



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship — November 17, 2024

*“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: Paul Bruns

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, and it will take you to the link.



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

- **Rev. Karen Wright (Interim Pastor):** karen.wright@gcpc.org
- **Emily Nelson Dixon (Dir. of Christian Education):** emily.dixon@gcpc.org
- **Rebecca Prater (Dir. of Music Ministries)** rebecca.prater@gcpc.org
- **Lindsay Callender (Youth Coordinator):** lindsaymichelle0130@gmail.com
- **Patrick Bell (Office Admin.):** patrick.bell@gcpc.org
- **Tara Hyder (Finance Admin.):** finance@gcpc.org
- **Jason Turner (Audio/Technical Dir.):** Please e-mail both darktrainfilms@gmail.com & gcpc.media@gmail.com. If you need a video or audio played in worship, please send the link to Jason on the Wednesday prior to Sunday's worship.

“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, Katie Rickley, David Schesser

Aging Challenges

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

Our Mission Co-Workers: Jeff and Christi Boyd in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Leslie Vogel, PC (USA) Regional Liaison for Guatemala and Mexico.

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: St. Paul Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, 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

THANK YOU FOR TAKING SO MANY RED BAG GIFT TAGS LAST WEEK. (You all are awesome!) A quick review: 1) buy the gift, 2) wrap the gift, 3) attach the *Very Important Post-It Note* to the gift, and 4) return the gift to church by December 1.

Some helpful hints:

1. Consider getting a gift receipt to put in with clothes and shoes in case the size or style doesn't work for the child.
2. If your gift requires batteries, please include them with your gift.
3. Everyone likes getting a Christmas stocking—please remember to sew or pin the top of the stocking so the goodies stay inside.
4. PLEASE attach the *Very Important Post-It Note* to the gift when you bring the gift to church. The *Very Important Post-It Note* is how we know who gets the gift. We will remove the *Very Important Post-It Note* when we are packing the Red Bag for the child.

Thank you for your willingness to make a child's Christmas a time of love and celebration.

“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. To volunteer, visit: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A45A4A722A4FC1-53244256-gcpc>, or contact Christian Education Director, Emily Nelson Dixon at 913-345-1256 or emily.dixon@gcpc.org.

“AUTUMN LEAVES — JAZZ IN THE AFTERNOON” ENCOREKC! FOUNDATION INVITES YOU to the fall EncoreKC! Chorus and Act II concert TODAY at 3pm at Village on Antioch. Vocal jazz standards such as "Autumn Leaves," "Blue Skies," and "Fly Me to the Moon" will be presented by the EKC! choirs. The nationally acclaimed Kansas City Kansas Community College After Hours Vocal Jazz Ensemble will be the featured guest performers. They have won 60 DownBeat Magazine Student Music Awards and have shared the stage with artists Take 6, The New York Voices, m-pact, Carmen Bradford, Dianne Reeves and Marilyn Maye. All choirs will combine for their finale "I've Got Rhythm." Be sure to arrive at 2:30pm to get your seat for this incredible event.

THE GCPC BRUNCH BUNCH will convene TODAY at 12:15pm at Home Grown, 11705 Roe Avenue, Suite A. If you plan to attend, please e-mail Mike Mattix at: mattixopks@gmail.com.

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 or 913-485-1776.

WORSHIP IS THE CENTRAL, SHARED EXPERIENCE where we praise God and are transformed and renewed to serve. In worship, Grace Covenant has welcomed 21 new members in the last year and a half. If you would like more information or if you are thinking about joining GCPC, come to “This is Grace” class on Sunday, January 12. Please contact Kathy Williams at kathykaskewilliams@gmail.com or call 913-485-1776 if you plan to attend.

2024 PER CAPITA GIVING: The Session of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church has committed to supporting the operations of our General Assembly, Synod of Mid-America, and Heartland Presbytery by contributing \$43.94 per member, the designated 2024 per capita amount. We invite each member to prayerfully consider contributing their \$43.94 to help offset this expense in GCPC’s 2024 budget. Your participation helps ensure our continued support for the work of our leaders and officers within The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Donations can be made via check payable to GCPC with “per capita” noted in the memo line, or online at gcpc.org/give (select “Per Capita” as the fund). Thank you for your generosity.

ADULT

ADULT EDUCATION TODAY: We will gather in Heartland Hall for a conversation around the feedback from the last two sessions that examined questions for the GCPC transition team. What is God calling us to do next? What are the things we celebrate? What is this launching us forward to do? Join us for this important discussion as we gather information to prepare for the next steps in our journey to establish a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). Led by Rev. Karen Wright.

CHILDREN

ATW, MUSIC & SUNDAY SCHOOL: All are welcome to join our Sunday school programming today. If you need further information, please check the Children's Bookcase outside the sanctuary for details.

TODAY IS A SMASH SUNDAY, 4–6PM IN HEARTLAND HALL. SMASH (Service, Music, Art, Sports and Hanging Out) is for all K–5th graders and friends. Our theme is Fruit of the Spirit, and this month we explore “Peace.” Our group has grown, and we are in need of some additional helpers each month. Volunteers will help the children with crafts and activities, especially our youngest; assist with keeping children on task, reading, creating, snack distribution and clean-up, and restroom trips; and participate in the games. If you can help, please visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A45A4A722A4FC1-smash1>

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ALL-AGES ADVENT FAIR coming up on November 24 at 10:30am. ALL are invited to jump into the Christmas spirit while we prepare ourselves to prepare for the first Sunday of Advent!

MUSIC

EXALTATION! REUNION CHOIR (1994–2024) will sing at the Thanksgiving Eve worship service on November 27. We'll rehearse at 6pm and sing some Ex! favorites in the 7pm worship service. *If you ever sang in Exaltation! you are invited!* Please contact Rebecca Prater ASAP at rebecca.prater@gcpc.org to let her know you'll be participating. Friends & Family: Help spread the word to your Exaltation! friends or family members! We'll have an optional social gathering at Johnny's Tavern (95th & Antioch) following the service.

GENEROSITY

GENEROSITY THROUGH THE GENERATIONS - UPDATE ON PLEDGES! For 40 years, GCPC has been blessed by God's steadfast love and the faithful generosity of our community. Your pledges make it possible for us to continue our ministries, maintain our beautiful worship space, and serve both our congregation and the wider community. **As of Monday, November 11, we have received pledges from 115 giving units, totaling \$631,743.23.** Thank you for your support. You will receive a confirmation e-mail from Tara Hyder, our Finance Administrator, to acknowledge receipt of your pledge. If you have not received this e-mail, please contact her at finance@gcpc.org. The

Generosity Team will be reaching out to those from whom we have not yet heard. Our goal is to have a response from each giving unit. To make your 2025 pledge, please do so online at gcpc.org/pledge, or contact Tara Hyder. If you're unable to pledge this year, please let us know — your support in all forms is deeply appreciated. Thank you for your commitment and faithfulness over the years.

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