



REAL FAITH | REAL STORIES | REAL GRACE

GRACE NOTES

In January, the Session of Grace Covenant made the decision to return to online only worship services and Christian Education classes, due to another surge in COVID-19 (*fueled by the omicron variant*). At that time, we agreed to return to in-person worship on February 13, provided conditions had improved.

On January 29, the Session agreed to extend worship to online only through February 27. The reasons for this were numerous:

- The infection rate for Johnson County remains higher now than it was during the height of the pandemic last year. The Kansas City area is experiencing higher numbers than parts of the country that were peaking early last month.
- There have been increasing numbers of very young children in our community getting COVID. Children's Mercy Hospital reports a broader age range of children being infected, with higher numbers. Their ICU beds are full as of January 31.
- A higher number of our own church members have been reporting to us that they have tested positive for COVID.

The Session will re-visit this decision closer to the end of February. We are hoping by that time our community will begin to reflect the downturn in COVID cases evident in other parts of the country. We also want to emphasize that it is only our Worship service and Christian Education classes that we're requiring to be online. Outside organizations, teams, and small groups are allowed to make their own decisions regarding in-person meetings.

Thank you for your patience – the health and safety of our members is of utmost importance. Please be sure to join us online on Sunday mornings for worship and Christian Education, via Facebook and Zoom.



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 Boulevard
Overland Park, KS 66210
913-345-1256
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gcpc.org

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



Save the Date! Vacation Bible School June 6-10, 9am-Noon

At Discovery on Adventure Island VBS, your students will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible based good time on their quest for God's great light. They will become explorers and discover how God's light shines on us and how we can reflect that light as we live each day.

Clerk's Corner

The session of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church held its stated meeting on **January 17, 2022** at 7:05pm, via Zoom. Reverend Sue Trigger served as moderator. In addition to the ruling elders, Deacon Meredith Watson was present as well as Nelson Townsend from the Core Values Task Force.

Consent Agenda: The minutes of the December meeting were approved as well as affirming the results of an electronic vote suspending in person worship and an electronic vote approving a request from Dennis and Laura Patton that they be removed from our membership rolls.

Finance Team: The team submitted a motion to update the signors on our bank accounts. An additional \$5000 in pledges was received. There have also been a few software snags where committed pledges were not reported. We also received an anonymous donation of \$30,000.

Clerk's Report: After reaching out to several people who have not been active in the congregation for the last few years, we have removed them from our rolls and have a current membership of 362 members.

Co-pastors' report: One spiritual will be sung each week of Lent 2022 and the story will be incorporated into the sermon. Session approved collection of a donation each week during Lent 2022 in recognition of African American contributions to our hymnody with the proceeds going to a local music program.

Deacon's report: Meredith Watson that 2022 Covenant Groups are not yet finalized. Deacon training will happen in February. Two new deacons have been identified and two offers are being considered.

Old Business: The Session continues to monitor COVID data and will make a decision about when to resume in-person worship on January 29. A new Core Values document was approved which will be shared with the Congregation at the Annual Meeting.

New Business: Arrangements for the Virtual Annual Meeting on January 30, 2022 were discussed.

After sharing joys and concerns the meeting adjourned at 8:20pm and Rev. Sue Trigger closed with a prayer.

2022 VISION 2022 VISION

"Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church celebrates God's grace for everyone. We gather to worship. We equip ourselves to share faith. We send ourselves to serve."

Last November we put our hearts and minds together to envision where God is calling us. Following God's call requires us to look at the gifts, talents, and values that make GCPC unique. We did just that at our Visioning Day and compiled a list of the characteristics that are most valued in our congregation. That list was given to a team of volunteers who worked together to create a creative and useful document that will reflect the personality of the congregation and guide our discernment for the future.

The Session approved these core values at the January Session meeting. Our thanks to Maggie Blankers, Kathy Bures, Ric Cummings, Nelson Townsend, and Revs. Sue and Mitch for their work. Thanks to Kim Krueger for her work designing the Core Values graphic on page 3 of this newsletter.



Soup + Chili + Pie

Saturday, February 26, 5-7pm

Join us for a special evening of food and fellowship!

As of this publication the Care and Connection Team is still planning on the February 26 Soup, Chili and Pie Supper from 5pm to 7pm in Heartland Hall.

Sign-up is available on the church website after February 1 at www.gcpc.org/supper, or by contacting Patrick at the church office, patrick.bell@gcpc.org or 913-345-1256. We will be closely monitoring the number of COVID cases. Stay tuned. If we need to cancel, we will let you know by the church website and social media.

GCPC: A vibrant PC(USA) congregation, caring for our community and each other

Our Core Values

Jesus Christ is the HEAD of the Church

God has put all things under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The church's life and mission are a joyful participation in Christ's ongoing life and work. (PCUSA Book of Order F-1.02)

Christ with our HEADS

We Are Equipping through Education:

- Theologically curious, intellectually honest, spiritually growing
- Multi-generational
- Space for diverse opinions

Christ with our HEARTS

We are Worshipping Creatively:

- Immersed with music and other arts
- Embracing various styles, abilities, and ages
- Compelling, imaginative, relevant

Christ with our CENTER

We are Embracing Diversity:

- No place for discrimination
- LGBTQ+ affirming
- Ecumenical and interfaith openness

Christ with our HANDS

We Are Acting in Faith:

- Service to the community
- Social justice advocacy
- Vibrant, caring, engaged

Christ with our FEET

We are Sharing Faith Openly:

- Committed to following Christ
- Spreading news of Christ's transforming work and word
- Sharing our stories and God's impact in our lives



GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Grace Studies: Adult Study Opportunities

Come for a unit, come for a class, or come every Sunday! Take a look at our February classes!

February 6: Follow Me: Baptize:

The adult Follow Me class meets in Room 3.

You can Zoom in at: <https://tinyurl.com/yanmupj9>.

Remember Your Baptism; A baptism is a moment of marking and a moment of welcoming. God marks an individual whom God has created with an invisible mark of love and acceptance. The church welcomes that person whom God loves as part of the church family and the body of Christ. When we respond to the call of Jesus and profess our faith, we are immersed in the waters of baptism. And, whether that is done literally—by being submerged and brought up—or symbolically—by water being placed on the head in some fashion—the action of baptism is the same and is carried out in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. God claims us as God's own in the waters of baptism. The Baptize unit picks up where the baptismal event leaves off. Baptized persons live into their identity as children of God through daily acts of discipleship on a lifelong journey of growing in faith.



February 13 – February 20: Follow Me: Sabbath Practices:

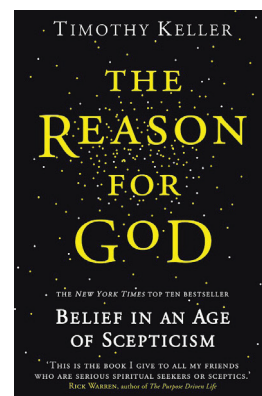
Christians who wish to explore Sabbath keeping need to have a rich and realistic debate about what specific forms Sabbath practice might take today. Within the complexities of contemporary culture, no specific plan will be accessible to all, and it will be important not to turn the Sabbath into a day that reeks of condemnation rather than gift, as some have done in the past. But pondering, discerning, and having hard conversations about what our present way of living in time is doing to us and how we can respond—this is a good thing indeed. You can Zoom in at: <https://tinyurl.com/yanmupj9>.

February 6 – February 20: The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism

This class will meet in Room 4. You can Zoom in at: <https://tinyurl.com/krd5pz84>.

Timothy Keller, the founding pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church (PCA) in New York City, addresses the frequent doubts that skeptics, and even ardent believers, have about religion. Using literature, philosophy, real-life conversations, and potent reasoning, Keller explains how the belief in a Christian God is, in fact, a sound and rational one. To true believers he offers a solid platform on which to stand their ground against the backlash to religion created by the Age of Skepticism. And to skeptics, atheists, and agnostics, he provides a challenging argument for pursuing the reason for God. We recommend participants use a copy of the book as well as the discussion guide. The discussion guide is available from Pastor Sue today. The book is also available on Kindle from Amazon for those who prefer an electronic copy.

Get yours at: <https://www.amazon.com/Reason-God-Belief-Age-Skepticism/dp/1594483493>.

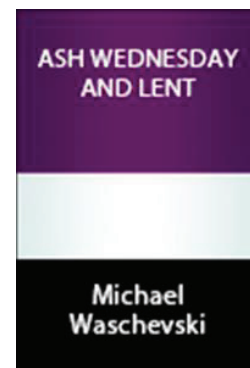


February 27: Ash Wednesday and Lent

This is the only adult class this week, and will meet in Heartland Hall.

You can Zoom in at: <https://tinyurl.com/yanmupj9>.

Ash Wednesday and Lent are times during the liturgical year when Christians can give deep and serious consideration to their faith through the practices of almsgiving, prayer, and fasting. In the one-session adult study "Ash Wednesday and Lent," Christians will explore various themes of this part of the liturgical year. In particular, they will look into the following themes: morality, penance, ashes, and almsgiving.



MUSIC NOTES

Well, because of the COVID Omicron variant we couldn't kick-off 2022 with music rehearsals as we hoped we would. As we enter the month of February, decisions are still being made regarding the start of many of our ensembles.

Once determined, beginning dates for each ensemble will be communicated by the directors as well as Music Team and Rebecca Prater through emails and Mid-week Announcements. These decisions will always be based on what is safest for our musicians and congregation.

Changes in safety protocol may occur, as needed. Remember: everyone must be masked while inside the church – *including at all music rehearsals.*

If you have questions about a particular ensemble, please contact the listed director or Rebecca Prater for more information.

CHILDREN'S ENSEMBLES

10:45am on Sundays, Joy! Singers (4s-K) will have their music time at the beginning of Sunday school under the direction of Emily Hussey. **Room 25. Currently meeting virtually.**

10:45am on Sundays, Celebration! Singers & Ringers (1st-6th graders) will have their music time at the beginning of Sunday school under the direction of Pam Kelly, Lara Schesser, and accompanist, Angela Krug. **Room 15. Currently meeting virtually.**

NEW SAFETY PROTOCOL FOR YOUTH, YOUNG ADULT, ADULT SINGERS, & WIND INSTRUMENTALISTS

As with last semester, all these musicians need to be fully vaccinated to participate. ***Because of the Omicron variant, beginning January 2022 all eligible individuals also need to have their booster shot.*** This includes participants in Praise Team, Chancel & Exaltation! Singers (CHEX), and Wind Instrumentalists.

YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS, & ADULTS VOCAL ENSEMBLES

7pm on Tuesdays, Praise Team (Youth-Adults) will rehearse in the **Sanctuary** under the direction of Carrie DeVries.

On Wednesday evenings, Chancel + Exaltation! Singers (aka CHEX – 8th grade-Adults) will rehearse in the **Sanctuary or Choir Room/Room 6** under the director of Rebecca Prater, director & Patrick O'Halloran, assistant director.

HANDBELL ENSEMBLES

6pm on Wednesdays, Charter Ringers (Adults) Rehearses in **Room 1** under the direction of Chris Krug & Celia Nicholas, co-directors.

4:30pm on Sundays, Jubilation! Ringers (Youth & Adults) Rehearses in **Room 1** under the direction of Kathy Bures.

INSTRUMENTALISTS

As scheduled by the director, the GCPC Orchestra (8th graders – Adults) rehearses in the **Sanctuary** under the direction of Pam Kelly.

LOOKING AHEAD TO MUSIC IN WORSHIP AND MUSIC EVENTS

YOUTH SUNDAY, MARCH 6TH – 9:30am Worship Music Leadership by Youth Band.

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 10TH – 9:30am Worship Music Leadership by Praise Team.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 14TH – 7pm Music Leadership by Praise Team.

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 15TH – 7pm Music Leadership by Chancel & Exaltation! Singers and String Quartet.

EASTER, APRIL 17TH

9am Worship – Music Leadership by Praise Team.

11am Worship – Music Leadership by Chancel & Exaltation! Singers, Charter Ringers, & Joon Park, trumpet.

BELL FEST, MAY 1ST – 6pm

This year's theme is what we could all use about now! ***"Make 'em Laugh, Help 'em Smile, Give 'em Joy!"***



Youth Page

"New Beginnings" Youth Sunday - March 6

Youth Sunday is coming up soon. We are hoping it will be in-person this year, but our youth are planning to make it great even if it is virtual or hybrid. As usual it will be planned and led by our youth and our seniors will present sermons.

"Souper" Bowl of Caring

Our youth will continue to collect food for the Souper Bowl of Caring up until February 7. You can drop off Souper Bowl donations in the Harvesters barrels in front of the big wooden doors at GCPC weekday mornings from 9:00am to noon. If you would like a student to pick your donation up from your house, we may be able to arrange for that too! Just contact Miles.

Harvesters most needed items include: canned vegetables (low sodium); canned fruits in 100% juice; dried fruit (no added sugar preferred); canned chicken, tuna, salmon (packed in water); brown rice, whole grain pasta; dried beans or canned low sodium beans; peanut, almond, or sun butter; canned soup (chicken, tomato or vegetable); cereal — hot and cold (whole grain, low sugar preferred); soap, deodorant; shampoo; and toilet paper.

Summer Trips:

We are excited to be planning for both Mission and Music Trip and the Presbyterian Youth Triennium and this summer! Both are for rising high school freshmen through graduated seniors.

M&M: This year we are including College Freshmen and Sophomores who didn't get the chance to go on M&M for the past couple of summers. And to make sure we have enough singers we have even asked some older college students to join us. Our current plan is to travel to the Rosebud Reservation where we have served in past years, but we are considering other options too. We will travel June 17-24.

Triennium: Every 3 years the PCUSA host a national conference event that we attend as a group with other churches from Heartland Presbytery. We will travel in a bus together and do many other things as a large group. This year the Triennium will be in Indianapolis from July 24-27. Unlike past years we are promised to have airconditioned sleeping rooms, so we are very happy about that!

Upcoming Events

- **Souper Bowl of Caring** — February 13
(collecting donations throughout January)
- **Youth Super Bowl Party** — February 13
- **Youth Sunday** — March 6
- **Mission and Music Trip** — June 17-24
- **Presbyterian Youth Triennium** — July 24-27



February SMASH

Service, Music, Art, Sports,
Hangtime

Let God's Love Shine!

Sunday, February 20, 4-6pm
in Heartland Hall; SMASH is for
K-5th/6th grade kids are invited.

Our February SMASH will celebrate love. We will make a creative gift of love for our friends at Aberdeen Village. There will be awesome games and fun activities that will help us practice making God's love shine. Please RSVP to Christy Soule at christysoule@yahoo.com. Please let her know how many children will attend.

There's room for everyone in Sunday School!

Nursery: Room 22

Two's & Three's: Room 23

Preschool 4's & 5's: Room 25 (10:45 a.m. gathers here for Joy! Singers)

Kindergarten: Room 25 (10:45 a.m. gathers here for Joy! Singers)

Grace Makers Workshop Rotation classes move each week

1st—5th/6th Grades: Room 15 (10:45 a.m. gathers here for Celebration! Singers)

Grace Makers Workshop Rotation classes move each week

6th—8th Grades: Room 19b

High School: Room 19a

Join the Sunday School Team!

We are in need of Sunday school teachers for our 2s and 3s Sunday school class, as well as substitute teachers for all grades. If you love working with children and would like to teach, please contact Rev. Sue at sue.trigger@gcpc.org.



GCPC Little Food Pantry

February donation partner

Almost a year ago now, Jenna Soule installed a little food pantry on the east end of our property as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award. Since then, several church members have had a hand in keeping it stocked. The pantry is specifically checked twice a week. On many occasions, we notice several items have been taken and in a few situations, we have seen it wiped clean. We have seen surprise donations from outside the church being added as well. What a blessing it is to someone in need and what a blessing it is to know we are helping someone!

The Mission Team has selected our little food pantry as our February donation partner. We ask you to bring your donations to the week day entrance whenever you are at church during the month of February. The pantry can always take donations all year long. Please contact gcpc_littlefoodpantry@yahoo.com at anytime if you have questions/concerns.

Thank you for participating in us with this important ministry. The items most commonly consumed are: Individual Drinks (Gatorade, Apple Juice, Capri Suns); Individual Snacks - Chips/Cheez-its, Granola, Trail Mix, Fruit Snacks, Snack Pak, Fruit cups; Canned goods. Most popular items are Chef Boyardee and Progresso Soup; Small Peanut Butter Jars; Small Jelly; Noodles & Pasta Sauce.

Star Thank You

Stars for 2022 are brought to you by:
Gay Lee Bonney, Judy Mason, Cindy Schendel,
Sue Mehl, Donna Dearmore, Mary Ann Weyforth,
Susan Fitzgerald, Karen Pack, Teresa Ilten,
Sarah Byrd, Lynn Long, Terra Howard, Johnnie Baker,
Kathy Hockley, Ann Shadburn, and Chelly King.

Without their careful cutting and pasting,
we would be "star-less."

Many thanks, —Star Lady





GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Inclusive. Family Oriented. Welcoming.

11100 College Boulevard
Overland Park, KS 66210
Phone: 913-345-1256
Fax: 913-345-1198

gcpc.org



Follow us on Social Media!

Facebook: facebook.com/GraceCovenantPresbyterian

Twitter: @GraceCovPres

Instagram: @gcpc_overlandpark

CELEBRATING GOD'S ALL ENCOMPASSING LOVE!

CHURCH STAFF

Co Pastors

- Office hours: Monday-Thursday
Mitch Trigger, mitch.trigger@gcpc.orgext.18
Sue Trigger, sue.trigger@gcpc.orgext.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 Administrator..... Tara Hyder
Mon. 8-4; Tues./Weds. 8-12; /Thurs./Fri. by Appt.

Organist Linda Dover

Contemporary Music Coord. Carrie DeVries

Contemporary Music Drummer.....Daniel Cole

Child Care Coordinator.....Carolyn Chaffin

Wedding Coordinator.....Lara Schesser

Funeral CoordinatorMary Sue Thomas

ELDERS

Jim Byrd	Angela Krug
Ric Cummings	Mike Mattix
Miles Dalton (youth)	Terri Monrad
Andrew Frye	Diane Schmit
Katie Hearn	Kylie Sutherland (youth)
Cheryl Johnson	Susan Sutherland
Jane Knoche	Bill Turner

SUPPORT STAFF

Deacon ModeratorMeredith Watson
Operating Committee.....Susan Sutherland,
Mike Mattix, Terri Monrad, Ric Cummings
Newsletter Editor/Marketing..... Kim Krueger
Prayer ChainCheryl Johnson
Website AdministratorsKim Krueger,
Patrick Bell

MINISTRY UNITS

Congregational Nurture Unit Moderators
Connections and Care..... Diane Schmit
Worship and Music..... Kathy Bures,
Katie Hearn

Education Ministry Unit Moderators
AdultMaggie Blankers
ChildrenErin Frye, Angela Krug
Youth..... Bill Turner

Reach Out Ministry Unit Moderators
Kairos Rick Randolph
MissionMikki Walker
Welcoming Vacant

Supportive Ministry Unit Moderators
FacilityMarc Feyh
GenerosityDavid Sutherland
Finance..... Jim Byrd
Personnel Kevin Mason

Worship Schedule

9:30am Online Worship Only
in February 2022

Visit gcpc.org/online for links

Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines

March 2022 issue - Deadline, February 18

April 2022 issue - Deadline, March 18