



Grace

PRESBYTERIAN

# YOUR GENEROSITY AT WORK

A narrative of worship, faith formation, care,  
mission, and community at Grace Presbyterian Church

*"Share abundantly in every good work."*

2 CORINTHIANS 9:8





# Growing in GRATITUDE

## Generosity Becomes Ministry



**When we give to Grace Presbyterian Church, we are doing far more than supporting a building or funding a collection of programs. Together, our gifts create opportunities for worship, nurture faith at every age, care for people in times of need, welcome our neighbors, and carry God's love into Wichita and beyond.**

Every act of generosity becomes part of a larger story. It becomes music offered in praise, a lesson shared with a child, a meal served after a funeral, assistance for a neighbor facing hardship, working for systemic solutions to lift up the least and the last, or a place where people can gather and find community. Through our shared giving, we participate in the ministry God is growing among us.

This booklet offers a glimpse of that story. It celebrates the people, partnerships, and ministries nurtured through the faithful generosity of Grace Presbyterian Church.

## Worship That Draws Us Together



**Worship is at the heart of our life together. Each week, we gather in contemporary and traditional services to hear God's Word, lift our voices in prayer and praise, and be renewed for lives of faithful service.**

Our worship is enriched by the gifts of many people. The **Chancel Choir**, under the direction of Sean Foster, leads the congregation in music with the support of our gifted accompanist and organist, Kelsey Wise along with paid choral section leaders. **Kakophone**, Grace's praise band led by Bryce Mulkey, brings together paid musicians and congregational volunteers to lead our 9:00 a.m. contemporary service. Bryce also directs the **Carillonneurs** bell choir, which regularly shares its music during our 11:00 a.m. service.

Throughout the year, guest musicians and members of the congregation offer special music. Our **Bluegrass Gospel Sunday** was one joyful example of the many musical traditions through which we proclaim the good news. Behind the scenes, our audio and visual volunteers help make worship accessible both in person and online.



*Kakophone Praise Band*

## Worship Through Every Season



Grace's **Arts Team** creates banners, backdrops, and visual elements that help bring the seasons and stories of our faith to life. **Original dramas**, written by members of our worship planning team and performed by people from the congregation, invite us to encounter Scripture through imagination as well as words.



*7 PM Christmas Eve Service*

Our special services guide us through the rhythms of the Christian year and the changing seasons of our lives. Last year, we celebrated World Communion Sunday with the South Sudanese congregation that worships at Grace each week. On Independence Day weekend, we worshiped with Wichita Korean Presbyterian Church. We gathered with First Presbyterian Church for Good Friday and marked Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter, Pentecost, and Christmas Eve together.

**Our Silent Night service offered a gentle space for those carrying grief during the holidays. Each gathering reminded us that worship has room for celebration, sorrow, wonder, remembrance, and hope.**

**Worship at Grace is also shared online.** We stream our worship services live. We also post sermon shorts, and music from worship through social media platforms and on our website, so that they may be shared with family, friends, and followers across the country and around the world.

## Faith That Grows at Every Age



**Faith formation at Grace does not end when worship is over. Through study, prayer, fellowship, and service, people of every age are invited to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.**

Children encounter the stories of our faith in **Sunday school**, led by Caitlin Harrison and Dale Haury. Our **youth group**, under the leadership of Kirk Anderson, provides young people with a place to ask questions, develop friendships, serve others, and discover how God is at work in their lives. **WyldLife** offers additional fellowship and faith formation for middle school students.



*Youth Mission Trip to Black Mesa, Navajo Nation, AZ*

This year, our **youth mission team** traveled to Black Mesa, Arizona in the Navajo Nation. There, students and adult leaders served alongside others, encountered a different community and culture, and learned that mission is not simply something we do for others. It is a way God changes all of us.

Adults continue growing through weekly **Bible studies**, **seasonal studies**, and **worship series**. This year's opportunities included an Ephesians study written by Pastor Kevin, an Advent devotional drawing upon Scripture and the writings of C.S. Lewis, and Lenten prayer cards that encouraged daily reflection.

Faith also grows through friendship. **NOGs**, the “Not Old Group,” creates fellowship for young adults, while the **Steamers** and **Windjammers** Life Groups gather regularly for meals, conversation, and mutual support. In all these settings, people find companions for the journey of faith.

## Caring for Children, Families, and One Another



**Grace’s ministry of care reaches people through every season of life.**

**Jacob’s Learning Ladder** serves more than 85 children from approximately 70 families. Every weekday, our building is filled with children learning, playing, and growing in a caring environment. Pastor Cheryl Hoops serves as our **preschool chaplain**, sharing Bible stories, songs, and prayers with the children and providing pastoral care to families and staff. This ministry also creates opportunities to build relationships with families throughout our community.



*Jacob's Learning Ladder*

Our Deacons offer care and support for those unable to join us regularly on Sundays. They hosted our **Super Senior Luncheon** with food, fellowship, and games, and our **All-church Picnic**.

**GriefShare** offers companionship and support to those walking through the loss of someone they love. Grace hosted a 13-week GriefShare group as well as a “How to Survive the Holidays” workshop for those facing a particularly difficult season.

Our **Heart Strings** ministry extends care to grieving families by providing funeral receptions. This year, volunteers prepared and served receptions for four families, creating a welcoming place for loved ones to gather, remember, and receive the care of the church.

Many other acts of care happen quietly. Ushers and Greeters welcome people into worship. Musicians, teachers, caregivers, and ministry volunteers share their gifts. Members visit, pray, prepare food, offer rides, and notice when someone needs encouragement. Together, these acts embody Christ's compassion.

## Serving Our Neighbors Near and Far



**Mission at Grace begins with paying attention to the needs around us and responding with generosity, compassion, and a commitment to justice.**

Through **Helping Hands**, Grace assists people facing urgent needs, including help with rent, gasoline, utilities, and furnishings for a new apartment. Our **Bus Ticket Ministry** distributes approximately 150 bus passes to more than 50 people who need reliable transportation to work, appointments, services, and other essential destinations.

The **Good Neighbor Team** assists people with yardwork and light home repairs. These practical acts help neighbors remain safely in their homes while reminding them that they are not alone.



*Good Neighbor Team*

Our **Yellow Bag** collections make it easy for the whole congregation to participate in mission. Throughout the year, we collect food for Covenant Presbyterian Church's food pantry, supplies for animal shelters, Simply Hygiene, and backpacks and school supplies for children.

Grace's **Refugee Committee** partners with the International Refugee Committee in Wichita to welcome and support newly arrived families. This ministry has included providing back-to-school supplies and other assistance as families begin building new lives in our community.

## Connection, Partnership, and Justice



*Placetas Presbyterian Church, Cuba*

Our connection with our partner church in **Placetas, Cuba**, reminds us that the body of Christ extends far beyond national borders. Members of Grace made two trips to Placetas, carrying medicine and supplies for the congregation's ministries while strengthening relationships with our siblings in Christ.

Grace was also a founding member of **Justice Together**, which now brings together more than 50 faith communities across the Wichita area. Through this partnership, we work for systemic solutions to homelessness, the shortage of affordable housing, and gun violence. Justice Together helps us join our voices and our influence with others so that compassion can lead to meaningful change.



*Justice Together Nehemiah Assembly*

Grace is part of a connectional church whose ministry reaches beyond our own congregation. Several Grace members serve on committees of the Presbytery and Synod, offering their time, wisdom, and leadership to the wider Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Sophia Randle represented the church as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the General Assembly, participating in the discernment and governance of our denomination.

Through these connections, we both contribute to and benefit from the witness, resources, and shared mission of Presbyterians across the region and throughout the country.

## Offering a Place of Welcome



One of the important ways Grace serves Wichita is by sharing our building with organizations that strengthen the community. Our church is more than the place where we gather on Sunday. Throughout the week, it becomes a place of learning, support, recovery, service, and connection.

Grace provides space for a **Girl Scout troop** to learn, build friendships, and serve the community. **Gamblers Anonymous** meets twice each week, and **Gam-Anon** provides support for family members affected by a loved one's gambling. A monthly **Caregiver Support** group offers encouragement to those caring for people living with dementia.

More than 150 members of **ACAP** gather at Grace each month for informative presentations, travel opportunities, food, and fellowship. **PEO** and **Delta Kappa Gamma** hold regular meetings in our building, supporting women's philanthropy and educators. We also open our doors for **City of Wichita** meetings and listening sessions, as well as author events offered in partnership with **Watermark Books**. Grace has a long tradition of serving as a polling place for Wichita elections.



*Sheinelle Jones - Watermark Author Event*

By sharing our space, we offer hospitality to people who may never attend a worship service but who nevertheless experience Grace as a place where they are welcomed and valued.

## Celebrating Life Together



*Fellowship before 9 AM Worship*

The life of the church also includes laughter, conversation, meals, and friendships. Our Christmas and Easter brunches bring generations together around the table. Our all-church picnic invites the whole congregation to step outside our regular routines and enjoy food, fellowship, and fun together.

**These gatherings are not separate from our ministry.  
They are part of how a congregation becomes a community.  
Around tables and in casual conversations, relationships deepen,  
newcomers find belonging, and we learn to recognize one another  
as siblings in Christ.**

## Generosity Makes Ministry Possible



This is only part of the story of what God is doing through Grace Presbyterian Church. Behind every ministry are people who pray, plan, teach, sing, cook, repair, welcome, lead, listen, and serve. Supporting them are the resources that keep our building open, compensate our staff and ministry leaders, provide materials, sustain our partnerships, and make new opportunities possible.

When we invest our time, talent, and treasure, we become part of every one of these ministries. Our gifts help children discover that they are loved by God. They help grieving people find companions for a difficult journey. They place food, transportation, medicine, and practical assistance into the hands of neighbors. They fill our worship with beauty and help carry God's Word beyond the walls of the church.

## Will You Add Your Leaf?



Each leaf represents a pledge—a commitment to grow in gratitude and share God's abundance.



ROOTED  
IN GRACE



GROWING IN  
GRATITUDE



BEARING  
FRUIT



SHARING  
ABUNDANTLY

**Our goal is 100 pledges. Each pledge represents a commitment to grow in gratitude and share God's abundance.**

**Every pledge matters, whatever its amount.**

As you consider your commitment, we invite you to pray with gratitude for the gifts God has entrusted to you and to reflect upon how your generosity can grow in the coming year.

**Rooted in grace 🌿 Growing in gratitude 🌿**

**Bearing fruit 🌿 Sharing abundantly 🌿**