



GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Celebrating 40 Years on June 22, 2025!

Join us as we reflect upon God's faithfulness throughout our church's journey.

GRACE NOTES

August 2024
Vol 42, Nbr 8

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.

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

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

Visit gcpc.org for links!

Embracing Community and Celebrating Our Faithful Journey in August

With the arrival of August, there's a lot happening at Grace Covenant. On August 4th, we'll have worship and an all-church picnic at Meadowbrook Park. August 11th is the Ministry Fair, a great opportunity to discover various ways to get involved in the life of Grace Covenant. On August 18th, we will hold a New Members class for anyone interested in joining our community, and this date also marks the start of Sunday School and the return of SMASH. Finally, on August 25th, we'll host the Baker/Reynolds Golf Tournament. And that's just what's happening on Sundays!

One of the blessings of Grace Covenant is that our campus is used by many outside groups throughout the year. We are fortunate to share our space with a variety of community members. Throughout the week, our building is bustling with activities, whether it's the children of Pioneer Preschool, the voices of Encore rehearsing, Bible studies, AA meetings, crafters, woodworkers, or painters.

As we continue our journey toward our 40th anniversary, let us give thanks for the many saints who have been part of Grace Covenant over the years. We are grateful for the ways we have been a gathering space for groups and how our faith community goes out into the world to do God's work.

Grace and Peace, —Pastor Karen

karen.wright@gcpc.org; 913-345-1256, ext. #10

Worship & Picnic August 4th

Join us for worship on Sunday, August 4 at 9:30am, at the Meadowbrook Park Grand Pavilion Shelter, located at 91st and Nall in Prairie Village. Worship will be followed by a potluck picnic. The main dish and drinks will be provided. Everyone bring a side or dessert to share. Come together with your church family for worship, share a meal with your covenant group, and savor the fellowship and beauty of the park. Remember to bring your own plate and silverware, and bring along camp chairs in case extra seating is required.



Ministry Fair

The Ministry Fair will be held August 11 in Heartland Hall, following worship. This is a time for church members to see what is offered for the coming months. If interested, sign up for a small group or a team. This is a great way to meet church members!

“This Is Grace”

A New Members’ class will be held on Sunday, August 18, following the worship service, at 10:45am in Room 4. The class is led by Rev. Karen Wright and is open to all. This is the best 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 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, or Kathy Williams, kathykaskewilliams@gmail.com, or 913-485-1776.

Attention Families of 7th, 8th, and 9th Graders!

GCPC is starting to prepare for the Confirmation Class of the 2024–2025 school year. If you are interested in having your child go through the process of Confirmation this year, please email Lara Schesser at lara.schesser@gmail.com.

Awakening to Worship, Our Children’s Service

Our Children’s Service at Grace Covenant is called Awakening to Worship, and it is offered to children ages four years old through 1st grade. It is based on the books *Young Children and Worship* by Sonja M. Stewart and Jerome W. Berryman and *Following Jesus* by Sonja M. Stewart. The authors believe that, “It involves helping children worship in a special place apart from the worshipping congregation so they become able to worship meaningfully with the congregation”.

The service is facilitated by a “storyteller” and “greeters” each week in an inviting and quiet space. **The children learn to:**

1. Assemble in God’s Name (The Call to Worship, The Greeting, Songs of Praise with sign language)
2. Proclaim God’s Word (Bible Story, Learn to Pray)
3. Give Thanks to God (Preparing the Lord’s Table, Prayer of Thanksgiving, The Lord’s Prayer, Feast-Communion)
4. Go in God’s Name (Hymn, Charge, Blessing)

The Bible stories, like “Noah”, are told using wooden pieces. The Parables, like “The Mustard Seed,” are told using flat pieces. The children also learn stories about “How the Church Tells Time” and “Baptism.”

Awakening to Worship is open to children of church members and visitors. **We are also looking for new volunteers to worship with our little ones.** It is a chance to spend meaningful time with the children of our church. It’s an unforgettable experience for all involved.

If you have questions, please contact Kristy Shaw at kristinashaw@everestkc.net.



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.

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.

Each month we will share stories about our rich history, and ask that you reach out to the 40th Anniversary Committee to share your memories.

40th Anniversary Committee Members: Co-Chairs Kristy Shaw, Christy Soule, and Kim Krueger; Jenny Stromberg, Kathy Williams, Mary Ann Weyforth, Sarah Byrd, Ginny Wirtz, Liz Chandler, Tim Hayden, Caroline Becher, Eileen Thompson, Jane Knoche, Vicki Peck, Cathy Nance, Chelly King, and Kevin Johnson. Volunteer to serve on the committee, or assist with activities throughout the year, by emailing Kristy Shaw at kristinashaw@everestkc.net.



40th Anniversary Stories, Photos and Video

The 40th Anniversary Committee is in the process of gathering photos, stories, videos, and assistance in telling the history of Grace Covenant and we need your help!

Printed photos

There will be a table at the August 11 Ministry Fair staffed by committee members who can scan your 4x6 (or other sized photos) on-the-spot to add to our digital library. All we ask is that you have them face-up, and sorted by the same size. We can scan them in seconds, and give them right back to you.

Digital photos

If you have digital photos that you can share with us, upload them through the church's website at www.gcpc.org/40.

What photos do we want?

We are looking for photos that tell the story of GCPC and show our members and families. Everything from current to years past!

Here is a "general" list: weddings, baptisms, VBS, bbqs, special events, Easter, Christmas Eve photos from all years, mission trips, Sunday School, mission projects, small groups, Star Sunday, choral and bell performances from all years, members wearing GCPC T-shirts, potluck dinners, pancake suppers, trunk or treat...etc.

MUSIC NOTES

MUSIC IN WORSHIP

August 4th

Praise Team will lead our 9:30am music in worship at our Worship & Picnic located at Meadowbrook Park Grand Pavilion Shelter, at 91st and Nall in Prairie Village.

August 11th

Organ led. Music Shared by Act II (a choral ensemble from EncoreKC!) and a Trumpet Trio.

August 18th

Organ led worship.

This will be our final Sunday for "Summer Choir" to sing. Summer Choir is open to any singers from rising 6th graders through adults.

Our anthem will be "River in Judea" arr. John Leavitt.

We will rehearse that morning at 8:50am in the Sanctuary. No Robes. Copies of music will be available on the Choir Room counter.

August 25th

Praise Team led music.

MUSIC ENSEMBLES RESUME IN AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

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

Contact any of the directors listed below or Rebecca Prater to let them know you'd like to participate and/or for more information.

Tuesday, August 13th, 7:00-8:15pm

Praise Team (Youth & Adults) - Sanctuary

Vocals, Instruments, and Keys

Carrie DeVries, director

Sunday, August 18th, 10:45am

(at the beginning of Sunday School)

Joy! Singers (4s-1st graders) - Room 26

Emily Hussey and Hilary Schmidt, co-directors
and

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

Pam Kelly, director – Katie Hearn, assistant director

Angela Krug, accompanist - Room 15

Wednesday, August 28th, 7:05-8:30pm

Chancel Choir (Advanced Adults)

Room 6/Choir Room

Rebecca Prater, director – Linda Dover, accompanist

RETURNING YOUTH MUSIC ENSEMBLES!

Spirit! (6th & 7th graders) and Exaltation! (8th-12th graders) Singers & Ringers (SPEX)

Sunday, September 8th

12:00-12:35pm First Time Handbell Ringers – Room 1
and

Sunday, September 15th

SPEX Singers 11:25-11:55am – Room 6/Choir Room
(at the end of Sunday School)

All SPEX Ringers 12:00-12:35pm – Room 1

Rebecca Prater, director – Donna Heer, accompanist

Sunday, September 8th – 12:45-2:00pm – Room 1

Jubilation! Ringers (Intermediate Adults)

Kathy Bures, director

Wednesday, September 11th – 6:00-7:00pm – Room 1

Charter Ringers (Advanced Adults)

Chris Krug & Celia Nicholas, co-directors

GCPC Wind Ensemble – (8th graders – Adults)

Rehearsals Thursday, October 17th

and December 5th – 7:00-8:00pm

and Saturday, October 19th and

December 7th – 10:30-11:30am – Sanctuary

Play in Worship on Sundays,

October 20th and December 8th

Pam Smith Kelly, director

"THANK YOU" FROM REBECCA

I want to thank the congregation for the gift of my recent sabbatical. It was a restorative and reflective time. I also want to specifically thank Bob & Linda Dover for overseeing my music in worship responsibilities, Patrick Bell for all his administrative help, and Rev. Karen Wright for the ways she helped cover some of my tasks. I am blessed by each of you, and I am grateful,

Rebecca J. Prater

Director of Music Ministries

Generosity Team Update - What the Future Holds

As early July has arrived, the Generosity Team would like to recognize the faithful generosity and commitment of the members. Just as stirring, we are at 62.4% of submitted pledges and 45.4% of rollover pledges have been received. Our July bracket numbers show significant increases in the % fulfilled in the last quarter! Our giving total has reached \$61.5% of our budget! We ask everyone to please continue keeping up with summer giving and buck the *summer slack off giving trend*. Thank you, thank you, for the members who pay all or most of their pledge at the beginning, middle, or quarter of the calendar year, but **we are appreciative of everyone who has contributed to Grace Covenant.**

Here is our giving progress shown by numbers of pledges:

Submitted Pledges (114)	March 31	July 8
0-25% fulfilled	76	21
26-50% fulfilled	20	54
51-75% fulfilled	1	14
76-100% fulfilled	17	25
\$599,410	\$214,344	\$376,320

Rollover Pledges (16)	March 31	July 8
0-25% fulfilled	10	5
26-50% fulfilled	5	5
51-75% fulfilled	0	4
76-100% fulfilled	1	2
\$34,662	\$6,668	\$15,731

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.

Would you like to help Grace Covenant stride into Its future?

Our Generosity Team meeting date is currently the second Tuesday and only one hour, usually after your kids are in bed (8:30 p.m.). Participation by Zoom is available. Once a month, the Generosity team meets to review pledge fulfillment. Quarterly we meet with the Finance Team. Come share your ideas and dreams! Our pledge drive planning begins in July and culminates in November. Please contact Rev. Karen Wright or Jane Knoche for more information.

Planning and preparing for our 82nd IHN host week August 4 - 11th

On August 4th, we will welcome 2 families to stay overnight at Grace Covenant for the week. In the past 20 years our church has been blessed to lift up over 922 individuals, 529 of those have been children. As of June 2024, our network has worked together to provide 59,608 bednights and 178,824 meals!

Our downstairs will be converted to 2 bedrooms and one host bedroom. With our offsite worship on Sunday August 4th, we will be able to set up on Saturday August 3rd. Christine Caseres is the lead Primary Coordinator for this week. We need meals, hosts, help with set-up/laundry. Only hosts need IHN training.

Many thanks to all who continue to support IHN. Please contact Christine at crcaseres032@gmail.com and Jane Knoche at jeknoche@att.net for more information.

Upcoming Election Dates

Grace Covenant is proud to be an election polling station for Johnson County.

August 6

Primary election

August 5

In person advanced voting ends at noon

October 15

Deadline to register for general on November 5

October 19

In person advanced voting for general election

October 29

Mail ballot application deadline

November 4

In person advanced voting ends at noon

November 5

General election

[Jcoelection.org](https://jcoelection.org) Vote411.org
<https://myvoteinfo.voteks.org/voterview>

Children's Team



GCPC loves our Children

As many feel the excitement of the new school year, we feel it here at GCPC, too. We are excited about our new year of programming. While the search for our Christian Educator is still ongoing, our Children's Team is committed to continuing our quality children's programs all throughout the school year. Our team moderator is Angela Krug. Our team members are Amy Sellers, Carolyn Chaffin, Christy Soule, Emily Hussey, Erin Frye, and Kristy Shaw. If you are interested in participating in our planning, we'd love to have you. You can reach us at our shared email address any time at GCPCChildren@gmail.com.

Join us Sunday August 11th for these special events

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday August 11, 9:30am during worship

The new school year is beginning, and we want to send our teachers and students back with a blessing. Join us for worship on Sunday, August 11, during which we will bless the backpacks of those who bring one. We will also present a backpack tag that will be a reminder of this blessing all year.

Sneak-a-Peek & Ministry Fair

Sunday August 11, 10:30am (following worship)

Ministry Fair

Come to Heartland Hall to find out more about the life and work of GCPC. Look for our Children's Team table where you can update your child's information sheet, learn more about our children's programs, inquire about our volunteer opportunities, ask questions, and more.

Sneak-a-Peek

We have a new activity for sneak-a-peek this year. Stop by the Children's team table for a special sneak-a-peek scavenger hunt. And of course there will be a prize for all who complete the challenge.

There's Room for everyone in Sunday School!

Our Sunday programming begins Sunday August 18th.

Our **nursery** is open for infants and above during worship and Sunday School. Carolyn, Cathy, and Meg are always excited to see our kiddos. Stop by and say hello in Room 22!

ATW - Awakening to Worship

Our **Awakening to Worship** program invites children age 4 – 1st grade to join us for a special children's worship experience during our regular worship time. Children should attend worship with their families and immediately following Children's Time, one of our ATW greeters will meet them in the back of the sanctuary to escort the children to our ATW room (Room 12). You may pick your children up after worship concludes from our ATW room. Contact our Children's Team at GCPCChildren@gmail.com with any questions.

(See article on page 2.)

Children's August Events at a Glance

Sunday August 11

Sneak-a-Peek, Ministry Fair, and Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday August 18

Awakening to Worship, Sunday School resumes, and SMASH

Sunday August 25

Awakening to Worship, and Sunday School & Music

We hope to see you there!

Sunday School Offerings for Every Age!

Grace Studies:

Our youngest ones, 2 through 5 are introduced each week to some of our favorite stories from the Bible.

2's/3's will meet in Room 20 at 10:45am.

4's/5's will meet in Room 26 at 10:45am for music, then will be escorted to Room 25 at 11:05am for Sunday School.



Grace Makers:

Our kindergarten through 5th grade students will begin a new season of creative learning through art, cooking, and drama. We will begin by looking at the diversity of God's creation and Biblical teachings that call us to love one another equally.

Kindergarten – 1st Grades: Room 26 - 10:45am gathers here for Joy! Singers and will be escorted to their workshop rotation after. Please know our workshop rotations move each week, so check the wall just outside the basement stairwell for each week's activities.

2nd—5th/6th Grades: Room 15 - 10:45am gathers here for Celebration! Choir and will be escorted to their workshop rotation after. Please know our workshop rotations move each week, so check the wall just outside the basement stairwell for each week's activities.



SERVICE - MUSIC - ARTS - SPORTS - HANG-OUT

SMASH Returns!

Service, Music, Art, Sports, Hangout
August 18, 5-6pm

Our August SMASH will mark the start of our new year of SMASH with an end of summer celebration! Please wear your swimsuit and sunscreen. Bring a towel. We will meet in the courtyard for water play.

Invite a friend! RSVP to GCPCChildren@gmail.com or look for our Facebook post.

How can you get involved with these exciting Children's Programs?

We are in need of several positions this year to help share the responsibilities of our children's programs. These teachers join a team of teachers who work together to ensure we have 2 teachers available each Sunday. Our adorable children who will reward you each week you spend with them!

Our areas of need are:

Sunday School programming

- 3-4 Preschool teachers for our Grace Studies program. These teachers will join a team of teachers who will share teaching responsibilities on Sunday morning.
- 1-2 Workshop rotation shepherds. Our shepherds escort our classes to the rotation of the week and help supervise activities planned by our workshop rotation teacher.
- We also welcome substitute Sunday School teachers to be added to our call list when a need arises. Substitutes are used for all age levels.
- Our ATW program is looking for additional storytellers or greeters to assist with our children's worship service experience. You will be asked to sign up for one or more Sundays as your schedule permits.

All positions will come with training and support from your Children's Team and Pastor Karen. Join us!

SMASH Program

Our SMASH program is organized by our Children's Team co-coordinators Amy Sellers and Christy Soule. This program meets once a month on a Sunday afternoon from 4pm – 6pm. We will need a few extra helping hands for general crowd control and to help enhance our children's participation in our fun activities. If you are interested in helping, check out our sign up genius here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A45A4A722A4FC1-smash1>

If you would like to learn more about any of these opportunities, please email our Children's Team at GCPCChildren@gmail.com and someone will be in touch with you soon. Thank you!

Message from Member Rick Randolph

On February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. It soon became evident that this is a war on the Ukrainian people, not just a war on the Ukrainian state. The wanton killings of civilians, the destruction of civilian infrastructure, and the deliberate destruction of healthcare facilities are unacceptable. Matthew 25 calls us to action for the oppressed and wronged, and I feel a need to help the people impacted by the war.

Through my role in Heart to Heart International's efforts I have helped the Ukrainian people materially. But there are many people in Ukraine in need of caring, personal health care and I felt called to act. I became a family physician to care for people, so I chose to deploy with the Global Care Force to provide personal healthcare in the Ukraine to civilians who are directly impacted by the war.

I will be serving a two-week rotation in the Ukraine, November 3–17. As a military physician, I understand that there is the risk but this WILL NOT be a military rotation. It will be to serve a much greater need to care for civilians, for regular civilians impacted by this unjust "war."

One commitment of working with Global Care Force is that the individual raises money providing for the medication that will be used in Ukraine. I ask you to join me in taking direct action in support of those in the Ukraine impacted by the war by helping to pay for the medication that will be put to use.

The Global Care Force is a 501c(3) not for profit organization. **Join me in supporting the Ukrainian people by using this link to donate.** <https://globalcareforce.managedmissions.com/MyTrip/richardrandolph>

Please feel free to call me at 913-220-0428 with any questions. Your prayers are always appreciated.

Blessings, Rick Randolph, rrandophiii@gmail.com



Peace Pole Community Art Project

Kairos (Peace, Justice, and Environment Team) encourages you to enjoy the **Peace Pole Art Project exhibit, running until September 30 at Lake Lenexa.**

This annual exhibit features residents, community groups, businesses and artists whose proposal for a peace pole design was selected for inclusion into the art exhibition. In November, a public auction of the poles will take place with funds going to support a charitable cause. This art project was organized as a partnership between Lenexa Rotary Club, Lenexa Arts Council and the City of Lenexa. The exhibit is free. **Location is at Black Hoof Park, 9053 Monticello Rd., Lenexa, KS, 66220.** Park near the boat dock at Black Hoof Park and walk south to view the poles. For ALL THE DETAILS, including a map, click here: <https://www.lenexa.com/City-Calendar/2024/Peace-Poles-Community-Art-Exhibit>

Reduce, Recycle, Re-Use

On September 8 and 15, we are having our third Reduce, Recycle, Reuse giveaway. Please gather after worship to peruse the tables in the concourse. Come see the goodies we are giving away!

Red Bag Coordinator Needed

One of GCPC's holiday traditions is sponsoring 25-30 children with Christmas gifts and stockings through the Red Bag Project. Every year we need a coordinator to organize the collection and delivery of the gifts. Angela Krug has been our coordinator for a number of years - if you get a chance, tell her thanks! But Angela is ready to hand this project over to a new coordinator, so we need to find that person! **The coordinator's work starts in October** and is complete by the first Saturday in December. Angela is willing to help the new coordinator learn the ropes! Please let Mikki Walker know if you are interested in serving as the coordinator and helping this GCPC tradition continue (michala.walker@gmail.com).

18th Annual GCPC Golf Scramble/Fundraiser Benefitting the Baker/Reynolds Scholarship Fund

Sunday, August 25 — 1st Tee Time at 1pm at Falcon Valley Golf Course in Lenexa

[CLICK HERE FOR THE ENTRY FORM!](#)

KAIROS

KAIROS the Peace, Justice, and Earth Care team of GPC. This ministry of GPC is a ministry team of advocacy and action. Our action and advocacy for peace issues, immigration reform, LGBTQIA rights, and prison ministries are local, denominational (Presbyterian Church USA), and national.

Kairos Celebrates Passed Overtures from 226th GA

These are just a few of the Overture actions the GA approved and asks the local presbyteries and congregations to work together for a better world for the least of these. These ones are at the heart of GPC as an Earth Care & Matthew 25 congregation.

ENV-01 Adoption of the One Billion for Peace Pledge

"Sustainable peace entails the physical, material, psychological, cultural/religious, and ecological well-being of all peoples. We declare our organizational intention to pursue sustainable peace in our work and our lives."

<https://www.pc-biz.org/search/3001128>

ENV-03 On Becoming Free from Plastic Pollution

"Encourage all our settings to commit to changing from a disposable culture . . . Reduce the use of single-use plastics and packaging; Commend all settings of the church to join in possible opportunities for participation in addressing plastic pollution. . . <https://www.pc-biz.org/search/3001145>

ENV-04 Lithium Mining Paper "Give thanks to God for the historic witness of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) policy calling for eco-justice and moving to a green economy, as well as the Investing in a Green Future: A Vision for a Renewed Creation policy approved by the 225th General Assembly (2022) . . . Commend this paper to governing bodies and congregations, urging that it be used as a basis for study, action, and advocacy. <https://www.pc-biz.org/search/3001146>

ENV-07 Docket Time for Treasury Department to Educate About Inflation Reduction Act . . . The Commissioners of the 226th General Assembly (2024) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) recommend that the 226th General Assembly:

Docket 20 minutes in its plenary sessions to allow a U.S. Department of Treasury official to speak to the General Assembly on how available government funds can help our churches and members faithfully care for God's creation.

Request that the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness, PC(USA) Sustainable Living & Earth Care Concerns (which is part

of the Presbyterian Hunger Program), Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program, and Presbyterians for Earth Care expand their efforts to educate our churches and members on how they can access the Inflation Reduction Act funds to care for God's creation. <https://www.pc-biz.org/search/3001381>

DOE-08 On Adopting "Protecting Utah's National Monuments & Wildlands for Ecology and Justice."

After viewing a video offered by overture advocates from the Presbytery of Utah, the committee briefly discussed the actual intent of the overture before voting in favor of the overture as written by a vote of 37 in favor and 3 against.

<https://www.pc-biz.org/search/3001292>

Both portions of the 'Olympia Overture' are approved

POL-01, which had been divided into two parts, will amend the Book of Order to include sexual orientation and gender identity among the categories against which this Church does not discriminate. The item will be sent to presbyteries for ratification. <https://www.pc-biz.org/committee/3000109/business>

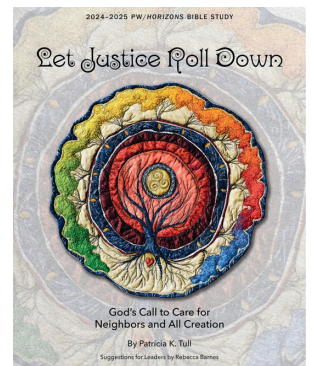
On Gun Violence Prevention 2024

An overture calling for action so that children may live free from gun violence, passed unanimously, 424-0, a vote that commissioners and advisory delegates applauded. The overture calls on every congregation in the PC(USA) to take some specific action of love and responsibility for children as part of the movement to protect children against gun violence.

Happening right here in Heartland Presbytery!

The PW Bible Study for this year was written by Dr. Trisha Tull (*we have studied her INHABITING EDEN book as a summer book study and in a Sunday School class*).

This is your chance to hear directly from the author about this new Bible study: *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*.



Join us from 9am-Noon on Saturday, August 17, in Friendship Hall, at Village Presbyterian Church - Mission Campus, as we learn from the Bible study author, Rev. Dr. Patricia Tull, in person.

The cost is \$25 per person and includes coffee and a continental breakfast. Register at <https://www.villagepres.org/pw.html> by Friday, August 2nd.

Celebrate our 40th Anniversary with branded apparel!

2025 marks a significant milestone for Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church as we celebrate our 40th anniversary with the theme "Celebrating our Faithful Journey." As part of our festivities, we're excited to offer anniversary apparel that allow you to show your support and commemorate this joyous occasion.

Each piece of apparel is designed to reflect our church's rich history and the faithful journey we have shared as a community. Wearing it is a testament to the faith and dedication that has brought us to this moment. Proceeds from the sale of this anniversary apparel fundraiser will go towards our June 22, 2025 anniversary celebration.

Whether you're a long-time member or a new friend, wearing our anniversary apparel is a great way to show your pride and connection to GCPC. It's more than just clothing; it's a symbol of our unity and shared faith.

What's Available? We are offering an adult and youth short sleeve and long sleeve t-shirt, and an adult crewneck sweatshirt. The apparel is offered in a range of sizes, with most adult offerings in the colors orange, green, sapphire blue, and purple.

Full details and information on how to purchase - Visit our website at www.gcpc.org/40apparel, or pick up an order form at the church office, to view what is available and place your order. We offer a variety of sizes and styles to suit everyone. Don't miss out on owning a piece of our church's history!

Prepay your order - All orders must be paid for in advance. No returns or refunds. We will not be ordering extra apparel items. Our order with the vendor will only be for those who pre-order and prepay for apparel. After submitting your order online, or by paper form, you may pay with a credit card [HERE](#), or pay by cash or check to the church office. Payment for all orders need to be submitted by Sunday, August 25 at noon.

ORDER AT THE MINISTRY FAIR! – The 40th Anniversary Committee will have a table at the **Ministry Fair on Sunday, August 11**. Stop by to order and see a sample of the apparel offerings.

Join the Celebration - Wearing our anniversary apparel is a wonderful way to participate in the celebration, even beyond our scheduled events. Every time you wear it, you're reminded of the faith, community, and dedication that have shaped Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church over the past 40 years. Thank you for being part of our journey. Let's celebrate this incredible milestone together!

Questions? Contact Kim Krueger at kimgoeckler@outlook.com.





40th Anniversary Apparel Fundraiser 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.

We are offering 40th Anniversary branded apparel to celebrate this milestone occasion.

**DEADLINE TO PLACE ORDERS IS
SUNDAY, AUGUST 25 AT NOON.**

Please place order online at gcpc.org/40apparel

There is a link to download a paper order form on the website listed above also.

Important Information

- All orders must be paid for in advance.
- Pay by credit card to <https://onrealm.org/gcpc/-/form/give/KKHVZUJVDW> "Pull down" to be sure you are submitting your credit card payment for the category "40th Anniversary."
- If you prefer to pay with cash or a credit card, please place your payment in an envelope, with your order form, and write "40th Anniversary Apparel - Attn: Kim Krueger" on the envelope. Then, give it to someone in the church office. Additionally, please email Kim Krueger at kimgoeckler@outlook.com to inform her that you have done this so she can pick it up.

You may also mail your check to the church. Please do not mail cash. GPC is not responsible if your check is not received on time or gets lost.

We will confirm all payments submitted to the church office via email.

- No returns or refunds.
- We will not be ordering extra apparel items.
- Our order with the vendor will only be for those who pre-order and prepay for apparel.

Specification Sheets

Please review specifications/sizing for each item before ordering, by reviewing the PDF specifications sheet for each apparel style. (View specification sheets online at gcpc.org/40apparel.)

All items, except sweatshirts, are 100% cotton. The adult sweatshirt is 50% polyester / 50% cotton fleece. Please consider ordering a size larger if you are concerned about shrinkage.

Adult Short Sleeve T-Shirt (S-5XL)

\$10 for S- XL

+\$2 additional for size 2XL (\$12)

+\$4 additional for size 3XL (\$14)

+\$6 additional for size 4XL (\$16)

+\$8 additional for size 5XL (\$18)

100% cotton. Order size larger if concerned about shrinkage. No returns or refunds.

Available in: Sapphire, Orange, Green, and Purple.

Adult Long Sleeve T-Shirt (S-3XL)

\$15 for S- XL

+\$2 additional for size 2XL (\$17)

+\$4 additional for size 3XL (\$19)

100% cotton. Order size larger if concerned about shrinkage. No returns or refunds.

Available in: Orange, Green, and Purple.

Adult Crewneck Sweatshirt (S-5XL)

\$20 for S- XL

+\$2 additional for size 2XL (\$22)

+\$4 additional for size 3XL (\$24)

+\$6 additional for size 2XL (\$26)

+\$8 additional for size 3XL (\$28)

50% polyester / 50% cotton. No returns or refunds.

Available in: Sapphire, Orange, Green, and Purple.

Youth Short Sleeve T-Shirt (XS-XL) 100% cotton

\$10 for XS- XL

100% cotton. Order size larger if concerned about shrinkage. No returns or refunds.

Available in: Sapphire, Orange, Green, and Purple.

Youth Long Sleeve T-Shirt (XS-XL) 100% cotton

\$15 for XS- XL

100% cotton. Order size larger if concerned about shrinkage. No returns or refunds.

Available in: Green and Purple.

Questions? Contact Kim Krueger at kimgoeckler@outlook.com, or 913-709-9555.



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Inclusive. Family Oriented. Welcoming.

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

gcpc.org



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CHURCH STAFF

Interim Pastor, Rev. Karen Wright
karen.wright@gcpc.org ext. 10
Director of Music Ministries.....Rebecca Prater
Mon.-Wed., Fri.; rebecca.prater@gcpc.org ext. 13
Church Administrator.....Patrick Bell
Mon.-Fri.; patrick.bell@gcpc.org ext. 10
Youth Coordinator Lindsay Callender
lindsaymichelle0130@gmail.com
Finance Administrator.....Tara Hyder
finance@gcpc.org
Organist.....Linda Dover
Audio/Visual Director.....Jason Turner
Email both addresses if you need a video or audio
played in worship. Send on the Wednesday prior
to Sunday's worship. darktrainfilms@gmail.com;
gcpc.media@gmail.com
Praise Team Coord......Carrie DeVries
Praise Team Drummer Jill Endaya-Allen
Child Care Coordinator.....Carolyn Chaffin
Wedding Coordinator Kristy Shaw
Funeral Coordinator Mary Sue Thomas

ELDERS

Johnnie Baker	Jaylee Soule
Paul Bruns	Tom Stroud
Joy Circo	Eileen Thomson
Barbara Douglas	Melanie Townsend Session Clerk
Lara Schesser	Michala Walker
Jake Schmidt	Mary Ann Weyforth
Andrew Sellers	
Kristy Shaw	

SUPPORT STAFF

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

Follow us on Social Media!

Facebook: facebook.com/GraceCovenantPresbyterian

Instagram: @gcpc_overlandpark

MINISTRY UNITS

Congregational Nurture Unit Moderators
Care and Connections....Mary Ann Weyforth
Worship and Music..... Kathy Bures,
Barbara Douglas
Education Ministry Unit Moderators
Adult Joel Ilten
Children Angela Krug
Youth..... Lara Schesser
Reach Out Ministry Unit Moderators
Kairos Rick Randolph
MissionMikki Walker
Welcoming Kathy Williams
Supportive Ministry Unit Moderators
Facility Liz Chandler
GenerosityJane Knoche
Finance..... Beth Lillian
Personnel Kevin Mason

Worship Schedule

9:30am Worship
In-Person, Facebook & Zoom
Visit gcpc.org/online for links

Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines

September 2024 issue - Deadline, August 20
October 2024 issue - Deadline, September 20