



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

GraceKirkwood.org

GRACE HAS A STORY TO TELL

**As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved...clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body...and be thankful.
(Colossians 3:12, 14-15)**

"This time of transition has been fruitful, as we have come to know ourselves better and are in the best place to welcome someone new into our lives."

(Jenn Wethington)

"I went on a mission trip with Grace to build a house with Habitat for Humanity. I met Jimmy Carter there! Wow! A never-to-be-forgotten experience."

(a Mission trip participant)

"My daughter got married and our grandkids were baptized at Grace. Grace has provided many spiritual moments for me personally. We would love to share our story in more detail with you. I hope the Spirit will bring us together...come and see!"

(Dick Entenmann)



A GRACE-FUL WELCOME

HELLO, AND WELCOME TO GRACE CHURCH, KIRKWOOD, MISSOURI!

The journey we are on is to continually grow in our love of God and love of our neighbors. We aspire to follow Jesus and to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit calling us. We are growing spiritually and open to all who want to walk with us on our journey together. This time of transition has energized us to explore our faith deeply as we find our way in a changing world. We are about building relationships and finding God together as we live out the Christian life.

We want to be in relationship with you, who might become our new rector. We are interested in considering women and men who come from a variety of backgrounds and life experiences, and we encourage all who are interested to apply. Our leaders and members will be totally dedicated to the success of our new rector. We are curious and excited about our future and yours. We are poised for what is next and full of hope for what God holds for us.

At Grace, we are intergenerational—taking joy in the presence of multi-generation families. We find joy in the children and youth, joy in the elders, and joy in everyone in between. We want to provide opportunities to expand on intergenerational experiences—since we see this as an important asset of our parish.

Our programs are designed with all ages in mind. Children learn about God and come to know Jesus at an early age in Sunday School, as acolytes, and in group events. As they enter high school and share their faith journeys in the youth group, they participate in the annual Mission Trip (a big deal!) and other local activities and fundraisers. Our Sunday morning adult formation program strengthens what we learn from the Gospels, builds and deepens relationships, and creates new friendships.

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US.



WHO WE ARE

“We began coming to Grace after my mother-in-law signed our kids up for choir. From those inauspicious beginnings Grace has provided our family with many opportunities to learn and grow. Some of it in organized activities like choir, handbells, acolyting and Sunday school. But a lot of it has happened organically with church members taking time to teach and grow the youth of the parish through small daily interactions. It is a very rich relationship.”

(Wendy Ludbrook)

“I feel close to Jesus and believe in God, but I have a hard time talking about it. I would like to find language that allows me to feel comfortable expressing my deepest Christian beliefs.”

(Sue Nixon)

“Our annual Christmas cookie and jewelry sale was discontinued during the pandemic. Then the youth of the parish offered to reestablish the cookie sale. They did and it was a big success. The next year, a team of women of the church reestablished the jewelry sale. Together—an even bigger success. This event involves nearly every member and attracts many people from the Kirkwood community. It’s one example of youth and older members collaborating successfully.”

(Lyn Ballard)



WHAT IS GOD UP TO WITH US?

Our ministry priorities are Christian Formation, Outreach, and Pastoral Care. We have recently called a full-time assistant to collaborate with established lay leaders in those areas. We are strong but have room to grow in every area. We desire outreach activities that are transformational for us and for those we serve, so we have streamlined to prioritize our focus on areas of greatest need.

Our worship can be described as “ancient and modern,” that is, we are grounded in the Book of Common Prayer, and we enjoy occasional new language and liturgical styles. You might say we are “expansive” and eager to expand our horizons. Our music is supported by highly talented musicians, a fantastic pipe organ, a wonderful organist/choir master, a talented choir, and three delightful bell choirs. We enjoy our favorite hymns and happily sing new ones. We enjoy our children’s participation in worship and are looking for more ways for them to be regularly involved. We have been streaming Sunday services since we expanded our capability during the pandemic and have weekly participants.

Prayer and liturgy bring us together. We see Jesus in the people we meet—both inside the parish and outside in our community. People get involved as they are invited and called to our various ministries. We get connected through the things we work on together. The ministries provide opportunities for relationships to flourish. Sermons personalize the experiences—by saying “this is what it looks like when you are trying to live out the ministry of Jesus.”



MOVING TO GRACE

Grace members look forward to getting to know our new rector—someone with whom we will work, eat, celebrate, learn, worship, and have fun. We are not inclined to boast but will boast to get your attention. If you can see yourself as our next rector—energetic, collaborative, transparent, and most importantly relational, we offer ourselves, our community, and the region. We want to make it a great experience for you.

While Kirkwood and St. Louis are amazing places to live, the diversity of our region also presents many opportunities to carry out Christ's reconciling and healing work.

The Kirkwood Community: Kirkwood and the nearby municipalities in Saint Louis County are highly appealing. It seems like everything is just 10 or 20 minutes down the road. We are prepared to help our next rector live in our area by offering support to make the transition smooth.

Kirkwood is the kind of place people want for vibrant community life, excellent public and private schools, and a home-town feel. We have an interesting history, beautiful parks, a friendly farmers' market, great recreation and restaurants, and a beautiful new performing arts center within four blocks of our church. Grace is located near the attractive town center, a good place to hang out. It's an appealing community to put down roots.

St. Louis City and the Region: Our region is filled with interesting neighborhoods and fun places and events. Forest Park offers a variety that appeals to everyone: the Zoo, the Muny outdoor theater, golf venues, an ice-skating rink, walking and biking trails, the Science Center, Shakespeare in the Park, the Art Museum, and more. We are proud of our world-renowned Missouri Botanical Garden, the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, and other cultural institutions. Sports are big-time in St. Louis: Cardinals Baseball, the Saint Louis Hockey Blues, our new soccer team, City SC, in a brand-new downtown stadium, and other wide-ranging athletic activities. Our region boasts two major rivers, the Mississippi and the Missouri, a lively and respected wine-producing industry, and a multitude of exciting opportunities for outdoor life and recreation in nearby rural areas. The area has a wide range of excellent educational institutions, including several highly regarded colleges and universities.

THE DIOCESE OF MISSOURI

We are part of a diocese on the move, with a dynamic, engaged bishop, the Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson. Check out the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri at www.diocesemo.org

The Diocese offers many resources and growth opportunities for clergy. It is a good place for clergy couples. The Diocese, which covers the eastern half of Missouri, serves rural, suburban, and urban congregations. It encourages people to come together to advocate for social justice and human rights issues. At Grace, we support the Diocese financially and are committed to living out its mission: Walking humbly with God and our neighbor, we seek justice, act with love, and live the Good News of Jesus. We are inspired by the vision of the Diocese: A world transformed by God's love, justice and peace.



GRACE BY THE NUMBERS

1

**AVERAGE SUNDAY
ATTENDANCE**

120

2

PLEDGING UNITS

109

3

2024 BUDGET

\$730,467

4

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

\$3.8 million

5

STAFFING

3 Full Time,
4 Part Time

BEING WITH US

Are you our next rector?

We acknowledge a mutual responsibility for leadership with our rector. The rector has a major role and a very special relationship with the Vestry and the congregation but is not expected to initiate everything. During this time of transition parishioners have made great strides in taking more responsibility for their share of the ministry.



WHAT WE ASK



- Inspire us to put spiritual life and faith first. Encourage us to meet the challenges presented by competition from schools, sports, and other activities. We hope to be more creative in getting the generations together in worship and at times other than worship. Advise us on how to appeal to people to be more active in the life of the congregation.
- Encourage us in making and maintaining relationships, to knit friendships through a variety of large-group and small-group intergenerational activities. We have found people enjoy coming together in our homes for deeper conversations. We have a knack for entertaining large groups and coming together for fellowship and celebrations.
- Be there for those who are suffering and facing troubles. Be our Good Shepherd when we struggle or are lost.
- Invite us to be more involved and to volunteer our time and talent. Recognize what each of us has to offer and invite us to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus. People appreciate being invited. Assist people in finding ministries they can be passionate about. Coach leaders on how to invite members to serve.
- Be with us as we build robust intergenerational ministries for people to become involved in. Elders need to be reminded there are many ways they can serve meaningfully. Kids need to be known by name and offered interesting activities that involve other generations.
- Offer opportunities for formal and informal discussions and reflections that take people to a deeper level of faith.
- Inject variety in liturgy/worship through music and generational participation.
- Partner with our leaders as they find ways to celebrate people's ethnic roots, histories, and traditions.



WHAT WE OFFER

- Our amazing community of people who are poised, ready and willing to keep making Grace the beloved place it is. A parish that is energetic and joyful.
- Confident and supportive lay leadership, some very experienced, some new to the parish and to leadership.
- Talented, experienced, and skilled staff members who are excellent in their roles.
- A solid financial package of base salary and benefits.
- Support, financial and otherwise, to help with the transition and move to our community.
- Institutional financial stability.
- Involvement in advocacy for God's people and the many exciting ministries of the Diocese of Missouri.
- A well-maintained building and a beautiful worship space and grounds. We make practical use of our space with some lease arrangements and are working on collaborative use of our outdoor space.
- A great place to live and put down roots.
- We want our rector to enjoy a good work-life balance, and we offer our commitment to help maintain it.

THANK YOU!

***"I'm 64 and have been in this parish for over 60 years. Right now is the most excited I have ever been about who we are and where we are going."
(Mike Gibbons)***

*Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image. ...Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.
(Enriching Our Worship, Vol. 1)*

GET IN TOUCH



If you or someone you know feels called to enter discernment with us as we search for our next rector, the following items must be submitted to: The Rev. Canon Doris Westfall at dwestfall@diocesemo.org by March 4.

- Cover letter stating your desire to join us in discernment
- Current resume
- Current OTM portfolio
- Your responses to the following questions with fewer than 200 words for each question
 - What attracts you to Grace Episcopal Church and Kirkwood?
 - Share with us what is calling you to make a change at this point in your life.
 - How have you unlocked the spirituality of your parish?
 - In today's world, how do we attract and retain the next generation? What methodology has worked for you and what would you do differently?
- Ø If the applicant is recovering from a substance use disorder or other addictive behavior, that nominee shall have had a minimum of five years of continuous sobriety and shall actively be working a program of recovery.
- Ø Consistent with the Baptismal Covenant, we respect the dignity of all persons; therefore, no candidate shall be excluded because of race, color, ethnic origin, immigration status, national origin, sex, marital or family status (including pregnancy and childcare plans), sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disabilities, or age.