GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship — November 29, 2026

***"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 worshiping with us today.

ELDER ON DUTY: Chris Cabe

HEAD USHERS: Eric Burdette and Rick Randolph

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.

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

- **Rev. Karen Wright (Designated Pastor):** karen.wright@gcpc.org
- **Emily Nelson Dixon (Dir. of Christian Education):** emily.dixon@gcpc.org
- **Patrick O'Halloran (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.**): E-mail both darktrainfilms@gmail.com & gcpc.media@gmail.com.

"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

Cancer Treatment: Trooper Shaw

Aging Challenges

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

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: King City Presbyterian Church, King City, MO; United Christian & Presbyterian Church, Lawson, MO

(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

A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING for the purpose of electing Deacons will be held Sunday, December 13, following worship.

YOUR RESPONSE MATTERS! COMMUNICATE YOUR 2027 PLEDGE SOON! Thank you to everyone who has submitted a 2027 pledge! Your generosity supports the ministries, mission, and future of Grace Covenant. As we prepare the 2027 budget, **we need to hear from everyone!** Our goal is 100% participation, whether or not you are able to make a financial commitment this year. Every response helps us plan responsibly. Submit your pledge card to the church office or in the offering plate, contact Tara Hyder at finance@gcpc.org, or pledge confidentially online at gcpc.org/2027pledge. **Please don't wait!** Members of our Generosity Team will be reaching out to those we haven't yet heard from to connect, answer questions, and gather responses. Thank you for being part of the Grace Covenant community!

FESTIVE POINSETTIAS WILL DECORATE THE SANCTUARY for the Christmas season. If you would like to be a part of the tradition of purchasing a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one, you may do so by enclosing your donation in one of the poinsettia envelopes in the pews and place in the offering plate. Please be sure to neatly print your name and who the memorial/honor

recognizes in block letters. You may also make a donation through the online giving portal on our website, or by sending your donation to the church office: GCPC, 11100 College Blvd., OPKS 66210, Attn: Patrick. *Deadline for names to be included in the bulletin insert is Monday, December 14.* Thank you!

RED BAG UPDATE: Thank you to everyone who selected an extra gift tag last Sunday! **TODAY is the last day to bring your wrapped gifts!** If you're having a difficulty with the gift, please let me know (text me at 757-581-5292 or e-mail: sanadamsabc@gmail.com). Together we have provided 30 Johnson County foster children with a Christmas stocking, full of little gifts AND each child has received nine wrapped gifts! That's a total of 300 gifts! Thank you for your generous support of this mission's outreach.

THE WINTER/SPRING SESSION FOR DINNERS FOR 7 OR 8 will start in January and end in April. If you have participated before, you know that meeting once a month is a great way to connect with other members. You have a choice of dinners in homes or dining out in restaurants. When you R.S.V.P. to me, I will provide additional information about your group. It will be emailed to you by December 29. Each group decides on the four dates and sets the times that work for the group. If you have any questions about how it works, give me a call. Please let me know by December 21 or sooner: Kathy Williams, 913-485-1776, kathykaskewilliams@gmail.com. I am looking forward to hearing from you so I can organize the groups.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH NEEDS: We have openings for Sunday school teachers, ATW leaders, shepherds, SMASH and YOUTH GROUP helpers, etc. It's a joyful, rewarding way to fulfill the promises we make to our GCPC children and youth at their baptism, and we'd love to have you join the fun! These openings are coming up soon and we need you. Thank you!

(Children's Volunteer Opportunities)
https://gcpc.org/children-youth/youareinvited.html

(Youth Group Volunteer Sign-up)
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A45A4A722A4FC1-57367467-gcpc

ADULT

ADULT EDUCATION — Sundays at 10:45am in Room 3
Advent is a season of waiting, reflection, and renewed hope. This Sunday, we begin a special Advent series that will complement Pastor Karen's sermon series as we explore how God's hope, peace, joy, and love speak to our everyday lives.

Whether you attend regularly, haven't joined us in a while, or are coming for the first time, we'd love to welcome you! Each class stands on its own, and everyone is invited to join the conversation.

Today: Join Kevin Johnson for **"Hope & Peace: Trusting God in Uncertain Times."** In a world that often feels unsettled, where do we find lasting hope and peace? Together, we'll reflect on the promises of Advent and explore how trusting God can bring reassurance, strength, and hope into our daily lives.

Coming Soon:

- **December 6:** *Beyond the Headlines: "Stories of Healing and Hope from Ukraine"* — Rick Randolph shares experiences from his recent medical mission to Ukraine.
- **December 13:** *"Joy: Recognizing God in Unexpected Places"* — Continuing our Advent series.
- **December 20:** *"Love: Preparing Room for God"* — Completing our Advent journey.
- **December 27:** No Adult Education — Christmas holiday.

Come as you are, bring your questions, and join us as we prepare our hearts for Christmas. There's always a place for you!

THE AS THE PAGE TURNS BOOK GROUP will meet December 2 at 1:30pm in Room 3 at the church for discussion and fellowship. The book selection is *The Names* by Florence Knapp. There will also be a Christmas book exchange. Bring a new or gently used book, wrapped in paper or a bag.

PAGE TURNERS WILL DISCUSS *Lady Susan* by Jane Austen on Thursday, December *3.* We hope that you can join us for the Christmas Book Exchange Party at the home of Teresa Ilten, 5408 W. 97th Circle in Overland Park. (The home is on a small cul-de-sac just east off Nall on 97th Circle. Please carpool, if possible.) Please bring an appetizer, salad or dessert to share, along with a wrapped or bagged book to gift. Bookmarks are optional. Contact Teresa Ilten, 913-515-1087, if you are coming or for questions. Hope to see you there!

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP — BEGINNING EARLY JANUARY 2027: Grief can come from many kinds of loss and life changes, and it is not something we are meant to navigate alone. In 2027, Adult Ed will offer 3 to 4 six-session Grief Support Groups for anyone experiencing grief—whether from the death of someone important, the loss of a job or relationship, children leaving home, a move, a major life transition, or another significant change or loss.

The group will decide on weekly meeting times. The sessions will provide a caring, confidential space to share experiences, listen to one another, and explore some of the challenges and emotions that accompany grief and loss.

Because trust and relationships are important in a grief group, this will be a closed group. We will establish the group before the first session, and new participants will not join once the six-week series has begun.

If you think this group might be helpful to you—or if you would simply like to learn more before deciding—we invite you to indicate your interest through the SignUpGenius. Signing up does not

obligate you to participate; it simply gives us an opportunity to talk with you and answer any questions. https://bit.ly/4ezkbBa

(Your privacy is important to us. The information you provide on this signup—including your name, email, phone number, and comments—will be visible only to the group organizers and will not be seen by other participants.)

You may also speak directly with Kevin Johnson, Stephen Wing, Jan Cummings, or Harold Frye if you are interested in participating or would like more information.

You do not need to know exactly what you need from a grief group before reaching out. If you are experiencing a loss or significant life transition and wondering whether this might be helpful, we would be glad to talk with you.

CHILDREN

YOU ARE INVITED to be involved in Children's Ministry! Learn more here:

YOUTH

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HANG OUT WITH SOME COOL YOUTH? Please sign up to volunteer here:

GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2026/2027
Upcoming Events and Services
(Save these dates)

First Sunday of Advent
Sunday, November 29, 9:30am
The Praise Team leads us into Advent as we begin our journey toward Christmas.

Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 6, 9:30am
The GCPC Winds, Spirit Singers, and Spirit Ringers will lead us in worship.

A Christmas Exclamation!
Sunday, December 6, 6pm
Vocal, handbell, and instrumental ensembles, and ensembles from EncoreKC!

Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 13, 9:30am
Our Chancel Choir will share a special morning of Advent music, joined by cello and handbells.

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 13, 9:30am
The Praise Team will lead us in worship as Advent draws to a close.

The Longest Night
Sunday, December 20, 7pm

Christmas Eve Worship
Thursday, December 24

5pm, Family Service *with music from our Joy! and Celebration! Choirs*

8pm, Traditional Service, *the Chancel Choir will share a variety of Christmas music*

~ 2027 ~

Epiphany Star Sunday
Sunday, January 3, 9:30am

Congregational Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 24, following worship

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Tuesday, February 9, 5:30pm

Lent Begins - Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, February 10

Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, March 27, 10am

Easter Sunday
Sunday, March 28, 9am and 11am

Youth Sunday
April 4, 9:30am

Vacation Bible School
"On the Boardwalk"
June 7-11, 9-Noon
Registration opens January 1, 2027

Vacation Bible School Sunday
June 13, 9:30am

~ 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

Revised 11/22/26