



REAL FAITH | REAL STORIES | REAL GRACE

GRACE NOTES

We Are All in This Together: *A Year Exploring God's Creation*

On Sunday, June 5, we will launch a year of exploring God's creation that will help us carry out our Earth Care Congregation pledge.

Join us for worship as we introduce you to this year long program on how we can be stewards of God's creation in the time we are living in. You will have the opportunity to measure your carbon footprint, select the book we will read for a summer book group, and sign onto the PCUSA Climate Change Pledge. Come find out more! Want to join the planning team? Contact Rev. Sue at sue.trigger@gcpc.org.

BINGO Fun!

A fun night of BINGO was had by all on May 6. Fifty people attended, both young and old. There were tons of delicious appetizers, and prizes were handed out to winners of the various BINGO formations that were formulated throughout the night. Max Soule and Harold Farren both one two games, the Hayden-White family had multiple wins from different family members. Our big winner was Max Soule who won blackout! Thank you to all who came out and made it a fun evening of games and fellowship. A BIG THANK YOU to Patrick for setting up tables and Care and Connection team members for setting and cleaning up.



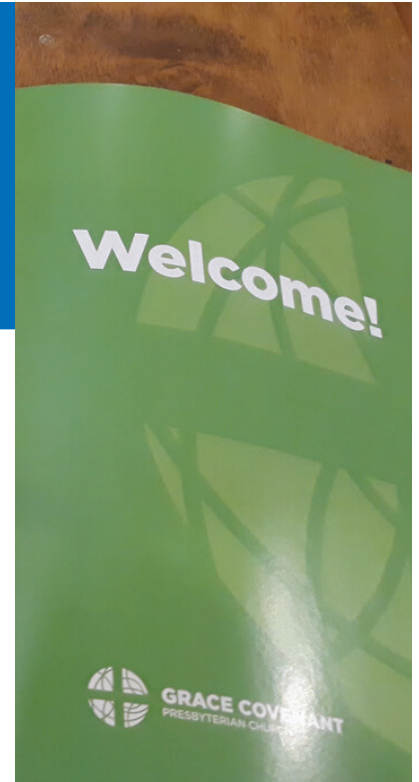
Earth Care Pledge

Our **worship** and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation.

Our **education** will encourage and support each other in keeping and healing the creation.

Our **facilities** will be managed, maintained and upgraded to respect and cherish all creation.

Our **outreach** will encourage community involvement and public policy to protect and restore the earth.



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.

11100 College Boulevard
Overland Park, KS 66210
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office@gcpc.org
gcpc.org

In-Person Worship and Online Worship every Sunday on Facebook Live and Zoom. Visit gcpc.org/online for links!



What IS the General Assembly and why should I care?

Every two years (it used to be annually), mention of “the General Assembly” picks up in Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations. The problem is that many of us are still not sure what it is.

- 1) **What IS it?** Every two years, commissioners from all of the 166 presbyteries in the PC(USA) gather together to discuss issues facing the church. Half of the commissioners will be ruling elders, half will be teaching elders. Few will ever have been commissioners to the General Assembly before, but most will have served in one of the other governing bodies of our church: the session, which provides care and oversight of a local congregation; the presbytery, which provides care and oversight of a group of congregations; or the synod which provides care and oversight of several presbyteries.

It reviews the work of synods, resolves controversies in the church, is responsible for matters of common concern for the whole church, and serves as a symbol of unity for the church.

The General Assembly has several specific responsibilities outlined in the Book of Order. The assembly seeks to protect our church from errors in faith and practice, is responsible for assuring that the expression of our theology remains true to the biblical standards in our historic confessions. The General Assembly presents a witness for truth and justice in our community and in the world community. It sets priorities for the church and establishes relationships with other churches or ecumenical bodies.

- 2) This is the 225th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) or one of its predecessors. The decisions made here will guide the General Assembly offices in Louisville, the Office of Public Witness in Washington D.C., and the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations in New York City.
- 3) Mitch and Sue Trigger will be serving different roles at the Assembly. Mitch is one of Heartland Presbytery’s four commissioners, while Sue will be a resource person from the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP). Both “jobs” require a lot of preparation, but they look forward to the responsibility.

Birthday Request

On June 9, my mother turns 100 years old. I would so appreciate if she could receive a card shower to mark this milestone.

If you would like to be a part of the shower, her address: Virginia Campbell, 8505 Pflumm, Apt 221, Lenexa, KS 66215. Thank you. —Pat Collins

“Why didn’t they teach me that in Sunday school?”

A member of the church asked that question recently. Others have asked similar questions. You are invited to share your questions about the Bible with Sue and Mitch and they will address your questions in sermon this summer. What are you curious about? Send your questions to Mitch and Sue at sue.trigger@gcpc.org.



HEARTLAND PRESBYTERY

Many Churches, One Ministry

May 19, 2022

The world has witnessed two violent tragedies this past week: the racially motivated shooting at a supermarket in Buffalo, NY and the shooting at Irvine Taiwanese Presbyterian Church and Geneva Presbyterian Church in Laguna Woods, CA where members had gathered for a luncheon to honor a former pastor. As Christians we are called to be the light of the world. That light is the love and grace of God.

It seems as if hate and violence are all around us, blocking out the light of God's love. These shootings are symptoms of that hate and violence. As Christians, we implore you to remember that the light of God's love can never be dimmed and to remember that we are called to be God's light for the world. That light takes many forms. One is certainly to continue to hold the families of the victims in prayer. We are also called to share the light of God's justice and grace with all people. And we are called to actively work to break down the sin of racism, hate and violence that is witnessed in some form every day around the world.

Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), in response to these shootings said, "We live in a world divided by political and religious beliefs, skin color, sexual identity and class structure. Anger resonates from the halls of our government leaders to the classrooms and sanctuaries of our neighborhoods. We've built walls that alienate and discriminate, and yet we are blind to our own role in the chaos we've created. How many more lives must be lost? How much more blood must be shed before we throw down our guns and silence the voices of hate?"

Friends, let us be in prayer for the families of victims and for medical professionals who seek to care for those injured; let us also be in prayer for systems and structures that perpetuate and contribute to racism and violence. But even more, let us work for equitable systems for all God's children. Let us put the care and love of all God's people before our own comfort and convenience. Let us be the light of God's love shining bright for all people.

In God's Peace,

Jeff Clayton

Reverend Jeff Clayton
Moderator, Heartland Presbytery

Dale Jackson

Reverend Dale Jackson
Presbyter for Vision and Leadership of Heartland Presbytery

Jennifer Baer

Reverend Jennifer Baer
Stated Clerk and Resource Presbyter of Heartland Presbytery



Welcome to Adventure Island!

Vacation Bible School, June 6-10, 9am-Noon
Ages 4 yrs – 5th Grade

Are you ready to arise and shine? It's time to head to Adventure Island where we will join on a quest to discover how God's light shines in the world, and how we can shine God's light for others.

There will be cool music, exciting science, creative crafts, fun recreation, and memorable Bible stories. Each day we will search for five infinity lanterns that shine with God's love, trust, faith, joy and hope! It's going to be amazing!

Registration is still open! Everyone is invited, bring a friend!
To register go to: www.gcpc.org/vbs22

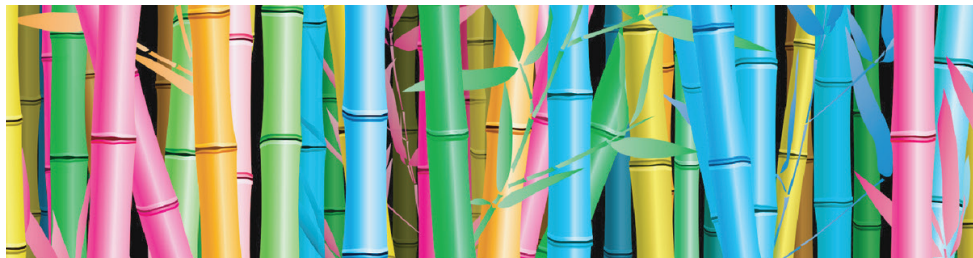
VBS Sunday Worship and Island Fest

June 12, 9:30am Worship with festival immediately following.

Vacation Bible School doesn't end until we gather to worship and celebrate one more time. You'll want to see Lighthouse Keeper Charlie and Beacon (our puffin friend) who will tell us all about what we've learned. We will sing our favorite songs, give thanks for the many hands who made the week possible, and most of all, praise God for shining the light of love, trust, faith, joy and hope for us!

Immediately following worship, we will head outdoors for the Island Fest where you can meet the activity site leaders and see some of the kid's work from the week, enjoy some creative activities and refreshments.

Island themed clothing will be the order of the day. Wear your VBS shirt, a tropical shirt, shorts and so on.



VBS HELP!!!!

We need:

- 12 - empty tissue boxes with hole in the top of box
- 12 - shoe boxes, Twinkies, mini chocolate donuts

We need volunteers:

- To bake vanilla cupcakes with green frosting for Tuesday of VBS (50)
- To move furniture after worship May 29.

We need decorating volunteers:

May 31, June 1 and 2nd
 10am to 12 (noon); 1pm-3pm
June 3 – 6-9pm
June 5 – Decorate after worship

Adult Team Survey

The Adult Team wants to hear from you as they plan for the future.

Click here to take a quick survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7D8WB63>



Clerk's Corner

Session met for our regular stated meeting on May 16, 2022. Jane Knoche shared a devotional about righteousness and justice.

Mission Team will be holding a planning meeting on July 16 from 3:00 to 5:00pm. All are welcome. Financials for the year are looking good so far — except now we have to deal with the air conditioning repairs.

We had an extensive discussion of COVID protocols. Some members are not attending because we are mask optional; others will not attend if we require masks. The previous benchmarks are less useful as a variety of testing options have become available. Wastewater testing confirms that COVID is more prevalent in Johnson County than it was earlier this year, but most cases seem to be mild and hospitalizations are very low. We want to care for the most vulnerable, but also for those who have COVID fatigue. After careful consideration we decided to maintain our mask optional status. An e-mail was sent to the Congregation on May 18 explaining some of our thoughts.

The Reggie Reynolds/Larry Baker Scholarship fund rebuilding is off to a strong start and Bill Turner is looking at a variety of ways to keep it going.

After sharing personal and congregational joys and concerns, we adjourned.

Intergenerational Summer Events in June

June 12–August 7

Come enjoy special conversations and activities for the entire family during our Sunday school hour at 10:45am. We will meet in Heartland Hall unless otherwise noted.

Here's a look at what is coming in June:

June 12 — VBS Sunday. Island Fest following worship. We will head outdoors for games and fun to celebrate a great week at Vacation Bible School. It will be a chance for everyone to join us at Adventure Island!

June 19 — A Father's Day Celebration. Join Emily Hussey for fun activities to show our appreciation of the fathers in our lives.

June 26 — M&M Sunday. Visit with our youth, volunteers and staff about the Music and Mission Trip.

July 3 — NO Sunday school

Church Rummage with a Twist!

The church is having a rummage sale to get rid of the things left from the closing of Kid's Day Out, and some other assorted stuff that needs to go. If you have things you would like to sell, you can get in on the action by renting a parking space to sell your stuff. You can sell anything you like, including craft and direct marketing items (*but not old car seats, firearms, and alcohol*). You may sell from the back of your vehicle, or set up tables, tents, etc. You may not bring your stuff into the church to be sold there.

The church will only be selling items that belong to GCPC.

The sale will be Saturday, July 9, 9am-3pm. Parking spots may be rented for \$20 (*or two spots for \$30*). All proceeds will go to support the ministries of GCPC. To rent a spot, or if you have questions, contact Kathy Bures (913-302-1755 or kathy.bures@gmail.com). Spots are limited, so reserve yours soon!

MUSIC NOTES

June 5th is **PENTECOST**

Music will be led by Chancel & Exaltation! Singers and some Caribbean-style instruments. Anthem: "Spirit, Sing" by Joseph Martin. In addition, Celebration! Ringers (1st-6th graders) will ring "For the Beauty of the Earth."

June 12th is **VBS SUNDAY!**

VBS Children & Leaders will share some of the songs from their "Discovery on Adventure Island" themed Vacation Bible School.

June 19th is the **THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Music will be led by Praise Team. They will share "Do Something" by Matthew West, "Tell Your Heart to Beat Again" by Danny Gokey, and "The More I Seek You" by Gateway Worship.

Summer Blood Drive

The next GCPC Blood Drive is Tuesday, June 21, 2-6pm. The Community Blood Center must collect almost 600 units of blood daily to maintain the needed supply for local hospital patients.

To make an appointment, visit: <https://donate.savealifenow.org/donor/schedules/drive/schedule/77308>.

Contact Sarah Byrd, swbyrds@gmail.com, for more information.



LATEST ON THE **MISSION & MUSIC (M&M)** TRIP

Destination: Mission, SD (Rosebud Reservation)

Dates: Fridays, June 17-24

Exaltation! Singers & Ringers are in final rehearsal mode and have kicked into high gear!

M&M Important Dates to Remember

Tuesday, June 14th – Final Prep Night for ALL going on the trip (youth & adult sponsors) – 6-9:30pm

+ **M&M Concert Dress Rehearsal** at 8pm – Family and friends are invited to come and see.

We will load up and head to South Dakota on **Friday morning, June 17th**. While there we will share several concerts on the theme "Lead with Love." We'll also work to help meet the people's physical needs on the Rosebud Reservation at various locations through physical labor and by providing food to folks in the community.

Sunday, June 26th – M&M Led Worship at 9:30am

Come listen to our songs and see and hear our stories from our Senior High and College student's Mission & Music Trip in Mission, South Dakota on the Rosebud Reservation.

Stay after worship for an **M&M Cookie Fellowship** in Heartland Hall.



Youth Page

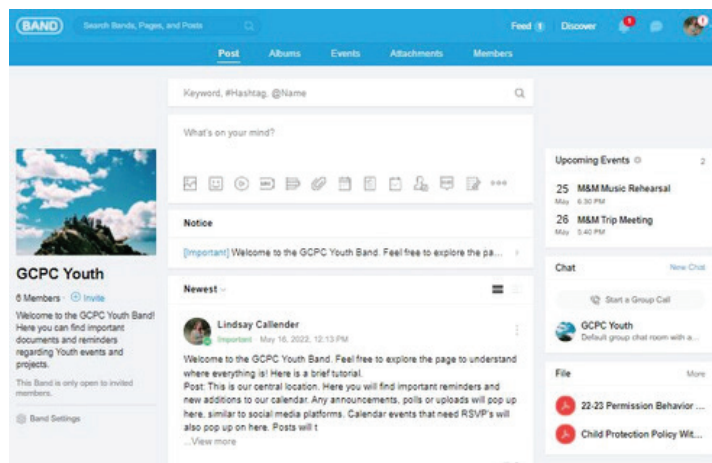
Introduction of "Band"

We are launching a new platform for Youth Information and Communication called "Band." It will allow us to centralize events, forms and communication within one app! Youth and parents can join "Band" by downloading the app so they can receive notifications when important information is uploaded or posted. They can also sign into a web browser version to access it from a PC.

The calendar is currently updated with tentative events, and we will be conducting RSVPs through Band from now on. We will be discontinuing the old GCPC Youth webpage in about a month, so youth and parents should join now! Click the link to join the group!

<https://band.us/n/adae74l4k811N>

Reminder:



Canoe Trip Announcement!

We plan on bringing back the Youth and Family canoe trip this summer! We invite all youth, parents, families, and friends to join us on our annual canoe trip to the Ozarks. We will travel in separate cars down to Mac's Creek in the Ozarks and will camp overnight. On Saturday we will paddle down the great Niangua River in canoes and kayaks. Camping overnight on Saturday is also a fun option.

Reggie Reynolds Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the winners of the Reggie Reynolds Scholarship recipients Logan Callender and Madeline Passet. They were selected and presented with their awards at the end of May. Logan will be studying at the University at West Virginia in the fall, pursuing a degree in Sports and Adventure Media. Madeline will be studying Elementary Education at Colorado State. We look forward to hearing how their studies progress!

Notable Dates:

We have a packed summer coming up! June is filled with VBS and our Music and Mission trip preparations, so most of our bigger youth activities will take place in July! A couple things to headline is our service day titled "Hunger Games" which will revolve around food insecurities in the area. We will work in a community garden, and then possibly help with the local GCPC food pantry and Harvesters in the afternoon, followed by a friends and family picnic. We will also be taking a day at Olathe Lake, as well as Worlds of Fun. We are also looking at doing a potential challenge course activity or zip line course, so stay on the lookout for more details!

M&M Dates:

June 14: Final Prep Night
June 17-24: Trip Dates
June 26: Home Worship

Youth Dates:

(It is important to know that these are still tentative)

July 16: Hunger Games Service Day
July 20: Worlds of Fun
July 23: Olathe Lake
July 29-30: Canoe Trip





GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Inclusive. Family Oriented. Welcoming.

11100 College Boulevard
Overland Park, KS 66210
Phone: 913-345-1256
Fax: 913-345-1198

gcpc.org



Follow us on Social Media!

Facebook: facebook.com/GraceCovenantPresbyterian

Twitter: @GraceCovPres

Instagram: @gcpc_overlandpark

CELEBRATING GOD'S ALL ENCOMPASSING LOVE!

CHURCH STAFF

Co Pastors

- Office hours: Monday-Thursday
Mitch Trigger, mitch.trigger@gcpc.orgext.18
Sue Trigger, sue.trigger@gcpc.orgext.15

Director of Music Ministries

- Office hours: Monday-Wednesday, Friday
Rebecca Prater, rebecca.prater@gcpc.org .. ext. 13

Church Administrator

- Office hours: Monday-Friday
Patrick Bell, patrick.bell@gcpc.org ext. 10

Director of Youth Ministries

Technical Director of Worship
- Office hours: Monday-Thursday
Miles McDonald, miles.mcdonald@gcpc.org.. ext. 17

Finance Administrator..... Tara Hyder
Mon. 8-4; Tues./Weds. 8-12; /Thurs./Fri. by Appt.

Organist Linda Dover

Contemporary Music Coord. Carrie DeVries

Contemporary Music Drummer.....Daniel Cole

Child Care Coordinator.....Carolyn Chaffin

Wedding Coordinator.....Lara Schesser

Funeral CoordinatorMary Sue Thomas

ELDERS

Jim Byrd	Angela Krug
Ric Cummings	Mike Mattix
Miles Dalton (youth)	Terri Monrad
Andrew Frye	Diane Schmit
Katie Hearn	Kylie Sutherland (youth)
Cheryl Johnson	Susan Sutherland
Jane Knoche	Bill Turner

SUPPORT STAFF

Deacon ModeratorMeredith Watson
Operating Committee.....Susan Sutherland,
Mike Mattix, Terri Monrad, Ric Cummings
Newsletter Editor/Marketing..... Kim Krueger
Prayer ChainCheryl Johnson
Website AdministratorsKim Krueger,
Patrick Bell

MINISTRY UNITS

Congregational Nurture Unit Moderators
Connections and Care..... Diane Schmit
Worship and Music..... Kathy Bures,
Katie Hearn

Education Ministry Unit Moderators
AdultMaggie Blankers
ChildrenErin Frye, Angela Krug
Youth..... Bill Turner

Reach Out Ministry Unit Moderators
Kairos Rick Randolph
MissionMikki Walker
Welcoming Kathy Williams

Supportive Ministry Unit Moderators
FacilityMarc Feyh
GenerosityDavid Sutherland
Finance..... Jim Byrd
Personnel Kevin Mason

Worship Schedule

9:30am Worship
In-Person, Facebook & Zoom
Visit gcpc.org/online for links

Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines

July 2022 issue - Deadline, June 21
August 2022 issue - Deadline, July 22