



# GRACE NOTES

## Save the Date

## GCPC Annual BBQ & Potluck

Saturday, October 7, 5-7pm

Mark your calendar and save the date for the GCPC Annual BBQ and Potluck on Saturday, October 7th from 5:00 - 7:00pm.

Show off your BBQ skills and sign up to be a griller/ smoker! Contact Kevin Johnson to get involved at [krpj01@gmail.com](mailto:krpj01@gmail.com).

Aren't a griller? Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share! Sign up before or after church in the concourse or call the church office to let us know what you'd like to bring, and the number of people attending. Email to [office@gcpc.org](mailto:office@gcpc.org) or call 913-345-1256. Event sponsored by the Care and Connections Team.



## Volunteer at ReNewed Hope Food Pantry

ReNewed Hope makes a significant impact for good in our community by helping solve the problem of food insecurity—lack of reliable access to affordable, nutritious food. Many GCPC members have already volunteered at ReNewed Hope, and food donations may always be left in the bin in the Weekday Entrance.

ReNewed Hope needs many volunteers to fulfill their mission. They have service opportunities on Sunday afternoons, Tuesday mornings, and Friday evenings. Please check out their website for more information and use the links there or the Vomo app to volunteer! <https://renewedhopefoodpantry.org/>.

## Save Your Plastic Bags!

Please save your plastic grocery bags for Workshop Sunday!

For one of the service projects we'll be doing, we're going to need lots and lots of clean, dry plastic bags (think Walmart bags).

Please leave bags in the box in front of the sanctuary anytime between September 10 and October 8.

For any questions, contact Mikki Walker at [michala.walker@gmail.com](mailto:michala.walker@gmail.com).

Details about the 2023 Workshop Sunday can be found on page 6.



*GCPC Praise Team*

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](mailto:office@gcpc.org)  
[gcpc.org](http://gcpc.org)

In-Person Worship and Online Worship every Sunday on Facebook and Zoom.

Visit [gcpc.org/online](http://gcpc.org/online) for links!

## Getting to know

### GCPC Teams:

### The Session!

The Session is the governing body of Grace Covenant. While the Teams do most of the work of the Congregation, the Session handles some of the big decision making and tries to ensure that our programs are working together to fulfil our mission.

The Session consists of 12 ruling elders who typically serve on Session for 3 years and usually one elder who is a Youth member of the church who typically serves for one year. (Of course, if circumstances arise, an elder may resign from the Session before completing their term). The elders are called by the Nominating Committee and elected by the Congregation. The Session also has a clerk, who is an elder who has been elected by the Session members (and may or may not currently be serving on the Session) and a moderator (usually the Pastor, but a moderator may be appointed by the Presbytery in the absence of a Pastor).

Our Session typically meets on the 3rd Monday of each month. Members receive the minutes of all team level meetings, approve changes in membership, and vote on other decisions that impact the congregation. Serving on the Session is a responsibility and an honor. Once a person is ordained as an elder in the Presbyterian church, he or she is always an elder; the term on Session is limited. A member may serve on Session multiple times; many folks at Grace Covenant have done that, although most enjoy a break between terms.

If you think God may be calling you to serve Grace Covenant in this way, please contact Bill Turner or any member of the Nominating committee. They will be looking for our next class of four elders next spring to serve from June 2024-June 2027.

## Clerk's Corner

The August Session meeting was moderated by Rev. Stephen Wing. Rick Behrens and Carl Johnson from Heartland Presbytery's Commission on Ministry joined us to talk to us about the Triggers' ministry with us – what went well, what didn't go well - what we as a congregation want to look for in an Interim Pastor and what we need to work on as a congregation when we welcome a new called Pastor. We heard reports from most committees; much of their work is reported elsewhere in this newsletter and in the mid-week announcements. Big upcoming events include the the Stewardship Town Hall on September 10, a BBQ Potluck on October 7, and Workship on October 8.

A year ago the Personnel Team started working on a staffing report for the Session. Their very thorough report was presented to the Session this month. We will be studying it over the coming months as we discuss the best way to staff our Congregation at this time. A summary will be available to the congregation in a few weeks.

We agreed to pursue hiring a Bridge Pastor for several months, to start hopefully in October or November. One candidate has been identified and Tom Stroud, Barbara Douglas, and Jane Knoche will be reaching out to that person to determine whether this will be a good fit. Meanwhile, our IPNC has started meeting weekly in an effort to call the right Interim Pastor for Grace Covenant as expediently as possible.

—Melanie Townsend, Clerk

### Being the Church!

The Beth Brigade came about when deacon Nelson Townsend wanted Beth to be able to come to church even though Alan and I had moved. Nelson and I started by contacting people who had already given Beth rides, and then others we thought might be interested. The response was amazing, and with a calendar system set up by Laura Johnson, Beth has been back at GCPC since May! Thank you to everyone involved. — Gratefully, Barb Purvis

P.S. Contact Nelson if you want to learn more.

# MUSIC NOTES

## Music in Worship

### September 3rd

Organ led worship. Chancel & Exaltation! Singers (CHEX) Anthem: "Creation Will Be at Peace" by Anna Laura Page.

### September 10th

Praise Team led worship.

### September 17th

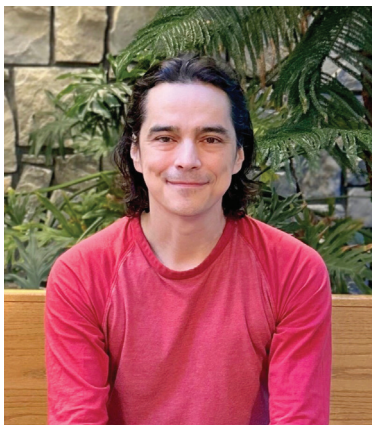
Organ led worship. CHEX Anthem: "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" setting by Eric Nelson with Katie Hearn, flute and Gay Lee Ludwig-Bonney, string bass; Joy! Singers (4s-1st grade) and Celebration! Choir (2nd-6th grade).

### September 24th

Organ led worship. Anthem: "Sing Community, Sing Peace" by Mark Hayes; Chancel Brass.

## Welcome Jason Turner!

GCPC welcomes Jason Turner as our new **Audio/Visual Technician**. Jason has a full range of film experience, and since 2000 he has worked as a filmmaker, producer, screenwriter, director, editor, and cinematographer. He also has extensive experience and skills in media including producing videos, social media, film reviews/articles, streaming, and voiceovers, and has won multiple awards at film festivals around the country. In the academic world Jason is nearing completion of a Bachelor of Science Degree in Digital Cinematography at Full Sail University. Welcome Jason to our staff!



## Music Ensembles Resume in September

**Wednesday, September 13th – 6:00-7:00pm**

**Charter Ringers (College – Adults) Room 1**  
Chris Krug & Celia Nicholas, co-directors

**Sunday, September 17th – 12:00-12:35pm**

**Spirit! Ringers (5th-8th graders) Room 1**  
Rebecca Prater, director

**Sunday, September 17th – 12:45-2:00pm**

**Jubilation! Ringers (7th graders-Adults) Room 1**  
Kathy Bures, director

**GCPC Orchestra – (8th graders – Adults)**  
**Rehearsals Thursday December 7th – 7:00-8:00pm**  
**& Saturday, December 9th – 10:30-11:30am**  
**Play in 9:30am Worship Sunday, December 10th**  
Pam Kelly, director

## These Music Ensembles have Already Begun

But there's still time to join!

**TUESDAYS from 7:00-8:15pm**

**Praise Team (Youth & Adults) – Sanctuary**  
Vocals, Instruments, & Keys  
Carrie DeVries, director

**SUNDAYS from 10:45-11:05am – Room 26**  
(At the beginning of Sunday School)

**Joy! (4s-1st graders)**  
Emily Hussey & Hilary Schmidt, directors  
and

**Celebration! Choir & Chimes (2nd-6th graders)**  
**Room 15**

Pam Kelly, director – Angela Krug, accompanist  
Lara Schesser, assistant director

**WEDNESDAYS – 7:05-8:30pm**

**Chancel Choir & Exaltation! Singers (CHEX)**  
(Youth & Adults)  
Rebecca Prater, director  
& Linda Dover, accompanist

*Please contact any of the directors or Rebecca Prater if you are interested in participating in any of the ensembles. We want to be prepared for you!*

# GCPC Loves Our Children



Our Sunday School program for the new school year has begun.

Our youngest children are enjoying their classes and our elementary aged kiddos have enjoyed computer and science rotations.

ATW is also in full swing. Our children ages 4 - 1st grade enjoy a children's worship service together as they learn the common components of our worship service.

**A big thank you to our teachers and volunteers for helping us get started off with great success!**



## Facebook Group

Have you joined our GCPC Children's Facebook group? If you join our group of amazing people, you'll have access to all the latest information on our GCPC Children's Program. Join today, all the cool kids are doing it. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gcpcchildren>.



SERVICE - MUSIC - ARTS - SPORTS - HANG-OUT

We love themes at Smash and this year's theme will be Children of the Bible.

Our first SMASH session of this series will be on September 17th. We will explore stories within the Bible that feature children. The story of a young girl named Miriam will start us off. Children in Kindergarten through 5th grade/6th grade are invited to join us for some learning and LOTS of fun.

RSVP via our GCPC Children's group Facebook event or email [gcpcchildren@gmail.com](mailto:gcpcchildren@gmail.com), and if you would like to volunteer as a helper with SMASH, sign up here: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a45a4a722a4fc1-smash1#](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a45a4a722a4fc1-smash1#/).



Our GCPC elementary aged kiddos know how to beat this late summer heat. Our SMASH program held its Back to School water play event in August. Splish Splash fun was had by all.

## Bible Workshop

Plans are underway for a Bible workshop for our 3rd grade students. We intend to hold this workshop in October. Families with 3rd grade kiddos, please watch your email for further details.



## Children's Events at a Glance

- Sept 3 ATW is available during worship;  
No Sunday School (Labor Day)
- Sept 10 ATW is available during worship;  
Full hour Music during Generosity Lunch
- Sept 17 ATW, Music & Sunday School,  
and SMASH from 4-6pm
- Sept 24 ATW, Music & Sunday School



## Save the Date!

### Trunk or Treat - October 29, 12 noon

Join us for Lunch, Games and Trunk or Treating!

We are looking for folks to host a trunk and a few other donation items. If you would like to help make this event a terrifying terrific success, please see our sign up genius here: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a45a4a722a4fc1-trunk2#](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a45a4a722a4fc1-trunk2#/).



# Sunday, October 8 will be GCPC's 5th annual Workshop Sunday event!

We'll start with a brief worship service at 9:30am. From 10am to about noon, we'll pursue the service opportunities described below. At approximately noon, we will gather for a **Taco Salad Lunch and Fellowship** (*suggested \$5 donation; maximum \$20 per family*).



**GRACE COVENANT**

## Sign-ups will start on September 10 and run through October 1.

We're branching out this year with some new projects; read on to find out more! Please sign up each person in your family for a service project and indicate whether that person will join us for lunch. Kids are welcome at all the projects! Children under 5 are welcome in the nursery, which will be open the usual hours.

**The website link for sign-ups will be announced soon!**

## We hope to see everyone there!

Contact Mikki Walker at [michala.walker@gmail.com](mailto:michala.walker@gmail.com) or 913-558-2603 with any questions or difficulties.

**The Whole Person Fall Leaf Clean Up** – The Whole Person provides services to people with disabilities to ensure they are able live to independently in their communities. We'll be traveling to the homes of some of their clients who need help with fall landscape maintenance. Bring your work gloves, and wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty. We will need to haul away the bags of yard waste and dispose of them ourselves, either at home or by taking them to a recycling/composting center. Please think about whether you could help with taking away the bags when you sign up for this project. This project is limited to a maximum of 20 people.

**Beautify and Improve GCPC** – With the help of Facilities team, we'll do many tasks to tidy up and make improvements in and around our own building: washing windows, cleaning under pews, sweeping, dusting, clearing fallen sticks and other parking lot debris. Bring a pair of work gloves if you want to work outside!

**Mission Quilts/Tactile Quilts**– Help tie and bind a quilt for homeless relief, or make tactile quilts for nursing home residents with dementia. No sewing experience or supplies are necessary; we'll teach you what to do for either project. (If you have a sewing machine and want to bring it to make tactile quilts, that's great! But you don't have to bring a sewing machine to do either project.)

**Tour the Project Living Proof House at Metropolitan Energy Center** - Join this project to tour a historic demonstration home in KCMO and learn how sustainability and efficiency are possible and affordable, even in older homes. Visit <https://metroenergy.org/programs/project-living-proof/> for more details. This project is limited to a maximum of 20 people.

**Starfish Project Plastic Bag Mats** - Sarah Stolberg from Project Starfish will teach us how to make mats from plastic grocery bags. Project Starfish distributes these mats to unhoused individuals to ensure they won't have to sleep on the bare ground. No experience is necessary! Please start saving clean, dry plastic bags (like Walmart bags) for this project - you can bring them on Workshop Sunday or drop them in the big box in front of the sanctuary any time after September 10.

**Lunch + Clean Up** - Hungry people are going to come back from these projects and need lunch! Join this project to help prepare and serve lunch, set up Heartland Hall, and clean up afterwards. Everybody on this team gets lunch for free! This project is limited to about 10 people.

# Generosity Team Update

Here is our pledging update as of August 15, 2023, which is 62.5% of the calendar year.

There's been wonderful progress with 63% of Submitted pledge amounts and 68% of rollover pledges received. We are very grateful for timely generosity of our members. We continue to see our 0% fulfilled numbers decreasing. As always, **we thank you for your generosity and commitment to Grace Covenant.**

Please provide feedback to our team: Dave Sutherland, Ryan Hussey, Bill Brown, and Jane Knoche.

Here is our giving progress shown by numbers of pledges:

| Submitted Pledges (103) | April 12  | May 16    | June 19   | August 15 |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 0% fulfilled            | 32        | 24        | 22        | 15        |
| 1-25% fulfilled         | 33        | 12        | 10        | 4         |
| 26-50% fulfilled        | 29        | 52        | 50        | 18        |
| 51-75% fulfilled        | 0         | 3         | 8         | 44        |
| 76-100% fulfilled       | 7         | 11        | 13        | 22        |
| \$533,282.63            | \$187,129 | \$211,292 | \$259,907 | \$337,665 |

| Rollover Pledges (27) | April 12 | May 16   | June 19  | August 15 |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| 0% fulfilled          | 11       | 9        | 8        | 6         |
| 1-25% fulfilled       | 6        | 1        | 1        | 0         |
| 26-50% fulfilled      | 9        | 9        | 10       | 5         |
| 51-75% fulfilled      | 1        | 5        | 3        | 8         |
| 76-100% fulfilled     | 1        | 4        | 6        | 8         |
| \$101,369             | \$15,480 | \$53,965 | \$59,355 | \$68,930  |

Five groupings are used to show giving progress and calendar relationship. They are 0%, 1-25%, 26-50%, 51-75%, 76-100%. Each pledge falls into one of these groups.

## Faith and Hope Campaign Closeout

Our \$50,000 Faith and Hope Campaign is closing out. We received one additional gift in July! With the departure of three staff members, our deficit budget needs are not as critical. Thank you for to each of our 38 members/households for your supplemental pledge! As of August 15, 2023, \$22,710.20 has been raised.

## Mark your Calendar for the Town Hall — September 10 after worship in Heartland Hall.

Lunch will be provided by the Generosity Team. Each team will provide a brief review of the proposed 2024 budget, and you will have the opportunity to ask questions, provide feedback, and let us know your thoughts before the budget is finalized and then approved by Session.

# IHN Update

Thank you to everyone that was on standby and was able to help with our August IHN rotation. Your flexibility is wonderful! We had four guests scheduled Thursday, two showed up and one remained the rest of the week. A bit disappointing until you hear that our guest just paid off her eviction notice that week! The other two guests joined on Sunday — and this Tuesday a family of four started the program. So we have one single woman, two moms, one teen, and three boys!

**The 12th annual fundraising Auction for JOCO IHN is coming September 28.** Historically, each congregation creates a basket valued at \$100, which the auction attendees bid on during the silent auction portion of the evening. We have a \$50 donation toward our gift basket and a Kenyan nativity set donation. JOCO IHN has revamped their web site. You can buy your ticket to the dinner and silent auction or just register for the silent auction there — [JOCOIHN.org](http://JOCOIHN.org).



# GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Inclusive. Family Oriented. Welcoming.**

11100 College Boulevard  
Overland Park, KS 66210  
Phone: 913-345-1256  
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## CHURCH STAFF

**Director of Music Ministries**  
- Office hours: Monday-Wednesday, Friday  
**Rebecca Prater**, [rebecca.prater@gcpc.org](mailto:rebecca.prater@gcpc.org) ...ext. 13

**Church Administrator**  
- Office hours: Monday-Friday  
**Patrick Bell**, [patrick.bell@gcpc.org](mailto:patrick.bell@gcpc.org) ..... ext. 10

**Youth Coordinator** .....Lindsay Callender  
[lindsaymichelle0130@gmail.com](mailto:lindsaymichelle0130@gmail.com)

**Finance Administrator** .....Tara Hyder  
.....[finance@gcpc.org](mailto:finance@gcpc.org)

**Organist** ..... Linda Dover

**Audio/Visual Technician** ..... Jason Turner

**Contemporary Music Coord.** ..... Carrie DeVries

**Contemporary Music Drummer** .....Jill Endaya

**Child Care Coordinator** .....Carolyn Chaffin

**Wedding Coordinator** .....Kristy Shaw

**Funeral Coordinator** .....Mary Sue Thomas

## ELDERS

|                 |                                    |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Joy Circo       | Jaylee Soule                       |
| Barbara Douglas | Tom Stroud                         |
| Katie Hearn     | Melanie Townsend,<br>Session clerk |
| Jane Knoche     | Bill Turner                        |
| Angela Krug     | Michala Walker                     |
| Lara Schesser   | Mary Ann Weyforth                  |
| Jake Schmidt    |                                    |
| Kristy Shaw     |                                    |

## SUPPORT STAFF

Deacon Moderator .....Anne Stroud

Operating Committee..... Terri Monrad,  
Ric Cummings, Katie Hearn, Angela Krug

Newsletter Editor/Marketing..... Kim Krueger

Prayer Chain .....Cheryl Johnson

Website Administrators .....Kim Krueger,  
Patrick Bell, Christy Soule

**Follow us on Social Media!**

Facebook: [facebook.com/GraceCovenantPresbyterian](https://facebook.com/GraceCovenantPresbyterian)  
Instagram: @gcpc\_overlandpark

## MINISTRY UNITS

Congregational Nurture Unit Moderators  
Connections and Care....Mary Ann Weyforth  
Worship and Music..... Kathy Bures,  
Katie Hearn

Education Ministry Unit Moderators  
Adult .....Tom Stroud  
Children ..... Angela Krug  
Youth..... Lara Schesser

Reach Out Ministry Unit Moderators  
Kairos ..... Rick Randolph  
Mission .....Mikki Walker  
Welcoming ..... Kathy 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](http://gcpc.org/online) for links

## Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines

October 2023 issue - Deadline, September 19  
November 2023 issue - Deadline, October 17