



Service of Worship — November 30, 2025

*"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that
Some have entertained angels without knowing it." — Hebrews 13:2*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! Thank you for worshipping with us today.

ELDER ON DUTY: Barbara Douglas

HEAD USHERS: John & Mary Pat Gilbert

HEARING ASSIST DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE. Please ask at the sound booth.

NURSERY CARE is available during worship, located in Room 22 in the east wing.

RECORD YOUR ATTENDANCE AT TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE WITH OUR VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE

PAD: Click this link: <https://bit.ly/GCPCattendance>, or scan the QR Code below.



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

- **Rev. Karen Wright (Designated Pastor):** karen.wright@gcpc.org
- **Emily Nelson Dixon (Dir. of Christian Education):** emily.dixon@gcpc.org
- **Patrick O'Halloran (Dir. of Music Ministries):** patrick.ohalloran@gcpc.org
- **Patrick Bell (Office Admin.):** patrick.bell@gcpc.org
- **Tara Hyder (Finance Admin.):** finance@gcpc.org
- **Jason Turner (Audio/Technical Dir.):** E-mail both darktrainfilms@gmail.com & gcpc.media@gmail.com.

"Pray for one another" — James 5:15

We encourage you to remember the following in prayer:

All Grieving the Death of a Loved One

Surgeries/Hospitalizations/Illnesses

Cancer Treatment: Harold Farren, Tom Jennings

Aging Challenges: Lee Will, Stewart Nelson, Charlie Bogan

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

Peace and Relief Workers; Unemployed and Underemployed; Families Struggling with Separation and Divorce; Individuals Struggling with Depression; Those Contemplating Suicide and Those Left Behind.

Heartland Presbytery Partnership of Prayer: King City Presbyterian Church, King City, MO; United Christian & Presbyterian Church, Lawson, MO

(If you have a prayer request you would like to include in the bulletin, please contact the church office at office@gcpc.org, or send to gcpc.prayers@gmail.com.)

SPOTLIGHT

BEGINNING TODAY, we will enter the season of Advent with the theme "Waiting Well." Waiting does not come easily to most of us. In our hurried world, we prefer what is immediate and visible. Yet waiting — attentive, hopeful waiting — is at the very heart of Advent. It is the season of the "now and not yet," when we live between promise and fulfillment. We begin by contemplating Christ's promised return and then turn toward the story of Mary and Joseph as they waited for the birth of the Christ Child.

THIS ADVENT, OUR DAILY E-MAIL DEVOTIONS, continuing through Christmastide and concluding at Epiphany, are meant to guide us through that sacred waiting. Written from a layperson's perspective and shared with love, each reflection encourages us to engage more deeply with God's Word and to draw near in prayer and contemplation. Each day's entry is accompanied by a piece of visual art and a musical selection — many of which can be found on YouTube — to enrich our time of reflection. Thank you to Harold Frye, who has compiled these devotions from members of our church. These devotions will be shared daily on Harold's personal Facebook page from November 30, 2025, through January 6, 2026, at <https://www.facebook.com/hbfrye>. A PDF file of this booklet can be downloaded at gcpc.org/advent. Printed booklets are available in the concourse, the literature racks, and Heartland Hall.

RED BAG PROJECT: Thank you for your support of the Red Bag Project, providing Christmas presents for foster children in Johnson County. TODAY is the day ALL GIFTS need to be brought to church with the Post-it Note attached. Please contact Sandy Adams, 757-581-5292 or sanadamsabc@gmail.com, with any questions.

A CHRISTMAS EXCLAMATION! — SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 6pm: Join us for an evening of festive music and holiday cheer! Our talented ensembles — including handbell choirs, instrumentalists, children's ensembles, and guests from EncoreKC! will fill the sanctuary with the sounds of the season. From joyful carols to sparkling arrangements, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Bring your family, invite your friends, and let's celebrate the season together!

GENEROSITY 2026: Our 2026 Stewardship theme, ***A Living Legacy: Called to Plant, Called to Grow***, invites us to reflect on where we've been, how God is at work among us now, and the future God is calling us to cultivate together. We invite you to prayerfully consider your pledge for 2026—every gift, large or small, is a seed God can use. Together we can carry forward the legacy of faith, hope, and love that has marked Grace Covenant's ministry for decades. Pledge confidentially online at gcpc.org/2026pledge, or use one of the pledge cards and envelopes found on the Generosity bulletin board outside the Sanctuary.

FESTIVE POINSETTIAS WILL DECORATE THE SANCTUARY for the Christmas season. If you would like to be a part of the tradition of purchasing a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one, you may do so by enclosing your donation in one of the poinsettia envelopes in the pews and place in the offering plate. Please be sure to neatly print your name and who the memorial/honor recognizes in block letters. You may also make a donation through the online giving portal on our website, or by sending your donation to the church office: GCPC, 11100 College Blvd., OPKS 66210, Attn: Patrick. *Deadline for names to be included in the bulletin insert is Monday, December 15.* Thank you!

"THIS IS GRACE" NEW MEMBERS CLASS will be held on Sunday, December 7, following the worship service at 10:45 in Room 5. The class will be led by Rev. Karen Wright and is open to all. This is a great way to get an overview of the church. First-time visitors and long-time friends are encouraged to attend to get questions answered and to discover the exciting ways Grace Covenant carries out God's work. There is no assumption on our part that you will join Grace Covenant following the class. The class will include a discussion on the meaning of membership and "Everything you've wanted to ask a pastor but have been unable to ask." If you are interested, please contact the church office, 913-485-1256, or Kathy Williams, 913-485-1776 or kathykaskewilliams@gmail.com.

DINNERS FOR 7 OR 8 WILL BEGIN IN JANUARY and finish in April. If you have participated before you know that meeting once a month is a great way to connect with other members. You have a choice of dinners in homes or dining out at restaurants. When you sign up, I will send you additional details about your group before December 31. Each group decides on the four dates and sets the times that work for the group. If you have any questions about how it works, give

Kathy Williams a call, text, or e-mail: 913-485-1776 or kathykaskewilliams@gmail.com. Let her know by December 22 or sooner if you plan to participate.

ADULT

DECEMBER ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: November 30–December 21, 10:45am. Join us for these two adult education classes during Advent:

- Study on the Advent theme, “Waiting Well” will meet in Room 3.
- Worship Reflections, led by church members, in the concourse by the coat closet area.

THE AS PAGE TURNS BOOK GROUP will meet December 3 at 1:30pm in Room 3 at the church. The book selection is *Lulu Dean’s Little Library of Banned Books* by Kristen Miller. Please join the group for discussion and fellowship. Bring a wrapped book for the Christmas book exchange.

PAGE TURNERS BOOK GROUP’S ANNUAL HOLIDAY book and bookmark exchange and dinner will be on Thursday, December 4, 6:30pm at the home of Susan Mou, 10045 Hemlock Dr., Overland Park, KS 66212. The book selection is *The Bletchley Riddle* by Ruta Septetys and Steve Sheinkin. Please contact Susan by text, 816-547-1185, or e-mail, susanmmou@aol.com, to let her know what appetizer, bread, dessert, or salad you will bring. Come and enjoy fellowship and dinner even if you have not read the book. All are welcome.

KAIROS KLUES: Check out the links on the KAIROS bulletin board outside Heartland Hall:

- Presbyterians for Earth Care have published Advent devotionals in English and Spanish.-
- What is happening with Peacemaking in the PCUSA?
- Help feed those in need this holiday season — check out needs from local food pantries.

Young Adults (and those who know young adults): December 4, PEC Webinar, FREE, 6:30pm CST! <https://bit.ly/3M8A5H4> Are you passionate for Environmental justice for the future of God's creation? Come together with the Creation Action Network of Presbyterian Young Adults (CANOPY) in this December 4 webinar and hear what they have to say! Learn about this new network; join the webinar to think with and alongside people ages 18–35 doing faith-based activism. Hear about the environmental justice issues that are close to the heart of this group, and explore some of the theological underpinnings motivating their work.

CHILDREN

THIS MORNING:

ATW During Worship — all 4-year-olds through 1st graders are welcome to come down to ATW after the Children’s Time and can be picked up in Room 12.

10:45–11:05 Children’s Choir rehearsals

JOY! 4s–1st graders, Room 26
CELEBRATION! 2nd–5th graders, Room 15

11:05–11:45 Sunday School

2s–3s, toddlers — Room 20
4s–5s, preschool — Room 25
K–2nd, COOKING — Room 10
3rd–5th, GAMES — Room 14

COMING UP:

December 7 and 21 are ALL MUSIC Sundays during the Sunday school hour.

December 7, 6pm, A Christmas Exclamation! concert including JOY! And CELEBRATION! Choirs.

December 14, SMASH, 4–6pm, Caroling at Aberdeen Village. Come get in the holiday spirit at this family event! Please RSVP to Christy Soule or Amy Sellers.

YOUTH

THIS MORNING:

Regular Sunday morning programming.

COMING UP:

December 14, 4–6pm, cooking for Project 10/20 homeless shelter.

Christmas Eve — helping lead the 5pm Family Service.

MISSION

SAVE THE DATES FOR HABITAT KC — JANUARY 21 AND FEBRUARY 20! Mark your calendars now if you'd like to work with Habitat KC on either of these dates. Sign-up information will go out in late December for the January date.

START SAVING YOUR SPARE CHANGE for the Noisy Offering on December 7! We'll direct the proceeds to Rosehill Elementary to help them restock refrigerated items for their student food pantry and recover from extra need during the recent pause in SNAP benefits.

GENEROSITY

GENEROSITY NOVEMBER UPDATE: Our Generosity team meetings have changed to 6:30pm on the first Tuesday of each month in person or by Zoom. We are always glad to have new team members. The current team is Eileen Thomson, Jane Knoche, Rev. Karen Wright, Keith Langabee, Kim Krueger, and Tom Stroud. Mark December 2 on your calendar! Please contact Eileen if you are interested — we have room for you! Our next agenda includes discussion of our 2026 pledge drive.

GENEROSITY THROUGH THE GENERATIONS — 2025 Fulfillment Update: The Generosity Team is happy to share our 2025 fulfillment numbers as of November 12, 2025. We have received 85.9% of our total pledges and 83% of this year 2025 has gone by us. We continue to appreciate

everyone who has contributed to Grace Covenant. Thank you for your faithfulness! Here is our progress shown by numbers of pledges:

<i>Submitted Pledges (136)</i>	<i>March 31st</i>	<i>June 6th</i>	<i>Sept 30th</i>	<i>November 12th</i>
<i>0-25% fulfilled</i>	<i>98</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>26-50% fulfilled</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>51-75% fulfilled</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>76-100% fulfilled</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>91</i>
<i>\$723,179</i>	<i>\$226,719</i>	<i>\$324,383</i>	<i>\$548,781</i>	<i>\$621,046</i>

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



Upcoming Events and Services

(Save these dates)

— 2025 —

Advent Begins - "Waiting Well"

Sunday, November 30, 9:30am

View our Advent Resources, including
a download of our Advent Devotion Booklet,
at gcpc.org/advent

GCPC Winds:

Songs of the Season!

Sunday, December 7, 9:30am

Noisy Offering

Sunday, December 7, 2027

Donations go to Rosehill Elementary

"This is Grace" New Member Class

Sunday, December 7, 10:45am, Room 5

Sign up at gcpc.org/newmember

A Christmas Exclamation!

Sunday, December 7, 6pm

The Longest Night

Sunday, December 21, 7pm

Christmas Eve Worship

Wednesday, December 24

5pm Family Service

8pm Traditional Service

— 2026 —

Bingo Night

Friday, January 23, Time TBA

Olympic Family Event

Saturday, January 31, Time TBA

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 17, Time TBA

Lent Begins - Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 18

Palm Sunday

March 29, 9:30am

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 2, 7pm

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4, Time TBA

Good Friday

Friday, April 3, 7pm

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 5, 9am and 11am

Youth Sunday

Sunday, April 12, 9:30am

Trivia Night

Saturday, April 18, Time TBA

Vacation Bible School

June 1-5, 9am-Noon

Registration opens on January 1, 2026

gcpc.org/vbs

Details on these events and services are shared in the midweek email, bulletin, newsletter,
and Facebook and Instagram. For an online church calendar, visit gcpc.org/calendar