



## NEVER FORGET & ALWAYS REMEMBER

I have such great memories of my mother. Was she a perfect woman? Nope. But she sure loved the Lord... and her family.

Mom had a phrase that she would use when she wanted us to understand that something was important. She would say, "Never forget and always remember..."

When I was very young, she would take my face in her hands, look straight at me, and say, "Never forget and always remember to pray and honor God." She would also say things like "Never forget and always remember who made you and where you came from" or "Never forget and always remember who made sacrifices on your behalf."

I am convinced that Mom planted seeds of faith in us kids when she repeated those things over and over. She often did that with her grandchildren as well.

We live in a time when it seems that our country has largely forgotten and barely remembers those things which made us a great nation. Many children never learn the Pledge of Allegiance or the history of our republic. The very idea of being a virtuous society united under God seems more an object of scorn than an ideal of aspiration.

I don't know about you, but I can remember a day and age when faith, family and fidelity were honored in our culture as the qualities of good character. I haven't forgotten a time when civility, kindness, temperance and honesty were cherished by our citizens.

If my mother still walked the sod of this mortal coil

on Mother's Day 2023, I think she would have a few important things to say to us here at Grace Community Church. I think she would say something like,

*"Never forget and always remember to pray and honor God. Never forget and always remember that the Lord has called you to speak up for what is right and good. Never forget and always remember to witness to your children and grandchildren, friends and neighbors. And with Memorial Day coming later this month never forget and always remember those who have sacrificed their lives for the freedoms we enjoy as a nation."*

Mom would also say to us, "Never forget and always remember to gather at church for the National Day of

Prayer Thursday May 4th at 12 noon." She would not only say that, but she would grab you by the collar or lapel on Sunday morning and passionately urge you to gather on behalf of our nation which so desperately needs the mighty intervention of our gracious Heavenly Father.

So, won't you please join us Thursday May 4th at 12 noon here at the church for prayer? It won't be a "fancy" service which focuses on pronouncements and proclamations as we've done before... no, our focus will be on a time of intense intercession on behalf of our nation.

I am pleading with you to not remain silent in prayer for our nation in these dark times.

With Love in Christ





# Women's

BOOK CLUB

**There will not be a meeting of the Women's Book Club in May.**

In June, the book to be discussed is *The Blackout Book Club* by Amy Lynn Green. They will meet on Thursday, June 8th at 10:00 am.

In July, the book to be discussed is *The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride* by Joe Siple. The group will meet on Thursday, July 13th at 10:00 am.

## Thank You!

Dear Church Family;

Thank You so much for the Prayer Blanket, lovely cards, visits and well wishes.

Thank Again,  
Ava Olson



# TUESDAY MORNING

— PRAYER GROUP —

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



# THE GOSPEL IN GENESIS



FINDING FAITH  
& HOPE IN A  
FALLEN WORLD

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

**This study will be  
going on hiatus after  
last Tuesday of May.**





# 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.



## WHY READ THE BIBLE?

(Installment 2 of 14)

*It Gives Instruction for Daily Life*

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16)*

The Bible is full of practical wisdom for life, especially in the New Testament. The writers wanted their readers to know how to live the way God intended. You will find information that will help as you figure out how to be a parent, how to have a successful marriage, how to approach your work, how to care for family members, how to forgive and how to love.

Even when the specifics are tied to cultures or situations different than yours, beneath those specifics you will find practical principles that will help you in your daily twenty-first-century life. Try reading Ephesians if you are looking for clear applications for your life daily.

# MEN'S WALL OF FAME

The men of Grace Community are creating a "Wall of Fame" in our most frequented room. Any pictures that you might have from the past that you can spare, including military, sports, or other activities will be prominently displayed on the Wall of Fame. Don't hesitate to contribute pictures which are serious, humorous, or tell an interesting story about you. Please submit all pictures to our selection committee chairman... Pastor Cliff.



## LEAVING FOR THE SUMMER?

Snowbird season is right around the corner and some of you will be heading out of town for the summer!

Because we love you and want to keep in touch, please fill in one of our Summer Contact Information forms located in the lobby.

Let us know the dates you generally expect to be out of town and when you hope to return. You may also want to provide us with any prayer requests and other relevant information for your church family at Grace.



## Memorial SERVICE TIMES

**Katie Lewis** - May 1st at 2:00 p.m.

**Richard Sleeman** - May 3rd at 11:00 a.m.

**Donna Bice** - May 10th at 10:00 a.m.

**Evelyn Henkes** - May 13th at 2:00 p.m.



## 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.

# WORSHIP & MUSIC UPDATE

May is here and we are in a transition period as some of our friends and members begin to leave for cooler climates. It has been an awesome season of worship music this year. It was heartwarming to sing last Sunday with 10 singers as well as Ruth joining us on the flute. The handbell choir is growing and will be ending their season the 1st Sunday of May playing "God So Loved the World".

*Michele Southerland, Music Director and Women's Bible Study Leader*

There is one final concert in the 2022-23 Concert Series. Friday, May 12th at 4:00 the West Side Tremble Clefs will perform a 1-hour show. Come and be entertained, but also encouraged and grateful. All donations received at the concert go to their Parkinsons Disease support group. It will be Amazing!

As you remain here or travel this summer, I pray that you will find opportunities to worship Him.

## UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES:

**May 28th**, we will have a Patriotic Service for Memorial Day that will include special guests Dan Reed and Jim Lee.

**June 4th**, we will celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. ***Wear RED and catch the Spirit.***

**July 2nd**, we will celebrate our nation's independence again with Dan Reed and Jim Lee. Betti will close with God Bless America.

# UPCOMING CONCERTS

## WEST SIDE TREMBLE CLEFS - FRIDAY - 4 PM - 5/12

The Tremble Clefs provide music therapy for people with Parkinson's disease. This clinically beneficial program provides vocal and movement exercises and comfortable challenges in a shared supportive environment. Come and show your support.



**Please make reservations online at [GCC-EPC.com](http://GCC-EPC.com)**

*A \$10 donation per attendee is appreciated.*



# MAY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY						
	1 Men's Breakfast 8:00 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship Meeting 11:00 AM Memorial Service Katie Lewis 2:00 PM	2 Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM Pastor's Bible Study 11:00 AM Trail Life 6:00 PM	3 Memorial Service Richard Sleeman 11:00 AM	4 Sharing & Caring 10:30 AM NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER Special Service 12:00 PM	5 TOPS Meeting 8 AM - 10 AM	6						
7 Small Group 8:30 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM	8 Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship Meeting 11:00 AM	9 Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM Pastor's Bible Study 11:00 AM Trail Life 6:00 PM	10 Memorial Service Donna Bice 10:00 AM Game Day 1:00 PM	11 Worship Rehearsal 9:00 - 11:00 AM Deacon's Meeting 2:00 PM Bell Choir 1:00 PM	12 TOPS Meeting 8 AM - 10 AM WEST SIDE TREMBLE CLEFS CONCERT 4:00 PM	13 Memorial Service Evelyn Henkes 2:00 PM						
14 Small Group 8:30 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM <i>Mother's Day</i>	15 Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship Meeting 11:00 AM	16 Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM Pastor's Bible Study 11:00 AM Trail Life 6:00 PM	17 Session Meeting 1:30 PM	18 Worship Rehearsal 9:00 - 11:00 AM	19 TOPS Meeting 8 AM - 10 AM Sharpshooters 9:30 AM	20						
21 Small Group 8:30 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM	22 Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship Meeting 11:00 AM	23 Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM Pastor's Bible Study 11:00 AM Trail Life 6:00 PM	24 Game Day 1:00 PM	25 Worship Rehearsal 9:00 - 11:00 AM	26 TOPS Meeting 8 AM - 10 AM	27 WEDDING SMITH & WILLIS						
28 Small Group 8:30 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM	29 <i>Memorial Day</i> Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship Meeting 11:00 AM	30 Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM Pastor's Bible Study 11:00 AM	31	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>LEGEND</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Worship &amp; Study</td> <td style="width: 50%; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Outside Groups</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">GCC Rehearsals</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"><b>SPECIAL ACTIVITIES</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Group Meetings</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> </div>			Worship & Study	Outside Groups	GCC Rehearsals	<b>SPECIAL ACTIVITIES</b>	Group Meetings	
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PRAY FERVENTLY  
IN RIGHTEOUSNESS



AND AVAIL MUCH  
JAMES 5:16B

## THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER ON THE FIRST THURSDAY OF MAY

JOIN US ON MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>  
AT NOON FOR  
A SPECIAL SERVICE.

NATIONAL  
DAY OF  
PRAYER



# Sharing & Caring

## SUPPORT GROUP

The Sharing and Caring  
support group will  
meet Thursday, May 4th  
at 10:30 a.m.

The group will then be on  
hiatus until further notice.

# 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.*

# minute for MISSIONS



*It is our hope and prayer that each of us is able to share our  
God given talents in the service of our fellow man.*

## **MERCY IN ACTION INTERNATIONAL**

*Bill Lewis, GCC Liaison*

The 2nd Sunday in January, Grace Community had Bob & Ruby Hoke, come and share what God is doing through a Ministry called Mercy in Action, Intl. Through generous donations, over the past 20 some years, they have started an orphanage in the most severe slum area of Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa. The site consists of dormitories to house the children 24/7, a large kitchen with mess hall to feed them and class rooms to teach them.

Their goal, from the start has been to house, feed, cloth, and provide medical and hygiene needs for 1000 children. To date they are meeting these needs for approximately 850 children. In addition, they provide education for K through 12th grade, for each child. They are taught a Kenyan Accredited Educational Program. The best part of this ministry is the teaching of the children about Jesus Christ, giving them hope for a future. Every one of the children, regardless how long they stay, have a thorough knowledge of Jesus, as their Lord and Savior. Not all of the 850 children have a sponsor,

but they are provided exactly the same benefits, as those who do have a sponsor.

From the start they asked for \$25 per month to support a child in K through 8th grade and \$35 per month for children in high school. That was more than 20 years ago and to date they are asking the same amount per child. No increase in 20+ years, that's pretty good orphanage management...

Their overhead of 2% is the Mercy in Action ministry. The Hoke's make two (2) trips each year to Nairobi, at their own expense.

Doesn't this sound like a ministry you want to be a part of? If you would like to begin supporting a child or children, there is a signup sheet in the foyer. Write your name, phone number, number of children you wish to sponsor and their age group. This information will be given to the Hoke's and they will contact you. Please be generous, it is truly a worthwhile ministry and may God richly bless you.

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## **SATURATE USA**

*Steve Jones, GCC Liaison*

Pray that God sends out His Word in power because His Word is alive and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword reaching into the very soul. Dalia & Scott Coulson and Steve Jones packed and delivered more door hangers. 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 and then does amazing things beyond anything we can think or imagine. To God be the Glory!



## CHOICES PREGNANCY CENTER BABY SHOWER

*Margo Treller - Liaison*

I would like to thank all of our church members who contributed to and who attended the church Annual Choices Pregnancy Center Baby Shower held on March 3, 2023. I would also like to thank Becky Brown, Boutique and Donation Program Manager with Choices for attending our shower



in their honor and giving us her personal testimony along with some stories of how they have and are continually helping young women through many issues that

come with wanted and unwanted pregnancies. You can find more information on this center at: [ChoicesAZ.com](http://ChoicesAZ.com) and to also find ways in which you might want to volunteer or keep up with needed items for donations.

The shower was a delightful success due to you all and of course my two committee members who are so talented in hosting this shower for the past few years, Pat Davis and Pat Engstrom. The gifts table and Fellowship Hall were decorated so precious and the potluck salad lunch and adorable cake topped it off for a wonderful day.

Thank you to my full committee on the Choices project for GCC who are: Pat Davis, Pat Engstrom,



Patti French, Arlene Larimer, and Betty Eldridge. We typically host about four events each year for Choices: Sanctity of Life recognition, Baby Shower, Baby Bottles donations, and March for Life attended in large numbers around AZ for this life-affirming statement to the community and knowledge of how they can help in many efforts to educate and provide services at no cost to you. This Center is Christian based in all they do and bring many to the Saving Grace of the Lord each year.

This year it came as a surprise to us that Choices had moved up the date for our Walk for Life and are now calling it March for Life, the original date was: April 1, 2023. They moved it to February 23rd and our committee host Arlene Larimer jumped in to make this happen for our church. Thank you Arlene for handling this and at a time in life that was already hard commitments for you.



# TRAIL LIFE UPDATES

TRAIL LIFE TROOP AZ #0001

## PASSING THE BATON OF FAITH!!!

Grace Community Church is doing a great job passing the baton of faith to boys from all over our community through Trail Life USA!!!

With nearly 40 boys and 40 dads our Trail Life Troop 1 has just celebrated our first-year anniversary.

## PINEWOOD DERBY COMPETITION

This past month we had a blast with our 2nd annual Pinewood Derby competition which was joined by our sister troop from American Heritage Girls. The sanctuary was packed with over 200 boys and girls along with their families.

Pine cars were raced by 65 boys and girls, and 13 parents, on a state-of-the-art track with a photo finish mechanism that records times down to a thousandth of a second!

## COMING EVENTS

Coming up in June Trail Life will join troops from all over Arizona for its very first Camporee. What fun!!



## PANCAKE BREAKFAST UPDATE

A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED OUR TROOP!!!

Our Trail Life Troop 1 held a second fundraiser this year with a pancake breakfast. We raised \$3,100 and served an estimated 850 to 900 pancakes!!! The proceeds from our first fundraiser went toward the purchase of camping equipment that has already been put to use with our April '23 campout at Prospect Lake. This fundraiser will help to defray the costs of events, badges and activity supplies. AGAIN, THANK YOU!!!!

## DO YOU HAVE SPARE ARCHERY EQUIPMENT?

Trail Life can use your unused archery equipment. We need bows, arrows, targets, target stands, arm guards, quivers and anything else you think might be helpful.



*Trail Life USA is a Christ-centered ministry designed to build faith, character and skill as boys grow into Godly men.*



*Pinewood Derby 2023*



*Troop AZ #001  
One-Year Anniversary*







## 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](http://gcc-epc.com/prayer-warriors)

If you prefer, you can also directly contact Pastor Cliff ([pastorcliff@gcc-epc.com](mailto:pastorcliff@gcc-epc.com)), the church office ([grace@gcc-epc.com](mailto: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.

# MAY

## BIRTHDAYS

Janet Kosky..... 5/6	Ruth Lee..... 5/16
Merv Olson ..... 5/7	Steve Wilmeth..... 5/20
Pat Davis ..... 5/8	Glenn Schmitt ..... 5/25
Marie Rogeness..... 5/9	Jim Curley..... 5/26
Randy Bice..... 5/13	Samuel Mansley.. 5/27
Penny Coffman.... 5/15	Altha Sleeman..... 5/31

## ANNIVERSARIES

Hal & Elaine Delfosse.....5/9
Steve & Carol Jones .....5/14
Kim & Ron DeFevre .....5/26
Glenn & Deborah Schmitt.....5/29



*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.

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