



Service of Worship — May 4, 2025

*“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:** Jake Schmidt

**HEAD USHER:** Steve Becher

**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 (Transitional Pastor):** [karen.wright@gcpc.org](mailto:karen.wright@gcpc.org)
- **Emily Nelson Dixon (Dir. of Christian Education):** [emily.dixon@gcpc.org](mailto:emily.dixon@gcpc.org)
- **Patrick O’Halloran (Interim Dir. of Music Ministries):** [patrick.ohalloran@gcpc.org](mailto:patrick.ohalloran@gcpc.org)
- **Patrick Bell (Office Admin.):** [patrick.bell@gcpc.org](mailto:patrick.bell@gcpc.org)
- **Tara Hyder (Finance Admin.):** [finance@gcpc.org](mailto:finance@gcpc.org)
- **Jason Turner (Audio/Technical Dir.):** Please e-mail both [darktrainfilms@gmail.com](mailto:darktrainfilms@gmail.com) & [gcpc.media@gmail.com](mailto:gcpc.media@gmail.com). If you need a video or audio played in worship, please send the link to Jason on the Wednesday prior to Sunday’s worship.

*"Pray for one another"* — James 5:15  
We encourage you to remember the following in prayer:

**All Grieving the Death of a Loved One**

**Surgeries/Hospitalizations/Illnesses:** Kevin Johnson, Rick Randolph

**Cancer Treatment:** Harold Farren, David Schesser, Tom Jennings

**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.**

**Our Mission Co-Workers:** Jeff and Christi Boyd in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Leslie Vogel, PC (USA) Regional Liaison for Guatemala and Mexico.

**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:** Trinity Presbyterian Church, St. Joseph, MO; Presbyterian Christian Church, Stewartsville, MO; Tarkio Presbyterian Church, Tarkio, MO

(If you have a prayer request you would like to include in the bulletin, please contact the church office at [office@gcpc.org](mailto:office@gcpc.org), or send to [gcpc.prayers@gmail.com](mailto:gcpc.prayers@gmail.com).)

**SPOTLIGHT**

**MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU AT BELL FEST: A Galactic Celebration of Music!** In a sanctuary not so far, far away... the bells will ring, and the Force will sing! Join us for **Bell Fest TONIGHT at 6pm**, as we embark on an interstellar evening of music, harmony, and adventure.

**CALLED MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION ON SUNDAY, MAY 11, immediately following worship:** There will be three items of business for the congregation to vote on:

1. Approval of the Slate of New Elders — We will vote to approve those who have been nominated and feel called to serve as elders in this next season of ministry.
2. Approval of Updates to the Church Bylaws — These changes have been carefully considered and recommended by Session.
3. Vote to Call Rev. Karen as Designated Pastor — Perhaps the most exciting item is the opportunity to formally call Pastor Karen to serve as Designated Pastor of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church. This is an installed position and will essentially create a contract between Pastor Karen and the Congregation of GCPC for the next 5 years.

This is an important time in the life of our church, and your presence and voice matter.

**KAIROS COMMITTEE SELLING GROCERY BAGS:** After service today, please be sure to purchase a grocery bag for \$3 in the Concourse. Buy one and share one to encourage recycling. Additional funds above \$3 will be used to help PeaceWorks Kansas City.

**THE FACILITIES TEAM OFTEN HAS SMALL PROJECTS,** one-time jobs, which could be done by a volunteer, eliminating the need for the church to hire outside vendors. If you have experience such as plumbing, drywall, etc., or any general handyman-type skills, please contact Liz Chandler, [11emchandler55@gmail.com](mailto:11emchandler55@gmail.com), and she will add your name to a list of volunteers that the Facilities Team can contact when the need arises. Thank you for your support!

**RSVP FOR THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY WORSHIP SERVICE & BRUNCH:** Sunday, June 22, 2025. Worship at 9:30am. Brunch to follow. Join us as we celebrate 40 years of God's grace and faithfulness. For four decades, Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church has been a beacon of God's enduring love, marked by worship, service, and spiritual growth. As we celebrate this milestone, we reflect with gratitude on God's steadfast presence and the faithful efforts of all who have nurtured our church community. We warmly welcome family, friends, and community members to join us in this joyful celebration! **Kindly RSVP by June 12** so we can plan for food and seating. RSVP here: [gcpc.org/40th-rsvp](https://gcpc.org/40th-rsvp)

**ARE YOU READY FOR IT?** GCPC 40th Anniversary Friendship Bracelet Making Party, Saturday, July 12, 1-3pm in Heartland Hall. RSVP at [gcpc.org/friendship](https://gcpc.org/friendship).

**VBS SIGNUPS AND VOLUNTEER INVITE:** *Road Trip — On the Go with God* Vacation Bible School, June 2–6, 9am-Noon, Ages 4 yrs–5th Grade. Embark on a fun journey with God through the Bible! Head here to register and sign up to volunteer: <https://gcpc.org/vbs/roadtrip.html>

**VBS DECORATION:** VBS planning is underway. We've set up these working sessions and welcome anyone to join us. Please RSVP to Kristy Shaw or Christy Soule, it will help ensure we have supplies and plans ready for all the helping hands.

**Decoration Prep:**

Wed., May 14: 9–11:30am

Tues., May 20: 6–8pm

**Decorating the week before VBS:**

Tues., May 27: 9–11:30am & 6–8pm

Wed., May 28: 9–11:30am & 1–3pm

Thurs., May 29: 9–11:30am & 1–3 pm

Friday, May 30: 9–11:30am & 1–3pm

Sat., May 31: 9–11:30am and 1–3pm

Sunday, June 1: 12–2pm

<b>ADULT</b>
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**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL** meets today at 10:45am in Room 3. Don Wilson leads a discussion of The Gospel of John Session 6 Part 2; Focusing on Thomas and the “post-script” nature of John 21. Attendance at Part 1 is not necessary to attend Part 2.

**AS THE PAGE TURNS** book group will meet May 7 at 1:30pm in Room 3 at the church. The book selection is *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. Please join the group for discussion and fellowship.

**DURING THEIR SUMMER HIATUS, THE THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY GROUP** is meeting monthly to discuss a book with spiritual aspects. Everyone is invited to join us. The meetings are all on a Thursday in members' homes. Here are the details:

- May 22 @ 9:30 a.m.: *One Thousand Gifts: A Dare to Live Fully Right Where You Are* by Ann Voskamp. Discussion will be at Sarah Byrd's house (7821 W. 115th St). RSVP to Sarah at: [sbyrdks@gmail.com](mailto:sbyrdks@gmail.com).
- July 17 @ 9:30 a.m.: *The Just Kitchen* by Derrick Weston and Anna Woofenden. Discussion will be at Glenda Johnson's house (11712 W. 108th St). RSVP to Glenda at: [geojohnso@aol.com](mailto:geojohnso@aol.com).
- August 14 @ 9:30 a.m.: *Stone Yard Devotional* by Charlotte Wood. Discussion will be at Cindy Schendel's house (11654 Grant Dr). RSVP to Cindy at: [cschen56@hotmail.com](mailto:cschen56@hotmail.com).

If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Johnson at [agathatoo@gmail.com](mailto:agathatoo@gmail.com).

**THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT IS LOOKING FOR HELP FROM THE WHOLE CHURCH** to pull off our summer VBS program! Would you like to help lead kiddos, organize, serve snacks, decorate, donate funds, or something else? Sign up to help here: <https://gcpc.org/vbs/volunteer.html>, or check with Emily—she will find a spot for you to help out: ([emily.dixon@gcpc.org](mailto:emily.dixon@gcpc.org))



## CHILDREN

**AWAKENING TO WORSHIP (ATW)** resumes this week, during worship.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR:** Joy! and Celebration! Singers are in music for all of Sunday school.

**VBS VOLUNTEER TRAINING** will be in Heartland Hall at 11:45am-12:45pm.

## YOUTH

**YOUTH WILL HAVE A CELEBRATORY BREAKFAST** during Sunday school to celebrate their great job last week.

## MUSIC

**SHARE YOUR MUSICAL GIFT — MAKE OUR WORSHIP EVEN MORE SPECIAL!** Do you have a hidden musical talent? Soloists are needed for summer services, and your gift can bring joy, inspiration, and deeper connection to our worship. We'd love to welcome you! If you're interested, please see Patrick O'Halloran or email [patrick.ohalloran@gcpc.org](mailto:patrick.ohalloran@gcpc.org). Not able to commit to CHEX during the school calendar year? Consider singing in our Summer Choir! No Wednesday commitments — just a chance to share your voice and make our worship moments even more meaningful.

**EMBELLISH HANDBELL ENSEMBLE — JULY 6:** We are thrilled to welcome Embellish, a premier handbell ensemble from Western Michigan, for a special concert on the evening of July 6 at 7pm in the GCPC Sanctuary! There is no cost to attend, but a love offering is appreciated to help offset the cost of the ensemble's travel. Join us for an unforgettable night of inspiring music. You won't want to miss this!

## MISSION

**THE GOOD FAITH NETWORK INVITES EVERYONE** to join us at the Nehemiah Action Event on Tuesday May 6, 6pm at Resurrection United Methodist Church 13720 Roe Ave., Leewood. For any questions or for more information please contact one of the following:

Dave Pack: [dipack.12645@gmail.com](mailto:dipack.12645@gmail.com); Don or Joy Wilson: [donjoywilson@gmail.com](mailto:donjoywilson@gmail.com);

Eileen Thomson: [esthompson@gmail.com](mailto:esthompson@gmail.com)

**MISSION NEEDS SOME NEW TEAM MEMBERS!** Are you interested in joining the team that organizes GCPC's mission opportunities and giving? Mission team's work is important but not difficult! We meet the first Monday of each month, by Zoom; we're usually done in about 30 minutes. Then work is mainly administrative and very flexible — sending e-mails, making the budget, researching mission opportunities. We only organize one big event per year — Workshop Sunday in October. Mission team is also going to need a new moderator in summer 2026. Let Mikki know if you are interested in joining us, [michala.walker@gmail.com](mailto:michala.walker@gmail.com)!

**HONOR YOUR MOM/GRANDMA/SISTER/ANY SPECIAL LADY THROUGH NOISY OFFERING ON MAY 11!** On May 11, we'll collect a Noisy Offering destined for the Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering. Collected in the spring of each year to celebrate blessings in the lives of Presbyterian Women, the Birthday Offering funds up to five projects that are not included in ongoing General Assembly mission support, such as agricultural development, child care, community organization, criminal justice, drug counseling, economic justice, elderly care, employment training, homelessness, literacy, violence and women's concerns. We suggest honoring your mom, grandmother, sister(s), or any other woman who has been important in your life by giving coins to equal her age or to represent her birthday — for example, 8 dimes to represent 8 decades, or \$1.21 to represent a December first birthday. Children can add their offering to represent their own age, or the age of a special person in their lives. Bring your coins on May 11 to help continue this GCPC tradition with a Presbyterian Women tradition!

**MAY DONATION PARTNER: HUMANE SOCIETY (IN PARTNERSHIP WITH VBS):** We will collect the same items that children attending VBS in June will have a chance to donate — help them make a BIG pile of donations for pets! Leave your donations in the bin in the Weekday Entrance anytime in May.

- soft dog treats
- cat toys
- peanut butter
- rope toys
- paper towels
- Kongs
- hard rubber toys
- squeaky toys
- Nylabones
- medium/large towels

**MAY COMMUNION OFFERING RECIPIENT — CROP HUNGER WALK:** CROP Hunger Walks are community-based fundraising events held in cities and towns across the United States. They support the global mission of Church World Service, a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. Hunger is one of the greatest injustices facing our world, but it doesn't have to be this way. Ending hunger is possible in our lifetime. The Heart of America CROP Walk won't take place until this fall, but we can support the global CROP organization now. If you'd like to support the CROP Walk, use the "Communion" option in the online portal to make a donation, or write "Communion Offering" on your check or envelope and donate it during Offering before June 1.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUE AT RENEWED HOPE FOOD PANTRY:** ReNewed Hope makes a significant impact for good in our community by helping solve the problem of food insecurity. Many GCPC members have already volunteered at ReNewed Hope, and food donations may always be left in the bin in the Weekday Entrance. The pantry has volunteer opportunities on Sunday afternoons, Tuesday mornings, and Friday evenings. Please check out their website for more information: <https://renewedhopefoodpantry.org/>



**GRACE COVENANT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Phone (913) 345-1256 ♦ [www.gcpc.org](http://www.gcpc.org)

# Upcoming Events and Services

*(Save these dates)*

## **Bell Fest XXXV**

### **"May The Fourth Be With You"**

Featuring all Bell Choirs  
Sunday, May 4, 6-8pm

## **Congregational Meeting**

May 11 *(following worship)*

## **Church Office Closed**

Memorial Day  
Monday, May 26

## **Vacation Bible School**

### **"Road Trip - On the Go with God!"**

June 2 - June 6, 9am-Noon  
Children Ages 4 yrs – 5th Grade  
*Volunteers can also register at link below*

**\*\*Register children at [gcpc.org/vbs](http://gcpc.org/vbs)**  
*(Sign up soon to get a t-shirt)*

## **Church Office Closed**

Juneteenth  
Thursday, June 19

## **GCPC 40th Anniversary Celebration**

### **Brunch Following Worship**

Sunday, June 22, 9:30am  
(Please RSVP your attendance)  
**\*\*\*RSVP SOON at [gcpc.org/40th-rsvp](http://gcpc.org/40th-rsvp)**

## **"Embellish Handbell Choir" of Grand Rapids, Michigan Concert**

Tuesday, July 8, 7pm

## **GCPC 40th Anniversary Friendship Bracelet Making Party**

Saturday, July 12, 1-3pm  
Heartland Hall  
**\*\*RSVP at [gcpc.org/friendship](http://gcpc.org/friendship)**

## **Ministry Fair**

Sunday, August 10, 10:30am

## **Worship in the Park**

*(Lunch following)*  
Sunday, September 7, 9:30am  
Meadowbrook Park

## **Fall BBQ**

Saturday, October 4, 5pm

## **A Christmas Exclamation!**

Sunday, December 7, 6pm



**GRACE COVENANT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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\*\*](http://gcpc.org/calendar)