

# Annual Report 2025



**GRACE COVENANT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11100 College Boulevard ♦ Overland Park, KS 66210  
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# AGENDA FOR 2026 ANNUAL MEETING

January 25, 2026

10:45am

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

### Opening Prayer and Call to Order

Rev. Karen Wright

### The Complete Mission Statement

Rev. Karen Wright

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church celebrates God's unbounded grace and all-inclusive love

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.

### The Abbreviated Mission Statement

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church celebrates God's grace for everyone.

We **gather** to worship. We **equip** ourselves to share faith. We **send** ourselves to serve.

## CORPORATION MEETING

### Call to Order

Barbara Douglas

### Recognition of the 2025 Officers of the Corporation:

President – Barbara Douglas      Secretary – Melanie Townsend

Vice-President – Johnnie Baker      Treasurer – Aaron Soule

### Acknowledgement of Trustees:

Johnnie Baker, Paul Bruns, Chris Cabe, Debbie Campbell, Barbara Douglas, Kevin Johnson, Andrew Sellers,  
Kristy Shaw, Frank Slovick, Eileen Thomson, Mikki Walker, Mary Ann Weyforth

### Adjournment of Corporation

## CONTINUATION OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

### Special Thanks to Our Teams and Team Moderators for 2025:

Adult Ministry—Kevin Johnson	Marketing—Kim Krueger
Children’s Ministry—Kristy Shaw	Mission—Mikki Walker
Connections & Care—Mary Ann Weyforth	Music—Barbara Douglas
Facilities—Paul Bruns	Nominating Team—Mikki Walker
Finance—Beth Lillian	Personnel—Kevin Mason
Generosity—Jane Knoche & Andrew Sellers	Worship—Kathy Bures
Welcoming—Kathy Williams	Youth Ministry—Chris Cabe

### The Ministry of Caring - the Deacons of Grace Covenant (during 2025)

Moderator – Nelson Townsend  
(Class of 2025) Maggie Blankers, Cindy Schendel, Nelson Townsend, Kirk Heer, Ed Caseres  
(Class of 2026) Joy Slayton, Janice Spence, Dave Pack, Ginny Wirtz  
(Class of 2027) Jim Kelly, Jane Knoche, Lee Mattix

### Pastor’s Terms of Call

Kevin Mason

### Finance Report (2025 review / 2026 outlook)

Beth Lillian

### Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Rev. Karen Wright



**GRACE COVENANT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## **Celebrating our Faithful Journey – 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church**

As we commemorated the 40th anniversary of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, we gathered under the uplifting theme of “Celebrating Our Faithful Journey.” Anchored by the timeless words of Psalm 100:5, *“For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations,”* this celebration reflected on our rich history, acknowledging our milestones, and rejoicing in our growth over the years.

For four decades, Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church has been a beacon of God’s enduring love and faithfulness. Our journey has been marked by countless moments of worship, community service, and spiritual growth, each contributing to the tapestry of our church’s story. This anniversary invited us to pause and reflect on these moments, celebrating the unwavering faithfulness of God and the dedicated efforts of our congregation in nurturing and building our church community.



The 40th Anniversary Committee envisioned our anniversary celebrations to be vibrant and multifaceted, featuring worship services, gratitude-focused events, and heartfelt storytelling. Through these activities, we honored the faithfulness of God and the transformative power of His presence in our lives, as we reminisced about significant moments—both challenging and triumphant—fostering deep gratitude for our past and an optimistic vision for our future.

This celebration was more than a look back; it was a reminder that our journey is ongoing. As we reflected on the past, we were also encouraged to look forward to the countless opportunities ahead. Opportunities to deepen our faith, impact lives, and spread God’s love even further. Our 40th anniversary is a testament to the enduring faithfulness of God and the vibrant, dedicated community that is Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Thank you to all who joined us in this reflection and celebration as we honored the past, embraced the present, and look forward to a future filled with God’s promises and possibilities. Let us continue to come together to celebrate our faithful journey, remembering that with God’s enduring love and faithfulness, our best days are still ahead.

## **A Faithful Journey of 40 Years**

With grateful hearts and joyful spirits, we celebrated the 40th Anniversary Celebration of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church. In Scripture, 40 years often signifies a time of formation and transformation—Israel’s journey in the wilderness, Moses’ life in thirds, and the reigns of kings like David and Solomon. These weren’t just spans of time, but seasons of preparation. In the same way, our 40 years as a church have been filled with growth in faith, adaptation to change, deepening love, and witness to the gospel in our community and beyond.

As we looked back, we were full of thanksgiving. We give thanks for the faithful leaders, volunteers, and members—past and present—who have nurtured ministries, taught children, cared for one another, and



stewarded God's gifts with grace. We remember those who blazed the trail—our founders and all the saints who have gone before us and who now lean over the balcony of heaven to journey on with us.

Lamentations 3:22-23 reminds us: *"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."* In the pages of our 2025 annual report, we see God's hand at work and the beauty of that enduring faithfulness.

Rooted in that steadfast love—proclaimed in Psalm 100:5—we celebrated this milestone with gratitude and anticipation. God is not finished with us yet. As we give thanks for 40 years, we also look ahead, trusting in the Spirit to guide us into the next chapter. Thanks be to God—and may the road ahead be as grace-filled as the one behind.

— Rev. Karen Wright, Pastor

## **Dedication to the Charter Members**

With deep gratitude and abiding respect, we acknowledge the charter members of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church. Their faith, vision, and courage laid the foundation upon which this church was built. In times of uncertainty, they trusted in God's providence. In moments of challenge, they responded with generosity, perseverance, and prayer. And through all seasons, they nurtured a community grounded in love, service, and grace.

Because of our Charter Members, generations have found a spiritual home, a place to grow in Christ, and a church family to walk alongside them. Their legacy continues to bear fruit, 40 years on, in the lives touched and transformed within these walls and beyond.

With hearts full of gratitude, we honor our Charter Members: Jan Andrews, Leslie Berning, Carl Blomgren, Tom and Darlene Brandtones, Norm and Kathy Brasher, Loren Buchner, Allen and Terri Carl, Steve and Lora Beth Clark, Nancy Cornett, Lee and Joyce Davidson, Lisa and Micah Davidson, Paul and Sarah Diehl, Roy and Jackie Drown, Peter and Judy Ensminger, Steve and Judy Ferrell, Larry Ferree, Douglas and Caryn Firebaugh, Don and Donna Frankland, Kyle Frankland, Jim and Susan Friend, Bill and Cathy Graham, Jay and Cheryl Greenough, Jesse and Jean Hampton, Philip and Nancy Hatfield, Tim and Susan Hayden, Carl and Nell Hayunge, Rick and Pam Hellyer, Rom and Susan Herwig, Al and Lani Himegarner, Katie Himegarner, Mike Himegarner, Alan and Judy Hook, Don and Susan Hughes, Kristi Hughes, Steve and Ann Johnson, Robert and Kathy Jonas, Todd Jenson, Jan and Jeanne Kessinger, Jerry and Leslie Larson, Jim and Susan Levere, Mike and Regie Lorimer, Don and Sandy Madelung, Mary MacKenzie, Lori Mastrian, Ben and Shelley McGraw, Elizabeth McKell, Bev McLean, Bob and Kathie Meyer, Steve Meyer, Bill and Kathy Migneron, Terry and Cathy Nance, Joshua Peery, Shannon Peery, Bruce and Candace Parker, Dave and Vicki Peck, Larry and Sue Pittman, Mike and Susan Quail, Debra Reed, Bill and Jo Schmeling, Dietz and Sandy Shepherd, Kynda Silvey, Todd Sparks, Jim and Sharon Staso, Bob and Debbie Still, Max and Virginia Talmage, Nelson and Ida Tilden, Paul and Ginny Wirtz, and Steve and Kathy Young.

## **Thank You to Our 40th Anniversary Celebration Team**

With grateful hearts, we give thanks for the many hands and hearts that came together to help plan and present our 40th Anniversary Worship Celebration and Brunch. This milestone moment was made possible by the dedication, creativity, and collaboration of many.

Our 40th Anniversary Celebration was made even more meaningful by the presence of special guests who have shaped our story across the decades: Revs. Sue and Mitch Trigger, Co-Pastors (2018–2023); George Lund, Church Architect ; Rev. Ky Weekly, Associate Pastor (2000–2012); Rev. Heidi Peterson, Associate Pastor (1994–2000); Rev. Jay McKell, Founding Pastor (1985–2010) and Pastor Emeritus; Rev. Diane Quaintance, our first

Associate Pastor (1988–1992); and Rev. Karen Wright, current Pastor of GCPC. Charter Members in attendance included: Joyce Davidson, Al and Judy Hook, Elizabeth McKell, Judy and Steve Farrell, Dave and Vicki Peck, Tim and Susan Hayden, Jay McKell, Jesse and Jean Hampton, Jan Kessinger, and Doug Firebaugh. The presence of former staff, and staff from Heartland Presbytery, was a beautiful reminder of God's faithfulness through every season of Grace Covenant's journey. Guests in attendance were Greg Mullinax from Heartland Presbytery Staff; Rebecca Prater, Director of Music Ministry (2005–2025), and Mary Jane Voogt, first Director of Music Ministry (1986–2001).

We extend our deepest appreciation to the 40th Anniversary Committee members: Co-Chairs Kristy Shaw, Christy Soule, and Kim Krueger, along with Kathy Williams, Mary Ann Weyforth, Sarah Byrd, Ginny Wirtz, Liz Chandler, Tim Hayden, Caroline Becher, Eileen Thompson, Jane Knoche, Chelly King, Karen Wright, Kevin Johnson, and Patrick Bell. Thank you for the many months of prayer, planning, and joyful effort that brought the celebration to life.

We are also especially grateful to the volunteers who helped make our anniversary events run smoothly: Carolyn Chaffin, Cathy Haun, Ashley Jeffries, Lindsay Callendar, Cindy Monshizadeh, Nick and Michael Stevens (*Troop 122*), Emily Nelson Dixon, our volunteer ushers, and the GCPC Men's Group. Your presence and servant hearts were a gift to all who gathered. We thank Rev. Tim Soule from Village on Antioch for letting us borrow chairs for the brunch. Thank you to Dave Peck and the Facilities Team for cleaning up and mulching the KDO playground in the garden area prior to the celebration.

A heartfelt thank you to our amazing volunteer photographers — Keith Langabee, Jeff DeVries, and Lindsay Callender — who captured the joy, love, and spirit of Grace Covenant's 40th Anniversary Worship and Brunch so beautifully. Your photos help us hold on to these sacred memories and share them with those near and far.

We're grateful to everyone who helped make our 40th Anniversary year so special—whether you bought an anniversary T-shirt, contributed to the Savers Fundraiser, sorted and packed donations on Workshop Sunday, helped the Men's Group load the truck, or supported the Craft Fair. A special thanks to the children and families who ran the lemonade stand at the fair. And to all who joined us for our intergenerational events — the Tea Party, DIY Mini Golf, and Friendship Bracelet Party—thank you for showing up with such joy and enthusiasm. Through all of these celebrations and acts of service, we have honored the faithfulness of God and the transformative power of His presence in our lives and in the life of this church.

*If we've unintentionally missed anyone, please know our heartfelt thanks includes you, too. It truly took our entire church family to bring a celebration like this to life, and we're so grateful for all who played a part. Thank you for being part of this joyful occasion!*



## From Rev. Karen Wright

*"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert." —Isaiah 43:19*

As we look back on 2025, we do so with deep gratitude for 40 years of ministry. We also look ahead with hope and expectation for the potential God is unfolding before us.

There is **so much to celebrate** at Grace Covenant:

- **A Growing and Vibrant Community:** Worship attendance continues to grow, bringing renewed energy, deeper engagement, and new faces into our shared life. In 2025 we averaged 193 in worship. I would love for us to break 200 as our average worship attendance.
- **The Next Generation:** We continue to seek new ways to involve our children and youth in the worship life of the church. We are grateful for all the adults who help make this possible.
- **An Inspiring Music Ministry:** We are ecstatic to have Patrick O'Halloran as our Director of Music as music continues to be a pillar of the community.
- **The Spirit on the Move:** There is a palpable energy in this place — an excitement, a warmth, and a deep sense of welcome that permeates. Where is the Spirit calling you to serve in ministry at GCPC?



You, the members of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, are the church. Your faithfulness, generosity, and commitment to living out God's call continue to make this community a beacon of light. I am grateful to continue this journey alongside you all as we discern the future to which God is calling. We trust God's timing and leading as we seek clarity and direction for the next chapter in the life of GCPC.

I encourage you to continue the faithful work of the Kingdom: sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, serving one another, and nurturing this vibrant, welcoming community.

Grace, Mercy, and Peace,  
Karen Wright, Designated Pastor



# From the Clerk of Session

## Clerk of Session 2025 Annual Report

TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP AS OF		January 1, 2025	366 Members
Gains			
	Reactivated	1	
	Profession of Faith	2	
	Reaffirmation of Faith	7	
	Transfer of Membership	10	
TOTAL GAINS			20
Losses			
	Transfer of Membership	7	
	Remove from Membership	18	
	Deaths	4	
	Transfer Affiliate	0	
TOTAL LOSSES			29
Membership as of	December 31, 2025		357 Members

### BAPTISMS

### DECEASED MEMBERS

Bill Harris	Gail Harris
Ric Haun	Dorothy Stalling

### NEW MEMBERS

Chris Culp	Anne Parelkar
Susan Culp	Deb O'Halloran
Chris Dixon	Kevin O'Halloran
Emily Nelson Dixon	Patrick O'Halloran
Esme Dixon	Byran Tamke
Carrie Devries	Holly Tamke
Jeff Devries	Allan York
Walter Erselias	Shirel York
Anne Hirner	Al Weir
Erin Huff	Pam Weir
Leslie Jones	Jack Wilson
Rich Maxwell	Nancy Wilson



# Worship Team

Another year of meaningful worship has come and gone. In May Karen Wright moved from being our “Interim Pastor” to being our “Designated Pastor.” We were, and are, thrilled. We look forward to enjoying her leadership for the foreseeable future!

## Special Services: A Quick Summary

- Epiphany – “Star Sunday”: Eileen Thomson did a great job in her first year as the “Star Lady.”
- Martin Luther King Sunday: a diverse array of people read MLK’s words. It was very moving.
- Music Appreciation Sunday – February: Awesome music, as usual. What a joy to see so many children singing, and they were wonderful!
- Youth Sunday – April: We didn’t have any Senior Sermons, but the Youth stepped up and did a great job leading Worship.
- VBS Sunday – June: What can we say, it’s just so much fun to watch the kids dance!
- Worship in the Park – September: We’re so glad the Deacons suggested moving it from August. The weather was great!
- Workshop Sunday – moved to next year (2026)
- All Saint’s Day – November: People really appreciated the opportunity to light a candle for a loved one after communion.

## Other Highlights and Notes:

Pastor Karen’s Lenten Sermon series: “Journey of Resistance: Overcoming Temptation in Luke,” invited us to consider the temptations we face that may pull us away from God’s purpose for our lives.

We celebrated GCPC’s 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in June. That Sunday’s service was well attended and a huge success in every way. We are grateful to everyone who helped make it happen.

In July Pastor Karen pitched a Baseball Sermon Series. It was such a hit that Stephen Wing continued it in August when he was pinch hitter, oops – I mean served as pulpit supply.

Emily Nelson Dixon also provided pulpit supply in August and read us a moving story.

Thanksgiving Eve: Kathy Bures led the service again this year, with the help of Hope Stories shared by several members. It was a meaningful service and those who attended, or watched, were moved by the stories. Unfortunately, attendance was very low, and Worship Team has decided to discontinue that service.

During Advent Pastor Karen encouraged us to practice “Waiting Well.”

We continued to take Communion by Intinction throughout the year. It is not everyone’s favorite, but it requires fewer elders to serve, and it prevents unnecessary exposure to germs.

Finally, Worship Team has been discussing ways to encourage people to quiet their conversations and listen to the music during the prelude. One of the ways we are doing that is to ask the ushers to close most of the Sanctuary doors once the prelude starts. We want people to feel welcome to enter, but to also respect the musicians and to prepare themselves for worship.

**Members of the Worship Team:** *Kathy Bures, Moderator, Debbie Campbell, Kevin Johnson, Nancy Kalesz, Jan Rosche, Meredith Watson, Kathy Williams, and Joy Wilson*



# Music Team

Music is one of the key elements of Worship at Grace Covenant playing an integral part in the worship experience. 2025 has seen major changes in the music program at Grace Covenant.

Rebecca Prater retired as Music Ministries Director after a long tenure with us. We regaled her with a retirement reception in January, and we had a choir anthem commissioned in her honor.

We then had to create a committee to search for a new member of the staff to fill this position. A search team was created to find the best fit for the Music department at GCPC initially an Interim position.

Through this search process, we were blessed to have Carrie DeVries fill in as Chancel Choir Director along with her other position of Praise Team Director. It was gratifying that we already had such a talented musician to “step up” and help through this time.

Luckily, we were able to hire Patrick O’Halloran as our Interim Music Director in March as a ¾ time position. He has been a great fit for GCPC. He has eagerly embraced the role bringing new ideas and energy to the programs. His musicianship is at the very highest level and is the heart of his ministry journey. By the end of the year, the “Interim” title was removed, and he was the official Music Ministries Director. As of January 1, Patrick has accepted the full-time position! We are ecstatic to have him as a permanent member of the staff.

We are blessed with extraordinarily talented musicians, both vocal and instrumental. Our dedicated music staff comprised of Patrick O’Halloran, Music Director, Linda Dover, organist and accompanist, Carrie DeVries, Praise Team director and Jill Endaya-Allen, percussionist, worked throughout the year along with numerous volunteer leaders and musicians to provide our congregation with meaningful worship experiences.

EncoreKC! is sponsored by GCPC as our Artists in Residence group. This group is composed of musicians aged 50 plus. Several Ensembles from this group have sung in several worship services and programs during the year.

Our Music program could not exist without the NUMEROUS willing volunteers that give their time and talents to the multiple musical programs at GCPC. Apart from the paid staff, the quality of our music is due to the willing, talented volunteers within our congregation. This includes leadership of our many groups as well as all the participants that make this such a rich musical experience for our congregation. GCPC is truly blessed with an outstanding Music Program.

## In 2025, our Music Ministry included:

- ♪ 4 vocal ensembles as well as a Youth ensemble being created
- ♪ 4 handbell/chime ensembles
- ♪ Orchestra
- ♪ 3 instrumental ensembles plus various instrumental soloists



## These ensembles included:

- ♪ Joy! Singers (4s-1<sup>st</sup> grade)-directed by Emily Hussey and Hilary Schmidt
- ♪ Celebration! Choir & Chimes (2<sup>nd</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> grades) – directed by Pam Kelly with Angela Krug, accompanist and Katie Hearn and Keith Langabee assisting
- ♪ Chancel Choir – directed by Patrick O’Halloran

- ♪ Praise Team – directed by Carrie DeVries
- ♪ Charter Ringers – directed by Celia Nicholas and Chris Krug
- ♪ Jubilation! & Exaltation! Ringers (6<sup>th</sup> grade – adults) – directed by Kathy Bures
- ♪ Spirit Ringers (5<sup>th</sup> –7<sup>th</sup> grades) – directed by Pam Kelly (handbells) and Katie Hearn (chimes)
- ♪ GCPC Orchestra (8th grade - adults) – directed by Pam Kelly
- ♪ Chancel Brass – directed by Darryl Prater and Jim Kelly
- ♪ Wind ensemble – directed by Pam Kelly
- ♪ Dixieland Band – directed by Bob Dover
- ♪ Grace Mountain – Bluegrass

**Outreach Activities & Music Events in 2025 include:**

- ♪ Retirement reception for Rebecca Prater – January 12
- ♪ Music Appreciation Sunday – March 2
- ♪ Holy Week services: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter – April 13-20
- ♪ Youth Sunday – April 27
- ♪ Bell Fest – May 4 – all ringing choirs
- ♪ VBS Sunday – June 8
- ♪ Summer Choir – June – August
- ♪ Hosted Embellish Handbell Choir Concert as part of their tour – July 8
- ♪ Hosted “I’m So Glad” documentary – July 13
- ♪ Choirs resumed rehearsals after summer break – September
- ♪ A Christmas Exclamation! - December 7
- ♪ “Songs of the Season” – CHEX – December 14 (Chancel Choir)
- ♪ “Songs of the Season” – Praise Team – December 21
- ♪ Two Christmas Eve services – 5pm & 8pm: Joy! & Celebration! Singers, Chancel Choir



“WHY WE CREATE MUSIC IN WORSHIP AND IN OUR BUILDING — TO GLORIFY GOD FIRST, TO INSPIRE, TO UNITE OUR CONGREGATION IN WORSHIP, TO LAY OUR GOD GIVEN GIFTS BEFORE THE ONE WHO CREATED US.”

**Members of the Music Team:** Patrick O’Halloran, staff; Linda Dover, staff; Carrie DeVries, staff; Chris Lindsay, clerk; Barbara Douglas, moderator; Katie Hearn, Celia Nicholas, Michelle Gailliez-Frye, Anne Stroud, Donna Heer

# Children's Team

The Children's Ministry continued to grow in 2025, and we look forward to continued growth. The following are some highlights of our program this past year.

- We continued to offer Sunday school for toddlers through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - From January to May 2025
    - Our Toddlers learned Bible stories through play.
    - Our Preschoolers used the curriculum, *Follow Me*.
    - Our Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup>-graders used the Workshop Rotation model. In Workshop Rotation Sunday school, the same Bible story was taught for two weeks in a row. Each week classes rotate into workshops such as art, video, games, drama, cooking, computer, etc. The team believes that the volunteers appreciate the flexibility of only having to commit to two weeks of teaching at a time.
  - From August to December 2025
    - The Team implemented a new curriculum from Spark House. This curriculum offered age-appropriate lessons and Bibles for early childhood through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. This allowed our children (Toddlers, Preschool and Elementary) to learn similar lessons each Sunday specific to their learning levels.
    - The curriculum offered a Workshop Rotation lessons similar to what we were using in Spring 2025, so the team was excited to continue with this model for the Elementary grades.
  - The Children's Team is thankful for all of the volunteers that we had in our Sunday school program, and we continue to look for more volunteer teachers and shepherds.
- Singers and Chimes
  - Joy! Choir is for 4- and 5-year-olds. This choir met each Sunday before Sunday school. They also performed during Services throughout the year. Joy Choir is lead by Emily Hussey and Hilary Schmidt.
  - Celebration! Choir/Chimes is for Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> Graders. This choir/chimes met each Sunday before Sunday school. They also performed during Services throughout the year. Celebration Choir is led by Pam Kelly and Katie Hearn. Angela Krug is the accompanist, and Keith Langabee is the shepherd.
- Nursery
  - The nursery program was coordinated by Carolyn Chaffin during 2025. She will be celebrating her 25<sup>th</sup> year anniversary as nursery coordinator at GCPC in 2026!
- Awakening to Worship (ATW) is GCPC's Children's Service. Children ages 4 years old – 1<sup>st</sup> grade go to Awakening to Worship after the Children's Time during our Worship Service. In Awakening to Worship, children heard Bible stories, learned the meaning of church traditions and participated in worship practices. ATW is coordinated by Kristy Shaw. If you are interested in helping either as a greeter or storyteller, Kristy would love to tell you more about it.
- Worship bags – GCPC's office volunteer, Nancy Taylor, helped our team manage the worship bags that are utilized by children who stay in worship. Children's Team appreciates all of her hard work!
- Our SMASH (sports, music, arts, service, hanging out) program was a SMASHing success in 2025!



Once a month, Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> graders came together to be nurtured in faith by building relationships through a variety of activities. This program has also built a relationship between the children and the residents at Aberdeen Village. The children make craft items each month that are delivered to the residents, and they sing Christmas Carols to the residents in December. The number of children and adult volunteers that participated in this program increased throughout the year. SMASH is coordinated by Christy Soule and Amy Sellers, and they are always looking for more volunteers!

- We held our annual Vacation Bible School from June 2-6, 2025. The theme was Road Trip, On the Go with God by Cokesbury. The children learned that “The Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9) through Bible stories, music, crafts, science, recreation and snacks!
- Our team continued to offer other fun activities throughout the year including Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Easter Egg Hunt, Trunk or Treat, Communion Workshop for second graders, and the Bible Workshop for 3<sup>rd</sup>-graders.
  - The children and families held a lemonade stand during the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Craft Fair. The money donated for lemonade went toward renting an inflatable obstacle course that was in the GCPC garden during the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in June.

In keeping with Grace Covenant’s all-inclusive philosophy, the Children’s Ministry’s programs were offered to members and visitors alike. We intentionally extended invitations for Vacation Bible School, Easter Egg Hunt and Trunk or Treat to our community. The response was strong for 2025, and we plan to continue this in 2026.

It is an exciting time to be on the Children’s Team at GCPC. We are very thankful for the many members who continue to volunteer their time and fulfill the baptismal promises they made to these children. Please let Emily Nelson Dixon or any member of the Children’s Team know if you would be interested in getting involved in any way with our team or program.

**Members of the Children’s Ministry Team:** Emily Nelson Dixon, Director of Christian Education; Kristy Shaw, moderator and elder liaison; Christy Soule, secretary; Amy Sellers; Emily Hussey; Carolyn Chaffin; Keith Langabee, Amanda Noren



# Adult Education Team

Throughout 2025, the Adult Education team offered learning and conversation most Sundays, creating a steady rhythm of formation and fellowship for our congregation. Our class topics were chosen to support Grace Covenant's sense of calling — especially our Matthew 25 commitments and our Earth Care focus — so that what we learn connects to how we live. Week by week, Adult Ed provided space to explore Scripture, reflect on Christian discipleship, and consider practical ways our faith shapes neighbor-love, justice, mercy, and faithful care for God's creation.

In November, the Sunday offerings expanded with the addition of a second option: a Reflections class that invites participants to engage the day's Scripture readings and sermon themes in a welcoming, discussion-based format. This has helped make Adult Ed more accessible for those who prefer a shorter, "come as you are" conversation that connects directly to worship. The Adult Education ministry is also being strengthened by a growing team — now 12 members — who are contributing ideas, leadership, and support to help sustain and develop these offerings.

Building on that momentum, the Adult Education team has developed the following direction and goals for 2026–2027:

## Adult Education Direction for 2026–2027

Our guiding goal is:

"Growing as a Community of Deep Spiritual Formation and Courageous, Loving Action, with a Hospitable Path for Newcomers into the Christian and Presbyterian Faith."

You'll see this goal expressed through three interconnected streams:

- **Deepening Faith:** Build spiritual depth through Scripture, prayer, reflection, and thoughtful conversation—so faith connects with daily life.
- **Faithful Action:** Explore how discipleship becomes neighbor-love through vocation, justice, mercy, and service—grounded in spiritual formation.
- **Faith Foundations:** A welcoming, low-pressure on-ramp for those new to the church, to Christianity, or to the Presbyterian tradition—with space for questions and exploration.

Because these streams are connected and overlapping, many classes will fit more than one stream. Wherever you are in your journey, we hope you'll find a place to grow with us.

**Adult Education Team:** Emily Nelson Dixon, Christian Education Director; Kevin Johnson, Adult Ed Team Moderator; Don Wilson, Drew Monrad, George Bures, Harold Frye, Jake Schmidt, Jane Allen, Linda Hoffman, Maggie Blankers, Meredith Cabe, Rick Randolph

***Our guiding goal is:***

**"Growing as a Community of Deep Spiritual Formation and Courageous, Loving Action, with a Hospitable Path for Newcomers into the Christian and Presbyterian Faith."**

# Care and Connection Team

The mission of the Care and Connection Team is to facilitate member connections through the planning and facilitating of social gatherings and through the support of a variety of small interest groups. The Care and Connection Team has a member who assists in the assimilation of new members and other team members who provide support through cards, calls, and visits to members in need.

The team consists of 13 members. We meet the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30pm by Zoom. We planned four social gatherings.

On Friday, January 31, we held a lasagna dinner night followed by Bingo. There were 78 in attendance. Liz Chandler was our caller. Nursery was provided.

On April 5 our team held a Trivia Night with pizza for dinner. Jake Schmidt was our Trivia Master. He concentrated on trivia questions of 40 years of our church history. Nursery and childcare were provided.

In August our team was in charge of the Ministry Fair which was held in Heartland Hall. There were 38 teams or interest groups represented.

The annual Barbecue was held on October 4. Pulled pork was ordered from Hy-Vee and attendees provided side dishes and desserts. A six-member Dixieland Band provided music.

Three other times our committee provided help. We provided a birthday cake for Karen's birthday. Our team ordered the food, set up, served and cleaned up the food for our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. We were called upon again to set up, serve and clean up the food for the Generosity brunch.

There are 20 small interest groups coordinated through our team. These include game groups, dinner groups, Bible Study, women's circles, men's breakfast, brunch bunch, book groups, prayer chain, garden and craft groups.

Our team member Chelly King has a group of eight team and church members who are assigned months when they are to send notes or cards to those on the prayer chain.

Chelly has another group of six ladies who share the joy of sending birthday cards to those turning 80 or older. Thank you to this group of ladies who have shared their love and concern for church members. Prayer shawls made by our craft groups have been given to six members listed on our prayer list.

We continue to try and meet our mission of providing social gatherings and care for our church members.

I am very thankful for such outstanding committee members who are so dependable, caring, loving and radiate God's love.

**Members of the Care & Connection Team:** Mary Ann Weyforth, moderator; Lynn Long , secretary; Sandy Adams, Caroline Becher, Gay Lee Ludwig-Bonney, Karen Fankhauser, Cathy Haun, Kathy Hockley, Teresa Ilten, Nancy Kalesz, Chelly King, Ann Shadburn, Joy Wilson



# Mission Team

- In 2025, Mission team continued the practice of directing the monthly Communion Offering to a partner agency. The totals collected through Communion Offering each month follow:
  - January — Renewed Hope — \$205
  - February — Rosehill — \$365
  - March — IHN — \$825
  - April — PCUSA One Great Hour of Sharing — \$1,365
  - May — CROP Walk — \$1,200
  - June — PCUSA Pentecost Offering — \$1,435
  - July — PCUSA Global Ecumenical Partnership Fund — \$245
  - August — Habitat for Humanity — \$915
  - September — PCUSA Peace and Global Witness Offering — \$497
  - October — Johnson County Christmas Bureau — \$725
  - November — Red Bag Project — at least \$355 (gifts made on Nov. 30 had not been counted when this number was provided)
  - December — Argentine Baby Closet — the amount was not yet known when this report was prepared.
  
- We also continued the tradition of selecting a monthly donation partner. In-kind donations were directed to: Renewed Hope Food Pantry, The Little Free Pantry, Uplift, A Gathering of Friends, VBS, The Starfish Project, Safehome, Cross-Lines, Johnson County Christmas Bureau, Red Bag Project, and Argentine Baby Closet. (The donation partner for September was meant to be Care Beyond the Boulevard; however, this was canceled because CBTB was not accepting donated items due to lack of space in their warehouse.)
  
- We organized 4 Noisy Offerings this year; the organizations that received the funds and totals follow:
  - March — Cross-Lines — \$256.53
  - May — Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering — \$131.00
  - August — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance — \$389.72
  - December — Rosehill Elementary School — \$377.75
  
- We did not hold Workshop Sunday in 2025. No Mission team members had capacity to plan the event this year.
  
- We continued supporting GCPC's Good Faith Network team leaders and publicizing GFN events to the congregation. Mikki Walker and Linda Hoffman served as our board members for most of 2025; Tim Hayden took over as our second board member in November. Dave Pack, Eileen Thompson, and Joy and Don Wilson are our team leaders. Interest and participation in GFN among GCPC members is strong.
  
- IHN's hosting ministry ended in 2024. An event celebrating GCPC's long history of participation in IHN was held in early 2025.
  
- In 2025, Piecemakers finished and donated:
  - » 6 fleece blankets and 11 quilts to Uplift
  - » 4 quilts to Project Linus
  - » 1 quilt to Renewed Hope's silent auction
  - » 2 tactile quilts for nursing homes and school therapy programs
  - » 2 quilts and 30 stockings to the Red Bag Project



As always, GCPC's quilts and other fabric projects are mostly made with upcycled and donated materials. Donna Heer continues her outstanding work coordinating this group. The meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday morning of each month have been growing and becoming an opportunity for conversation and fellowship as well as mission work.

- We continued sending food and volunteers to KCK Hot Lunch and UpLift on a monthly basis. GCPC members donate a large number of portable protein and easy open canned food, batteries, clothing and outdoor bedding to Uplift every month. This amounts to several hundred dollars of donations over and above the meals for 60-90 folks each month. Meredith Watson and Kevin Johnson continue to do excellent work coordinating GCPC's participation in these programs.
- We continued directing the food donations collected in the Weekday entrance to the Renewed Hope Food Pantry, which is operated by the New Haven Seventh Day Adventist Church. Response from the congregation is generous as always; the bin is always full by the end of the month. We also continued sending volunteers to help at Renewed Hope on a regular basis. One of GCPC's mens' group also started making peanut butter sandwiches to donate to Renewed Hope monthly. Knute Rosche continues his exceptional coordination of our donations to and participation with Renewed Hope as a member of their board.
- The Soule family continues their sterling work to stock the Little Free Pantry with budget support from Mission Team; it receives steady use.
- The GCPC CROP Walk team raised \$8,486. Jane Knoche and Dave Pack were integral to this effort.
- In collaboration with Kairos team, our composting program through KC Can Compost continues. Seven GCPC families participate in this program, which allows GCPC to compost food waste produced at church at no cost to the congregation. In not quite two years, we've diverted just over 2,500 pounds of compostable waste from the landfill.
- GCPC began sending volunteers to the Habitat KC worksite in Olathe; we completed three workdays in July, August, and November, and more are planned for January and February. We can send a maximum of eight people each workday; participation has been fluctuated from month to month but interest is strong enough to keep going.

**Members of the Mission Team:** Mikki Walker, moderator; Dave Pack, Knute Rosche, Christine Hutchins, and Meredith Watson



# Welcoming Team

For the last three years Grace Covenant has been blessed with visitors coming through our doors looking for a new church home. The Welcome Team's mission is to make sure they are welcomed and make their experience a positive one. If visitors attend several times and seem to feel comfortable here, nametags will be made for them so members can get to know them by their names.

This was a special year welcoming 24 visitors to membership. Since 2023, 45 members have joined. Plans for 2026 include three classes during the year to welcome current visitors into membership.

The Welcome Team continued throughout the year staffing a volunteer at the sanctuary entrance to identify and provide a special welcome to visitors. Team members are Chris Binkley, Lynn Long, Ginny Wirtz and Linda Rosine. Follow-up notes are written by Rosemary Gibson, providing visitors leave their address on the Friendship pads.

After the visitors join, their picture is submitted for the online directory. An informational bio is included in the monthly newsletter.

The committee provides the extra eyes needed to identify the visitors and gives me an opportunity to visit with them for an additional welcome.

The congregation has been extremely helpful in welcoming the visitors by greeting them during and after worship service.

**Members of the Welcoming Team:** Kathy Williams, moderator; Lynn Long, Chris Binkley, Ginny Wirtz, Linda Rosine, Rosemary Gibson



# Marketing and Communications

The Marketing & Communications Ministry at **Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church (GCPC)** exists to share the life, mission, and ministries of our congregation in ways that are clear, consistent, welcoming, and aligned with our identity as an **inclusive, loving, and faithful community of Christ followers**. As a support ministry, it is powered by a dedicated team of volunteers and church staff who work together to produce and distribute communications materials that strengthen connection, engagement, and outreach. These efforts reflect our core belief that everyone should feel welcomed, informed, and invited into the life of the church.

Through a variety of platforms — print and digital — our goal is to help members and visitors alike know what's happening at GCPC, connect with one another, grow in faith, and see God at work in our community and beyond.

Marketing and Communications focused especially on promoting/supporting the church's 40th anniversary committee, including the Anniversary Celebration Service & Brunch in June and related special events such as the Savers Fundraiser (October 2024), Tea Party (January), DIY Mini Golf (February), Craft Fair (March), and Friendship Bracelet Party (July).

## Communication Platforms and Activities

Throughout 2025, GCPC continued to share information through multiple platforms, including:

- **Grace Notes Newsletter** — our flagship monthly print/online newsletter that keeps members and friends informed about worship, ministries, mission work, fellowship events, and milestones throughout the year.
- **Grace Notes Weekly** — a weekly digital newsletter published every Wednesday to share timely announcements, upcoming events, and opportunities for connection across the life of the church.
- **Church Website (gcpc.org)** — the central hub for worship information, event calendars, ministry details, and archived content.
- **Email Announcements & E-News** — regularly sent to subscribers to ensure timely communication of church news and reminders.
- **Design print and digital materials** (posters, brochures, postcards, logos, t-shirts, flyers, banners) for church events and programs.
- **Create special website landing pages** for VBS registration, small group sign-ups, and similar initiatives
- **Develop and share consistent branding** for ministry-specific events, such as music programs, concerts.
- **Design and implement seasonal marketing campaigns** for Lent, Holy Week, Easter, VBS, the Generosity Campaign, Advent, and Christmas.
- **Update and share the 2026 Events and Activities Calendar** that is on the back of the weekly bulletin.

These platforms ensure that both members and the wider community are well informed and invited into GCPC life.

## Digital Engagement & Online Worship Promotion

A key focus of the Marketing & Communications Ministry in 2025 was supporting *digital worship engagement* — especially the ongoing promotion and coordination of online worship services. GCPC livestreams Sunday

worship on *multiple digital platforms*, ensuring accessibility for those who cannot attend in person. Substantial communication with the office staff, worship leaders, musicians, and technical teams has been essential to coordinate livestream details, announcements, and platform updates. These efforts help us extend our worship to congregants near and far.

In late January 2025, GCPC expanded its livestream options to include the **church website and YouTube channel** in addition to Facebook, improving accessibility and viewer experience — a direct product of strategic communication planning and cross-team coordination.

Through social media, email, and the GCPC website, the Marketing & Communications Ministry helps extend the church's welcome beyond our walls. These platforms support worship, promote ministry opportunities, and strengthen connections among members and the wider community. Together, they reflect GCPC's commitment to accessibility, hospitality, and sharing the good news of God's work in and through our congregation.

### **GCPC Digital Communications Snapshot (2025)**

- **Facebook:** 1,170 followers | 4–7 posts weekly | 19–25 average livestream viewers | Primary platform for worship promotion, announcements, and community engagement | Live-moderated online worship each Sunday
- **Instagram:** 198 followers | 4–7 posts or stories weekly | Visual storytelling through photos, stories, and short videos | Highlights worship, children & youth activities, special events, and church life
- **YouTube:** 122 subscribers | Live/archived worship services and special events available on demand | Expanded livestream access beginning in early 2025 | Supports on-demand worship and outreach beyond Sunday morning
- **Website:** 1,601 average monthly visitors | Most visited pages: Newsletters, About Us, Worship, Calendar
- **Email:** 416 subscribers | 62.1% average open rate

Together, these platforms extend GCPC's welcome beyond our building—supporting worship, strengthening connection, and sharing God's work in our community.

### **Supporting Ministries & Community Engagement**

Marketing and communications bolster nearly every ministry at GCPC. From Vacation Bible School and children's programming to adult education, youth activities, mission initiatives, justice events, music ministries, and community outreach, communication serves to:

- Raise awareness of upcoming opportunities, clarifying logistical details for events and ministries
- Celebrate accomplishments and milestones
- Welcome new faces and strengthen ongoing engagement

Our messaging is always crafted to reflect GCPC's values — hospitality, inclusivity, compassion, and faithfulness — and to help readers and viewers feel invited, encouraged, and connected.

### **Looking Ahead**

As GCPC looks toward the future, the Marketing & Communications Ministry will continue to:

- Strengthen digital engagement and reach new audiences
- Support online worship and expand accessibility



- Align communications with GCPC's mission, vision, and church priorities
- Evaluate metrics to understand engagement and growth
- Collaborate with ministry leaders to enhance storytelling and outreach
- The Marketing & Communications Ministry aims to grow its volunteer team to ensure a sustainable succession plan for the future. Individuals with interest in writing, graphic design, photography, social media, or behind-the-scenes support are encouraged to explore serving in this vital ministry. Through these efforts, we continue to share the life and love of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church — welcoming all to worship, serve, grow, and belong.

The Marketing & Communications Ministry is supported by staff member Patrick Bell, volunteer Kim Krueger, photographers Jeff DeVries and Keith Langabee, and members who contribute photographs of church events and ministries. Contact Kim Krueger at [kimgoeckler@outlook.com](mailto:kimgoeckler@outlook.com) with questions or for more information.







**GRACE COVENANT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Celebrating 40 Years on June 22, 2023!**

Join us as we reflect upon God's faithfulness throughout our church's journey.



## GRACE NOTES

January 2025  
Vol 43, Nbr 1

God draws us together into a welcoming community, embracing our curiosity and questions, to worship with creativity, learn from God's word, share our gifts, and grow in faith.

With gratitude and a spirit of adventure, we are sent to serve Christ in the world—spreading kindness to all and striving for justice grounded in God's boundless love.

11100 College Blvd.  
Overland Park, KS 66210  
913-345-1256  
[office@gcpc.org](mailto:office@gcpc.org)  
[gcpc.org](http://gcpc.org)

In-Person Worship and Online Worship every Sunday on Facebook and Zoom

### Happy New Year!!

As we begin the 40th year of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church there is a definite sense that God is on the move! There is an energy and excitement around the church, and we are thrilled that you are a part of that energy. As we celebrate Epiphany on January 5, we will have Star Words available.

Star Words are a practice that comes from Matthew 2:1-12 as the Magi follow the Star to find the Christ Child. This word is a guide for the year ahead. Star words will be available during worship. And star words pick you, not so much you pick a word. The words can be challenging or comforting. Receive the word and trust that God has a purpose for your journey in 2025.

**On Epiphany Sunday we will also say farewell to our beloved Director of Music Ministries, Rebecca Prater.** We are immensely grateful for her years of dedication and service at Grace Covenant Presbyterian. She has brought a rare combination of musicality, spirituality, and organization that has blessed not only those in the music programs, but all of us.

The music search team is up and running. They have names of people who have expressed interest in the position. We keep the search team in our prayers that they may find the right fit for our congregation.

As we look at the year ahead of us, we pray for a year of discovery and growth as we follow where God's guiding star leads us. May our coming year be filled with grace, gratitude, and with God's love as we continue our journey together.

Grace and Peace — Pastor Karen

### New Member Class - "This is Grace"

Join us for the "This is Grace" New Member Class on Sunday, January 12, at 10:00am in Room 4, 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/newmembers](http://gcpc.org/newmembers), or contact Kathy Williams at [kathywilliams@gcpc.org](mailto:kathywilliams@gcpc.org).

# Personnel Team

The Personnel Team worked on three major projects and accomplishments in 2025. We started the year by undertaking a full review of the church's Operations and Personnel Manuals. It had been some years since these manuals had a full review and refresh, and this gave us the opportunity to ensure all content was current as well as to increase consistency in formatting and otherwise. Some content was removed from the manuals into appendices and forms to make it simpler for teams to keep them current.

A second significant project has been working with the Director of Music Ministries role. We began the year working on the position and hiring of the Interim Director of Music Ministries. We were thrilled with the search committee's recommendation of Patrick O'Halloran. We had previously begun work on a review of Grace Covenant's music ministry in general through surveys and information gathering. We completed that work mid-year after Patrick O. had been on staff for a short period. In the fall we were very happy to recommend to session that his title of "Interim" be removed and also recommend that he be moved into a full-time position. In December we completed this work by sending a revised position description for the Director of Music Ministries role to session for approval.

The third significant project for the team in 2025 was a review of and then working through the full biennial staff review process. We reflected on how the process has been operating and refreshed the forms to be more user-friendly and tailored to our varied staff roles while maintaining the important ties to the church's core values. The team coordinated with supervisory staff and volunteer reviewers to complete the reviews of all our staff members, highlighting their achievements and setting goals for the next two-year period. Grace Covenant is blessed with amazing staff; it's important that we recognize and support them in every way!

Between these activities, there were several other notable achievements. Over the course of the year, we have been monitoring work done by Tara Hyder and coordinating with Finance Team to consider a switch to an outside payroll processor. This switch would bring efficiency and improvements to our current process, and the evaluation of a potential switch will continue into 2026. We were thrilled to be able to support Beth Purvis with a part-time office assistant position during a time of employment transition for her. We continually took up the important task of managing and updating our position descriptions to ensure they accurately reflect roles and expectations. We spent some amount of time drafting and finalizing the new position description for Karen in her Designated Pastor role. This required some careful thought as our church has never had this staff configuration of one pastor plus Director of Christian Education and other director-level positions. An important task every fall is for the team to consider our current staffing against the budget that's being developed. In 2025 we completed this review and recommended to session in our budget a COLA for staff members.

The Personnel Team is thrilled to be in the role of supporting our amazing staff. To all our staff—Patrick Bell, Carolyn Chaffin, Carrie DeVries, Linda Dover, Jill Endaya-Allen, Tara Hyder, Emily Nelson Dixon, Patrick O'Halloran, Jason Turner, Rev. Karen Wright—thank you. We could not do it without you.

**Members of the Personnel Team:** Kevin Mason, moderator; Johnnie Baker, elder liaison; Rev. Karen Wright, staff representative; Meredith Watson, Chris Krug, Anne Stroud, Liz Chandler,

# Facilities Team

The year of our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary was a busy one for the Facilities Team. We accomplished many small clean-up, fix-up, polish-up projects to prepare for the celebration. GCPC looked fresh and well maintained as we celebrated 40 years in ministry.

In addition to the routine maintenance and repair that the Facilities Team accomplishes every year, progress was made on several longer-term projects, roof maintenance/replacement, and window replacement. A roofing consultant was employed, and four roofing companies evaluated before the team selected Boone Brothers Roofing to conduct repairs and semiannual maintenance checks. As for window replacement, four window companies and three types of windows have been evaluated. We expect to choose a vendor and begin replacing windows soon, with a few done initially for evaluation, in early 2026.

Also, in 2026 we expect to replace the kitchen water heater and more HVAC units (with as many HVAC units as we have, those are every year events). Coming soon, look for a bottle filler to replace the drinking fountain outside of Heartland Hall, near the new AED. And when warmer temperatures permit this spring the parking lot will get small repairs and a fresh seal coat.

Our team is committed to maintaining our facility in support of the ministries of GCPC. The work we do is not exciting, but oh so important. If you feel inspired, we invite you to join us to keep things running smoothly here.

**Members of the Facilities Team:** Paul Bruns, moderator and elder liaison; Patrick Bell, staff liaison; Steve Becher, Liz Chandler, Ric Cummings, Chris Dixon, Harold Farren, Kirk Heer, Chelly King, Dave Peck, Cal Sweeten



# Generosity Team

The 2025 Generosity Team was co-moderated by Elder Eileen Thomson and Jane Knoche, with the support of Kim Krueger, Keith Langabee, Tom Stroud, and Rev. Karen Wright. The team convened regularly from March through December to fulfill its mission of encouraging faithful stewardship within our congregation. From March to December 2025, Pledge Fulfillment Charts were published in newsletters and bulletins to communicate progress toward the year's pledge goals. A Generosity Bulletin Board was also used to share this information visually.

The 2025 pledge fulfillment numbers are (*may change slightly after final review of 4th quarter gifts*):

2025 Submitted Pledges (136)	Ending 2025
0-25% fulfilled	12
26-50% fulfilled	5
51-75% fulfilled	7
76-100% fulfilled	112
\$723,179	\$716,103

The 2025 stewardship theme, **A Living Legacy: Called to Plant, Called to Grow**, invited us to reflect on our shared past, to recognize how God is at work among us now, and to consider the future God is calling us to cultivate together. Grounded in Jeremiah 17:7–8, the theme reminded us that trust in the Lord roots us like trees planted by living water. Through this imagery, we were invited to see every gift—large or small—as a seed God can use, as together we continue the legacy of faith, hope, and love that has shaped Grace Covenant's ministry for decades.

Development of the 2025 Stewardship Campaign utilized Artificial Intelligence as a resource. In April, ten stewardship themes with three weekly sermon titles, scripture, and focus were requested. The team members voted and the final selection was **A Living Legacy: Called to Plant Called to Grow**.

In August, we collaborated with Tara Hyder to send letters to members who had fulfilled less than 50% of their pledge, inviting feedback and conversation.

Our team staffed a Generosity Table at the August 3<sup>rd</sup> Ministry fair. We had 100 plastic eggs filled with the names of a GCPC program, team, or ministry. The table was very popular with the kids and adults since we gave out candy bars and energy bars.

On September 14, we hosted our third Town Hall titled **Stewardship Stories and Scrambled Eggs**, which incorporated a Hy-Vee brunch funded by the Generosity Team. RSVPs included 100 adults and 27 children. Our Deacons and Congregational Care Team served food and drinks, and members supported our Earth Care efforts by using compostable plates. Leftovers were donated to Safehome. During the meeting, we emphasized the core Grace Covenant values—Gather, Equip, Send—and included a narrative explanation of the budget, with team leads sharing their activities and results. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive.

Kim Krueger designed campaign graphics, pledge cards, and communications to reflect this theme. Four weekly Stewardship Moments were presented in October by various church members, highlighting the importance of giving. A tree graphic, part of our generosity logo, symbolized pledge progress. A poster was displayed on the Generosity Bulletin Board showcasing this graphic, with the tree gradually filled with color to represent progress.



The team provided six dozen donuts and rolls each Sunday in October to support pledge card action. Pastor Karen created a Facebook video on how to submit a pledge online. For the 2026 Pledge, each completed pledge received an immediate online confirmation and thank-you message. To achieve 100% pledge submissions by Grace Covenant members, Generosity Team members contacted about ten members who had not submitted their pledges, leading to meaningful and positive conversations.

The Finance Team proposed a 2026 budget with 800,000 anticipated as pledged income budget. As of November 12<sup>th</sup>, 75% of the pledge campaign was committed by 95 pledges. As of the campaign's conclusion, we received 128 submitted pledges totaling \$687,093. In December 2025 and January 2026, handwritten thank-you notes will be sent by Session and Generosity Team members to every pledging household. These notes will reflect our immense gratitude for the congregation's faithful and generous commitment. **Thank you, Grace Covenant, for your steadfast generosity and support.**

**Members of the Generosity Team:** Jane Knoche, co-lead; Eileen Thomson, co-lead; Kim Krueger, Keith Langa-bee, Tom Stroud, Rev. Karen Wright



**STEWARDSHIP  
STORIES &  
SCRAMBLED  
EGGS** Sunday  
September 14  
*Following worship  
in Heartland Hall*

Join us for a joyful and meaningful morning  
of fellowship, storytelling, and inspiration at our  
Generosity Town Hall — over a delicious brunch!



**GRACE COVENANT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Finance Team

The GCPC Operating Manual states that the Finance Team has four major functions:

1. Soliciting funds through the annual pledge drive and special events
2. Developing a church-wide budget for Session approval
3. Overseeing general accounting and reporting responsibilities
4. Fostering the growth of the endowment fund and managing its operations

GCPC finances are in good shape as we look at year end numbers. Our Net Total, which is Revenue minus Expenses, ended at \$40,324 in the positive! This is reflective of both the generosity of the Congregation in their giving as well as careful management of Expenses. Our Balance Sheet is strong, with over \$600,000 in invested accounts that typically are not used for Operating needs. We also have over \$200,000 in a local bank Certificate of Deposit earning interest.

Pledges ended the year at 99.5% of promised. This is an amazing number, and more than most previous years! Thank you to the Congregation for your faithfulness in fulfilling your pledges. We also received more Non-Pledged and Per Capita donations than expected. Altogether, total Revenue exceeded budget by nearly \$12,000! It is so encouraging to see how you all are contributing to what God is growing here at GCPC!

For 2026, we have a budget that has been approved by Session. As of 1/20/26, we have received 126 pledges for 2026 totaling \$700,010, which is an average of \$5,556 per giving unit. Over \$40,000 of that amount has already been received. While final pledge numbers have not yet reached the budgeted \$800,000, we are trusting in God that we will have enough resources to achieve the budget as planned. We have the surplus from 2025 plus money in Restricted accounts that can make up any difference if Revenue does not reach the planned levels. We have over \$100,000 in the Restricted funds that are available for specific purposes that the Donors have designated.

The largest portion of the expense budget is for Personnel, and the biggest budget challenge we have is again our Facility. Due to the age of the building, a number of repairs and replacements are necessary. The Facilities Team has made a careful plan to fund these over several years and has been in communication with Finance Team regarding their monetary needs. This year we will work to replenish the Facility Reserve fund by transferring some operating funds every month into that Restricted account. That fund is currently at almost \$15,000, all of which will be used in 2026.

GCPC continues to grow and fulfill the Mission which God has laid on our hearts. The Finance Team is here to support that Mission with financial reporting and recommendations. We are excited for what 2026 will bring, and we thank you for your continued financial support of GCPC.

**Members of the Finance Team:** Beth Lillian, moderator; Tara Hyder, Finance Administrator; Rev. Karen Wright, Tom Stroud, Aaron Soule, Donna Heer, Jim Byrd, and Frank Slovick, elder liaison

**Pledges ended the year at 99.5% of promised. This is an amazing number, and more than most previous years! Thank you to the Congregation for your faithfulness in fulfilling your pledges.**

GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
BALANCE SHEET 12.31.25

***ASSETS***

Cash Accounts	\$	136,099
CD	\$	206,162
Investment Accounts	\$	638,563
<b>Total Cash and Investments</b>	\$	<b>980,825</b>
Fixed Assets	\$	3,876,389
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,857,213</b>

***LIABILITIES AND EQUITY***

Liabilities	\$	2,178
Fund Balance	\$	4,270,515
Net Excess Cash	\$	40,324
<b>Total</b>	\$	<b>4,313,017</b>
Temporarily Restricted (can be used)	\$	161,313
Permanent Restricted (Endowment)	\$	382,883
Total Restricted	\$	544,196
<b>Total Liabilities, Principal &amp; Restricted</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,857,213</b>

GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
REVENUE & EXPENSE, FULL YEAR 2025 RESULTS

<b>REVENUE</b>	ACTUAL	BUDGET	% to Budget
Pledges	\$ 716,103	\$ 720,000	99.5%
Other Donations	\$ 56,173	\$ 49,000	114.6%
Other Revenue	\$ 37,020	\$ 28,500	129.9%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 809,296</b>	<b>\$ 797,500</b>	<b>101.5%</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Personnel	\$ 464,303	\$ 484,000	95.9%
Facilities	\$ 171,432	\$ 206,000	83.2%
Office	\$ 41,481	\$ 45,500	91.2%
Insurance	\$ 33,070	\$ 32,000	103.3%
Per Capita	\$ 16,418	\$ 13,250	123.9%
Mission	\$ 13,913	\$ 15,000	92.8%
Music& Worship	\$ 7,555	\$ 8,600	87.8%
Children	\$ 5,382	\$ 4,000	134.5%
Bank and CC fees	\$ 4,871	\$ 3,600	135.3%
Other Admin/Finance/Gen	\$ 4,156	\$ 4,150	100.1%
Youth	\$ 2,738	\$ 4,000	68.5%
Welcome&Marketing	\$ 1,917	\$ 2,450	78.2%
Connections&Care	\$ 821	\$ 1,200	68.4%
Kairos	\$ 637	\$ 750	84.9%
Adult Ministry	\$ 279	\$ 500	55.9%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 768,973</b>	<b>\$ 825,000</b>	<b>93.2%</b>

<b>NET EXCESS CASH</b>	<b>\$ 40,323</b>	<b>\$ (27,500)</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
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# GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## 2026 APPROVED OPERATING BUDGET

<b><i>REVENUE</i></b>		% of total
Pledges	800,000	90.9%
Other Donations	51,500	5.9%
Other Revenue	28,500	3.2%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>880,000</b>	

<b><i>EXPENSES</i></b>		
Personnel	516,781	59.4%
Facilities	209,500	24.1%
Office	39,950	4.6%
Insurance	33,600	3.9%
Mission	13,550	1.6%
Per Capita	13,250	1.5%
Other Admin/Finance/Gen	8,950	1.0%
Music& Worship	8,900	1.0%
Youth	6,750	0.8%
Children	5,580	0.6%
Bank and CC fees	5,500	0.6%
Welcome&Marketing	3,650	0.4%
Kairos	1,350	0.2%
Adult Ministry	1,000	0.1%
Connections&Care	1,000	0.1%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>869,312</b>	

<b>NET TOTAL</b>	<b>10,688</b>
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**FACILITIES TEAM****Capital Expense**

AVL Tech (TBD)

Exterior doors and frames (TBD)

HVAC units

Grinder Pump (Sewage pump lower level)

Water Heaters

Window Replacements (TBD)

Carpet Office

Carpet Sanctuary

Parking Lot

Parking Lot - concrete curbing

Steeple Paint

West Roof Replacement

**Total**

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
30,000	25,000	15,000		
			25,000	
6,000				
55,000		40,000	50,000	
11,025				
	18,650			
45,000			15,000	
5,000				
		10,000		
	109,000			
152,025	152,650	65,000	90,000	0



# GCPC: A vibrant PC(USA) congregation, caring for our community and each other

## Our Core Values

### Jesus Christ is the HEAD of the Church

God has put all things under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The church's life and mission are a joyful participation in Christ's ongoing life and work. (PCUSA Book of Order F-1.02)

#### Christ with our HEADS

*We Are Equipping through Education:*

- Theologically curious, intellectually honest, spiritually growing
- Multi-generational
- Space for diverse opinions

#### Christ with our HEARTS

*We are Worshipping Creatively:*

- Immersed with music and other arts
- Embracing various styles, abilities, and ages
- Compelling, imaginative, relevant

#### Christ with our CENTER

*We are Embracing Diversity:*

- No place for discrimination
- LGBTQ+ affirming
- Ecumenical and interfaith openness

#### Christ with our HANDS

*We Are Acting in Faith:*

- Service to the community
- Social justice advocacy
- Vibrant, caring, engaged

#### Christ with our FEET

*We are Sharing Faith Openly:*

- Committed to following Christ
- Spreading news of Christ's transforming work and word
- Sharing our stories and God's impact in our lives



**GRACE COVENANT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

