



REAL FAITH | REAL STORIES | REAL GRACE

GRACE NOTES

HOLY WEEK
THE WEEK THAT
CHANGED THE
WORLD

Holy Week Worship

We will remember Jesus' journey through Holy Week with a series of special services activities that remember his suffering and celebrate his resurrection.

April 1, Children's Easter Egg Hunt, 10am

The annual Easter activities and egg hunt will have creative crafts, games, and lots of fun before the hunts. There will be two egg hunts. The first for our toddlers and pre-schoolers and the second for elementary age children.

April 2, Palm Sunday Hosanna! Service, 9:30am

Join the parade as we wave palm branches and celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. We welcome Jesus, our king with palms and joyful hosannas!

April 6, Maundy Thursday, 7:30pm

A service of Communion and remembering Jesus' commandment, "*When you do this, remember me.*" Music leadership by Praise Team, with Jubilation & Exaltation! Ringers. Come and reflect on Jesus' commandment to love and remember him.

April 7, Good Friday, 7:30pm

A service of lessons and singing as we remember Jesus' sacrifice of love. Music Leadership by Chancel and Exaltation! Singers and Instrumentalists. In gratitude we remember the crucifixion of our Lord.

April 9, Easter Services, 9am 11am

Celebrate the resurrection with joy!

9am Worship – Music Leadership by Praise Team;

11am Worship – Music Leadership by Chancel & Exaltation! Singers, Organ, Charter Ringers, Chancel Brass, and Timpani.

(See Music Notes page for a full list of music shared during Holy Week.)



God gathers us in a welcoming community, with our curiosity and questions, to worship creatively, learn from God's word, share our gifts, and deepen our faith.

With grateful hearts and a spirit of adventure, we go to serve Christ in the world, sharing kindness with everyone, and working for justice rooted in God's love.

11100 College Blvd.
Overland Park, KS 66210
913-345-1256
office@gcpc.org
gcpc.org

In-Person Worship and Online
Worship every Sunday on
Facebook and Zoom.
Visit gcpc.org/online
for links!

MUSIC NOTES

MUSIC IN WORSHIP

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, April 2nd – 9:30am Worship

Music Leadership by Praise Team – “Salt & Light” by Lauren Daigle; “Hosanna” (Praise is Rising) by Paul Baloche; “Gratitude” by Nichole Nordeman; “Beneath the Cross” by Keith & Kristyn Getty ; and “His Mercy is More” by Matt Papa & Matt Boswell; **Joy! Singers** (4s-1st graders) – “Wave Your Palms High” by IsaBeall Hudson; and **Celebration! Choir** (2nd-5th graders) – “Hosanna!” by Lynn Russell

Maundy Thursday, April 6th – 7:30pm Worship

Music Leadership by Praise Team – “Communion” by Maverick City Music; “Clean” by Natalie Grant; “Who But Jesus” by Laura Story; and **Jubilation & Exaltation! Ringers** – “Thee I Cherish” arr. by Paul A. McKlveen

Good Friday, April 7th – 7:30pm Worship

Music Leadership by Chancel & Exaltation! Singers and Instrumentalists - “Ah, Holy Jesus” by Howard Helvey with Organ; “O Sacred Head Now Wounded” arr. Joel Raney, with Ky Townsend, cello; “What Wondrous Love Is This” arr. L. Eugene Oldham with Piano

Easter Sunday, April 9th

9:00am Worship - **Music Leadership by Praise Team** - “Lift High the Cross” by Sydney H. Nicholson; “Simple Kingdom” by Bryan & Katie Torwalt; “Christ Is Risen, Hallelujah”; *Plus, several more*

11:00am Worship - **Music Leadership by Chancel & Exaltation! Singers, Organ, Charter Ringers, Chancel Brass, & Timpani** – “Easter Introit: Christ Triumphant” by Mark Patterson with Chancel Brass, Timpani, & Organ; “Lift High the Cross” setting by Paul Leddington Wright with Congregation, Trumpet, Timpani, & Organ; “That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright” arr. Mack Wilberg with Organ and Charter Ringers; “Reverberations” by Sallie Lloyd; “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” arr. Joe Galyon

Bright Sunday, April 16th

Music Leadership by Praise Team – “Hymn of Heaven” by Phil Wickham; “Simple Kingdom” by Bryan & Katie Torwalt; “God So Loved” by We the Kingdom; and **Grace Mountain** (*Bluegrass*)

Earth Sunday, April 23rd

Music Leadership by Chancel & Exaltation! Singers – “Look at the World” by John Rutter

Also on Sunday, April 23rd , 3pm

EncoreKC! Chorus Concert, (*Artists-in-Residence at GCPC*), at Village on Antioch – 14895 Antioch Rd, Overland Park, with our **Celebration! Choir & Dixieland Band**

Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 30th

Music Leadership by Chancel & Exaltation! Singers – “Do You Know He’s Arisen?” by Dianne & Terry Randolph



Bell Fest XXXIII

Sunday, May 7th, 6pm

In-Person, and via Facebook and Zoom

**Enjoy familiar tunes from
Broadway and Disney musicals!**

Dress up in your favorite character’s costume and join us for this fun evening of music and mirth!

We’ll have Disney songs to sing, video clips, a live performance of a showtune, and plenty of ringing by **Charter, Jubilation!, Spirit! Ringers,** and **Celebration! Chimes!**

We’ll also be collecting items for VBS. “Stay tuned!”



Hero Hotline

Called Together to Serve God!

Vacation Bible School June 5-9, 9am-Noon
Ages 4 – 5th Grade

In the depths of a colorful underground cave, is the beating heart of the hero community, the Hero Hotline Headquarters where everyone's gifts are valued, and every hero has a role to play. Each day at the Hero Hotline Headquarters, superheroes of all ages and abilities answer the call and join the Professor and veteran hero, Super Meer the Meerkat, to provide expert assistance and solutions to Hero Teams everywhere.

As kids (*called Heroes*) experience these stories through music, drama and storytelling, games, arts and crafts, science, and even snacks, they'll learn that Heroes are called to Follow Jesus, Help Others, Work Together, Listen to God, and Show Grace! And, best of all, they'll be invited to answer this call at VBS, at church, at home, and every area of their lives. Be sure to register at gcpc.org/vbs and get ready for an awesome week!

Easter

Eggstravaganza!

The annual Easter activities and egg hunt will be held Saturday, April 1 at 10am. There will be creative crafts, games, and lots of fun before the hunts. There will be two egg hunts. The first for our toddlers and pre-schoolers and the second for elementary age children. Bring your own basket and a non-perishable food donation for the mini food pantry.

Shine a light through the clutter with.... 40 DAYS, 40 ITEMS

For each day of Lent, find one item you no longer need or want, and put it into a large bag or box. It could be an item of clothing you no longer wear, a book you're not going to read again, a toy your children don't play with anymore, or a household item you don't need. **Contact Mikki Walker** at michala.walker@gmail.com with any questions!

On Saturday, April 8, bring your items to Room 21 between 9:30-10:30am. Overflow storage will be in in Room 5. You can also bring your items to church anytime during the week of April 2, if you can't make it Saturday morning.

Donations will directed as follow:

- Clothes and household items will be donated to **Blessings Abound**.
- Gently used coats will go to **Johnson County Christmas Bureau**.
- Shoes will go to **Soles4Souls**. (*Tie or rubber band pairs together*)
- Craft and office items will go to **Scraps KC**.
- Books will go to the **Friends of the JoCo Library**.

IMPORTANT: All donation items needs to be in bags or boxes with lids or closable flaps, and small enough to be easily lifted by one person onto the truck.

Blessings Abound CAN accept:

- Practical housewares, art, small kitchen appliances, toys and games (that are not missing pieces or are damaged), tools, decor items, clean clothes in good condition, sewing machines and material, pillows and linens, dishes, and cookware.

Blessings Abound CANNOT accept:

- Garage sale leftovers, exercise equipment, damaged items, safety recalled items, items missing pieces. No furniture will be accepted at the church.



Gratitude for Giving at GCPC

Recent information prompted us to give thanks for GCPC's wonderful generosity!

- In January, there were a number of individual donations to PCUSA mission coworkers totaling over \$1,000. We don't know who made these donations but we are grateful for them!
- The March 19 Noisy Offering raised an additional \$318.97 for the mission coworkers — wow!
- Harvesters sent the receipt for the SouperBowl of Caring showing that the youth collected 482 pounds of food, representing more than 400 meals for our hungry neighbors. Good work GCPC!
- The January and February Communion Offerings sent \$155 to Harvesters and \$445 to Rosehill Elementary.
- And finally, in 2022 GCPC sent gifts for all four PCUSA Special Offerings:
 - \$375 for Peace and Global Witness
 - \$3,155 for One Great Hour of Sharing
 - \$3,180 for Christmas Joy
 - \$1,025 for the Pentecost Offering

There isn't enough space in this newsletter to properly thank all of you for the gifts you share, whether those gifts are of time, effort, prayer, or money.

Thank You Church Family!

Thanks to everyone who had a part in my 25th anniversary celebration. It provided many joyful surprises and much reflection of events we have shared during the past quarter century. I will always be grateful! —**Linda Dover**

Clerk's Corner – March 2023

Session met on March 20 and had the pleasure of welcoming nine new members to our Congregation. If you haven't met them yet, we hope you will welcome them when you see them or on Sunday, April 16, when they are welcomed in worship.

Our team reports indicate that lots is happening at Grace Covenant.

- We passed a resolution and motion from "We're all in this Together" to reduce food waste at Grace Covenant.
- Mission team is working on inviting members of the Congregation to get involved with the Good Faith network and will pursue a grant from Presbytery to help fund this ministry.
- Personnel team is working on what will happen after Miles McDonald's departure. Prior to Miles resignation the team was already working on an assessment of our staff needs. They plan to present three potential staffing models to Session in August. We are not looking to add any staff members yet.
- Youth team will host a reception for Miles McDonald after worship on April 2. They are discussing ways to engage volunteers without a paid youth director for a short period. Applications are still open for the Reynolds/Baker scholarship. Sue will serve as staff liaison to the team for now.
- Connections and Care is planning a Trivia Night on Friday, April 21.
- Adult Team has a question box in the concourse to inspire class discussions after Easter.
- Children's team is planning an Easter Egg Hunt on April 1 and starting to plan VBS.
- Generosity team will meet with Finance Team in April. They are considering using Stewardship Navigator, a narrative budget tool available from the Presbyterian Foundation
- A Congregational meeting will be held on April 30 to elect at-large members to the nominating committee.

Session will welcome a liaison from Heartland Presbytery's Committee on Ministry at our April meeting. Each team will have the opportunity to spotlight their work in the newsletter and worship one month during the coming year.

If you want to know more or have concerns, please contact any member of Session. Members are always welcome to attend Session meetings if you want to know more or to share anything.

Getting to know GCPC Committees: Facilities Team

April 2023

An Open Letter to the Congregation

Dear Friends,

I am here to let you in on a little secret. I belong to a wonderful team here at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church. The team recognizes that this Graceful Lady needs love and attention, and they are proud to see to her needs inside the church as well as outside the church. She will be forty years old in June 2025. Realizing that a first impression is important, we work on upkeep regularly. We are not the ones who do the weekly cleaning, but we are the ones who work on painting, reducing, recycling, and reusing what we have. We work on organizing what we have so that when asked where something is, we can point to it immediately.

Outside, if you enjoy the serenity of nature, we have many kinds of gardens that need a loving hand (or garden tool). We also work on longer termed projects such as the new lighting in the sanctuary, helping the pre-school with their needs, and figuring out possible replacement projects on a schedule.

If you are someone who enjoys like-minded fellowship and getting to know your fellow church members, this is the team for you. Come join us!

Blessings,

Liz Chandler, Facilities Moderator

Spring Clean Up at GCPC!

Spring is here, and it's time to spruce up the GCPC grounds! Join Boy Scout Troop 122 in cleaning up the flower beds and other general outside maintenance on **Saturday, April 15, 9am to noon**. We will provide the tools, just bring yourself and gloves if you need them. (*We could use additional leaf rakes if you have one to share.*) No RSVP needed. Contact facilities moderator Liz Chandler, lizchandler814@yahoo.com, for more information.

Getting to know GCPC Committees: The Personnel Team

The Personnel Team in many ways acts as the human resources department for Grace Covenant. We maintain position descriptions for staff roles, conduct biennial staff reviews (and more frequent “check-ins” with staff between full reviews), help staff members set goals for their work consistent with Grace Covenant’s core values, create and propose to session annual budgets for staff compensation, conduct exit interviews when staff members leave and initiate the search process when seeking new staff, review and maintain the Manual of Personnel Policies, and periodically review staffing and staff design. We strive to do all these things (and more!) with the Golden Rule in mind—treat others as you would like them to treat you.

As you might imagine, right now is a momentous time on the team. We are saying goodbye to our long-time Director of Youth Ministries/Technical Director for Worship, Miles McDonald, who is leaving to take a position at Northern Arizona University. Miles’ announcement comes at an interesting time for us because with the encouragement of session, Personnel Team began a staff design review process last November, seeking to match Grace Covenant’s core values as expressed in the many visioning exercises hosted by Sue and Mitch with Grace Covenant’s staffing needs and expectations. That work is ongoing; our plan is to give session our report and recommendations this August. Miles’ departure throws into sharp relief the importance of this work we are doing. And we would love to have you join us. If our team’s work sounds interesting to you, drop me a note and let’s talk.

Kevin Mason (moderator); Chris Krug, Terri Monrad (elder liaison), Meredith Watson; Sue Trigger, Mitch Trigger (staff support)



AN INTERFAITH JUSTICE ORGANIZATION

GCPC + Good Faith Network

In February, Session voted for GCPC to join the Good Faith Network, an interfaith group composed of 25+ congregations across three faith traditions in Johnson County. The Good Faith Network's mission is to pursue justice around our local community's most pressing problems. This year, the Good Faith Network is working on solutions to mental health, housing, and homelessness in Johnson County. The membership fee was funded partially by donations from members; we're also seeking some supplementary PCUSA grant funding. (Further donations would be welcome from anyone else who wants to support our participation in this work!)

We are seeking GCPC members who are interested in participating in this work. Anyone who is interested is invited to schedule a 30-minute meet-up with the organization's lead staff person, Aileen Ball. These meetings will be informal conversations that let Aileen learn more about us and our congregation, as well as letting you ask any questions you may have about Good Faith Network. Attending a meeting does not create any obligation to participate further unless you want to!

For convenience, Aileen has put her calendar online, so you can just click this link and schedule with her directly: <https://calendly.com/aileenball/meet-with-an-organizer-from-good-faith-network>, but if you are having trouble with the link, you can just contact her directly to get something scheduled at aileen@thegoodfaithnetwork.org.

Nehemiah Assembly in May

All GCPC members, regardless of other involvement with GFN, are also invited to attend the main event of the year, the **Nehemiah Assembly on May 2 at 6pm**, at the Church of the Resurrection, 13720 Roe in Leawood. At the Nehemiah Assembly, over 1,000 justice-seeking people of faith will gather to seek commitment from our local officials to implement solutions to make real change in Johnson County. Please mark your calendars and bring a friend!

Please contact **Mikki Walker** and **Rick Randolph** with any questions: michala.walker@gmail.com, rrandolphiii@gmail.com.



It's Intergenerational Trivia and the place to be is GCPC!

**Friday, April 21st
6:00 – 8:00 pm**

Put on your thinking cap and get your brain working and join us for a fun evening of Intergenerational Trivia.

Bring a light appetizer/snack/finger food to share with others.

We encourage people to bring their own plates/service ware in our effort to be 'environmentally friendly.'

Childcare will be provided for the little ones, but older children are welcomed to join in on the fun and excitement.

We ask that you sign up in advance through Sign-up Genius in April or you can contact Patrick in the church office. When you sign up to come, please indicate if you will be needing childcare.

Questions?

Email Lynn Long
at llynn82@gmail.com

**AND there will be prizes
for the WINNING team!**

Watch for more news to come
in the coming weeks!

Getting to know GCPC Committees: Nominating Committee

Hello GCPC Friends! We wanted to drop you all a quick note to familiarize yourself with the church's Nominating Committee at GCPC. The Nominating Committee is made up of 2 Elders (currently Andrew Frye and Bill Turner), 2 Deacon Representatives (Maggie Blankers and Nelson Townsend) and at least 2 At-Large GCPC members (Emily Hussey and Vicki Peck). The Elders and Deacon representatives are appointed by their respective groups. The At-Large members are approved by the Congregation.

The work of the Nominating Committee is very important because the committee, by means of deciding who is nominated, strongly affects the direction and energy of the church. The committee is tasked with recruiting and bringing nominations to the Congregation for the leaders of our church (Deacons & Elders). In an effort to spread out the nomination process:

- Deacons are recruited to begin their 3-year terms on a calendar year basis, beginning their service in January.
- Elders are recruited to begin their 3-year terms in June of each year.

Typically, the Nominating Committee recruits 4 positions each year, in each group, to replace Deacons or Elders who are finishing their terms.

We have been blessed at GCPC with a membership that has been willing to step up and serve when asked. Church records show that more than 250 different people have served as Deacons and more than 95 people have served as Elders.

As you will note, the Nominating Committee is currently in the process of considering and recruiting candidates to serve as Elders for the term that will begin in June. We will be seeking out 4 individuals to replace Elders who will be completing their 3-year terms. We would also welcome any additional GCPC Members who feel called to join the Nominating Committee in our important work.

If you would like to know more about the Committee feel free to contact Bill Turner at 99wdturner@gmail.com.

April Donation Partner A Gathering of Friends

Our April donation partner is A Gathering of Friends, a grassroots organization serving those experiencing homelessness and food insecurity in Johnson and Wyandotte counties. A Gathering of Friends relies on donations and volunteers for everything needed to make sure those they serve have a good, home cooked meal each week, along with sandwiches, snacks, and fresh fruits to eat later, as well as supplies to ensure their safety, health, and comfort.

Please see the list below for what you can donate to support their mission. **Donations can go in the Weekday Entrance bin anytime in April.** If you'd like to provide a QuikTrip or Wal-Mart gift card, please put those in the plastic holder outside the church office door.

AAA Batteries
Back Packs
Reusable Shopping Bags
Flashlights
Lighters
Mens Large/XL T-Shirts (used, okay)
Hoodies (used,okay)
Mens jeans/sweats/cargo(used, okay)
Tents
Sleeping Bags
Insect Repellent
\$5 or \$10 Quiktrip gift cards

April Communion Offering One Great Hour of Sharing

Our April Communion Offering recipient is One Great Hour of Sharing, one of the four annual special offerings collected by PC USA. Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing support efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on Self-development of People, and support the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program.

Grace Studies: For Kids

Pre-school 2-4 years:

The pre-school children will continue to grow in grace and gratitude this year! They will gather to explore and respond to God's grace and be sent out to love and serve God.



Remember that when our children are at home, families can use these tools to explore God's grace and gratitude each day:

- Grace Sightings: the weekly Bible story with age-appropriate activities for your family to do at home.
- Audio Recordings: the weekly Bible story brought to life by endearing readings and sound effects.
- E-book: the quarter's colorful illustrations, Bible stories, and Grace Sightings in iBook and Kindle formats.

Find these tools at:

www.pcusastore.com/GGGdownloads.

K- 5/6th Grace Makers:

This April, Grace Makers workshops will continue learning about the practice of forgiveness and how they can forgive and ask for forgiveness as a way to build bridges with others. We will pause on Palm Sunday to remember and celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem the first Palm Sunday. Through music, art, games, cooking and more, the children will learn about



Everyone is welcome to check out our workshop rotation classes, take a walk down the first-floor hallway in the east wing and see what's happening.

Children's Ministry Opportunities

Awakening to Worship is our wonder and worship program for children ages 4-1st grade and meets following the children's sermon weekly. We invite children in elementary school to continue participating and experiencing worship as they move into the sanctuary for worship with the wider family of Grace Covenant.

Worship Bags are in place to help busy hands and hearts. Worship Bulletins are available from the ushers every week and are on two age levels.

Joy! Singers: Our 4 year olds – 1st grade children enjoy singing under the leadership of Emily Hussey and Hilary Schmidt.

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

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.

SMASH Sunday!

Service, Music, Art, Sports, Hangtime

April 16, 4–6pm, Heartland Hall

Our monthly event where we welcome all children Kindergarten through 5th/6th.

During our March SMASH, our children learned that we don't need luck when God has already given us our greatest gift with everlasting life if we just believe in him! We tried our luck at a few games, practiced winning and losing gracefully and having lots of fun along the way. Smash will meet again on April 16th from 4-6pm in Heartland Hall. We will focus on ways to love our home on Earth! **Please RSVP for your children to Rev Sue.**



SMASH - March 26

Grace Studies: Adult Study Opportunities

These studies begin on April 16 at 10:45am.

The Lenten studies, Spiritual Practices and Inhabiting Eden, will conclude on Palm Sunday, April 2.
There will be no Sunday school on Easter, April 9.

Follow Me: Forgive

Class meets in Room 3. Leadership is shared.

Zoom in at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83829790055?pwd=MnpSL1MwS2VBbWN0OEU5aFJGaTJLdz09>

Meeting ID: 838 2979 0055 Passcode: 723297

The April study will focus on the practice of forgiveness. Genuine forgiveness entails a process that includes naming the wrong that was done or the wrong that was suffered. Forgiveness does not deny the realities of sin: betrayal, violence, anger, jealousy. It ensures that wrongs do not have the last word. The final word in forgiveness is God's grace, available to those who seek to forgive and to move beyond separation and brokenness to restored relationship with God and one another.



Questions of Faith

Class meets in Room 4. Leadership is shared.

Zoom in at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83815237214?pwd=TVh4VWZldC9hbGJCL1k5dIVjWVlwUT09>

Meeting ID: 838 1523 7214

Passcode: GCPC2022

Meanwhile, back at the Adult Education Team, we have been considering the challenges of following 4th Century interpretations of 1st Century concepts within a 21st Century world. It can lead one to question some of our common creeds, prayers and biblical passages in face of truly remarkable scientific and material advances. The Presbyterian Church is known for fostering such questioning. Our faith can be strengthened by non-threatening, enlightened and civil inquiries into texts and concepts which can, quite frankly, be hard to believe. We wish to encourage this exploration.



Therefore, we are launching new classes after Easter that will review the 'unbelievable' and that review will be guided by you. What questions do you have about our faith? **We have placed an "Exploration" Box in the lobby. Please take the time to jot down your thoughts about the 'unbelievable'.** Class discussions can then be tailored to address your questions. Strong relationships are built with honest discussion. That is true with fellow GCPC members and, above all, our relationship with Jesus. Let us know what you think, and join us for classes.



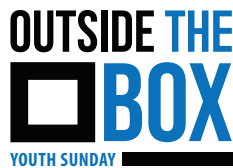
YOUTH PAGE

From Miles

Working with young people, especially the young people at Grace Covenant has been the most valuable and even life-changing life experience I have ever had. It is extremely difficult for me to leave my "family" after nearly 16 years. I LOVE the people at Grace Covenant and support the ministry of the church with all of my heart. God's timing is not in my control, but I know that God is steering me into a new direction as I leave GCPC to take on a new position working with the Institute for Human Development at Northern Arizona University. Through technology, I will soon be supporting the inclusion of people with disabilities and that is very important to me. I will miss the people of Grace Covenant DEEPLY and appreciate all the love and support that I have received. One of the many lessons that I have learned at GCPC is that people care deeply about our youth and will continue to support them into the future. That knowledge helps carry me through this tough transition. Thank you family!

Thank You for Youth Sunday!!!

Leave it to our AMAZING youth for planning and leading a meaningful and "Outside the Box" worship service! We have received so many overwhelmingly positive comments that it's clear our students touched the hearts of those who joined us in person and online. The service delivered a message of hope and about connecting with God in our place and time ...it was also a lot of fun! If you missed it or want to watch again, here is a link to it on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6u_wTq_XVos



Presbytery Lock-In at Chapel Hill

Heartland Presbytery is hosting an All-Presbytery Youth Lock-In on Friday, April 21st at Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church beginning at 6 pm with dinner and concluding Saturday morning no later than 10 am following breakfast and a final gathering. This event is for 6th - 12th youth and will include meals, energizers, games, music, ice breakers, outdoor events (weather permitting), vespers and a movie. Each participant should bring \$10 to help defer dinner costs.

Baker/Reynolds Scholarship Extension

Youth Team has extended the application date for the Baker/Reynolds Award. In past years this opportunity was only available for high school seniors but this year the team is opening it up to all 9-12th graders. The application deadline is now April 2!

Summer Trips

See below for our planned summer trip dates. Adult volunteers will be needed for each of these experiences. Please prayerfully consider if you can help with youth events this summer and talk with Sue Trigger if you can.

Summer Dates:

June 5-9	VBS - need volunteers of all ages
June 10-17	Potential M&M Trip
July 10-17	Potential Local Service Week
July 17-24	Massanetta Middle School Conference







The Flowering of the Cross

One beloved tradition at Grace Covenant is the “flowering of the cross” on Easter Sunday. It’s based on a legend that Jesus’ cross burst into bloom at the moment of his death. This tradition is widespread in the United States, found in Episcopal and various Protestant churches, primarily in the South. This symbol is rich with meaning.

“The flowering of the cross has been traced back to the 6th century. It is an especially striking way to symbolize the new life that emerges from Jesus’s death on Good Friday. Traditionally before the Easter Sunday service, the cross is covered with real flowers and the top draped in white. The entire cross is covered with flowers and is placed prominently at the front of the church to symbolize the new life in our risen Lord to all the worshippers present on Easter Sunday morning. The contrast between the starkly bare cross that worshippers are used to seeing and the living flower cross of Easter Sunday dramatically and visually represents the new life that we are celebrating after witnessing the very instrument of death and endings transformed by Christ’s rising.”

Jesus Christ is risen – he is risen indeed!

—Rev. Mitch Trigger

CELEBRATING GOD’S ALL ENCOMPASSING LOVE!

CHURCH STAFF

Co Pastors

- Office hours: Monday-Thursday

Mitch Trigger, mitch.trigger@gcpc.org.....ext.18

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

Director of Music Ministries

- 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 AdministratorTara Hyder

finance@gcpc.org

Organist Linda Dover

Contemporary Music Coord. Carrie DeVries

Contemporary Music Drummer..... Ben Mason

Child Care Coordinator.....Carolyn Chaffin

Wedding Coordinator.....Lara Schesser

Funeral CoordinatorMary Sue Thomas

ELDERS

Jim Byrd

Ric Cummings

Miles Dalton (youth)

Andrew Frye

Katie Hearn

Melanie Townsend

Jane Knoche

Angela Krug

Jake Schmidt

Terri Monrad

Joy Circo

Tom Stroud

Lara Schesser

Bill Turner

SUPPORT STAFF

Deacon ModeratorMeredith Watson

Operating Committee..... Terri Monrad,

Ric Cummings, Katie Hearn, Angela Krug

Newsletter Editor/Marketing..... Kim Krueger

Prayer ChainCheryl Johnson

Website AdministratorsKim Krueger,

Patrick Bell

MINISTRY UNITS

Congregational Nurture Unit Moderators

Connections and Care.....Jake Schmidt

Worship and Music..... Kathy Bures,

Katie Hearn

Education Ministry Unit Moderators

Adult Tom Stroud

ChildrenErin Frye, Angela Krug

Youth..... Bill Turner

Reach Out Ministry Unit Moderators

Kairos Rick Randolph

Mission.....Mikki Walker

WelcomingKathy Williams

Supportive Ministry Unit Moderators

Facility Liz Chandler

Generosity David Sutherland

Finance..... Terra Howard

Personnel Kevin Mason

Worship Schedule

9:30am Worship

In-Person, Facebook & Zoom

Visit gcpc.org/online for links

Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines

May 2023 issue - Deadline, April 21

June 2023 issue - Deadline, May 19