



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship — March 16, 2025

*“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that
Some have entertained angels without knowing it.” — Hebrews 13:2*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! Thank you for worshipping with us today.

ELDER ON DUTY: Melanie Townsend

HEAD USHERS: Mike & Susan Fitzgerald

HEARING ASSIST DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE. Please ask at the sound booth.

NURSERY CARE is available during worship, located in Room 22 in the east wing.

RECORD YOUR ATTENDANCE AT TODAY’S WORSHIP SERVICE WITH OUR VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE

PAD: Click this link: <https://bit.ly/GCPCattendance>, or scan the QR Code below.



CONTACTING STAFF: The main office is open 8am–4pm, M–F. To reach a staff member by e-mail:

- **Rev. Karen Wright (Transitional Pastor):** karen.wright@gcpc.org
- **Emily Nelson Dixon (Dir. of Christian Education):** emily.dixon@gcpc.org
- **Patrick O’Halloran (Interim Dir. of Music Ministries):** patrick.ohalloran@gcpc.org
- **Patrick Bell (Office Admin.):** patrick.bell@gcpc.org
- **Tara Hyder (Finance Admin.):** finance@gcpc.org
- **Jason Turner (Audio/Technical Dir.):** Please e-mail both darktrainfilms@gmail.com & gcpc.media@gmail.com. If you need a video or audio played in worship, please send the link to Jason on the Wednesday prior to Sunday’s worship.

“Pray for one another” — James 5:15

We encourage you to remember the following in prayer:

All Grieving the Death of a Loved One

Surgeries/Hospitalizations/Illnesses: Cindy Schendel, Dorothy Stalling, Dave Stalling, Linda Rosine, Lara Schesser, Kevin Johnson, Shirley Faulwell, Sue Mehl

Cancer Treatment: Harold Farren, Katie Rickley, David Schesser, Cindy Schendel

Aging Challenges: Lee Will, Stewart Nelson, Charlie Bogan

Military Service: David Zak, C.J. Bradley, Seth Lorimer, Mary E. Johnson II, Alanna Funk, Shannon Lorimer, Clara Frye, Eliana Wilson. **All veterans, deployed military, and reservists.**

Our Mission Co-Workers: Jeff and Christi Boyd in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Leslie Vogel, PC (USA) Regional Liaison for Guatemala and Mexico.

Peace and Relief Workers; Unemployed and Underemployed; Families Struggling with Separation and Divorce; Individuals Struggling with Depression; Those Contemplating Suicide and Those Left Behind.

Heartland Presbytery Partnership of Prayer: Parkville Presbyterian Church, Parkville, MO; Southminster Presbyterian Church, Prairie Village, KS

(If you have a prayer request you would like to include in the bulletin, please contact the church office at office@gcpc.org, or send to gcpc.prayers@gmail.com.)

SPOTLIGHT

THE SEASON OF LENT: Lent is a season of reflection, repentance, and renewal. It is a time to journey with Christ toward the cross, examining our hearts and drawing closer to God. This year our Lenten theme, *“Journey of Resistance: Overcoming Temptation in Luke,”* invites us to consider the struggles we all face — temptations that seek to pull us away from God’s purpose for our lives. As we resist the temptations of anger, greed, fear, power, or complacency, we also embrace something deeper: the grace, love, and transformation God offers. What might we need to surrender to follow Christ more faithfully? View all of our Lenten resources at gcpc.org/lent

CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY: Help us shape the next chapter of our ministry together by participating in an online survey: <https://gcpc.org/about-us/survey.html>. Thank you for your time, prayers, and commitment to this important endeavor.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR GCPC FAMILY for making our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper a success again this year! Thank you for braving the storms that night to support our kiddos! We had a blast and made some much-needed funds for our awesome summer VBS

program. Not only did we pack out the room with people, music, laughter, and pancakes, we also had SO many helpers! Thank you! Whether you donated supplies, helped set-up, flipped pancakes, or helped clean-up — you *better* believe we appreciate you!

A BEAUTIFUL DISPLAY OF SPRING FLOWERS will transform the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. The flowers are provided through the generosity of members who donate flowers “in memory of” or “in honor of” a friend or loved one. If you would like to be a part of this tradition, simply place your donation in the specially marked envelope provided in the pews or send your donation along with your name and whom the memorial/honor recognizes to the church office: GCPC, 11100 College Blvd., OPKS 66210, Attn. Patrick. (PLEASE PRINT THE MEMORIAL/HONOR NAMES NEATLY IN BLOCK LETTERS.) You may also make a donation through the online giving portal of our website. The deadline for names to be included in the bulletin insert is Monday, April 14. Thank you!

GARDENING ANGELS: OUR MISSION TO THE COMMUNITY is to provide a pleasant and inviting presence at College Blvd. and Nieman Rd. In addition to our architecturally pleasing building, we have multiple flowerbeds and green spaces that require attention throughout the year. As we celebrate 40 years of answering God’s call to serve at this location, we look forward to re-establishing a tried and true method of caring for our garden at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church. We are asking for volunteers to choose a flower bed or garden area to care for during the upcoming year. Our plan is to have small groups — two to six individuals to pick an area to care for, such as clean up from winter, spring planting, summer and fall care to clean up when season is done. Some of these seasons may not require weekly attention as most of the gardens do have automatic watering several times a week. You will be reminded of the needs of the various spaces throughout the seasons. **This Sunday a sign-up table will be in the concourse.** Please prayerfully consider this opportunity as your mission for the 40th Celebration of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church.

RESCHEDULED IHN VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCH — TODAY: The luncheon will celebrate the generous commitment GCPC has made to IHN over the past 20 years. A light lunch will begin after Sunday school of sandwiches, fruit and cookies. Please know how grateful we are to each and every volunteer and for GCPC itself for being a host church from the beginning of the program to being two of the last churches to be involved with the church model of the program. JOCO IHN is continuing through 2025 with the motel model and appreciates your prayers and monetary support. For more information contact Jane (jeknoche@att.net) or Christine (crcaseres032@gmail.com). We express our gratitude to the Mission Team for their support and whose budget will pay for this event.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET: Lent is a season of reflection, repentance, and renewal—a journey with Christ toward the cross. Our 2025 Lenten Devotional Booklet is a companion for your Lenten journey, offering reflections to pause, pray, and realign with God. May it encourage you to walk in faithfulness, trusting in God’s strength. Thank you to Harold Frye, Stephen Wing, Sarah Evans, Nelson Townsend, Eileen Thomson, Nancy Kalesz, Dave Pack, Karen Wright, Kevin

Johnson, and Kim Krueger, who contributed to the booklet. **DOWNLOAD the booklet at gcpc.org/lent.**

REDUCE, RECYCLE, RE-USE: TODAY, we conclude our fourth Reduce, Recycle, Reuse giveaway. Please gather after worship to peruse the tables in the concourse. Come see the goodies we are giving away!

MAKE PLANS TO DONATE BLOOD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 25, between 2–6pm, in Heartland Hall at GCPC! New donors are always welcome! Contact Sarah Byrd, 913-909-1559 or swbyrdks@gmail.com, with questions.

Sign up here: <https://donate.savealifenow.org/donor/auth/signin>

40TH ANNIVERSARY CRAFT FAIR — JOIN THE CELEBRATION! Join us as we celebrate 40 years of faith and community with a special **Craft Fair on Saturday, March 29, from 9am to 2pm** in the concourse and Heartland Hall. Browse unique handmade goods from local artisans—home décor, jewelry, textiles, seasonal gifts, baked treats, and more! Enjoy refreshments, reconnect with friends, and support talented crafters. Let's come together to honor our "**Faithful Journey**" with creativity and fellowship. Bring a friend and don't miss out!

CRAFT FAIR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The 40th Anniversary Committee is looking for volunteers to assist in a variety of ways both before and during the Craft Fair on Saturday, March 29. Whether you can lend a hand for a few hours or a few days, your help will be invaluable in making this event a success. Sign up to help at gcpc.org/volunteer.

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS OUR ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT on Saturday, April 5, 5:30–7:30pm. We will once again be led by our tremendous trivia master, Jake Schmidt. Pizza will be provided. ***Check the concourse for the "Trivia Questions" box and submit your questions!*** So put on your thinking caps and please join us! Nursery care will be provided. Activities will be available for Kindergarteners through 5th graders. Sign-up sheets for Trivia Night and child care will be available on Sundays, March 23 and 30. You can also call the office, 913.345.1256, to sign up.

ADULT

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS LENTEN SERIES: Join us each Sunday at 10:45am for an Adult Education Class, led by Rev. Karen Wright, based on the Lenten Sermon Series, "*Journey of Resistance: Overcoming Temptation in Luke.*" She will engage us further in the text and challenge us to consider: What temptations do we face in our daily lives? How do we continually turn away from what pulls us from God and return to Him? Today's topic is "Tempted to Turn Away," taught by Don Wilson. Join us in Room 3.

THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT IS LOOKING FOR HELP FROM THE WHOLE CHURCH to pull off our summer VBS program! Would you like to help lead kiddos, organize, serve snacks, decorate, donate funds, or something else? Any help at all will be greatly appreciated! It takes a village to pull an event like this off! You can be an



important part of this life-changing event at our church! Sign up to help here: <https://gcpc.org/vbs/volunteer.html>, or check with Emily—she will find a spot for you to help out: (emily.dixon@gcpc.org)

CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT! Join us for a morning of egg-citing fun on Saturday, April 12, 10–11am, in Heartland Hall & Outdoors. Bring your baskets and your best egg-hunting skills! Hop on over and celebrate the joy of Easter with us! **Help us make it sweet! We need candy donations!** Drop them off in the concourse area on Sundays or at the church office anytime during regular office hours. Thank you — from the GCPC Children's Team.

TODAY AND MARCH 23 SUNDAY SCHOOL: We'll have two combined Sunday school classes during Spring Break: Toddler/Preschool and K–5th graders. Our youth will help lead our K-5th graders as well. If you are in town and planning to attend Sunday school during Spring Break, please let Emily Nelson Dixon know so we can plan accordingly.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR GCPC CHILDREN: We are in need of some help from our children to staff a lemonade stand at our 40th Anniversary Craft Fair on Saturday, March 29. We have split the day into 1-hour shifts and would love to have a few children at the stand to sell lemonade to any craft fair customers. We ask that an adult supervisor be present with the children as well. Additionally, we would also like to offer a sweet treat to our customers, so if you are willing to bake a few desserts, we'd love your donation as well. Details can be found within our SignUpGenius QR code. Questions can be sent to Christy Soule, christysoule@yahoo.com. Thank you for allowing our children to be part of our 40th anniversary celebration!



SMASH: Our monthly fellowship for K-5th graders will be March 16, 4–6pm. The theme is "Fruits of the Spirit: Faithfulness." If you are in town and planning to attend, please let Emily Nelson Dixon know.

ROAD TRIP — On the Go with God is the theme for the 2025 VBS, held on June 2–6 from 9am–Noon. **Registration is NOW OPEN!** Sign up your kiddos (*ages 4 years to 5th grade*) at gcpc.org/vbs. Volunteers needed! Volunteers can also sign up at the same link. Opportunities to help with decorating, planning, etc., are available and appreciated. Contact Kristy Shaw at kshaw96@yahoo.com.

BIBLE WORKSHOP: We are excited to offer our 3rd grade children a Bible workshop on April 6 at 11:45am. One parent or loved one is encouraged to attend our workshop. Our children will receive a bible on behalf of GCPC during worship that day.

YOUTH

YOUTH SUNDAY: The middle and high schoolers of GCPC will be leading the worship service on April 27. We are planning during our Sunday school classes and will have a rehearsal on Saturday, April 26, 10am–1pm (including lunch). Contact Emily with questions.

MISSION

COMMUNION OFFERING RECIPIENT IN MARCH — InterFaith Hospitality Network (IHN): Although GCPC stopped participating as a host church with IHN in late 2024, IHN continues to serve clients, helping homeless families and single women gain stability. IHN provides clients with food and housing, and helps them learn to break the cycle of homelessness. During the day, IHN clients either work or stay in the JoCo IHN Family Center, learning essential life and financial skills. IHN guests receive budget counseling, case management, job search assistance, connections to community resources, and education on life, parenting, and coping skills. IHN’s program works — more than 70% of the clients who graduate from IHN’s program gain sustainable housing! If you’d like to support IHN’s important work with a donation, just write “Communion Offering” on your check and drop it in the offering plate, or check the “Communion Offering” box in the online giving portal. Thanks as always for your generous support!

MARCH DONATION PARTNER — GCPC’s Little Free Pantry: Our donation partner in March is our own Little Free Pantry. If you haven’t seen it, this pantry is found on the east end of our property along Nieman Road. We stock the pantry with nonperishable items and them being taken out of the pantry each week — sometimes the pantry is wiped clean. Volunteers check the pantry twice a week and restock it. On occasion, items are added to the pantry by members of the local community. If you’d like to donate to the pantry, please bring your donations to the Weekday Entrance anytime in March. Thanks as always for your generous support! The items most consumed are:

- *small jars of peanut butter*
- *noodle and pasta sauce*
- *box dinners*
- *individual drinks or snacks of any kind*

NOISY OFFERING ON MARCH 30 FOR CROSS-LINES: Bring your pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters to church on March 30 (paper money is welcome too). The Noisy Offering this quarter will go to our longtime partner, Cross-Lines. Established in 1963 as “a place of hope” for those struggling with the hardships of poverty, Cross-Lines provides direct assistance to at-risk families, the elderly, and single individuals struggling to make ends meet. The mission of Cross-Lines is to provide people in the Kansas City area affected by poverty with services and opportunities that encourage self-confidence, meet today’s needs, and provide tools for future self-sufficiency.

Upcoming Events and Services

Reduce, Recycle, Reuse

Concourse Hallway
Sunday, March 16

IHN Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

Sunday, March 16, Noon

Community Blood Drive

Tuesday, March 25, 2-6pm

Sign up at https://donate.savealifenow.org/.../drive_schedule/84835

GCPC 40th Anniversary Event

40th Anniversary

Craft Fair

Saturday, March 29, 9am-2pm
Heartland Hall and Concourse

Noisy Offering

Sunday, March 30, 9:30am

Trivia Night!

Saturday, April 5, 5:30-7:30pm
Heartland Hall

Sign up after worship on March 23 & 31,
or call the church office

Bible Workshop

3rd graders and their parents
April 6, Noon-2 pm

Easter Egg Hunt

April 12, 10-11am
Heartland Hall and Outdoors

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 13, 9:30am
Maundy Thursday, April 17, 7:30pm
Good Friday, April 18, 7:30pm
Easter Sunday, April 20, 9am & 11am

Church Office Closed

Easter Monday, April 21

Spring Clean-Up Day

Saturday, April 26, 9am-3pm

Youth Sunday

Sunday, April 27, 9:30pm

Bell Fest

Sunday, May 4, 6-8pm

Church Office Closed

Memorial Day, Monday, May 26

Vacation Bible School

"Road Trip - On the Go with God!"

June 2 - June 6, 9am-Noon

Children Ages 4 yrs – 5th Grade

Volunteers register at link below

Register children at gcpc.org/vbs

Church Office Closed

Juneteenth, Thursday, June 19

GCPC 40th Anniversary Celebration with Brunch Following Worship

Sunday, June 22, 9:30am

GCPC 40th Anniversary Friendship Bracelet Making Party

Saturday, July 12, 1-3pm
Heartland Hall



GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Details on these events and services are shared in the midweek email, bulletin, newsletter, and Facebook and Instagram.

For an online church calendar,
visit gcpc.org/calendar

Revised 3.10.25