



REAL FAITH | REAL STORIES | REAL GRACE

# GRACE NOTES

## Autumn has always been our favorite season.

There's just something about the beautiful fall colors that give a brief but needed burst to the landscape before the long gray days of winter.

It's also a special time in our church life, with fellowship a focus for us all. October begins with **World Communion Sunday** on October 2, a time for us to remember we're all part of the world-wide church of Jesus Christ. It's also the end of our "Season of Peace" and the beginning of our "**Season of Thanks Giving.**" The next weekend we'll be have both our **Blessing of the Animals** and our "**Meat & Greet/Grill & Fill**" Annual Barbecue Cook-Off on Saturday, October 8.

Grace Covenant will also have another very special **Work-ship Sunday** on October 16. Our Mission Team has put together a variety of opportunities to serve others as well as our fellow GCPC church members. We hope you will prayerfully consider working alongside other members of Grace Covenant that Sunday, strengthening our bonds together in service to Jesus Christ.

As we look at these activities, we're reminded of the importance of community. Yes, you can be a good Christian in the way you live as an individual, but there's a good reason for the church. Much like the first Christians, there is something special about the way we care for one another and the way we pull together to support each other in difficult times. It's easy to go months without any real challenges coming up in our lives, but eventually we all find ourselves in need of a helping hand. It doesn't matter what age we are or our family status, we've experienced loss or faced medical challenges or one of the hundreds of other hurdles we face in our lives. We can try and deal with everything ourselves, but we don't have to – we have the support of our church and its members.

It's truly a reason to give thanks to God.

—Mitch & Sue Trigger



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](http://gcpc.org)

In-Person Worship and Online  
Worship every Sunday on  
Facebook Live and Zoom.  
Visit [gcpc.org/online](http://gcpc.org/online) for links!

# LOOKING AHEAD

## Advent Fair, November 20

The Advent Fair will be held on Sunday, November 20. This year's theme is: A Sustainable Christmas. If you would like to serve on a planning team for this event, please contact Rev. Sue at [sue.trigger@gcpc.org](mailto:sue.trigger@gcpc.org). We will meet Tuesday, October 18, at 6pm in Room 4.

## TRUNK OR TREAT

Get your costumes ready, find your favorite treat collection container, and get ready for games, activities, and trunk or treats **Sunday, October 30, at 4pm.**



Come to Heartland Hall for games and activities. Weather permitting, the trunk or treating will be held outside in the parking lot at about 4:45pm. Rain or snow? We'll move inside. *(Watch for details about how we can set up trick or treat stations inside the building if weather prevents an outdoor event.)*

**NEW THIS YEAR:** You can help us help others. We are asking those who attend to bring an item for the mini food pantry outside the lower education wing. Juice boxes, fruit and nutrition bars, canned soups and pasta meals, small bottled water, and snack foods are always needed. There will be a collection box inside the Weekday Entrance to drop your donation as you arrive.

### **WE NEED TRUNKS AND TREATS!**

If you would like to set up your car and pass out treats that you provide or donate candy for the indoor games and prizes, please sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A45A4A722A4FC1-trunk1>; or contact Rev. Sue at [sue.trigger@gcpc.org](mailto:sue.trigger@gcpc.org).

## This is Grace

Join us as we explore what it means to belong and be an active participant in the GCPC community of believers. All are welcome!



## This is Grace

### New Member's Classes

**October 2 - 30; 10:45am, Room 5**

This new member's class is open to all and is the best way to get an overview of the church. There is no assumption on our part that you will join when you attend the class. First time visitors and long-time friends are encouraged to attend to get questions answered and to discover the exciting ways Grace Covenant carry out God's work.

### **This Is Grace covers the following:**

- Introductions and discussion on the history of Grace Covenant and its ministries, and what Presbyterians believe.
- Discussion on the meaning of membership and "Everything you've wanted to ask a pastor but have been unable to ask!"
- Conversations about worship, and other information.

After the final session, if you are ready to join Grace Covenant, you will be invited to meet with the Session (the governing body that oversees the ministry of the church). They will welcome you into our faith family in official Presbyterian style.

If you decide you are not interested in joining, or not quite ready to join, we hope you will have a much better sense of Grace Covenant and we will continue to delight in your presence with us as a visitor and friend.

To sign up for the class, please contact Rev. Sue at [sue.trigger@gcpc.org](mailto:sue.trigger@gcpc.org).





## LIVING IN GOD'S GRACE

We know that God works all things together **for good** for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

I've heard it said that people come into our lives for a reason, bringing something we must learn, and we are led to those who help us most to grow if we let them and we help them in return. ...because I knew you, I have been changed **for good**.

—“For Good” from the musical *WICKED*

Our theme for this year's pledge campaign is “**For Good – Living in God's Grace**” and we were inspired by both scripture and popular culture. We truly believe that God has called us to be part of this congregation, and that God uses our gifts and the work we do together for good, for the purposes of God we've learned from Jesus Christ. That's also why we couldn't help but resonate with these lyrics from the musical *WICKED* – “people come into our lives for a reason.” Each one of us is gift from God to others, often in ways we don't recognize till later.

In years past, many faithful members have shared their financial resources with GCPC so that we might continue to spread the good news of Jesus Christ in our worship, our shared mission, our fellowship, and in the way we come to a deeper knowledge of God from our youngest children to our long-time members. Will you do the same? Your gifts and pledges lift up and support Grace Covenant today as well as in the future.

As always, there are a number of ways to make your pledges, but you'll find the online pledge for the easiest - <https://onrealm.org/gcpc/-/form/pledge/2023pledgedoffering>. This link is also on the GCPC website and will be included in church communications throughout the campaign. We pray that your pledges will reflect your gratitude for individual church members and the whole congregation of GCPC.

Because we've known each other, we have been changed **for good**.



# Grace Studies: For Kids

## Pre-school 2-4 years:

Pre-school children will grow in grace and gratitude this year! They will gather to explore and respond to God's grace and be sent out to love and serve God by being:

- Rooted in the foundation of Presbyterian identity where God's grace and our gratitude are the heartbeat of our faith, life, and worship;
- Invited to discipleship that inspires them to learn and practice hospitality, generosity, and love; and
- Encouraged to reach beyond Sunday mornings and church walls to live their lives as an expression of God's grace.



When our children are at home, families can use these tools to explore God's grace and gratitude each day:

- Grace Sightings: the weekly Bible story with age-appropriate activities for your family to do at home.
- Audio Recordings: the weekly Bible story brought to life by endearing readings and sound effects.
- E-book: the quarter's colorful illustrations, Bible stories, and Grace Sightings in iBook and Kindle formats.

Find these tools at:

[www.pcusastore.com/GGGdownloads](http://www.pcusastore.com/GGGdownloads).

## K- 5/6th Grace Makers:

At Grace Covenant, our elementary grades enjoy a program that is unique to GCPC. We create our own lesson plans that encourage learning through a variety of learning modes: art, music, drama, science, cooking, kinesthetic learning and more. During October, our classes will continue to explore God's diverse creation and how we can honor all that God has made.



## There's Room for everyone in Sunday School!

**Nursery:** Room 22

**Toddlers/Preschool 2-4yrs:** Room 23

**Kindergarten – 1st Grades:** Room 25 (10:45am gathers here for Joy! Singers and will be escorted to their workshop.) *(Grace Makers Workshop Rotation classes move each week.)*

**2nd—5th/6th Grades:** Room 15 (10:45am gathers here for Celebration! Singers) *(Grace Makers Workshop Rotation classes move each week.)*

**6th–8th Grades:** Room 19b

**High School:** Room 19a

## Join the Sunday School Team!

If you love working with children and would like to teach, please contact Rev. Sue at [sue.trigger@gcpc.org](mailto:sue.trigger@gcpc.org).

## Refreshments Sign Up

We have been blessed with delicious treats during our fellowship time following worship in Heartland Hall. We have updated the sign up and are looking for volunteers.

If you would like to provide a Sunday morning snack for our fellowship time, sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A45A4A722A4FC1-fellowship>.

**PEACE**  
BEGINS  
WITH EACH  
OF US.



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION  
SEPTEMBER 4-OCTOBER 2, 2022





# Grace Studies: Adult Study Opportunities

## Follow Me: Make Peace

September 25 – October 9; Meets in Room 3

Zoom in at: <https://tinyurl.com/2s3eu83a>

There are many ways of understanding and living peace, from the absence of conflict to a quiet, inner calm. God has a vision for peace, shalom, wholeness that God's people need to keep at the forefront of mind and heart. Jesus spoke about God's blessing for those who make peace in his Sermon on the Mount. Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty, the author of the foundational essay for this practice, observes that making peace is like climbing a mountain. There are many paths to the summit. Peacemakers need to identify the path they will navigate on their journey toward God's peace. This class meets in Room 3. Leadership is shared.



## Running For Our Lives: A Story of Faith, Politics, and The Common Good

September 25-October 23; Meets in Room 4

Participants will discuss this book by Robb Ryerse. Empowered by the Brand New Congress initiative in 2018, this evangelical pastor and progressive Republican embarked on a long-shot, grassroots congressional campaign against Steve Womack, one of the most powerful Republican incumbents in Washington, DC. After he ultimately lost his race, Ryerse worked with the Vote Common Good campaign, traveling across the United States to help turn Congress blue. Join Dave Pack and Tom Stroud for a conversation about the book.

Copies of the book are available from the church office or during the class for a suggested donation of \$15.00.

You can also find the book on Kindle. The class meets in Room 4. You can join on Zoom at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85392996196?pwd=S2UySDgveW11OWQxaGdlYy9hb2xqZz09>

Meeting ID: 853 9299 6196, Passcode: 940608

## Environmental Justice

October 30; 10:45am in the Sanctuary

The adult classes will join together for a special presentation from Mike Hockley about his work in environmental law. Come find out more about the issues and impact of his work.

## Calling all Non-Active Elders!

If you've been ordained as an elder once, you are always an elder. Grace Covenant is able to send FIVE non-clergy as commissioners to each Presbytery meeting. Many of our current elders are busy with work and kids. If your schedule is more fleible and you might be **able to attend Presbytery once or twice a year**, please contact Melanie Townsend, [melanie@townfolk.net](mailto:melanie@townfolk.net), to be added to the sign-up list. Thanks!

# GCPC 8th Annual BBQ Cookoff

Saturday, October 8, 5pm

Bring your family and friends to GCPC's annual BBQ Cookoff on Saturday, October 8, at 5pm in Heartland Hall. Bring a side or dessert to share. Vote for your favorite BBQ'er.



**Wanted: Grillers and Smokers** who want to show off their BBQing skills and expertise and be the GCPC Master BBQ'er for the year. Sign up to BBQ/grill your favorite meat. Watch for more details in upcoming announcements.

## Young Adults and Families Group

The Young Adults and Families Group is resuming their activities after a long COVID break. Mark your calendars for this wonderful opportunity for our young adults and families to enjoy some autumn fun.



October 9, 4–7pm

Pumpkin Patch Outing at Schaake's Pumpkin Patch, followed by dinner at McAlister's in Lawrence.

Contact Emily Hussey so we know how many to plan for at [ekthussey@gmail.com](mailto:ekthussey@gmail.com).

### Thanks to our Church Family!

Thank you for all the cards, thoughts and prayers during Bob's surgery and ongoing treatment. It means so much to have such a caring church family.

—Ann & Bob Shadburn

# SMASH Sunday!

*Service, Music, Art, Sports, Hangtime*

**Arise! Shine With Faith!**

October 16, 4–6pm

In September, our Smash program meet to discuss ways we can shine with Trust. Our children made their own blindfolds and trusted a partner to help one another through a maze. Imagine their excitement when they trusted their instructor that shared they could pierce a bag of water with a pencil without spilling.

We welcome children of Kindergarten through 5th grade to join us for this fun and so much more. Our October SMASH will focus on another one of our VBS pathfinders, "Arise, Shine with Faith!" and will be held on October 16th from 4-6pm. SMASH meets in Heartland Hall. Please RSVP for your children to Christy Soule at [christysoule@yahoo.com](mailto:christysoule@yahoo.com).



# MUSIC NOTES

## MUSIC IN WORSHIP

**October 2nd**

**5th Sunday in the Season of Peace**

World Communion

Praise Team led worship

**October 9th**

**1st Sunday in Season of Thanks Giving**

Organ led worship. Anthem: "Grace" arr.

Mark Hayes. The anthem will be sung

by Chancel & Exaltation! Singers (CHEX).

Charter Ringers ring "My Shepherd Will

Supply My Need" arr. Claude T. Smith,

transcribed for handbells by Linda

Boatright.

**October 16th**

**2nd Sunday in Season of Thanks Giving**

**Workshop Sunday**

CHEX shares the anthem "Hear My Cry,

O Lord" by Dan & Heidi Goeller

**October 23rd**

**3rd Sunday in Season of Thanks Giving**

Praise Team led worship. Jubilation!

Ringers ring "Be Unto Your Name"

arr. Dan R. Edwards

**October 30th**

**4th Sunday in Season of Thanks Giving**

**Reformation Sunday**

Organ led worship. CHEX shares the

anthem "O God Beyond Our Praising"

arr. Dan Forrest

## LOOKING AHEAD TO SEASONAL MUSIC IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

### Thanksgiving Eve Service

**Wednesday, November 23rd**

**6:45pm** Gathering Music by Dixieland Band

**7:00pm** Thanksgiving Eve Service Begins

## A CHRISTMAS EXCLAMATION

### "A Christmas Exclamation!"

**Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 4th at 6pm**

This fun holiday program is a "don't miss event!"



### "Songs of the Season"

**Presented each Sunday of Advent at 9:30am**

**November 27th – the 1st Sunday of Advent**

Songs will be shared in worship by

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers, Rebecca Prater, director

and Chancel Brass, Darryl Prater, director

**December 4th – the 2nd Sunday of Advent**

Songs will be shared in worship by

GCPC Orchestra, Pam Smith Kelly, director

**December 11th – the 3rd Sunday of Advent**

Songs will be shared in worship by

Praise Team, Carrie DeVries, director

**December 18th – the 4th Sunday of Advent**

Songs will be shared in worship by

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers & Instrumentalists

Rebecca Prater, director





# Youth Page

## Welcome Angela

We are excited to announce that we have a new school year intern from Heartland Camp! Angela Dickerson will be with us until May and she is fantastic! If you haven't met her yet, make sure to say "Hi," at your next opportunity. Angela will be with us at most of our evening events as well as Sunday mornings when we have Reconnect (roughly every other week).

## From Angela

Hello! I am excited to be joining the team and working with the staff! I am from Midland, Texas; and attend the University of Texas, where I study political science and marketing. I love to play music, paint, and play Frisbee. I look forward to getting to know you all and learning new skills.

## Fall Youth Events - Reconnect

Our new youth schedule including "Reconnect events" that combine the best of Sunday School with Youth Group (or Connect) has been going great! In addition to digging into bible lessons we have played some "make-your-own" minigolf, 9-square in the air, and more. The adults who have provided our meals are very much appreciated! Also in September we had a retreat with other youth from our Presbytery in late September and enjoyed getting to know some new friends from around the metro area. The retreat was themed "When Did We See You" based on the PCUSA Youth Triennium them and materials. It was led by some amazing pastors and youth leaders from our area.

## Coming Up

Later this fall we look forward to more Reconnect events, Work-shop Sunday, a late October lock-in at GCPC, Trunk or Treat, a hayride, our annual homeless night event and more! As usual we have an action-packed schedule full of fun, learning, and caring for each other and those around us in meaningful ways!







# Youth Activities in September





# We Are All in This Together: A Year Exploring God's Creation

## Show your commitment to the environment: Take home a yard sign

Environmental advocates have been telling the public to recycle, reduce, and reuse for decades now, and that advice is still relevant today. Another way to make a difference is to work for systemic change to alter our current global trajectory toward a more sustainable and biocentric worldview. Together, thought and action can add up to make a real difference.

Free “Vote Climate! For Our Children” yard signs will be available for you to take home beginning Sunday, October 2. We have ordered 25 signs. If we run out we will order more. You will be able to pick up your sign in Heartland Hall. For more information, contact Jo Randolph at [jrandolph4407@gmail.com](mailto:jrandolph4407@gmail.com).



## Blessing of the Animals

Stop by on **Saturday, October 8 from 8-10am**, as we individually bless the animals who enrich our lives with love, compassion and joy! All are welcome.

All dogs must be on leashes and other pets should be in carriers. (cats, rabbits, reptiles, etc.) Children are invited to bring a favorite stuffed animal to receive a blessing, too. Look for Sue and Mitch under the portico.



## Workshop Sunday

### October 16 — Sign Up for a Service Project!

October 16 will be GCPC's 4th annual Workshop Sunday event. Our projects this year have a sustainability theme, in keeping with the “We're All in This Together” effort to highlight the responses people of faith can make to the many environmental concerns and crises in the world.

*Workshop  
Sunday*

We'll start with a brief worship service at 9:30am. From 10am to 12pm, we'll pursue the service projects listed on the webpage listed below. At approximately noon, we'll gather for a pizza lunch — be sure to indicate whether each person will be eating lunch when you sign up for your service projects.

Look at the service projects available and sign up for one online at [www.gcpc.org/workshop](http://www.gcpc.org/workshop). Each member of a household needs to sign up for a project!

We hope to see everybody there!

E-mail [michala.walker@gmail.com](mailto:michala.walker@gmail.com) with any questions.

## Clerk's Corner

Session held its regular meeting on **September 19, 2022**. After a huge meeting in August, this one was short and sweet.

Financials seem to be on track and fall programming is under way. The teams and church leadership have carried things well through Sue's injury and illness. We are all looking forward to the October BBQ competition and look forward to seeing you all there!

— Melanie Townsend





## GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Inclusive. Family Oriented. Welcoming.**

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Overland Park, KS 66210  
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**gcpc.org**



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Twitter: @GraceCovPres

Instagram: @gcpc\_overlandpark

# CELEBRATING GOD'S ALL ENCOMPASSING LOVE!

## CHURCH STAFF

### Co Pastors

- Office hours: Monday-Thursday  
Mitch Trigger, [mitch.trigger@gcpc.org](mailto:mitch.trigger@gcpc.org) .....ext.18  
Sue Trigger, [sue.trigger@gcpc.org](mailto:sue.trigger@gcpc.org) .....ext.15

### Director of Music Ministries

- Office hours: Monday-Wednesday, Friday  
Rebecca Prater, [rebecca.prater@gcpc.org](mailto:rebecca.prater@gcpc.org) .. ext. 13

### Church Administrator

- Office hours: Monday-Friday  
Patrick Bell, [patrick.bell@gcpc.org](mailto:patrick.bell@gcpc.org) ..... ext. 10

### Director of Youth Ministries

**Technical Director of Worship**  
- Office hours: Monday-Thursday  
Miles McDonald, [miles.mcdonald@gcpc.org](mailto:miles.mcdonald@gcpc.org).. ext. 17

**Finance Administrator**..... Tara Hyder  
Mon. 8-4; Tues./Weds. 8-12; /Thurs./Fri. by Appt.

**Organist** ..... Linda Dover

**Contemporary Music Coord.** ..... Carrie DeVries

**Contemporary Music Drummer**.....Daniel Cole

**Child Care Coordinator**.....Carolyn Chaffin

**Wedding Coordinator**.....Lara Schesser

**Funeral Coordinator** .....Mary Sue Thomas

## ELDERS

Jim Byrd	Angela Krug
Ric Cummings	Jake Schmidt
Miles Dalton (youth)	Terri Monrad
Andrew Frye	Joy Circo
Katie Hearn	Tom Stroud
Melanie Townsend	Lara Schesser
Jane Knoche	Bill Turner

## SUPPORT STAFF

Deacon Moderator .....Meredith Watson  
Operating Committee..... Terri Monrad,  
Ric Cummings, Katie Hearn, Angela Krug  
Newsletter Editor/Marketing..... Kim Krueger  
Prayer Chain ..... Cheryl Johnson  
Website Administrators ..... Kim Krueger,  
Patrick Bell

## MINISTRY UNITS

Congregational Nurture Unit Moderators  
Connections and Care.....Jake Schmidt  
Worship and Music..... Kathy Bures,  
Katie Hearn

Education Ministry Unit Moderators  
Adult ..... Tom Stroud  
Children ..... Erin Frye, Angela Krug  
Youth..... Bill Turner

Reach Out Ministry Unit Moderators  
Kairos ..... Rick Randolph  
Mission ..... Mikki Walker  
Welcoming ..... Kathy Williams

Supportive Ministry Unit Moderators  
Facility ..... Liz Chandler  
Generosity ..... David Sutherland  
Finance..... Jim Byrd  
Personnel ..... Kevin Mason

## Worship Schedule

**9:30am Worship**  
**In-Person, Facebook & Zoom**  
Visit [gcpc.org/online](https://gcpc.org/online) for links

## Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines

**November 2022 issue** - Deadline, October 21  
**December 2022 issue** - Deadline, November 15