



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship — August 16, 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 worshiping with us today.

TODAY’S FLOWERS are given by Susan and Frank Slovic in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

ELDER ON DUTY: Sandy Adams

HEAD USHERS: Steve & Caroline Becher

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: Tony Barbare and family in the death of his sister.

Surgeries/Hospitalizations/Illnesses: Dave Schesser, Chris Lindsay

Cancer Treatment: Trooper Shaw, Johnnie Baker

Aging Challenges: Lee Will, Charlie Bogan

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: First Presbyterian Church, Higginsville, MO.

(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

NOISY OFFERING IS TODAY: This special offering will benefit Sow Hope, an organization whose mission is to inspire women around the world by promoting wellness, education, and economic opportunities. Sow Hope is celebrating its 20th anniversary of empowering women and strengthening communities. Earlier this year, the Mission Team was honored to sponsor a showing of Sow Hope's documentary, *Charity Redefined*, in May. Thank you for helping make a joyful noise as we support this meaningful ministry!

"THIS IS GRACE" NEW MEMBER CLASS: Join us for the "This is Grace" New Member Class on Sunday, August 30, at 10:45am in Room 5, 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, or contact Kathy Williams at kathykaskewilliams@gmail.com or call 913-485-1776 if you plan to attend.

WORSHIP IN THE PARK: Join us for worship on Sunday, September 13, 9:30am, at the Meadowbrook Park Grand Pavilion, located at 91st and Nall (SE Corner) in Prairie Village. Worship

will be followed by a potluck picnic. Brats, beef & veggie burgers and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side or dessert to share. Come together with your church family for worship and savor the fellowship and beauty of the park! We are an Earth Care congregation, so remember to bring your own plates and silverware, and bring along camp chairs in case extra seating is required. *[Volunteers are needed to help deacons take items (tables, orange beverage containers, compostable buckets, trash bucket) to picnic and return to GCPC. Large SUVs or trucks would be helpful!]*

PIECEMAKERS QUILT RAFFLE! The Piecemakers are excited to raffle **three beautiful, handcrafted quilts**, generously donated by Julie Webb. Each quilt was lovingly made by Julie's grandmother, featuring a cross-stitched top and beautiful hand quilting. Each quilt measures approximately **80" x 94"**. The Piecemakers create quilts that provide comfort, warmth, and encouragement to those in need in our church and community. Proceeds from this raffle will help support this special ministry by funding supplies for future quilts. **Raffle tickets are \$5 each** and may be purchased on Sunday mornings. Payment may be made by **cash or check (checks payable to Donna Heer)**. Tickets will be available **through September 13**, with the **raffle drawing held at the church picnic at Meadowbrook Park. You do not need to be present to win!**

21ST ANNUAL GCPC GOLF SCRAMBLE & FUNDRAISER: Join us for a fun afternoon on the course while supporting the Baker/Reynolds Scholarship Fund, which helps provide opportunities for GCPC youth. This annual event honors longtime GCPC youth supporters Larry Baker and Reggie Reynolds. The scramble takes place **Sunday, September 20**, with the first tee time at 1pm at Falcon Valley Golf Course in Lenexa. The 9-hole scramble is \$100 per golfer, which includes green fees, a riding cart, prizes, and a donation to the scholarship fund. **Register by September 13 by submitting your entry form and \$100 payment to Bill Turner or enter online at gcpc.org/scramble.** Golfers may request their preferred playing partners. An optional lunch special featuring a cheeseburger or grilled chicken sandwich, chips, and a drink is available for approximately \$12. Not a golfer? You can still support the Baker/Reynolds Scholarship Fund with a donation. Questions or registration: Bill Turner at 913-515-5994 or 99wdturner@gmail.com.

WEEKEND CRAFTERS PAJAMA CRAFT PARTY — Join us **Friday, October 2, from 6–9pm in Heartland Hall** for an evening of crafts, laughter, snacks, and fellowship! Wear your favorite PJs and bring a current craft project — or simply come enjoy time with friends. All crafters and friends of crafters are welcome. Bring a snack to share and a friend! **RSVP at gcpc.org/pjs.**

MUSIC

LOOKING AHEAD TO FALL: Chancel choir rehearsals resume August 26. Charter and Jubilation ringers resume in September. E-mail patrick.ohalloran@gcpc.org to find out more.

SPIRIT SINGERS AND SPIRIT RINGERS RETURN THIS FALL: Youth Music returns Sunday, September 27!

- Spirit Singers is open to middle school singers and will meet from 10:45 to 11am during the Sunday school hour.

- Spirit Ringers is open to middle and high school students and will meet from noon to 12:30pm. No previous handbell experience is needed.

Both groups will prepare young musicians to help lead worship throughout the fall. More information will be shared as we get closer.

ADULT

ADULT EDUCATION TODAY — Drawn IN: Dream & Hover

Led by Rick Randolph | Room 3

What might God be inviting us to imagine — and how do we create enough space to notice?

This Sunday we begin **Drawn IN**, a four-week Adult Education series that **coincides with Pastor Karen's Drawn IN sermon series in worship**. Together, the Sunday sermons and Adult Ed conversations will give us opportunities to explore more deeply this spiritual rhythm of listening, imagining, taking faithful risks, and bringing what we discover back into our everyday lives.

In **Dream & Hover**, Rick Randolph will invite us to slow down, pay attention, and make room for possibilities we might otherwise overlook. You don't need to have attended anything beforehand, and there is nothing to prepare. Come as you are, bring your questions and experiences, and join the conversation.

Everyone is welcome!

Coming Up in Adult Education:

- | | | |
|----------------|---|---------------------|
| • August 23 | <i>Drawn IN - Risk</i> | Stephen Wing |
| • August 30 | <i>Drawn IN - Listen</i> | Sarah Evans |
| • September 6 | <i>Drawn IN - Reintegrate</i> | TBD |
| • September 13 | No Sunday School | Worship in the Park |
| • September 20 | <i>Spiritual Practices 101: Small Steps Toward a Deeper Faith</i> | Kevin Johnson |
| • September 27 | No Sunday School — Town Hall | |
| • October 4 | <i>Spiritual Practices 102: Deeper Practices for Everyday Faith</i> | Kevin Johnson |

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP — BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 20: Adult Ed will offer a **six-session Grief Support Group** beginning **Sunday, September 20, 2–3:30pm in Room 4**. The group is for anyone experiencing grief from a death, job or relationship loss, children leaving home, a move, major life transition, or other significant loss.

This will be a **closed, confidential group**, with membership established before the first session. If you are interested or would like to learn more, please sign up at: <https://bit.ly/4grrGet>

Your sign-up information will be visible only to the group organizers and not to other participants. You may also contact **Kevin Johnson, Stephen Wing, Jan Cummings, or Harold Frye** with questions or to express interest.

THE AS THE PAGE TURNS BOOK GROUP will meet September 2 at 1:30pm in Room 3 at the church to discuss and select books to read from October 2026–October 2027.

PAGETURNERS IS KICKING OFF A NEW YEAR with our annual Salad Supper at 6:30pm, September 3, at Jan Cummings house (9815 Broadmoor St.). Please bring an appetizer, salad or dessert to share or just bring yourself! Our September book is *The Perfect Marriage* by Jeneva Rose. Please RSVP to Jan at GCPC PageTurners page on FB, cjan1950@gmail.com or 913-269-4164. All are welcome! Please come even if you haven't read the book!

CHILDREN

THIS MORNING: Welcome Back to our First Sunday of the School Year!

Regular Sunday Morning Programming resumes:

- **9:30am** Worship and ATW
- **10:45-11:05am** JOY! And CELEBRATION Choir rehearsals for 4yo-5th grades
- **11:05-11:45am** Sunday School for 2yo-5th graders

And TONIGHT!!

- **4-6pm** SMASH (K-5th grade fellowship) **WATER DAY!** Wear water-appropriate clothing, sunscreen and bug spray. Pizza and popsicles included!

Please fill out your child's registration at your earliest convenience so we can update our records. Thank you!



COMING UP:

- **August 23 and 30** — Regular Sunday Morning Programming
- **September 6** — Labor Day Weekend: No ATW or After Worship Programming

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



YOUTH

THIS MORNING:

Regular Sunday Morning programming resumes:

- **9:30am** Worship
- **10:45-11:05am** Youth Hang in the Youth Lounge
- **11:05-11:45am** Sunday School 6-8 grades (Rm 19b), 9-12 grades (Rm 19b)
- **4-6pm** YOUTH GROUP (6th-12th grade) **WATER DAY!** Wear water-appropriate clothing as we will be helping SMASH with water play, sunscreen, and bug spray. Pizza and popsicles will be served!

COMING UP:

- **August 23** — Regular Sunday Morning Programming. Top Golf RSVPs are due.
- **August 30** — Regular Sunday Morning Programming THEN 3–5pm at TOP GOLF with Heartland Presbyterian Youth
- **September 6** — Labor Day Weekend: No ATW or After Worship Programming

Please fill out your child's registration at your earliest convenience so we can update our records.



Would you like to hang out with some cool youth? Please sign up to volunteer here:



MISSION

AUGUST COMMUNION OFFERING IS CROSS-LINES: Cross-Lines has served as “a place of hope” for people experiencing poverty in Wyandotte County since 1963. The mission of Cross-Lines is to provide individuals and families in the Kansas City area affected by poverty with services and opportunities that build self-confidence, address immediate needs, and equip them with the tools for long-term self-sufficiency. Cross-Lines offers emergency assistance with food, clothing, medical needs, and financial assistance for at-risk families and individuals. In addition, the organization provides extended case management to help people achieve and maintain stability. Its work is centered around three key programs: basic needs, housing stabilization, and hunger relief. Through these comprehensive services, Cross-Lines continues to fight poverty, restore hope, and strengthen our community.

You may contribute to the August Communion Offering by selecting the “Communion” option through the church’s online giving portal or by writing “Communion” on your check or offering envelope. Please make all donations by September 1. Thank you for your generous support of this vital ministry and its life-changing work in our community.

AUGUST DONATION PARTNER — CROSS-LINES COMMUNITY MARKET: Throughout August, we are collecting donations to support the Cross-Lines Community Market, which provides emergency food assistance and everyday essentials to individuals and families in our community. You can help by donating items from the list below and placing your donations at the weekday entrance. Please note: all toiletry items should be full-sized, and all donated items must be new and unopened. Thank you for your generosity and for helping provide hope and practical support to our neighbors in need.

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|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| • canned fruits and vegetables | • cooking oil |
| • dried beans: pinto and black | • fruit cups |
| • canned beans: pinto, black, refried | • granola bars |
| • canned soup | • breakfast cereal |
| • pickled jalapeños or other peppers | |

- small pop-tops: soups, SpaghettiOs, ravioli
- condiments: ketchup, mayonnaise, mustard, salsa
- diapers (especially sizes, 4, 5, 6)
- shampoo and conditioner
- deodorant
- toothpaste
- razors
- menstrual supplies
- laundry detergent
- dish soap
- general cleaning supplies

KAIROS

KAIROS THANKS ALL WHO WERE ABLE TO ATTEND and learn about immigration and issues that affect those sisters and brothers right here in the KC metropolitan area. For those of you who were unable to attend, the PCUSA video is available on Vimeo here: <https://bit.ly/4fZF2xi>. Be sure to stop by the KAIROS bulletin board outside Heartland Hall for more information on immigration here and from the PCUSA Office of Immigration in Washington, DC.

GENEROSITY

GENEROSITY FULFILLMENT AUGUST 2026 UPDATE — A Living Legacy: Called to Plant, Called to Grow: The Generosity Team is pleased to share our 2026 fulfillment numbers as of August 6th, 2026. **We have received nearly 73% of our total pledges and only 58% of this year has gone by us.** Often during our summer months our fulfillment drops due to travel and summer activities. This has not been true the last three years! Grace Covenant has been blessed by everyone's on time giving. **We are appreciative of everyone who has contributed to Grace Covenant.** Here is our progress shown by numbers of pledges:

Submitted Pledges (130)	February 23rd	June 2nd	July 7th	August 6 th	Amount Received
0-25% fulfilled	120	36	34	17	\$800.00
26-50% fulfilled	4	64	60	25	\$46,049.00
51-75% fulfilled	0	4	10	52	\$155,991.00
76-100% fulfilled	5	26*	20	35	\$299,600.89
\$689,012	\$226,719	\$370,248	\$384,846.07		\$502,440.8

Four groupings show giving progress and calendar relationship. Each pledge falls into one of these groups. *The asterisk denotes several pledges being overpaid.

Our Generosity team meets on September 1 at 6:30pm by Zoom. **We are always glad to have new team members.** The current team is Eileen Thomson, Jane Knoche, Rev. Karen Wright, Keith Langabee, Tom Stroud, Darryl Prater, and Kim Krueger. Please contact Eileen or Jane if you are interested — we have room for you!

Mark your calendars and let's get cracking for our Town Hall on Sunday, September 27.



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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2026 Upcoming Events and Services

(Save these dates)

Sunday School Kick-Off

Sunday, August 16, 10:45am

Noisy Offering

Sunday, August 16 (*Benefits SowHope*)

First SMASH of the School Year

(K-5th grade) Sunday, August 16, 4-6pm

First YOUTH GROUP of the School Year

Sunday, August 16, 4-6pm

"This is Grace" New Member Class

Sunday, August 30, 10:45am, Room 5

Sign up at gcpc.org/newmember

Worship in the Park

Sunday, September 13, 9:30am

Meadowbrook Park (91st & Nall)

Grand Pavilion (SE Corner) Prairie Village

(Lunch following)

Baker/Reynolds Golf Scramble

Sunday, September 20, 1pm

Register at gcpc.org/scramble

Stewardship Town Hall and Brunch

Sunday, September 27

(Following worship)

Weekend Crafters Pajamas Craft Party

Friday, October 2, 6-9pm

RSVP at gcpc.org/pjs

Heart of America CROP Walk

Sunday, October 11, 2pm

Chili Cook-Off

Saturday, October 17

Generosity Sunday

Sunday, October 25, 9:30am

Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 25

Blood Drive

Thursday, October 29, 1-5pm

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 29

A Christmas Exclamation!

Sunday, December 6, 6pm

Christmas Eve Worship

Thursday, December 24

5:30pm and 8pm

~ 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