



GRACE NOTES



VBS Heroes

Thank you to all of the volunteers, decorators, teachers, leaders, tech crew, and those who donated items for our 2023 Hero Hotline VBS! Throughout the five days of VBS, we collected 14 crayon boxes, 11 packages of pencils, 64 glue sticks, 20 pair of scissors, 8 boxes of gallon bags, 8 boxes of sandwich bags, 17 containers of Clorox wipes, 21 tissue packages, 7 hand sanitizers, 30 Expo markers and 2 headphones for Apache Elementary school (approximate totals only). The offering for the GCPC composting program totaled (approximately) \$272.41! Amazing! "Heroes are called to follow Jesus!"

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.



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gcpc.org



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

Visit gcpc.org/online for links!

Clerk's Corner

The June Session meeting was a full one.

We approved a request from Youth Team to form a joint Youth group with Village on Antioch for the Fall of 2023 with the possibility of extending it into the spring of 2024 if it is successful. Village on Antioch has approximately the same number of active youth at this time as Grace Covenant has. We discussed the advantage of hiring someone on a very part time basis to coordinate this program and interact with our youth at these activities twice per month. Thanks to Ryan and Emily Hussey for seeing a void and pursuing a way to fill it.

Facilities team brought a prioritized report of large items (>\$10,000 expenditures) that will need to be addressed in the next 15 years (details are elsewhere in this newsletter). Session discussed possible means of financing these projects, which will be referred to Finance Team. Facilities team also brought a proposal for placing Solar Panels at Grace Covenant. Session approved pursuit of this project – i.e. learning more about specific costs, return on investment, and funding options (grants, government rebates, etc.)

Finance team brought an addition to our operations manual regarding reimbursement for approved expenditures. In a nutshell, all expenses must be submitted to the finance office (finance@gcpc.org) within 60 days of the expenditure or by the end of the calendar year in which they were incurred. Paper receipts may be submitted with a form, or members can take a photo of their receipt and submit it via e-mail (copy the approving staff member). See the operations manual if you want more details.

At the end of our meeting, we received the sad news of Mitch and Sue's departure from Grace Covenant. Like much of the congregation, Session was shocked by this news. Rev. Dale Jackson, our Presbyterian for Vision and Leadership, joined us for part of the meeting. Dale will be meeting with Session in July and a liaison from Commission on Ministry will be assigned to Grace Covenant to help guide us through this next transition in the life of our Congregation.

Session members are still reeling from this news; but as always, we're happy to talk with you about it (you're also welcome to talk to your Deacon; we will be in regular communication with them). We will know more after our July Session meeting. We anticipate an interim pastor followed by a mission study and a formal search for our next installed pastor, but as we all know, this will take time. We will have a period without a head of staff. We know that WE are the church.... all the people together. God is with each one of us and with us as a congregation. Take some time to process this and to celebrate the ministry the Triggers have had with us. Then we will move forward together.

Getting to know GCPC Committees: Adult Education Team

The Adult Education Team develops and presents programs that ground our faith in well-considered thought and discussion.

Programs fall into four basic categories:

- 1) Prepared courses available from various sources
- 2) The team develops courses based upon our research and accumulated knowledge. The team includes active and retired pastors who are happy to share their years of training and experience.
- 3) Current events (often moderated by knowledgeable members of the congregation)
- 4) Guest speakers (either recruited by the team or suggest by members of the congregation)

We meet monthly and prefer meeting in members' homes rather than the church to further instill fellowship.

We are always happy to welcome more members.



Why Deacons?

As defined in the Book of Order and as set forth in scripture, “the ministry of deacon is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, and exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry.” In the GPCPC operations manual their ministry is under the supervision and authority of the session and shall assume additional duties delegated to them by the session.

“the ministry of deacon is one of compassion, witness, and service”

While the Book of Order allows for many different tasks to be given to the deacons, GPCPC tends to follow Acts 6:1–5, which emphasizes feeding the hungry and caring for those in distress. Care of and for our members is of the utmost importance.

Each deacon is in charge of a Covenant group composed of congregation members and families. The deacon is responsible for communicating with the members of that group to determine and to what extent what care is required for whatever reason: birth, death, surgery or illness. Such care might include telephone calls, emails, texts, cards or visits. Sometimes meals are needed, sometimes additional communication with the pastoral staff is called for. Deacons may share church events, including worship services, fellowship activities and service opportunities. Each Covenant group may organize social activities for that group or in conjunction with other groups. The Deacon’s most important duty is to make church members feel included and cared for.

To foster an atmosphere of care and welcome on Sunday morning, the Deacons organize their covenant groups to serve as greeters at the doors and to host and clean up a coffee fellowship hour between the service and Sunday school. In February 2023 the Deacons and Covenants groups shared a brunch to start off the new church year. This replaced the group potluck usually associated with the annual meeting in January. The February date gave the deacons and their groups more time to prepare..

The 10 deacons currently serving are: Maggie Blankers, Barbara Douglas, Cindy Schendel, Nelson Townsend, Gay Lee Ludwig- Bonney, Jody Mason, Jesse Bures/Michelle Gailliez-Frye, Ashley Jeffries, Terra Howard and Jean Hampton. Anne Stroud is the Deacon Moderator.

These people, and many before them, have answered the call to serve in this very important role. Many will express that, while it can be challenging, it can also be incredibly fulfilling. Being a deacon is a true calling to serve Christ. If you get the call to serve in this role, please consider answering it.

Our Thanks

Joe and I want to thank everyone for the many cards and calls that Joe received following his heart surgery and the challenges that were faced. GPCPC has always been a blessing to our family.

—Pat & Joe Collins

Thank You

Donna and I would like to thank Mary Sue Thomas and the many volunteers who helped to make my Brother Kurt’s Celebration of Life service so special. Thank you to everyone who reached out to us with calls, text messages, cards, and your attendance at the service. Your kindness and support meant a lot to us.

—Kim Krueger and Donna Goeckler

Generosity Team Update For Good – Living in God’s Grace

Here is our pledging update as of June 19, 2023, which is 47% of the calendar year. There’s been positive movement with 50% of projected pledge amounts being received. Some of that can be attributed to members who have pre-paid their 2023 pledges, but we must also thank the timely generosity of our members. For the second month in a row, we have received an additional pledge! We are seeing our 0% fulfilled numbers slowly decreasing. As always, we thank you for your generosity and commitment to Grace Covenant.

The Generosity team agreed to provide these updates for three months. If you find this information on giving beneficial, please provide feedback to our team and we will continue: Dave Sutherland, Ryan Hussey, Bill Brown, Jane Knoche, and Mitch Trigger.

Here is our giving progress shown by numbers of pledges:

Submitted Pledges (103)

	April 12th	May 16th	June 19th
0% fulfilled	32	24	22
1-25% fulfilled	33	12	10
26-50% fulfilled	29	52	50
51-75% fulfilled	0	3	8
76-100% fulfilled	7	11	13
\$533,282.63	\$187,129	\$211,292	\$259,907

Rollover Pledges (28)

	April 12th	May 16th	June 19th
0% fulfilled	11	9	8
1-25% fulfilled	6	1	1
26-50% fulfilled	9	9	10
51-75% fulfilled	1	5	3
76-100% fulfilled	1	4	6
\$101,369	\$15,480	\$53,965	\$59,355

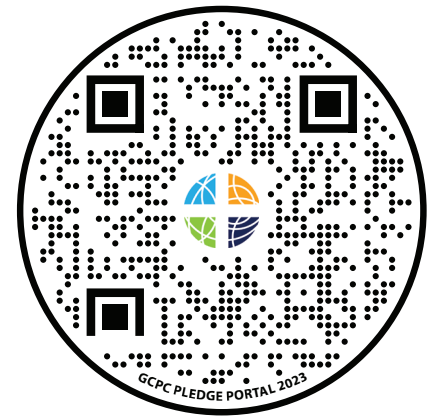
5 groupings are used to show giving progress and calendar relationship. They are 0%, 1-25%, 26-50%, 51-75%, 76-100%. Each pledge falls into one of these groups.

Faith and Hope Campaign Update

Our \$50,000 Faith and Hope Campaign has one additional pledge since May! Thank you for your supplemental pledge! That makes 35 members/households who have come forward with a supplemental pledge amount.

As of June 19, 2023, 44.6% of our goal has been raised for a total of \$22,335. You may be wondering why are we still campaigning for more funds? Our largest budget expenses are Facilities and Personnel. The other committee budgets are so tight, there is little room to grow these programs.

Please consider our Faith and Hope Campaign and give a supplemental pledge. You can access it through our giving portal and choosing the 2023 Faith and Hope Fund or by sending an email to Tara Hyder, finance@gcpc.org. Here is the link if you don’t want to use the QR code. [Give Now \(onrealm.org\)](https://onrealm.org)



Music Notes

Music in Worship

July 2nd - Organ led worship. Karen Kesler, soprano soloist – “My Life Flows On in Endless Song” arr. Jean Anne Shafferman.

July 9th - Praise Team led.

July 16th - Organ led worship. This will be the first Sunday for “Summer Choir” to sing. Summer Choir is open to any singers from rising 6th graders through adults. Our anthem will be “This Is My Word” by Pepper Choplin. We will rehearse that morning.

If you don’t usually sing with Chancel & Exaltation! Singers, please let Rebecca Prater know you plan to sing by Monday, July 10th so you will receive the anthem and other details.

In addition, Andrew Alka – tenor soloist.

July 23rd - Organ led worship. Music will be shared by Madeline Mahoney, soprano soloist & Ky Townsend, cello.

July 30th - Praise Team led.

Other Summer Choir Dates

August 6th - “Foundations” arr. Joseph Martin with piano 4-hand

August 27th - “Here I Am, Lord” arr. Jack Schrader

“Thank You” Notes

“Thank you” to Ben Mason, Contemporary Music Drummer & Percussionist for his wonderful musical contributions to our Praise Team and other music ensembles over the past several months. We now wish him well as he heads off to college at the University of Maryland. Godspeed, Ben.

Music Ensembles Resume in August & September

Mark the following tentative dates & times for our ensembles to resume & plan to join us!

Tuesday, August 8th at 7:00-8:15pm

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

Sunday, August 20th at 10:45am

(at the beginning of Sunday school)
Joy! (4s-1st graders)

Emily Hussey & Hilary Schmidt, directors
and

Celebration! Choir & Chimes (2nd-5th graders)

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

Wednesday, August 30th – 7:05-8:30pm

Chancel Choir & Exaltation! Singers (Youth & Adults)
Rebecca Prater, director

Sunday, September 10th – Time TBD

Spirit! Ringers (4th-8th graders)
Rebecca Prater, director

Sunday, September 10th – Time TBD

Jubilation! Ringers (9th graders-Adults)
Kathy Bures, director

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

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

Dates TBD

Rehearsals Thursdays, 7:00-8:00pm & Saturdays, 10:30-11:30am, as scheduled

GCPC Orchestra – (8th graders – Adults)
Pam Kelly, director



Calling All Children's Sunday School Teachers!

Sunday School for our children will resume on August 20. There will be classes for Toddlers – 5th grade. The Pre-school class will have a brand-new curriculum and the Grace Makers will have a slightly different curriculum.

Rev. Sue will lead a training session for all teachers (2 yrs – 5th grade) and anyone interested in learning more about teaching SS at GCPC. The class will be held July 9 immediately following worship in Room 4.

Please RSVP to let us Sue know if you will or will not be able to attend.

Looking Ahead:

AUGUST 13:

- 9:30am **Sunday School Teacher Commissioning** during worship.
- 10:45am **Sunday School Sneak a Peek** for families of children 2 yrs – 5th/6th grade.
Ministry Fair in Heartland Hall
Come learn about the ministries, teams and committees of GCPC and how you can get involved.

AUGUST 20:

- 10:45am Sunday school for all ages begins.



Grace Summer Sessions July – August, 10:45am in Heartland Hall

Bring your family, bring a friend and join us for this intergenerational series of activities in Heartland Hall.

Each week will bring a different opportunity for learning and fellowship.

Here's what's coming in July and August:

- July 2 Fellowship and Refreshments**
hosted by the Children's Team
- July 9 Feeding the Unhoused**
Making a Meal with Christy Soule
Come help prepare food for a picnic to be held later that day for houseless friends in Kansas City Missouri. We are asking for food donations needed to prepare sandwiches and salads.



Please see our Sign-Up Genius link below if you can help with donations. NOTE: This donation list QR code and link also contains items for our July 23 Grace Summer Session where we will prepare care kits for homeless friends.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805054faea72ea46-gcpc#/>

- July 16 Bible Jeopardy Game with Joel Ilten**
- July 23 Homeless Bags and Mini Food Pantry Donations with Erin Frye**
We will be assembling care kits for our church members to have handy when they encounter someone in need. Please join us and take a kit or two home to share with someone in need. Sign up to bring items for this session QR code and link above.
- July 30 GCPC Composting Introduction**
with Mikki Walker and Brandon Hearn
We have begun composting at GCPC. Come find out how we are disposing of food and compostable trash at church as well as at home.
- August 6 Fellowship and Refreshments**
- August 13 Sunday School Sneak a Peek**
(meet and great teachers of 2's and 3's, Pre-school, and K-5th grade classes) and Ministry Fair Sunday

A Thank You

I would like to thank the members of an Ad-Hoc Committee of the Facilities Team for their work over the last six months. This group of volunteers consisted of: Steve Becher, Patrick Bell, Paul Bruns, Kirk Heer, Kevin Johnson, Miles McDonald, Dave Peck, Larry Ralph, Tom Stroud, Jim Trast, Jason Walker and others who we reached out to for assistance and advice. All have given of their time and talents for GCPC.

The Facilities Capital Expense Planning group has been trying to peer into the future to forecast expected expenses needed to care for our 35-year-old building. We have learned much about our building and grounds and what it will take to care for them into the future. The report has been presented to Session identifying a dozen areas and potentially \$887,000 expense over the next 15 years. As always our Teams and the Session will strive to be prudent with our spending. However, any house, even a house of worship, is a work in progress.

—Ric Cummings, Ad-Hoc Committee “Instigator”

Resource Library Under Construction

If you are asked to teach an adult Sunday school class, preach a sermon, lead a Bible study, or just want to enrich yourself with study at home, we have a new resource library just for you.

We have received some extraordinary donations of Biblical commentaries, study resources, and DVD studies that will help you in your study. The Connections Commentary series is a new commentary series designed to bring Scripture to life for 21st century preaching and study. Thanks to Linda Hoffman (*donating in memory of Joe*) and the Triggers, we have a complete set. Looking for a resource on church history? We have them. Want a resource on the Old Testament or New Testament? We have them.

We have moved study resources from the concourse library into Room 21, creating an excellent study library. The concourse library will continue to offer religious and secular fiction for all ages, non-fiction, self-help resources, and children’s books. Special thanks to Liz Chandler and Jan Rosché for their help in redecorating and reorganizing the concourse library space. Stop by and check it out.



Healthy Congregations All-Day Workshop

Saturday, August 12, 9am-3pm

First Presbyterian Church, Westminster Hall
417 West Lexington St., Independence, MO 64050

This workshop is designed to equip leaders to respond to the presence or potential threat of anxiety in a congregational system in ways that prevent destructive conflict and help the church stay focused on its unique mission and purpose.

Training is made possible in part by a grant from the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation. Training is provided by the Lombard Mennonite Center. [Click here for workshop outline.](#)

Cost \$50 per person - includes lunch and training materials. (*Scholarships are available for Heartland Presbytery Members Only.*)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Thursday, August 3

For more information and to register, visit tinyurl.com/hc-workshop.

Mission Fair - August 13

The Mission Fair is being held on August 13 in Heartland Hall after worship. This gives each church member a chance to learn more about the many groups and activities sponsored by the church, as well as the opportunity to sign up for a committee or team that interests you.

If you are unable to attend you can contact Patrick, patrick.bell@gcpc.org, in the church office, or Mary Ann Weyforth, maweyforth@gmail.com, for more information, or to volunteer for one of the groups.



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Inclusive. Family Oriented. Welcoming.

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

gcpc.org

Follow us on Social Media!

Facebook: facebook.com/GraceCovenantPresbyterian

Instagram: @gcpc_overlandpark

CELEBRATING GOD'S ALL ENCOMPASSING LOVE!

CHURCH STAFF

Co Pastors

- Office hours: Monday-Thursday
Mitch Trigger, mitch.trigger@gcpc.orgext.18
Sue Trigger, sue.trigger@gcpc.orgext.15

Director of Music Ministries

- Office hours: Monday-Wednesday, Friday
Rebecca Prater, rebecca.prater@gcpc.org .. ext. 13

Church Administrator

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Patrick Bell, patrick.bell@gcpc.org ext. 10

Youth Ministries

Sue Trigger, sue.trigger@gcpc.orgext.15

Finance AdministratorTara Hyder
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Organist Linda Dover

Contemporary Music Coord. Carrie DeVries

Contemporary Music Drummer..... Ben Mason

Child Care Coordinator.....Carolyn Chaffin

Wedding Coordinator.....Lara Schesser

Funeral CoordinatorMary Sue Thomas

ELDERS

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

SUPPORT STAFF

Deacon ModeratorAnne Stroud
Operating Committee..... Katie Hearn,
Angela Krug, Lara Schesser, Tom Stroud
Newsletter Editor/Marketing..... Kim Krueger
Prayer Chain.....Cheryl Johnson
Website AdministratorsKim Krueger,
Patrick Bell, Christy Soule

MINISTRY UNITS

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

Education Ministry Unit Moderators
AdultTom Stroud
Children Angela Krug
Youth..... Bill Turner

Reach Out Ministry Unit Moderators
Kairos Rick Randolph
MissionMikki 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 for links

Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines

August 2023 issue - Deadline, July 21
September 2023 issue - Deadline, August 18