



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BELONG. SERVE. GROW.

GRACE NOTES

August 2026
Vol 44, Nbr 8

God draws us together as a welcoming and faithful community, attentive to the Spirit's leading, to worship with joy, grow as disciples, and share our gifts in service to God and neighbor.

With gratitude for where we have been and hope for where God is leading us, we are sent to serve Christ in the world—extending Christ's love, strengthening community, and living out the gospel through lives of grace, justice, and compassion.

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

In addition to in-person worship, our service is also livestreamed on our website home page, Facebook and YouTube channel.

Find Your Place at Grace Covenant

As we turn the calendar to August, summer is winding down and school and the program year at Grace Covenant are gearing up! This summer we've heard "Reports from the Field" about what various teams do in and around the church and in our life together. As Sunday school classes, small groups, music ministry, and other teams return to their regular rhythms, now is a great time to jump in. The annual Ministry Fair on August 9 is a wonderful place to find your fit.

Worshipping together on Sunday mornings is central to who we are as a church family — but it's only one part of life together. We're asking every member and friend of Grace Covenant to prayerfully consider where you might plug in further, whether that's deepening your involvement in the congregation or helping us reach out to the community around us. Maybe that means joining a ministry team, volunteering to teach, playing in one of our musical ensembles, or joining a small group or mission outreach team.

Getting involved beyond worship is one of the best ways to grow in faith and friendship, and our community is richer for every person who says "yes." At the Ministry Fair, representatives from various groups and teams will be on hand to answer your questions and share how you can get involved. Come with an open heart — whether you have an hour a month or a few hours a week to give, there's a team that would love to have you, and a deeper connection waiting on the other side of a, "Yes!"

Grace and Peace, Pastor Karen

Worship in the Park

Join us for worship on Sunday, September 13, 9:30am, at the Meadowbrook Park Grand Pavilion, located at 91st and Nall (SE Corner) in Prairie Village. Worship will be followed by a potluck picnic. Brats, beef & veggie burgers and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side or dessert to share. Come together with your church family for worship and savor the fellowship and beauty of the park!



We are an Earth Care congregation, so remember to bring your own plates and silverware, and bring along camp chairs in case extra seating is required. **Volunteers are needed** to help deacons take items (tables, orange beverage containers, compostable buckets, trash bucket) to picnic and return to GCPC (large SUV's or trucks would be helpful!).



Find Your Place at the Ministry Fair

**Sunday, August 9, Following Worship
Heartland Hall**

One of Grace Covenant's most anticipated Sundays of the year is almost here! Following worship on Sunday, August 9, head to Heartland Hall for our annual Ministry Fair—your opportunity to discover the many ways you can connect, serve, learn, and build relationships within our church community.

Whether you're new to Grace Covenant or have been here for years, **the Ministry Fair is the perfect place to explore all the opportunities that make our church such a vibrant and welcoming community.** Meet ministry leaders, ask questions, and discover where your gifts and interests can make a difference.

Learn about opportunities to serve through our Worship Ministry as an usher, scripture reader, or acolyte, or explore ministries such as Adult Education, Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, Music, Care & Connection, Deacons, Facilities, Generosity, KAIROS, the Arab Christian Fellowship, the Safety & Medical Team, and the annual Golf Tournament. You'll also find information about our Mission Ministry and its many partnerships, including KCK Hot Lunch, Habitat for Humanity, Renewed Hope, Uplift, and the Good Faith Network.

Looking for community? Our many small groups offer opportunities to grow in faith and friendship. Visit with representatives from Women's Circles, Thursday Bible Study, Prayer Chain, Dinner for 7–8, It's Only Breakfast, Ladies Lunch, Sunday Brunch, As the Page Turns, Page Turners, Garden Angels, Piecemakers, Daytime, Evening, and Weekend Crafters, Bridge, Poker, and Pickleball to find a group that's just right for you.

Families are invited to stop by the Children's Table, where kids can enjoy coloring and play dough while parents visit the ministry displays.

There is truly a place for everyone at Grace Covenant. Whether you're looking to deepen your faith, make new friends, share your talents, or serve alongside others, the Ministry Fair is the place to begin. Come explore, make connections, and discover where God is calling you to be involved this year!



"This is Grace" New Member Class

**Sunday, August 30, Following Worship
Room 5**

Join us for the "This is Grace" New Member Class on **Sunday, August 30, at 10:45am in Room 5**, immediately following the worship service. Led by Rev. Karen Wright, this class is open to everyone—whether you're a first-time visitor or a long-time friend. This session offers a great opportunity to learn more about Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, ask questions, and explore how we carry out God's work in our community. There's no expectation to join the church after attending the class—just come to learn and explore.

To sign up, visit gcpc.org/newmember, or contact Kathy Williams at kathykaskewilliams@gmail.com, 913-485-1776, or call the church office if you plan to attend.

Clerk's Corner

July's Session meeting was a short and sweet one, partly due to the small number of elders who were able to attend. *Thanks to Stephen Wing* for moderating while Karen was on vacation.

We continue discussing ways that we can incorporate management of the church kitchen into our church structure so that things are not missed. We have ideas, but nothing is finalized so if you have insight, please share it with your favorite Session member.

We approved a motion for the Piecemakers to raffle some beautiful quilts! Details will be coming from them this fall, so keep your eyes open!

We look forward to a new program year, the September Worship in the Park/picnic (September 13), and the KAIROS Movie Night about immigration (August 14).

— Melanie Townsend, Clerk of Session



Piecemakers Quilt Raffle Coming Soon!

Thanks to the generous gift of Julie Webb, the Piecemakers are excited to raffle three beautiful, handcrafted quilts to benefit our quilting ministry. These stunning quilts were lovingly made by Julie's grandmother, featuring hand cross-stitched quilt tops and exquisite hand quilting. The Piecemakers create quilts that provide comfort, warmth, and encouragement to those in need in our church and community. Proceeds from the raffle will help purchase batting and other supplies so this ministry can continue sharing God's love one stitch at a time.

The quilts will be on display at our upcoming Ministry Fair, where you'll have the opportunity to see them up close and learn more about the Piecemakers' Ministry. Raffle tickets will be available soon, and the drawing will take place at a later date to be announced.

One lucky winner will have the opportunity to receive all three quilts. If the winner chooses fewer than three, additional winner(s) will be drawn until all quilts have found a home.

Watch for more details in the coming weeks and thank you for supporting this meaningful ministry! For more information contact Donna Heer at taxdheer@gmail.com or 913-485-5812.

Communion Offering Totals for the First Half of 2026

Listed below are the totals collected for each month's Communion Offering Recipient in the first half of 2026. Thanks as always for GCPC's amazing generosity!

January	Renewed Hope Food Pantry - \$150
February	Rosehill School - \$715
March	Arts in Prison - \$545
April	One Great Hour Of Sharing - \$280
May	Crop Walk - \$1,395
June	More Light Presbyterians - \$220



A wonderful afternoon of fun and fellowship!

More than 65 people gathered in Heartland Hall on Sunday, July 26 to beat the heat by playing—and learning—the fascinating game of Mahjong! From first-time players to experienced enthusiasts, the room was filled with laughter, strategy, conversation, and new friendships.

A special thank you to Katie Hearn and Erin Frye for hosting this enjoyable afternoon and creating such a welcoming space for learning, friendly competition, and fellowship. We're grateful for everyone who joined us and made the day such a success! We can't wait for the next game!

MUSIC MINISTRY

Music Leadership in August

August brings both the close of our summer music season and the first signs of an exciting fall ahead. Throughout the month, we will hear from familiar ensembles, individual musicians, and members of the Music Team as we celebrate the many ways music brings us together and supports the worship life of GCPC.

August 2 - We begin the month with Summer Choir singing *You Are Not Alone* by Molly Ijames. Originally commissioned to honor the many years of service given by former Director of Music Ministries Rebecca Prater, this meaningful anthem is sure to become a Sunday staple and congregational favorite.

The morning will also feature Esme Dixon singing Audrey Assad's *I Shall Not Want* and Cal Sweeten sharing the distinctive and beautiful sound of the dulcimer. Together, these musical offerings will help frame a special "Music from the Field" conversation from members of the Music Team about what we do, how we serve the church, and the many ways music strengthens our worship and congregational life.

August 9 - Our attention turns toward the beginning of a new school and ministry season as we celebrate the Ministry Fair and Blessing of the Backpacks. The Praise Team will help lead a morning centered on new beginnings, shared ministry, and the assurance of God's presence wherever the coming season may lead us.

August 16 - At the heart of our August worship will be César Franck's beloved *Panis Angelicus* from *Mass, Op. 12*, sung by Patrick O'Halloran. Its gentle melody and prayerful text invite us to pause and reflect on Christ's presence and the grace that continues to nourish and sustain us.

August 23 - As summer begins giving way to fall, the Praise Team returns to help us mark this season of transition. Through our shared music, prayer, and song, we will prepare to reconnect with one another and enter the fall with renewed purpose.

August 30 - We close the month by welcoming Chancel Choir back to worship with *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*, arranged by Ed Lojeski. Rooted in the beloved gospel hymn, this joyful prayer for God's guidance is a fitting way to begin another season of making music and leading worship together.

Chancel Choir Returns

Before returning to worship on August 30, Chancel Choir will gather for its first rehearsal of the season on Wednesday, August 26, from 7:05–8:30pm.

New and returning singers are always welcome. We are grateful for every voice, the commitment choir members

offer throughout the year, and the genuine community that grows through making music together. We look forward to seeing familiar faces, welcoming new ones, and beginning another meaningful season.

Youth Music Returns This Fall!

That spirit of renewal will continue into the fall as **Spirit Singers and Spirit Ringers return** after a long time away. This fresh start gives our young people new opportunities to make music, grow together, and take an active role in leading our congregation in worship.

Spirit Singers is open to middle school students and will rehearse during the Sunday School hour on the dates listed below. **Spirit Ringers**, directed by Katie Hearn, welcomes both middle and high school students and will meet from 12:00–12:30pm in Room 1. No previous handbell experience is necessary.

Both groups will prepare to help lead worship on October 25 and December 6 through two four-week rehearsal rounds. Young musicians may participate in the round that works best for their schedules or join us for both.

Round 1

- Rehearsals: September 27 and October 4, 11, and 18
- Worship leadership: October 25

Round 2

- Rehearsals: November 8, 15, 22, and 29
- Worship leadership: December 6
- Christmas Ex! Concert: December 6 at 6:00pm

Because the music develops from week to week, **Spirit Ringers participants should attend at least three rehearsals during each round in which they participate.** Regular attendance allows the ensemble to learn together and approach worship leadership with confidence. Spirit Singers participants are also encouraged to attend regularly as their music takes shape throughout each round.

Whether your young musician already has experience or is completely new to singing or ringing, we would love to welcome them. For more information about either group, contact Patrick O'Halloran at patrick.ohalloran@gcpc.org.

Thank You for "Why the Church Sings"

Finally, thank you to everyone who participated in our three-part *Why the Church Sings* series. Together, we traveled from the musical world before Christianity all the way to the beginning of the Baroque era. Phew!

Your curiosity, thoughtful questions, good humor, and willingness to explore made these conversations both meaningful and genuinely enjoyable. I am grateful to everyone who joined us and helped bring centuries of church music history to life.

Blessed to Serve Together!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in the intergenerational Sunday School class on July 26 assembling Blessing Bags for our neighbors experiencing homelessness in the community.

More than 35 adults and children came together to fill bags with essential items, but perhaps the most meaningful part of the morning was that each person took time to pray over the bag they helped prepare. We pray that every bag will not only meet a practical need but also remind its recipient that they are seen, loved, and not forgotten.

A special thank you to everyone who generously donated the items that filled these blessing bags. Your kindness made this project possible!

And an extra special thank you to the Hearn family for organizing this wonderful outreach opportunity and leading us in a meaningful morning of faith in action. Your dedication helped bring generations together to serve Christ by serving others. It was especially meaningful to gather together in small groups to talk about kindness, caring for others.

Together, we made a difference—and we are grateful for everyone who shared their time, generosity, and prayers.



Grateful for your care

Thank you to all who sent cards, said prayers and expressed condolences on the death of Dave's almost 98-year-old Mom, Donis (Donie) Peck. She lived a long and eventful life born and growing up dirt poor on a farm in El Dorado Springs, Missouri. She met and married Don Peck in 1949. Don and Donie were married 63 years before Don's death in 2012.

A memorial service for Mom will be held November 28, at 11am at Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village in the main sanctuary followed by light refreshments in the adjacent Welcome Center.

Thanks again to everyone for your thoughtfulness.

—David and Vicki Peck

Keep Your Contact Information Up to Date

Have you recently moved or changed your email address or phone number? Please let the church office know so we can keep our records current and stay connected with you.

Contact us at office@gcpc.org or 913-345-1256. Thank you for helping us keep our church database up to date!

Learn what's going in the life of our church!

Sign up for our monthly church newsletter, Grace Notes! Visit gcpc.org/newsletter to sign up for our newsletter, mid-week announcements, seasonal devotions and other church communications.

KAIROS Klues:



Movie Night, August 14, 6pm

Join us for KAIROS Movie Night on Thursday, August 14 at 6pm in the Choir Room. Come watch "The Genesis of Exodus", a PCUSA, thought-provoking documentary exploring the realities of Central American immigration and the journeys that lead families to seek safety and hope. All too common, the rhetoric in the United States frames the arrival of Central American migrants as a story that begins at the U.S./Mexico border. This film dives into a much deeper and more complicated journey that begins in the homes, schools, and streets of Central American towns.

Following the film, stay for a Q&A and panel discussion with local advocates who work alongside our immigrant sisters and brothers in our community. Hear their stories, ask questions, and discover ways we can respond with compassion, understanding, and faith.

Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend and join us for an evening of learning, conversation, and connection.

Get involved with KAIROS

Be sure to stop by our table at Mission Fair on August 9 and find out how you can get involved (even just a bit) in the call for Peace, Justice, & EarthCare here at GCPC and the wider community.

Season of Creation 2026

The Season of Creation runs from September 1 - October 4. This special season of ecumenical solidarity is when and where we celebrate God as Creator and acknowledge Creation as the divine continuing act that summons us as collaborators to love and care for God has made. This year, the theme for the "Season is Water." Our symbol for 2026 - Immersion in Living Water. The Symbol invites Christians to a spiritual immersion - praying together while contemplating water from rivers, sources, fountains, baptismal fonts, lakes and sea, inspired by the Spirit of God, working together for the renewal of creation.



SEASON OF CREATION

Calling Poets and Writers

Presbyterians for Earth Care is calling you to submit your Haiku to be included in a compilation celebrating the beauty, wonder, and sacredness of creation to be published later this year. After signing up, please email your haiku by August 16 to: presbyearthcare@gmail.com. Link to keep you informed <https://tinyurl.com/earthcarehaiku>

What Is Per Capita?

Per Capita is an amount paid per adult member of every PC(USA) congregation across the United States. It is a way we are the church together, and the local congregations support the work of the Presbytery, the Synod, and the General Assembly. While we have a line item in the budget for this expense, it helps our operating budget when members pay their per capita.

For 2026, the total cost per adult member is \$45.91.

That is split between the three higher governing bodies as follows: Heartland Presbytery \$31.50; Synod of Mid-America \$3.15; General Assembly \$11.26.

There is a drop-down selection for per capita on our website if you choose to pay online. Navigate to the "Pay online" link or view the "Online Giving" tab. If you would like to write a check, please write Per Capita in the memo line. Per Capita is an annual payment. If you have already submitted this year, thank you so much!

Become an Acolyte!

Calling all 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders!

Are you interested in being an acolyte at the beginning and end of Sunday morning worship services? This meaningful tradition is returning to Grace Covenant on November 29 — the first Sunday of the new liturgical year. As an acolyte, you would bring the light of Christ into the sanctuary to light candles using GCPC's candlelighter at the beginning of the worship service and then take the light out into the world at the end of the service.

If you are interested in signing up to be an acolyte, stop by the Worship Team booth at the Ministry Fair in Heartland Hall on Sunday, August 9, after worship. Look for our ribbon chandelier or contact Debbie Campbell at: dlcampbell1106@gmail.com. YOU are part of Worship!

"Why We Sing" Sunday School Class

July 2026, led by Patrick O'Halloran





Habitat Friday = a great day of serving!

Our GCPC Habitat for Humanity team spent Friday, July 10 in Olathe getting a little muddy and making a big difference! We tackled three very muddy yards before painting the exterior walls of a new home that will soon welcome a family.

Of course, no GCPC workday would be complete without a little fellowship. We were also able to share Cheryl Johnson's amazing homemade blueberry pie with our Habitat supervisors—a sweet treat that was greatly appreciated!

We're excited that **Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church is now volunteering with Habitat for Humanity every month on the second Friday**, and we'd love to have you join us. Whether you're an experienced DIYer or just willing to lend a hand, there's a place for you.

Thank you to everyone who served today! Together, we're helping build homes, hope, and stronger communities.

Church parking lot resurfacing project July 2026



Reports from the Field: *Celebrating the Ministries That Shape Our Life Together*

Summer often invites us to slow down, listen, and reflect on what matters most. This year we spent the season hearing "Reports from the Field" — stories from the ministry teams who help make our church a vibrant community of faith.

Throughout the series, members of various ministry teams shared not only what they do, but why they do it. These conversations offered a deeper look at the heart behind our ministries and reminded us that the work of the church is more than programs, meetings, and tasks. Every ministry is a response to God's grace and a way we participate in God's ongoing work in the world.

The "Reports from the Field" series invited us to remember that every ministry has a story. In each conversation, teams reflected on what drew them into their work, where they have experienced joy and hope, and where they see God moving. They shared the challenges they encounter, the surprises that have emerged, and the ways their ministries continue to grow and adapt.

The series also encouraged us to ask important questions as a congregation: Why does this ministry matter? How does it help us live out our calling as followers of Christ? Where might each of us find a place to participate, serve, or offer support?

From caring for one another through Care & Connections and the Deacons, to creating meaningful worship experiences through the Worship and Music Team; from stewarding our resources through Finance and Generosity, to caring for our shared spaces through the Facilities Team; from nurturing faith across generations through Adult, Youth, and Children's Ministries, to seeking justice and building relationships through KAIROS and the work of our Mission Team — each group shared a glimpse of how God is at work through the people of Grace Covenant.

As we listened to these "reports," we were reminded that ministry is not something done by a select few. It is the shared calling of the whole congregation. Each of us has gifts, passions, and experiences that can help strengthen the life and mission of our church.

As our fall ministries begin, may we carry forward the stories we have heard and continue to look for the places where God is inviting us to serve, connect, and grow together.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

GCPC Loves Our Children

As many feel the excitement of the new school year, we feel it here at GCPC too. We are excited about our new year of programming. Our Children's team is committed to continuing quality children's programs all throughout the school year. We welcome Laura Johnson as our new Moderator for the Children's Team and new team member Katie Hearn!

If you are interested in participating in our planning, we'd love to have you. Reach out to Laura, Emily, or email the team at GCPCChildren@gmail.com.

August Events

SUNDAY AUGUST 2

10:30am - Awakening To Worship Storyteller Training - Please join us if you are curious what it's like to assist with ATW. You can volunteer for 1 or as many Sundays as you wish. We are looking for additional help here. (Room 12)

11:30am - Volunteer Training Kickoff and Appreciation Breakfast (When ATW training has concluded) - We invite anyone who will be a volunteer this year to attend our Volunteer Training Kickoff and Appreciation Breakfast (Heartland Hall)

SUNDAY AUGUST 9

Blessing of the Backpacks (during worship)

The new school year is beginning, and we want to send our teachers and students back with a blessing. Join us for worship on Sunday, August 9, during which we will bless the backpacks, school bags, briefcases, or just your person! We will also present a backpack tag that will be a reminder of this blessing all year.

Sneak-a-Peek & Ministry Fair (following worship)

Ministry Fair - Come to Heartland Hall to find out more about the life and work of GCPC. Look for our Children's team table where you can grab a treat, update your child's information sheet, learn more about our children's programs, inquire about our volunteer opportunities, ask questions, and more!

Sneak-a-Peek - We will have a table with some activities for our younger friends, as well as a run-around-the-church scavenger hunt for the kiddos to see their classrooms and get excited about the new school year! And of course, there will be a prize for all who complete the challenge!

SUNDAY AUGUST 16

Our regular Sunday programming begins!

Our Nursery is open for infants and above during worship and Sunday School year-round. Carolyn, Cathy, and Meg are always excited to see our kiddos. Stop by and say hello! *The nursery is in Room 22.*

ATW - Awakening to Worship (During 9:30am Worship)
Our Awakening to Worship program invites children age 4 – 1st grade to join us for a special children's worship experience during our regular worship time. Children should attend worship with their families and immediately following Children's Time, one of our ATW greeters will meet them in the back of the sanctuary to escort the children to our ATW room (Room 12). You may pick your children up after worship concludes from our ATW room. Contact our Children's Team at GCPCChildren@gmail.com with any questions. **Sign up to help with ATW:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A45A4A722A4FC1-57764339-awaken>

Sunday School offerings for every age (10:45-11:45am)

Toddlers (2's/3's) will meet in Room 20 at 10:45am. **Sign up to help with Toddler Sunday School:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A45A4A722A4FC1-50460725-gcpc>

Preschool (4's/5's) will meet in Room 26 at 10:45am for music, then will be escorted to Room 25 at 11:05am for Sunday School. **Sign up to help with Preschool Sunday School:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A45A4A722A4FC1-50460836-gcpc>

K-5th Grade Sunday School Workshop Rotation

Our kindergarten through 5th grade students will begin a new season of creative learning through art, cooking, games, science, music, and drama. They work on the same story for two weeks experiencing the lesson with different learning styles.

Kindergarten – 1st Grades: (Room 26) The **Joy! Singers Choir** practice from 10:45-11:05am, then afterwards the group will be escorted to their workshop rotation from 11:05-11:45am. Please know our workshop rotations move each week, so check the wall just outside the basement stairwell, or the bulletin board outside of the sanctuary for each week's activities.



2nd—5th/6th Grades: (Room 15) The Celebration! Singers Choir practice from 10:45-11:05am, then afterwards the group will be escorted to their workshop rotation from 11:05-11:45am. Please know our workshop rotations move each week, so check the wall just outside the basement stairwell, or the bulletin board outside of the sanctuary for each week's activities. **Sign up to help with K-5th grade Sunday School:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A45A4A722A4FC1-50460455-workshop>

SMASH (Service, Music, Art, Sports, Hangout) returns on August 16 from 4-6pm

Our August SMASH (K-5th grade fellowship) will mark the start of our new year of SMASH with an end of summer water-fun celebration! Please wear your swimsuit and sunscreen for this first SMASH. Bring a towel. Invite a friend! **RSVP to** GCPCChildren@gmail.com or look for our Facebook post. **Sign up to help with SMASH:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A45A4A722A4FC1-smash1>

Children's August Events at a Glance

Sunday, August 2

Welcome back teachers light breakfast, Storyteller Training, and Sunday School teacher training

Sunday August 9

Sneak-a-peek/Ministry Fair/Blessing of the backpacks

Sunday August 16

ATW, Sunday School/Choirs and SMASH

Sunday August 23

ATW and Sunday School/Choirs

Sunday August 30

ATW and Sunday School/Choirs

We are pumped about this new school year and are really looking forward to getting back to our regular programming and seeing YOU at church!

Emily Nelson Dixon (DCE)

Laura Johnson (Children's team Moderator), and the Children's Team!



How can you get involved with these exciting Children's Programs?

We are in need of several positions this year to help share the responsibilities of our children's programs. These teachers join a team of teachers who work together to ensure we have 2 teachers available each Sunday. Our adorable children who will reward you each week you spend with them!

Visit gcpc.org/youareinvited for a description of each position, and to sign up to help, or email our team to inquire.

OUR PROGRAMMING NEEDS ARE:

- **3-4, Preschool/Toddler teachers and assistants.** Lesson and materials provided. You will be able to sign up for the Sundays that work for your schedule.
- **3-4, K-5th grade lead teachers.** Lesson and materials provided. You will be able to sign up for the Sundays that work for your schedule.
- **3-4, Workshop rotation shepherds.** Our shepherds escort our classes to the rotation of the week and help supervise activities planned by our workshop rotation teacher.
- We also welcome **substitute Sunday School teachers** to be added to our call list when a need arises. Substitutes are used for all age levels.
- **Our ATW program is looking for additional storytellers or greeters** to assist with our children's worship service experience. You will be asked to sign up for one or more Sundays as your schedule permits. Storyteller training will happen on August 2, but if you aren't able to make it but are still interested, let us know.
- Our **SMASH program** (K-5th grade Fellowship) that meets on one Sunday a month from 4-6pm **needs 3-4 adults** to help set-up, supervise, and participate in activities with our children.

Accept our invitation!

Find Your Place in Children's Ministries!

Interested in serving? Visit gcpc.org/youareinvited to learn more about these opportunities and sign up, or email the Children's Team at GCPCChildren@gmail.com. We'd love to help you find the role that's right for you, and someone will be in touch soon.

Every volunteer receives training and ongoing support.

Thank you for considering this important ministry!





WORSHIP IN THE PARK SEPTEMBER 13 9:30AM

Meadowbrook Park Grand
Pavilion (SE corner - 91st & Nall)

(Lunch following - Bring side to share)



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WORSHIP.
FELLOWSHIP.
FUN.





GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2026 Upcoming Events and Services

(Save these dates)

**Ministry Fair and the
Blessing of the Backpacks**

Sneak-a-Peek at Sunday School

Sunday, August 9 *(Following worship)*

Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Day

Friday, August 14, 8:30am–3pm

KAIROS Movie Night

August 14, 6pm, Choir Room

Q&A follows *(See bulletin for details)*

Sunday School Kick-Off

Sunday, August 16, 10:45am

Noisy Offering

Sunday, August 16 *(Benefits SowHope)*

First SMASH of the School Year

(K-5th grade) Sunday, August 16, 4-6pm

First YOUTH GROUP of the School Year

Sunday, August 16, 4-6pm

“This is Grace” New Member Class

Sunday, August 30, 10:45am, Room 5

Sign up at gcpc.org/newmember

Worship in the Park

Sunday, September 13, 9:30am

Meadowbrook Park (91st & Nall)

Grand Pavilion (SE Corner) Prairie Village

(Lunch following)

Baker/Reynolds Golf Scramble

Sunday, September 20, 1pm

Stewardship Town Hall and Brunch

Sunday, September 27

(Following worship)

Heart of America CROP Walk

Sunday, October 11, 2pm

Chili Cook-Off

Saturday, October 17

Generosity Sunday

Sunday, October 25, 9:30am

Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 25

Blood Drive

Thursday, October 29, 1-5pm

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 29

A Christmas Exclamation!

Sunday, December 6, 6pm

Christmas Eve Worship

Thursday, December 24

5:30pm and 8pm

~ Please be mindful of the following deadlines for our communications publications ~

Grace Notes Weekly email newsletter - articles due to the church office by 10am, each Wednesday

Weekly church bulletin - articles due to the church office by Noon, each Wednesday

Grace Notes Monthly Newsletter - articles are due to the church office on the 3rd Tuesday of the month

Please respect the timelines needed to produce these publications. Thank you!

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



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Inclusive. Family Oriented. Welcoming.

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

gcpc.org



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor, Rev. Karen Wright
karen.wright@gcpc.org ext. 15

Church Administrator..... Patrick Bell
patrick.bell@gcpc.org ext. 10

Director of Christian Education
Emily Nelson Dixonext.18
emily.dixon@gcpc.org

Finance Administrator.....Tara Hyder
finance@gcpc.org

Director of Music Ministries.... Patrick O'Halloran
patrick.ohalloran@gcpc.orgext. 20

Praise Team Director.....Carrie DeVries
cdevriesbe@olatheschools.org

Organist.....Linda Dover

Audio/Visual Director.....Jason Turner
Email both addresses if you need a video or audio played in worship. Send on the Wednesday prior to Sunday's worship. darktrainfilms@gmail.com; gcpc.media@gmail.com

Praise Team Drummer Jill Endaya-Allen

Child Care Coordinator.....Carolyn Chaffin

Wedding Coordinator.....Kristy Shaw

Funeral CoordinatorCaroline Becher,
Ashley Jeffries

ELDERS

Sandy Adams	Laura Johnson
Johnnie Baker	Andrew Sellers
Gay Lee Ludwig-Bonney	Frank Slovick
Paul Bruns	Jaylee Soule
Chris Cabe	Eileen Thomson
Debbie Campbell	Melanie Townsend
Bob Dover	Session Clerk
Kevin Johnson	

SUPPORT STAFF

Deacon Moderator Ginny Wirtz

Operating Committee..... Paul Bruns,
Chris Cabe, Debbie Campbell, Johnnie Baker,
Melanie Townsend, and Rev. Karen Wright

Newsletter Editor/Marketing..... Kim Krueger

Prayer Chain Cheryl Johnson

Website Administrators Kim Krueger,
Patrick Bell

MINISTRY UNITS

Congregational Nurture Unit Moderators
Care and Connections.....Gay Lee
Ludwig-Bonney

Worship and Music.....Debbie Campbell,
Bob Dover

Education Ministry Unit Moderators
Adult Kevin Johnson
Children Laura Johnson
Youth.....Chris Cabe

Reach Out Ministry Unit Moderators
Kairos Andrew Sellers
Mission Sandy Adams
Welcoming Kathy Williams

Supportive Ministry Unit Moderators
Facility Paul Bruns
Generosity Jane Knoche,
Eileen Thomson

Finance..... Beth Lillian
Personnel Kevin Mason

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Worship Schedule

9:30am Worship

Streaming on YouTube, Facebook, gcpc.org
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Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines

September 2026 Issue - Deadline August 21
October 2026 Issue - Deadline September 18