



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship — July 26, 2026

*“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that
Some have entertained angels without knowing it.” — Hebrews 13:2*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! Thank you for worshipping with us today.

ELDER ON DUTY: Paul Bruns

HEAD USHERS: John & Mary Pat Gilbert

HEARING ASSIST DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE. Please ask at the sound booth.

NURSERY CARE is available during worship, located in Room 22 in the east wing.

RECORD YOUR ATTENDANCE AT TODAY’S WORSHIP SERVICE WITH OUR VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE PAD: Click this link: <https://bit.ly/GCPCattendance>, or scan the QR Code below.



CONTACTING STAFF: The main office is open 8am–4pm, M–F. To reach a staff member by e-mail:

- **Rev. Karen Wright (Designated Pastor):** karen.wright@gcpc.org
- **Emily Nelson Dixon (Dir. of Christian Education):** emily.dixon@gcpc.org
- **Patrick O’Halloran (Dir. of Music Ministries):** patrick.ohalloran@gcpc.org
- **Patrick Bell (Office Admin.):** patrick.bell@gcpc.org
- **Tara Hyder (Finance Admin.):** finance@gcpc.org
- **Jason Turner (Audio/Technical Dir.):** E-mail both darktrainfilms@gmail.com & gcpc.media@gmail.com.

"Pray for one another" — James 5:15

We encourage you to remember the following in prayer:

All Grieving the Death of a Loved One

Surgeries/Hospitalizations/Illnesses: Dave Schesser

Cancer Treatment: Trooper Shaw, Johnnie Baker

Aging Challenges: Lee Will, Charlie Bogan

Military Service: David Zak, C.J. Bradley, Seth Lorimer, Mary E. Johnson II, Alanna Funk, Shannon Lorimer, Clara Frye, Eliana Wilson. **All veterans, deployed military, and reservists.**

Peace and Relief Workers; Unemployed and Underemployed; Families Struggling with Separation and Divorce; Individuals Struggling with Depression; Those Contemplating Suicide and Those Left Behind.

Heartland Presbytery Partnership of Prayer: Heartland Presbytery New Worshipping Community Commission.

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

SPOTLIGHT

SAVE THE DATE, AUGUST 9, FOR THE MINISTRY FAIR to be held in Heartland Hall after church. This is a time to see the selection of all the small interest groups and the productive teams that help make our church so dynamic. This is your time to join a group or team.

LET US KNOW! If you have recently moved or changed e-mail addresses or phone numbers, please let the church office know at office@gcpc.org or 913-345-1256. This will help us keep our database current. Thank you!

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE IS LOOKING FOR TWO MEMBERS-AT-LARGE to serve on the Nominating Committee for a one-year term. The Committee includes two Elders, two Deacons and two Members-at Large. For any questions or if you are interested or know someone who might be interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, please contact either: Eileen Thomson esthompson@gmail.com, or GayLee Ludwig-Bonney gaylee.bonney@gmail.com.

WHAT IS PER CAPITA? **Per Capita** is an amount paid per adult member of every PC(USA) congregation across the United States. It is a way we are the church together, and the local congregations support the work of the Presbytery, the Synod, and the General Assembly. While

we have a line item in the budget for this expense, it helps our operating budget when members pay their per capita. **For 2026, the total cost per adult member is \$45.91.** That is split between the three higher governing bodies as follows. Heartland Presbytery 31.50; Synod of Mid-America 3.15; General Assembly 11.26 **NOTE:** There is a drop-down selection for per capita on our website if you choose to pay online. Navigate to the "Pay online" link or view the "Online Giving" tab. If you would like to write a check, please write Per Capita in the memo line. Per Capita is an annual payment. If you have already submitted this year, thank you so much!

ADULT

ADULT EDUCATION THIS SUNDAY: Today, everyone is invited to a special intergenerational Adult Education gathering, **"Blessing Bags for Homeless Families,"** led by **Charlotte and Mallory Hearn and their mother, Katie Hearn.** Charlotte and Mallory, ages 9 and 11, will help lead us as children, youth, and adults working together to assemble blessing bags for families experiencing homelessness. This is a wonderful opportunity for all generations to serve side by side and put our faith into action through a simple but meaningful expression of care and compassion. Please join us at **10:45am in Heartland Hall.** All ages are warmly welcome!

Coming August 2: AI—Tool, Teacher, Tempter or Con? On Sunday, August 2, **Lee Mattix** will lead an engaging discussion titled **"AI: Tool, Teacher, Tempter or Con?"** This will not be a technical lecture. Instead, it will be a thoughtful and accessible conversation about artificial intelligence, drawing from the Pope's recent writing on AI and several other sources. The Thursday morning women's Bible Study recently explored this same material, and the discussion was very well received. Artificial intelligence is already influencing how we work, communicate, learn, create, and make decisions. Is AI simply a useful tool? Can it become a teacher? When might it tempt or mislead us? And how can Christian values such as human dignity, truth, responsibility, justice, and love of neighbor guide our use of this rapidly developing technology? No prior knowledge of AI is needed — only curiosity and a willingness to join the conversation. Please join us on **August 2 at 10:45 a.m. in Room 3.**

Upcoming:

- August 9 — No Sunday School — Ministry Fair
- August 16 — *Drawn IN - Dream & Hover*
- August 23 — *Drawn IN - Risk*
- August 30 — *Drawn IN - Listen (intergenerational)*
- September 6 — *Drawn IN – Reintegrate*
- September 13 — No Sunday School — Worship in the Park

CHILDREN

YOU ARE INVITED! Have you ever wondered how you can make a lasting difference in the life of a child? The answer might be simpler than you think... **we invite YOU to be part of our Children's Ministry!**

At Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, we believe some of the most important moments in faith happen when children are encouraged, supported, and shown God's love in ways they can understand. And that's where our amazing volunteers come in. The truth is, you don't need to be a teacher, have all the answers, or have years of experience working with children. **What matters most is simply having a willing heart and a desire to help create a welcoming, fun, and faith-filled environment where children can grow in their faith.** Whether you can help once a month, assist during special events, support Sunday mornings, lend a hand with activities, or simply be another caring adult presence, there is a place for you here.

Serving in Children's Ministry isn't just about what you give — it's also about what you receive. The special relationship that you build with the children of our Church is great. Being greeted on Sunday morning with a big smile and a wave from a small hand. The opportunity to witness faith growing right before your eyes is something truly special. Our Children's Ministry team would love to help you get involved.

Please visit gcpc.org/youareinvited for more information or talk to any member of our Children's Ministry Team: Emily Hussey, Laura Johnson, Keith Langabee, Emily Nelson-Dixon, Amy Sellers, Kristy Shaw or Christy Soule. **Accept our invitation!** Thank you for supporting our children at GCPC in their faith journey.

MISSION

GCPC WILL PARTICIPATE IN A HABITAT FOR HUMANITY VOLUNTEER DAY on Friday, August 14, 8:30am–3pm. We have eight volunteer spots. Please use the link to register. (All volunteers need to be registered with their online volunteer application complete by the registration deadline of 12pm on Friday, July 31. Contact Jim Byrd, jbyrdks@gmail.com).

JULY COMMUNION OFFERING — the PCUSA Mission Fund for the National Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Guatemala: Within the National Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Guatemala, Maya Quiché Presbytery serves the people of the central western highlands and operates the Bible Institute in San Cristobal. For many years, GCPC was part of a partnership between the Maya Quiché and Heartland Presbyteries. This long partnership fostered theological education and mutual support. Although the partnership has ended, we can still support our siblings in Guatemala through gifts to the PCUSA Mission fund names above. Gives to this fund support evangelism, theological education, women's empowerment, and disaster assistance and will assist the Presbyterian Church of Guatemala in its commitment to strengthening the church and serving its people. To give, use the "Communion" option in the online portal to make a donation, or write "Communion Offering" on your check or envelope and donate it during Offering before August 1.

OUR JULY DONATION PARTNER is Safehome. Safehome is a domestic violence shelter in Overland Park. Their core purpose is to provide a healing atmosphere where survivors of domestic violence can gain inner strength, explore options, and be empowered to live a life free of abuse. As the only domestic violence shelter in Johnson County, and the largest in the state of

Kansas, Safehome strives to break the cycle of domestic violence and partner abuse for victims and their children in our community. Besides providing safe housing, Safehome also provides mental health counseling and legal services for shelter residents. Operating the shelter requires all the necessities of daily life for the women and children housed in it, many of whom leave their abusers with nothing but the clothes on their backs. You can help Safehome execute their important mission by donating an item from the list below; just leave donations in the Weekday Entrance bin anytime during July. Please note all items must be new, and toiletries must be full-sized.

- new hand & body towels
- toilet paper
- paper towels
- new pillows
- new twin-sized comforters
- new twin-sized sheet sets
- shower curtains + rings
- diapers (size 5 & 6)
- small laundry baskets
- full-sized shampoo, conditioner, body wash & hand soap
- deodorant
- hairbrushes
- small trash cans
- plastic cutlery
- disposable plates/bowls



GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2026 Upcoming Events and Services

(Save these dates)

Mahjong Afternoon

Sunday, July 26, 2-4pm, Heartland Hall

RSVP to Katie or Erin

(See bulletin for email addresses)

Ministry Fair and the Blessing of the Backpacks

Sneak-a-Peek at Sunday School

Sunday, August 9 *(Following worship)*

Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Day

Friday, August 14, 8:30am–3pm

(See bulletin for details)

KAIROS Movie Night

August 14, 6pm, Choir Room

Q&A follows *(See bulletin for details)*

Sunday School Kick-Off

August 16, 10:45am

First SMASH of the School Year

(K-5th grade fellowship)

Sunday, August 16

Worship in the Park

Sunday, September 13, 9:30am

Meadowbrook Park (91st & Nall)

Grand Pavilion (SE Corner) Prairie Village

(Lunch following)

Baker/Reynolds Golf Scramble

Sunday, September 20, 1pm

Stewardship Town Hall and Brunch

Sunday, September 27

(Following worship)

Heart of America CROP Walk

Sunday, October 11, 2pm

Chili Cook-Off

Saturday, October 17

Generosity Sunday

Sunday, October 25, 9:30am

Blood Drive

Thursday, October 29, 1-5pm

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 29

Christmas Eve Worship

Thursday, December 24

5:30pm and 8pm

~ Please be mindful of the following deadlines for our communications publications ~

Grace Notes Weekly email newsletter - articles due to the church office by 10am, each Wednesday

Weekly church bulletin - articles due to the church office by Noon, each Wednesday

Grace Notes Monthly Newsletter - articles are due to the church office on the 3rd Tuesday of the month

Please respect the timelines needed to produce these publications. Thank you!

Details on these events and services are shared in the midweek email, bulletin, newsletter,
and Facebook and Instagram. For an online church calendar, visit gcpc.org/calendar