

THE LOVE & LIGHT OF CHRIST

It's almost Valentine's Day and everywhere we look we'll see hearts... big, bright, and beautiful!

And quite honestly, when I think of people with big, bright, beautiful hearts I think of you!

When people are new to Grace Community I usually see you greeting them and inviting them to be a part of what God is doing in our church. When people are sick, injured or hurting I often see you being the first to offer a hug, a hand, or a word of encouragement. When we put the word out that volunteers are needed at Grace, it's rarely a challenge to find folks who will step up to meet the need.

Speaking as your Pastor, I absolutely love serving the Lord at Grace Community because you are so generous in spirit and in deed. You've helped to create a church family which shines the bright light and marvelous love of Christ, not just among ourselves, but throughout the whole City of Surprise. Thank you!

Allow me to take this line of thinking one step deeper... I believe that you are the way you are because Christ has so transformed your hearts with His love that you can't help but to overflow with the things that are of Him. Scriptures would say that He's given you a heart of flesh instead of a heart of stone.

And what kind of fruit does the Spirit produce in a heart of flesh? Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,

goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22). Can you think of anything better?

Sometimes, however, if you're really honest with yourself, you'll notice there are times and seasons where you're just not feeling love, joy or generosity in your heart. Maybe you haven't been seeking the Lord in prayer or in study of His word. Maybe your heart doesn't seem so big, bright, or beautiful.



Why is that? It's because, as the old hymn goes, *"our hearts are prone to wander."* Living in a fallen, sinful world, we sometimes forget our first love... Jesus Christ. When that happens, we tend to revert to our *"old self"* instead of the new creation which we now are in Christ. Rather than tender hearts, we foster stony hearts.

Only when our motives and purposes are fully centered on pleasing God do we find them beginning to look big, bright and beautiful again. St. Augustine called this the *"re-ordering of our loves."* When our greatest love in life is Jesus Christ people begin to notice. Why? Because His presence in our lives spills over into our relationships... in other words, people see the fruit of the Holy Spirit in your life.

We're told in Genesis 6:5 that every human heart has an inclination which reflects our deepest commitments. It

Article continued on next page →

Continued from front page

is what we treasure the most. It determines our direction and attitude in life. No wonder Jesus is so concerned about our hearts.

So, when we find ourselves feeling stony of heart and wandering far from Christ how do we ever find our way back to our first love? You can't do it merely by changing your thinking, or through great acts of will, but rather by changing what you love most.

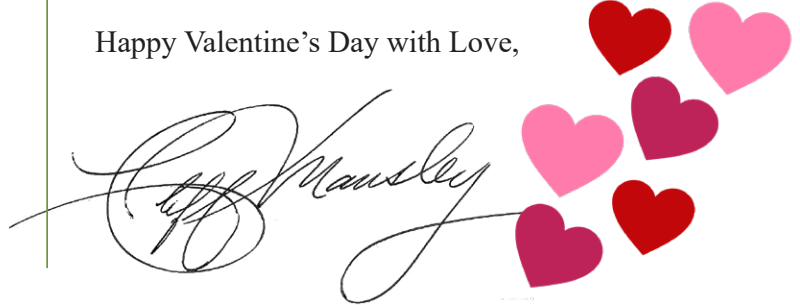
Change happens not only by giving your mind new truths — though it does involve that — but also by feeding the imagination new beauties so you love Jesus supremely. We change when we change what we worship the most.

Lent is a season designed for Christians to help us re-order our loves. It's a forty-day period beginning

with Ash Wednesday and ending with Holy Week. It's meant to help us understand the suffering and beauty of our crucified Savior whose heart was crushed and broken on the Cross for us (Psalm 22:14).

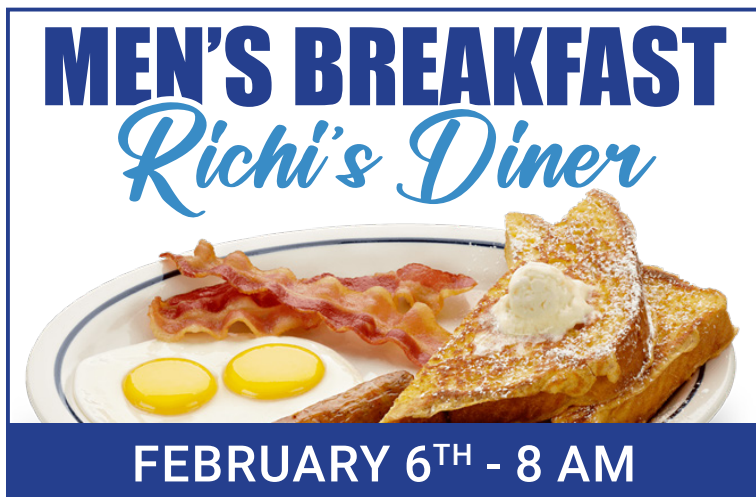
I want to invite you to join me in our Lenten journey beginning February 22nd with Ash Wednesday worship at 11:00 a.m. As we seek the Lord with new eyes may your heart be ever more tender to His heart and may He shine ever more brightly through you!

Happy Valentine's Day with Love,



THE JOASH CHEST

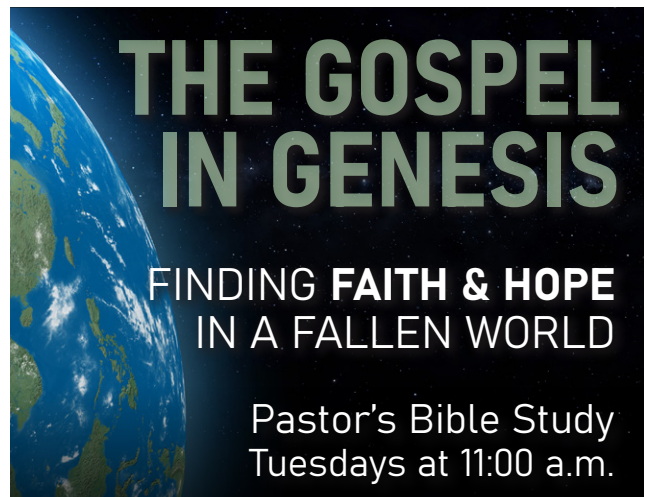
We encourage you to make a gift to the Joash Chest Fund which will ensure that our ministry facilities are well maintained and upgraded. Please pray about how God would lead you in generous giving.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Richi's Diner

FEBRUARY 6TH - 8 AM



THE GOSPEL IN GENESIS

FINDING FAITH & HOPE IN A FALLEN WORLD

Pastor's Bible Study
Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m.



PREPARE, REMEMBER, CELEBRATE

Funeral Pre-Planning Workshop

FRIDAY, FEB. 10TH, 10 AM

Have you thought about your end-of-life plans?

So many of us prefer to put this off. It's too awkward to discuss. Then things happen and...

As believers in Christ, we realize that everyone is going to one day pass from this mortal coil, and we should be prepared for that part of the journey.

That's why we are offering a funeral pre-planning workshop in conjunction with Reverend Bill Davis of Funeralwise and Preneed Services. Bill is a very gracious man who has been assisting people with funeral planning for more than twenty-five years.

This is not a sales presentation, and the seminar is free.

PLEASE SIGN-UP IN THE LOBBY.

Presented by:

FUNERALwise
Prepare. Celebrate. Remember.



SUNDAY MORNING SMALL GROUP

Beginning February 5th the group will be viewing the 4-part video series, *Taking Responsibility for Your Life, Because Nobody Else Will.*

In this study, Pastor Andy Stanley teaches it's time to stop the finger pointing and excuse-making and to remove the "ir" in irresponsible...

SUNDAYS AT 8:30 A.M.

TUESDAY MORNING

— PRAYER GROUP —



MEET US IN THE
PRAYER ROOM, EVERY
TUESDAY AT 9:45 AM

minute for

MISSIONS



Trail Life®

Adventure › Character › Leadership



On Saturday, January 28, the Trail Life Trailmen shoveled 41 tons of gravel into the front planter where our church sign is located. They did this as part of their service to their chartering organization.

Please stop by the Resource/ Coffee room and sign one of the thank you cards we will be giving them.



EPCWO
WORLD OUTREACH

We received Christmas and New Year Newsletters from our EPC Missionaries, the Judays, the Adamsons and the Fains. Printed copies are available in the Missions Publications stand in the lobby.



A LITTLE CHANGE... CHANGES LIVES!

When you fill a bottle with coins, cash, or checks you are making a positive impact on young families in our community. Thank you for providing the support that will save and change lives!

Your donations to Choices Pregnancy Centers helps meet the needs of your community by providing:

- ♥ Free Pregnancy Testing
- ♥ Free Ultrasounds
- ♥ Low Cost STD Testing
- ♥ Abortion Risks Info
- ♥ Adoption Info
- ♥ Parenting Classes
- ♥ Post-Abortion Recovery Programs

You can also make an online donation by going to
**ChoicesAZ.com/
bbd-grace-community**

**PICK UP YOUR BOTTLE
TODAY & RETURN BY 2/26.**



INQUIRERS - NEW MEMBERS CLASSES

Thinking about becoming a member here at Grace Community? We will be starting classes February 19th. These classes are designed to help you understand the basic beliefs, vision and functions of our church while giving you an opportunity to ask questions, laugh, and enjoy meeting new friends!

**NEW CLASSES
START 2/19**

*(If you will be traveling at all, don't worry...
we have a make-up class).*

SIGN-UP IN THE LOBBY

WATCH OUT FOR SCAMS

There is a scam going around that has affected many churches and charities, including ours.

PLEASE KNOW THIS...

1. Your pastor will never ask you to purchase gift cards for any reason. The church will never contact you and request gift cards (or other purchases) of any kind, especially not through email or text messages.
2. If you have any doubts about an email or text message you receive please contact Pastor Cliff or the church office (623-975-9038). Never call a phone number provided in a potentially phony email or text message.

BASEBALL ANYONE?

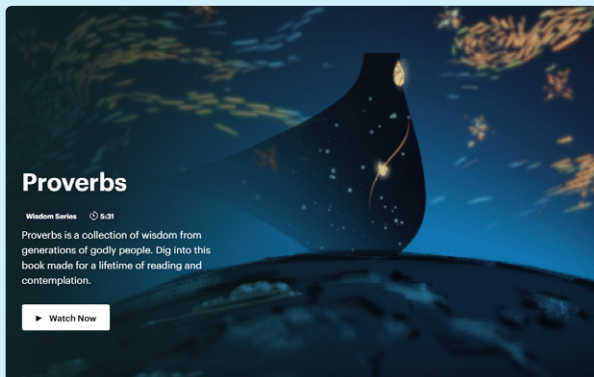
Our church is putting together a group to go to a ball game.

SATURDAY, 3/18 - 1:05 PM

Colorado Rockies vs. Kansas City Royals

\$40 EACH - LEGENDS DECK

Includes lunch & beverage from Boston Market.



HOT TIP FOR READING YOUR BIBLE

Pastor Cliff highly recommends the **BibleProject.com**. It is an animated video series designed to help you review & understand each book of the Bible.

“I like to watch the Bible Project video which corresponds with the book of the Bible I am reading before & after I study each one.”

CHURCH PICTURE DAYS FEBRUARY 12TH & 26TH

If you are not pictured in our Member Photo Directory and would like to be, come and have your photo taken after church on Sunday, February 12 or Sunday, February 26.

If you are already pictured in the directory and are happy with the photo, you do not need to have a new photo taken.

WE NEED
YOUR
PICTURE!



Thanks be to God who sent Dalia & Scott Coulson and their team - Amy, Jerry, Rick, Chip, Colleen, Dave, Art and Darlene & Lowell Coulson to help us get the saturateusa.org door hangers packed and distributed door to door. Thanks also to Wayne Adams and the Women's Bible Study for their help packing. We then took them door to door through the neighborhood. So welcome the new people God will send our way. It is truly exciting to see what He is doing since He works in us to get His Word out.

To God be the Glory!
Steve Jones



Grace Community to Host

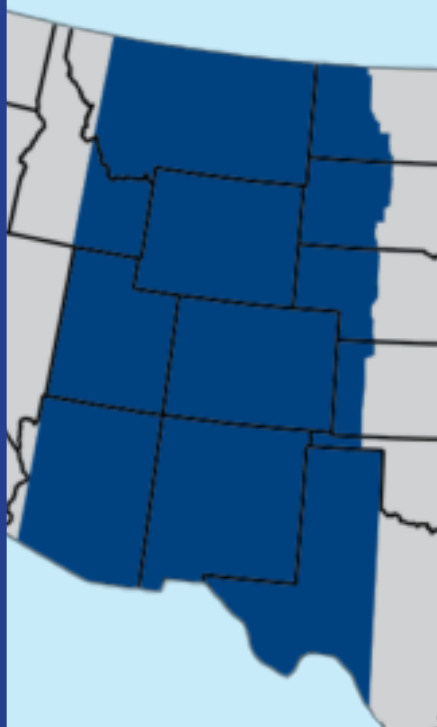
PRESBYTERY *OF THE WEST* **FEBRUARY 1ST - 3RD**

The first three days of February, Grace Community has the honor of hosting a gathering of sister church pastors and elders from all over the west. These are church leaders who truly love the Lord and have a passion for seeing others meet Jesus.

Your help is very important to us. We are asking people to assist as greeters, check-in hosts, meal servers, and trouble shooters. We will work in shifts so we all can share the load... many hands make light work!

PLEASE SEE PATTI FRENCH TO VOLUNTEER YOUR WONDERFUL ASSISTANCE IN ANY OF THESE AREAS!

You are invited to attend any of the presbytery gatherings including worship which Grace Community will be leading!



In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of two dear church members.

HOWARD KAST

Grace Community Church founding member.

Passed away on 1/26/2023.

PAUL BATTISTE

Long time church member and church deacon.

Passed away on 1/29/2023.



Beginning soon, our church will be putting together some small groups to help our congregation, especially new members, get better acquainted.

Several volunteers will be arranging social gatherings for six.



FINANCE UPDATE

**Actual
Unrestricted
Contributions
1/1/23 - 1/31/23:**
\$36,372

**Budgeted
Unrestricted
Contributions
1/1/23 - 1/31/23:**
\$34,950

Joash Chest Fund:

\$48,460

Sincerely, Patti French, Treasurer

Women's Ministry

Baby Shower

All ladies are invited to join us on **Friday, March 3rd, at 11:30 a.m.** for our Women's Ministry Baby Shower. Bring along an unwrapped Shower Gift for Choices Pregnancy Centers. *More details coming soon...*

Sign-Up in the Lobby Today!

FEBRUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY						
			1	2	3	4						
			EPC CHURCH PLANTING MEETING 1:00 PM	TOPS Meeting 8 AM - 9:15 AM Worship Rehearsal	PRESBYTERY MEETING 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Missions - Choices Team 2:00-3:00 pm	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST WITH JAMES WHITFORD 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM						
			EPC MISSIONS DINNER 6:00 PM	PRESBYTERY MEETINGS 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM PRESBYTERY DINNER 5:30 PM								
5	6	7	8	9	10	11						
Small Group 8:30 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion	Men's Breakfast at Tivoli Gardens 8:00 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM	Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM Pastor's Bible Study 11:00 AM Trail Life 6:00 PM	Missions Team Meeting 10:00 AM Game Day 1:00 PM	Worship Rehearsal 9:00 -11:00 AM Women's Book Club 10:30 AM Deacon's Meeting 2:00 PM	TOPS Meeting 8 AM - 10 AM FUNERAL PRE-PLANNING WORKSHOP 10:00 AM							
12	13	14	15	16	17	18						
Small Group 8:30 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Pictures Taken Following Service	Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM	Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM Pastor's Bible Study 11:00 AM Trail Life 6:00 PM	Session Meeting 1:30 PM	Worship Rehearsal 9:00 -11:00 AM Sharing & Caring 10:30 AM W & M Meeting 11:00 AM	TOPS Meeting 8 AM - 10 AM Finance Meeting 10:00 AM							
19	20	21	22	23	24	25						
Small Group 8:30 AM HIS MESSENGERS WORSHIP CONCERT 10:00 AM New Member's Class 4:00 PM	<i>President's Day</i> Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM	Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM Pastor's Bible Study 11:00 AM Trail Life 6:00 PM	ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 11:00 AM	Worship Rehearsal 9:00 -11:00 AM March for Life 11:00 AM AZ Capital Bldg.	TOPS Meeting 8 AM - 10 AM							
26	27	28	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80%;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">LEGEND</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #A9C9E0; padding: 2px;">Worship & Study</td> <td style="background-color: #D9E1F2; padding: 2px;">Other Groups</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #F4A460; padding: 2px;">GCC Rehearsals</td> <td style="background-color: #4F7942; color: white; padding: 2px;">SPECIAL ACTIVITIES</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #F4A460; padding: 2px;">Group Meetings</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> </div>				Worship & Study	Other Groups	GCC Rehearsals	SPECIAL ACTIVITIES	Group Meetings	
Worship & Study	Other Groups											
GCC Rehearsals	SPECIAL ACTIVITIES											
Group Meetings												
Small Group 8:30 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM <i>Baby Bottle Dedication</i> Pictures Taken Following Service New Member's Class - 4:00 PM	Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM	Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM Pastor's Bible Study 11:00 AM Trail Life 6:00 PM										

UPCOMING CONCERTS

HIS MESSENGERS - SUNDAY - 10 AM - 2/19



**NOTE:
Reservations
NOT required
for this
event!**

SPECIAL WORSHIP CONCERT!

His Messengers was formed by the merger of two quartets which found common ground in their music style, their joy of singing, and their desire to share the Gospel through music. They enjoy singing many of the old Gospel favorites. They also have included a few contemporary songs, treasured by young and old alike.

WEST VALLEY SINGERS - FRIDAY - 4 PM - 3/17

The West Valley Singers are a 20-25 member vocal ensemble. They are part of West Valley Chorale, a non-profit performing arts organization based in Surprise, AZ. They are directed by Ted Faszer, with Linda Shirck as principal accompanist.



THE SALTY DAWGS - FRIDAY - 7 PM - 4/14



An acoustic folk music group comprised of four vocalists/instrumental players. They play primarily folk music from the 50's and 60's – with an occasional Irish tune or original song thrown into the mix.

Please make reservations online at GCC-EPC.com

A \$10 donation per attendee is appreciated.



Ash Wednesday

WEDNESDAY • FEBRUARY 22 • 11 A.M.

Sharing & Caring

SUPPORT GROUP

The Sharing and Caring support group will continue meeting on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month at 10:30 a.m.



GAME DAYS

Join us for fun and games on the **2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the Month @ 1PM**

Bring along your favorite games and snacks to share.

The church will provide bottled water.



Women's BOOK CLUB

The next Women's Book Club meeting will be held Thursday, February 9, at 10:30 a.m. They will be discussing *Prayers for Sale* by Sandra Dallas.





THIS FACILITY IS EQUIPPED WITH A HEARING ASSISTANCE SYSTEM.

Please ask for a receiver at the soundbooth.



PRAYER CHAIN

Prayer requests can be submitted on our website at gcc-epc.com/prayer-warriors

If you prefer, you can also directly contact Pastor Cliff (pastorcliff@gcc-epc.com), the church office (grace@gcc-epc.com), or your assigned deacon.

You can also sign up to be included in the prayer chain at the webpage listed above.

FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS

Barbara Martin	2/10
Betty Eldridge	2/11
Abigail Mansley	2/25
Barbara Laursen	2/26

ANNIVERSARIES

Lennie & Barbara Peckham-Devine ..	2/4
Peter & Janet Kosky	2/6
Tom & Connie Merritt	2/8
Steve & Nancy Wilmeth	2/14
Diane & Michael Wilton	2/14
Wayne & Louise Adams	2/16
Jim & Ruth Lee	2/19



Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Rev. Cliff Mansley
Pastor

16165 W. Mountain View Blvd.
Surprise, AZ 85374

Worship Service Time:
10:00 a.m.

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Contact Information:
Phone: 623-975-9038
Fax: 623-537-5565

Website Address:
gcc-epc.com

E-mail Address:
grace@gcc-epc.com