



REAL FAITH | REAL STORIES | REAL GRACE

GRACE NOTES

Being Thankful

During the Season of Thanks Giving at Grace Covenant, we've tried to emphasize the importance of "being thankful" in our lives. It's important in our daily lives, but we can't begin to express its importance in the way we follow Jesus Christ.

In 2017, we read an article from *Greater Good Magazine* which stated:

Researchers define **appreciation** as the act of acknowledging the goodness in life—in other words, seeing the positives in events, experiences, or other people (like our colleagues). **Gratitude** goes a step further: It recognizes how the positive things in our lives—like a success at work—are often due to forces outside of ourselves, particularly the efforts of other people. But this kind of thinking can seem countercultural in the realm of hierarchies and promotions, where everyone is trying to get ahead and may be reluctant to acknowledge their reliance on—or express emotions to—their co-workers.

While the writers were writing about the positive aspects of appreciation and gratitude in the workplace, we recognized that Jesus spoke of these same ideas but not simply in the workplace. They are necessary for our entire lives. Over the years, we've seen many churches where the building blocks of Christianity – appreciation, gratitude, **and forgiveness** – are often missing or given very little consideration.

If we all look back at our own lives, we think we'll all find a time when we would have appreciated receiving some of that appreciation, gratitude, or forgiveness. And if we look a little harder, we'll also find times when we could have shown appreciation, gratitude, or forgiveness to someone else – and we didn't.

For the church to really **be** the church of Jesus, those three things – appreciation, gratitude, and forgiveness – can't be things we do when it's easy. They need to be part of our every day lives as Christians if we are truly going to emulate Jesus. And wouldn't it be sad if we received those things more at work than in church?

Something to consider, — **Mitch and Sue**



Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church celebrates God's unbounded grace and all-inclusive love.

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

Clerk's Corner

The **October 18, 2021, Session meeting** was held via Zoom with Reverend Sue Trigger serving as moderator. In addition to the ruling elders, deacon Meredith Watson, Reverend Mitch Trigger and Mikki Walker were in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm and Katie Hearn shared a devotion, based on 2 Corinthians 8:2-15 which encourages the church members to excel in the grace of giving, and offered a prayer.

Open Forum: Mikki Walker, moderator of the Mission Team, presented information about the possibility of working with Catholic Charities to help settle refugees in the Kansas City area. A motion was approved for the Mission team to be able to poll the congregation as to interest levels of helping refugees. Angela Krug asked whether it was safe to set out posters for Red Bag gifts. It was suggested to have a cup of clean pens and another for used pens. Rev. Sue Trigger reported that the review of membership rolls is progressing through the church staff.

Consent agenda: The minutes of the September 20 Session meeting were approved. Harold Frye, Diane Schmit, Katie Hearn and Angela Krug were affirmed as commissioners to the November 20 Presbytery meeting.

Team minutes: Generosity team: The pledge drive began on October 10 and letters will be going out. The online portal is open but you need to specify 2022. Mission team: Session extends its thanks to Mikki Walker and the rest of the Mission team, as well as Liz Chandler of Facilities team, for their work in setting up the Workshop Sunday activities. It was a very fun day which produced: 89 letters, 2 quilts, 45 craft bags, Uplift casseroles to feed 300, a cleaner stream and completed projects inside and outside the church, along with good fellowship.

Clerk's report: After recording the death of Wes Plagman, we have 398 members.

Co-pastors' report: There were no questions about the co-pastors' report submitted by Rev. Mitch Trigger. He served communion to Bob, Pat and Pam Wormus at their home.

Deacons' report: Meredith Watson reported the deacons are eager to be able to meet with their groups in person. It's difficult to know who's attending church and who isn't. Katie Hearn offered to help set up a process for people to check in online with a QR code.

Old business: While people are tiring of wearing masks, we want to ensure that we continue to wear them in the church building since children are not vaccinated. The CDC is still recommending that we don't pass offering plates and communion. There was discussion about snacks in the ATW rooms (since there's less air circulating in that room) and whether the barbecue would be safe. It was decided to put hand sanitizer at the beginning and the end of the serving table and to encourage people to spread out to eat, even going outside.

New business: None.

After sharing joys and concerns, the meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m. and Rev. Sue Trigger closed with a prayer.

Tutoring Opportunity With The Learning Club of Kansas City, Kansas

In 2002, The Learning Club of Kansas City, Kansas began providing after-school tutoring for inner city children in Kansas City, Kansas.

The Learning Club serves over 100 inner city children, mostly grades one through six, through one-hour tutoring sessions. The tutoring takes place in the mid to late afternoon (after school), typically at a public housing project in Kansas City, Kansas. It is about a 90-minute commitment one day a week Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, as a tutor's schedule permits.

This is a great opportunity to use education to help break the cycle of poverty. Most of the children are persons of color. Most of the tutors are Caucasian. That interaction is valuable for both children and tutors. Check out the whole story at www.LearningClubKck.org.

B-13, O-79 — BINGO!!!!!!

Friday, November 12 at 6:30pm

Get ready for a fun night of Intergenerational B-I-N-G-O fun for the whole family.

Are you sick of being cooped up because of COVID, miss seeing your friends? Care and Connections has heard your cry for help and is sponsoring a BINGO night, Friday November 12, at 6:30pm in Heartland Hall.



We ask everyone to bring a heavy hors d'oeuvres to share. Plates, drinks, etc. will be provided. There is no cost to play and cards and BINGO markers will be provided. There will be plenty of fun and prizes so bring your whole family and friends and come join the fun.

We look forward to seeing you in Heartland Hall Friday, November 12, at 6:30pm. Questions, please contact Diane Schmit.

Our IHN Rotation is coming this month

We will be hosting our Interfaith Hospitality Network guests from Sunday, November 7th to the 14th in our lower level. In advance of this week, we will have asked for evening and overnight Host volunteers, folks to help with providing 7 dinners, and one Saturday breakfast, van drivers, set up and take down crews, and our wonderful laundry volunteers.

As you may recall our August rotation was fully ready, but was cancelled due to guests being asked to leave the program. At press time, our program has 2 families, and two single women. If you are not comfortable being around unvaccinated children at this time, we understand your hesitancy, and still rely on your prayers and support for our Host Week.

Medical Equipment

If you are in need of medical equipment, the church has many items available to borrow. Please contact the church office or Chelly King if you are interested in any of the items listed below.

Currently at the Church

3 wheelchairs
2 1-footed canes
Shoulder immobilizer
2 sets of crutches

Currently at Chelly King's Home

2 -4 footed canes
1 reg cane
1 bed rail
1 bedside or over toilet commode
1 3-wheeled triangular walker

Gay Lee Ludwig Bonney has a scooter to lend out, and Kim Krueger has a transport wheelchair for anyone's use.

2022 VISION

Vision 2022

November 13, 9am – 12pm

*"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."*

On Saturday, November 13, 9am – Noon, we will put our hearts and minds together to envision where God is calling us, and to build a strategy for the future. This will be an important collaborative conversation during which every voice is valued.

In order to include everyone, we will hold the meeting in the sanctuary so that those who desire to join us from home will be able to ZOOM into the meeting at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84130023306?pwd=K1FNNnJXTjFVbmJQcmcwRlN1UDI2dz09>. Meeting ID: 841 3002 3306 Passcode: GCPC2021.



Joy! Choir

Join the Grace Makers Team!

We have created a new and exciting experience for children to learn Bible stories through creative workshops in art, science, music, puppetry, games, and more. Each week the children will experience a story through one of these workshops. Leaders will select a favorite area (science, art, etc.), partner with a friend, and lead a workshop for two weeks in a row. There will be 6–8 weeks between your workshops. This is a great way for children to learn in a variety of ways and build relationships with our adults.

If you love working with children and would like to be part of this program, please contact Rev. Sue at sue.trigger@gcpc.org.



November Sunday School Classes

The November chill is in the air and it's time to begin moving toward the Season of Advent. Our Sunday school classes will guide the way as we continue to learn about Jesus' practices and teachings in the Follow Me curriculum. This month, our Sunday school classes will learn about ways we can follow Jesus through love and repentance. Jesus gave two commandments as the most important teachings to follow. Both of them involve love: love God and love your neighbor as you love yourself. Our classes will practice ways they can love as Jesus taught. Together we will dive into the essence of what makes a Christian. Find the class that is right for you.

Adult Education

When Jesus says, "Follow me," we are being invited into God's reality of reconciling love. When we choose to follow Jesus, to become a disciple, we are choosing to be taught and formed into someone who is Christlike. Jesus shows us what we are choosing; restored fellowship with God and one another.



Follow Me is a Biblical study of the practices of faith in a whole new learning format. The curriculum is divided into 4–6 week units that address a particular faith practice. **We are currently in a unit about repentance, "Confess."** The class will discuss the practice of confession. According to the gospel of Matthew, Jesus began his ministry where John the Baptist left off. Both men preached a message of repentance. To repent means to turn around. Imagine walking down the wrong path and to find the right path you must turn around. That is repentance.

Participants will discuss the practice of confession, both as individuals and as a community. They will also look at how this practice is completed through the repair or relationships.

Come for a unit, come for a class, or come every Sunday! The adult class meets in Room 3. **Take a look at what's coming up:**

October 24–November 21 **Confess:** Confess; Repent: As Individuals; Repent: As Communities; Repair

December 5–January 2 **Hope:** Hope is Waiting in Faith

January 9–February 6 **Baptize:** Remember Your Baptism; Cross the Divide; Die and Rise; Honor the Body

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

Follow Me Café Conversations

If you are looking for a more reflective, light conversation about discipleship, join Rev. Mitch for a café conversation. These conversations provide brief information and invite a self-guided study. **This class meets in Room 21.**

Church (PCUSA) and Society Adult Education Class

The Room 4 Adult Education class in November (7, 14, 21) will focus on church (PCUSA) and society issues such as immigration, military spending, abortion, etc.

In talking about a particular issue, we will ask:

- What does the PCUSA/Bible say about the issue?
- What is our society doing on this issue?
- Is there a difference between church direction and societal action?

The specific issues to be discussed have not been fully determined, but we will start with the immigration issue. If you have an interest in a particular issue, let discussion leader Dave Pack know about it (djpack.12645@gmail.com). Bring your Bible.

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



Thank you Church Family

My deepest appreciation to my church family for all the prayers, cards, meals, support and other expressions of love since late August. I have found comfort and a deep sense of peace from all of you. My endless gratitude to each of you for also loving my children and their families. Grace and peace. Thank you. —*Johnnie Baker*

MUSIC NOTES

LOOKING AHEAD TO MUSIC IN WORSHIP FOR NOVEMBER & ADVENT 2021

Sunday, November 7th – ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

5th Sunday in the Season of Thanks Giving

- Chancel Quartet, Jubilation! Ringers, then Chancel & Exaltation! Singers I, II, & III combine to sing "Swingin' with the Saints" arr. Mark Hayes with Christopher Callender, bass guitar & Daniel Cole, drum set (*pre-recorded*)

Sunday, November 14th

6th Sunday in the Season of Thanks Giving

- Praise Team, Joy! (4s-K), Celebration! (1st-6th graders), and Charter Ringers

Sunday, November 21st

7th Sunday in the Season of Thanks Giving

- Chancel Quartet and Chancel Singers I (*pre-recorded*)

Sunday, November 28th

1st Sunday of ADVENT

- Chancel Quartet, Chancel & Exaltation! Singers II with Instrumental Quartet (*pre-recorded*)

a CHRISTMAS EXCLAMATION

Sunday, December 5th at 6pm

We missed this special program last year, but in 2021...it's back!

Pull out your ugly Christmas sweater, Santa hat, or jingle bells, bring your family & friends, & join us for this fun & festive Christmas program. You'll hear our children, youth, & adults singing & ringing some of our Christmas favorites, we'll throw in some funny Christmas videos, & who knows what other surprises there will be! It's a "don't miss event!"



Celebration! Choir



SONGS OF THE SEASON

will be presented at 9:30am
on Sunday, December 5th
2nd Sunday of ADVENT
by Praise Team
– Carrie DeVries, director

Songs include:

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" by KING & COUNTRY
"Be Born In Me (MARY)"
from music inspired by *The Story* by Francesca Battistelli
"Joseph's Lullaby" by Mercy Me
"Light of the Stable" by Selah
"Gloria/Angels We Have Heard on High" by Casting Crowns
and on

Sunday, December 19th at 9:30am

The 4th Sunday of ADVENT

by Chancel & Exaltation! Singers and Instrumentalists*

– Linda Dover, organist, Patrick O'Halloran and Rebecca Prater, directors

Songs include:

"Rise, Shine!" by Marques L. A. Garrett & Tom Trenney
"What Strangers Are These?"
arr. Dan Forrest with Katie Hearn, flute
and Christopher Callender, guitar
"Shepherd, Play Your Pipes Tonight"
by Mark Shepperd – with Bob Dover, clarinet
"Angels We Have Heard on High"
arr. Mack Wilberg – with Linda Dover, organ
"Peace On Earth" by Christopher G. Krug

*A safety note about this choral presentation: Chancel Choir & Exaltation! Singers I, II, & III will combine to present their songs Live in the sanctuary from the choir loft. All singers are fully vaccinated, will be masked, and will be distanced from each other and the congregation. As always, this worship service will also be available online to view and participate in.

Sunday, December 12th

3rd Sunday of Advent

- Chancel Quartet, Chancel Singers III, & GCPC Wind Ensemble(s) will share their songs

Youth Page

Homeless Night – November 13!

This year we plan to tour and maybe serving at a Tiny House Village created for veterans who are housing challenged. We are also hoping to be joined by youth from Lee's Summit Pres. Expect the unexpected but plan to spend the night outside in a cardboard box. We are now accepting RSVPs from students so we know we have enough participants to pull off the event - friends are welcome!

M&M

We are in the beginning stages of planning our high school M&M trip for 2022!

Who: GCPC youth currently in 8th grade or above – we are extending the top limit to include recent grads.

When: Either the 2nd or 3rd full week of June 2022 (somewhere between June 10-25).

Where: Location TBD but the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota is high on the list.

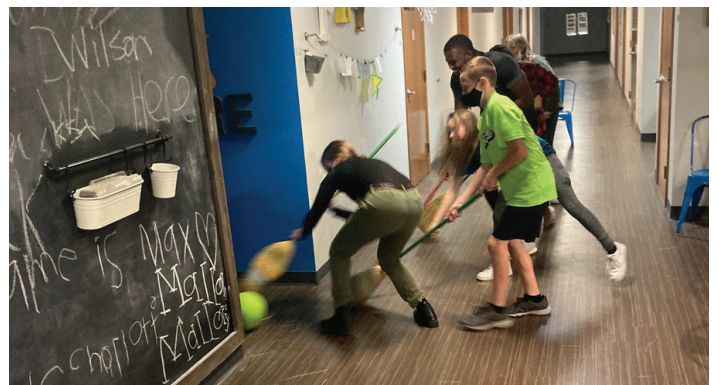
Details: We will travel by bus or van and serve various organizations for 4-5 days with one fun day. Our musicians provide 4-5 performances throughout the week. If we do not have enough singers and bell players to fill out the music portion of this experience the trip will be mission only.

Coming Up

On November 7 we will be gift shopping for a Red Bag recipient. November 21 we have scheduled a hayride and bonfire at Heartland Camp including roasting hotdogs and s'mores.

Red Bag Gift-Wrapping Fundraiser

We are looking forward to a wrapping party for Red Bag on November 28 from 1-3pm. People are welcome to drop off their Red Bag gifts unwrapped (but well-marked) to our youth after church that day in Heartland Hall. Our students will wrap them in exchange for a free-will offering that will go to the Red Bag organization.



November SMASH

Learn to See Through the Lens of Love

Jesus was asked to recite the two most important commandments. He replied with Luke 24: 28–34. The November SMASH will explore how we can show God's love and see God's love in others. K–5th/6th grade kids are invited to come and enjoy showing love to our friends at Aberdeen Village with a homemade craft. We will learn through science experiments, games and more. **Join us on November 21, 4–6pm, in Heartland Hall.**

Please RSVP to help us safely prepare for supplies. RSVP to Rev. Sue at sue.trigger@gcpc.org. Please let her know how many children will attend.



Hope Beyond Hope Advent 2021

"Christian hope is not wishful thinking, or a feathery thing perched delicately on our souls. Hope beyond hope is like a strong rope that pulls us up and guides us to safety."

—Charlene Jin Lee, Follow Me curriculum

HOPE beyond hope

The pandemic has been with us nearly two years now and we are struggling to navigate our way through this dark valley. We need a strong rope to pull us up and guide us to safety. During the season of Advent, our congregation is going to focus on the same prophecies that gave hope to God's people long ago. Each week we will prepare for the coming of Christ that will soon take center stage.

Our children and adult Sunday morning classes will study stories from the Bible that help us to hear hope, see hope, share hope, and proclaim hope. These themes will also shape our worship services as we consider how we can practice hope in the kin-dom of God. We will make visible the coming reign of God's justice, love and grace in the world today. Imperfectly, yet faithfully, we will continue the ministry of Jesus the Christ by sharing the light of hope for the searching and weary among us.

Hope Beyond Hope Advent Fair

Sunday, November 28

10:30am (immediately following worship) in Heartland Hall

Folks of all ages will be introduced to the four themes of Advent at this year's fair. We will enjoy a variety of activities that will help you continue celebrating Advent at home. This year will include making an Advent wreath for you to use at home.

In order to have enough supplies, we need everyone who wants a wreath to sign up. There will be two wreath options — a paper wreath for families with young children and a traditional wreath with greenery and candles.

To sign up, go to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A45A4A722A4FC1-hope>, sign up on the bulletin board outside Heartland Hall, or contact Rev. Sue at sue.trigger@gcpc.org.



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Inclusive. Family Oriented. Welcoming.

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CELEBRATING GOD'S ALL ENCOMPASSING LOVE!

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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

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Prayer ChainCheryl Johnson
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Worship and Music..... Melanie Townsend,
Katie Hearn

Education Ministry Unit Moderators
AdultMaggie Blankers
ChildrenErin Frye, Angela Krug
Youth.....Kaki Conti

Reach Out Ministry Unit Moderators
Kairos Rick Randolph
MissionMikki Walker
WelcomingVacant

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

Worship Schedule

9:30am In-Person & Online Worship
Visit gcpc.org/online for links

Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines

December 2021 issue - Deadline, November 19
January 2022 issue - Deadline, December 17