GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship — January 4, 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 worshiping 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 below.

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: Sylvia Littlejohn and family in the death of her cousin, Dan Arbuthnot.

Surgeries/Hospitalizations/Illnesses

Cancer Treatment: Harold Farren, Tom Jennings, Trooper Shaw

Aging Challenges: Lee Will, Stewart Nelson, Charlie Bogan

Military Service: David Zak, C.J. Bradley, Seth Lorimer, Mary E. Johnson II, Alanna Funk, Shannon Lorimer, Clara Frye, 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, Liberty, MO; Maya Quiché Presbytery Meeting, January 29–30, at the La Paz de Dios church in the small lowlands village of Palá

(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

RECEIVING A STAR WORD ON EPIPHANY SUNDAY IS A TRADITION AT GCPC. Epiphany Sunday recalls the visit of the Magi bearing gifts for the Christ Child. These paper stars with a word representing a spiritual quality are given to you as a simple gift. The stars are placed face down in the basket so that you can pick a star before you see the word. How that word speaks to you is for you to reflect upon. It may make an immediate connection or may be something that only brings about meaning as the year goes on. Whatever your experience, place your star where it will be visible throughout the year and enjoy your star word! For those unable to pick one up on Epiphany Sunday a basket of stars will be available in the office and at the welcome table on Sunday mornings.

THE SESSION HAS CALLED A MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION for today following worship for the purpose of electing deacons.

GCPC WEEKEND CRAFTER'S WINTER RETREAT! Join us Friday, January 16 (6–9pm) and/or Saturday, January 17 (9am–4pm) for our winter retreat. This is a time for our GCPC family and friends to enjoy some crafty fellowship. Participants will bring their own projects to work on in Heartland Hall while we sip, snack, and create together. We are working to put together a Make-and-Take Project for Saturday for a minimal fee (details soon). **REGISTER TO ATTEND by January 11 at gcpc.org/crafters**. Join our Facebook group GCPC Weekend Crafters for community and fellowship online at https://www.facebook.com/groups/gcpcweekendcrafters. Save a spot on your calendar and join us! If you have any questions, please contact Christy Soule, Kristy Shaw, or Kim Krueger.

OUR ANNUAL GCPC BINGO EVENT will be held on Friday, January 23, 5:30–7:30pm. Liz Chandler has graciously agreed to be our caller again! Pizza, veggies and cookies will be provided. Child care for kids under 4 will be available, and of course, prizes will be awarded to our BINGO winners. You can sign up in church on January 11 and 18! Come beat the winter BLAHS with BINGO!

GET READY FOR SOME WINTER FUN! Everyone is invited to the **GCPC Winter Olympics** on **Saturday, January 31, 4–6pm**. Gather your crew and form a team to compete in a friendly showdown for **bronze, silver, and gold medals**! Teams will take on **six Olympic-inspired events** — a mix of **three brain-teasing challenges** and **three action-packed physical events**. Teams can be any size, so bring your best thinkers and at least one teammate who's ready to get moving! Form a team of any kind. Your team might be comprised of your immediate family, part of your covenant group, church committee, those you sit by at worship or whomever you choose. Don't miss the fun — **sign up today** and encourage others to join you. Let's make this an unforgettable event and **set an Olympic record for GCPC attendance!** You can find more detail on our registration form here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSchZGLae SABge_VSdmms2WaEBCltYRfx_vKl-UWuMBRrAPtLA/viewform. RSVPs kindly requested by January 24.

ADULT

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (January 4–February 1 | 10:45am) Start the new year by growing deeper in faith and conversation! Join one of our two adult education options:

- **Half Truths** (Room 3): A study of Adam Hamilton's *Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say*—exploring popular sayings that sound biblical… but aren't always.

- **Worship Reflections** (Concourse by the coat closet): A relaxed, come-as-you-are discussion of the day's Scripture readings and sermon notes.

Come for one week or all five—everyone is welcome!

THE AS THE PAGE TURNS BOOK GROUP will meet January 7 at 1:30pm in Room 3 at the church. The book selection is *Good Dirt* by Charmaine Wilkerson. Please join the group for discussion and fellowship.

THE NEW YEAR IS ALMOST HERE and hope you've had time to do some reading! Page Turners will meet at Johnnie Baker's house, Thursday, January 8, 7pm to discuss *Three Days in June* by Anne Taylor. Johnnie's address is 8608 W. 152nd Terr, Overland Park. (Carpooling suggested, since end of cul-de-sac! Also, adjacent driveway on the left is available that night.) Please RSVP to 913-219-3893 or johnniebkr@gmail.com. (Or, you can use the Bookclubs app or Facebook to RSVP.)

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

TODAY: Regular Sunday morning programming.

MISSION

IT'S TIME FOR … SOUPERBOWL XL! From January 1 to 31, we'll collect non-perishable food items for the Renewed Hope Food Pantry at New Hope SDA Church. About 10% of Johnson County households are food insecure, and many of those households make too much money to qualify for government assistance, leaving them reliant on private charities.

In addition to helping our neighbors, we'll have fun settling some Great Food Debates, such as: Pancakes or Waffles? Bacon or Sausage? One donated item = one vote for whichever side you support! Vote by placing your donations on the tables in the hallway between the sanctuary and Heartland Hall. Mission Team will count the votes on each table during the Sunday School hour each week and announce the winner from the previous week. If you prefer, you can also give a monetary donation by writing "Communion Offering" on your check or using the Communion Offering option in the online giving portal.

The Great Food Debate for January 1–11 is … Cake or Pie? Which carbalicious treat is your favorite?

Bring those donations and say "We gotchu, baby" to our hungry neighbors. And on February 1, we'll say "TOUCHDOWN, GCPC!"

SIGN UP TO WORK WITH HABITAT KC AT GCPC!
Use this link to sign up: https://build.habitatkc.org/reservations/22590?auth=1762889231 — put your name and email address in the first open spot under the "Participants" heading on the left. We can send up to eight people on **Wednesday, January 21 from 8:30am to 3pm.** Registration closes at 12pm on Friday, January 9; you'll get an email after registering inviting you to complete the volunteer application - this must be complete by the deadline! Spots are on a first-come, first-served basis, so don't wait until the last minute.

The workday is from 8:30am–3pm, with a 30-minute onsite lunch break. Bring your own lunch and a full water bottle (extra water will be available on site).

- Construction volunteers do not need to have any prior experience in construction or bring any of their own tools; we will give you all of the education and tools you need!

- All registered volunteers will receive their assignment location via automated email 3 days prior to the volunteer day.
- In case of inclement weather, please call our Weather Hotline at 816-897-7799 to hear the recorded message for any cancellations or changes. We update the message by 7:15 a.m. each morning.
- We ask that all volunteers stay the full day, from 8:30am to 3pm.
- We will have 30 minutes set aside for lunch time. You will need to provide your own lunches. Feel free to bring your lunch or have lunch delivered to the site.
- We highly recommend you bring a water bottle with you.
- Please wear clothes you don't mind getting dirt, mud or house paint on, and wear sturdy/closed toe & heeled shoes (NO flip flops, sandals or crocs!) If you have work gloves, please bring them.
- Dress for the weather. If there has been rain on previous days, be prepared for the sites to be muddy.
- The use, purchase and possession of alcohol, drugs and weapons are forbidden on Habitat KC property and volunteer sites.
- All volunteers must be 16 or older to volunteer. Volunteers under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11100 College Boulevard ♦ Overland Park, KS 66210
Phone (913) 345-1256 ♦ www.gcpc.org

GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2026 Upcoming Events and Services

(Save these dates)

Bingo Night
Friday, January 23, 5:30-7:30pm

Weekend Crafters Winter Retreat
Friday, January 16, 5-10pm
Saturday, January 17, 9-4pm
Details soon!

Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 25
Following worship

Olympic Family Event
Saturday, January 31, 4-6pm

Music Appreciation Sunday
Sunday, February 8, 9:30am

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Tuesday, February 17, 5:30pm

Lent Begins - Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, February 18

Palm Sunday
March 29, 9:30am

Maundy Thursday
Thursday, April 2, 7pm

Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 4, Time TBA

Good Friday
Friday, April 3, 7pm

Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 5
9am and 11am

Youth Sunday
Sunday, April 12, 9:30am

Trivia Night
Saturday, April 18, Time TBA

Vacation Bible School
June 1-5, 9am-Noon
Register your child,
or Sign-Up to Volunteer!
gcpc.org/vbs

~ 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***

Revised 1.4.2026