



REAL FAITH | REAL STORIES | REAL GRACE

# GRACE NOTES

## Some thoughts for March...

As the month of March gets underway, we are so thankful that we have finally returned to in-person worship (and continuing, of course, our on-line worship experience). All of us – members, staff, children, adults – need the human contact and fellowship that we find in church. This pandemic has challenged us all to sacrifice for the common good and we appreciate the leadership of the Session during this difficult time.

This seems like a perfect time though to begin the season of Lent. What better time than now to examine our faith? That is what Lent has been set aside for, for us to examine our faith and to take a close look at how we live our lives as members of Christ's church and as members of the human family. Is our focus on ourselves or on others? Do we face the challenges given to us by Jesus, to love even our enemies? Do we offer our lives in service to God or do we give only lip service to our calling? ***"We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us, it's in everyone."*** —Nelson Mandela)

Today we came across a quote from Theodore Roosevelt that offers a practical understanding of how to carry out the work of Jesus. ***"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."*** With the many challenges facing our community, our culture, and our country, it's easy to be overwhelmed with the needs of so many people. It can sometime fool us into thinking we can't do anything. That's not true. What Roosevelt was pointing out was that we can't worry about what we don't have, but to focus on what we do have, and to use those resources to help our neighbors.

And finally, we remember with joy that spring is coming soon, and with it Easter – when we are reminded of the new life given to us by God through Jesus Christ.

Peace be with you all,  
—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  
Facebook Live and Zoom.  
Visit [gcpc.org/online](http://gcpc.org/online) for links!

# Clerk's Corner

The session of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church held its stated meeting on **February 21, 2022** at 7:05pm, via Zoom. Reverend Mitch Trigger served as moderator. In addition to the ruling elders, Deacon Anne Stroud was present as well as Rebecca Prater.

**Consent Agenda:** The minutes of the December meeting were approved as well as affirming the results of an electronic vote continuing online worship through the month of February.

**The Finance Team:** Accounting practices were discussed as well as ways to reach out to members whose 2022 pledges have not yet been confirmed.

**Clerk's Report:** We reported the death of Paul Thomas

**Co-pastors' report:** Mitch and Sue have been busy.

**Deacon's report:** Meredith Watson is the new Deacon moderator; Anne Stroud is vice moderator and Terra Howard is secretary. New deacons will be elected at a Congregational meeting on March 13. They are Ashley Jeffries, Jean Hampton, and Terra Howard.

**New Business:** We will resume in-person worship on February 27! Offering plates and communion elements will be passed. Masks will be optional when the COVID rate is <8% according to the [Johnson County dashboard](#).

After sharing Joys and Concerns the meeting adjourned at 8:40pm and Rev. Mitch Trigger closed with a prayer.

## Congregational Meeting, March 13

A Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing Deacons will be Sunday, March 13, following worship. *(A Zoom link will be provided for those wishing to attend virtually.)*



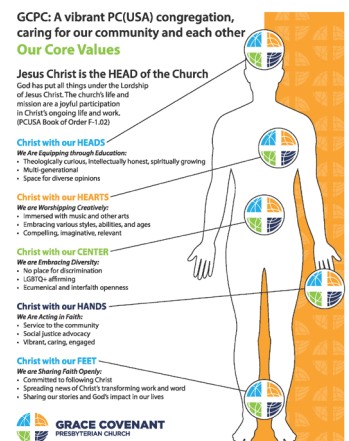
## Rev. Sue Trigger selected as PCUSA delegate to the CSW

Rev. Sue has been selected to serve as a PC(USA) delegate to the virtual **UN Commission on the Status of Women** from March 14–25, 2022 as part of the Presbyterian delegation. Delegations are selected from many regions of the world creating an intergenerational scope for greater sharing of knowledge, traditions, support and exchange of resources to tackle the challenges of climate change.

Participation in CSW provides the opportunity to engage with this global policy-making body where UN Member States gather to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide. We look forward to Sue sharing about her experience. [Learn more about the CSW66 here.](#)

## Our Core Values

Following God's call requires us to look at the gifts, talents, and values that make GCPC unique. We did just that at our Visioning Day last November and compiled a list of the characteristics that are most valued in our congregation. That list was given to a team of volunteers who worked together to write a creative and useful document that reflects the personality of the congregation and guide our future. The Session approved these core values at the January Session meeting and our teams and committees will be reviewing how their work coincides. Our thanks to Maggie Blankers, Kathy Bures, Ric Cummings, Nelson Townsend and Revs. Sue and Mitch for their work. Thanks to Kim Krueger for her work designing this graphic. [Download the graphic on our website. Click here.](#)







# We're You There?

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

In January, *Presbyterians Today* printed an article that was shared by a Boston news station. They recently shared a story about a Massachusetts church that came up with a unique idea to address the injustices to those men and women who authored the great African-American spirituals in many a hymn book. Each time the choir sings such a spiritual, the church will pay a royalty.

It is common practice for churches to pay royalties to publishers for the use of hymns, but according to the news report, Susan DeSelms, minister of music of the United Parish in Brookline, which came up with the idea, “the enslaved people who created this music were never rewarded for their art.” DeSelms also noted that “there was a growing discomfort” among the predominantly white congregation around how to use these songs of the enslaved in a way that honored, respected, and redeemed the past.



DeSelms introduced the royalty idea in a sermon, sharing with worshipers the history of the spiritual, beginning in 1619 when the first Africans were brought to America as slaves, and continuing through to today. The royalty paid, she said, will be a special collection taken every time a spiritual is sung in the church. The money will be donated to a nonprofit youth music program in Roxbury, Massachusetts, that is devoted to carrying on the tradition of this music by teaching the songs to the next generation.

**As a Matthew 25 congregation,** we are going to join in this time of honoring the contributions of enslaved musicians. Each Sunday in Lent through Easter, we are going to sing and reflect on spirituals from our hymnal and music library. **A donation jar will be placed in the back of the sanctuary to collect donations that will be given to the A-Flat Orchestra music program led by Darryl Chamberlain at St. James United Methodist Church in KC, MO.** He wants to give every child in Kansas City the chance to learn to play an instrument. Elder Harold Frye frequently contributes donated instruments to this organization.

**Come enjoy these spiritual hymns we will be singing and learning about throughout Lent and Easter:**

March 6	1st Sunday in Lent	Kumbaya
March 13	2nd Sunday in Lent	Hymn 741 – Guide My Feet
March 20	3rd Sunday in Lent	Hymn 700 – I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me
March 27	4th Sunday in Lent	Hymn 775 – I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
April 3	5th Sunday in Lent	Hymn 792 – There Is a Balm in Gilead
April 10	Palm Sunday	Hymn 729 – Lord, I Want to Be a Christian
April 17	Easter Sunday	Hymn 352 – My Lord! What a Morning!

# There's Room for Everyone in Sunday School!

## Grace Studies:

### Nursery: Room 22

**Toddlers and Twos (Room 23):** Our toddlers and twos are introduced each week to favorite stories of the Bible. March will focus on stories about Jesus's ministry, from Jesus calming a storm to Jesus teaching his followers how to pray.

**Pre-school 4s and 5s:** The pre-school children will begin the season of Lent learning about the Sacrament of Baptism. They will learn that they are God's beloved children and that the waters of baptism are a symbol of that love.

**K- 5/6th Grace Makers:** These classes will discover the Lenten custom of making disciples. They will encounter the challenge Jesus gave to go and make disciples. Art, mission, cooking and science workshops will offer tangible, creative ways to learn Bible stories and apply them to their lives. *(Grace Makers Workshop Rotation classes move each week.)*

**Kindergarten:** Room 25 *(10:45am gathers here for Joy! Singers)*

**1st—5th/6th Grades:** Room 15 *(10:45am gathers here for Celebration! Singers)*

**6th—8th Grades:** Room 19b

**High School:** Room 19a

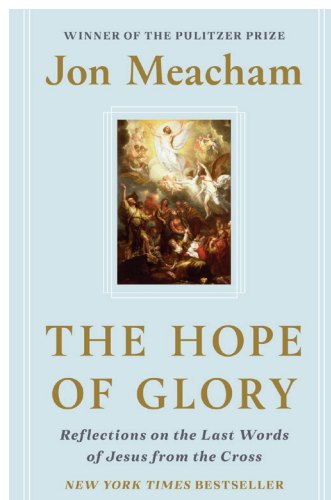
## Join the Sunday School Team!

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).

## Grace Studies: Adult Study Opportunities

### The 2022 Lenten Study: **The Hope of Glory** March 6–April 10

Join us as the two adult classes combine for our Lenten book study by Jon Meacham. As for believers worldwide, the events of Good Friday and Easter reveal essential truths about Christianity. A former vestryman of Trinity Church Wall Street and St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue, 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>



# March SMASH

Service, Music, Art, Sports, Hangtime

## It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood!

**Sunday, March 27, 4-6pm**  
in Heartland Hall; SMASH is for K-5th/6th grade kids.

**Our March SMASH will celebrate Mr. Rogers Day.** There will be activities, games, and lots of fun as we think about how to care for our neighbor. Our service project will include making a gift to share with our neighbors at Aberdeen Village. RSVP to Rev. Sue at [sue.trigger@gcpc.org](mailto:sue.trigger@gcpc.org). Please let her know how many will attend.



## Have you marked your calendar for **Vacation Bible School**, June 6-10, 9am-Noon?

It's going to be an awesome week at **Discovery on Adventure Island VBS!** Everyone will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible based good time on their quest for God's great light. They will become explorers and discover how God's light shines on us and how we can reflect that light as we live each day.

# MUSIC NOTES

## “Shout ‘Hallelujah!’

### Music Rehearsals Are Back!”

Beginning Sunday, February 27th each of our ensembles will be meeting in-person for their music rehearsals.

#### Sunday Rehearsals:

Joy! (4s-K) at 10:45am in Room 25

Celebration! Singers & Ringers (1st-6th graders) at 10:45am in Room 15

Jubilation! Ringers at 4:30pm in Room 1 (Date TBD)

#### Tuesday Rehearsal:

Praise Team at 7:00pm in Sanctuary

#### Wednesday Rehearsals:

Charter Ringers at 6:00pm in Room 1

Chancel & Exaltation! I (CHEX I) at 6:00pm in S/Room 6

Chancel & Exaltation! II (CHEX II) at 7:05pm in S/Room 6

#### Instrumental Ensembles:

GCPC Orchestra & small ensembles scheduled as announced by director(s).

*If you have questions about a particular ensemble, please contact Rebecca Prater for more information.*

## Watch your Email Inbox for a Daily Link to an African American Spiritual During Lent

To complement the Lenten theme in worship utilizing African American spirituals, you will receive a daily link to a recording of a spiritual in a choral arrangement setting from Rebecca Prater, Director of Music Ministries. It will be paired in the same email with the daily devotions by Harold Frye. May the sounds of courage, comfort, and hope undergird you as you walk these 40 days of Lent.

## Decision on Masking for Musicians from Music Team

As you know, general masking for our congregation will be optional when the county positivity rate is below 8%. **\*\*However, for our vocal and wind ensembles, masking will be required until the positivity rate is below 5%, (which is considered “low” risk for the spread of the virus) due to the increased transmission rate of these activities.\*\***

These ensembles include Joy!, Celebration!, Praise Team, Chancel + Exaltation Singers (CHEX), and wind instruments in GCPC Orchestra.

## THE MISSION & MUSIC (M&M) TRIP RETURNS!

After a 2-year hiatus, we are planning (and hoping) to take our Senior High + College Freshman & Sophomores on our “annual” M&M Trip.

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

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

Exaltation! Singers will be rehearsing their songs as part of CHEX I & II on Wednesday nights. If you’d like to sing on M&M, but haven’t joined CHEX yet, come join us!

**M&M Candy Tube Fundraiser begins on Youth Sunday, March 6 and ends on March 27.**

**Registration forms come out soon!**

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

## LOOKING AHEAD TO MUSIC IN WORSHIP AND MUSIC EVENTS

**YOUTH SUNDAY, MARCH 6TH** – 9:30am Worship  
Music Leadership by Youth Band.

## HOLY WEEK

**PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 10TH** – 9:30am Worship  
Music Leadership by Praise Team, Joy! & Celebration!

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 14TH** – 7:30pm  
Music Leadership by Praise Team & Sue Trigger

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 15TH** – 7:30pm  
Music Leadership by Chancel & Exaltation! Singers I & II and String Quartet.

#### EASTER, APRIL 17TH

9am Worship – Music Leadership by Praise Team

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

#### BELL FEST, MAY 1ST – 6pm

This year’s theme is what we could all use about now!  
**“Make ‘em Laugh, Help ‘em Smile, Give ‘em Joy!”**

#### MUSIC APPRECIATION SUNDAY, MAY 15TH

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

*Thanks be to God, the giver of all good and perfect gifts  
—Rebecca Prater, Director of Music Ministries*



# Youth Page

## "New Beginnings" Youth Sunday - March 6

Youth Sunday is just a few days away! Worship will be IN PERSON – YAY!!! at 9:30am. As usual it will be geared towards our adults and children but planned and led by our youth, and high school seniors will present sermons. Having "New Beginnings," or a fresh start is something we all need, and go through in different phases of life. Especially given all the challenges our students have faced through the pandemic, this year is a good time to explore what is new and where we find God in all of this.

Join us as we focus our worship on New Beginnings at 9:30am on Sunday, March 6.

## "Souper" Bowl of Caring – Thank You GCPC!

What a great response we had to our Souper Bowl of Caring food drive this year!!! We are so grateful to God because this year we collected 4 barrels full of food for Harvesters to distribute. Thank you GCPC!!! We would also like to thank Patrick Bell for setting out barrels each morning for you to drop off food outside.

## Sunday Morning Classes

Thanks to Katie Hearn and Donna Heer who have been helping Miles with Sunday Morning classes this school year!!! Thanks for your faithfulness and for all of your planning Donna and Katie!

## Summer Intern

We don't know what this summer will bring but we fully expect to continue and even ramp up our youth activities this summer including M&M trip and other opportunities. We are hopeful that we will be able to get back to a more regular and active schedule. And we are looking to bring an intern on board again to help plan, lead, and build relationships with our students. If you know a college-aged young adult with a heart for God and for students who might be interested, please contact Miles McDonald – the search is on.

## M&M Tube Fundraiser

We are excited to be planning a Mission and Music Trip for June 2022! We will be heading to the Rosebud reservation once again and need to raise some money. Our M&M tube fundraiser will begin on Youth Sunday (March 6) this year! You will receive tubes of M&Ms at the end of worship and we ask you to return them filled with pocket change ...or bills ...or huge checks, to our large green M&M that will be in the concourse. Thanks in advance for your support of our high school youth who will be experiencing our M&M trip.



SUNDAYS, MARCH 13 - APRIL 3  
10:45AM IN ROOM 5

## This is Grace

Join us as we explore what it means to belong and be an active participant in the GCPC community of believers. All are welcome!



## This is Grace New Member's Classes March 13–April 3 10:45am, Room 5

This new member's class is open to all and is the best way to get an overview of the church. There is no assumption on our part that you will join when you attend the class. First time visitors and long-time friends are encouraged to attend to get questions answered and to discover the exciting ways Grace Covenant carry's out God's work.

### This Is Grace covers the following:

- Introductions and discussion on the history of Grace Covenant and its ministries, and what Presbyterians believe.
- Discussion on the meaning of membership and "Everything you've wanted to ask a pastor but have been unable to ask!"
- Conversations about worship, and other information.

After the final session, if you are ready to join Grace Covenant, you will be invited to meet with the Session (the governing body that oversees the ministry of the church) on March 21 at 7pm. They will welcome you into our faith family in official Presbyterian style. You will be welcomed by the congregation on Palm Sunday, April 10.

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.

To sign up for the class, please contact Rev. Sue at [sue.trigger@gcpc.org](mailto:sue.trigger@gcpc.org).

# Life of the Church

## Thank you

Heartfelt thanks for all the prayers, phone calls, cards, food, and other thoughtful expressions of sympathy during this difficult time.

—Mary Sue Thomas and Family.

## Spring Blood Drive

SAVE THE DATE! The Spring GCPC Blood Drive is March 22, 2–6pm, at the church. Book your appointment today at [savealifenow.org/group](https://savealifenow.org/group), Group Code: IM. For more information, contact Sarah Byrd, 913-909-1559 or [swbyrdks@gmail.com](mailto:swbyrdks@gmail.com).

## IHN Thanks

Thank you for making our IHN Hosting Week of Grace House a success! Your willingness to help with hosting providing food, and making our guests feel welcome was amazing. Special thanks to our IHN Team leads including Cathy Haun, Joy Circo, Kirk Heer, Jean and Stewart Nelson, our Indian Heights United Methodist Church Primary Coordinator Carol Grantham, and of course Patrick Bell and Miles McDonald for their support and coordination. We hosted two single women and one family of mother and teenage son this week. Thanks again for being part of changing lives.

## Crafty Thanks!

Thank you to all who attended the Weekend Crafters Mega Retreat on January 21 and 22. We appreciate the enthusiasm and talent of the planning committee, Christy Soule, Katie Hayden, Lauren Bond, Amanda Shell and Kim Krueger. Thank you to Lynn Long for your class on creating decorated cookies, and to Christy Soule and Kristy Shaw for teaching us how to make felt spring wreaths. We made Valentine-themed gnomes for the residents at Aberdeen Village, and donated a bunch of craft supplies to KC Scraps. Thanks to Cheryl Johnson for delivering those for us. Everyone enjoyed being creative with one another and the fellowship of being together. Next retreat in the summer.





## GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Inclusive. Family Oriented. Welcoming.**

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**gcpc.org**



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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

**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

**April 2022 issue - Deadline, March 18**  
**May 2022 issue - Deadline, April 19**