



Service of Worship — November 19, 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: Jane Knoche

HEAD USHERS: Richard & Berdine Eby

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:

- **Karen Wright (Bridge Pastor):** karen.wright@gcpc.org
- **Rebecca Prater (Music Dir.):** rebecca.prater@gcpc.org
- **Lindsay Callender (Youth Coordinator):** lindsaymichelle0130@gmail.com
- **Patrick Bell (Office Admin.):** patrick.bell@gcpc.org
- **Tara Hyder (Finance Admin.):** 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: Wilma Haney, Pam Kelly

Cancer Treatment: Pam Kelly, Harold Farren, Katie Rickley

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, or send to gcpc.prayers@gmail.com.)

SPOTLIGHT

ONE MORE WEEK ... until your Red Bag Christmas gifts are due! If you haven't already, please bring your **wrapped** gift to the church **with the Post-it Note attached** and place it in the large boxes provided. Call Angela Krug, 913-449-3916, with questions or if you lost your Post-it.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22 — THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

**6:30pm CHEX, Family, & Friends rehearse a
simple Thanksgiving anthem in Choir Room/Rm 6**

Come and join us!

**6:45pm Gathering Music by
Cal Sweeten, hammered dulcimer**

7pm Thanksgiving Eve Service Begins

Theme: "Songs of Grateful Praise"

THE ANNUAL THANKSGIVING EVE CHILI SUPPER will take place in Heartland Hall on Wednesday, November 22, 5:30–6:45pm. Bring your out-of-town-guests, your next-door neighbors, your friend, or just yourself! As an Earth Care Congregation, we are asking everyone to bring their own tableware along with a pot of chili, a pan of cornbread, or a dessert. RSVP here: <https://bit.ly/GCPCchili>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, and join us at 10:30am (right after church) to start your “**Amazing Journey to Bethlehem**” — this year's Advent Fair event that takes you back in time and place through various clues and activities that help prepare you for the birth of Jesus. Designed for all ages, teams of 3–5 are formed by families, friends, couples, guests, and then directed throughout the church building to discover and complete challenges at various stations all associated with the Advent Season. Join us for this fun Sunday morning event over the Thanksgiving weekend.

THOSE AREN'T SLEIGH BELLS YOU HEAR, it's time for Noisy Offering! On December 10, we'll collect our last Noisy Offering of 2023. The funds will go to the Renewed Hope Food Pantry, which is also where we send the food donations collected in the Weekday Entrance. Donations to Renewed Hope have sadly fallen off in recent months, so bring your loose change to help all our neighbors eat well this holiday season.

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS UPDATE — 2024 PLEDGE DRIVE: We are basing our campaign on this scripture from Jeremiah 29:11 “I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” Can you stand with your fellow Grace Covenant community and affirm this future and hope by making a 2024 pledge commitment? We also welcome any pledges from non-members! Pledge Sunday was November 5, 2023, and we received 67 pledges, totaling \$362,056.40. Our goal is \$675,000. Your Session is working very diligently with Finance and Generosity Teams to avoid approving a 2024 *deficit* budget. We will be locking in our final pledge numbers in early December. Please, if you haven't filled out a pledge card or gone online, you can call Tara Hyder, 913-345-1256, ext. 121, and leave a voicemail with your name and pledge amount. You can also see our progress by stopping by the Generosity Bulletin Board. Please turn in your pledge and join us in creating an amazing future in 2024! (Oh and come visit us in Heartland Hall after the service for another sweet treat. Thank You!)

ADULT

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: IN ROOM 3 WE CONCLUDE OUR LOOK AT MAJOR WORLD RELIGIONS, their history, evolution, conflicts and inter-relations. This final class focuses on Judaism, specifically post-WWII Israel. Please join us! To attend via Zoom, please use the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83815237214?pwd=TVh4VWZldC9hbGJCL1k5dIVjWVlwUT09> Meeting ID: 838 1523 7214 / Passcode: GCPC2022. We hope to see you there!

THE AS THE PAGE TURNS BOOK GROUP will meet December 6 at 1:30pm in room 3 at the church. The book selection is *The Girl in His Shadow*. Audrey Blake, a local author, will join the group for

discussion and fellowship. The traditional holiday book exchange will take place at our January 3 meeting.

PAGE TURNERS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SOUP SUPPER BOOK EXCHANGE is Thursday **December 7, 6:30pm** at Jan Cummings' home, 9815 Broadmoor. Bring an appetizer, bread or dessert to share. Soup will be provided. We will discuss Shel Silverstein's *A Light in the Attic* (our banned book event). Please bring a book and bookmark in a gift bag to be exchanged with others. (It might be exchanged with several others....) Please RSVP to Jan, cjan1950@gmail.com or GCPC Page Turners on Facebook. Everyone is welcome! Please join us even if you haven't previously attended.

CHILDREN

THIS WEEK WE CONTINUE OUR ATW AND SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAMMING. If you need more information, please check the children's bookcase outside the sanctuary for further details.

IF YOU SEE ANY OF OUR THIRD-GRADE KIDDOS, ask them what they learned at the Bible workshop that was held last Sunday.

YOUTH

RED BAG PROJECT TONIGHT! Tonight the youth will gather at GCPC to shop for Red Bag gifts! We will head to Walmart to find everything we need, then time permitting, we will wrap as many as possible! The event will last from 5–7pm. We are excited to see everyone there! Contact Lindsay if you have any questions!

MISSION

GCPC SENDS THE FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS collected in the Weekday Entrance bin to Renewed Hope Food Pantry. We also regularly send volunteers to their weekly food pick up events. Sadly, donations at Renewed Hope have dropped significantly since the end of the COVID Public Health Emergency declaration. Please consider donating during the holiday season. Donations may be left in the bin anytime the church building is open. With help from lots of people, everyone can have a happy Thanksgiving and Christmas.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING OUR IHN WEEK POSSIBLE! Last week was our 79th JOCO IHN Host week. We welcomed our second support church, Shawnee Mission Unitarian Universalist Church (SMUUCH) to this rotation. Six people attended the 4pm orientation, and they were very impressed with our layout and organization for this ministry. We started the week with one single woman, added a mom and son, who then dropped out, and then added a second single woman. It is a very demanding and structured program that some guests have trouble adjusting to — such as those 6:30am departures. Thank you so very much for supporting us with your hosting, food, and prayers this week! You are changing people's lives for good!

GENEROSITY

UPDATE FOR GOOD — LIVING IN GOD’S GRACE: Here is our pledging update as of November 2023, which is 83% of the calendar year. There’s been consistent progress with 82% of submitted pledges and 83% of rollover pledges received! We requested that Tara Hyder send out gentle reminder letters to our folks who are in the lower fulfillment groups to check in and see about their pledged giving plans for 2023. As we draw closer to the end of the 2023 year, we really value your consistent giving. As always, we greatly appreciate your generosity and commitment to Grace Covenant. Please provide feedback to our team: Dave Sutherland, Ryan Hussey, Bill Brown, Rick Randolph, and Jane Knoche. Here is our giving progress shown by numbers of pledges: Here is our giving progress shown by numbers of pledges:

Submitted Pledges (103)	April 12th	May 16th	June 19th	August 15th	Sept 19th	Oct 3 rd	Nov 6th
0% fulfilled	32	24	22	15	14	14	12
1-25%	33	12	10	4	5	3	2
26-50%	29	52	50	18	10	8	7
51-75%	0	3	8	44	49	38	14
76-100%	7	11	13	22	25	40	68
\$526,258	\$187,129	\$211,292	\$259,907	\$337,665	\$371,416	\$397,258	\$433,348

Rollover Pledges (27)	April 12th	May 16th	June 19th	August 15th	Sept 19th	Oct 3 rd	Nov 6th
0% fulfilled	11	9	8	6	6	6	5
1-25%	6	1	1	0	0	0	1
26-50%	9	9	10	5	4	0	0
51-75%	1	5	3	8	8	8	7
76-100%	1	4	6	8	9	13	14
\$101,369	\$15,480	\$53,965	\$59,355	\$68,930	\$71,680	\$81,505	\$84,065

Five groupings are used to show giving progress and calendar relationship. They are 0%, 1–25%, 26–50%, 51–75%, 76–100%. Each pledge falls into one of these groups. We are very grateful for the feedback on pledge amounts.

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