



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship — October 4, 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: Laura Johnson

HEAD USHER: Gay Lee Ludwig-Bonney

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/GCPCattendance>, or scan the QR Code.



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: Celia Nicholas and family in the death of her brother-in-law; Susan Clement and family in the death of her brother.

Surgeries/Hospitalizations/Illnesses: Mary Sue Thomas, Dave Schesser

Cancer Treatment: Trooper Shaw, Johnnie Baker

Aging Challenges

Military Service: David Zak, C.J. Bradley, Seth Lorimer, Mary E. Johnson II, Alanna Funk, Shannon Lorimer, 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: Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, MO; Zone 2 (Pacific Foothills) churches and congregations in the Maya Quiché Presbytery

(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

LED BY THE SPIRIT, GROWING IN GRACE: Today we begin our 2027 Stewardship Campaign, *Led by the Spirit, Growing in Grace*. Over the four Sundays of October, we'll consider how the Holy Spirit is active in our lives and in the life of Grace Covenant. Today, **The Spirit Gathers Us** reminds us that worship, community, and the many gifts we share bring us together as the Body of Christ. Stop by the **Generosity Table in Heartland Hall** after worship for a donut, a pledge card, and an opportunity to talk with a member of the Generosity Team. You may make your 2027 pledge **confidentially online** at gcpc.org/2027pledge. Details about the campaign are available at gcpc.org/about-us/growinginGrace.

OFFICE HOURS REMINDER: Due to vacation schedules, the church offices/building hours may vary between October 5 and October 14. Please call ahead to make sure you will have access if coming to the building for a non-regularly scheduled meeting. Thank you.

CROP WALK 2026: Grace Covenant's CROP Walk tradition continues on Sunday, October 11, at 2pm at Country Club Christian Church, 6101 Ward Parkway. We have a \$5,000 goal for this year's walk. See the Packs in Heartland Hall after worship for more information or to make a donation.

THE BRUNCH BUNCH is planning an outing on Sunday, October 11, at 12:15pm at Flapjacks 'N' More, 7552 W. 119th Street in Overland Park. Please RSVP to Mike Mattix if you plan to attend, mattixopks@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!

FAURÉ REQUIEM | ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1: On All Saints Sunday, November 1, at 9:30am, the Chancel Choir will be joined by orchestra and soloists Beth Lillian and Alexander Birch Elliot for Gabriel Fauré's beloved *Requiem*. This will be one of the major musical offerings of our fall and a beautiful opportunity to remember those who have gone before us through music filled with tenderness, hope, and peace. Please begin thinking about friends, family members, neighbors, or others you might invite to worship with us that morning.

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY REMEMBRANCE: The November 1 bulletin will contain an insert with the names of those who have passed since All Saints' Sunday 2025 (November 2, 2025). If you would like to include the name of a relative or friend who has passed this past year, please send that person's name to office@gcpc.org *no later than noon on Wednesday, October 28*.

AS A MATHEW 25 CONGREGATION we have committed to doing what we can to care for the most vulnerable among us. Our participation in The Good Faith Network is one way we do this. The Network is hosting a Listening Session on Sunday, October 11, during the Sunday school hour in Room 3. The Good Faith Network continues to address needs around affordable housing, mental health and elder care. The goal of the Listening sessions is to identify a fourth area of need by sharing our own stories and experiences. Everyone is welcome! For more information contact: Dave Pack, Don or Joy Wilson, or Eileen Thomson.

HOLY SMOKES! IT'S CHILI TIME! Do you make the best homemade chili in town? Now's your chance to prove it! Join us for our GCPC Chili Cook-Off and show off your favorite homemade chili recipe. Whether your chili is mild, spicy, smoky, or loaded with secret ingredients, we want to taste it!

- **Date: Saturday, October 17**
- **Time: 5:30–7:30pm**
- **Location: GCPC Heartland Hall**

So, stir up your favorite recipe, join the friendly competition and a chance to win bragging rights. Prizes will be awarded for the best chilis. Please sign up at church if you plan to bring chili for the cook-off. Not entering the contest? Come hungry! Sample a variety of delicious homemade chilis, vote for your favorite, and enjoy a fun fellowship event. Bring your appetite, your family, and your best chili — we can't wait to see who takes home the title of GCPC Chili Cook-Off Champion!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH NEEDS: We have openings for Sunday school teachers, ATW leaders, shepherds, SMASH and YOUTH GROUP helpers, etc. It's a joyful, rewarding way to fulfill the

promises we make to our GCPC children and youth at their baptism, and we'd love to have you join the fun! These openings are coming up soon and we need you. Thank you!

WAYS FOR YOU TO SERVE:

- October 11, K–2nd Grade Sunday School Teacher, Shepherd for K-5th grade, ATW Greeters, Preschool Leader and Assistant, and Middle School Teacher
- October 18, 3rd–5th Grade Sunday School, Shepherd for K-5th grade, ATW leader and Greeters, Preschool Leader and Assistant, SMASH and YOUTH GROUP leaders

(Children's Volunteer Opportunities)

<https://gcpc.org/children-youth/youareinvited.html>



(Youth Group Volunteer Sign-up)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A45A4A722A4FC1-57367467-gcpc>



PUMPKIN PATCH OUTING: All children and families are welcome to meet up at **Schaake's Pumpkin Patch TODAY at 1:30pm**. This is an informal gathering of GCPC families to connect and enjoy some FALL FUN together! Contact Emily Hussey if you have any questions. Join us!

TRUNK-OR-TREAT IS OCTOBER 25! We're collecting candy donations at church now. And be sure to sign up to host a trunk! It's a BLAST!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A45A4A722A4FC1-65301767-gcpc>



ADULT

ADULT EDUCATION — SUNDAYS AT 10:45AM IN ROOM 3

October 4 — Spiritual Practices 102: Deeper Practices for Everyday Faith —

Led by Kevin Johnson

How can spiritual practices become more than occasional moments and begin to shape the rhythm of our everyday lives? In **Spiritual Practices 102**, we'll explore more intentional and habitual practices—such as meditation, contemplative prayer, Scripture reflection, silence, and other ways of creating regular space for God in our lives. You do **not** need to have attended Spiritual Practices 101. Whether you already have a regular spiritual practice or are simply curious about developing one, you are warmly invited to join us.

UPCOMING CLASSES

- **October 11** — *Good Faith Network Presentation* — Don Wilson
- **October 18** — *Reformed — and Still Being Reformed: "What Makes Us Presbyterian?"* — Harold Frye
- **October 25** — **Reformation Sunday** — *Reformed — and Still Being Reformed: "Why Did the Church Need a Reformation?"* — Karen Wright

- **November 1 — All Saints Day** — *Reformed—and Still Being Reformed: “The Communion of Saints”* — George Bures

AS THE PAGE TURNS will meet October 7 at 1:30pm in Room 3 at the church. The book selection is *Be Ready When Luck Happens* by Ina Garten.

CHILDREN

TODAY:

- **9:30am Worship and ATW**
- **10:45-11:05**
 - **JOY! Singers (4yo-1st grade) Rm 26**
 - **CELEBRATION! Singers (2nd-5th grade) Rm 15**
- **11:05-11:45**
 - **Toddlers (2yo-3yo) Rm 20**
 - **Preschool (4yo-5yo) Rm 25**
 - **K-2nd, ART, Rm 10**
 - **3rd-5th, COOKING, Rm 14**

YOU ARE INVITED to be involved in Children’s Ministry! Learn more here:



YOUTH

TODAY:

- **9:30am Worship**
- **10:45-11:05 MS Music with Patrick Rm 19a, HS Hang in Lounge**
- **11:05-11:45 MS Sunday School Rm 19b, HS Sunday School Rm 19a**
- **12-12:30 YOUTH BELLS**

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HANG OUT WITH SOME COOL YOUTH? Please sign up to volunteer here:



MISSION

OCTOBER COMMUNION OFFERING — JOHNSON COUNTY CHRISTMAS BUREAU: For 65 years, the Johnson County Christmas Bureau (JCCB) has supported low-income families in our community during the holiday season. JCCB provides support for low-income families, raises awareness of poverty, and gives neighbors an opportunity to help neighbors. In 2025, JCCB served more than 13,000 individuals. Your gift, in any amount, can help bring hope, joy, and encouragement to families in Johnson County this Christmas. Thank you for helping make a difference in the lives of our neighbors!

OCTOBER DONATION PARTNER: This October, we are collecting **new or gently used books** for the Johnson County Christmas Bureau (JCCB) Christmas Store. Books are needed for all ages, including **adults, teens, youth, children, and toddlers**. **Spanish-language books** are also especially welcome. Please share the gift of a good book! Place your donations in the **collection bin by the Weekday Entrance**. Thank you for helping bring the joy of reading and the love of Christ to families in our community!



GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2026 Upcoming Events and Services

(Save these dates)

Heart of America CROP Walk

Sunday, October 11, 2pm

Chili Cook-Off

Saturday, October 17, 5:30–7:30pm

Generosity Sunday

Sunday, October 25, 9:30am

Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 25, 11:45am - 1:00pm
Hot dog lunch, games for all ages
and a costume parade

Blood Drive

Thursday, October 29, 1-5pm

EncoreKC!'s

**Belle Voci, Brass Ensemble
and Ukulele Ensemble Concert**

Friday, October 30, 7pm
Sanctuary

Fauré's Requiem

Presented by the Chancel Choir,
Orchestra, and featuring members
of GCPC and the community
Sunday, November 1, 9:30am

EncoreKC! Chorus Concert

"Voices Dance: Music That Moves Us"

Sunday, November 15, 3pm
Grace United Methodist Church, Olathe, KS

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 29

A Christmas Exclamation!

Sunday, December 6, 6pm

The Longest Night

Sunday, December 20, 7pm

Christmas Eve Worship

Thursday, December 24
5:30pm and 8pm

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 9

Lent Begins - Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 10

Easter Sunday

Sunday, March 28, 9am and 11am

~ 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