

AUGUST 2021 | VOL 39 NBR 8

11100 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66210 913-345-1256 | <u>office@gcpc.org</u> | <u>gcpc.org</u>

REAL FAITH | REAL STORIES | REAL GRACE

It should bother all of us

This past month, Charlie, Sue, and I took a wonderful family vacation, one that was breath-taking and awe inspiring. From the Badlands to the Black Hills, Mount Rushmore and the Crazy Horse memorial to the Little Bighorn Battlefield, and Yellowstone to the Grand Tetons, the natural beauty all around us was amazing. This was one of those special times when you feel connected to God and God's work of creation.

At the same time, we experienced a certain sadness. While we were camping at Yellowstone, smoke from wildfires in the Northwest & California created hazy conditions. The temperatures throughout much of the northwest United States were dramatically higher than down south – as in it was hotter in Billings, Montana than Atlanta, Georgia.

It wasn't only the United States that was experiencing this. Those incredibly hot temperatures were also in Siberia; there was never before seen flooding in Europe (and later in China); hurricanes began developing weeks earlier than normal in the Caribbean – it was overwhelming to hear all this weather-related news. Perhaps most difficult was Charlie's reaction to these dramatic swings in the weather – he's beginning to wonder how bad it's going to get in his lifetime and it bothers him. It should bother all of us. We may not be able to completely reverse the effects of our human abuse of God's natural resources, but if the entire world doesn't at least start to make more of an effort to rein in our consumption, all of our children and grandchildren will pay the price.

Compassion for one another and future generations as well calls on all of us to speak out, choose leaders that will address these challenges, and most importantly pray: *Living God, you call us to be good stewards of this earthly home, strengthen us to care for your creation; forgive us when, through our greed and indifference we abuse its beauty and damage its potential. Empower us, through your Spirit to so nurture and love the world, that all creation sings to your glory. Amen.*

— Mitch and Sue Trigger



August IHN Rotation Is Coming!

Thank you to everyone who has signed up for food or hosting! We are nearly ready for our August 1–8 rotation. We'll convert our lower level to bedrooms with air mattresses, sheets, alarm clocks, table & chair(s), provide cold breakfast, coffee in the morning, and in the evening provide a healthy meal for our guests. If you would like to be involved, we have opportunities for folks who have completed the training and those who haven't. Please contact Jane Knoche, jeknoche@att.net, for more information.

Worship moves to 9:30am on Sunday, August 22, 2021

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

What happened to Summer?

It's flown by and in just a couple of weeks our kids and teachers will be back in the classroom. It also means that our Christian education "school year" will begin again on August 22. With that in mind, the Session has approved a slight change to the Sunday worship time schedule. **Beginning on August 22, Sunday morning worship at Grace Covenant will begin at 9:30am, with Christian education classes starting at 10:45am.** This schedule will be in effect through the rest of 2021, after which it will be reevaluated.

There were a number of good reasons for this change.

- We felt remaining with one service, for now, would help us all get reacquainted. The congregation has held two Sunday worship services for a while now and many of us simply don't know some of our newer members or members that tended to attend the service we weren't attending.
- The start time of 9:30am keeps us close to the same time we're worshipping now, which folks have indicated to be a favorite time.
- It will be easier to have Sunday School following worship, for parents as well as children (or so we've been told by parents!).
- Our worship time musicians will be able to attend adult education classes with the change in schedule.

One comment we continue to hear is, "I hope we don't get rid of online worship." Let us emphasize again, we will continue to have online worship as well as in person worship from now on. Our online worship has allowed old friends who have moved away to keep in touch by worshipping with us online; helped visitors "check us out" before coming to worship with us; ensured that our members & friends can continue to be part of worship whether ill, recovering from surgery, or homebound for other reasons; and guaranteed we can have worship whether it's snowy, icy, or rainy!

At the same time, we make this time change, we will also explore new possibilities for fellowship time before and after worship services.

Thank you for your patience and peace be with you all!

A Clean/Set Up Saturday

July 31, 9am - Noon

The Music and Education Teams are in the process of cleaning up and re-organizing the west wing of our building. Rooms 3, 4 and 5 will have a new set up for adult ministries and the former KDO office and closets will be cleared out for use for EncoreKC and our music ministry. The bell choir rehearsal room is going to have a lot more space! **For all of this to happen, we are going to need some help.** Saturday, July 31, 9am – 12 (noon), we will be moving equipment and getting everything ready. We can order some take out for lunch. (*Pizza anyone?*) Please sign up at this link so we know how many to anticipate: www.gcpc.org/fixupwestwing

Blessing of the Backpacks

August 15, 10am

The new school year is about to begin and we want to send our children, youth, and educators back to school with a blessing from our congregation and a reminder that God, and GCPC are always there to support them. **Bring** your backpack to worship on Sunday, August 15, and receive a special tag with a blessing for the school year.

Sunday School Teacher Commissioning

August 22, 9:30am

Sunday school volunteers give hours of time preparing and teaching all ages in our congregation. They nurture greater knowledge of God's Word and educate children, youth and adults in the ways of the faith. On Sunday, August 22, we will recognize and encourage our Sunday school volunteers during our worship service at 9:30am. We will commission those who lead our children, youth and adult classes.

Nursery Supplies Needed

Our nursery is in need of some fresh supplies and you can help. Carolyn Chaffin has created an Amazon wish list that you can order from at this link: <u>www.gcpc.org/nurserywishlist.</u> Or, you can look at the list and purchase from your favorite place to shop.

Thank You!

Thank you all for the many cards, notes, phone calls, texts, and meals that came our way during our recent health issues. We are very appreciative of your thoughtfulness.

-Mary Sue & Paul Thomas

A big, "Thank you," for all the cards and meals sent to me while I was in the hospital and home. Thoughts and prayers were very comforting. Thank you so much.

-Nancy Kalesz

GCPC Family, Brad and I would like to thank you for the cards, prayers and thoughts during the loss of Brad's dad, Lyle Schmit. The kind words helped us during this difficult time and it is great knowing we have friends to help lift us up.

-Blessings, Diane and Brad Schmit



SMASH Sunday! August 15, 4-6pm

SMASH is a smashing good time! K-5th/6th grade kids are invited to join us on August 15 from 4-6pm in Heartland Hall. There will be sports, music, arts, service, and "hangout" time. It's a great time for children to be nurtured in faith by building relationships.

Please RSVP to help us safely prepare for supplies. RSVP to Christy Soule at <u>christysoule@yahoo.com</u>. Please let her know how many children and parents will attend.

Calendar Updates

Second Thursday Bunco is returning!

We play Bunco on the second Thursday of each month at the church from 6:30 to 8:30pm. August 12 will be our late summer kick-off. If you are looking for a fun evening of laughter and fun, please come join us. Please contact Jane Knoche, jeknoche@att.net, for more information.

Third Monday Bridge is commencing!

We are going to be dealing the cards again on Monday, August 16, at 1pm at Grace Covenant. We would love to have you at one of our tables. Bring your own drink. We are signing up players and substitutes for our monthly games. Please contact Jane Knoche, jeknoche@att.net, to put your name in!

GCPC Update to GCPC Mask Requirements

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its mask guidance today, Tuesday, July 27, to recommend that fully vaccinated people wear masks indoors when in areas with "substantial" and "high" transmission of Covid-19, which includes nearly two-thirds of all US counties (this includes Johnson County and surrounding counties). This is to prevent further spread of the Delta variant, more highly contagious than the initial virus. The updated CDC guidance also recommends everyone in schools, K–12, wear a mask.

Because of this change, Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church will return to requiring masks for all people entering our building. We're already doing this for worship on Sunday mornings, but will expand that to all meetings and gatherings. Since it has been determined that even fully vaccinated people can spread the virus, it's up to all of us to do our part to help our GCPC family as well as the communities we live in.

We thank you for your willingness to do your part to bring a halt to this deadly disease.

-The Revs. Mitch & Sue Trigger

Exciting New Things are Coming for Sunday Mornings!

Sneak a Peak Sunday, August 15 – for all ages

It has been so long since we have been able to have Sunday school and we can't wait to get started with some new opportunities. **Sunday school resumes on August 22 at our new time – 10:45am.** Our education teams will be hosting a time of fellowship and visitation to our SS classrooms following worship on August 15 at 11 a.m. to give you a peak at what to expect.

Here's what you can check out:

2's and 3's – Room 23 Meet your teachers and fill out your registration form.

4's and 5's – Room 25 Meet your teachers and fill out your registration form.

K-2nd grades – **Grace Makers Learning Workshops** Rooms 10, 14, 15, and more. (Start in Room 14) Meet some of your workshop teachers, fill out your registration form and check out the classrooms for workshop rotation classes.



3rd – 5/6th grades – Grace Makers Learning Workshops – Rooms 10, 14, 15, and more. (Start in Room 10) Meet some of your workshop teachers, fill out your registration form and check out the classrooms for workshop rotation classes.

6-8 Grades – Room 19B & 19C. Meet your teachers and enjoy some refreshments.

High School – Room 19A. Meet your teachers and enjoy some refreshments.

Adult classes – Rooms 3 and 4. Check out our newly set up classrooms and find out about the classes coming this Fall.

Conversation Café – Heartland Hall

Fellowship Time – Enjoy refreshments outside and pick up information about our Fall classes. You'll find the refreshments under the portico.

JOB JAR#1 - WAYS TO CONNECT & HELP

Do you like to sew?

Our K-5th/6th classes will enjoy puppet workshops as part of their Sunday school this year. We are in need of biblical era costumes for our puppets. If you like to sew and have some extra fabric you'd be willing to share, we would appreciate your help. The puppets wear a size 24 months – 2 T with a 6" torso. To volunteer and get more information contact Rev. Sue at sue.trigger@gcpc.org or when you see her next. ALSO: If you have panty hose you can donate, we can use them to braid head wraps for the puppets. Just cut off the panty and the toes.

Celebrate GCPC by joing the Worship Team

Do you just LOVE Christmas Eve at Grace Covenant? Does Easter worship blow you away? What about all the other special things we celebrate in worship like Star Sunday, World Communion, and monthly communion? The Worship Team works with the pastors throughout the year to help make those services happen, and **we need some new faces in our midst**. We typically meet on the first Monday evening of the month at 6:30pm. If you'd like to know more, **contact Melanie Townsend**, or just show up on Monday, August 2, to learn about us in person.

Here's What's New on Sunday Mornings!

Follow Me - Biblical Practices for Faithful Living

A living faith is so much more than simply believing in God. Jesus called all sorts of people to follow him to God, showing concrete ways to love God and one another. When we do these actions together, faith develops, lives change, and communities transform.

We will be introducing this new PCUSA curriculum in our 4- and 5-yearold Class, an Adult Class, and a Conversation Café. The K-5/6th grades will enjoy learning workshops based on the same Bible stories in Follow Me. Together we will learn about the Jesus' practices that have shaped the church.

If Christians are known for anything, it is how we welcome others. In this series of study, we will begin by exploring Christian hospitality. Hospitality was central to Jesus' life and teachings as well as the history of ancient Israel. Participants will practice seeing Christ in every person and discover their own gifts of hospitality. **The Adult Class will meet in Room 3.**

Belhar Confession and Anti-Racism

A part of our Matthew 25 commitment is to learn about the way that behavior, institutions, and culture influence the harmful effects of racism. In 2016 the PCUSA added the Belhar Confession to our Book of Confessions. This confession was adopted by the Dutch Reformed Mission of South Africa in 1986 and addresses

the sin of apartheid in South Africa. The Special Committee on the Confession of Belhar recommended that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) add Belhar as part of its Constitution because it believed the clarity of Belhar's witness to unity, reconciliation, and justice might help the PC(USA) speak and act with similar clarity at a time when it faces division, racism, and injustice. Join Joel Ilten as he guides participants through a study of the confession and how we can become anti-racist. The class will meet in Room 4.

An Option for 6th Grade Families

In the KC metro, some school system's move 6th grade to middle school, some do not. That is why, at GCPC, moving up is optional. Our 3rd-5th/6th class gives families the option to keep their elementary school 6th grader with other elementary kids or middle school 6th graders can move up with other middle school youth. We are happy to accommodate families because the well-being of our children and youth is a priority.

Join the Grace Makers Team!

Do you love volunteering with kids? Would you like to create art, sing songs, tell stories, cook, do science experiments or other fun activities with our kids? We would love to have you join the workshop rotation team for our K-2nd and 3rd – 5/6th grade classes.

We are building a new and exciting experience for our children to learn Bible stories through creative workshops in art, science, music, puppetry, games, and more. Each week the children will experience a story through one of these workshops. Leaders will select a favorite area (science, art, etc.), partner with a

friend, and lead a workshop for two weeks in a row. There will be 6–8 weeks between your workshops. This is a great way for children to learn in a variety of ways and build relationships with our adults. If you love working with children and would like to be part of this program, please contact Rev. Sue at <u>sue.trigger@gcpc.org</u>.







MUSIC NOTES

MUSIC IN WORSHIP FOR AUGUST 2021

10AM SUNDAY, AUGUST 1ST - Praise Team led

10AM SUNDAY, AUGUST 8TH – Chancel Quartet led, Exaltation! Then & Now "Shine On Us" arr. Bruce Greer (*pre-recorded*)

10AM SUNDAY, AUGUST 15TH – Chancel Quartet led, Charter Ringers II "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" arr. Bill Ingram (*pre-recorded*)

NEW TIME:

9:30AM! SUNDAY, AUGUST 22ND - Praise Team led

<u>9:30AM</u> SUNDAY, AUGUST 29TH – Chancel Quartet led, CHIPS III "Come Build a Church" by Ken Medema (prerecorded)





SUNDAY, AUGUST 8TH

STAY AFTER WORSHIP FOR A CONCERT BY GCPC'S DIXIELAND BAND

Bob Dover, director

& BUY A SHAVED ICE TREAT FROM THE KONA ICE TRUCK

The cost is \$3 - \$7 per treat

Check out their website for more Information on their shaved ice flavors <u>ww.kona-ice.com</u>

BRING A LAWN CHAIR & OR STAND & ENJOY THE CONCERT IN THE WEST PARKING LOT

JOB JAR#2 - WAYS TO CONNECT & HELP

Teachers Wanted

We are in need of Sunday school teachers for our 4- and 5-year-old class. We would love to have more workshop leaders for the K-6th grade classes as well. We are also looking for teachers for adult classes. If you would like to work with one of these groups, please contact Rev. Sue at <u>sue.trigger@gcpc.org</u> or 913-345-1256.

Church History Project

If you have interest in working with a group to organize, and collect, organize, and sort paperwork and photos that share the history of our church, contact Liz Chandler for more details and ideas for this long-term project, no-hurry type of project. Contact Liz at <u>lizchandler814@yahoo.com</u>.

Photography

We are always looking for photos that share the life of our church. If you take photos of any event, worship experience or activity that could be shared on our social media or website, please share with Kim Krueger at <u>kimgoeckler@outlook.com</u>.

Welcoming Team

If you would like to be a part of welcoming guests to GCPC by serving on the Welcoming Team, please contact Rev. Mitch Trigger at 913-345-1256, or <u>mitch.trigger@gcpc.org</u>. This team will meet once a month and is a great way to connect with guests who are looking to connect with a church home. We explore ways to seek new members and work with the Pastors on the New Member Class.

MUSIC EVENTS, TRAINING, ENSEMBLES, AND REHEARSALS FOR FALL & ADVENT

HANDBELL TRAINING

Kathy Bures will be offering 3 sessions on Learning to Ring/Handbell Refresher

On the following Sundays in Room 1:

- August 15th at 11:30am
- August 22nd & 29th at Noon

For more information or to sign-up contact Kathy Bures at <u>Kathy.bures@gmail.com</u>

VOCAL COACHING/REFRESHER

If you haven't sung for the past 16 months and would like some help from a vocal coach before rehearsals begin ...

Beth Lillian will be offering a

Vocal Coaching Session

• Wednesday, August 18th from 7:00-8:00pm in Room 6/Choir Room

For more information or to sign-up contact Rebecca Prater at <u>Rebecca.prater@gcpc.org</u>

MUSIC ENSEMBLES TO RESUME IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER?

If it remains safe to do so, this is Music Team's optimal plan for the fall semester. However, we will continue to follow GCPC/CDC guidelines as indicated, which means we may be adding masks to all ensembles and making other safety alterations. Please check announcements and emails for any updates to our ensemble protocols.

Contact the listed director or Rebecca Prater for more information and/or to let us know you are interested in participating.

VOCAL/CHORAL ENSEMBLES

Sunday, August 22nd at 10:45am

(at the beginning of Sunday school) Joy! (4s-K) Emily Hussey, director Celebration! (1st-5th graders) Pam Kelly, director *For safety, masks will be required.*

VOCAL/CHORAL ENSEMBLES (CONTINUED)

Tuesday, August 24th at 7:00pm – Sanctuary

Praise Team (Youth – Adults) Carrie DeVries, director For safety, participants need to be fully vaccinated.

Wednesday, September 1st from 7:30-8:30pm

Room 6 (Choir Room) and/or Sanctuary Chancel Choir (Young Adults & Adults) and Exaltation! (8th – 12th graders) will combine with Chancel Choir for some special Sundays in the Fall/Advent semester Ex! will join Chancel Choir rehearsals beginning Wednesday, September 15th from 8:00-8:30pm

Rebecca Prater, director

For safety, participants in these 2 ensembles need to be fully vaccinated.

HANDBELL ENSEMBLES IN ROOM 1

For safety, ringers need to be fully vaccinated or wear a mask.

Wednesday, September 8th at 6:10pm

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

Sunday, September 12th from 12:00-1:00pm

Exaltation! Ringers (8th-12th graders – Young Adults) Trey Bures, director

Sunday, September 12th from 4:30-5:30pm

Jubilation! Ringers (Adults) Kathy Bures, director

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Rehearsal Dates TBD – Sanctuary GCPC Wind Ensemble/Orchestra (8th graders – Adults) Pam Kelly, director

For safety, wind instrumentalists need to be fully vaccinated and string players or percussionists need to be fully vaccinated or wear a mask.

STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES!

Rebecca Prater, Director of Music Ministries

Youth Page

Montreat

What an AMAZING trip we had! Thanks to everyone who prayed for us. The theme was "Called to Connect" and was very fitting for the days as we start to regroup after the peak of the pandemic seems to be mostly in our past. We will definitely share ideas that come up from that experience throughout the year.

Late Summer

With the days we have left of summer, we will plan to do some of the most fun things we did last summer, including hanging out and playing in the creek at Mill Creek and paddle boarding/kayaking either at Shawnee Mission Park or Lake Olathe. These could be Sunday activities or weekdays. Let Miles know if you have work/ vacation or other schedules we should plan around.

Sunday Morning Classes

Starting August 22, Sunday morning classes will meet at church in the youth rooms and will begin at 10:45, following our 9:30 worship services and a short fellowship time. This fall we will not have a confirmation class but have enough middle school students for both a middle school and high school class. We hope everyone will join us!

Fall Presbytery Youth Retreat | September 24–26

Mark Your Calendars to join us out at Heartland Camp September 24 through 26 for a weekend getaway. This will be open to 6th-12th grade students. Our goal as a Presbytery is to have annual semester retreats (fall & spring) for youth. We will use this time to connect to one another, to God, and to camp.

Triennium

Next summer we will attend Triennium with our Presbytery, July 24–27. This is an incredible event, similar to Montreat, but with even more people, great leaders from around the country, and next year it will be held in Indianapolis, IN. Registration will open this fall so save the date and be on the lookout for registration.

Events Coming Up - Mark your calendars!

Connect

- Various Times • 1st day to include 6th grade students at Connect August 15
- Sunday School Sneak Peak/Hangout
- First Day of Fall Sunday School
- Fall Presbytery Retreat

August 15 August 22 Sept. 24-26





















16th Annual Reggie Reynolds Golf Scramble - August 15

We are holding our golf scramble for the sixteenth year in memory of Regina Reynolds, a loving member who was very active in our church and who enjoyed playing in our GCPC golf outings on Sunday, August 15 at the Falcon Valley Golf Course, Lenexa, KS. It is a 9-Hole Golf Scramble beginning at 1:30pm. The fee to play is \$42.00 which covers green fees, riding cart, and prizes. Open to members and guests!

To reserve your spot in the field, contact Bill Turner for an entry form. Your entry form and check needs to be received by no later than Sunday, August 8th, so don't delay as spots will be filled quickly. Thanks, Bill Turner (913) 515-5994

PS: Consider a separate donation to the Reggie Reynolds Scholarship Fund for \$25.00 (made out to Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church) and notated for Reggie Reynolds Scholarship or use the link below to make your donation directly through the GCPC Web site. https://onrealm.org/gcpc/Give/BAONYAHDPX

JOB JAR#3 - WAYS TO CONNECT & HELP

Lesson Plan Writers Wanted

We are creating a unique program with our new workshop rotation classes. This requires using existing resources to create new lesson plans.

If you would be interested in serving on a writing team, please contact Rev. Sue at sue.trigger@gcpc.org.



Inclusive. Family Oriented. Welcoming.

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CELEBRATING GOD'S ALL ENCOMPASSING LOVE!

CHURCH STAFF

Co Pastors

- Office hours: Monday-Thursday <u>Mitch Trigger, mitch.trigger@gcpc.org</u>......ext.18 <u>Sue Trigger, sue.trigger@gcpc.org</u>......ext.15 **Director of Music Ministries**

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

Church Administrator - Office hours: Monday-Friday <u>Patrick Bell</u>, <u>patrick.bell@gcpc.org</u>......ext. 10

Director of Youth Ministries Technical Director of Worship - Office hours: Monday-Thursday Miles McDonald, miles.mcdonald@acpc.org.. ext. 17

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

Organist Linda Dov	ver
Contemporary Music Coord Carrie DeVr	ies
Contemporary Music DrummerDaniel Co	ole
Child Care CoordinatorCarolyn Chaf	fin
Wedding CoordinatorLara Sches	ser
Funeral CoordinatorMary Sue Thom	nas

ELDERS

Jim Byrd Ric Cummings Miles Dalton (youth) Andrew Frye Katie Hearn Cheryl Johnson Jane Knoche Angela Krug Mike Mattix Terri Monrad Diane Schmit Kylie Sutherland (youth) Susan Sutherland Bill Turner

SUPPORT STAFF

Deacon ModeratorAnita Hadel Operating Committee....Susan Sutherland, Mike Mattix, Terri Monrad, Ric Cummings Newsletter Editor/Marketing......Kim Krueger Prayer ChainCheryl Johnson Website AdministratorsKim Krueger, Patrick Bell

Worship Schedule

10am In-Person & Online Worship Service moves to 9:30am on August 22 Visit <u>gcpc.org/online</u> for links

MINISTRY UNITS

<u>Congregational Nurture Unit Moderators</u> Connections and Care Diane Schmit Worship and Music Melanie Townsend, Katie Hearn
Education Ministry Unit Moderators
AdultMaggie Blankers
ChildrenErin Frye, Angela Krug
YouthKaki Conti
Reach Out Ministry Unit Moderators
Kairos Rick Randolph
MissionMikki Walker
WelcomingVacant
Supportive Ministry Unit Moderators
FacilityMarc Feyh
Generosity David Sutherland
FinanceJim Byrd
Personnel Kevin Mason

Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines

September 2021 issue - Deadline, August 19 October 2021 issue - Deadline, September 21