



**Celebrating 40 Years on June 22, 2025!**

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

# GRACE NOTES

October 2024  
Vol 42, Nbr 10

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 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.

Visit [gcpc.org](http://gcpc.org) for links!

## Happy October!

As we turn into fall, it is a time to consider the fall harvest and in the church it has traditionally become a time when we talk about Stewardship. At its core, stewardship is about recognizing everything we have is a gift from God and that we have been created to care for and oversee the wise use of those gifts. We worship and serve a God of abundance and so we are called to be generous in our giving.

As we look forward to the celebration of 40 years of ministry together, we are reminded of those who have come before us and the generosity that has shaped Grace Covenant over the decades. The people, the building, the programs all have been built through faithful stewardship and we are called to continue that journey.

We know there are expenses associated with being church together and that each year those costs increase. We are asking the congregation to consider increasing their pledges this year. A small increase will help us to build and grow for the future and to ensure that Grace Covenant continues to be a vibrant and welcoming community on the corner of College and Nieman.

We understand for some, an increase may not be possible, but every act of stewardship is important as it contributes to the community. How will you continue to be a part of this amazing community? How can we continue to honor the past 40 years and build for the future? Join us in doing the work of the kingdom in this place.

Grace and peace, —Pastor Karen  
[karen.wright@gcpc.org](mailto:karen.wright@gcpc.org); 913-345-1256, ext. #10

## GCPC Annual BBQ & Potluck!

Don't cool breezes and BBQ sound good right now? **The GCPC Annual BBQ and Potluck will be held on Saturday, October 5, from 5-7pm.**

Please plan to join us and bring grilled meat or a dish to share, either a side dish (salad, vegetable, potatoes, etc.) or dessert.

**Thank you Kevin Johnson** for organizing the BBQ meats and grillers! Make plans to attend this great evening of fellowship and food!

— Your Care and Connections Team



## Transition Process Update

We are developing questions to ask the congregation through small groups and a survey. As we look at the core values of GCPC and where we feel God is calling us to move, please let members of Session or Pastor Karen know if you have comments, questions, or concerns.

— Rev. Karen Wright, Interim Pastor, Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church



## “Guns to Gardens”

Members of a sister congregation, **Central Presbyterian Church** is hosting an event “Guns to Gardens.” This is a safe, gun surrender program. Central Presbyterian Church, located at 3501 Campbell in Kansas City, MO, is hosting this volunteer safe surrender and dismantling event on Saturday, October 12, from 10-2pm, where folks can get rid of unwanted firearms without putting them back onto the street. This is not a buy back. Anyone can anonymously surrender their unwanted guns, which will be dismantled on-site, melted down, and fashioned into garden tools (or jewelry, artwork, etc.). A gift card for a grocery store will be offered as a token of appreciation for each surrendered firearm. Visit [Central Presbyterian](#) to find out more about this event.

## Clerk’s Corner

Session met on September 16 and we were delighted to get to know four new members; we look forward to having them as part of our congregation.

Karen has been busy! She has almost assembled a Transition Team and the members she has have already met once. Once a final member is selected for the team, the entire team will be announced to the congregation. This group will work with Karen to gather information about how Grace Covenant wants to grow as we move forward. Staff is starting to work on the 2025 calendar and the Session, staff, and teams are working on ideas to update our organizational chart, as well as our operating manual. Karen has also been working with Pioneer Preschool to update our contract with them and will be meeting with Finance and Facilities together to discuss how we can plan to address some of the significant capital projects that Grace Covenant is facing.

Most of our Teams reported being excited to have Emily Nelson Dixon on staff and the rest of us look forward to working with her.

We heard details of upcoming Barbecue, Bingo and Lasagna Dinner, Workshop, and Generosity Brunch. These are great ways to connect with the work of Grace Covenant as well as our GCPC family members. Due to the closure of the Duchesne Clinic, our October offering partners have changed.

The Nominating Committee is in search of an at-large member to serve through June 2026. If you are asked, please consider the call prayerfully. Worship team is looking for some new folks to assist with communion preparation.

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to talk to any Session member.

— Melanie Townsend, Clerk of Session





**GRACE COVENANT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11100 College Boulevard  
Overland park, KS 66210  
913-345-1256 | gcpc.org

Dear Friend(s) of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church,

For 40 years, our church family has been blessed by God’s steadfast love and the faithful generosity of our members. As we look to the future, we’re called to build on this legacy and ensure that generations to come will continue to experience God’s endless love through our ministry.

Psalm 100:5 reminds us, *“For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”* Just as God’s love spans all generations, so too can our generosity create a lasting impact.

We invite you to prayerfully consider how you can contribute to our stewardship campaign, **“Generosity through the Generations.”**

Your gift will help us:

1. Maintain and improve our facilities for future worshippers
2. Expand our youth and family ministries
3. Support local and global missions
4. Enhance our worship and educational programs

When you give generously, you’re not just supporting our current needs—you’re investing in the spiritual growth of future generations. Together, we can build a legacy of generosity that mirrors God’s enduring love.

**Will you join us in ensuring that our church continues to be a beacon of faith, hope, and love for the next 40 years and beyond?**

— The 2025 Generosity Team and Session  
of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church



**GENEROSITY  
THROUGH THE  
GENERATIONS**

For the Lord is good and  
His love endures forever;  
His faithfulness continues  
through all generations.  
Psalm 100:5

**Complete your pledge card and return to Tara Hyder, Finance Administrator, via the church office using envelopes on Generosity bulletin board.**

You can also email your pledge information to Tara at [finance@gcpc.org](mailto:finance@gcpc.org).

Scan QR code to enter pledge online via OnRealm.



Kaudrey  
 Melanin Jensen     Andrew Sullivan     Jane E. Knecht  
 Kristy Shaw     Barbara Douglas     Mary Ann Weyforth  
 Keith Langham  
 Eileen Thomson  
 Thomas W. Shuf     Kim Knepper     Joy Circo     Johnni Baker  
 Michelle Wells

# MUSIC NOTES

## MUSIC IN WORSHIP

### October 6th – World Communion Sunday

Praise Team led.

### October 13th – Wor(k)ship Sunday

Organ led (brief) worship. Chancel & Exaltation! Singers Anthem: "For Everyone Born" arr. Tom Trenney and Charter Ringers: "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" arr. Sondra Tucker

### October 20th – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Organ & Wind Ensemble led worship. Chancel & Exaltation! Singers Anthem: "Good" (The Lord Is Good) by Gale Jones Murphy.

### October 27th – Reformation Sunday

Praise Team Led. Jubilation! Ringers ring.

## REHEARSALS

### GCPC Wind Ensemble – (8th graders – Adults)

#### Rehearsals

Thursday, October 17th 7:00-8:00pm, and  
Saturday, October 19th - 10:30-11:30am - Sanctuary  
Please contact Pam Kelly for more information.

## Exaltation! Reunion Choir

1994-2024

Thanksgiving Eve - November 27, 2024

6:00pm Rehearsal

7:00pm - Sing at the Worship Service

**If you ever sang in Exaltation! you are invited!**

Please contact Rebecca Prater ASAP

or at least by October 27th!

[rebecca.prater@gcpc.org](mailto:rebecca.prater@gcpc.org); 913-626-6296 (cell)

It will be a blast to have everyone gather to sing again! So Ex!-citing!



## "Thank You" Notes

The anthem, "Good" (The Lord Is Good) by Gale Jones Murphy, was donated in memory of Jim Adams, husband of Sandy Adams, from his memorial fund.

The anthem, "I Am Not My Own" by Craig Courtney, was donated by Barbara Douglas in memory of her husband, Brad Douglas.

The anthem, "The Angel Gabriel" arr. John Leavitt, was donated by Gene Wilson in memory of fellow tenor, Jerry Kenefake, husband of Jo Anne Kenefake.

The following handbell pieces and Orff mallets have been donated by Celia & Mike Nicholas:

The handbell piece, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" arr. Arnold B. Sherman, was donated by Celia Nicholas in memory of her father, Luther Smith, Sr., who would play this tune on the piano as the children would sing along.

The handbell piece, "A Christmas Festival" by Leroy Anderson & arr. Martha Lynn Thompson, was donated in honor of Charter Ringers for their talent & commitment to handbells.

A set of Orff instrument mallets have been donated to Celebration! Choir (2nd-5th/6th graders) in honor of Pam Kelly with gratitude for all she does with our children in music.





# Children's Team



## Sunday School is in full swing!

Our Sunday morning programming is off to a great start. Our **Awakening to Worship program** has welcomed an average of 7 children each Sunday. Our **children aged 4 - 1st grade** enjoy a unique worship experience while the remainder of the congregation worships in the sanctuary. We have Sunday School classes for children aged 2 - 6th grade. Our **elementary aged children** have enjoyed 4 different workshop rotations where they have heard the story of Joseph in a variety of ways from cooking, art, various forms of drama, and games. Our **children's choir** have begun their regular practices each Sunday and sang in worship on September 29th.

How blessed are we with these amazing children! It takes an army of volunteers to make these programs successful. We are very grateful for our army of volunteers who live out their baptismal promise to our children. God is so good.

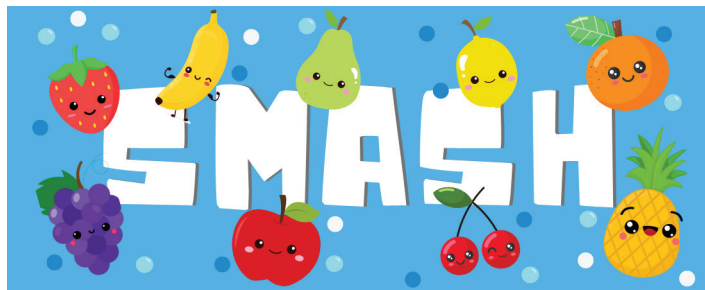
## Stay informed

Our Children's Team will utilize email, mid-week and worship announcements and our GCPC Children's Facebook group to share important information. Our Facebook group can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2555575044593497>

## Children's Events at a Glance

- October 6** ATW, Music, and Sunday School
- October 13** Workshop Sunday
- October 20** ATW, Music, Sunday School, and SMASH
- October 27** ATW and Music Sunday. Trunk or Treat following Sunday School at 11:45am

If you have any questions or comments about our children's programs or pictures of our children's events, please contact our **Director of Christian Education, Emily Nelson Dixon**, at [emily.dixon@gcpc.org](mailto:emily.dixon@gcpc.org).



## SMASH Program

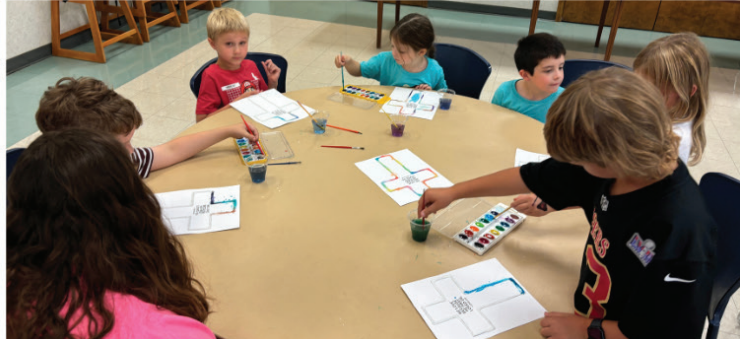
In September, we started our **Fruit of the Spirit series** during SMASH. **23 children and 6 helpers** were present and introduced to Paul's writing in which he shared the fruit of the spirits. *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."* —Galatians 5:22-23.

Together we explored the first fruit **LOVE**. Our children challenged one another in a friendly Kahoot game as they answered the ways in which they can show love to God and our neighbors.

We continue with the next fruit, **JOY** during our October SMASH. Children in Kindergarten through 5th grade/6th grade are invited to join us for some learning and LOTS of fun.

Join us Sunday October 20th 4pm - 6pm. RSVP via our GCPC Children's group Facebook event or contact our Director of Christian Education, Emily Nelson Dixon at [emily.dixon@gcpc.org](mailto:emily.dixon@gcpc.org). We could also use additional volunteer helpers, our sign up is found here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A45A4A722A4FC1-smash1#/>





# 19th Annual Baker/ Reynolds Golf Scramble: A Success on All Fronts!

On Sunday, August 25th, the **19th Annual Baker/ Reynolds Golf Scramble** was held at Falcon Valley Golf Course. This year's event saw 19 enthusiastic golfers compete in 5 teams, with the **Baker Family Team** securing the lowest score for the round.

The tournament featured 4 contest holes, with the following players taking home prizes:

- **Fred Starrett** – Closest to the Pin on Hole #2
- **Chris Cabe** – Closest to the Pin on Hole #5
- **Jason Bontje** – Longest Drive on Hole #8
- **Ryan Peck** – Longest Putt on Hole #9

## Fundraising Milestone

This year outpaced the proceeds from 2023 and will go into the books as one of the largest fundraising efforts in the last 10 years! Like the past few years, there were a significant number of members of the congregation who did not golf, but still made contributions!

In addition, I want to thank the following people who came through as hole sponsors for our special contest holes (at \$500/hole).

- **Hole #2** – Richard Gibson
- **Hole #5** – Ryan Peck
- **Holes #8 & #9** – Dave & Vicki Peck

After covering all expenses, we are thrilled to announce that we raised a total of **\$4,564.12** this year!

Thank you to everyone who participated, sponsored, or donated. Your support continues to make this event a highlight of our church community's calendar.

Blessings, Bill Turner, Event Coordinator

*(Photos: It is a tradition for the players to toast Reggie & Larry on the 2nd hole of the course!)*





# CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

## Participate in a GCPC Tradition: CROP WALK

Grace Covenant's CROP Walk tradition, started by our founding pastor, will continue on Sunday, October 6, at 2pm at Country Club Christian Church, 6101 Ward Parkway.

*The Kairos Team is challenging the congregation to send 24 walkers for the 2024 walk and to send 40 walkers in 2025 in celebration of the church's 40th anniversary.*

Twenty-five percent of the funds contributed benefit five local agencies. Church World Service uses the other 75% of the funds primarily in support of displaced persons and refugees. There are estimated to be over 100 million such persons around the world.

You can sign up for the Grace Covenant walk team using this link: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/event/kansascitymo>

See Karen or Dave Pack in Heartland Hall after a Sunday worship service starting September 8.



## Thank You Church Family

Thank you for your outpouring of love and support on the recent passing of our daughter-in-law Lindsay Mattix. We greatly appreciate all your prayers, meals, cards, and hugs that we received during Lindsay's three-year treatment for breast cancer.

We are truly blessed to be a part of this amazing, caring village who faithfully honored their baptismal promise made to our son, Chris.

We ask for your continued prayers and support for Chris, Ally, and Carter as they grieve the death of their beloved wife and mother.

—Lee and Mike Mattix

## 40th Anniversary Thanks!

The 40th Anniversary Committee would like to thank everyone for their support of our **anniversary apparel fundraiser**. Over 102 family units placed orders! We look forward to seeing all of you wearing your t-shirts and sweatshirts throughout the year! Thank you to the committee members who helped sort, bag, and pass out the shirts. It was a lot of work, and we really appreciate your time!

The 40th Anniversary Committee also wants to thank everyone who participated in

our **Friendship Bracelet Making Party** on September 21. We had such a fun time being creative, singing, snacking, hanging out at the "bead bar," laughing and "shimmering" to Taylor Swift tunes. This intergenerational fellowship was such a big hit, that we are going to do another in the Spring. Details will be announced in January 2025, with a tentative date of **March 8, 1-3pm**.





# GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Inclusive. Family Oriented. Welcoming.**

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

[gcpc.org](http://gcpc.org)



## GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Follow us on Social Media!

Facebook: [facebook.com/GraceCovenantPresbyterian](https://facebook.com/GraceCovenantPresbyterian)

Instagram: @gcpc\_overlandpark

### CHURCH STAFF

- Interim Pastor, Rev. Karen Wright**  
[karen.wright@gcpc.org](mailto:karen.wright@gcpc.org) ..... ext. 10
- Director of Music Ministries.....Rebecca Prater**  
Mon.-Wed., Fri.; [rebecca.prater@gcpc.org](mailto:rebecca.prater@gcpc.org) .... ext. 13
- Church Administrator.....Patrick Bell**  
Mon.-Fri.; [patrick.bell@gcpc.org](mailto:patrick.bell@gcpc.org) ..... ext. 10
- Director of Christian Education**  
**Emily Nelson-Dixon** .....ext.10  
[emily.dixon@gcpc.org](mailto:emily.dixon@gcpc.org)
- Youth Coordinator** ..... Lindsay Callender  
[lindsaymichelle0130@gmail.com](mailto:lindsaymichelle0130@gmail.com)
- Finance Administrator**.....Tara Hyder  
[finance@gcpc.org](mailto:finance@gcpc.org)
- Organist**.....Linda Dover
- Audio/Visual Director**.....Jason Turner  
Email both addresses if you need a video or audio played in worship. Send on the Wednesday prior to Sunday's worship. [darktrainfilms@gmail.com](mailto:darktrainfilms@gmail.com); [gcpc.media@gmail.com](mailto:gcpc.media@gmail.com)
- Praise Team Director**.....Carrie DeVries
- Praise Team Drummer** ..... Jill Endaya-Allen
- Child Care Coordinator**.....Carolyn Chaffin
- Wedding Coordinator**.....Kristy Shaw
- Funeral Coordinator** ..... Mary Sue Thomas

### ELDERS

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Johnnie Baker   | Jaylee Soule      |
| Paul Bruns      | Tom Stroud        |
| Joy Circo       | Eileen Thomson    |
| Barbara Douglas | Melanie Townsend  |
| Lara Schesser   | Session Clerk     |
| Jake Schmidt    | Michala Walker    |
| Andrew Sellers  | Mary Ann Weyforth |
| Kristy Shaw     |                   |

### SUPPORT STAFF

- Deacon Moderator .....Jean Hampton
- Operating Committee..... Angela Krug, Lara Schesser, Katie Hearn, Tom Stroud
- Newsletter Editor/Marketing..... Kim Krueger
- Prayer Chain .....Cheryl Johnson
- Website Administrators .....Kim Krueger, Patrick Bell, Christy Soule

### MINISTRY UNITS

- Congregational Nurture Unit Moderators  
Care and Connections....Mary Ann Weyforth  
Worship and Music..... Kathy Bures, Barbara Douglas
- Education Ministry Unit Moderators  
Adult ..... Joel Ilten  
Children ..... Angela Krug  
Youth..... Lara Schesser
- Reach Out Ministry Unit Moderators  
Kairos ..... Rick Randolph  
Mission .....Mikki Walker  
Welcoming ..... Kathy Williams
- Supportive Ministry Unit Moderators  
Facility ..... Liz Chandler  
Generosity .....Jane Knoche  
Finance..... Beth Lillian  
Personnel ..... Kevin Mason

### Worship Schedule

**9:30am Worship**  
**In-Person, Facebook & Zoom**  
Visit [gcpc.org/online](http://gcpc.org/online) for links

### Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines

**November 2024 issue - Deadline, October 22**  
**December 2024 issue - Deadline, November 19**