



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GRATITUDE • CONNECTION • GROWTH

GRACE NOTES

October 2026
Vol 44, Nbr 10

God draws us together as a welcoming and faithful community, attentive to the Spirit's leading, to worship with joy, grow as disciples, and share our gifts in service to God and neighbor.

With gratitude for where we have been and hope for where God is leading us, we are sent to serve Christ in the world—extending Christ's love, strengthening community, and living out the gospel through lives of grace, justice, and compassion.

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

In addition to in-person worship, our service is also livestreamed on our website home page, Facebook and YouTube channel.

Led by the Spirit, Growing in Grace

Where do you see growth happening at Grace Covenant right now? Where do you see energy, excitement, and a sense that the Spirit is moving among us? These are important questions as we enter our stewardship season with the theme "Led by the Spirit, Growing in Grace." The story of the early church in Acts reminds us that growth is not simply about becoming bigger. It is about becoming more deeply rooted in God, more connected to one another, and more open to where the Spirit is leading us.

And I see signs of that kind of growth all around GCPC. I see it when we gather for worship with different generations, different voices, and different gifts. I see it in our children and youth, in our music ministries, in the people who quietly care for one another, and in the many ways this congregation reaches beyond our walls to serve our neighbors. I see it in the ministries and organizations that share our building. I see it whenever someone says, "I have an idea," and another person responds, "How can I help?" Where there is life, energy, curiosity, compassion, and joy, perhaps we should pay attention. Perhaps those are places where the Spirit is already at work.

Stewardship is about more than money, although our financial pledges are an essential part of our ministry. Your giving keeps the lights on. It helps care for our building so that it can continue to be a place of welcome, worship, learning, service, and community. They support our wonderful staff and the ministries they lead.

But stewardship is bigger than a budget. We give our money, our time, our talents, our creativity, our prayers, and our presence. All of these are ways we participate in the life and mission of the church. All of them are acts of discipleship.

When we give, we recognize that everything we have—and the community we share at Grace Covenant—is a gift from God. Our lives, our abilities, our resources, our relationships, and even this community we call Grace Covenant are gifts from God. So we give not simply because the church needs something from us. We give in gratitude for what God has already done—and continues to do—in our lives and among us as the Body of Christ.

Perhaps the Spirit is inviting you to share a gift you have never shared before. Perhaps it is a call to make more room in your life for worship, service, prayer, or community. Perhaps it is asking you to support the ministry of GCPC financially in a new way.

We do not know exactly where the Spirit will lead us. But we can pay attention. We can be willing. We can give what we have been given. And together, we can trust that God is still growing something beautiful here. Led by the Spirit. Growing in grace. Together.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Karen

Led by the Spirit, Growing in Grace

Where do you see growth happening at Grace Covenant? Where do you see energy, excitement, compassion, and a sense that the Spirit is moving among us?

These are the questions at the heart of our 2027 Stewardship Generosity Campaign, **Led by the Spirit, Growing in Grace**. Throughout October, we will reflect on the ways the Holy Spirit is active in our lives and in the life of Grace Covenant. Our four Sundays will focus on The Spirit Gathers Us, The Spirit Transforms Us, The Spirit Grows Us, and The Spirit Sends Us, leading us to Generosity Sunday on October 25.

The theme reminds us that growth in faith is not simply about becoming bigger. It is about becoming more deeply rooted in God's love, more connected to one another, and more open to where the Spirit is leading us. We see that kind of growth throughout GCPC—in our worship and music ministries, in our children, youth, and adult faith formation, in the people who care for one another, in our mission and outreach, and in the many ways we welcome and serve our wider community. As our Narrative Budget reminds us, our financial resources are an investment in the people, ministries, spaces, and relationships that make Grace Covenant a vibrant community of faith.

Stewardship is about more than money. It is our faithful response to God's abundant gifts—offering our time, talents, and treasure in gratitude for God's grace. Our giving supports worship and music, faith formation and community, mission and outreach, hospitality, and the ministries that allow Grace Covenant to live out its calling.

At the same time, financial pledges are an essential part of sustaining our ministry. Our giving helps care for our building, support our staff, nurture ministries for people of all ages, make worship possible, and extend our welcome and witness beyond our walls. When we make a pledge, we are not simply helping to fund a budget. We are investing in the ministry God has entrusted to us.

As you consider your 2027 pledge, we invite you to ask not only, "What can I afford to give?" but also, "What is God calling me to share?" Giving is an act of trust and gratitude—a way of recognizing that all we have is gift. Perhaps the Spirit is inviting you to increase your financial giving, share a new talent, make more room for worship or service, or find another way to participate more deeply in the life of the church.

Throughout October, stop by the Generosity Table in Heartland Hall after worship. Each Sunday, there will be donuts, 2027 pledge cards, Stewardship Booklets, and a member of the Generosity Team available to answer questions and talk with you about the campaign. You can also make your pledge confidentially online at gcpc.org/2027pledge.

On Generosity Sunday, October 25, we will bring our pledges together as a tangible commitment to the life and ministry of Grace Covenant. Whatever form your generosity takes, we invite you to prayerfully consider how you can help GCPC live into where the Spirit is leading us next.

We may not know exactly where the Spirit will lead us. But we can pay attention. We can be willing. We can give what we have been given. And together, we can trust that God is still growing something beautiful here.

Led by the Spirit. Growing in Grace. Together.

Download the Stewardship Booklet and Pledge Card at gcpc.org/growinginGrace.





World Communion Sunday on October 4

In John 17:20–21 Jesus prayed for our unity so that we would be a witness to the reality of God's love for all people.

Did you know that World Communion Sunday was first celebrated in 1933? It was conceived by Dr. Hugh Thomson Kerr at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to foster hope and unity. It was adopted by the denomination in 1936. And in 1940, during WW2, it was promoted globally by the Federal Council of Churches to symbolize spiritual solidarity. Today, the observance of World Communion Sunday promotes global Christian unity, interconnectedness and peace across different nations, languages and denominations during times of crisis.

Invite someone who may be looking for a place to celebrate World Communion on October 4. All are welcome at our table.

We will also be collecting the World Communion Offering which ensures all God's people flourish as God intends through ministries working for racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations. Thank you for your participation in the World Communion Offering.

Clerks Corner

Session met on September 21st for our regular meeting, after meeting on September 20 to greet SIX new members! We have homework for our next meeting - each Session member is supposed to carefully OBSERVE one Sunday morning - what they see, hear, smell? as they go through their Sunday morning. Next month we will share some of these observations, interpret them, and identify which, if any, observations require intervention. Elder Debbie Campbell has been actively observing the concourse and is sharing thoughts on changes we may want to consider in that space.

We approved the purchase of a new computer for Tara Hyder and support an effort being made to identify the ages of the various computers being used through the church to ensure they are replaced and updated as needed. We are discussing changes to our building use policy. If you have thoughts or ideas about this topic, please contact a member of Session to share those ideas.

We are excited about the fall Stewardship campaign, Led by the Spirit, Growing in Grace. The Session takes our responsibility for the church funds seriously. An Elder is "on duty" each Sunday to unlock and relock the building. We have new buttons to wear when we are serving in this role, so feel free to talk to us then. We are excited to start working with the acolytes in the coming months to help model responsibility as church leaders.

— *Melanie Townsend, Clerk of Session*



Holy Smokes! It's Chili Time!

GCPC Chili Cook-Off

Saturday, October 17, 5:30–7:30pm

GCPC Heartland Hall

Do you make the best homemade chili in town?

Now's your chance to prove it!

Join us for the GCPC Chili Cook-Off and bring your favorite chili recipe to compete for bragging rights and prizes! Stir up your favorite recipe and join the fun. Whether your chili is mild, spicy, smoky, or loaded with secret ingredients, we want to taste it!

Not entering the contest? Come hungry! Sample a variety of delicious homemade chilis, vote for your favorite, and enjoy a fun evening of fellowship.

Bring your appetite, your family, and your best chili—we can't wait to see who takes home the title of GCPC Chili Cook-Off Champion!

MUSIC MINISTRY

Music Leadership in October

October gives us a little bit of everything in the music ministry: Praise Team, winds, handbells, Chancel Choir, and our youth musicians all taking part in worship as we move further into the fall.

October 4 – World Communion Sunday

The **Praise Team** leads us on World Communion Sunday. As we celebrate a table shared by Christians around the world, the music carries our fall emphasis on being led by the Spirit and following faithfully together.

October 11 – GCPC Wind Ensemble & Jubilation Ringers

The **GCPC Wind Ensemble** returns with Johnnie Vinson's *Nettleton*, built around the familiar hymn tune *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*. During a season when we are thinking about stewardship, gratitude, and the gifts entrusted to us, it feels especially fitting to hear this familiar tune of grace and blessing in a new way. The **Jubilation Ringers** will also help lead worship.

October 18 – Chancel Choir & Charter Ringers

The **Chancel Choir** will share Roger Emerson's energetic *O Sifuni Mungu* along with Ken Medema's *Build a Church*, and the **Charter Ringers** will also be part of the morning. *O Sifuni Mungu* blends English and Swahili in a joyful setting of *All Creatures of Our God and King*; its title is a call to **praise God**, carried by driving rhythms and bright, colorful choral writing. *Build a Church* is an especially good fit as our stewardship season continues, reminding us that the church we build together is ultimately a community shaped by welcome, generosity, faith, and care for one another.

October 25 – Praise Team, Spirit Singers & Spirit Ringers

Our youth musicians make their first worship appearance of the fall alongside the **Praise Team**. This season, we're exploring the best ways for our young musicians to make music together, experience the joy of creating something as a group, and share their gifts in worship. I'm excited to see what takes shape and, most of all, to give our young people another way to be an active part of worship at Grace Covenant.

Youth Music Is Underway

Our fall round of **Spirit Singers and Spirit Ringers** began September 20, and it has been great to have our middle and high school musicians making music together again. This first rehearsal cycle leads directly to their October 25 worship leadership, with another round beginning in November and carrying us toward **Christmas Exclamation!** on December 6.

One of the things I love about these groups is that the goal is bigger than simply preparing a couple of pieces. We want our young musicians to know that there is already a place for their voices, instruments, questions, and gifts in the worship life of Grace Covenant.

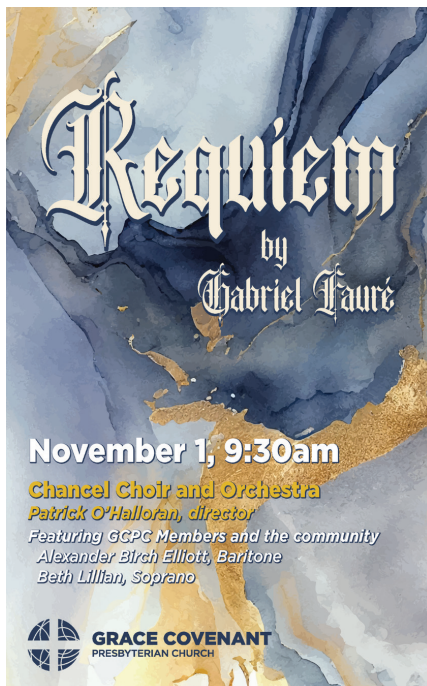


Preparing for Fauré's Requiem

Just beyond October is one of the major musical moments of our fall. On **All Saints Sunday, November 1**, the **Chancel Choir** will be joined by members of the **GCPC Orchestra** and our wider musical community for Gabriel Fauré's beautiful *Requiem*. We're also delighted to welcome soloists Beth Lillian Alexander and Birch Elliot. Birch is a dear colleague of Patrick O'Halloran and will be singing the title role in *The Marriage of Figaro* at the Lyric Opera this season. It will be a special morning of music, remembrance, and hope as we observe All Saints Sunday together.

The choir has been living with this music throughout the fall, and Fauré's gentle, luminous setting feels particularly at home on All Saints Sunday. Rather than emphasizing fear or judgment, much of the work seems to reach toward rest, light, consolation, and peace. We are grateful for the many singers and instrumentalists putting so much care into preparing it, and I'm looking forward to sharing it with the congregation.

October is a pretty wonderful snapshot of music at Grace Covenant: different generations, different ensembles, and very different musical styles, all finding their place in worship together. There is always room to sing, ring, play, listen, and be part of it.



21st Annual Baker/Reynolds Golf Scramble

The 21st Annual Baker/Reynolds Golf Scramble was held on Sunday, September 20, with 20 golfers participating in this year's event. Although many of our regular golfers were attending the KU/ASU football game in London, the tournament was still a great success. Thanks to generous contributions from the golfers, congregation, and sponsors, **this year's event will add more than \$5,500** to the Baker/Reynolds Scholarship Fund.

Special thanks to our contest hole sponsors: Dave Peck, Richard Gibson, Harold Frye, and Ryan Peck. Additional thanks to Ric Cummings, who generously provided two of his black-and-white photographs for an auction benefiting the scholarship fund. Congratulations to auction winners Paul Bruns and Sarah Byrd.

On the golf course, the Bontje Team—Jason Bontje, Laura Bontje (Baker), Hudson Bontje, and Jonathan Baker—posted the lowest score of the day. It was certainly a big day for the Bontje family!

Contest hole winners were Jason Bontje, closest to the pin on Hole 2; Allen York, closest to the pin on Hole 5; Hudson Bontje, longest drive on Hole 8; and Jonathan Baker, longest putt on Hole 9.

It was a wonderful day for golf, with perfect weather and plenty of fellowship. As is tradition, the golfers began the round with a special toast honoring Reggie Reynolds and Larry Baker. Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's scramble such a success and for continuing to support the Baker/Reynolds Scholarship Fund.



New Deacons Search

The Nominating Committee is searching for church members who are interested in serving as Deacons. Deacons play a vital role in caring and connecting members with one another. Every church member is part of a Covenant Group that is led by a Deacon. The role of the Deacon is to strengthen communication, foster participation and provide care and support among our membership.

If you have questions, are interested or know someone who would be interested in serving, please contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee: Ginny Wirtz, Jim Kelly, Jake Schmidt, Donna Heer, GayLee Ludwig-Bonney, Eileen Thomson.

Thank You Church Family

Caroline, Steve, Nicole and Kyle Becher would like to thank you for cards, phone calls and food after the passing of Eulalia "Lee" Will. She loved supporting the GCPC family through the Music and Care and Connection Teams - remember to share a pie and take time to enjoy your friends and family!

We would like to thank everyone for the many thoughts, prayers and cards during our daughter's illness and passing. They helped lift us up and remember what a caring church family can do when we are in need.
—Ann & Bob Shadburn

Dear Church Family, Trooper, Sophie, Maggie and I would like to thank you all for your love and support this last year during Trooper's illness. We truly appreciate the gift cards and meals. They made the days a lot easier. And as difficult as it has been, we have been uplifted by your prayers and cards. We feel your love and care for our family. During this season of Thanks, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude. Thank you all.
Blessings, the Shaw Family.

FAMILY MINISTRIES (*Children and Youth*)

Sunday School

Our 2yo-12th graders are enjoying their Sunday School classes, including a NEW Middle School Sunday School. ATW is also in full swing. Our children ages 4 - 1st grade enjoy a children's worship service together as they learn the common components of our worship service. A big thank you to our teachers and volunteers for helping us get started off with great success! If you would like to sign up to help teach or assist, you can find more info out here: <https://gcpc.org/children-youth/youareinvited.html>

Please register your child for our 2026-27 school year. This helps us serve your family.

Registration for Children:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfSrXYbPUtyNXyVCYKIFyj_bb5im5Cs3XYPj49J6UjDvmo0A/viewform?usp=sharing&oid=107444223478701360234

Registration for Youth:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSePyvJk_vKEO308tBIDnB8atZO0L-9tVE9dMJJnC7VMXch_zw/viewform?usp=sharing&oid=107444223478701360234

SMASH!

SMASH is our monthly fellowship for our K-5th grades! This year's SMASH theme reflects the theme from our 2027 VBS Theme. We'll be learning from friendships we find in the Bible! September's SMASH was full of friendship, fun, and teamwork!

We explored the friendship of David and Jonathan through BINGO, balloon games, hula hoops, and plenty of creative challenges. The kids talked about what makes a good friend, then designed airplanes, helicopters, rockets, and umbrellas to see whose creation could fly the farthest! A huge thank-you to Steve, Sarah, Mary, and Chris for helping make SMASH such a fun and meaningful time for our kids!

Children in Kindergarten through 5th grade/6th grade are invited to join us for some learning and LOTS of fun during monthly SMASH.

RSVP via our GCPC Children's group Facebook event or email gcpcchildren@gmail.com, and if you would like to volunteer as a helper with SMASH, sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A45A4A722A4FC1-smash1>

Schaake's Pumpkin Patch Outing!

ALL are welcome to our annual GCPC children and families outing to Schaake's Pumpkin Patch on October 4 at 1:30pm. This is an informal gathering of GCPC families to connect with and enjoy some FALL FUN together! Contact Emily Hussey if you have any questions. Join us!



Trunk or Treat!

Join us for Lunch, Games and Trunk or Treating on Sunday, October 25 from 11:45am-1pm. ! We'll have a "normal" Sunday morning, including Sunday School. After Sunday School, we will eat lunch, the youth will lead us in some fun games, and then we'll all head out to TRUNK or TREAT together! Come in costume and let's have some seriously spooky fun!

We are looking for folks to host a trunk and a few other donation items. If you would like to help make this event a spooky success, please see our sign up genius here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A45A4A722A4FC1-65301767-gcpc>

3rd Grade Bible workshop

We'll have our annual Bible workshop on Sunday, November 1. The 3rd graders are invited to participate in worship, where they will receive their Bibles, then are invited to stay after Sunday School for a lunch workshop with their chosen beloved adult. This is open to any third grader, as well as older siblings and anyone who hasn't done our 3rd grade Bible workshop before. Families with 3rd grade kiddos, please watch your email for further details.



FAMILY MINISTRIES (Children and Youth)

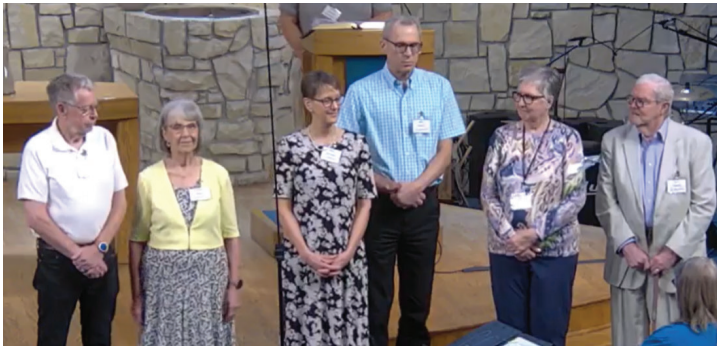
October Children and Youth Events at a glance

- October 4** Regular Worship, ATW, Sunday School and Music rehearsals for all ages, 1:30pm Family Meet-up at Schaaake's Pumpkin Patch
- October 11** Regular Worship, ATW, Sunday School and Music rehearsals for all ages
- October 18** Regular Worship, ATW, Sunday School and Music rehearsals for all ages, 4-6pm K-5th Grade SMASH and YOUTH GROUP
- October 25** Regular Worship, ATW, Sunday School and Music rehearsals (ALL MUSIC for Middle School Singers), then 11:45am-1pm TRUNK-OR-TREAT

YOUTH GROUP

Youth meet at the same time as SMASH. For the first Youth Group of the year, we started off by helping out our SMASH friends with their water play activities! We followed with a fun game night and then a hang out at KNOX Presbyterian.





Welcoming Our New Members

We are excited to welcome several new members who joined Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church on Sunday, September 20! Each brings a unique story, gifts, experiences, and interests to our church community. We look forward to getting to know them and to seeing the many ways they will contribute to the life and ministry of GCPC.

Mary Burnett and Ken Werne - Mary and Ken join Grace Covenant by letter of transfer. Married for 35 years, they live in Lenexa and were drawn to GCPC as they searched for an inclusive community offering meaningful worship, community outreach, and opportunities to connect.

Mary is originally from Colorado Springs and enjoyed a successful career in human resources with Commerce Bank, Rockhurst University, and Anesthesia Associates of Kansas City. She now has a seasonal job at Palen Music, renting musical instruments to middle school students and their parents. She enjoys playing the clarinet, singing, decorating cookies, hiking, and traveling.

Ken, originally from Jasper, Indiana, spent 36 years working in public libraries in Indiana, Colorado, California, and Kansas. He retired from Johnson County Library as a branch manager after 28 years. His interests include playing the hammered dulcimer, trying to grow native perennials, reading, hiking, and traveling.

Both are already becoming active in the life of GCPC. Ken has participated in the men's breakfast and looks forward to helping with Tuesday food distribution and serving as a scripture reader. Mary sang with the summer choir and joined the Page Turners. Both are participating in the Dinners for 7 or 8 group this fall.

Roy and Andrea Liljegren - Roy and Andrea recently moved from Branson West, Missouri, to Overland Park, giving them the opportunity to spend more time with four of their ten grandchildren. Their family also includes grandchildren in Ankeny, Iowa, and Crossroads, Australia.

Before moving to Kansas, former Grace Covenant member Mary Beth Funk encouraged them to "try this church"—and they are glad she did! Since attending GCPC, Roy and Andrea have joined both the Chancel Choir and EncoreKC! Chorus.

Roy retired after a career teaching elementary, middle school, and junior college students. He enjoys music, playing piano, and wood carving. Andrea retired from teaching elementary students and enjoys sewing, watercolor painting, stained glass, and reading.

We look forward to welcoming Roy and Andrea to Kansas and getting to know them as they become an even greater part of our GCPC community.

Don Haring and Lynda Raner - Don and Lynda come to Grace Covenant by transfer from Central Presbyterian. Both grew up in Kansas and have been active in area Presbyterian churches for many years. Married for 15 years, they are both retired—Don from the City of Kansas City, Missouri, and Lynda from Black & Veatch/HP.

Don served as business manager for the KCMO Health Department and enjoys golf, a passion he and Lynda have shared. Lynda retired as an IT business analyst and enjoys reading and traveling. They have two sons, two daughters, and four grandchildren between them.

Don and Lynda were drawn to Grace Covenant because of its convenient location and their connections with Pastor Karen and others in the congregation. They are excited about the fellowship and activities at GCPC, including bell choir for Lynda, as well as book clubs and other social opportunities.

We are grateful that Mary and Ken, Roy and Andrea, and Don and Lynda have chosen to make Grace Covenant their church home. Please take time to introduce yourself, welcome them warmly, and help them feel at home as they become part of the ongoing story and life of GCPC.

October Communion Offering

For 65 years, the **Johnson County Christmas Bureau (JCCB)** has supported low-income families in our community during the holiday season. JCCB provides support for low-income families, raises awareness of poverty, and gives neighbors an opportunity to help neighbors. In 2025, JCCB served more than 13,000 individuals. **Your gift, in any amount, can help bring hope, joy, and encouragement to families in Johnson County this Christmas.** Thank you for helping make a difference in the lives of our neighbors!

October Donation Partner

This October, we are collecting new or **gently used books for the Johnson County Christmas Bureau (JCCB) Christmas Store.** Books are needed for all ages, including **adults, teens, youth, children, and toddlers.** **Spanish-language books** are also especially welcome. Please share the gift of a good book! **Place your donations in the collection bin by the Weekday Entrance.** Thank you for helping bring the joy of reading and the love of Christ to families in our community!



SEASON OF CREATION

KAIROS KLUES

October — A few Dates of Significance:

The **Feast of St Francis** ends this year's Season of Creation. Bless the living creatures around you.

<https://seasonofcreation.org/> Season of Creation a time to reflect on the environment and on the ways in which our lifestyles and decisions, individually and as a society, can endanger both the natural world and those inhabiting it, both human and nonhuman

11th Heart of America CROP Walk — Join the GCPC team walking for hunger relief

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/teams>

Kairos October Meeting on Monday, October 12, 7:30–9pm all are welcome

Early voting for KS residents October 14

<https://elections.mytimetovote.com/kansas.html#Voting>
<https://www.kansasvoterinfo.gov/VoterView>

Overland Park Recycling Extravaganza October 17, 9am–2pm <https://www.opkansas.gov/recycling-extravaganza>

October Environmental Significance and Advocacy

Check out the KAIROS bulletin board outside of Heartland Hall when you are at GCPC. Other connections:

Creation Justice Advocate — CJ ministries. <https://bit.ly/3URfM5y> <https://www.creationjustice.org/action.html>

PCUSA Washington Office of Public Witness <https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/life-witness/ministry-areas/office-public-witness> <https://bit.ly/3SS54Lw>

Presbyterians for Earth Care <https://presbyearthcare.org/> check out their Climate Ambassador Training and the myriad of resources available.

Actions you can take as a result from the impact of our August Immigration Movie

In the Weekday Entrance, you will find a collection box for items for Leavenworth detainees. We are working with others in the area and will deliver our collection on October 22. (Requested items: eye masks (lights are never turned off) earplugs for noise in the very overcrowded conditions, cups of noodles, loofah sponge, and travel-size body lotions).



2026 Heart of America CROP Hunger Walk

The 2026 Heart of America Crop Walk is Sunday October 11, 2pm at Country Club Christian Church at 6101 Ward Parkway. Come at 1pm and help pack Church World Service kits.

You can join the team, establish your own online fundraising page, make use of Facebook, or just make a personal donation to a walker at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/team/grace-covenant-presbyterian-church>.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, Grace Covenant, for raising an amazing \$8,486 for the 2025 Heart of America CROP Walk! This incredible total was made even more special by our 40th anniversary celebration and the participation of our founding pastor, Rev. Jay McKell. What a wonderful way to put our faith into action and make a difference in our community and beyond!

Twenty-five percent of the funds contributed benefit local agencies — Community Assistance Council, Kansas City Community Gardens, Metropolitan Lutheran Ministries, Micah Ministries, and Seton Center.

Church World Service uses the other 75% of the funds primarily in support of displaced people and refugees. There are estimated to be a staggering 117 million such people in the world as of mid-2025.

Since 2025, the U.S. government policy on refugee admissions has had extremely negative effects on Church World Service. While the U.S. admitted about 100,000 refugees in fiscal 2024, the ceiling on refugee admissions for fiscal 2026 is 17,500. By executive order, practically all refugees admitted this year will be Afrikaners from South Africa, an ethnic group descended from Dutch, German and French colonial settlers.



Worship in the Park was a Celebration of Faith, Food, and Fellowship!

What a joyful Sunday we shared at Meadowbrook Park for Worship in the Park! We are so grateful to everyone who helped make the day such a beautiful celebration of faith, music, food, and fellowship.

A heartfelt thank you to our Praise Team, under the wonderful direction of Carrie DeVries, for filling the park with music that lifted our hearts in praise. We are also grateful to Rev. Karen Wright and Emily Nelson Dixon for leading us in God's Word and message as we worshipped together surrounded by the beauty of God's creation.

And what's a picnic without a feast? Thank you to everyone who fired up the grill, helped with setup, served through the Deacons, and brought delicious side dishes to share. Your generosity and hard work made our potluck a true expression of community.

What a blessing to worship, eat, laugh, and enjoy one another in the great outdoors. Thank you to everyone who made this special day possible!



Stewardship Stories and Scrambled Eggs

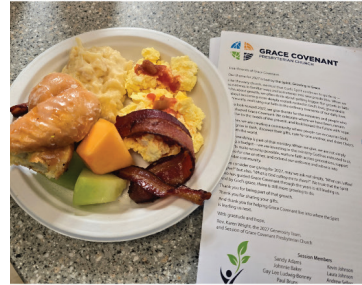
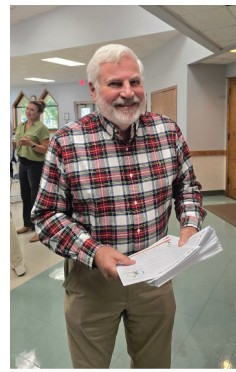
Let's get crackin'! What better way to talk about generosity and the future of Grace Covenant than over scrambled eggs and bacon? On Sunday, September 27, the Generosity Team welcomed the congregation to a special Stewardship Town Hall following worship for a morning filled with good food, meaningful conversation, and inspiring stories.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to the Generosity Team, Care and Connections, Patrick Bell, and our Team Moderators for helping make the morning such a wonderful gathering. From the delicious brunch to thoughtful planning and hospitality, so many people worked behind the scenes to create a welcoming space for our congregation.

During the morning, we heard inspiring stories about how God is working through Grace Covenant—through our ministries, our mission, our relationships, and the many ways we share our gifts with others. We also looked ahead to where the Spirit is leading us in 2027 under our stewardship theme, *"Led by the Spirit. Growing in Grace."*

The Town Hall was more than a conversation about pledges or budgets. It was an opportunity to celebrate what God is already doing among us and to imagine what is possible when we listen for the Spirit's leading and respond together. With full hearts, full plates, and perhaps a little extra bacon, we're ready to get crackin' on 2027!

Thank you to everyone who joined us, shared a story, asked a question, offered an idea, or simply came to enjoy a meal and fellowship. Together, we are growing in grace and helping shape the future of Grace Covenant.



VOICES DANCE

Music that moves us

EncoreKC! Chorus and Act II
Featuring world renowned guest composer/conductor, Mark Hayes

Sunday, November 15, 2026, 3pm
Grace United Methodist Church
11485 South Ridgeview Road, Olathe, KS 66061

 Become a Friend of EncoreKC!
Get concert updates, music opportunities, and class information.

encorekc.org
Free admission. Donations appreciated.



EncoreKC! Voices Dance: Music That Moves Us

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church is proud to be the main home and artist-in-residence partner for the EncoreKC! Chorus and Foundation. On Sunday, November 15, at 3pm, EncoreKC! will present Voices Dance: Music That Moves Us, featuring its 100-member chorus of singers age 50 and older.

The concert will feature world-renowned guest composer and conductor Mark Hayes and celebrate the power of music to move the heart, lift the spirit, and bring people together. As a valued part of the musical community, EncoreKC! continues to share its gifts with audiences throughout the Kansas City area.

The concert will be held at Grace United Methodist Church, 11485 South Ridgeview Road in Olathe. Admission is free, and donations are appreciated. We invite our Grace Covenant family and friends to come hear the voices, feel the music, and experience the joy of EncoreKC!

Also on Friday, October 30, EncoreKC!'s Belle Voci, Brass Ensemble and Ukulele Ensemble will hold a concert in our sanctuary at 7pm. For more information, visit encorekc.org.



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Inclusive. Family Oriented. Welcoming.

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

gcpc.org



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Praise Team Director.....Carrie DeVries
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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 Drummer Jill Endaya-Allen

Child Care Coordinator.....Carolyn Chaffin

Wedding Coordinator.....Kristy Shaw

Funeral CoordinatorCaroline Becher,
Ashley Jeffries

ELDERS

Sandy Adams	Kevin Johnson
Johnnie Baker	Laura Johnson
Gay Lee Ludwig-Bonney	Andrew Sellers
Paul Bruns	Frank Slovick
Chris Cabe	Eileen Thomson
Debbie Campbell	Melanie Townsend
Bob Dover	Session Clerk

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Melanie Townsend, and Rev. Karen Wright

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Facebook: facebook.com/GraceCovenantPresbyterian

Instagram: @gcpc_overlandpark • **YouTube:** @gracecovenant443

Worship Schedule

9:30am Worship

Streaming on YouTube, Facebook, gcpc.org
Visit gcpc.org for links

Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines

November 2026 Issue - Deadline October 21
December 2026 Issue - Deadline November 20