



REAL FAITH | REAL STORIES | REAL GRACE

# GRACE NOTES



## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper February 16, Online at 6pm

We can't have our traditional Mardi Gras Pancake Supper, but we can have a ZOOM pancake supper and celebration! Our Children's Team hosting a ZOOM event Tuesday, February 16, at 6pm. You can enjoy eating dinner together with church friends, playing BINGO, trivia and more. Supplies for the evening will be part of a supply kit for the Tuesday supper and the Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, February 17.

Log in for the supper using  
Meeting ID: 881 2056 9257 and Passcode: GCPC.

**We need your help!** We are putting together a video montage for Shrove Tuesday. **Take a short video of yourself and/or family members catching a pancake on a plate thrown from your right, and then throw it off camera to your left.** See the video on our Facebook page for some examples! You can share videos in the comments here, or send a private message with the video(s) to Christy Soule at: [christysoule@yahoo.com](mailto:christysoule@yahoo.com) or Emily Hussey at: [ekthussey@gmail.com](mailto:ekthussey@gmail.com). **They need videos by Friday, 2/12, please!**

## Ash Wednesday February 17 Online service at 7pm

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of a journey from the ashes of death to resurrected life on Easter. It is a day that signifies a time to turn around, to change directions, to repent. **Join us for an online service of reflection that will set us on the pathway to new life.** This will be a participatory service for those who choose. During the service, participants will be invited to create a mosaic tile cross, and self-impose ashes or another substance. Music shared by Charter Ringers II and Cal Sweeten, dulcimer.

Log into the worship service using  
Meeting ID: 879 4364 0077 and Passcode: GCPC2021

**A supply kit with supplies for the pancake supper and Ash Wednesday will be available for drive through pick up. The drive through pick up will be Sunday, February 14, from 11:15am - 12:50pm** Those unable to pick one up Sunday may arrange a pick up time at church with Patrick. Email him at [patrick.bell@gcpc.org](mailto:patrick.bell@gcpc.org). All are encouraged to join us, even if you choose not to pick up a kit.



## Sunday School News!

The new year of the pandemic may have stopped us from meeting in person, but it hasn't stopped us from doing some great new things in Sunday school. Until the virus is better under control, we will continue our online Sunday school program.

### 2's and 3's Preschool Class

Lisa Cox has created a wonderful Facebook Page featuring the weekly Sunday school class. The lesson includes the colorful Bible story page and Lisa's wonderful voice leading the class. You will find the page at GCPC Preschool Sunday School Stories. [www.facebook.com/groups/GCPCstories](http://www.facebook.com/groups/GCPCstories)

### 4 yrs – 1st Grade

We are blessed to have Awakening to Worship (ATW) at GCPC. ATW is an introduction to worship that offers a creative telling of a Bible story as the children learn about the practice of worship. We are continuing to offer the ATW experience online and this will be the Sunday school class for the 4-year-old – 1st grade children. These lessons will be pre-recorded and available for viewing at your convenience. The weekly links will be uploaded to the website's Christian Education/Sunday School Page.

### 2nd – 5th Grades

This class will meet each week from 9m – 9:45am on Zoom. We enjoy learning Bible stories, singing with the Celebration choir, and learning about the mission work of our Mission Team. In order to participate, parents will need to register with Rev. Sue at [sue.trigger@gcpc.org](mailto:sue.trigger@gcpc.org). Sue will send you the log-in information, including the password, when she receives your email. Please include your child's name, year in school, and any special needs we need to be aware of for an online class. You can find Sunday school information and the Celebration choir videos on our new Facebook Page. <https://www.facebook.com/GCPC25grades> Content will be updated weekly with information about the coming lessons.

### Joy! and Celebration! Singers

In addition to our Sunday school classes, we are blessed to have music time available online, too! Links to our music time will be available on the Sunday school page. Each week Joy!, our 4 yrs – 1st grade and Celebration!, our 2nd – 5th grades will enjoy singing and learning about music and faith.



MATTHEW 25

## Adult Classes

### What is a Matthew 25 church?

**Sunday, February 7, 11:15am**

Join us on Zoom using

Meeting ID: 883 1302 4210 and Passcode: GCPC2020

Matthew 25:31–46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Convicted by this passage, both the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies (2016 and 2018) exhorted the PC(USA) to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor. In 2020 our Session signed on to become a Matthew 25 church along with many Heartland Presbytery. Join our online adult Sunday school class to learn more about what it means to be part of this exciting initiative.

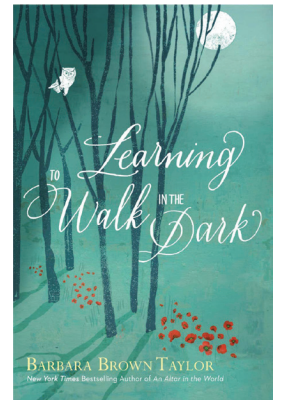
### Learning to Walk in the Dark

**A Lenten Study**

**February 14 - March 28 at 11:15am**

Join us on Zoom using Meeting ID: 883 1302 4210 and Passcode: GCPC2020

Our adult Lenten study will explore the images of light and darkness in Barbara Brown Taylor's book, "Learning to Walk in the Dark." Taylor has become increasingly uncomfortable with our tendency to associate all that is good with lightness and all that is evil and dangerous with darkness. In this book, Taylor asks us to put aside our fears and anxieties and to explore all that God has to teach us "in the dark." Through darkness we find courage, we understand the world in new ways, and we feel God's presence around us, guiding us through things seen and unseen. Often, it is while we are in the dark that we grow the most. This Zoom online class will be led by a team of members.





## February SMASH! All about God's Love

February 21, 4-6pm (K-5th grades)

SMASH has been a great time for our K-5th grade kids! Have you ever wondered about what Jesus loves? Our SMASH kids will be thinking about that and more at our next SMASH Sunday event. There will be a story, games, activities, and lots of fun as we think about God's love.

**Please RSVP to help us safely prepare for supplies and social distance.**

RSVP to Christy Soule at:  
[christysoule@yahoo.com](mailto:christysoule@yahoo.com).

We can't wait to see you!

## Thank you GCPC Family!

Grace Covenant,  
Thank you very much for your prayers, support, and concern during the loss of our nephew, James Phipps Sr. who was like a son to us. Again and again, we must say that we feel truly blessed to be a part of such a caring faith family, especially during this time of COVID-19.

With Gratitude,  
—Sylvia and Nathan Littlejohn

Thank you to all for the cards and wishes for a happy 50th anniversary. Devon and I couldn't figure how people knew but then we figured it out—our children Kevin and Jody! Thank you again.

—Devon and Judy Mason

## Clerk's Corner

The January 18, 2021, Session meeting was held via Zoom with Rev. Sue Trigger serving as moderator. In addition to the ruling elders, deacon Liz Chandler and Reverend Mitch Trigger were in attendance. Sue opened the meeting at 7:00pm and Lynn Long shared a devotion about star gifts, words to ponder in the upcoming year. After Lynn shared a prayer, the elders expressed appreciation for the star cookies she made and delivered to Session members.

**Consent agenda:** The minutes of the December 21 Session meeting were approved, as well as approving the Communion dates for the upcoming year.

### Team minutes:

**Youth team:** We have six seniors this year and a majority of them will be sharing a Senior Sermon on Youth Sunday, March 7. Session approved letting the seniors and their immediate family be present in the sanctuary on March 7 and take Communion, as long as the church COVID protocols are observed.

**Generosity team:** We received 108 pledges so far.

**Finance team:** Terry Kolich said the team has reviewed the church's insurance coverage and it is adequate.

**Personnel team:** The co-pastors' terms of call are required by Presbytery to be presented at the Annual Meeting. Because we don't have the budget yet because we haven't completed the pledge drive, the terms of call will be the same as 2020 but, if the eventual budget allows it, we'll offer them a COLA increase.

**Clerk's report:** Presbytery requested a copy of the church's deed and it was delivered. We started the month with 401 members and there were no changes.

**Co-Pastors' report:** Sue reported that she's finishing her Christian Educator Certification of the PC(USA). There will be a New Member class starting on February 21. Members are asked to spread the word to anyone who might be interested.

**Deacons' report:** Liz Chandler reported that the deacons haven't met since the last Session meeting. The new deacons will be trained next weekend.

**Old business:** There has been one request for funds and another request might happen. We are considering having an outdoor Easter service.

**New business:** We are discussing having the elder liaisons to teams serve as the team moderator.

After sharing joys and concerns, the meeting adjourned at 8:14pm and Rev. Sue Trigger closed with a prayer.

## Easter Worship Schedule

Sunday, April 4, 2021

Outdoor Service at 9am with Online Service at 11am





## This Is Grace New Member Classes

February 21 – March 7 at 4:00pm  
Online on Zoom

Starting Sunday, February 21, we will host “This Is Grace” for anyone interested in learning more about Grace Covenant. The class is open to anyone and is the best way to get an overview of the church, get questions answered and discover more than you can learn from attending online worship each week.

“This Is Grace” will meet on Sundays at 4:00pm on Zoom, and continue for three consecutive weeks. The sessions include the history of Grace Covenant, what Presbyterians believe, “Everything you’ve wanted to ask a pastor but have been unable to ask,” and will focus on the meaning of membership in a church within the Presbyterian Church (USA). All are welcome!

After the final session, if you want to join Grace Covenant, you will be invited to meet virtually with the Session (the governing body that oversees the ministry of the church, and will be welcomed into our faith family in the official Presbyterian style at a scheduled date.

If you decide you are not interested in joining, or not quite ready to join, we hope you will have a much better sense of Grace Covenant and we will continue to delight in your presence with us as a visitor and friend.

**For questions & to RSVP – Contact: Pastor Sue or Pastor Mitch** ([sue.trigger@gcpc.org](mailto:sue.trigger@gcpc.org) or [mitch.trigger@gcpc.org](mailto:mitch.trigger@gcpc.org)).

The classes will be held on Sundays, February 21 through March 7 at 4 p.m. Join the ZOOM meeting using Meeting ID: 878 2974 9481 and Passcode: GCPC2021.



## Living in a Protracted Lent The Season of Lent at GCPC

In a conversation about living in a pandemic, our Worship Team moderator, Melanie Townsend, quipped, “We’ve been living in a protracted Lent.” She is so right!

This last year we’ve been forced into a very long time of reflection and wrestling with the reality of our mortality. Many of us have been seeking a deeper and more authentic relationship with God. All of us have considered those things we value and mourned those things we have lost.

Through worship and Sunday school, we will seek God’s presence and wisdom as we continue this protracted Lent in which we all are living.

Sue and Mitch will preach on these topics:

- February 21:** Dealing with Protracted Feelings
- February 28:** Our role in Controlling the Virus
- March 7:** Youth Sunday
- March 14:** Embracing Dark Angels
- March 21:** Jesus and the Dark Night of the Soul

**Check out the Adult Education article** about our Lenten study, “*Learning to Walk in the Dark*” by Barbara Brown Taylor and log in!

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## February Donation Partner

**Rosehill Elementary School will be the donation partner and recipient of the February Communion Offering.**

Requested donations include: hand sanitizers, Kleenex, copy paper, “Treasure Box” reward items such as: bouncy balls, fun pencils, sticker sheets, erasers, and yo-yos, and other small toys. \$5.00 coffee shop gift cards are also requested for the schoolteachers.

# Music Notes

## What's Ahead in Worship?

**Charter Ringers** are back in the swing of things! Two small ensembles are now rehearsing on Wednesday nights and will begin ringing in online worship soon (pre-recorded).

See our full music ensemble schedule for online worship through Easter Sunday, below. As always, **our schedule is subject to change** – but we are looking forward to the musical leadership of the following ensembles (+ others?) in worship – whenever it is!

## Sundays:

**A reminder** – *Chancel Ensemble or Praise Team* will lead worship live each week. **All other ensembles will be pre-recorded** and shared in the online worship service.

### FEBRUARY 7

*Praise Team & Charter Ringers II*

### TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 14

*Chancel Ensemble, Chancel Singers I & III*

### ASH WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 17

*Charter Ringers I & Cal Sweeten, dulcimer*



## Thank you GCPC family!

Brianna and I are blessed to have a church family who graciously reached out, supported us, and donated to Brianna's GoFundMe account. Brianna and her roommate lost almost everything in the Waldo Heights Apartment fire. Going through what was lost was hard to process, especially the looters who took her electronics. With the help of friends, even the fireman who found her cat, our family, and Grace Covenant, Brianna has been able to begin looking for a new home. Because of your prayers, each day the many lists she has made to replace what she lost now seem attainable.

Thank you and Blessings to All –  
Brianna Taylor-Hinds and Donna Dearmore



## The Season of Lent Begins

### LENT 1 – February 21

*Chancel Ensemble & Chancel Singers II*

### LENT 2 – February 28

*Praise Team, Joy! (4s-1st grade) & Celebration! (2nd-5th grade)*

### LENT 3 – March 7 – Youth Sunday!

*Musicians: Singers, Ringers, & Instrumentalists*

### LENT 4 – March 14

*Chancel Ensemble & Chancel Singers I & III*

### LENT 5 – March 21

*Chancel Ensemble & Chancel Singers II*

## Holy Week

### PALM SUNDAY – March 28

*Praise Team, Joy! (4s-1st grade)  
& Celebration! (2nd-5th grade)*

### MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 1

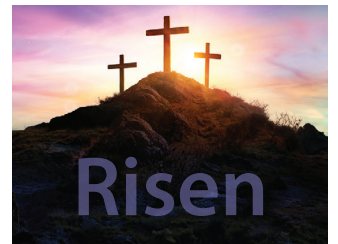
*Vocal/Instrumental Solos &  
Charter Ringers I*

### GOOD FRIDAY – April 2

*Chancel Ensemble, Chancel Singers I, II, & III*

### EASTER SUNDAY – April 4

*9am - Outside Worship – Praise Team led  
11am - Sanctuary Online Worship – Charter Ringers II,  
Chancel Ensemble, & Joon Park – trumpet  
(Doctor of Musical Arts, candidate, Graduate Brass Quintet  
Fellow, UMKC Conservatory - Volker Brass)*



## Welcome Carrie DeVries

**as our new Contemporary Music Coordinator/Leader**

In July of 2020, Carrie DeVries joined Donna Goeckler in leadership as our Contemporary Music Accompanist. We have been greatly blessed by Carrie's abundant talents vocally and musically. She has now moved from our Contemporary Music Accompanist into our Contemporary Music Coordinator/Leader position. The only person more excited about this than I am, is Donna Goeckler.

Carrie, welcome to Grace Covenant in your new role on our music ministry staff. We are grateful for your immense musical gifts and for the generous spirit with which you share them. We look forward to partnering with you in ministry in the many, many days ahead. *Grace Covenant, please join me in welcoming Carrie DeVries to this new position.* – Rebecca Prater, Director of Music Ministries



## **“Adapting to Change” Youth Sunday — March 7**

Youth Sunday is coming up soon. It will be an online service at 10am as you have come to expect from “regular” worship lately. Unlike our regular services, however, this one will be planned and led by our youth and our seniors will present sermons. This class of students have become adept at adapting to change so plan to join us as we explore that topic together.

## **“Souper” Bowl of Caring**

Our youth will continue to collect food for the Souper Bowl of Caring up until February 7. You can drop off Souper Bowl donations in the Harvesters barrels in front of the big wooden doors at GCPC weekday mornings from 9am to noon, and Sunday, February 7, 9am-noon. If you would like a student to pick your donation up from your house, we can arrange for that too! Just contact Miles.

Harvesters most needed items include: canned vegetables (low sodium), canned fruits in 100% juice, dried fruit (no added sugar preferred), canned chicken, tuna, salmon (packed in water), brown rice, whole grain pasta, dried beans or canned low sodium beans, peanut, almond, or sun butter, canned soup (chicken, tomato or vegetable), cereal – hot and cold (whole grain, low sugar preferred), soap, deodorant, shampoo, toilet paper

## **Black History Month**

On MLK Monday or shortly before, a few of our youth and families participated in a 90-minute driving tour of segregation in KC. It is an interesting and informative tour highlighting some of the systemic discrimination in Kansas City housing and schools. February is Black History Month, and we will continue to work towards educating and equipping ourselves to make a positive change in regards to discrimination in our area and beyond. If you have not taken the driving tour, it is free for you to do on your own at any time and well worth it. Check out the details here:

<https://voicemap.me/tour/kansas-city/dividing-lines-a-history-of-segregation-in-kansas-city>

## **Summer Planning:**

Haha, that’s a good one right? Planning ... which would imply we have some expectation of what the summer will bring. Seriously though, we do continue to discuss ideas for the spring and summer and will definitely be involved in activities to enrich our faith, grow closer together, and serve our neighbors. Stay tuned to see which ideas develop into action.

## **IHN Operational Changes and Request for Donations**

Following our November rotation, concerns about COVID exposure to our volunteers increased and Vicki Dercher, executive director of IHN, made the decision to house our guests in motel rooms. We currently have Elizabeth (53), with two teens, Marie (16), and Madilyn (15). Elizabeth does have transportation and is looking for employment. We are eager to assist them as they work toward renewed stability. This means that we will not host at Grace Covenant, nor will we go to New Haven SDA Church to provide hosting duties.

In addition to not needing volunteers to staff during our host week, which begins this February 7, 2021, we will not be preparing meals in order to avoid contact altogether. Vicki asked if we could provide \$125 toward a gift card to Price Chopper so that Mayra can purchase ready-made items or those needing little preparation. She has a refrigerator, microwave, and coffee maker in her motel room. Our support congregation, Indian Hills United Methodist Church, is also looking into ways to financially contribute to costs this week. Since there will be no new admissions during our week, the cost for us will be \$544 for the motel stay of the family for one week. For those of you wanting to help, please send your donation to Grace Covenant with “IHN” noted in the memo section. Grace Covenant will issue the check to IHN. If you could help with ten dollars, that would be wonderful support in lieu of preparing a meal or spending a few hours volunteering.

While we cannot bless our guests with warm hospitality and smiling faces at this time, we are doing what we can. Hopefully when our next host week rolls ‘round on May 2, 2021, our lives will be more normal. Blessings to all of you for a wonderful and safe 2021.

## **Thank you!**

Shirley Sampson’s sister, Laverne Miller, and family send their thanks for the cards and love shown to Shirley throughout the years and the over 150 sent during her stay at Advent Health. She also sends thanks for the many sympathy cards. *“You are a loving, caring church and appreciated. Thank you.”*





# GRACE COVENANT

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Inclusive. Family Oriented. Welcoming.**

11100 College Boulevard  
Overland Park, KS 66210  
Phone: 913-345-1256  
Fax: 913-345-1198  
[gcpc.org](http://gcpc.org)



**Follow us on Social Media!**

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

Twitter: @GraceCovPres

Instagram: @gcpc\_overlandpark

## 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

- 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.**..... Donna Goeckler

**Contemporary Music Accomp.**..... Carrie DeVries

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

**Technical Director for Worship**.. Miles McDonald

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

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

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

### ELDERS

Jim Byrd	David Minaschek
Ric Cummings	Terri Monrad
Andrew Frye	Diane Schmit
Tim Hayden	Sophie Shaw
Cheryl Johnson	Jenna Soule
Terry Kolich	Susan Sutherland
Lynn Long	Marcia Turner
Mike Mattix	

### SUPPORT STAFF

Deacon Moderator.....Anita Hadel  
Operating Committee.....Tim Hayden,  
Cheryl Johnson, Susan Sutherland, Mike Mattix,  
Diane Schmit  
Newsletter Editor/Marketing..... Kim Krueger  
Prayer Chain.....Cheryl Johnson  
Website Administrators .. Kim Krueger/Patrick Bell

### MINISTRY UNITS

#### Congregational Nurture Unit Moderators

Connections and Care.....Vacant  
Worship and Music.....Melanie Townsend,  
Katie Hearn

#### Education Ministry Unit Moderators

Adult .....Maggie Blankers  
Children ..... Erin Frye, Angela Krug  
Youth.....Kaki Conti

#### Reach Out Ministry Unit Moderators

Kairos ..... Rick Randolph  
Mission .....Mikki Walker  
Welcoming .....Vacant

#### Supportive Ministry Unit Moderators

Facility .....Marc Feyh  
Generosity .....David Sutherland  
Finance.....Jim Byrd  
Personnel ..... Kevin Mason

### Worship Schedule

10am Online Worship  
until otherwise announced.  
Visit [gcpc.org/online](http://gcpc.org/online) for links

### Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines

March 2021 issue - Deadline, February 19  
April 2021 issue - Deadline, March 23