



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship — March 22, 2026

“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: Paul Bruns

HEAD USHERS: John & Mary Pat Gilbert

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

NURSERY CARE is available during worship, located in Room 22 in the east wing.

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

PAD: Click this link: <https://bit.ly/GPCAttendance>, or scan the QR Code below.



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

- **Rev. Karen Wright (Designated Pastor):** karen.wright@gcpc.org
- **Emily Nelson Dixon (Dir. of Christian Education):** emily.dixon@gcpc.org
- **Patrick O’Halloran (Dir. of Music Ministries):** patrick.ohalloran@gcpc.org
- **Patrick Bell (Office Admin.):** patrick.bell@gcpc.org
- **Tara Hyder (Finance Admin.):** finance@gcpc.org
- **Jason Turner (Audio/Technical Dir.):** E-mail both darktrainfilms@gmail.com & gcpc.media@gmail.com.

“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

Cancer Treatment: Harold Farren, Tom Jennings, Trooper Shaw, Johnnie Baker

Aging Challenges: Lee Will, Charlie Bogan

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

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: Village Presbyterian Church, Prairie Village, KS; Rantoul Community Presbyterian Church, Rantoul, KS; Raymore Presbyterian Church, Raymore, MO

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

SPOTLIGHT

MAKE PLANS TO DONATE BLOOD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 24, between 2–6pm, in Heartland Hall at GCPC! Sign up here: <https://donate.savealifenow.org/donor/auth/signin>. New donors are always welcome! Contact Sarah Byrd, 913-909-1559 or swbyrdks@gmail.com, with questions.

JOIN KAIROS FOR THE “GROWING GARDENS, FEEDING MINDS” Lunch 'n' Learn on *Sunday, April 19, 12–2:30pm* at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church. Learn how this project is feeding school children in western Kenya with nutritious meals, teaching gardening skills, and growing hope. You’ll enjoy a Kenyan-style meal and hear inspiring stories about hunger solutions and how you can support the mission. RSVP to attend and save your spot at gcpc.org/ggfm. We can’t wait to share this meaningful experience with you.

A BEAUTIFUL DISPLAY OF SPRING FLOWERS will transform the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. The flowers are provided through the generosity of members who donate flowers “in memory of” or “in honor of” a friend or loved one. If you would like to be a part of this tradition, simply place your donation in the specially marked envelope provided in the pews or send your donation along

with your name and whom the memorial/honor recognizes to the church office: GCPC, 11100 College Blvd., OPKS 66210, Attn. Patrick. (PLEASE PRINT THE MEMORIAL/HONOR NAMES NEATLY IN BLOCK LETTERS.) You may also make a donation through the online giving portal of our website. *The deadline for names to be included in the bulletin insert is Monday, March 30.*

PER CAPITA 2026: Per Capita is an amount paid per adult member of every PC(USA) congregation across the United States. It is a way we are the church together, and the local congregations support the work of the Presbytery, the Synod, and the General Assembly. While we have a line item in the budget for this expense, it helps our operating budget when members pay their per capita. For 2026, the total cost per adult member is \$45.91. That is split between the three higher governing bodies as follows.

- Heartland Presbytery 31.50
- Synod of Mid-America 3.15
- General Assembly 11.26

There is a drop-down selection for per capita if you choose to pay online. If you would like to write a check, please write Per Capita in the memo line.

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE IS LOOKING for four new Elders to serve a three-year term beginning July 2026. Elders have responsibilities in leadership, governance, and worship. As members of the Session, along with the Pastor, they discern God’s calling for the life of the congregation and continually work to develop and evaluate its faithfulness to that call. Elders have monthly Session meetings and also support the work of another ministry within our church. If you are interested or know someone who would be interested to serve as an Elder, please contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee.

- Michala Walker michala.walker@gmail.com
- Donna Heer taxheer@gmail.com
- Jim Kelly Jimkelly103055@gmail.com
- Nelson Townsend nelson@townfolk.net
- Eileen Thomson esthompson@gmail.com

MUSIC

TENEBRAE — GOOD FRIDAY, April 3 at 7:30pm: Join us for a moving Tenebrae service featuring Heather Sorenson’s *Tenebrae*. This solemn service of light and shadow will feature the Chancel Choir, Daniel Yung, cello, and Emily Boston Monrad, soloist. Through Scripture and music, we will reflect on Christ’s passion and prepare our hearts for the hope of Easter.

BELL FEST XXXVI: AMERICANA — This year’s Bell Fest, held on **Sunday, May 3, at 6pm**, celebrates the rich sounds and spirit of Americana, featuring music inspired by American folk traditions, beloved hymns, and classic melodies with a warm, roots-inspired feel. While handbells are at the heart of the concert, Bell Fest also showcases a wide variety of musical gifts, making this a joyful and unique evening of music for the whole community. Bring your friends and family and experience an evening filled with beautiful music, community, and the spirit of Americana.

ADULT

LENT ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, March 1–March 22 at 10:45am: Looking for a meaningful way to deepen your faith, stretch your thinking, and connect with others this Lent? Join us for our Adult Education class — Celtic Spirituality: History and Practice, led by Rev. Karen Wright in Room 3. We'll explore the history of Celtic Christianity through *How the Irish Saved Civilization* by Thomas Cahill and *Mythical Ireland* by Anthony Murphy and reflect on spiritual practices from *The Soul's Slow Ripening* by Christine Valters Paintner. Discover ancient wisdom for modern faith.

ON SUNDAY, MARCH 29, at 10:45 in the Choir Room, McKenna Parker from the Good Faith Network will be here to share updates about GFN activities and goals. Members of the Good Faith Network will also use this time to plan how we will extend invitations to the Nehemiah Action meeting to friends, family and fellow GCPCers. The Nehemiah Action meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 28 at Resurrection United Methodist Church from 6 to 7:30pm.

THE AS THE PAGE TURNS BOOK GROUP will meet April 1 at 1:30pm in Room 3 at the church. The book selection is *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt.

CHILDREN

READY... SET... HUNT! The Children's Ministry Team is so *EGGScited* for our annual **Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 28, at 10am!** Children of all ages are welcome, so invite your friends and every bunny you know! From 10:00–10:45am there will be fun & games inside Heartland Hall, then at 10:45am – The BIG Egg Hunt begins! Bring your own baskets! (Outdoors if weather allows — but RAIN or SHINE, we WILL hunt those eggs!) **We REALLY need volunteers** to help make this event happen! Whether you can help set up, guide activities, hide eggs, or clean up — we'd love to have you on the team. Candy donations are needed! **Hop on over to sign up to volunteer or bring candy at gcpc.org/egghunt.** It takes a village to fill all those eggs — and we're so grateful for ours!

VBS DECORATING VOLUNTEERS – LET'S GET CREATIVE! We have set our work session dates and would love some help with GCPC's Snowball Mountain Challenge decorating as we create items that will transform our spaces for this exciting week of ministry. Below are upcoming dates when we'll gather to work on decorations. **Please RSVP for any dates you plan to attend** so we can be sure to have plenty of projects ready for everyone. And feel free to invite a friend to join the fun!

Meeting in Room 13 (Basement): Tuesday, March 24, 1–3pm; Friday, April 10, 6–8pm; and Wednesday, April 15, 9–11am. **Meeting in Heartland Hall:** May 26–May 30, 10am–Noon and 2–4pm; and May 31, After worship until finished.

Whether you're crafty, handy with a paintbrush, or simply willing to help, there's a place for you. We can't wait to see what we create together! If you have any questions, or want to RSVP, please contact Kristy Shaw or Christy Soule (or the church office). Thank you for joining in our fun!

AWAKENING TO WORSHIP: 4yo–1st grade age-appropriate worship experience in Room 12 (downstairs). ATW leaves from the children’s sermon in worship and travel downstairs together with helpers. They finish at the end of worship.

10:45-11:05am Music

JOY! (Rm 26) and CELEBRATION! (Rm 15) choirs rehearse and the children are escorted to their Sunday school classes by leaders, they can be picked up in their Sunday school lesson rooms. (Listed below)

11:05am-11:45am

Combined Toddler/Preschool and K–12th grade Sunday school (Spring Break)

COMING UP ...

- **(SAT) March 28, 10am**, Easter Egg Hunt!
- **March 29**, Palm Parade and Ice Cream Sundae (during Sunday school)
- **April 5**, Easter! — no Sunday school or choir practice or ATW
- **April 12**, ALL music Sunday

VBS REGISTRATION IS OPEN! Snowball Mountain Challenge — Find your strength in God! Vacation Bible School, June 1–5, 9am–12pm, ages 4 yrs – 5th graders, and MS/HS helpers! Sign up here!



YOUTH

EACH SUNDAY: 10:45-11:05am: Many of our youth help with the children’s choirs during this time, everyone else enjoys Youth Fellowship time in the Youth Lounge (downstairs).

11:05-11:45am: Sunday school, Rooms 19a and 19b

COMING UP...

- **Today**, Youth help with combined children’s Sunday school, helping with Children’s activities.
- **(SAT) March 28, Easter Egg Hunt**, Helping run games for the children.
- **March 29**, PALM Parade and ICE CREAM SUNDAE (during Sunday school)
- **April 5**, EASTER, no Sunday school
- **(SAT) April 11**, Youth Sunday Rehearsal
- **April 12**, YOUTH SUNDAY! (Youth lead worship)

KAIROS

APRIL IS GOING TO BE AN EXCITING MONTH FOR KAIROS! New and exciting activities are being planned for our issues of Peace/Social Justice, Hunger & Earth Care. **INTERESTED in being part of the planning?** Join our next meeting and become part of this exciting team — March 25, 7:30pm, Room 3.

MISSION

DID YOU KNOW THAT GCPC HAS A QUILTING GROUP? Piecemakers makes full-size quilts for Uplift, tactile quilts for students and seniors with neurological needs, Christmas stockings for the Red Bag Project, and baby quilts for the newest GCPC members. Everyone is welcome to join us the 2nd Saturday of each month from 10am to 12pm in Room 3. No sewing experience is necessary! Most of Piecemakers fabric is donated by members (thank you!), but we do need a few supplies from time to time. If you'd like to help support Piecemakers, please take a look at our Amazon wish list via the QR code or link below:



https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2YUFTL3P32EG8?ref=wl_share.

OUR MARCH DONATION PARTNER is GCPC's own Little Free Food Pantry. If you haven't seen it, this pantry is found on the east end of our property along Nieman Road. We stock the pantry with nonperishable items, and we see these items moving from the pantry each week. Sometimes the pantry is wiped clean. Volunteers check the pantry twice a week and restock as best we can. On occasion, we see donations added to the pantry from within the community as well. Please bring your donations to the Weekday Entrance anytime during March. The items most consumed are:

- small jars of peanut butter
- noodles & pasta sauce
- box dinners
- individual drinks or snacks of any kind

OUR COMMUNION OFFERING RECIPIENT for March is Arts in Prison. Arts in Prison provides opportunities for inmates to prove that they are more than the sum of their crimes. By providing arts education and experiences for inmates in state prisons and detention centers, these members of society, who have been locked away and often forgotten, are given a chance for self-reflection and an opportunity to create something beautiful. Whether it is a song, a stage performance, a photograph or a painting, they have created something that brings joy to others.

Among the many programs supported by Arts in Prison is the East Hill Singers, whose concerts GCPC has been fortunate to host a number of times. The recidivism rate among former East Hill Singers is 18% as compared to 32% for the state of Kansas and greater than 50% for the United States. If you'd like to support Arts in Prison, make your donation online or in the offering plate; just note that it is meant for Communion Offering.

SIGN UP TO WORK WITH HABITAT KC at GCPC — April 7! Use this link to sign up: <https://build.habitatkc.org/reservations/23654?auth=1772049779> — put your name and email address in the first open spot under the "Participants" heading on the left. We can send up to eight people on **Tuesday, April 7 from 8:30am to 3pm**. Registration closes at **12pm Friday, March 27**; you'll get an email after registering inviting you to complete the volunteer application — this must be complete by the deadline! Spots are on a first-come, first-served basis, so don't wait until the last minute.

- The workday is from 8:30am–3pm, with a 30-minute onsite lunch break. Bring your own lunch and a full water bottle (extra water will be available on site).
- Construction volunteers do not need to have any prior experience in construction or bring any of their own tools; all education and tools will be provided!
- All registered volunteers will receive their assignment location via automated email 3 days prior to the volunteer day.
- In case of inclement weather, please call our Weather Hotline at 816-897-7799 to hear the recorded message for any cancellations or changes. We update the message by 7:15am each morning.
- We ask that all volunteers stay the full day, from 8:30am to 3pm.
- We highly recommend you bring a water bottle with you.
- Please wear clothes you don't mind getting dirt, mud or house paint on, and wear sturdy/closed toe & heeled shoes (NO flip flops, sandals or crocs!) If you have work gloves, please bring them.
- Dress for the weather. If there has been rain on previous days, be prepared for the sites to be muddy.
- The use, purchase and possession of alcohol, drugs and weapons are forbidden on Habitat KC property and volunteer sites.
- All volunteers must be 16 or older to volunteer. Volunteers under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.



GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11100 College Boulevard ♦ Overland Park, KS 66210
Phone (913) 345-1256 ♦ www.gcpc.org



GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2026 Upcoming Events and Services

(Save these dates)

Mobile Blood Drive

Tuesday, March 24, 2-6pm, Heartland Hall
https://donate.savealifenow.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/86517

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 28, 10am
10-10:45am - Games in Heartland Hall
10:45am - Hunt begins

Palm Sunday

March 29, 9:30am

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 2, 7:30pm

Good Friday

Chancel Choir will present *Tenebrae*:
A Service of Shadows by Heather Sorenson
Friday, April 3, 7:30pm

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 5
9am and 11am
*(Flowering of the cross begins
15 minutes before each service)*

Youth Sunday

Sunday, April 12, 9:30am

Trivia Night

Saturday, April 18, Time TBA

New Member Class

Sunday, April 19
10:45am, Room 5

EncoreKC! Spring Concert

Sunday, April 26, 3pm
Grace United Methodist Church

EncoreKC! Ensembles Concert

Friday, May 1, 7pm
GCPC Sanctuary

Bell Fest XXXVI

"Americana"
Sunday, May 3, 6pm

Vacation Bible School

June 1-5, 9am-Noon
Register your child, or sign-up to Volunteer!
gcpc.org/vbs
*(Children and Volunteers need to
sign-up by May 1 to get a t-shirt)*

~ Please be mindful of the following deadlines for our communications publications ~

Grace Notes Weekly email newsletter - articles due to the church office by 10am, each Wednesday

Weekly church bulletin - articles due to the church office by Noon, each Wednesday

Grace Notes Monthly Newsletter - articles are due to the church office on the 3rd Tuesday of the month

Please respect the timelines needed to produce these publications. Thank you!

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