



**Celebrating 40 Years on June 22, 2025!**

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

# GRACE NOTES

November 2024  
Vol 42, Nbr 11

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](mailto:office@gcpc.org)  
[gcpc.org](http://gcpc.org)

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

Visit [gcpc.org](http://gcpc.org) for links!

## Saints & Generosity

On Sunday, November 3, 2024 we will recognize the saints who have departed for the Church Triumphant and it will also be our pledge dedication Sunday. We are reminded of the generations before us and their generosity in contributing to Grace Covenant Presbytery Church over the past 40 years. The work of the saints through the decades have given us a legacy upon which to build and to grow.

In the coming weeks there are two things that we need you to do (*and please don't buy gift cards, that is a total scam*). First, if you have not completed giving the amount you pledged for 2024, please make every effort to fulfill your pledge. Faithful giving is an act of worship and a trust in the promises of God. Second, if you have not yet filled out a pledge card for 2025, please do so as soon as possible. This helps us in setting the budget for ministries of the church going forward. Whether you are submitting a new pledge, you want to increase your pledge, you want to keep your pledge the same, or if you are unable to pledge at this time, we want to hear from you.

The goal of having everyone return a pledge card is about asking people to be participatory in the life of the church. In the coming weeks, if we have not yet heard from you, we will be reaching out with phone calls and letters asking for you to respond. As we begin planning for 2025, we trust in God's goodness and provision and we invite everyone to participate in the worship of God through generous gifts which enables us to continue the legacy of ministry in the community for years to come.

Grace and peace, —Pastor Karen  
[karen.wright@gcpc.org](mailto:karen.wright@gcpc.org); 913-345-1256, ext. #10

## Friday Night Crafts!

**Join the Weekend Crafters Group for an Open Craft Night on Friday November 15th from 6pm - 9pm in Heartland Hall.** Bring your own craft projects to work on and an appetizer to share if you wish. We'll enjoy fellowship and crafting fun. Invite friends, neighbors, relatives, etc. RSVP to Christy Soule, Kristy Shaw, or Kim Krueger. Hope to see you there.



## Transition Process Update

David Sutherland, Ryan Hussey, Tom Stroud, and Laura Johnson are working alongside the Session as we gather information for the mission study document which is part of the transition process. Adult Sunday School is going to spend time on November 3rd and November 10th looking at some questions on which we would like to gather group feedback. A survey will also be sent to the congregation in the coming weeks and again, your feedback is important.

[I would love for everyone to watch this short video.](#)

**Know your why.** Why we do things gives the how and what we do more meaning and more impact. Very often in our culture we lead with what we do and not why we do it. If we can hone in on why GCPC is a community, then we can be more focused on the how and the what that follows. If part of our why is building disciples of Jesus Christ, the how and what we do will fall into place. **So what do you think the why of GCPC is?** There could be more than one.

Ponder this, let me know as I will share responses with the transition team and session.

Blessings — Rev. Karen Wright, Interim Pastor, Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church

## Clerk's Corner

Session held its stated meeting on October 21. We heard about repairs that have been made, great fellowship events (*94 people attended the October BBQ event!*), work completed and upcoming education opportunities. We are excited about 40th Anniversary events that will be occurring in the coming months and appreciate the people who are making those happen!

We are starting on the “hard work” of the interim period. Session members will be meeting with their teams this month to discuss the Operations Manual and the work of their teams. We will be discussing the critical functions of the team, work that may be ineffective, and what tools are needed to complete our jobs. We are also discussing effective times for meetings; technology and changing schedules and lifestyles give us the opportunity to try new things. During this same time period, the Transition Team will be hosting a series of conversations in Heartland Hall during the education hour to discern what is important to the future of Grace Covenant. We hope you will join in thoughtful conversations.

In November we will start discussing the 2025 budget; having pledge cards from every member of the congregation will help inform that decision. If you haven't turned in a card yet, please do!

Please be in prayer and thoughtful conversation in the coming months as we explore new ideas for the church that we love.

— Melanie Townsend, Clerk of Session

*Photo: Kitchen crew on Workship Sunday 2024*



# Generosity through the Generations

For 40 years, GCPC has been blessed by God’s steadfast love and the faithful generosity of our members. As we look to the future, we’re called to build on this legacy and ensure that generations to come will continue to experience God’s endless love through our ministry.

Psalm 100:5 reminds us, *“For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”* Just as God’s love spans all generations, so too can our generosity create a lasting impact.

## Our Stewardship Drive is underway!

### How to pledge by November 3rd, Dedication Sunday!

- **Use a pledge card** (*handed out at the Town Hall and available on the Generosity Bulletin Board*). Place in an envelope and put in the offering plate, or give to the church office.
- **Pledge online** at [gcpc.org/pledge](http://gcpc.org/pledge)
- **Send an email to Tara Hyder**, Finance Administrator at [finance@gcpc.org](mailto:finance@gcpc.org).
- **Can’t confirm right now because you are waiting to evaluate your end of year finances?** We get that! Submit a conservative amount now, and when you have a clear plan, contact Tara Hyder to adjust accordingly. We still need to hear from you, so submit a pledge card to let us know.
- **Unable to pledge?** We understand. Please complete a pledge card to let us know this, otherwise we will be giving you a call if we haven’t heard from you.

**Will you join us in ensuring that our church continues to be a beacon of faith, hope, and love for the next 40 years and beyond?**



## GENEROSITY THROUGH THE GENERATIONS

Complete your pledge card and return to Tara Hyder, Finance Administrator, via the church office using envelopes on Generosity bulletin board.

You can also email your pledge information to Tara at [finance@gcpc.org](mailto:finance@gcpc.org).

Scan QR code to enter pledge online via OnRealm.



## Generosity Fulfillment 2024 Update - What the Future Holds

As we come to October, the Generosity Team would like to praise the steadfast generosity and commitment of the members. 79.9% of submitted pledges and 69.0% of rollover pledges have been received!! We express our thanks 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	June 17th	October 6th
0-25% fulfilled	76	37	12
26-50% fulfilled	20	56	7
51-75% fulfilled	1	4	53
76-100% fulfilled	17	17	42
\$599,410	\$214,344	\$293,452	\$479,263

Rollover Pledges (16)	March 31	June 17th	October 6th
0-25% fulfilled	10	6	4
26-50% fulfilled	5	8	3
51-75% fulfilled	0	1	4
76-100% fulfilled	1	1	5
\$34,662	\$6,668	\$11,175	\$23,909

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.

# MUSIC NOTES

## MUSIC IN WORSHIP

### November 3rd – All Saints' Sunday

Organ led worship. Joy! Singers (4s-1st grade) & Celebration! Choir (2nd-5th/6th graders) will share their songs. Chancel & Exaltation! Singers Anthem: "I Am Not My Own" by Craig Courtney with Charles Graves, trumpet

### November 10th – 25th Sunday after Pentecost

Organ led worship. Chancel & Exaltation! Singers Anthem: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" arr. Mack Wilberg, Geri Allcorn, guest organist

### November 17th – 26th Sunday after Pentecost

Praise Team led. Charter Ringers ring "Let All Things Now Living" arr. Cathy Moglebust

### November 24th – Christ the King Sunday

Organ led. Chancel & Exaltation! Singers sing "All Creatures of Our God and King" arr. Molly Ijames with piano 4-hands, Lindsay Callender rings a handbell solo



## Songs of the Season

Presented during the  
Sundays of Advent at 9:30am

December 8th – 2nd Sunday of Advent  
songs will be shared in worship by  
GCPC Wind Ensemble , Pam Smith Kelly, director

December 15th – 3rd Sunday of Advent  
Advent & Christmas anthems will be shared in  
worship by Chancel & Exaltation! Singers  
& Instrumentalists , Rebecca Prater, director

December 22nd – 4th Sunday of Advent  
songs will be shared in worship by the  
Praise Team, Carrie DeVries, director

## Exaltation! Reunion Choir

1994-2024

Thanksgiving Eve - November 27, 2024

6:00pm Rehearsal

7:00pm - Sing at the Worship Service

*If you ever sang in Exaltation! you are invited!*

Please contact Rebecca Prater ASAP

[rebecca.prater@gcpc.org](mailto:rebecca.prater@gcpc.org); 913-626-6296 (cell)

It will be a blast to have everyone gather  
to sing again! So Ex!-citing!

We will gather at Johnny's Tavern at 95th & Antioch  
after the worship service! All are welcome to join us!



*a* CHRISTMAS  
**EXCLAMATION**

**An evening for  
Christmas carols  
and songs!**

**Sunday, December 8, 6pm**

Hear our 4-year-olds through adults  
sing & ring Christmas favorites  
then join in with the congregation  
to sing Christmas carols & songs.

We'll also have a few music ensembles  
from **EncoreKC!** included in the program.

Add in some fun videos & treats for the  
kids and this fun holiday program  
is a "don't miss event!"

**SING  
RING**  
Rejoice  
celebrate  
Share  
gather

**Christ's  
Born!**

Pull out  
your ugly  
Christmas  
sweater, Santa  
hat, or jingle  
bells.

Bring your  
family and  
friends and  
join us for  
this fun  
and festive  
Christmas  
program!



## **“On the Way to Bethlehem” Intergenerational Advent Fair**

**Sunday, November 24**

**10:30-11:45am in Heartland Hall**

The Advent Fair is a wonderful opportunity for all ages to come together as we prepare our hearts for the Advent season. We'll explore how this meaningful time connects to our individual spiritual journeys and fosters our growth as a community.

Let's share in the joy and anticipation of the season together! There will be self-guided games, crafts, learning, storytelling, and service project stations for all age levels.

### **Volunteers needed for set-up, to staff activity stations, and for cleanup.**

#### **Setup Volunteers:**

- Saturday, November 23, 9am - Noon  
Help with room setup, arrange stations, and set up decorations.
- Sunday, November 24, 8am - 9:30am  
Arrive early for last minute help in getting room and activities ready.

#### **Station Volunteers:**

- Sunday, November 24, 10:30 - Noon  
Lead individual activities, guide participants, answer questions, and ensure safety.

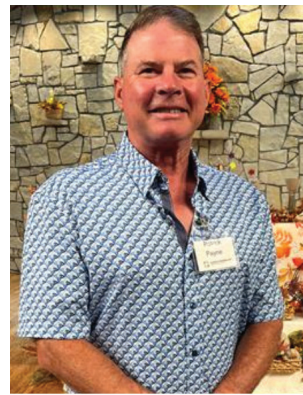
#### **Floating Volunteers:**

- Sunday, November 24, 10:30 - Noon  
Help participants move between stations, offer assistance where needed, and manage supplies.

#### **Clean-Up Volunteers:**

- Sunday, November 24, Noon - 1pm  
Clear tables, pack remaining supplies, and tidy the room after the event.

**To volunteer**, contact Christian Education Director, Emily Dixon at 913-345-1256 or [emily.dixon@gcpc.org](mailto:emily.dixon@gcpc.org).



## **Welcome to Our New Members!**

We are excited to extend a warm welcome to the new members of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church! We welcome Patrick Payne, Jane Allen, Keith Langabee, and Aaron, Sarah, Eloise, Margo, Coen, and Sullivan Armbrecht. It's a joy to have you join our community, and we look forward to growing in faith together.

At Grace Covenant, these new members will find a supportive family ready to embrace them. From worship to fellowship events, Christian education and small groups, GCPC offers a chance to connect with others and deepen your faith journey.



# Children's Team



## Season of Thanksgiving!

As the calendar turns to another page, we are excited for this season of thanksgiving. The Children's Team is counting our blessings this month. As a volunteer for the children of GCPC, we enjoy interacting with our children in the hallways of the church. Their energy and excitement is a true gift. Heavenly Father, we thank you for the blessings our children bring us and the reminder that we are all Children of God.

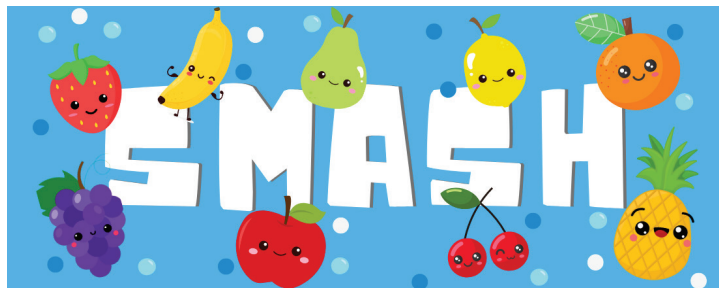
## Trunk or Treat

As we celebrate our 40th year of church ministry, events like Trunk or Treat remind us of the joy our church family can bring one another. We appreciate all the volunteers who helped host a trunk, assisted children playing games, prepared our hot dog lunch and every job in between. We appreciate our members who brought their children and/or grandchildren to share in the fun. We appreciate the children who brought excitement and that energy we spoke about to our church building. Thank you and hope everyone had a safe and Happy Halloween.

## Children's Events at a Glance

- November 3** ATW, Music & Sunday School
- November 10** ATW, Music & Sunday School
- November 17** ATW, Music & Sunday School and SMASH from 4-6pm
- November 24** ATW and Advent Fair (in lieu of Sunday School)

If you have any questions or comments about our children's programs or pictures of our children's events, please contact our **Director of Christian Education, Emily Nelson Dixon**, at [emily.dixon@gcpc.org](mailto:emily.dixon@gcpc.org).



## SMASH Program

In October, our Smash program continued its Fruit of the Spirit studies for our children in Kindergarten through 5th grade. We talked about the JOY we find in knowing Jesus and how we can share that JOY with others.

We will continue our studies in November with discussions on Peace which seems very fitting as we begin our advent preparations. **Join us November 17th from 4-6pm in Heartland Hall.** RSVP via our GCPC Children's group Facebook event or email [gcpcchildren@gmail.com](mailto:gcpcchildren@gmail.com).





## Calling All Advocates of Peace, Justice and Environmental Care

If you've ever felt a passion for creating a more just, peaceful and sustainable future for yourself, children and beyond, we have a team for you. GCPC's Kairos Team seeks to walk along those in our congregation who want to make an impact. Whether it is a recent documentary or a deep knowing of a concern, we understand what it feels like to want to make a difference and not know how. Come and share your passion with us.

We specifically would like to thank the congregation for coming together to support two causes. We celebrate the successful fundraising for Rick Randolph's medical mission to the Ukraine which allowed him to make not one but two mission trips. (We do not take full credit as many different groups both within GCPC and beyond assisted raising these funds.) We also want to sincerely thank all who participated in the CROP walk resulting in 26 participants. Our original goal was 24 walkers in 2024. Seeing the crowded picture of walkers is a great way to begin our 40th anniversary as we remember how this event was embraced for many years. Thank you, Dave Pack, for your continued effort in organizing this event! Thank you, Grace Covenant!

We currently meet virtually on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm, although we are seeking an alternative night, and would be happy to have you be a part of the decision of when and where to meet. Please contact Rick Randolph at [rRANDOLPHIII@gmail.com](mailto:rRANDOLPHIII@gmail.com) or Christine Caseres at [crcaseres032@gmail.com](mailto:crcaseres032@gmail.com) for more information.

## Bed and Bags - Plastic Bag Sleeping Mats

One option for our Workshop Sunday was to prepare plastic yarn to make sleeping mats for our unhoused neighbors sleeping outside. Sarah Stolberg returned for a second year to teach us to prepare bags while she crocheted a mat. It takes 700 to 1,000 bags to make one mat, and about 9 hours to prepare that number of bags into yarn. Sarah can take the prepared yarn and hand knit a sleeping mat in about an hour. Shortly after Workshop Sunday, Sarah shared instructions on making a mat so that we can continue this effort with her at GCPC. We need people who are willing to prep bags into yarn. This is a simple task you can do at home and is especially suited for children and youth. Thank you to everyone who donated plastic bags and assisted this year and last. Please reach out to Christine Caseres at [crcaseres032@gmail.com](mailto:crcaseres032@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping. **We do not need anymore bags at this time.**

## Savers FUNdraiser scores BIG on Workshop Sunday!

Thank you to all the members of the congregation who brought donations for the FUNdraiser! You are amazing and we are so grateful! A GREAT BIG THANKS to the crew for packing up all of our Savers FUNdraiser items and driving the donations to Savers! We are so grateful for your time to complete this project.

Thank you to "Captain" Kristy Shaw for organizing this project. Funds raised from the donation will go towards our 40th anniversary celebration.

3,543 pounds were donated! We raised \$535! Thanks to our members support we donated:

- 1,891 pounds of soft goods (clothing, bedding, etc.)
- 1,274 pounds hard goods (housewares, etc.)
- 378 pounds books

**We will be having another Savers FUNdraiser in the Spring of 2025.** Start cleaning your closets and set aside for this fundraiser. Details coming in 2025.





## Thank You Church Family!

Thank you to all who have contributed to my upcoming medical mission in the Ukraine. Each does what they can to help those in need. By supporting this mission, you have been equal partners in this mission to help the people of the Ukraine. Thank you!  
—Rick Randolph



## EncoreKC! presents “Autumn Leaves, Jazz in the Afternoon”

Join our Artists in Residence, EncoreKC! Foundation for an afternoon of music and community! EKC! presents “Autumn Leaves, Jazz in the Afternoon” —a concert of golden voices and timeless jazz. Join them on Sunday, November 17, at 3pm for an unforgettable musical experience! Performance by EKC! Chorus and EKC! Act II, Pam Smith Kelly, Director; with special guests KCKCC After Hours Vocal Jazz Ensemble, John Stafford II, Director.

This free concert will be held at Village Presbyterian Church on Antioch, 14895 Antioch Rd, Overland Park, KS. Come and enjoy an afternoon filled with soulful melodies and classic jazz tunes.

The EncoreKC! Foundation, under the direction of Pam Smith Kelly, Artistic Director, is a chorus for singers 50+ that embraces a wide range of musical styles - from traditional to contemporary, sacred, pop, and classical. Their concerts showcase community groups and instrumental ensembles, making each performance unique and vibrant. Learn more at [encorekc.org](http://encorekc.org).

## Red Bag 2024

It’s almost that time! Red Bag gift tags will be available on Sunday, November 10, and all presents MUST be returned by Sunday, December 1. Please watch the midweek announcements and your Sunday bulletin for more details.

## Turn Out Your Pockets for a Noisy Offering — November 10

Our next Noisy Offering will go to help pay down student lunch debt at Rosehill Elementary. During the pandemic, free school lunches were offered to all children nationwide regardless of income, but that program ended in 2022, and many families have struggled with transitioning back to paying for school lunches.

While no student is ever denied a lunch, outstanding debt is eventually sent to collections agencies and school districts have to make up debt that is ultimately unpaid out of funds that would otherwise be used for education. The Shawnee Mission School District has one the highest lunch debt totals in the KC metro area, totaling over \$170,000.

Our Noisy Offering funds will help ease this burden on families at our long-time partner, Rosehill Elementary. Bring your loose change on November 10, and be a part of this GCPC tradition!

## Dinners for 7 or 8

The Dinners for 7 or 8 will be finished in the month of November. A new session will begin in January and meet monthly to finish in April. If you would like to join and/or continue, please contact Kathy Williams by December 15. You may choose to dine in homes or dine out with a group. Groups will be notified by e-mail their new dinner group in late December.

If you have questions, please contact Kathy Williams at [kathykaskewilliams@gmail.com](mailto:kathykaskewilliams@gmail.com) or 913-485-1776.



# GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Inclusive. Family Oriented. Welcoming.**

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

[gcpc.org](http://gcpc.org)



## GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Facebook: [facebook.com/GraceCovenantPresbyterian](https://facebook.com/GraceCovenantPresbyterian)

Instagram: @gcpc\_overlandpark

### CHURCH STAFF

- Interim Pastor, Rev. Karen Wright**  
[karen.wright@gcpc.org](mailto:karen.wright@gcpc.org) ..... ext. 10
- Director of Music Ministries.....Rebecca Prater**  
Mon.-Wed., Fri.; [rebecca.prater@gcpc.org](mailto:rebecca.prater@gcpc.org) .... ext. 13
- Church Administrator.....Patrick Bell**  
Mon.-Fri.; [patrick.bell@gcpc.org](mailto:patrick.bell@gcpc.org) ..... ext. 10
- Director of Christian Education**  
**Emily Nelson-Dixon** .....ext.10  
[emily.dixon@gcpc.org](mailto:emily.dixon@gcpc.org)
- Youth Coordinator** ..... Lindsay Callender  
[lindsaymichelle0130@gmail.com](mailto:lindsaymichelle0130@gmail.com)
- Finance Administrator**.....Tara Hyder  
[finance@gcpc.org](mailto: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](mailto:darktrainfilms@gmail.com); [gcpc.media@gmail.com](mailto:gcpc.media@gmail.com)
- Praise Team Director**.....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  |
| Lara Schesser   | Session Clerk     |
| Jake Schmidt    | Michala Walker    |
| Andrew Sellers  | Mary Ann Weyforth |
| Kristy Shaw     |                   |

### SUPPORT STAFF

- Deacon Moderator .....Jean Hampton
- Operating Committee..... Lara Schesser, Tom Stroud, Barbara Douglas, Mikki Walker, Melanie Townsend, Rev. Karen Wright
- Newsletter Editor/Marketing..... Kim Krueger
- Prayer Chain .....Cheryl Johnson
- Website Administrators .....Kim Krueger, Patrick Bell, Christy Soule

### 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  
Mission .....Mikki Walker  
Welcoming ..... Kathy Williams
- Supportive Ministry Unit Moderators**  
Facility ..... Liz Chandler  
Generosity .....Jane Knoche  
Finance..... Beth Lillian  
Personnel ..... Kevin Mason

### Worship Schedule

9:30am Worship

In-Person, Facebook & Zoom  
Visit [gcpc.org/online](http://gcpc.org/online) for links

### Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines

December 2024 issue - Deadline, November 19  
January 2025 issue - Deadline, December 17