



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship — August 9, 2026

*“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: Melanie Townsend

HEAD USHER: Eric Burdette

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.



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

- **Rev. Karen Wright (Designated Pastor):** karen.wright@gcpc.org
- **Emily Nelson Dixon (Dir. of Christian Education):** emily.dixon@gcpc.org
- **Patrick O’Halloran (Dir. of Music Ministries):** patrick.ohalloran@gcpc.org
- **Patrick Bell (Office Admin.):** patrick.bell@gcpc.org
- **Tara Hyder (Finance Admin.):** finance@gcpc.org
- **Jason Turner (Audio/Technical Dir.):** E-mail both darktrainfilms@gmail.com & gcpc.media@gmail.com.

"Pray for one another" — James 5:15

We encourage you to remember the following in prayer:

All Grieving the Death of a Loved One: Keith Langabee and family in the death of his uncle; Kirk Heer and family in the death of his sister.

Surgeries/Hospitalizations/Illnesses: Dave Schesser, Chris Lindsay

Cancer Treatment: Trooper Shaw, Johnnie Baker

Aging Challenges: Lee Will, Charlie Bogan

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

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: First Presbyterian Church, Gardner, KS.

(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

TODAY IS THE MINISTRY FAIR in Heartland Hall immediately following worship. This is a time to see the selection of all the small interest groups and the productive teams that help make our church so dynamic. This is *your* time to join a group or team.

"THIS IS GRACE" NEW MEMBER CLASS: Join us for the "This is Grace" New Member Class on Sunday, August 30, at 10:45am in Room 5, immediately following the worship service. Led by Rev. Karen Wright, this class is open to everyone—whether you're a first-time visitor or a long-time friend. This session offers a great opportunity to learn more about Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, ask questions, and explore how we carry out God's work in our community. There's no expectation to join the church after attending the class—just come to learn and explore. To sign up, visit gcpc.org/newmember, or contact Kathy Williams at kathykaskewilliams@gmail.com or call 913-485-1776 if you plan to attend.

WORSHIP IN THE PARK: Join us for worship on Sunday, September 13, 9:30am, at the Meadowbrook Park Grand Pavilion, located at 91st and Nall (SE Corner) in Prairie Village. Worship will be followed by a potluck picnic. Brats, beef & veggie burgers and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side or dessert to share. Come together with your church family for worship and

savor the fellowship and beauty of the park! We are an Earth Care congregation, so remember to bring your own plates and silverware, and bring along camp chairs in case extra seating is required. *[Volunteers are needed to help deacons take items (tables, orange beverage containers, compostable buckets, trash bucket) to picnic and return to GCPC. Large SUVs or trucks would be helpful!]*

CELEBRATING THE MINISTRIES THAT SHAPE OUR LIFE TOGETHER: This summer, our "**Reports from the Field**" series offered a meaningful glimpse into the ministries that help Grace Covenant live out its mission. Ministry teams shared not only what they do, but why they do it — revealing the joy, challenges, and faith that shape their work. Together, these stories reminded us that ministry is more than programs or committees; it is a response to God's grace and an opportunity to participate in God's work in the world. From worship and music to mission, care, faith formation, stewardship, and facilities, each team reflected on how God is working through the people of Grace Covenant. Their stories also invited each of us to consider where God may be calling us to serve, connect, and grow. As fall ministries begin, may these stories inspire us to discover new ways to share our gifts and strengthen the life of our church together. **WATCH videos of these reports** on our website at <https://gcpc.org/fieldreports>

HELP US KNOW YOU'RE WORSHIPING WITH US: Whether you join us in person or online, we'd love to know you're with us! If you're worshiping on **Facebook Live**, please say hello in the chat comments so we can greet you. If you're attending **in person**, please take a moment to sign the pew attendance pad and pass it down the row. Your check-in helps us care for our church family and celebrate everyone who is worshiping together each week. Thank you!

PIECEMAKERS QUILT RAFFLE COMING SOON! Thanks to the generous gift of Julie Webb, the Piecemakers are excited to raffle three beautiful, handcrafted quilts to benefit our quilting ministry. These stunning quilts were lovingly made by Julie's grandmother, featuring hand cross-stitched quilt tops and exquisite hand quilting. The Piecemakers create quilts that provide comfort, warmth, and encouragement to those in need in our church and community. Proceeds from the raffle will help purchase batting and other supplies so this ministry can continue sharing God's love one stitch at a time. The quilts will be on display today at the Ministry Fair, where you'll have the opportunity to see them up close and learn more about the Piecemakers' ministry. Raffle tickets will be available soon, and the drawing will take place at a later date to be announced. One lucky winner will have the opportunity to receive all three quilts. If the winner chooses fewer than three, additional winner(s) will be drawn until all quilts have found a home. Watch for more details in the coming weeks, and thank you for supporting this meaningful ministry! For more information contact Donna Heer at taxdheer@gmail.com or 913-485-5812.

MUSIC

LOOKING AHEAD TO FALL: Chancel choir rehearsals resume August 26. Charter and Jubilation ringers resume in September. E-mail patrick.ohalloran@gcpc.org to find out more.

SPIRIT SINGERS AND SPIRIT RINGERS RETURN THIS FALL: Youth Music returns Sunday, September 27!

- Spirit Singers is open to middle school singers and will meet from 10:45 to 11am during the Sunday school hour.
- Spirit Ringers is open to middle and high school students and will meet from noon to 12:30pm. No previous handbell experience is needed.

Both groups will prepare young musicians to help lead worship throughout the fall. More information will be shared as we get closer.

ADULT

THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY, as we join together for the **Ministry Fair** in Heartland Hall, following worship.

BEGINNING AUGUST 16, ADULT EDUCATION will offer a four-week series based on Pastor Karen's **Drawn IN** sermon themes. Each week will include a brief introduction, thoughtful reflection, and open conversation. No preparation is needed — just come as you are and join us as we listen for how God may be drawing us into deeper faith, greater courage, and more loving action.

- **August 16 — *Dream & Hover*** – Led by Rick Randolph
Where might God be inviting us to pause, pay attention, and imagine something new? We will explore the holy possibilities that can emerge when we make room to dream and remain open to the movement of the Spirit.
- **August 23 — *Risk*** – Led by Stephen Wing
Faith often calls us beyond what is familiar and comfortable. Together, we will reflect on the risks involved in trusting God, responding with courage, and taking the next faithful step — even when the way ahead is not completely clear.
- **August 30 — *Listen*** – Led by Sarah Evans
In a noisy and divided world, genuine listening can be a sacred practice. We will consider how listening more deeply — to God, to one another, and to voices we may overlook— can strengthen relationships and help us become a more compassionate community.
- **September 6 — *Reintegrate*** – Leader to be announced
How do we bring what we have experienced, learned, and heard back into everyday life? This final session will invite us to consider how spiritual insight becomes faithful practice in our homes, church, work, and community.

Everyone is welcome each week. Attend the entire series or join us whenever you are able. Adult Education meets at **10:45 a.m. in Room 3**.

CHILDREN

THIS MORNING:

- **9:30am:** Backpack Blessing during Children's time: Don't worry if you forgot your backpack/bag — still get a button and receive a blessing!

- **After Worship:** Ministry Fair! (all ages) Children are encouraged to complete the scavenger hunt and there is a coloring table in Heartland Hall for anyone who'd like to hang out there.

COMING UP:

- **August 16** — Regular Sunday Morning programming resumes:
 9:30am — Worship and ATW
 10:45–11:05 — JOY! And Celebration! choir rehearsals for 4yo–5th grades
 11:05–11:45 — Sunday school for 2yo–5th graders
 And then!
 4–6pm — **SMASH** (K-5th grade fellowship) **WATER DAY!** Wear water-appropriate clothing, sunscreen
- **August 23** — Regular Sunday Morning programming
- **August 30** — Regular Sunday Morning programming
- **September 6** — Labor Day Weekend: No ATW or After Worship Programming

YOU ARE INVITED! Have you ever wondered how you can make a lasting difference in the life of a child? The answer might be simpler than you think... **we invite YOU to be part of our Children's Ministry!**

At Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, we believe some of the most important moments in faith happen when children are encouraged, supported, and shown God's love in ways they can understand. And that's where our amazing volunteers come in. The truth is, you don't need to be a teacher, have all the answers, or have years of experience working with children. **What matters most is simply having a willing heart and a desire to help create a welcoming, fun, and faith-filled environment where children can grow in their faith.** Whether you can help once a month, assist during special events, support Sunday mornings, lend a hand with activities, or simply be another caring adult presence, there is a place for you here.

Serving in Children's Ministry isn't just about what you give — it's also about what you receive. The special relationship that you build with the children of our Church is great. Being greeted on Sunday morning with a big smile and a wave from a small hand. The opportunity to witness faith growing right before your eyes is something truly special. Our Children's Ministry team would love to help you get involved.

Please visit gcpc.org/youareinvited for more information or talk to any member of our Children's Ministry Team: Emily Hussey, Laura Johnson, Keith Langabee, Emily Nelson-Dixon, Amy Sellers, Kristy Shaw or Christy Soule. **Accept our invitation!** Thank you for supporting our children at GCPC in their faith journey.

YOUTH

THIS MORNING:

- **9:30am:** Backpack Blessing during Children's time: Don't worry if you forgot your backpack/bag—still get a button and receive a blessing!
- **After Worship:** Ministry Fair! (all ages) Stop by the youth table to sign up to help, register youth, and there will be some games in the courtyard youth are encouraged to join in!

COMING UP:

- **August 16 — Regular Sunday Morning programming resumes:**
 - 9:30am** Worship
 - 10:45–11:05am** NEW! Middle School Music Ensemble rehearsal
 - 11:05–11:45am** Sunday school 6th–8th grades (Rm 19b), 9th–12th grades (Rm 19b)
 - 4-6pm** YOUTH GROUP (6th–12th grade) WATER DAY! Wear water-appropriate clothing, sunscreen
- **August 23 and 30 — Regular Sunday Morning programming**
- **September 6 — Labor Day Weekend: No After Worship Programming**

MISSION

AUGUST COMMUNION OFFERING IS CROSS-LINES: Cross-Lines has served as “a place of hope” for people experiencing poverty in Wyandotte County since 1963. The mission of Cross-Lines is to provide individuals and families in the Kansas City area affected by poverty with services and opportunities that build self-confidence, address immediate needs, and equip them with the tools for long-term self-sufficiency. Cross-Lines offers emergency assistance with food, clothing, medical needs, and financial assistance for at-risk families and individuals. In addition, the organization provides extended case management to help people achieve and maintain stability. Its work is centered around three key programs: basic needs, housing stabilization, and hunger relief. Through these comprehensive services, Cross-Lines continues to fight poverty, restore hope, and strengthen our community.

You may contribute to the August Communion Offering by selecting the “Communion” option through the church’s online giving portal or by writing “Communion” on your check or offering envelope. Please make all donations by September 1. Thank you for your generous support of this vital ministry and its life-changing work in our community.

AUGUST DONATION PARTNER — CROSS-LINES COMMUNITY MARKET: Throughout August, we are collecting donations to support the Cross-Lines Community Market, which provides emergency food assistance and everyday essentials to individuals and families in our community. You can help by donating items from the list below and placing your donations at the weekday entrance. Please note: all toiletry items should be full-sized, and all donated items must be new and unopened. Thank you for your generosity and for helping provide hope and practical support to our neighbors in need.

- canned fruits and vegetables
- dried beans: pinto and black
- canned beans: pinto, black, refried
- canned soup
- pickled jalapeños or other peppers
- cooking oil
- fruit cups
- granola bars
- breakfast cereal
- small pop-tops: soups, SpaghettiOs, ravioli
- condiments: ketchup, mayonnaise, mustard, salsa
- diapers (especially sizes, 4, 5, 6)
- shampoo and conditioner
- deodorant
- toothpaste
- razors
- menstrual supplies
- laundry detergent
- dish soap
- general cleaning supplies

NOISY OFFERING IS AUGUST 16: Start saving your pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters for our Noisy Offering on Sunday, August 16. This special offering will benefit Sow Hope, an organization whose mission is to inspire women around the world by promoting wellness, education, and economic opportunities. Sow Hope is celebrating its 20th anniversary of empowering women and strengthening communities. Earlier this year, the Mission Team was honored to sponsor a showing of Sow Hope's documentary, *Charity Redefined*, in May. Thank you for helping make a joyful noise as we support this meaningful ministry!

KAIROS

KAIROS KLUES: Save the date: August 14 for the documentary *Genesis of Exodus*. We have Q & A with a panel of local immigration advocates following the movie. Join us in the choir room — use the west entrance doors of GCPC.

MINISTRY FAIR — TODAY FOLLOWING WORSHIP: Stop by our table, ask your questions and learn something that excites you in Peace, Justice and Earth Care. What ripple might you be called to?



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2026 Upcoming Events and Services

(Save these dates)

**Ministry Fair and the
Blessing of the Backpacks**

Sneak-a-Peek at Sunday School

Sunday, August 9 *(Following worship)*

Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Day

Friday, August 14, 8:30am–3pm

KAIROS Movie Night

August 14, 6pm, Choir Room

Q&A follows *(See bulletin for details)*

Sunday School Kick-Off

Sunday, August 16, 10:45am

Noisy Offering

Sunday, August 16 *(Benefits SowHope)*

First SMASH of the School Year

(K-5th grade) Sunday, August 16, 4-6pm

First YOUTH GROUP of the School Year

Sunday, August 16, 4-6pm

"This is Grace" New Member Class

Sunday, August 30, 10:45am, Room 5

Sign up at gcpc.org/newmember

Worship in the Park

Sunday, September 13, 9:30am

Meadowbrook Park (91st & Nall)

Grand Pavilion (SE Corner) Prairie Village

(Lunch following)

Baker/Reynolds Golf Scramble

Sunday, September 20, 1pm

Stewardship Town Hall and Brunch

Sunday, September 27

(Following worship)

Heart of America CROP Walk

Sunday, October 11, 2pm

Chili Cook-Off

Saturday, October 17

Generosity Sunday

Sunday, October 25, 9:30am

Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 25

Blood Drive

Thursday, October 29, 1-5pm

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 29

A Christmas Exclamation!

Sunday, December 6, 6pm

Christmas Eve Worship

Thursday, December 24

5:30pm and 8pm

~ Please be mindful of the following deadlines for our communications publications ~

Grace Notes Weekly email newsletter - articles due to the church office by 10am, each Wednesday

Weekly church bulletin - articles due to the church office by Noon, each Wednesday

Grace Notes Monthly Newsletter - articles are due to the church office on the 3rd Tuesday of the month

Please respect the timelines needed to produce these publications. Thank you!

Details on these events and services are shared in the midweek email, bulletin, newsletter,
and Facebook and Instagram. For an online church calendar, visit gcpc.org/calendar