



## GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Celebrating 40 Years on June 22, 2025!**

*Join us as we reflect upon God's faithfulness throughout our church's journey.*

# GRACE NOTES

January 2025  
Vol 43, Nbr 1

God draws us together into a welcoming community, embracing our curiosity and questions, to worship with creativity, learn from God's word, share our gifts, and grow in faith.

With gratitude and a spirit of adventure, we are sent to serve Christ in the world—spreading kindness to all and striving for justice grounded in God's boundless love.

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Overland Park, KS 66210  
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[gcpc.org](http://gcpc.org)

In-Person Worship  
and Online Worship  
every Sunday on  
Facebook and Zoom

## Happy New Year!!

As we begin the 40th year of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church there is a definite sense that God is on the move! There is an energy and excitement around the church, and we are thrilled that you are a part of that energy. As we celebrate Epiphany on January 5, we will have Star Words available.

Star Words are a practice that comes from Matthew 2:1–12 as the Magi follow the Star to find the Christ Child. This word is a guide for the year ahead. Star words will be available during worship. And star words pick you, not so much you pick a word. The words can be challenging or comforting. Receive the word and trust that God has a purpose for your journey in 2025.

**On Epiphany Sunday we will also say farewell to our beloved Director of Music Ministries, Rebecca Prater.** We are immensely grateful for her years of dedication and service at Grace Covenant Presbyterian. She has brought a rare combination of musicality, spirituality, and organization that has blessed not only those in the music programs, but all of us.

The music search team is up and running. They have names of people who have expressed interest in the position. We keep the search team in our prayers that they may find the right fit for our congregation.

As we look at the year ahead of us, we pray for a year of discovery and growth as we follow where God's guiding star leads us. May our coming year be filled with grace, gratitude, and with God's love as we continue our journey together.

Grace and Peace — Pastor Karen

## New Member Class - "This is Grace"

Join us for the "This is Grace" New Member Class on Sunday, January 12, at 10:45am in Room 4, immediately following the worship service. Led by Rev. Karen Wright, this class is open to everyone — whether you're a first-time visitor or a long-time friend. This session offers a great opportunity to learn more about Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, ask questions, and explore how we carry out God's work in our community. There's no expectation to join the church after attending the class — just come to learn and explore. To sign up, visit [gcpc.org/newmember](http://gcpc.org/newmember), or contact Kathy Williams at [kathykaskewilliams@gmail.com](mailto:kathykaskewilliams@gmail.com) or call 913-485-1776 if you plan to attend.

## Clerk's Corner

At the December Session meeting, the primary topic of discussion was the 2025 Budget. With some trims in team requests, plans to strategically use designated and memorial funds, and recent additional pledges, we are within 3% of having a balanced budget for 2025. At this time, the Session has not approved a 2025 Budget - we are looking to teams to find a few more ways to trim their asks for the coming year in hopes of passing a balanced budget in the coming weeks. Our budget discussion covered many topics related to church funds. We discussed alternative ways of generating income and are still brainstorming in that department, so if you have ideas, please share them with Karen or a Session member. Since roughly one-half of our budget goes to staff salaries, we also discussed different ways that we might staff the church and are sending a variety of thoughts back to the personnel team. With Rebecca's departure, there will be changes in music staffing and it's easier to restructure when we're not displacing a beloved staff member. Music is one of the things that sets Grace Covenant apart and we are committed to maintaining that in a way that makes sense for the church that we are now and will be in the next five years or so.

As part of his work on the personnel team, Chris Krug has undertaken an overhaul of the church Operating Manual, which the Session adopted with tremendous appreciation for Chris's efforts! We also approved Communion dates for 2025 and called the annual Congregational and Corporation meeting for Sunday January 26, 2025, following worship.

In addition to reports from many of our Teams, we received a report from the Transition discussions that were held on Sunday mornings in November and will be taking those into consideration as we move forward.

Due to Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the January Session meeting will be held on January 13, 2025. The Session's current contract with Karen runs through February 2025 and we will be discussing options for renewal at that meeting as well as some changes to the church bylaws to bring them in line with current practice.

We are excited about all the activities going on at Grace Covenant and hope you are, too. As always, if you have questions or concerns, please share them with a Session member.

—Melanie Townsend, Clerk of Session

## Upcoming 40th Anniversary Events

### Tea Party

**Sunday, January 12, 2pm**

**\*\*RSVP by January 8!**

Held on Sunday, January 12, at 2pm, in Heartland Hall, the Tea Party is open to ALL AGES. Bring your own teacup or enjoy

one provided by our committee. The Tea Party Planning Committee will serve finger sandwiches and beverages, and we invite you to contribute by bringing a small plate of bite-sized desserts or treats to share.

RSVP by January 5 at [gcpc.org/teaparty](https://gcpc.org/teaparty) with how many are attending, if you are bringing your own cup, and if you can bring a treat.

We look forward to celebrating this special milestone together!



### DIY Mini Golf Event!

**February 8, 7pm**

**\*\*Register by February 1**

Join Us for a 40th Anniversary DIY Mini Golf Night on Saturday, February 8, at 7pm

in Heartland Hall. Gather your friends, family, or co-workers and join the fun at GCPC's DIY Mini Golf event!

Design and build your own creative mini golf hole and compete for prizes in design and golf scores. Each team (up to 5 members) will create a unique golf hole using a 3' x 8' space. Setup must be completed by 7pm. After the course is ready, enjoy a round of mini golf, light snacks, and plenty of laughs. Don't miss this chance to showcase your creativity and skills!

Register now at [gcpc.org/golf](https://gcpc.org/golf) to reserve your spot! Registration ends on Saturday, February 1.





## Update on the Good Faith Network

As we mentioned earlier this year, the Good Faith Network is composed of faith-based organizations and individuals who seek to foster a more just society. For the past several years the Network has focused on the need for a mental health crisis center, the need for affordable housing and the need to respond to homelessness.

This past November the Network members voted to add a fourth area of need related to elder care.

If you are interested in learning more about the Good Faith Network please contact one of the following:

Dave Pack: [djpack.12645@gmail.com](mailto:djpack.12645@gmail.com)  
 Don Wilson: [donjoywilson@gmail.com](mailto:donjoywilson@gmail.com)  
 Eileen Thomson: [esthompson@gmail.com](mailto:esthompson@gmail.com)

## January Book Club Gatherings

The new year is almost here and hope you've had time to do some reading! Page Turners will meet at Johnnie Baker's house, **Thursday, January 2, at 7pm** to discuss *Wild Women and the Blues* by Denny Bruce. Johnnie's address is 8608 W. 152nd Terr., Overland Park. (*Carpooling suggested — end of cul-de-sac! Also adjacent driveway on left is available that night.*) Please RSVP to 913-219-3893 or [johnniebkr@gmail.com](mailto:johnniebkr@gmail.com), or you can use the Bookclubs app or Facebook to RSVP.

As the Page Turns Book Group will meet **January 8 at 1:30pm in Room 3** at the church. The book selection is *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. Please join the group for discussion and fellowship.

## Vacation Bible School "Road Trip - On the Go with God" June 2-6, 9am-Noon

Sign up at [gcpc.org/vbs](http://gcpc.org/vbs)

Pack your bags for an unforgettable adventure! Join us June 2-5, 9am-Noon, for "Road Trip - On the Go with God," where kids (Travelers) will set out on a fun-filled journey to exciting destinations. Guided by the Navigator and their trusty, adventurous pup Scout, kids will discover that God is always with them, no matter where the road leads.

Through captivating stories from the Navigator's Guide (the Bible), Travelers will explore timeless tales of faith from the Old and New Testaments. Along the way, they'll face twists, turns, and challenges that reveal how God's presence brings courage, strength, and joy on every journey.

Road trips are all about building relationships and making lasting memories. With interactive games, engaging activities, and meaningful lessons, kids will deepen their understanding of God's love while forming bonds with their peers and community.

**Get ready for the ride of a lifetime!**

Don't miss this opportunity to grow in faith, friendship, and fun. Sign up today and join the adventure!

## Volunteers Needed!

Sign up to volunteer at [gcpc.org/vbs](http://gcpc.org/vbs)

# MUSIC NOTES

## A message from Rebecca

*To my dear friends  
at Grace Covenant  
Presbyterian Church,*

As I prepare to retire from my role in music ministry, my heart is filled with gratitude for the many years we've shared together. Serving as part of this community has been one of the greatest blessings of my life.



We have lifted our voices in worship, united in the joy of praising our Creator. I am deeply grateful for the privilege of leading and sharing in this ministry, and for the countless ways you have encouraged and supported me along the journey.

While I am stepping away from this role, my love and prayers for each of you remain steadfast. I look forward to seeing how God continues to work through our church and its ministries, bringing God's message of hope and love to all.

Thank you for your faithfulness, your friendship, and your trust. May God bless you abundantly as we continue to walk in God's grace.

With love and gratitude,

**Rebecca J Prater**

Director of Music Ministries, 2005-2025

## Music in Worship

**January 5th – Epiphany of the Lord/Star Sunday**  
Organ led worship. Chancel & Exaltation! Singers anthems, "What Star Is This?" arr. Craig Curry, "Pilgrims' Hymn" by Stephen Paulus, and "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" by Peter C. Lutkin

**January 12th**  
Praise Team led worship

**January 19th**  
Organ led worship. Chancel & Exaltation! Singers anthem, "This Little Light of Mine" arr. John Helgen

**January 26th**  
Organ led worship. Chancel & Exaltation! Singers anthem, "Within These Walls" by Pepper Choplin

## Music Ensembles Resume in 2025

Contact any of the directors listed below to let them know you'd like to participate and/or for more information.

**Sunday, January 5th from 10:45-11:05am**

(at the beginning of Sunday school)

**Joy! (4s-1st graders) – Room 26**

Emily Hussey & Hilary Schmidt, co-directors

**Sunday, January 12th from 10:45-11:05am**

**Celebration! Choir & Chimes (2nd-5th graders)**

Pam Kelly, director – Room 15

Angela Krug, accompanist

Katie Hearn & Keith Langabee, assistant directors

## Celebrating Rebecca Prater!

Join us on Sunday, January 5, at 9:30am for worship, followed by a reception in Heartland Hall, as we celebrate and thank Rebecca Prater, Director of Music Ministries, for her 20 years of talent, friendship, and service to our church. We are deeply grateful for the many blessings Rebecca has brought to Grace Covenant.

**Tuesday, January 7th – 7:00-8:15pm**  
Praise Team (Youth & Adults) – Sanctuary  
Vocals, Instruments, & Keys  
Carrie DeVries, director

**Wednesday, January 8th – 6:00-7:00pm**  
Charter Ringers (Advanced Adults) – Room 1  
Chris Krug & Celia Nicholas, co-directors

**Wednesday, January 15th – 7:05-8:30pm**  
Chancel Choir & Exaltation! Singers (CHEX)  
(Advanced Youth/Adults) – Room 6/Choir Room  
Director TBA & Linda Dover, accompanist

**Sunday, January 26th – 12:15-1:30pm**  
Jubilation! Ringers (Intermediate Youth & Adults)  
Kathy Bures, director – Room 1

GCPC Wind Ensemble – (8th graders – Adults)  
Rehearsals & Worship Dates TBD by the Director  
Thursdays – 7:00-8:00pm – Sanctuary  
& Saturdays – 10:30-11:30am – Sanctuary  
Play in following 9:30am Worship  
Pam Smith Kelly, director

## Additional Music Ensembles

By invitation/conversation from the director(s)

**Chancel Brass**  
Darryl Prater & Jim Kelly, directors

**Dixieland Band**  
Bob Dover, director

**Grace Mountain (Bluegrass)**  
Christopher Callender, director



# Children's Team



## SMASH

Once a month, SMASH happens! We ordinarily meet the third Sunday of the month from 4–6pm in Heartland Hall. This popular program is an activity for kindergarten through 5/6th graders combining sports, music, arts, service, and “hangout” time and offers a time for children to be nurtured in faith by building relationships with a variety of adults of all ages. During this school year, we’ve been studying the Fruits of the Spirits, Galatians 5:22-23.

In December, our SMASH kiddos did some Christmas caroling with residents at Aberdeen Village. After spreading our Christmas cheer, we came back to GCPC to discuss a very important fruit this time of year, patience! Lots of laughs and fun were shared.

We will be exploring more Fruits of the Spirit in 2025. Kindness is our topic in January. **Join us January 19th from 4pm - 6pm in Heartland Hall.**

## Thank you, Volunteers!

The Children’s Team would like to thank all our volunteers for everything they have done for us this semester. Our children enjoy you very much and our church couldn’t put on such a successful children’s program without amazing volunteers like you!

## Bible Workshop

**January 26, 2025**

Our 3rd grade students, along with their beloved adult of choice, are invited to attend our Bible workshop on January 26, 2025, at NOON. We’ll present our friends with their Bibles in worship at 9:30am. Then after Sunday School, we’ll gather to have lunch together and learn a little history of the Bible, how the Bible is organized, and how we can study and learn from its stories. All third graders are welcome along with their adults.

## Children’s Events at a Glance

- January 5 ATW, Nursery, 4s-1st grade Sunday School
- January 12 ATW, Music & Sunday School along with our GCPC Tea Party
- January 19 ATW, Music & Sunday School and Smash
- January 26 ATW and our music program will meet for the entire Sunday School hour (NOON)
- January 31 GCPC Bingo & Lasagna Night

## LOOKING AHEAD...

### Communion Workshop–Feb 23

Our 2nd grade children and parent(s) are invited to a Communion Workshop to be held on Sunday, February 23, at Noon. We look forward to sharing their first communion with them shortly afterwards on Sunday March 2. We are excited to continue our baptismal promise to these children as they learn more about the sacrament of communion.



# Children's Ministries Review!

## Grace Studies

Our youngest ones, 2 through 5 are introduced each week to some of our favorite stories of the Bible.



2's/3's will meet in Room 23 at 10:45am.

4's/5's will meet in Room 26 at 10:45am for music, then will be escorted to Room 25 at 11:05am for Sunday School.

**Our kindergarten through 5th grade students** will begin a new season of creative learning through art, cooking, and drama. We will begin by looking at the diversity of God's creation and Biblical teachings that call us to love one another equally.

Kindergarten – 1st Grades: Room 26, 10:45 am. Joy! Singers will be escorted to their workshop rotation afterwards. Our workshop rotations move each week, so check the wall just outside the basement stairwell for each week's activities.

2nd – 5th Grades: Room 15 - 10:45am. Celebration! Singers and will be escorted to their workshop rotation afterwards. Our workshop rotations move each week, so check the wall just outside the basement stairwell for each week's activities.

## ATW - Awakening to Worship

Our Awakening to Worship program invites children age 4 – 1st grade to join us for a special children's worship experience. Children should attend worship with their families, and immediately following Children's Time, one of our ATW greeters will meet them in the back of the sanctuary to escort the children to our ATW room (Room 12). You may pick your children up after worship concludes from our ATW room.

Worship Bulletins are available from the ushers every week. Children's busy bags are available outside the sanctuary as well.

## Music Programs

Joy! Singers: Our preschool – 1st grade children enjoy singing under the leadership of Emily Hussey, and Hilary Schmidt.

Celebration! Singers: Pam Smith Kelly, Angela Krug, and Lara Schesser bring their talents to leading the Celebration Singers. The children are not only singing; they are ringing chimes!



# Generosity through the Generations

## Thank you for your unwavering commitment and faith!

As of December 19, 2024, we have received \$717,351.16, which is 89.9% of our \$797,900 goal! The Generosity Team has been reaching out to members who have not yet pledged, and we have received wonderful responses and positive interactions. So far, 130 pledges have been turned in, not including the unsigned pledge card. We are enjoying this bit of mystery as we continue forward.

Our Finance Administrator, Tara Hyder, estimates we will end our campaign with about \$720,000 pledged. Wow! Your generosity has resulted in \$140,000 more in our 2025 pledges compared to 2024. This is an amazing perspective every Grace Covenant member should rejoice in! Your dedication embodies the Scripture, *"His faithfulness continues through all generations."*

If you would like to help us move into the 90%+ range of our goal, pledge increase cards are still available at the back of the sanctuary. We deeply appreciate any level of contribution you have already made or can make.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment and faith! —2025 Generosity Team and Session Members

## We're Hiring!

### Career opportunity at GCPC Interim Director of Music Ministries

The Interim Director of Music Ministries will be the driving force behind our church's diverse and dynamic music program. The person filling this role will have the opportunity to nurture spiritual growth through music, coordinate various choirs and ensembles, and create unforgettable worship experiences for our congregation.

JOB DESCRIPTION and full details at [gcpc.org/careers](https://gcpc.org/careers).

# Generosity Fulfillment 2024 Update - What the Future Holds

We have an early December update on our fulfillment numbers. Our team is humbled by the enduring generosity and commitment of our members. 94.5% of submitted pledges and 88.5% of rollover pledges have been received. Wow!! We are appreciative of everyone who has contributed to Grace Covenant. Our fulfillment numbers will begin again in 2025, late in the first quarter.

## Here is our giving progress shown by numbers of pledges:

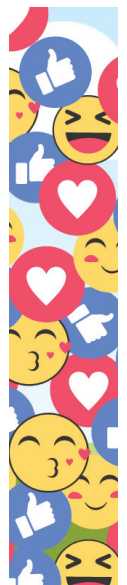
Submitted Pledges (114)	March 31	June 17th	December 7th
0-25% fulfilled	76	37	10
26-50% fulfilled	20	56	0
51-75% fulfilled	1	4	5
76-100% fulfilled	17	17	99
\$603,174	\$214,344	\$293,452	\$570,211

Rollover Pledges (16)	March 31	June 17th	December 7th
0-25% fulfilled	10	6	4
26-50% fulfilled	5	8	3
51-75% fulfilled	0	1	0
76-100% fulfilled	1	1	9
\$34,662	\$6,668	\$11,175	\$30,376

Four groupings are used to show giving progress and calendar relationship. They are 0-25%, 26-50%, 51-75%, 76-100%. Each pledge falls into one of these groups.

## The Life of our Church is on Social Media!

Help us spread the word about the events, stories, and vibrant life of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church by engaging with and sharing our social media content. You'll find GCPC on Facebook and Instagram, where every like, comment, and share helps us showcase how we share Christ's love in our community. Thank you for being part of this important outreach!







## B-I-N-G-O & Lasagna!

*Friday, January 31, 5:30pm*

You won't want to miss out on another amazing evening of GCPC Bingo. Mark your calendars for Friday, January 31, 2025 from 5:30-7:30pm, in Heartland Hall.

Liz Chandler has agreed once again to be our illustrious caller. Something new this year will be a delicious lasagna dinner, served before Bingo starts. The meal is graciously being covered by an anonymous donor.

Make sure to get signed up before and after church services on January 19 and 26, or call the church office!



## Epiphany Stars

Receiving a Star word on Epiphany Sunday is a tradition at GCPC. Epiphany Sunday recalls the visit of the Magi bearing gifts for the Christ Child. These paper stars with a word representing a spiritual quality, are given to you as a simple gift.

The stars are placed face down in the basket so that you can pick a star before you see the word. How that word speaks to you is for you to reflect upon. It may make an immediate connection or may be something that only brings about meaning as the year goes on. Whatever your experience, place your star where it will be visible throughout the year and enjoy your star word!

For those unable to pick one up on Epiphany Sunday a basket of stars will be available in the office and at the welcome table on Sunday mornings.



## Weekend Crafters Annual Winter Craft Mini Retreat!

*Friday, January 17, 6–9pm and  
Saturday, January 18, 9am–4pm*

**RSVP by January 13 at [gcpc.org/crafters](https://gcpc.org/crafters)**

Join for a time of creativity and fellowship at this "Mini-Retreat." Open to ALL! Invite friends, family and co-workers! For ages 16+ only. No childcare available. Open craft time so bring your latest projects to work on. Full details on retreat at link above.

There is no cost for this event at this time. If a make-n-take opportunity forms, we'll notify crafters with details. Please consider bringing cash/venmo/paypal payment if you wish to be part of a group lunch order.

**Do you have craft supplies that you no longer use and would want to share/donate?** Bring your stash and put on our donation table.

Contact Christy Soule with any questions at [christysoule@yahoo.com](mailto:christysoule@yahoo.com).





## CROP Walk 2024

The October 6, 2024, Kansas City Heart of America CROP Walk raised almost \$31,000 to help with disasters such as recent U.S. hurricanes, displaced people in the world, and general hunger and poverty needs.

Grace Covenant can celebrate raising \$3,985 of that total, the third largest amount raised by any one congregation.

**We had a goal of 24 walkers for 2024 and met that goal thanks to the following 26 walkers:** Jim Byrd, Christine and Ed Caseres, Frye Family (Chris, Brody, Erin, and Kamden Frye), Hearn Family (Katie, Brandon, Charlotte, and Mallory Hearn), Cheryl Johnson, Laura Johnson, Jane Knoche, Lee Mattix, Ellie Nelson, Dave Pack, Knute Rosche, Riley Savage, Eileen Thomson, Mary Ann Weyforth, Robert Wilhite, Kathy Williams, Gene Wilson, Joy and Don Wilson.

Thank you to the Kairos Team for their great support! On to 2025 and a goal of forty walkers during Grace Covenant's 40th anniversary year!



## SouperBowl of Caring starts January 12!

Get ready for the 2nd most important competition of 2025 - the SOUPERBOWL OF CARING!

Lead by our children and youth, this year's new and improved SouperBowl will ask GCPC to settle timeless debates by "voting" with food donations. For example - are pancakes or waffles the superior breakfast item? Does chocolate or vanilla make a better birthday cake?

Stay tuned for more details in early January and be ready to raid the pantry for nonperishable food items to support your team! If you'd rather, you can also support the SouperBowl financially by giving Communion Offering (through the online portal or in the collection plate).

All the donations - both food and financial - will be directed to the Renewed Hope Food Pantry.

## MAKE A NOTE OF THESE DATES

### Annual Church Meeting

Sunday, January 26, 10:30am

### Covenant Group Brunch Potluck

Sunday, February 23, 10:30am

### Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, March 4, 5:30-7:30pm

### Lent Begins

Wednesday, March 5

### GCPC 40th Anniversary Event

#### Craft Fair

Saturday, March 29, 9am-2pm

*"Seeking vendors through February 15, or until all spots filled."*

*Sign up at [gcpc.org/craftfair](http://gcpc.org/craftfair)"*

#### Trivia Night!

Saturday, April 5

#### Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 5, 10am

### Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 12, 9:30am

Maundy Thursday, April 17, 7:30pm

Good Friday, April 18, 7:30pm

Easter Sunday, April 20, 9am & 11am

### GCPC 40th Anniversary Celebration

#### Brunch Following Worship

Sunday, June 22, 9:30am

Details on these events and services are also shared in the midweek email announcements, bulletin, newsletter, and on Facebook and Instagram.

# JOCO IHN Update

Grace Covenant has been a host church with Johnson County IHN for the past 20 years.



**JOHNSON COUNTY INTERFAITH  
HOSPITALITY NETWORK**

*Empowering Homeless Families by Engaging People of Faith*

Many of our members have participated in various ways, such as preparing food, driving guests to and from the Family Center, hosting evening or overnight shifts, setting up, taking down, coordinating breakfast/snacks, and volunteering for laundry.

We have been blessed to partner with two support churches: Indian Heights United Methodist Church and Shawnee Mission United Universalist Church.

The original model for our program relied on a 13-week rotation with 13 different host faith communities. However, by late 2024, the number of host congregations had declined to three: St. Andrew Episcopal, Asbury Methodist, and Grace Covenant. The other 10 weeks were covered by our guests staying in motel rooms. With the anticipation of a Johnson County Homeless Shelter proposed for the former Denny's and LaQuinta Inn, expected to start operations in late 2024 or early 2025, the JOCO IHN Family Center closed in July rather than negotiate a new contract or relocate.

Our November 2024 rotation was canceled due to guest noncompliance. At that time, only Asbury and Grace Covenant remained as host churches. In discussions with Asbury, it became clear that the original model was no longer viable, and there were significant differences between faith-based housing and motel housing. These included the strict rules and curfews instituted at host churches to ensure consistent expectations for our guests, the lack of in-person staff interaction due to the closed Family Center, and the subsequent comfort level of host churches with the reduced face-to-face staff interaction. Of most concern was the host church model treating guests more like children (with curfews and rules) versus the motel model that gave guests their own schedule and more independence.

In a teleconference with Vicki Dercher, Executive Director, Elizabeth Barker, Board Chair, and remaining primary coordinators, we shared these concerns and conveyed our decision to end our participation as host congregations.

We also acknowledged that our 20-year success in addressing situational homelessness in Johnson County resulted in:

- **Total individuals served:** 927
- **Children:** 531 (*inclusive of the number above*)
- **Single Females:** 102
- **Bednights:** 60,174
- **Meals:** 180,522

Christine Caseres and I (Jane Knoche) are very thankful for the dedication of all our IHN volunteers and know that this decision will take some adjustment. We have experienced tears and grief in letting this program shift to the new model. We want to recognize our IHN journey with a celebration and thank you to all our volunteers in early 2025. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jane Knoche or Christine Caseres.

JOCO IHN is continuing through 2025 with the motel model and appreciates your prayers and monetary support.



# GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Inclusive. Family Oriented. Welcoming.**

11100 College Boulevard  
Overland Park, KS 66210  
Phone: 913-345-1256

[gcpc.org](http://gcpc.org)



## GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Follow us on Social Media!

Facebook: [facebook.com/GraceCovenantPresbyterian](https://facebook.com/GraceCovenantPresbyterian)

Instagram: @gcpc\_overlandpark

### CHURCH STAFF

- Interim Pastor, Rev. Karen Wright**  
[karen.wright@gcpc.org](mailto:karen.wright@gcpc.org) ..... ext. 10
- Director of Music Ministries.....Rebecca Prater**  
Mon.-Wed., Fri.; [rebecca.prater@gcpc.org](mailto:rebecca.prater@gcpc.org) .... ext. 13
- Church Administrator.....Patrick Bell**  
Mon.-Fri.; [patrick.bell@gcpc.org](mailto:patrick.bell@gcpc.org) ..... ext. 10
- Director of Christian Education**  
**Emily Nelson Dixon** .....ext.10  
[emily.dixon@gcpc.org](mailto:emily.dixon@gcpc.org)
- Youth Coordinator** ..... Lindsay Callender  
[lindsaymichelle0130@gmail.com](mailto:lindsaymichelle0130@gmail.com)
- Finance Administrator**.....Tara Hyder  
[finance@gcpc.org](mailto:finance@gcpc.org)
- Organist**.....Linda Dover
- Audio/Visual Director**.....Jason Turner  
*Email both addresses if you need a video or audio played in worship. Send on the Wednesday prior to Sunday's worship. [darktrainfilms@gmail.com](mailto:darktrainfilms@gmail.com); [gcpc.media@gmail.com](mailto:gcpc.media@gmail.com)*
- Praise Team Director**.....Carrie DeVries
- Praise Team Drummer** ..... Jill Endaya-Allen
- Child Care Coordinator**.....Carolyn Chaffin
- Wedding Coordinator**.....Kristy Shaw
- Funeral Coordinator** ..... Mary Sue Thomas

### ELDERS

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Johnnie Baker   | Jaylee Soule      |
| Paul Bruns      | Tom Stroud        |
| Joy Circo       | Eileen Thomson    |
| Barbara Douglas | Michala Walker    |
| Lara Schesser   | Mary Ann Weyforth |
| Jake Schmidt    | Melanie Townsend  |
| Andrew Sellers  | Session Clerk     |
| Kristy Shaw     |                   |

### SUPPORT STAFF

- Deacon Moderator .....Jean Hampton
- Operating Committee..... Lara Schesser, Tom Stroud, Barbara Douglas, Mikki Walker, Melanie Townsend, Rev. Karen Wright
- Newsletter Editor/Marketing..... Kim Krueger
- Prayer Chain .....Cheryl Johnson
- Website Administrators .....Kim Krueger, Patrick Bell, Christy Soule

### MINISTRY UNITS

- Congregational Nurture Unit Moderators
- Care and Connections....Mary Ann Weyforth
- Worship and Music..... Kathy Bures, Barbara Douglas
- Education Ministry Unit Moderators
- Adult .....Tom Stroud
- Children ..... Kristy Shaw
- Youth..... Lara Schesser
- Reach Out Ministry Unit Moderators
- Kairos ..... Rick Randolph
- Mission .....Mikki Walker
- Welcoming ..... Kathy Williams
- Supportive Ministry Unit Moderators
- Facility ..... Liz Chandler
- Generosity .....Jane Knoche
- Finance..... Beth Lillian
- Personnel ..... Kevin Mason

### Worship Schedule

**9:30am Worship**  
**In-Person, Facebook & Zoom**  
Visit [gcpc.org/online](http://gcpc.org/online) for links

### Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines

February 2025 issue - Deadline, January 21  
March 2025 issue - Deadline, February 21