 or \$10 QuikTrip gift cards

**OUR APRIL COMMUNION OFFERING RECIPIENT IS ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**, one of the four annual special offerings collected by PC(USA). Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing support efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on Self-development of People, and support the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program.

**SAVE THE DATE!** 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 [swbyrdks@gmail.com](mailto:swbyrdks@gmail.com).

<b>GENEROSITY</b>
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**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 five 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:

Submitted Pledges (101)	Rollover Pledges (28)
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. 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! This week we are celebrating Bright Sunday — Can you help? You can access it through our giving portal and ***choosing the 2023 Faith and Hope Fund*** or by sending an e-mail to Tara Hyder, [finance@gcpc.org](mailto:finance@gcpc.org). Here is the link if you don't want to use the QR code: [Give Now \(onrealm.org\)](https://onrealm.org)



## Welcome to Our New Members

**Jim and Sandy Adams:** Jim and Sandy moved from Virginia Beach, VA to Lenexa in May 2022. We have three children living in Arizona, New York, and Kansas. We are keeping busy caring for our youngest grandson born in Olathe in August 2022. Sandy is a retired high school reading teacher and has been an Elder in the Presbyterian church serving with the missions team and youth Christian education team. Sandy enjoys reading, walking and being with family. Jim is a retired United States Army officer and a retired high school teacher. Jim has been an Elder in the Presbyterian church, serving as Clerk of Session, and in personnel and adult education. Jim enjoys singing in the church choir, following Penn State sports, current events, and staying healthy. Jim and Sandy are excited to join this faith community.

**Kevin and Amanda Hearn:** Kevin and Amanda have been attending Grace Covenant for a while with their children, Nathan and Sophia. They reside in Olathe and enjoy spending time with family, which includes Brandon, Katie, Mallory, Charlotte, and Grace Hearn, as well as Brian, Pam, and Megan Hearn. They also spend quite a bit of time with Kevin and Cheryl Johnson. They are so grateful for the love and support they've already received from Grace Covenant and look forward to raising their children amongst you all!

**Mary Lou Jones:** Mary Lou Jones, or MJ, lived in Shawnee Mission for many years and moved to Nevada upon retirement. She returned to Overland Park in 2021. MJ is a music teacher, having taught for 56 years with 18 of those years being at Shawnee Mission South. Mary Lou has three children, five grandchildren, one great-granddaughter, and her special interests include music, photography, scrapbooking, and genealogy.

**Natalie Lutt:** Biographical information was unavailable at time of printing.

**Joy Slayton:** Joy recently moved to Lenexa from rural southeast Missouri (south of St. Louis) to be closer to family, including twin daughters and five of her six grandchildren; her oldest granddaughter, husband and two great-grandsons live in upstate New York; her son and wife are moving to Missouri. She has been a member of Potosi Presbyterian Church for over 50 years and looks forward to getting better acquainted at GCPC. Her interests include knitting — her designs have been published in national knitwear magazines — spinning, cooking, baking, music, reading and gardening. She and her late husband, Hilton, met at Park College in the late 1950s.

**Josh and Jessica Wetzig:** The Wetzigs have been living in Overland Park for six years, returning back to the Midwest after spending five years in Los Angeles. Both Josh and Jessica are K-Staters. Josh is an electrical engineer, and Jessica is a promotional manager. They have two children, Zoey, age 3, and Parker, 5 months.

**Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church**  
**11100 College Blvd, OPKS 66210**  
**gcpc.org**