

HAPPY RENEWAL YEAR!!!

Are you a list maker? I am.

I make lists almost every day. It helps me to keep focused and disciplined with what is most important.

Oh sure, I have lists for mundane things like household items or work that needs to be done around the house. For things at the church, I have no

less than ten lists which I maintain.

More importantly, I keep lists concerning things that I need to do spiritually... people I need to pray for, Scriptures I need to study, books I need to read.

At the end of each year, I make a special list which evaluates the areas of my life where

I've seen spiritual growth and encouragement. I call this my Annual Renewal List.

For instance, I've spent much time and intensity in studying the Scripture... mainly in Genesis and Revelation. That's been an extremely uplifting experience. So, I add to my list that I want to renew my studies in Genesis, but I'm adding to that the Gospel of John.

As your pastor, I pray a lot. That's to be expected. Even so, I've found it more and more difficult to spend time listening to the Lord in my prayers. So, it makes sense to renew my time in prayer in the coming year. However, in order to have a sense of renewal in my Spirit I will want to carve out more listening time with the Lord.

One area that is always found in my Annual Renewal List is entitled "Repentance." This includes those practices which creep into my life that I know are not pleasing to the Lord. It's not just a confession per se,

> but redirecting of my path to more beneficial practices.

Ultimately, my annual renewal list includes no more than seven or eight items. Otherwise, I tend to forget my priorities throughout the year.

Romans 12:2 reminds us, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your

mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

As we step out in a New Year, I want to encourage you to consider assessing your spiritual growth this past year and making your own "Annual Renewal" List. My guess is that you will find it a convicting, encouraging, and refreshing blessing as you start the New Year.





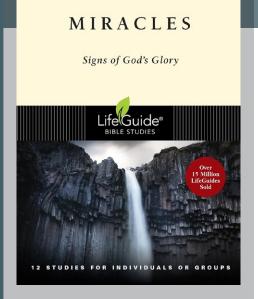
UNDECK THE HALLS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

It's been a glorious season of Christmas celebration and now it's time to pack up all of the décor until next year. We need volunteers to help us un-decorate the church.



Please join us Saturday, 1/6, at 10:00 a.m.

DOUGLAS CONNELLY



LADIES BIBLE STUDY RESUMES JANUARY 8TH, 2024

Miracles: Signs of God's Glory by Douglas Connelly

This twelve session LifeGuide® Bible Study, explores the miracles of God to help you discover how he works in our world--yesterday and today. **Study books are \$10.**





Jane and I would like to thank you for the many wonderful cards, gifts and gracious thoughts that you sent our way this Christmas. We are truly blessed to be able to serve you here at Grace Community Church. Words cannot fully express the depth of our gratitude to God for you!

With Love – Cliff & Jane Mansley

USHERS WANTED!

If you would like to hand out worship bulletins and help guests find a seat for worship, please sign up to be a volunteer usher.

A sign-up sheet is in the lobby.

WHY HAVE A MEMORIAL SERVICE?

More and more I am hearing people say that when they pass away and graduate to glory, they don't want a funeral or a memorial service. As your pastor, I find this to be shocking.

Maybe you think that your life isn't significant or that there aren't enough people around to remember you. Perhaps you are trying to be frugal, humble, or not a bother.

If you find yourself thinking in any of these categories I would urge you to consider the following rationale for holding a funeral or memorial service.

- 1 A memorial service is a witness in that it points first and foremost to the One who created, redeemed & ultimately made you who you are. It gives God the credit for your life and salvation He is due. It gives God the glory.
- 2 Christ shed His blood for you on the cross. His death and resurrection are the basis for your resurrection. A memorial service underscores this fact for everyone who attends your memorial. Christ's resurrection and your resurrection bring hope to those who might otherwise despair. It reminds others that there is a glorious future that goes beyond this world.
- 3 A memorial service allows the fellowship of believers to surround those who grieve with love and comfort.
- A memorial service allows friends and family members to share fond memories... especially those aspects of your faith and life that are most important.
- 5 A memorial service challenges others to emulate the faith with which God has so gloriously blessed you. In fact, a memorial service is one last major opportunity to challenge others to share the same convictions which you practiced in this life.

The importance of a memorial is highlighted by the entire chapter of Hebrews 11. There, one name after another is mentioned for their faith in Christ. It's a great testament to the work of our Lord in and through the lives of men and women from ages past. I would encourage you to read it today.

It is my sincere prayer that you will not pass up the wonderful opportunity for witness and comfort which a memorial service grants friends and family members.

As you prepare for your memorial service you are welcome to visit with me regarding other details. In the meantime, you may want to jot down hymns, songs, stories and Scriptures that may be important to your life and give them to me.

In case you are wondering, there is nothing morbid or morose in thinking about how we will be remembered. Instead, it is a glorious thing to consider how our Lord has not only created us, but recreated us for His glory.

With Love in Christ, Pastor Cliff



Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-3

SUNDAY SCHOOL • SUNDAYS AT 8:30 AM



Join us for our next study, *Prayer: Remix* by Louie Giglio. Beginning Sunday, Jan. 7.

Bless Me. Be With me. Watch over and protect me. Forgive me.

Listen to the way you pray, and to the prayer of those around you, and you'll hear these four tried and true phrases often- familiar words we've probably been saying over and over to God since we first learned how to pray. ReMIXED prayers embrace these four concepts, while moving towards a healthier, God-centered prayer language that saturates our thoughts and words with the phrases, "Let Me Bless You," "Live Through Me," and "No Matter What, Use Me." A subtle shift based on radical truth. Potent prayers for a full life.



Here at Grace Community, we are organizing Life Groups who will meet together for fellowship and spiritual growth outside of Sunday Morning.

We want everyone to find community, not only because life is more fun when we are together, but because we know faith deepens in new ways when we are in relationship with others who are pursuing Jesus! We have five yearround groups that are already meeting.

Please share your interest in a Life Group by signing up on the clipboard at church or by contacting Deb Schmitt, Life Group Coordinator, at debschmitt3@gmail.com or 360-871-0851 (call or text).

Deb will contact you to get the details needed to connect you with a Life Group.

SIGN UP SHEET IN LOBBY

WATCH OUT FOR SCAMS

There is a scam going around that has affected many churches, including ours. A scammer will send an email or a text claiming to be the pastor or a member of the church staff. They will then ask for gift cards to be purchased and the activation codes to be sent to them.

PLEASE KNOW THIS...

- 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.
- If you have any doubts about an email or text message you receive please contact Pastor Cliff or the church office (623-975-9038). <u>Never call a</u> <u>phone number provided in a potentially</u> <u>phony email or text message.</u>





The next meeting will be held Thursday, January 11th at 10:30 a.m.

They will be discussing *The Irish Boarding House* by Sandy Taylor.

Class led by Dr. Clement

MISUNDERSTOOD PASSAGES OF SCRIPTURE

Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room



JANUARY'S SCRIPTURE MEMORY PASSAGE

PSALM 139:13-14

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.



SHARPSHOOTERS CLUB

The club meets every month on the 3rd Friday in the church parking lot at 9:15 a.m. Then they carpool to the range at 9:30 a.m. **January 19th is the next trip.**

Shooters will need hearing and eye protection, paper targets, ammunition, a pistol and or rifle. Please bring \$10 (cash) for range charges. We ask that you watch the following safety video *https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=W2Vrc2R1oGU* if you haven't already.

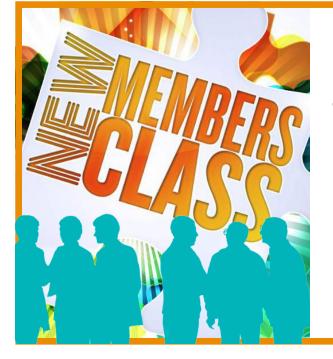
INQUIRERS & NEW MEMBERS CLASSES

Thinking about becoming a member here at Grace Community? We will be starting classes February 11th. 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 ON FEBRUARY 11TH AT 4:00 P.M.

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

SIGN-UP IN THE LOBBY TODAY!



JANUARY 2024								
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
	1	2	3	4	5	6		
	New Year's Day (Office Closed)	Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM	Dr. Clement Class 10:00 AM	Sharing & Caring 10:30 AM	TOPS Meeting 8 AM - 10 AM	UNDECK THE HALLS		
		Pastor's Bible Study 11:00 AM Trail Life 6:00 PM	Parkinson's Support Group 2 - 5 PM		Finance Team 10:00 AM	10:00 AM		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
Sunday School 8:30 AM	Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM	Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM	Dr. Clement Class 10:00 AM	Women's Book Club	TOPS Meeting 8 AM - 10 AM			
Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion	Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM	Pastor's Bible Study 11:00 AM	Game Day 1:00 PM Session Meeting	10:30 AM Deacon's Meeting	GOLD RUSH CONCERT 7:00 PM			
Congregational Meeting	Worship Meeting 11:00 AM	Trail Life 6:00 PM	1:30 PM	2:00 PM				
Following Service	Choir 12:00 PM							
	Bell Choir 2:00 PM							
14	15	16	17	18 Charing & Carries	19	20		
Sunday School 8:30 AM	Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM	Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM	Dr. Clement Class 10:00 AM	Sharing & Caring 10:30 AM	TOPS Meeting 8 AM - 10 AM			
Worship Service 10:00 AM	Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM	Pastor's Bible Study 11:00 AM		Swing Kings Rehearsal 12:00 - 2:30 PM	Sharpshooters 9:30 AM			
	Worship Meeting 11:00 AM	Trail Life 6:00 PM						
	Choir 12:00 PM Bell Choir 2:00 PM							
21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
Sunday School 8:30 AM	Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM	Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM	Dr. Clement Class 10:00 AM	TOPS Meeting 8 AM - 10 AM	EVANGELICAL CHURCH			
Worship Service 10:00 AM Sanctity of	Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM	Pastor's Bible Study 11:00 AM	Game Day 1:00 PM Grand Singers	Leadership Training 10:00 AM	ALLIANCE WINTER MEETING			
Life Sunday Baby Bottle	Worship Meeting 11:00 AM	Trail Life 6:00 PM	Rehearsal 12:00 - 4:00 PM	Swing Kings Rehearsal	ALL DAY EVENT			
Drive Begins	Choir 12:00 PM			12:00 - 2:30 PM				
	Bell Choir 2:00 PM							
28 Sunday School 8:30 AM	29 Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM	30 Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM	31 Dr. Clement Class 10:00 AM					
Worship Service 10:00 AM	Women's Bible Study	Pastor's Bible Study		Morchi	LEGEND Worship & Study Outside Groups			
Ordination and	9:30 AM	11:00 AM						
Install of Deacons and Elders	Worship Meeting 11:00 AM	Trail Life Parent Orientation			JE	CIAL /ITIES		
	Choir 12:00 PM	6:00 PM						
	Bell Choir 2:00 PM							

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH • 16165 W. MOUNTAIN VIEW BLVD., SURPRISE, AZ 85374 • 623-975-9038 • GCC-EPC.COM

WHY DO THE UNBORN MATTER TO US?

Children in the womb matter to us because people are made in the image of God. At the very outset of creation in Genesis 1:27-28 this is made clear:

"So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth...""



Christians celebrate life because God blesses life. The crazy thing in today's world many people have bought into a warped way of thinking that says the opposite is better!

Some people, known as de-populationists, have no interest in seeing humankind being fruitful and multiplying. They want to see a decline in births. And so, they promote all kinds of ways to destroy human life.

As Christ-followers we take our views from the Word of God, the Bible. There are a multitude of passages which speak to the sanctity of life. Consider just a few of them: Psalm 139:13-14, "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

Isaiah 44:1-4, "*Thus says the Lord* who made you, who formed you from the womb..."

Jeremiah 1:4-5 says, "Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying,

'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you..."

Do you see? God created us as precious in His sight. He cherished and valued us before we were even born... before the very foundation of the world!

January 21st is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. It is the day that we highlight before the world that human life is sacred & to be honored, respected, enjoyed, celebrated & protected.

The beautiful gift of life comes with an inestimable price tag. It is a blessing from God. Let's celebrate what God made good from the very beginning of creation.

With Love in Christ, Pastor Cliff



GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH ELDER & DEACON NOMINATIONS

Grace Community Church has nominated the following people for the offices of Elder and Deacon. As such, these friends are making a commitment to collectively represent the *"mind of Christ"* for this, His church. This includes a commitment to pray, listen, discuss, and seek unity. It also means applying energy toward the well-being and growth of individuals and families who call this church home.

As under-shepherds, our officers are called to lead those God has placed under their care to green pasture, helping them to find and follow God's agenda for their lives as they grow in physical, emotional, intellectual, spiritual, and relational maturity. In all areas of leading and serving, our leaders look to the Bible as the ultimate guide for truth. Therefore, our leaders choose to place themselves under the standards of love, obedience, and accountability as contained in God's Word.

Seeking the Lord's help in all things, our ordained leaders make it their passion to serve others in light of God's command to "Love the Lord your God with all of your heart, mind, soul, and strength, and love your neighbor as you would love yourself."

The following bios are a brief introduction to the friends who you have nominated. By God's grace we will elect these friends for this service on JANUARY 7th immediately following worship. It is very important that ALL MEMBERS ATTEND.

BOB "CHIEF" & VIRGINIA SPENCER - DEACON NOMINEES



Bob "Chief" Spencer - I was born in Bainbridge, Maryland to Bland & Margaret Spencer. My family regularly attended church, but it wasn't until I was 16, when an Army soldier led me to the Lord at a luau party. I met Virginia at Harbor Home, Christian Servicemen's Center in San Diego, where I served as a Navy Corpsman for 4 years. I then graduated from Point Loma Nazarene University, with a degree in Christian Education. During that time I was an assistant director of the Servicemen's Center. I also worked as a youth leader, taught Bible studies, led small groups, was a Deacon, and was involved in bus ministries. After working in 2 churches & in the medical field, I went back into the Navy and made "Chief" before being medically boarded out of the Navy, after being diagnosed with Dystonia, a movement disorder. Virginia and I have been married for 52

years, have 2 sons, Stephen & David, 2 daughter-in-laws, 2 grandsons. We moved to Surprise, AZ in 2017 and joined GCC in October of 2022.

Virginia Spencer - I was born in Clear Lake, South Dakota, to Jim & Ruth Wade. I have a twin sister, Kathy, and 2 younger brothers. I was raised in a Christian home, and accepted Jesus as my Savior when I was 7, but rededicated my life to Him, with a better understanding of what that meant, when I was 13. I have been active in every church that I have attended, working in children's ministries, teaching women's Bible studies, and life groups. I taught children from preschool to High School in several venues, for about 25 years. I was a receptionist for in 4 different settings, and a Director for a before & after school program, before retiring and moving to AZ. We



love worshipping at GCC. Bob and I have enjoyed being part of hosting several Dinners for 6, and hosting and leading a Life Group since October.

ORDINATION & INSTALLATION

Our new Elders and Deacons will be ordained and installed during our January 28th worship service.

STEPHEN COFFMAN - ELDER NOMINEE



I was born and raised in a small farming community, Dallas City, Illinois, located approximately 90 west of Peoria, Illinois. I had great and loving parents that worked hard and provided us with the things we needed in life. I was raised in the First United Methodist Church. I graduated from Burlington Junior College with an Associates degree and from Bradley with a Bachelor degree in Civil Engineering. As I grew older I attended a variety of religions searching for one which provided me with the knowledge and understanding of what faith was all about. During this time I met the love of my life, Penny, and raised two young men, one being a major in the Army and the other a lab technician in a hospital. Church has always been a search for knowledge as I served on many committees from finance to council member. But upon our arrival at Grace Community Church we knew we had finally found a home where we could

grow and find a rich meaning of FAITH. Through our Church Life Group I found one of my spiritual gifts is helping others. One of my great joys in life is singing both solos and with the choir. Singing brings me peace giving back to those around me. And finally working around the church gives me great satisfaction that I feel makes our building a better place for all to come and enjoy.

ROBERT BUNDY - ELDER NOMINEE

The Lord has been present my whole lifetime. This lifetime dates from early childhood in the Methodist church, acceptance of the Lord and baptism in early HS in NM to this offer and honor to be an Elder in Surprise AZ. Many steps and missteps along the lifetime journey for Jan and my arrival here in Surprise. We survived the 60's when we became of college age and of superior intellect to ask and question our God and Christian upbringing, the same God we thank now he was patient with us and forgives.



Later educational path included BS from a Presbyterian college (Muskingum, New Concord OH) and later MBA (U of Akron Business school). My working career was Mechanical/ Electrical engineering after I decided I did not like finance. Retired from Raytheon (32 yrs.) which included 7 part time years as consultant with their subsidiary Thales.

Jan and I were married in 1968 in the Presbyterian church in New Concord OH and we have two children. Daughter Kristen lives with her family in Pleasanton CA and our son Kevin resides with the Lord.

My Christian path has included commitment to our Lord and Savior at Las Cruces NM Methodist church, college years as usher at Methodist Church in New Concord OH, sometime later Deacon for 4 years at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Orange CA and now endeavoring to serve here in Surprise. From an evangelical perspective Jan and I reached age of "travel difficult" and thereby support youngsters who can. We currently engage with a couple in Germany ministering to Muslim refugees.

As with Paul's mission journeys, Jan's and my life are not complete without our church friends that we have met and loved in many states as we have moved around the US. We still have our church friends/groups in OH, TN, FL, CA, AZ, WA and always attempt to reconnect as we can travel.

I consider it an honor to serve as Elder and consider it as God's hand at my back pushing me forward. Like Moses: God? Who? Me?



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Grace Community Church will hold a congregational meeting January 7th following worship for the purpose of electing Deacons and Elders.



JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT CONCERT...



JANUARY 12 - 7 PM

MORE UPCOMING CONCERTS

February 9, 2024, 4 PM GUITARS ON FIRE - Gal Drimmer

March 8, 2024, 4 PM WOMEN IN SONG

April 19, 2024, 7 PM BLACK RIVER JAM

Sign-Up Online at GCC-EPC.com/events

CHURCH PICTURE DAYS FEBRUARY 11TH & 25TH

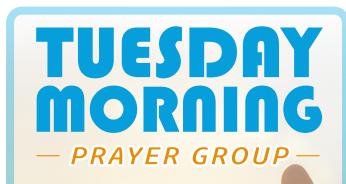
If you are not pictured in our Church Photo Directory, come and have your photo taken after church on Sunday, February 11 or Sunday, February 25.

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

THE GOSPEL IN GENESIS

IN A FALLEN WORLD

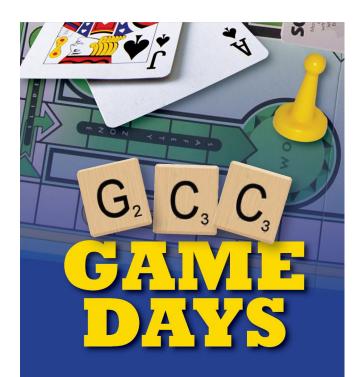
Pastor's Bible Study Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m.



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



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



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

Bring along your favorite games and snacks to share.

EVANGELISM EXPLOSION

Evangelism Explosion is a ministry that trains people how to share their faith in Christ and how to bring people from unbelief to belief. It utilizes a variety of components including prayer, actual on-the-job training where the experienced lead the inexperienced, and the principle of spiritual multiplication.

"Multiplication" is the key component—not just winning people to the Lord one-by-one (addition). But training those won to the Lord to win, and then train, others. In the Book of Acts we read that the disciples "multiplied" and "multiplied exceedingly." This shift from addition to spiritual multiplication offers the one real hope of sharing the Gospel with a world population that is, itself, continually multiplying.

By learning small parts of the Gospel each week, including Bible verses and illustrations, people incrementally grasp a Gospel tool that becomes a lifelong mission.

BEGINS IN FEBRUARY 2024



WHY READ THE BIBLE?

It's Full of Truth

Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth. (John 17:17, NIV)

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "*If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*" (John 8:31-32, NIV)

God is truth. That's another aspect of His character that shows itself throughout the Bible. Some say truth is relative, and it can be overwhelming to know where to go for truth. These days, data and personal opinion are two things people often turn to.

But the Bible is ultimately where truth is found. Ask God to show you His truth when you read the Scriptures; He will reveal it to you. The Old Testament Book of Proverbs contains wisdom for life and is a great place to start if you are looking for biblical truth.

As we wrap up our Christmas Card Exchange, please check to see if you have any Christmas Cards to be picked up in the lobby. Thank you.

THE MEN'S BREAKFAST AT GRACE COMMUNITY WILL RESUME IN FEBRUARY





GOT THE SNIFFLES?

If "yes," you may have a cold or flu. Some symptoms of flu include fever or chills and cough or sore throat.

We love you. Please stay home and take care of your health if you are not feeling well. Let us know if you need anything. We are happy to help.

During cold & flu season, please consider not shaking hands during fellowship. Instead, try a wave or an elbow bump.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Kathy Heller	1/1
Linda Ready	1/1
Hal Delfosse	1/2
Dr. K. Clement	1/5
Jacquie Ohanesian	1/9
Pastor Cliff Mansley	1/10
Barbara Peckham-Devine	1/12
Jane Mansley	1/17
Art Biermann	1/20
Sherida Stewart	1/21
Bob Bundy	1/25

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Ken & Linda Ready1/	9
Debbe & Ryan Davis1/1.	3
Steve & Ginny Paetz1/1	3
Bob & Jan Kallberg1/3	0

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.



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