



REAL FAITH | REAL STORIES | REAL GRACE

# GRACE NOTES

## Thanks be to God it's finally April!

Too many of us have faced some difficult experiences the last couple of months. Some of us have had mothers, fathers, family members, and friends pass away; some of us have had loved ones dealing with cancer treatments, surgeries, and the uncertainty of the future; some of us have had to face personal challenges. It's easy for us to be overwhelmed with grief or anxiety, even easier when it's grey, cloudy, and wet outside. I don't know about you, but I've needed it to be April for a while now, and with it, Easter. It's no accident that Easter is in the spring. It's the season when the Earth is renewed and much of nature comes to life. It's also a time when it can be easier to feel...hope.

Holy Week wraps all of our feelings and life experiences into one short time period. Maundy Thursday is a reminder of what it's like to say goodbye to loved ones, Good Friday shows us the grief associated with death, and then comes Easter – the assurance that grief, sorrow, and death do not have the last word.

At Grace Covenant, a long-time tradition is the "flowering of the cross" on Easter Sunday, when everyone attending places a flower on the cross. The flowering of the cross represents the transition from Good Friday to Easter, from meditation on Jesus' death to joyful celebration of his resurrection. The ceremony transforms a barren cross, a reminder of Jesus' death, into an Easter symbol. Covered with flowers, the cross serves not only as an emblem of Jesus' resurrection but also of the continuing presence of Christ among today's believers.

*"Therefore, we were buried together with him through baptism into his death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too can walk in newness of life. If we were united together in a death like his, we will also be united together in a resurrection like his."* (Romans 6:4-5)

We are reminded that we have the promise of a resurrected life, a life that is already known by the loved ones who have gone before us.

Thank God for the hope of Easter!

—Mitch & Sue Trigger, co-pastors



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.

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In-Person Worship and Online  
Worship every Sunday on  
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Visit [gcpc.org/online](http://gcpc.org/online) for links!



# The Fall and Rise of Holy Week: God's Power Revealed

We will remember Jesus' journey through Holy Week with a series of special services activities that remember his suffering and celebrate his resurrection.

## April 9, Children's Easter Egg Hunt, 10am

The annual children's Easter Egg hunt and activities will be held in Heartland Hall and outdoors (*weather permitting*).

## April 10, Palm Sunday Hosanna! Service, 9:30am

Join the parade as we wave palm branches and celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

## April 14, Maundy Thursday, 7:30pm

A service of Communion and remembering Jesus' commandment, "*When you do this, remember me.*" Music leadership by Praise Team.

## April 15, Good Friday, 7:30pm

A service of lessons and singing as we remember Jesus' sacrifice of love. Music Leadership by Chancel and Exaltation! Singers I and II and String Quartet.

## April 17, Easter Services, 9am 11am

Celebrate the resurrection with joy!

9am Worship – Music Leadership by Praise Team;

11am Worship – Music Leadership by Chancel & Exaltation! Singers I & II, Charter Ringers, and Joon Park, trumpet

(See Music Notes page for a full list of music shared during Holy Week.)

# Were You There?

## A Season of Honoring the Contributions of Formerly Enslaved Musicians

Throughout Lent we have been singing African American spiritual songs and hymns. These contributions to Christian music have been rich, beautiful expressions of faith. Did you know that the writers of these hymns never received remuneration? In order to honor the contributions of formerly enslaved musicians, we are collecting an offering each Sunday we sing a spiritual.

Your donations will be sent to the A-Flat Music Studio. The A-Flat Music Studio, Inc. provides instrumental music instruction for students across the Kansas City metroplex. A-Flat Music Studio, Inc. conducts formal music instruction for students who want to learn the fundamentals and foundations that pertain to good music performance. A-Flat Music Studio, Inc. is the developing agency for The A-Flat Youth Orchestra led by Darryl Chamberlain. The donation box can be found in the back of the Sanctuary next to the offering box. You can find out more about A-Flat Music Studio at: [www.aflatmusicstudio.com](http://www.aflatmusicstudio.com)

# Easter Eggstravaganza and Egg Hunt!

## Saturday, April 9, 10am

Children of all ages, bring a basket and get ready for fun! We will meet in Heartland Hall for games, crafts and activities that celebrate the joy of Easter, then we'll head outside to find the colorful eggs. Bring a basket to collect your eggs and take home your treats.

**YOU CAN HELP!** We need candy and would love to have extra helpers. Please bring your candy donations (*individually wrapped, please*) to the church office no later than April 5.

To volunteer, contact Rev. Sue at [sue.trigger@gccpc.org](mailto:sue.trigger@gccpc.org) or 913-345-1256.

# MUSIC NOTES

## HOLY WEEK MUSIC

### PALM SUNDAY, April 10 – 9:30am Worship

Music Leadership by Praise Team, Joy! & Celebration!

- **Joy! (4s-K)** will sing “Here Comes Jesus” by Carol Huffman Dickerson.
- **Celebration! (1st-6th grade)** will sing “A Joyful Hosanna” by Becki Slagle Mayo.
- **Praise Team** will sing “Standing in the Need of Prayer,” as sung by Seth and Nirva; “Hold On,” an African American Spiritual; and “Ride On, King Jesus,” an African American Spiritual

### MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 14 – 7:30pm

Music Leadership by Praise Team.

- **Praise Team** will sing “Wade in the Water,” an African American Spiritual; “Give Me Jesus,” arr. Mark Hayes; “Communion,” as sung by Maverick City Music; and “Precious Lord” *traditional*.

### GOOD FRIDAY, April 15 – 7:30pm

Music Leadership by Chancel & Exaltation! Singers I & II.

- They will sing “How Great Thou Art,” arr. Nathan Hofheins; “The Ground,” by Ola Gjeilo; and “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross,” arr. Gilbert M. Martin.
- Sue Trigger will sing “Calvary,” an African American Spiritual.

### EASTER, April 17 (*Two worship services*)

9am Worship – Music Leadership by Praise Team.

- **Praise Team** will sing “Glory, Glory Halleluia,” *traditional*; “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands,” an African American Spiritual; “Forgiven,” by Crowder; and “Ev’ry Time I Feel the Spirit,” an African American Spiritual.

11am Worship – Music Leadership by Chancel & Exaltation! Singers I & II, Charter Ringers, and Joon Park, trumpet.

- **Chancel & Exaltation! Singers** will sing “Lift High the Cross,” arr. Paul Leddington Wright with Congregation, Trumpet, & Organ; “He Rose! Hallelujah!,” by Lloyd Pfautsch with Trumpet; and “I Know That My Redeemer Lives,” arr. Dan Forrest with 4-hand piano.  
(*Donated in memory of Paul Thomas by Celia and Mike Nicholas.*)
- **Charter Ringers** will ring “That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright,” arr. Brenda E. Austin; and “Motionally Charged,” by Matthew Prins.

## A Daily Recording of an African American Spiritual will Continue through Easter

To complement the Lenten and Holy Week theme in worship utilizing African American spirituals, you have been receiving a daily recording of a spiritual in a choral arrangement setting from Rebecca Prater, Director of Music Ministries. It is paired in the same email with the daily devotions by Harold Frye. May the sounds of courage and hope undergird you as you continue to walk these 40 days of Lent, and may joy abound on Easter Sunday.

## Looking Ahead to Other Music in Worship, and Music Events

### BELL FEST, May 1 – 6pm

This year’s theme is what we could all use about now!

**“Make ‘em Laugh, Help ‘em Smile, Give ‘em Joy!”**

Charter and Jubilation! Ringers will be ringing songs that will get you smiling. We’ll also have our famous jokester, Kirk Heer to get us laughing. Add to that some fun songs and silly surprises, and you’ll have an evening full of joy!

### MUSIC APPRECIATION SUNDAY, May 15

Music Leadership by Praise Team, Chancel & Exaltation! Singers I (CHEX I), Charter Ringers, and Donna Goeckler, soloist.

- Praise Team, CHEX I, and soloist Donna Goeckler will combine to sing “Lead with Love,” by Melanie DeMore.
- Charter Ringers will ring a jazzy rendition of “This Little Light of Mine,” arr. Anna Laura Page with Chris Krug at the piano
- And much more ...

### LATEST ON THE MISSION & MUSIC (M&M) TRIP

(*See the Youth Page for more information.*)

**Destination:** Mission, SD (Rosebud Reservation)

**Dates:** Fridays, June 17-24 & Home Worship on June 26

**Exaltation! Singers & Ringers** have received their rehearsal schedule and will be kicking into high gear!

### M&M Important Dates to Remember

Sunday, April 24 – **Promotional Pictures** are taken at Noon.

Thursday, May 26 – **Youth, Parent, & Sponsor Meeting**

6:30-7:30pm Sanctuary - Get tour book & draw secret pal, make prayer bracelets, etc.

Tuesday, June 14th – **Final Prep Night** for ALL going on the trip (youth & adult sponsors) – 6-9:30pm + **M&M Concert Dress Rehearsal** at 8pm – Family and friends are invited to come and see.



# Clerk's Corner

Session held a hybrid Zoom/ in-person meeting on February 21, 2022 at 7:05pm. Reverend Sue Trigger served as moderator. In addition to the ruling elders, Deacon Julie Webb was present.

**Consent Agenda:** The minutes of the February meeting were approved.

**The Finance Team:** Accounting practices were discussed as well as ways to reach out to members whose 2022 pledges have not yet been confirmed. Financially, 2022 is off to a good start!

**Worship Team:** Session approved serving Communion on April 24, Bright Sunday.

**New Members:** Session voted to accept Doug Faught by Letter of Transfer and Ed and Christine Caseres by reactivation of membership.

**New Business:** We will continue to pass the Offering plate to ensure that we collect Special Offering and loose offerings. While those numbers are small, we still value them.

After sharing Joys and Concerns the meeting adjourned at 9:05pm and Rev. Sue Trigger closed with a prayer.



## Quest for God's Great Light!

**Vacation Bible School, June 6-10**

**Ages 4 yrs – 5th Grade**

*Arise! Shine! Your light has come, the LORD'S glory has shone upon you! — Isaiah 60:1*

Come for an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time on our quest for God's great light. Participants will become explorers and discover how God's light shines on us and how we can reflect that light as we live each day.

From a whimsical lighthouse on an enchanted island, explorers are guided by a lighthouse keeper and Beacon the puffin on an exciting quest to find five mysterious infinity lanterns to help light their way. Using map coordinates from the reference book (the Bible), children will discover clues to finding each lantern while learning how God's light shines in the lives of familiar biblical characters in Old and New Testament stories.

### Volunteers Needed!

We will need plenty of helpers and supplies for VBS. If you would like to volunteer to be a leader or help with supplies, please contact Rev. Sue at [sue.trigger@gcpc.org](mailto:sue.trigger@gcpc.org).

### Join our VBS Facebook Group!

Connect with us in our private Facebook group created just for our 2022 VBS! It is called "GCPC's Discovery on Adventure Island Vacation Bible School." [Click link here.](#) A light keeper will approve your request and get you in!

### Register Today!

**Registration is now open!** Everyone is invited, bring a friend! To register go to: [www.gcpc.org/vbs22](http://www.gcpc.org/vbs22)





# There's Room for Everyone in Sunday School!

## Grace Studies for Kids:

**Nursery: Room 22**

**Toddlers and Twos (Room 23):** Our toddlers and twos are introduced each week to favorite stories of the Bible. April will focus on stories about Jesus's life and ministry as we head to Palm Sunday and Easter.

**Pre-school 4s and 5s:** The pre-school children will learn about living in community with the Follow Me Sunday school curriculum. Each week they will learn about how we can gather across differences to:

- Feast and Listen
- Uplift Those in Need
- Support Those Who Depart

**K- 5/6th Grace Makers:** These classes will discover the joy of Palm Sunday and will also learn about how we can live together in community. Art, mission, cooking and science workshops will offer tangible, creative ways to learn Bible stories and apply them to their lives.

## Where You Will Find Them:

**Pre-School 4s/5s and Kindergarten:** Room 25 (10:45am gathers here for Joy! Singers) (Grace Makers Workshop Rotation classes move each week.)

**1st—5th/6th Grades:** Room 15 (10:45am gathers here for Celebration! Singers) (Grace Makers Workshop Rotation classes move each week.)

**6th—8th Grades:** Room 19b

**High School:** Room 19a

**\*\*No Sunday school classes on Easter Sunday – April 17**

## Grace Studies: Adult Study Opportunities

**The 2022 Lenten Study: *The Hope of Glory***  
*Continues through April 10*

Our two adult classes are combined for our Lenten book study by Jon Meacham. Meacham delves into that intersection of faith and history in this meditation on the seven phrases Jesus spoke from the cross. The class will meet in Heartland Hall or you can join on Zoom at: <https://tinyurl.com/yanmupj9>

## April 24: A Conversation About Mission

The Mission Team invites you to join them for a conversation about our mission ministry. Share your thoughts and ideas about how GCPC can best meet the need in our community. The conversation will be held in Heartland Hall.

## Join the Sunday School Team!

We are in need of Sunday school teachers for our 2s and 3s Sunday school class, as well as substitute teachers for all grades. If you love working with children and would like to teach, please contact Rev. Sue at [sue.trigger@gcpc.org](mailto:sue.trigger@gcpc.org).



# Thank You!

Thank you to those who came to the Chili, Soup, and Pie Supper on February 26. Delicious food and fellowship was enjoyed by all. Thank you to Patrick Bell was setting up for us and to Kim Krueger for helping with the publicity and arranging for the sign up on the church website. An extra special shout out goes to the Care and Connection Team who pulled it all together. It was a fun event where church members could finally gather and socialize again!



# Youth Page

## Thank You for Youth Sunday!

Leave it to our AMAZING youth for planning and leading a meaningful worship service focusing on *"New Beginnings"* just as we are trying to emerge from a pandemic! We have received so many overwhelmingly positive comments that it's clear our students touched the hearts of those in person and who joined us online. It was a message of hope ... and fun at the same time. [If you missed it for any reason or want to watch again, you can find a video recording on our website worship page for March 6.](#)

## M&M TRIP

We are extremely excited to open registration for M&M trip 2022 to the Rosebud Reservation. Specifically, we will be staying once again in Mission, SD, in one of the poorest counties in the country. We are including college students this year who either didn't get the chance to go on M&M for the past couple of summers or who can help us fill out a great music ensemble.

**We will travel June 17–24 and present our home worship service on June 26.** Thanks to everyone who contributed to our M&M tube fundraiser to help make this trip possible!

## Montreat

We have the opportunity this year to travel to the Montreat High School Youth Conference with Lee's Summit Presbyterian (they own a van) and to stay in a house with them too. The Youth Conference is July 30–Aug 6. Please let Miles know ASAP if you are interested.

## Reggie Reynolds Scholarship Awards

Youth Team is now taking applications for the Reggie Reynolds scholarship. In past years this opportunity was only available for high school seniors but this year the team is opening it up to all 9th–12th graders to help support students in attending educational activities. \$1,500 in scholarship funds are available to be awarded to high school youth from GCPC who have been active in Youth and/or Music Activities during their high school years. Awards can be up to \$500 per student, with the final amount to be determined based upon requested use.

## Notable Dates:

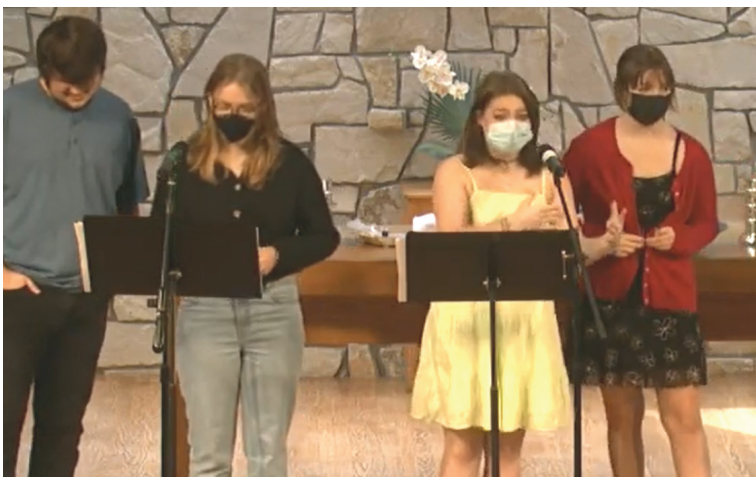
<b>April 24</b>	M&M Promotional pictures
<b>May 26</b>	M&M Youth, Parent, & Sponsor Meeting
<b>June 6–10</b>	VBS — need volunteers of all ages
<b>June 14</b>	Final Prep Night
<b>June 17–24</b>	M&M Trip to Rosebud Reservation — Mission, SD
<b>June 26</b>	M&M Home Concert
<b>July 15–20</b>	Montreat — completed 8th–12th grade



Visit our website to watch video excerpts from Youth Sunday at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church on March 6, 2022.

These excerpts highlight the Senior Sermons, messages from the graduating class, and well wishes from Director of Youth Ministries, Miles McDonald and others. [LINK HERE!](#)





## Bright Sunday – April 24

The joy of Easter begins on Easter Sunday, and we will continue the celebration with Bright Sunday, April 24. In keeping with this ancient tradition, there will be laughter, balloons, and colorful reminders that Jesus lives!

Rosebud (the clown who is Rev. Sue) will join the celebration with joyful reminders of God's love. She will lead us in a very special celebration of the Sacrament of Communion.

Wear something brightly colored, wear a joyful or silly hat. Bring a friend!



## B-I-N-G-O!!!!

Care and Connections is sponsoring another BINGO Night on Friday, May 6! We will start at 6pm in Heartland Hall. Young and old are welcome, so bring your family, friends, and neighbors. We ask everyone to bring a heavy appetizer so share. PRIZES and FUN will be had by all. No RSVP is necessary.





## GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Inclusive. Family Oriented. Welcoming.**

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# CELEBRATING GOD'S ALL ENCOMPASSING LOVE!

## CHURCH STAFF

### Co Pastors

- Office hours: Monday-Thursday  
Mitch Trigger, [mitch.trigger@gcpc.org](mailto:mitch.trigger@gcpc.org) .....ext.18  
Sue Trigger, [sue.trigger@gcpc.org](mailto:sue.trigger@gcpc.org) .....ext.15

### Director of Music Ministries

- Office hours: Monday-Wednesday, Friday  
Rebecca Prater, [rebecca.prater@gcpc.org](mailto:rebecca.prater@gcpc.org) .. ext. 13

### Church Administrator

- Office hours: Monday-Friday  
Patrick Bell, [patrick.bell@gcpc.org](mailto:patrick.bell@gcpc.org) ..... ext. 10

### Director of Youth Ministries

**Technical Director of Worship**  
- Office hours: Monday-Thursday  
Miles McDonald, [miles.mcdonald@gcpc.org](mailto:miles.mcdonald@gcpc.org).. ext. 17

**Finance Administrator**..... Tara Hyder  
Mon. 8-4; Tues./Weds. 8-12; /Thurs./Fri. by Appt.

**Organist** ..... Linda Dover

**Contemporary Music Coord.** ..... Carrie DeVries

**Contemporary Music Drummer**.....Daniel Cole

**Child Care Coordinator**.....Carolyn Chaffin

**Wedding Coordinator**.....Lara Schesser

**Funeral Coordinator** .....Mary Sue Thomas

## ELDERS

Jim Byrd	Angela Krug
Ric Cummings	Mike Mattix
Miles Dalton (youth)	Terri Monrad
Andrew Frye	Diane Schmit
Katie Hearn	Kylie Sutherland (youth)
Cheryl Johnson	Susan Sutherland
Jane Knoche	Bill Turner

## SUPPORT STAFF

Deacon Moderator .....Meredith Watson  
Operating Committee.....Susan Sutherland,  
Mike Mattix, Terri Monrad, Ric Cummings  
Newsletter Editor/Marketing..... Kim Krueger  
Prayer Chain .....Cheryl Johnson  
Website Administrators .....Kim Krueger,  
Patrick Bell

## MINISTRY UNITS

Congregational Nurture Unit Moderators  
Connections and Care..... Diane Schmit  
Worship and Music..... Kathy Bures,  
Katie Hearn

Education Ministry Unit Moderators  
Adult .....Maggie Blankers  
Children .....Erin Frye, Angela Krug  
Youth..... Bill Turner

Reach Out Ministry Unit Moderators  
Kairos ..... Rick Randolph  
Mission .....Mikki Walker  
Welcoming ..... Kathy Williams

Supportive Ministry Unit Moderators  
Facility .....Marc Feyh  
Generosity .....David Sutherland  
Finance..... Jim Byrd  
Personnel ..... Kevin Mason

## Worship Schedule

**9:30am Worship**  
**In-Person, Facebook & Zoom**  
Visit [gcpc.org/online](https://gcpc.org/online) for links

## Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines

**May 2022 issue - Deadline, April 19**  
**June 2022 issue - Deadline, May 17**