



# GRACE COVENANT

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship — March 8, 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:** Mikki Walker

**HEAD USHER:** Mike & Susan Fitzgerald

**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](mailto:karen.wright@gcpc.org)
- **Emily Nelson Dixon (Dir. of Christian Education):** [emily.dixon@gcpc.org](mailto:emily.dixon@gcpc.org)
- **Patrick O’Halloran (Dir. of Music Ministries):** [patrick.ohalloran@gcpc.org](mailto:patrick.ohalloran@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)
- **Jason Turner (Audio/Technical Dir.):** E-mail both [darktrainfilms@gmail.com](mailto:darktrainfilms@gmail.com) & [gcpc.media@gmail.com](mailto: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

**Ageing 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:** First Presbyterian Church, Pleasanton, KS, Presbyterian Women

(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**

**SPRING CLEAN-UP** — Join us for a church workday on **Saturday, March 21, from 9am until noon**. Help us spruce up GCPC for Easter. We will be raking, weeding, and clipping outside, and dusting, vacuuming, and polishing inside. Outside workers bring your gloves, rakes, leaf blowers, loppers, pruning shears, bow saws, and shovels. Inside workers bring your gloves, dusting tools, dust cloths, paper towels, and glass cleaner. Please let us know if you are coming! **RSVP at this link on our website:** <https://gcpc.org/calendar/spring-clean-up.html>. Contact Paul Bruns, Facilities moderator, for additional information.

**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](mailto:swbyrdks@gmail.com), with questions.

**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.* Thank you!

**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	<a href="mailto:michala.walker@gmail.com">michala.walker@gmail.com</a>
Donna Heer	<a href="mailto:taxheer@gmail.com">taxheer@gmail.com</a>
Jim Kelly	<a href="mailto:Jimkelly103055@gmail.com">Jimkelly103055@gmail.com</a>
Nelson Townsend	<a href="mailto:nelson@townfolk.net">nelson@townfolk.net</a>
Eileen Thomson	<a href="mailto:esthompson@gmail.com">esthompson@gmail.com</a>

## MUSIC

**GUEST MUSICIAN** — Today, we welcome acclaimed lyric baritone Norman Garrett, who will share his musical gifts in worship. He is currently in Kansas City performing in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* with the Lyric Opera of Kansas City. For ticket information, visit [kcopera.org](http://kcopera.org).

**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.

## ADULT

**LENT ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, March 1–March 29 at 10:45am:** Looking for a meaningful way to deepen your faith, stretch your thinking, and connect with others this Lent? Join us for one of our Adult Education opportunities. Come for one week or all — everyone is welcome! Let's journey through Lent together.

- Room 3 - Celtic Spirituality: History and Practice, Led by Rev. Karen Wright. 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.
- Worship Reflections (Heartland Hall, Southwest Corner) - A warm, low-pressure, come-as-you-are discussion each Sunday. Adult Ed leaders will help spark conversation as we reflect on the day's Scripture readings and sermon notes. No homework, no "right answers" — just honest conversation, listening, and encouragement.

### BOOK GROUPS

- **As the Page Turns** book group will meet March 4 at 1:30pm in Room 3 at the church. The book selection is *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn.
- **Page Turners** will meet at 7pm on March 5 at Marcia Turner's house. The book for discussion is *Becoming Madame Secretary* by Stephanie Dray. Please let me know if you are coming, either by text, e-mail or on our Facebook page. (9119 W. 157th Terrace, OP KS; 816-550-2045; [mktopks@gmail.com](mailto:mktopks@gmail.com)).

## 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](http://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):** Sunday, March 15, Noon–2pm; 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.

### **Sunday School, 10:45-11:45am**

**10:45-11:05am** — 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)

### **11:05-11:45am Sunday School lessons:**

Toddlers (2yo-3yo) Room 20

Preschool (4yo-5yo) Room 25

K-2nd grades, GAMES, Room 18

3rd-5th grades, ART, Room 10

### **COMING UP ...**

- **TODAY**, 4–6pm, SMASH (K-5th Fellowship)
- **March 15 and 22**, Combined Toddler/Preschool and K-12th grade Sunday School (Spring Break)
- **(SAT) March 28, 10am**, Easter Egg Hunt!
- March 29, Palm Parade and Ice Cream Sundae (during Sunday school)
- April 5, Easter! NO ATW or Sunday school

**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**, 4–6pm, YOUTH GROUP

- **March 15 and 22**, 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)

## MISSION

**THE GOOD FAITH NETWORK INVITES YOU** to the Solutions Briefing TODAY at 3pm, held at Grace United Methodist Church 11485 S. Ridgeview Road, Olathe KS 66061. The Solutions Briefing brings the whole network up to speed on the committees' work in each of the four areas of focus: Homelessness, Affordable Housing, Mental Health and Elder Care. This Solutions Briefing will keep us informed and readies us to mobilize in preparation for the Nehemiah Action Event on April 28. For any questions, or if you are interested in carpooling please contact: Dave Pack: [djpack.12645@gmail.com](mailto:djpack.12645@gmail.com); Don or Joy Wilson: [donjoywilson@gmail.com](mailto:donjoywilson@gmail.com); Eileen Thomson: [esthomson@gmail.com](mailto:esthomson@gmail.com)

**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.

## KAIROS

**KAIROS WOULD LIKE TO ADVOCATE THE CONGREGATION OF GCPC** to read the released Office of Public Witness statement from Monday, March 2. (More information is posted on the bulletin board next to Heartland Hall.)



After you read the statement and feel the call to do something, here is something you can do TODAY! Now is the time for Congress to fulfill its constitutional responsibility. Contact your Senators and Representative and urge them to:



- Support the War Powers Resolution
- Reassert Congress's authority over decisions of war
- Prevent further unauthorized military escalation
- Prioritize diplomacy and the protection of civilian life



**GRACE COVENANT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# 2026 Upcoming Events and Services

*(Save these dates)*

## **Spring Clean Up**

Saturday, March 21, 9am-Noon

Sign up to help at

[gcpc.org/calendar/spring-clean-up.html](https://gcpc.org/calendar/spring-clean-up.html)

## **Mobile Blood Drive**

Tuesday, March 24, 2-6pm, Heartland Hall

[https://donate.savealifenow.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/86517](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

## **KAIROS Lunch 'n Learn**

### **Growing Gardens, Feeding Minds**

Sunday, April 19, Noon-2:30pm

Heartland Hall

RSVP to attend at [gcpc.org/ggfm](https://gcpc.org/ggfm)

## **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](https://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](https://gcpc.org/calendar)