



**Service of Worship — December 14, 2025**

***“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/GCPCattendance>, 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)
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*“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

**Aging Challenges:** Lee Will, Stewart Nelson, 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, Lee's Summit, MO; New Springs Community Presbyterian Church, Lee's Summit, MO

(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

**TODAY WE CONTINUE OUR OBSERVANCE OF ADVENT with the theme “Waiting Well.”** Waiting does not come easily to most of us. In our hurried world, we prefer what is immediate and visible. Yet waiting — attentive, hopeful waiting — is at the very heart of Advent. It is the season of the “now and not yet,” when we live between promise and fulfillment.

**OUR ANNUAL GCPC BINGO EVENT** will be held on Friday, January 23, 5:30–7:30pm. Liz Chandler has graciously agreed to be our caller again! Pizza, veggies and cookies will be provided. Child care for kids under 4 will be available, and of course, prizes will be awarded to our BINGO winners. You can sign up in church on January 11 and 18! Come beat the winter BLAHS with some lively BINGO!

**GENEROSITY 2026:** Our 2026 Stewardship theme, ***A Living Legacy: Called to Plant, Called to Grow***, invites us to reflect on where we’ve been, how God is at work among us now, and the future God is calling us to cultivate together. It’s not too late to pledge for 2026 — every gift, large or small, is a seed God can use. Together we can carry forward the legacy of faith, hope, and love that has marked Grace Covenant’s ministry for decades. Pledge confidentially online at

[gcpc.org/2026pledge](http://gcpc.org/2026pledge), or use one of the pledge cards and envelopes found on the Generosity bulletin board outside the Sanctuary.

**FESTIVE POINSETTIAS WILL DECORATE THE SANCTUARY** for the Christmas season. If you would like to be a part of the tradition of purchasing a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one, you may do so by enclosing your donation in one of the poinsettia envelopes in the pews and place in the offering plate. Please be sure to neatly print your name and who the memorial/honor recognizes in block letters. You may also make a donation through the online giving portal on our website, or by sending your donation to the church office: GCPC, 11100 College Blvd., OPKS 66210, Attn: Patrick. *Deadline for names to be included in the bulletin insert is Monday, December 15.* Thank you!

**DINNERS FOR 7 OR 8 WILL BEGIN IN JANUARY** and finish in April. If you have participated before you know that meeting once a month is a great way to connect with other members. You have a choice of dinners in homes or dining out at restaurants. When you sign up, I will send you additional details about your group before December 31. Each group decides on the four dates and sets the times that work for the group. If you have any questions about how it works, give Kathy Williams a call, text, or e-mail: 913-485-1776 or [kathykaskewilliams@gmail.com](mailto:kathykaskewilliams@gmail.com). Let her know by December 22 or sooner if you plan to participate.

## ADULT

**DECEMBER ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** November 30–December 21, 10:45am. Join us for these two adult education classes during Advent:

- Study on the Advent theme, “Waiting Well” will meet in Room 3. Today, the class is led by Barbara Douglas.
- Worship Reflections, led by Kevin Johnson, in the concourse by the coat closet area.

## CHILDREN

### THIS MORNING:

**ATW During Worship** — all 4-year-olds through 1st graders are welcome to come down to ATW after the Children’s Time and can be picked up in Room 12.

#### **10:45–11:05 Children’s Choir rehearsals**

JOY! 4s–1<sup>st</sup> graders, Room 26

CELEBRATION! 2<sup>nd</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> graders, Room 15

#### **11:05–11:45 Sunday School**

2yo-3yo, Toddlers, Room 20

4yo-5yo, Preschool, Room 25

K-2nd, SCIENCE, Room 14

3rd-5th, ART, Room 10

### COMING UP:

**TONIGHT**, 4-6pm, SMASH K-5th Grade Fellowship, Caroling at Aberdeen Village, meet there and come back to GCPC. Come get in the holiday spirit at this family-event! Please RSVP to Christy Soule or Amy Sellers.

**December 21:** ALL MUSIC Sunday during the Sunday school hour; 12–2pm Christmas Eve Rehearsal for all ages! (Pizza lunch included.) Please let Emily know if you can't make the rehearsal but would still like to participate.

## YOUTH

**THIS MORNING:** Fellowship and Sunday School right after worship, downstairs in Youth Lounge and Room 19; 4-6pm Youth Group Service Night. We're cooking dinner for Project 10/20, a JOCO homeless shelter.

### COMING UP:

- We will finish our cooking project during Sunday school and it will be delivered that night.
- 12–2pm Christmas Eve Rehearsal for all ages! (Pizza lunch included.) Please let Emily know if you can't make the rehearsal but would still like to participate in the Christmas Eve Service.
- Christmas Eve—helping lead the 5pm Family service.

## MISSION

**DECEMBER DONATION PARTNER & COMMUNION OFFERING:** This month's donation partner and communion offering recipient will be the Argentine Baby Closet at Argentine United Presbyterian Church. This ministry is in its 39th year of providing support to families in Kansas City, KS; Grace Covenant has been one of its faithful partners for most of that time.

The Baby Closet serves 35–40 families each month with diapers, wipes, clothing and other basics for infants and toddlers, including sleepers, blankets, burp cloths, books and larger items when available. This year the items most needed are:

- diapers – sizes 5 & 6
- shoes/boots – sizes 3-7
- toddler socks
- formula — especially Similac (blue lid)
- new or gently used warm clothes — sizes 12 months to 2T
- crib-size blankets

Please put donations in the wooden bin in the Weekday Entrance (the one on the right, if you're facing the bins). Or if you prefer to give a financial donation, just write "Communion Offering" on your check to put into the offering plate, or use the giving portal and select the "Communion Offering" option. Thanks as always for GCPC's amazing generosity!

## GENEROSITY

**GENEROSITY THROUGH THE GENERATIONS — 2025 Fulfillment Update:** The Generosity Team is happy to share our 2025 fulfillment numbers as of December 1, 2025. We have received 88.3% of our total pledges and 91% of this year 2025 has gone by us. **We continue to appreciate everyone who has contributed to Grace Covenant.** Thank you for your faithfulness! Here is our progress shown by numbers of pledges:

| <i>Submitted Pledges<br/>(136)</i> | <i>March<br/>31st</i> | <i>June<br/>6th</i> | <i>Sept<br/>30th</i> | <i>December<br/>1st</i> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>0-25% fulfilled</i>             | <i>98</i>             | <i>56</i>           | <i>24</i>            | <i>17</i>               |
| <i>26-50% fulfilled</i>            | <i>18</i>             | <i>51</i>           | <i>13</i>            | <i>3</i>                |
| <i>51-75% fulfilled</i>            | <i>4</i>              | <i>6</i>            | <i>54</i>            | <i>14</i>               |
| <i>76-100% fulfilled</i>           | <i>12</i>             | <i>12</i>           | <i>45</i>            | <i>10</i>               |
| <i>\$723,179</i>                   | <i>\$226,719</i>      | <i>\$324,383</i>    | <i>\$548,781</i>     | <i>\$638,651</i>        |

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.

Our Generosity team meetings have changed to 6:30pm on the first Tuesday of each month in person or by Zoom. The current team is Eileen Thomson, Jane Knoche, Rev. Karen Wright, Keith Langabee, Kim Krueger, and Tom Stroud. We are always glad to have new team members. Our January 2026 meeting will be by e-mail. Please contact Eileen if you are interested — we have room for you! Thank you again to everyone that is *planting* and *growing* our ministry at Garce Covenant!



**GRACE COVENANT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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# Upcoming Events and Services

*(Save these dates)*

— 2025 —

## **Advent - "Waiting Well"**

Sunday, November 30 - December 21, 9:30am

View our Advent Resources, including  
a download of our Advent Devotion Booklet,  
at [gcpc.org/advent](http://gcpc.org/advent)

## **The Longest Night**

Sunday, December 21, 7pm

## **Christmas Eve Worship**

Wednesday, December 24

5pm Family Service

8pm Traditional Service

— 2026 —

## **Bingo Night**

Friday, January 23, 5:30-7:30pm

## **Weekend Crafters Winter Retreat**

Friday, January 16, 5-10pm

Saturday, January 17, 9-4pm

*Details soon!*

## **Olympic Family Event**

Saturday, January 31, 4-6pm

## **Music Appreciation Sunday**

Sunday, February 8, 9:30am

## **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**

Tuesday, February 17, Time TBA

## **Lent Begins - Ash Wednesday**

Wednesday, February 18

## **Palm Sunday**

March 29, 9:30am

## **Maundy Thursday**

Thursday, April 2, 7pm

## **Easter Egg Hunt**

Saturday, April 4, Time TBA

## **Good Friday**

Friday, April 3, 7pm

## **Easter Sunday**

Sunday, April 5, 9am and 11am

## **Youth Sunday**

Sunday, April 12, 9:30am

## **Trivia Night**

Saturday, April 18, Time TBA

## **Vacation Bible School**

June 1-5, 9am-Noon

Registration opens on January 1, 2026

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

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