



40th Anniversary Celebration

1985 - 2025

Service of Worship, June 22, 2025, 9:30am
Second Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING

The prelude, the first act of worship, sets the tone for what is to follow. So, we invite you as worshipers to gather, to transition from your busy lives into a sacred place of communion with God and with each other. —Dr. Kimo Smith, adapted

PRELUDE

"DIADEMATA"
Chancel Brass

George J. Elvey
arr. John Knox

"On the Carpenters Porch"
"The Water Is Wide"
Cal Sweeten, dulcimer

arr. Princess Harris
arr. Ted Yoder

In worship following reflective music, we are requesting a response of quiet or a contemplative "amen." Any music that elicits a response of applause is to the glory of God.

WELCOME

Rev. Karen Wright

INTROIT

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"
Children's Choir and Charter Ringers
Linda Dover, conductor

arr. Linda Dover

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Karen Wright

ONE: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

All: **We worship the Lord with gladness and come into God's presence with singing!**

ONE: For the Lord is good!

All: **God's steadfast love endures forever.**

ONE: Nothing can separate us from the love of God.

All: **Not height nor depth, not things present nor things to come—nothing in all creation! Let us worship God, whose love has held this church through every season.**

*HYMN *Front of Hymnal* "Acclaim God's Saving News"

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Emily Nelson Dixon

(Awakening to Worship, our child-friendly worship time, is on summer hiatus. Our Nursery welcomes young children, and our ushers can assist families to the nursery located in the children's wing. Worship bags are available for children who stay in worship.)



CALL TO CONFESSION

Emily Nelson Dixon

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. In life and in death we belong to God. God's love never lets us go. Empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ. In trust and love as the children of God let us confess together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

Eternal God, Just as you led your people through the wilderness for forty years, you have led this church through seasons of growth, challenge, and grace. But like your people in the desert, we have not always trusted your provision. We have grumbled in times of uncertainty, turned to our own ways, and forgotten your faithfulness.

You called us to be a light to the world, but too often we hide in comfort or fear. You asked us to care for the least and the lost, but we have sometimes served only ourselves. Forgive us, Lord. Renew in us the courage of those first steps.

Plant your promises in our hearts once again. As you fed your people with manna, feed us now with your mercy. Guide us with your Spirit toward the future you are still unfolding. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Beloved, hear this good news: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; God's mercies never come to an end. Through Christ Jesus, we are forgiven, renewed, and called again to love and serve.

God's love endures forever—stronger than our failures, deeper than our doubts. Alleluia! Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you and all others!

*HYMN 71

"First Song of Isaiah"

Jack Noble White

*Chancel and Exaltation Singers with Praise Team, Carrie DeVries, conductor;
Kathy Bures and Chris Lindsay, handbells. Congregation sings refrain only.*

Solo

**ALL: Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
and He will be my Savior.
Therefore, you shall draw water with rejoicing
from the springs of salvation
and on that day you shall say,
"Give thanks to the Lord
and call upon God's name." (Refrain)
Make God's deeds known among the peoples;
see that they remember that the Lord is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord,
for God has done great things
and this is known in all the world. (Refrain)
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion;
ring out your joy,
for the great one in the midst of you
is the Holy One of Israel. (Refrain)**





EQUIPPING

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalms 100 (NRSVue)

Lauren Bond

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
 Serve the Lord with gladness;
 come into his presence with singing.
 Know that the Lord is God.
 It is he who made us, and we are his;
 we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise.
 Give thanks to him; bless his name.
 For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever
 and his faithfulness to all generations.

ANTHEM

"Promise of Grace"

Mary McDonald

*Chancel & Exaltation! Singers, Patrick O'Halloran, director
 Katie Hearn, flute; Donna Heer, violin; Bob Dover, clarinet*

*Sleepless nights and sorrow, my hope – a broken song.
 Weary of the struggle, the road that takes too long;
 Longing for His mercy to set me free and then,
 I heard His whispered promise: "You will never thirst again!"*

*Come, see a man who knows all that we have done.
 Is He not the Christ, the Chosen One!
 His Name is Jesus, look upon His face.
 This is the promise of amazing grace!
 I'll worship Him in Spirit, His living water mine.
 I'll worship Him in truth, God, Incarnate, Love Divine!
 Come and see this Jesus who set us free and then reminds us of His promise:
 "We will never thirst again!"*

***ALL: Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
 That saved a wretch like me!
 I once was lost but now am found,
 was blind but now I see.***

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 8:31-39 (NRSVue)

Lauren Bond

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!



SERMON

"Called to Join God's Holy Work"

Rev. Karen Wright

MUSICAL MEDITATION

"Hymn of Promise"

Natalie Sleeth

Chancel and Exaltation! Singers
Rebecca Prater, guest conductor

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING AND RENEWAL

Leader: For those who planted seeds of faith...

People: **We give thanks.**

Leader: For every hand that served, every heart that welcomed, every voice that sang...

People: **We give thanks.**

Leader: For God's faithfulness in times of joy and in times of trial...

People: **We give thanks.**

Leader: Will you continue to grow in love and faithfulness, as God leads us forward together?

People: **By God's grace, we will.**

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

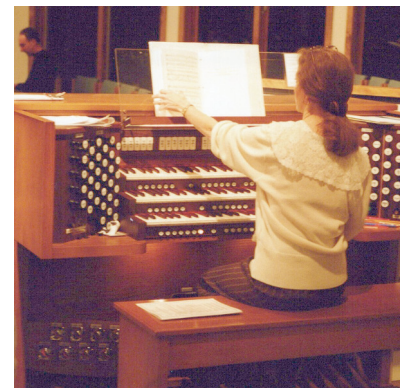
A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

"Alleluia"

arr. Linda Lamb

Charter Ringers, Mary Jane Voogt, guest conductor





SENDING

*SENDING SONG

"Sing Wherever I Go"

by We the Kingdom

Praise Team, Carrie DeVries, director

ALL: All my life, all I know, God's been good, good to my soul.
Mountain high, valley low, I'm gonna sing wherever I go. (2X)

God is for me, he's not against me. I will hold to the plans he has for me.
When I'm broken, he will fix me. I will call on the name of the Lord!

All my life, all I know, God's been good, good to my soul.
Mountain high, valley low, I'm gonna sing wherever I go.

He's my heart-song in my sorrow. He's my hope and my strength for tomorrow.
When the storms rise all around me, I will call on the name of the Lord!

All my life, all I know, God's been good, good to my soul.
Mountain high, valley low, I'm gonna sing wherever I go. (2X)

I got joy, joy, joy deep in my soul!
I will sing, sing, sing wherever I go!

All my life, all I know, God's been good, good to my soul.
Mountain high, valley low, I'm gonna sing wherever I go. (2X)



CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

"Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart"

POSTLUDE

"Lift High the Cross"

Chancel Brass and Linda Dover, organist

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

**Stand in body or spirit*

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GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Please record your attendance at today's worship service
by signing the attendance pad, or with our virtual attendance
pad at gcpc.org/attendance, or scan the QR code.



Head Ushers are John & Mary Pat Gilbert and Eric Burdette.
Hearing devices are available. Please ask at the sound booth.
Nursery care is available during worship, located in Room 22 in the east wing.





Honoring the Vocalists and Musicians of Our 40th Anniversary Worship

Today, we give special thanks for the gift of music—a powerful thread that has always woven its way through our worship and our shared journey for the past 40 years. It is with deep appreciation and joy that we introduce the gifted singers and musicians—both current and former members—who have returned or remained to offer their talents in celebration of this milestone. Through their voices and instruments, they lead us in worship, lift our spirits, and help us give glory to God, who has been faithful through every season.

Each note sung, each chord played, is more than just music—it is a prayer, a remembrance, a celebration. We thank each of these individuals for saying “yes” to being part of this moment, for sharing their hearts and gifts, and for helping us proclaim the goodness of God in this house of worship we call home.

We give thanks for the following musicians and vocalists who help us honor the past, celebrate the present, and joyfully step into the future.

Chancel and Exaltation! Singers

Patrick O'Halloran, Interim Director of Music Ministries, and Rebecca Prater, Director of Music Ministries (2005-2025), guest director

Soprano

Lauren Bond
Emily Quinn Boston
Liz Chandler
Barbara Douglas
Erin Frye
Cheryl Johnson
Karen Kesler
Beth Lillian
Lara Schesser
Andrea Montoya
Terri Monrad
Cindy Schendel
Anne Stroud
Mary Jane Voogt

Tenor

Andrew Alka
Linda Bruns
Alan Purvis
David Sutherland
Cal Sweeten
Keith Langabee
Ellin Schoenfeld
Gene Wilson
Jim Kelly

Bass

Arun Idiculla
Paul Bruns
Kyle Heer
Conor Schesser
Allen York
Bob Dover
Mac Fechtling
Edwin Fukunaga
Rob Schendel
Jim Voogt

**Music Librarian*

Tech Team

Jason Turner, Joel Kesler, and Ray Kowalczewski

Charter Ringers

Mary Jane Voogt, Director of Music Ministries (1986-2001), guest director
Linda Bruns, Elizabeth Bures, Kathy Bures, Edwin Fukunaga, Katie Hearn, Donna Heer, Cheryl Johnson, Angela Krug, Chris Krug, Keith Langabee, Celia Nicholas, Lara Schesser, Lori Schwindt

Children's Choir

Eloise Dixon, Esme Dixon, Abel Frye, Charlotte Hearn, Mallory Hearn, Aiden Hussey, Caitlin Hussey, Liam Hussey, Brynnley Krug, Morgan Krug, Kam Frye, Conor Schesser, Evelyn Schmidt, James Schmidt, Magnolia Sellers, Nolan Tamke, Lucas Wright, Sarah Wright

Praise Team

Carrie DeVries, director, piano, vocals; Donna Goeckler, Jami Howe, Michelle Gailliez-Frye, Cal Sweeten, vocals; Stephen Wing, guitar, vocals; Darryl Prater, trumpet; Patrick O'Halloran, drums; Trey Bures, bass

Chancel Brass

Darryl Prater, Lane Benton, trumpets; Jim Kelly, horn; Mike Hockley and Lara Schesser, euphoniums; Trey Bures, tuba; Keith Langabee, percussion

GCPC Music Team

Linda Dover, Organist (1998 - present)
Patrick O'Halloran, Interim Director of Music Ministry
Barbara Douglas, Music Team Moderator

Special thanks and additional musicians

Our deepest thanks to Patrick O'Halloran, Linda Dover, Celia Nicholas, Carrie DeVries, Darryl Prater for help in music planning and ensemble leadership, and also to Mary Jane Voogt and Rebecca Prater, former Music Ministry Directors, for their contributions to this special service.

Thank you to these musicians: Kathy Bures, Chris Lindsay, handbells; Katie Hearn, flute; Donna Heer, violin; Bob Dover, clarinet; Cal Sweeten, dulcimer

Alto

Elizabeth Bures
Kathy Bures
Emily Nelson Dixon
Esme Dixon
Pam Kelly
Angela Krug
Christine Thomson
Melanie Townsend
Susan Hayden
Diane Hevener
*Connie Richards
Kelly Scarborough



Brunch Following Worship

Thank you for joining us on this special Sunday in the life of our church!

After worship, please exit the sanctuary through the etched glass doors only and choose one of the two food lines.

Seating is available in Heartland Hall and the Garden area. If you need help getting a meal, let an usher know—we're happy to assist. Children can enjoy lawn games and an inflatable play area.

The meal is provided by Hy-Vee and contains gluten-free ingredients. Pastries are not gluten-free. A limited number of gluten-free donuts are available. Coffee and water stations are available. Enjoy the food and fellowship!

Special guests in attendance today

Rev. Jay McKell - Founding Pastor (1985 - 2010) and Pastor Emeritus designation (2014) and wife, **Elizabeth McKell**

Rev. Diane Quaintance, First Associate Pastor (1988-1992) and husband, **Harold Quaintance**

Rev. Heidi Peterson, Associate Pastor (1994 - 2000) and husband, **Rev. Jeff Clayton**

Rev. Ky Weekly, Associate Pastor (2000-2012)

Revs. Sue and Mitch Trigger, Co-Pastors (2018 - 2023)

Mary Jane Voogt, First Director of Music Ministry (1986 - 2001), and husband, **Jim Voogt**

Rebecca Prater, Director of Music Ministry (2005 - 2025) and husband **Darryl Prater**

George Lund, Church Architect

Greg Mullinax, Heartland Presbytery Staff

Thank you to the Staff

Rev. Karen Wright, Pastor

Patrick Bell, Church Administrator

Linda Dover, Organist

Patrick O'Halloran, Interim Director of Music Ministry

Carrie DeVries, Contemporary Music Coordinator

Emily Nelson Dixon, Director of Christian Education

Tara Hyder, Finance Administrator

Jason Turner, Audio/Visual Technician

Carolyn Chaffin, Child Care Coordinator

Jill Endaya-Allen, Contemporary Music Drummer

Thank You to Our 40th Anniversary Celebration Team

With grateful hearts, we give thanks for the many hands and hearts that came together to help plan and present today's 40th Anniversary Worship Celebration and Brunch. This milestone moment was made possible by the dedication, creativity, and collaboration of many.

We extend our deepest appreciation to the 40th Anniversary Committee members: Co-Chairs **Kristy Shaw, Christy Soule, and Kim Krueger**, along with **Kathy Williams, Mary Ann Weyforth, Sarah Byrd, Ginny Wirtz, Liz Chandler, Tim Hayden, Caroline Becher, Eileen Thompson, Jane Knoche, Chelly King, Karen Wright, Kevin Johnson, and Patrick Bell**. Thank you for the many months of prayer, planning, and joyful effort that brought today's celebration to life.

We are also especially grateful to the volunteers who helped make today's events run smoothly: **Carolyn Chaffin, Cathy Haun, Ashley Jeffries, Lindsay Callendar, Cindy Monshizadeh, Nick and Michael Stevens (Troop 122), Emily Nelson Dixon**, our **volunteer ushers**, and the **GCPC Men's Group**. Your presence and servant hearts were a gift to all who gathered.

We're grateful to everyone who helped make our 40th Anniversary year so special—whether you bought an **anniversary T-shirt**, contributed to the **Savers Fundraiser**, sorted and packed donations on Workshop Sunday, helped the Men's Group load the truck, or supported the **Craft Fair**. A special thanks to the children and families who ran the **lemonade stand** at the fair.

And to all who joined us for our intergenerational events—the **Tea Party, DIY Mini Golf, and Friendship Bracelet Party**—thank you for showing up with such joy and enthusiasm.

Through all of these celebrations and acts of service, we have honored the faithfulness of God and the transformative power of His presence in our lives and in the life of this church.

If we've unintentionally missed anyone, please know our heartfelt thanks includes you, too. It truly took our entire church family to bring a celebration like this to life, and we're so grateful for all who played a part. Thank you for being part of this joyful occasion!



A Faithful Journey of Forty Years

With grateful hearts and joyful spirits, we welcome you to this 40th Anniversary Celebration of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church.

In Scripture, 40 years often signifies a time of formation and transformation—Israel's journey in the wilderness, Moses' life in thirds, and the reigns of kings like David and Solomon. These weren't just spans of time, but seasons of preparation. In the same way, our 40 years as a church have been filled with growth in faith, adaptation to change, deepening love, and witness to the gospel in our community and beyond.

As we look back, we are full of thanksgiving. We give thanks for the faithful leaders, volunteers, and members—past and present—who have nurtured ministries, taught children, cared for one another, and stewarded God's gifts with grace. We remember those who blazed the trail—our founders and all the saints who have gone before us and who now lean over the balcony of heaven to journey on with us.

Lamentations 3:22-23 reminds us: *"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."* In these pages, we see God's hand at work and the beauty of that enduring faithfulness.

Rooted in that steadfast love—proclaimed in Psalm 100:5—we celebrate this milestone with gratitude and anticipation. God is not finished with us yet. As we give thanks for 40 years, we also look ahead, trusting in the Spirit to guide us into the next chapter. Thanks be to God—and may the road ahead be as grace-filled as the one behind.

— Rev. Karen Wright, Pastor



Dedication to the Charter Members

With deep gratitude and abiding respect, we acknowledge the charter members of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church. Their faith, vision, and courage laid the foundation upon which this church was built. In times of uncertainty, they trusted in God's providence. In moments of challenge, they responded with generosity, perseverance, and prayer. And through all seasons, they nurtured a community grounded in love, service, and grace.

Because of our Charter Members, generations have found a spiritual home, a place to grow in Christ, and a church family to walk alongside them. Their legacy continues to bear fruit, 40 years on, in the lives touched and transformed within these walls and beyond.

**With hearts full of gratitude,
we honor our Charter Members:**

Jan Andrews	Steve and Ann Johnson
Leslie Berning	Robert and Kathy Jonas
Carl Blomgren	Todd Jenson
Tom and Darlene Brandtones	Jan and Jeanne Kessinger
Norm and Kathy Brasher	Jerry and Leslie Larson
Loren Buchner	Jim and Susan Levere
Allen and Terri Carl	Mike and Regie Lorimer
Steve and Lora Beth Clark	Don and Sandy Madelung
Nancy Cornett	Mary MacKenzie
Lee and Joyce Davidson	Lori Mastrian
Lisa and Micah Davidson	Ben and Shelley McGraw
Paul and Sarah Diehl	Elizabeth McKell
Roy and Jackie Drown	Bev McLean
Peter and Judy Ensminger	Bob and Kathie Meyer
Steve and Judy Ferrell	Steve Meyer
Larry Ferree	Bill and Kathy Migneron
Douglas and Caryn Firebaugh	Terry and Cathy Nance
Don and Donna Frankland	Joshua Peery
Kyle Frankland	Shannon Peery
Jim and Susan Friend	Bruce and Candace Parker
Bill and Cathy Graham	Dave and Vicki Peck
Jay and Cheryl Greenough	Larry and Sue Pittman
Jesse and Jean Hampton	Mike and Susan Quail
Philip and Nancy Hatfield	Debra Reed
Tim and Susan Hayden	Bill and Jo Schmeling
Carl and Nell Hayunge	Dietz and Sandy Shepherd
Rick and Pam Hellyer	Kynda Silvey
Rom and Susan Herwig	Todd Sparks
Al and Lani Himegarner	Jim and Sharon Staso
Katie Himegarner	Bob and Debbie Still
Mike Himegarner	Max and Virginia Talmage
Alan and Judy Hook	Nelson and Ida Tilden
Don and Susan Hughes	Paul and Ginny Wirtz
Kristi Hughes	Steve and Kathy Young



The Vision Takes Root (1984–1990)

"The smallest seed of faith can grow into something beautiful."

The story of Grace Covenant begins not with walls or programs, but with a shared prayer. In 1984, a group of believers dared to dream of a community grounded in Scripture, covenantal love, and God's grace. These early years were filled with simple joys: folding chairs, borrowed hymnals, and heartfelt sermons. What they lacked in resources, they made up for in courage, commitment, and hospitality. In this section, we remember the planting of the seed—and honor those who nurtured it.



Growing in Grace (1990–2000)

"Let your roots grow down into Him and your lives be built on Him." —Colossians 2:7

As Grace Covenant entered its second decade, the church began to flourish in its permanent home, ministries began to multiply, and the congregation expanded in both number and depth. Children's laughter filled Sunday school rooms, choirs lifted voices in praise, and the fellowship hall became a hub of life and learning. This was a season of joyful growth—rooted in grace and reaching toward God's purposes.



A People of Covenant (2000–2010)

"To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." —Micah 6:8

Entering the 21st century, Grace Covenant deepened its identity as a people bound together by faith and covenant. As leadership evolved and the world around us changed, the church continued to live out its call: to worship deeply, serve generously, and love unconditionally. New mission initiatives took root, and spiritual formation grew stronger. This was a decade of intentionality—where faith met action and grace found new expressions.



Faithfulness in Changing Times (2010–2020)

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." —Hebrews 13:8

Change is inevitable, but God's faithfulness endures. During this decade, Grace Covenant navigated the ever-shifting landscape of modern life: digital transformations, generational transitions, and cultural upheaval. Through it all, the church remained a steady presence—offering hope, truth, and community. Ministries were reimagined, outreach adapted, and the heartbeat of grace continued to guide us. These years are a reflection of how faith held firm in times of uncertainty.



Enduring Together (2020–2024)

"Though we are many, we form one body." —Romans 12:5

These years brought unprecedented challenges—but also powerful reminders of God's presence. In the face of global pandemic and societal change, Grace Covenant discovered new ways to gather, worship, and care. Online services, porch visits, virtual group meetings—creativity became an expression of compassion. We endured, not apart, but together. This chapter celebrates the resilience of a church family sustained by faith, bonded in love, and strengthened through grace.



Celebrating Our Faithful Journey (2025)

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." —Psalm 107:1

As we mark 40 years of ministry, we pause to celebrate all that God has done through Grace Covenant. We give thanks for every baptism and potluck, every sermon and song, every moment that has formed us into who we are today. Our stories, photos, and reflections are the heart of the church—its people. Our 40th anniversary celebration is a joyful look back at how faith has shaped our journey and how grace has sustained it.



Looking Ahead with Hope

"For I know the plans I have for you... plans to give you hope and a future." —Jeremiah 29:11

While today's celebration reflects on the past, it is ultimately a celebration of God's ongoing work. The next chapter of Grace Covenant has yet to be written—but it will be authored by the same faith, shaped by new voices, and led by the same faithful God. We look ahead—with vision, anticipation, and trust. What a gift it is to journey forward—together, in grace.



Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church: The Story Behind Our Name

As recounted by Jay McKell, Pastor Emeritus, the naming of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church was a thoughtful and prayerful process. Before the church was officially chartered and the first ordained officers (Elders and Deacons) were elected, a Coordinating Council composed of elected individuals made crucial decisions about the church's future. One of their key tasks was to name the church.

Ginny Wirtz, as the last remaining member of that council, recalls the meetings where various names were suggested. The group proposed both geographic names like College Blvd Presbyterian Church, Hilltop Presbyterian Church, and Crossroads Presbyterian Church, and theological names such as Hope Presbyterian Church, New Spirit Presbyterian Church, Rising Sun Presbyterian Church, Covenant Presbyterian Church, and Grace Presbyterian Church.

After several evenings of discussion and prayer, the council unanimously chose the name Grace Covenant. This name was selected to remind us that God's "Grace" stands at the heart of our church. It reflects the hope that grace would be the cornerstone of our community. The word "Covenant" was included to emphasize that as members, we are bound to one another in faith, love, trust, and commitment.

Thus, Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church was born, carrying with it a name that encapsulates the essence of our faith and fellowship.



Grace Covenant

A poem by Vicki Peck, Charter Member

God has given the people at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church so much. In return, we have given a lot to others.

Races and people of all types are always welcomed and accepted with open hearts.

A lot of big round tables have helped us share highs and lows during weddings, dinners, funerals, and celebrations of all kinds.

Chairs were set up ... and taken down for our services. Thank you to Blue Valley School District and Indian Valley Elementary.

Everyone has a place in our church to participate in donating blood, barbecuing, gardening, cooking for Uplift, giving to Soles4Souls, teaching VBS, changing light bulbs, counting the offering, hammering for Habitat, and supporting Crop Walk.

Choirs of beautiful voices, harmonious instruments, babbling babies, giggling children, and inspiring sermons float throughout our church.

Oh, thank you, God, for the ministers, elders, deacons, members, visitors, staff, committee people, and others who have guided and helped us during our 40 years.

Vivacious children and teenagers entertain us in many ways and keep us young. Who hasn't chuckled at a child's comment or appreciated help from one of these kids?

Each brilliant stained-glass window has graced and inspired us, as have nature scenes on our etched glass doors in the sanctuary.

Naturally, we still throw confetti, especially at Easter, to show our unbridled happiness at special occasions. How fun to find a piece of confetti months later.

Activities with food often bring us together for bingo, Advent, Mardi Gras, dinners for 7 or 8, cards, etc. Did our food start with the donut?

Not one Sunday passes without sharing the Peace of Christ. It wouldn't feel right without our all-encompassing ritual.

The work we've accomplished over 40 years has benefitted thousands of people. Let us continue to help our global and local community and each other for many years to come.



Celebrating our Faithful Journey

As we commemorate the 40th anniversary of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, we will gather under the uplifting theme of "Celebrating Our Faithful Journey." Anchored by the timeless words of Psalm 100:5, "For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations," this celebration reflects on our rich history, acknowledges our milestones, and rejoices in our growth over the years.

For four decades, Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church has been a beacon of God's enduring love and faithfulness. Our journey has been marked by countless moments of worship, community service, and spiritual growth, each contributing to the tapestry of our church's story. This anniversary invites us to pause and reflect on these moments, celebrating the unwavering faithfulness of God and the dedicated efforts of our congregation in nurturing and building our church community.

The 40th Anniversary Committee envisioned our anniversary celebrations to be vibrant and multifaceted, featuring worship services, gratitude-focused events, and heartfelt storytelling. Through these activities, we honor the faithfulness of God and the transformative power of His presence in our lives, as we reminisced about significant moments—both challenging and triumphant—fostering deep gratitude for our past and an optimistic vision for our future.

This celebration is more than a look back; it's a reminder that our journey is ongoing. As we reflect on the past, we are also encouraged to look forward to the countless opportunities ahead. Opportunities to deepen our faith, impact lives, and spread God's love even further. Our 40th anniversary is a testament to the enduring faithfulness of God and the vibrant, dedicated community that is Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Thank you for joining us in this reflection and celebration as we honor the past, embrace the present, and look forward to a future filled with God's promises and possibilities. Let us come together to celebrate our faithful journey, remembering that with God's enduring love and faithfulness, our best days are still ahead. There are numerous ways in which you can contribute to this continued storytelling by sharing your memories and the impact the church has made in our community. **Share your memories at gpcpc.org/memories.**

Psalm 100:5

"For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."





Prayer of Thanksgiving and Blessing

Faithful God of steadfast love, we give you thanks for your renewing mercies which have sustained Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church over the past 40 years. You have walked with us through joy and challenge, guiding our steps and calling us into your service. We are grateful for every person who has prayed, served, worshiped, and grown within this community. Thank you for the milestones we've celebrated and the quiet ways your Spirit has moved among us.

As we look to the future, give us vision and courage. Strengthen us to serve faithfully, to love generously, and to follow Jesus with open hearts. Bless the generations to come, and may this church continue to be a witness to your grace.

For all that has been, we thank you.
For all that is, we bless you.
For all that is to come, we trust you.
In Christ's name, Amen.



Celebrating 40 Years of Ministry

As we mark 40 years of ministry at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, we give thanks for the many ways this community has shaped lives. **Again and again, we've heard how Grace Covenant is a place of belonging, faith, and transformation.**

To help us continue the journey, we invite you to make an offering to our **40th Anniversary Fund**.

Your gift supports the Facilities Reserve Account, helping us care for our church building for future generations of ministry and mission.

Join us in this journey of faith.

Thank you for being part of our story—
and the story which is still unfolding.

Donate at
gcpc.org/40thFund
or safely scan the
QR code shown



40th Anniversary History and Memory Book

Church member Kim Krueger is hard at work researching, writing, and designing the *GCPC 40th Anniversary History and Memory Book*, which we hope to complete by year's end. This special publication will highlight the life of Grace Covenant year by year, featuring photos and reflections from church staff, team moderators, and members.

We're accepting contributions to the memory book portion through July 31, 2025. Share your memories at gcpc.org/memories.

The final version—expected to exceed 200 pages—will be available as a downloadable PDF or as a printed, bound copy (*with printing cost to be announced later*).

Questions? Contact Patrick at office@gcpc.org.