July Donation Partner: A Gathering of Friends

A Gathering of Friends is a group of people, serving primarily Johnson/Wyandotte counties, who share what they have with those experiencing homelessness and food insecurity. *(They used to be known as Free Hot Soup.)* As a local grassroots group, A Gathering of Friends relies on each other for everything needed to make sure the friends have a good, home-cooked meal each week, along with sandwiches, snacks, and fresh fruits to eat later. They also pass on supplies to help the friends stay safe, healthy, and as comfortable as possible.

A Gathering of Friends gathers weekly at two different parks, and in winter, provides a weekly hot meal at a local cold weather shelter. They also visit several homeless camps, support newly housed friends, and help other groups that support similar needs.

A Gathering of Friends is currently sharing food and supplies with approximately 200 friends each week. Please see the list below for what you can donate to support their mission, or the link below to their Amazon Wish list for more items. *(Items bought from the Wish List will be delivered directly to AGoF.)* Donations can go in the Weekday Entrance bin anytime you’re at church, or can be dropped off the morning of July 17 between 8:15am and 9:15am *(the same time as KCK Hot Lunch drop-off).*

Current needs include:
- Body/Baby wipes
- White athletic socks (both short & long)
- Bug Spray
- Mosquito deterrent coils
- 1 LB Propane Bottles
- Individual oatmeal packets
- Pop Tarts
- Flashlights, handheld
- Bic Lighters
- Keebler sandwich crackers, 3 flavor variety packs
- QT Gift cards for gasoline, $5, $10, $20
- Amazon wish list: [www.gcpc.org/agofwishlist](http://www.gcpc.org/agofwishlist)

"I scream, You scream, We all scream for Ice Cream"

Everyone loves ice cream, so come join us on Sunday, July 11, after worship service for a fun Ice Cream Sunday Fellowship event. We will be serving ice cream sundaes outside the church in the northwest corner of the church yard. Enjoy your favorite toppings on ice cream and enjoy getting ‘reacquainted’ with your GCPC family. *(And who says you can’t have your dessert before your lunch?!)*

Worship moves to 9:30am on Sunday, August 22, 2021

11100 College Boulevard
Overland Park, KS 66210
913-345-1256
[office@gcpc.org](mailto:office@gcpc.org) • [gcpc.org](http://gcpc.org)
The June 21, 2021, Session meeting was held at the church with Reverend Mitch Trigger serving as moderator. In addition to the ruling elders, deacon Anne Stroud, Reverend Sue Trigger and Rebecca Prater were in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm and Rev. Sue Trigger shared a devotion about what makes a healthy church and offered a prayer.

Session approved setting up an artist-in-residence program with EncoreKC, a choral group founded by Pam and Jim Kelly and Bob and Linda Dover. The program will allow the group rehearsal and office space. It was decided that the new elders will be installed and ordained on August 8.

Consent agenda: The minutes of the May 17 Session meeting, and the June 6 congregational meeting were approved, and the electronic vote to approve holding a service of lament was approved.

Team minutes: Worship team: Session approved continuing with one worship service through the end of the year because having one service will help members re-connect. Starting August 22, the worship service will be at 9:30am and Christian education classes for all ages will start at 10:45am.

Clerk’s report: There were no changes in membership this month, so we have 400 members.

Co-pastors’ report: While the Triggers are on vacation, Don Wilson will be covering pastoral calls and preaching one Sunday. Nelson Townsend will preach the other Sunday.

Deacons’ report: Anne Stroud reported that the KCK Hot Lunch program will continue with the bagged lunches for the foreseeable future since the Gill Center kitchen suffered water damage. Each deacon will be responsible for recruiting greeters for one month.

Old business: Building reopening – Session approved a change to the mask policy: Masks are still required for worship but, for smaller meetings in the church, masks are optional but encouraged for unvaccinated people.

New business: There will be no Session meeting in July. Sue encouraged teams to sign up for the fellowship period after services, as there are still some Sundays available.

After sharing joys and concerns, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. and Rev. Mitch Trigger closed with a prayer.

Calendar Planning Meeting
All Team, deacon, and committee moderators, or a representative, are invited to a 2021 calendar planning meeting on Wednesday, July 21st at 7pm in Room 3. This will be an opportunity to plan through the end of the year and ensure that events and activities are in sync with one another. Please RSVP to Rev. Sue at sue.trigger@gcpc.org to let her know who will be attending from your team.

Let’s Fix Up the West Wing!
A Clean Up/Set Up Saturday
The music and education teams are in the process of cleaning up and re-organizing the west wing of our building. Rooms 3, 4 and 5 will have a new set up for adult ministries and the former KDO office and closets will be cleared out for use for EncoreKC and our music ministry. The bell choir rehearsal room is going to have a lot more space!

For all of this to happen, we are going to need some help. Saturday, July 31, 9am – 12 (noon), we will be moving equipment and getting everything ready. We can order some take out for lunch. (Pizza anyone?)

Please sign up at this link so we know how many to anticipate: www.gcpc.org/fixupwestwing

Attention Early Childhood Teachers!
We have supplies that were used for KDO that we will not be using for Sunday school. If you would like some bulletin board borders, organizing containers, puzzles, and more, please come by on or before July 31st. If you come on the 31st, be sure to arrive at 9am.

Nursery Supplies Needed
Our nursery is in need of some fresh supplies and you can help. Carolyn Chaffin has created an Amazon wish list that you can order from at this link: www.gcpc.org/nurserywishlist. Or, you can look at the list and purchase from your favorite place to shop.

Triggers on Vacation through July 17
The Triggers (Sue, Mitch, Charlie) and Stewart will be traveling to the Badlands, Yellowstone National Park, and other sights along the way from July 2-17. We ask for traveling prayers the entire trip. While we are gone, our wonderful Deacons will respond to any pastoral care needs, with the assistance of the Rev. Don Wilson. If any problems or questions arise in our absence, call our exemplary office manager, Patrick Bell. We want to thank the gentlemen who have agreed to preach in our absence: the Rev. Don Wilson (July 4) and Nelson Townsend (July 11). We look forward to watching them online while we’re on the road.
Donut Forget to Recycle on July 18!

Please join us after church on July 18 for outdoor fellowship and small electronics recycling. With the help of Brandon Hearn, Mission team will be collecting small electronics for recycling.

Accepted items will be things like cell phones and chargers, power cords and cables, electric toothbrushes – keep an eye on the announcements in early July for a more detailed list.

Give us an item to recycle and we’ll give you a donut! After you drop off your electronics, enjoy some time to chat with your fellow GCPCers and play lawn games – feel free to bring your favorites to play!

Quilt Tying Event on July 24

We have 4-5 quilts made from fabric donations ready to be tied, bound and donated to Uplift. No experience necessary, and it’s kind of a no-brainer job, so join us if you can from 10am to noon.

We are also looking for volunteers to help square up and sandwich these quilts so they are ready for finishing, as well as embroidery floss, quilting pins and needles (I will return these items) and a couple of sewing machines/operators to finish off the binding.

Please contact Donna Heer, taxdheer@gmail.com or 913-485-5812, for more information or to sign up to help.

VBS THANKS!!

This year was a particular challenge for the VBS planning team as we struggled with the challenges of the pandemic, but we had such a great week at Vacation Bible school June 7-11 that it was hard to see it end. We were thankful to have 27 children in attendance who filled the week with energy and joy.

We traveled to North Castle where the king was engaged in a search for the royal armor. Each day our “knights” went on a quest to find the belt of truth, the breastplate of justice, the shoes of peace, the shield of faith and the helmet of salvation. (Ephesians 6) What we learned was that we weren’t really looking for physical armor so much as for spiritual armor that protects and empowers us to do God’s work in the world.

Mission is always an important part of Bible school and this year we donated $680 to Sunflower House, a child abuse and intervention organization. Each day we collected school supplies for Rosehill Elementary school. Markers, crayons, folders, glue and more arrived each day thanks to our generous families!

We especially want to thank our leadership, volunteers, and donors for helping us to plant seeds of faith:

Activity Site Leaders:
Crafts: Kathy Williams, Kevin Johnson, Emily Baker
Music: Pam Kelly, Lara Schesser
Recreation: Emily Hussey, Carter Bucl
Science: Jerel Williams, Harold Frye, Connor Chaffin
Snacks: Teresa and Joel Ilten, Vicki Peck, Jenny Stromberg
Storytelling: Katie Hearn, Cheryl Johnson, Pam Hearn
Registration, Floaters: Lindsay Bucl, Erin Frye
Tech Crew: Miles McDonald, Charlie Trigger
Photography: Rev. Mitch Trigger, Erin Frye, and VBS team members
Opening/Closing Assembly: Sparky-Carter Bucl, Sir Charles the Truthful-Charlie Trigger, Chamberlain-Sue Trigger
Travel Guides:
Pink Knights (4 yr old) - Sarah Byrd, Jenna Soule, Camille Chaffin
Blue Knights (Pre-K) - Kristy Shaw, Jean Hampton
Red Knights (K-1st Grades) - Angela Krug, Maggie Shaw
Purple Knights (2nd-3rd Grades) - Charlie Trigger, Bill Turner, Jaylee Soule
Orange Knights (4th-5th Grades) - Jim Byrd, Miles Dalton

The Amazing Decorating Team:
Kristy Shaw, Christy Soule, Jenny Stromberg, Chris Frye

The Awesome VBS Planning Team:
Lindsay Bucl, Erin Frye, Emily Hussey, Angela Krug, Kristy Shaw
Lara Schesser, Christy Soule, Rev. Sue Trigger
IHN Updates:

IHN Sign-ups commence this month! Our 69th Host Week Rotation is coming August 1-August 8th, 2021. During July, we’ll be sending out sign-ups for evening and overnight hosting, and meal preparations. The meals are sent to all church members, and hosting is sent only to trained volunteers. At the newsletter press time, we are working to reschedule the June IHN Training that Grace Covenant was hosting. We are always looking for more folks to participate in this ministry with tasks as simple as washing some of the sheets and towels, being a van driver, helping set up or tear the lower level for our guest host week. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Knoche via email – jeknoche@att.net.

We have received several thank you letters from IHN thanking us for our donations of $544 and $721 to cover the motel costs of the February and May Rotations. Our Support Congregation, Indian Hills United Methodist Church provided monetary support for these weeks also. On June 8th our family grew by three with the admission of Shaneise (26), and her two children, Ayden (6), and Rai’Lynn (5). Another success story to share with you - Jan, Dennis and Jaden signed a lease June 17th for a duplex…PTL!!! They will be moving into their new home on July 1st. They made significant strides while with our IHN Family! They paid back their eviction of over $2,000.00 and still have close to $3,000.00 in savings.

Thursday night, September 30, 2021 is the annual IHN Auction. This year’s event will also be conducted on-line. It will be just as exciting and fun as last year’s on-line auction. The procurement team is busy gathering treasures for all to bid on during the event. Please mark your calendars to ensure you are home, or with friends participating in the best night of the year!!!

Thank You for Supporting our Grace Covenant MS Walk Team!

Four of us stepped out on Saturday May 1st from the Church parking lot to fight Multiple Sclerosis. Pictured are Rev. Mitch Trigger, Janice Spence, Gene Wilson, and Jane Knoche. Due to COVID, the usual large walk was virtual, and we traversed the streets north of the church.

You can also see the finish line this year that was drive thru instead of walk thru at the MS Office where Team Captain Jane turned in our pledges. Your support for this cause continues to be amazing as our team raised $2,979.98 this year. Thank you so very much!

Thank You Church Family

Thank you so much, GCPC family, for the many thoughts, prayers, texts, and cards. They brightened my days after my mother’s passing. I’m very sad but grateful Mom was here 92 years and that I have all of you caring about my family and me. Bless all of you.

—Vicki & Dave Peck and Family

We would like to thank everyone for ALL the prayers and concerns as our brother and brother-in-law fought a hard fight this past 2 1/2 years, to get well from his rare cancer diagnosis. The cards we received supported us with our loss, each and every one, brought us comfort to know that all these hands and prayers surrounded us with each one that we read. We are blessed.

—Jo and Rick Randolph

Daily Devotionals

Daily devotionals are a spiritual practice that help us encounter the Bible from a fresh perspective and help us gain insight and understanding. It’s a wonderful way to meditate on our faith and to encounter God personally. On our website you will find a list of daily devotionals written in a variety of styles. Review and choose the one best for you. https://gcpc.org/education/daily-devotionals.html

SMASH Sunday!
July 11, 4-5:30 pm

Get ready for water fun with Diane Schmit! Children entering Kindergarten – 5th grade are invited to put on their bathing suits and sunscreen to splash and play in the church garden. We recommend bringing bug spray, towels, and any other water gear you need. Individually packaged beverages and popsicles provided. You will need to enter the garden area from outside. Walk around the church on the east side and you’ll find Diane behind the church pre-school playground. NOTE: Be sure and remember the 5:30pm end time,
Music in Worship for July 2021

6th Sunday After Pentecost, July 4th –
Chancel Quartet led plus Charter Ringers I
“This Is My Father’s World” arr. Bill Ingram, & Exaltation!
Then & Now (Current & Alums) “The Truth Shall Make You Free” from Celebrate Life by Buryl Red with Kat Mason, flute – Miles McDonald, acoustic guitar & Eric Lee, drum set (pre-recorded)

7th Sunday After Pentecost, July 11th –
Praise Team led

8th Sunday After Pentecost, July 18th –
Chancel Quartet led plus Cal Sweeten, dulcimer (live) & Chancel Singers I “The Sacrifice of Praise” by Taylor Davis with Ky Townsend, cello (pre-recorded)

9th Sunday After Pentecost, July 25th –
Chancel Quartet led plus Chancel Singers II
“Take My Hand, Precious Lord” arr. Ed Lojeski with Gay Lee Ludwig-Bonney, string bass & Daniel Cole, drum set (pre-recorded)

Looking Ahead to August

Sunday, August 8th
Stay after worship for a concert by GCPC’s Dixieland Band
Bob Dover, director

& Buy a Shaved Ice Treat from the Kona Ice Truck
The cost is $3 - $7 per treat
Check out their website for more information on their shaved ice flavors www.kona-ice.com

Music Ensembles to Resume in August & September?

If it remains safe to do so, it is Music Team’s plan to resume our ensemble rehearsals this fall. More information to come on safety protocol updates.

Mark the following tentative dates & times for our ensembles to resume & plan to join us!

- **Sunday, August 22nd at 10:45am**
  at the beginning of Sunday school
  Joy! (3s-K) Emily Hussey, director
  Celebration! (1st-5th graders)
  Pam Kelly, director

- **Tuesday, August 24th at 7:00pm**
  Praise Team (Youth – Adults)
  Carrie DeVries, director

- **Wednesday, September 1st at 7:30pm**
  Chancel Choir (College – Adults)
  Rebecca Prater, director

- **Wednesday, September 8th @ 6:10pm**
  Charter Ringers (College – Adults)
  Chris Krug & Celia Nicholas, co-directors

More Information to Come Regarding These & Other Ensembles

Youth
- Exaltation! Ringers
  Exaltation! Singers – Rebecca Prater, director

Adults
- Jubilation! Ringers

Intergenerational (8th graders – Adults)
- GCPC Wind Ensemble – Pam Kelly, director

Vocal Boot Camp
If you haven’t sung for the past 16 months & would like some help from a vocal coach before rehearsals begin … WATCH THIS SPACE FOR AUG DATE & TIME
Youth Page

Youth and Family Canoe Trip

We had an AMAZING canoe and kayaking experience with our youth and families in mid-June. Twenty-four of our high school and college students, as well as adults were able to gather in the Ozarks for time together camping, chatting around a campfire, and floating down the river. It was a hot weekend so some of our canoes “accidently” tipped, and we had many opportunities to “remember our baptisms” but we all survived and hope to make this an annual event.

Vacation Bible School

It was great to see our youth participating with and leading our younger children in VBS activities at the beginning of June! Our group of youth helpers was small but extremely good. Youth helpers gathered for pizza and some fun afterwards than off to a nearby pool to extend the party.

Montreat

We have four students registered for the Montreat Youth Conference in mid-July, and we will be joining a small group from Pine Ridge Presbyterian for the adventure. We are so excited to be traveling together again!

Connect

Our youth gatherings will be scheduled in a somewhat random fashion this summer. We will serve others as often as we can and are looking for new experiences to share with each other. Students and families should keep checking for text and e-mail updates as we plan for the end of the summer and into early fall.
Join the Workshop Rotation Team!

Do you love volunteering with kids?

Would you like to create art, sing songs, tell stories, cook, do science experiments or other fun activities with our kids?

We would love to have you join the workshop rotation team for our K-2nd and 3rd – 5/6th grade classes.

We are building a new and exciting experience for our children to learn Bible stories through creative workshops in art, science, music, puppetry, games, and more. Each week the children will experience a story through one of these workshops. Leaders will select a favorite area (science, art, etc.), partner with a friend, and lead a workshop for two weeks in a row. There will be 6–8 weeks between your workshops. This is a great way for children to learn in a variety of ways and build relationships with our adults.

Join Rev. Sue for our second meeting on Sunday, July 25, at 11:30am in Room 3. This will be a time to look at the curriculum, fill in our sign up schedule and more. If you love working with children and would like to be part of this program, please contact Rev. Sue at sue.trigger@gcpc.org.

16th Annual Reggie Reynolds Golf Scramble

We are holding our golf scramble for the sixteenth year in memory of Regina Reynolds, a loving member who was very active in our church and who enjoyed playing in our GCPC golf outings on Sunday, August 15 at the Falcon Valley Golf Course, Lenexa, KS. It is a 9-Hole Golf Scramble beginning at 1:30pm. The fee to play is $42.00 which covers green fees, riding cart, and prizes. Open to members and guests!

To reserve your spot in the field, contact Bill Turner for an entry form. Your entry form and check needs to be received by no later than Sunday, August 6th, so don’t delay as spots will be filled quickly. Thanks, Bill Turner (913) 515-5994

PS: Consider a separate donation to the Reggie Reynolds Scholarship Fund for $25.00 (made out to Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church) and notated for Reggie Reynolds Scholarship or use the link below to make your donation directly through the GCPC Web site.
https://onrealm.org/gcpc/Give/BAONYAHDPX

June is gone, July will fly by, and the end of August will see kids back in school.

That also means that our Christian education “school year” will begin again on August 22. With that in mind, the Session has approved a slight change to the Sunday worship time schedule. **Beginning on August 22, Sunday morning worship at Grace Covenant will begin at 9:30am, with Christian education classes starting at 10:45am.** This schedule will be in effect through the rest of 2021, when it will be reevaluated.

There were several good reasons for this change.

• We felt remaining with one service, for now, would help us all get reacquainted. The congregation has held two Sunday worship services for a while now and many of us simply do not know some of our newer members or members that tended to attend the service we were not attending.

• The start time of 9:30am keeps us close to the same time we are worshipping now, which folks have indicated to be a favorite time.

• It will be easier to have Sunday School following worship, for parents as well as children *(or so we have been told by parents!)*.

• Our worship time musicians will be able to attend adult education classes with the change in schedule.

One comment we continue to hear is, “I hope we don’t get rid of online worship.” Let us emphasize again, we will continue to have online worship as well as in person worship from now on. Our online worship has allowed old friends who have moved away keep in touch by worshipping with us online; helped visitors “check us out” before coming to worship with us; ensured that our members & friends can continue to be part of worship whether ill, recovering from surgery, or homebound for other reasons; and guaranteed we can have worship whether it is snowy, icy, or rainy!

At the same time, we make this time change, we will also explore new possibilities for fellowship time before and after worship services. Thank you for your patience and peace be with you all!
Worship Schedule
10am In-Person & Online Worship
Service moves to 9:30am on August 22
Visit gcpc.org/online for links

Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines
August 2021 issue - Deadline, July 20
September 2021 issue - Deadline, August 19

Inclusive. Family Oriented. Welcoming.
11100 College Boulevard
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Phone: 913-345-1256
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gcpc.org

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Facebook: facebook.com/GraceCovenantPresbyterian
Twitter: @GraceCovPres
Instagram: @gcpc_overlandpark

CELEBRATING GOD’S ALL ENCOMPASSING LOVE!

CHRUCH STAFF
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  Sue Trigger, sue.trigger@gcpc.org ........ ext. 15

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- Office hours: Monday-Wednesday, Friday
  Rebecca Prater, rebecca.prater@gcpc.org - ext. 13

Church Administrator
- Office hours: Monday-Friday
  Patrick Bell, patrick.bell@gcpc.org .......... ext. 10

Director of Youth Ministries
Technical Director of Worship
- Office hours: Monday-Thursday
  Miles McDonald, miles.mcdonald@gcpc.org - ext. 17

Finance Administrator ........ Tara Hyder
Mon. 8-4; Tues./Weds. 8-12; Thurs./Fri. by Appt.

Organist ........................................ Linda Dover

Contemporary Music Coordinator .......... Carrie DeVries

Contemporary Music Drummer ........... Daniel Cole

Child Care Coordinator ................... Carolyn Chaffin

Wedding Coordinator ....................... Lara Schesser

Funeral Coordinator ....................... Mary Sue Thomas

ELDERS
Jim Byrd
Ric Cummings
Miles Dalton (youth)
Andrew Frye
Katie Hearn
Cheryl Johnson
Jane Knoche

Angela Krug
Mike Mattix
Terri Monrad
Diane Schmit
Kylie Sutherland (youth)
Susan Sutherland
Bill Turner

MINISTRY UNITS
Congregational Nurture Unit Moderators
Connections and Care .............. Diane Schmit
Worship and Music ............... Melanie Townsend, Katie Hearn

Education Ministry Unit Moderators
Adult ........................................... Maggie Blankers
Children ........................... Erin Frye, Angela Krug
Youth ................................................. Kaki Conti

Reach Out Ministry Unit Moderators
Kairos ........................................... Rick Randolph
Mission .............................. Mikki Walker
Welcoming ..................................... Vacant

Supportive Ministry Unit Moderators
Facility ......................................... Marc Feyh
Generosity ............................. David Sutherland
Finances ..................................... Jim Byrd
Personnel ...................................... Kevin Mason

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Prayer Chain .............................. Cheryl Johnson
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10am In-Person & Online Worship
Service moves to 9:30am on August 22
Visit gcpc.org/online for links