



GRACE NEWS

PASTOR CLIFF MANSLEY

MAY 2024

A PRAYER FOR AMERICA

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we call upon your Holy Name on behalf of our America. We recognize that no people will flourish with your blessing unless we bend our knee to you. For it is under your protective wing that we enjoy the many kindnesses afforded to our country. And so, it is with earnest and sincere hearts that we humble ourselves to honor you with the conviction that we are only at our best when you are preeminent in our lives O gracious Lord.

We confess to you that we have been blinded by worldliness that has caused us to degrade your Holy Name, dismiss your word, your will & your way as found in the Bible, to ignore your statutes and to harden our hearts to what is good, right and beautiful in your sight. In doing so, we have opened the floodgates of sin in our nation. It is evident in our lack of respect for life, absence of honor in government, disregard for the law, cheapening of marriage and sexuality, inability to maintain our borders and indebtedness to our enemies. For these and a multitude of sins we humbly beg your forgiveness.

Thank you, gracious Lord that you do not ignore the pleas of your faithful servants. Strengthen your Church, we pray, that the light of your love would beam brightly across our land. That we would, once again, be known as "America the Beautiful" because we have turned from wickedness to the cause of



righteousness. Help us, by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, to lift high the cross of Christ in our hearts, to prize Him in our thinking, to love Him in our obedience, to honor Him in our relationships and to long for His very presence in our souls. Indeed Lord, we beseech you to empower us with a boldness to stand up, step out and speak up for Jesus that our land would ring with the freedom which He brings.

Take hold of the people of America O God that in our hearts we would aspire to truth, justice, mercy, kindness, goodness, and love. Help us to raise up leaders who reflect extraordinary integrity, civility and decency as pastors, politicians, police, first responders, educators, military officers, media influencers and business luminaries. May we once again esteem motherhood, fatherhood, and the creation of stable families as a high calling. May the hearts of our children and grandchildren be blessed with virtuous role models who reflect your standards and lead us in the ways of righteousness.

For we pray these things for your glory and the good of our nation O Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

See you at the National Day of Prayer, Thursday May 2nd, at 12 noon!

With Love in Christ,



**JOIN US FOR THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
THURSDAY • MAY 2ND • 12 NOON**

**NATIONAL
DAY OF
PRAYER**



**LIFT UP
THE WORD
LIGHT UP
THE WORLD**

2 Samuel 22:29-31

**JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL
SERVICE AT NOON ON**

**THURSDAY,
MAY 2, 2024**

LEAVING FOR THE SUMMER?

Because we love you and want to keep in touch, would you please fill in one of our Summer Contact Information forms if you are leaving for the season. The forms can be found 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.



G₂ C₃ C₃
**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.

HABAKKUK

A PROPHET FOR TODAY

PASTOR'S
BIBLE
STUDY

TUESDAYS
AT 11:00 AM

**BEGINNING
MAY 7TH**



STEEL GIRDERS



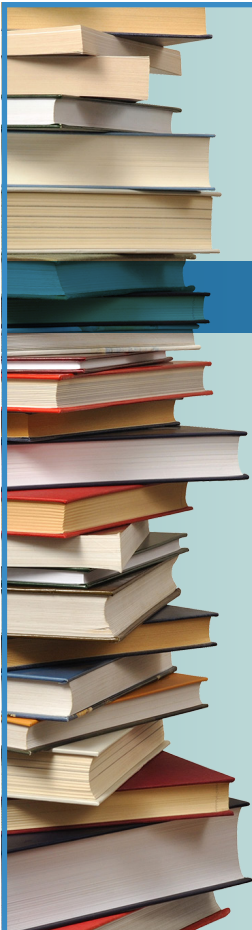
*for Mind
Builders*

Join Dr. Clement at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays

Ever wonder about questions like...

- Who really is God... why should I care about what He thinks?
- Why follow Jesus when there are so many religions to choose from?
- How's it all going to end... is there really a rapture?
- Does Jesus really save us from Hell and did Jesus really go there?
- Times have changed... isn't the LGBTQ movement okay?
- What's this business about demons?

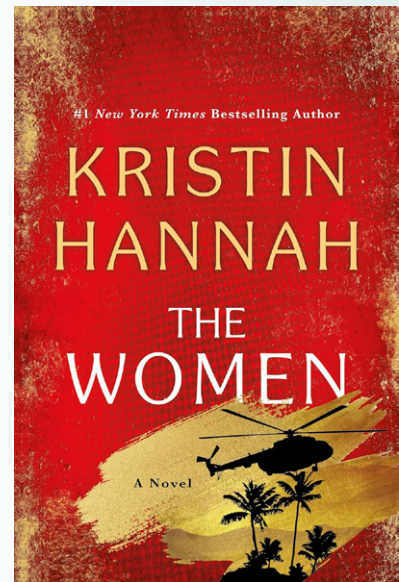
If You Have Questions Like These... PLAN ON ATTENDING!!!



Women's BOOK CLUB

The book for May is:
The Women by Kristen Hannah.

The Women is the story of one woman gone to war, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country has too often been forgotten. A novel about deep friendships and bold patriotism, *The Women* is a richly drawn story with a memorable heroine whose idealism and courage under fire will come to define an era.



MEETING
THURSDAY,
MAY 9TH,
10:30 A.M.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY PASSAGE FOR MAY

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”



WHY READ THE BIBLE?

The Bible is God's way of speaking to us...

God wants to speak to each one of us personally. But what is that like?

God doesn't speak to us in a supernatural or spectacular way. He speaks to us directly and clearly in the words of the Bible. Second Timothy 3:16 says: *"All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."*

When we read the Scriptures, God speaks to us. Many times we're taught, convicted, corrected, or instructed, not by the black and white letters on the page, but by God speaking to us through those words in a personal and direct way.

For instance, as we read the ten commandments in Exodus 20, we're convicted in our conscience, and we realize we fall short before God in many areas of our lives. That sense of conviction comes from God's speaking to us in a personal and direct way while we read those words.

God can also speak to us even after we've read something in His Word. As an example, let's say

one day you read Matthew 6:12: *"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."*

Later on, someone says something that offends you. You feel annoyed and even resentful toward them. Then seemingly out of nowhere, those words from Matthew 6:12 rise up in your heart and convict you about your hard feelings.

His Word makes you realize afresh how the Lord has forgiven you so many times for so many sins, and that you should forgive this person. This was the Lord's instant and living speaking to you in your situation. By the Lord's grace, you turn to Him and pray, "Oh Lord, forgive me for being angry. I also forgive."

This kind of experience actually doesn't come "out of nowhere." It issues from our reading the Bible. His personal speaking to us always corresponds to the written words of the Bible. So, reading the Bible consistently allows the Lord to speak to us in a regular way. The more we read it, the more He can speak to us personally.

Tea Party & Style Show

On April 20th, 100 ladies joined us for a tea party and style show. Thank you to all who participated.





MEN'S BREAKFAST

AT GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

The Men of Grace Community Church will be holding an on-site Men's Breakfast on May 6th at 8 a.m. Our men's cooking team will be preparing pancakes, bacon (thick-cut!), sausage, coffee, juice and more!

MAY 6TH - 8:00 AM - GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH



Thank you!

We would like to give very special thanks to the men who helped with our Tea!

These special men were:

Stan Schlieper, Jim McNally, Dave Gordon, Eural Southerland, Steve Coffman, Lennie Devine, Mark Brown, Randy DeLeeuw, & Lanny Mellinger.

We couldn't have done it without you!

Thank You so much –
Betty Eldridge & Patti French



Sparkle Day THANKS!

Many thanks to everyone who helped make our church sparkling clean this last month. What a wonderful blessing!

Folks had a lot of fun working together and eating afterwards. The whole building looks fantastic! Again, thank you for pitching in. Truly, many hands made for light work!

MAY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY						
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">LEGEND</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 2px;">Worship & Study</td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 2px;">Outside Groups</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">GCC Rehearsals</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">SPECIAL ACTIVITIES</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Group Meetings</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> </div>			Worship & Study	Outside Groups	GCC Rehearsals	SPECIAL ACTIVITIES	Group Meetings		1	2	3	4
			Worship & Study	Outside Groups								
GCC Rehearsals	SPECIAL ACTIVITIES											
Group Meetings												
			Dr. Clement Class 10:00 AM	NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER <i>Special Service</i> 12:00 PM	TOPS Meeting 8 AM - 10 AM							
			Parkinson Support Group 3:00-4:30 PM	EPC SPRING PRESBYTERY MEETING								
5	6	7	8	9	10	11						
Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion	Men's Breakfast 8:00 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship Meeting 11:00 AM	Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM Pastor's Bible Study 11:00 AM Trail Life 6:00 PM	Dr. Clement Class 10:00 AM Game Day 1:00 PM Session Meeting 1:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal 9:00 - 11:00 AM Women's Book Club 10:30 AM Bell Choir 1:00 PM Deacon's Meeting 2:00 PM	TOPS Meeting 8 AM - 10 AM							
12	13	14	15	16	17	18						
Worship Service 10:00 AM <i>Mother's Day</i>	Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship Meeting 11:00 AM	Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM Pastor's Bible Study 11:00 AM Trail Life 6:00 PM	Dr. Clement Class 10:00 AM MOVIE SCREENING <i>LETTER TO THE AMERICAN CHURCH</i> 1:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal 9:00 - 11:00 AM Bell Choir 1:00 PM	TOPS Meeting 8 AM - 10 AM Sharpshooters 9:30 AM	Memorial Service for Charles Marshall 11:00 AM <i>Open invitation to all who would like to attend.</i>						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25						
Worship Service 10:00 AM <i>Pentecost</i>	Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship Meeting 11:00 AM	Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM Pastor's Bible Study 11:00 AM Trail Life 6:00 PM	Dr. Clement Class 10:00 AM Game Day 1:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal 9:00 - 11:00 AM Bell Choir 1:00 PM	TOPS Meeting 8 AM - 10 AM							
26	27	28	29	30	31							
Worship Service 10:00 AM	<i>Memorial Day</i> Office Closed 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	Dr. Clement Class 10:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal 9:00 - 11:00 AM Bell Choir 1:00 PM	TOPS Meeting 8 AM - 10 AM							

TRAIL LIFE UPDATES

Trail Life Troop AZ #0001
Partners With American
Heritage Girls Troop #1556

Pinewood Derby 2024



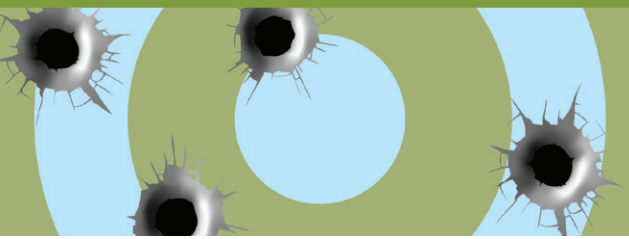
Gun Range Outing



PRAYER MEETING

JOIN US IN THE PRAYER ROOM

EVERY TUESDAY
AT 9:45 AM

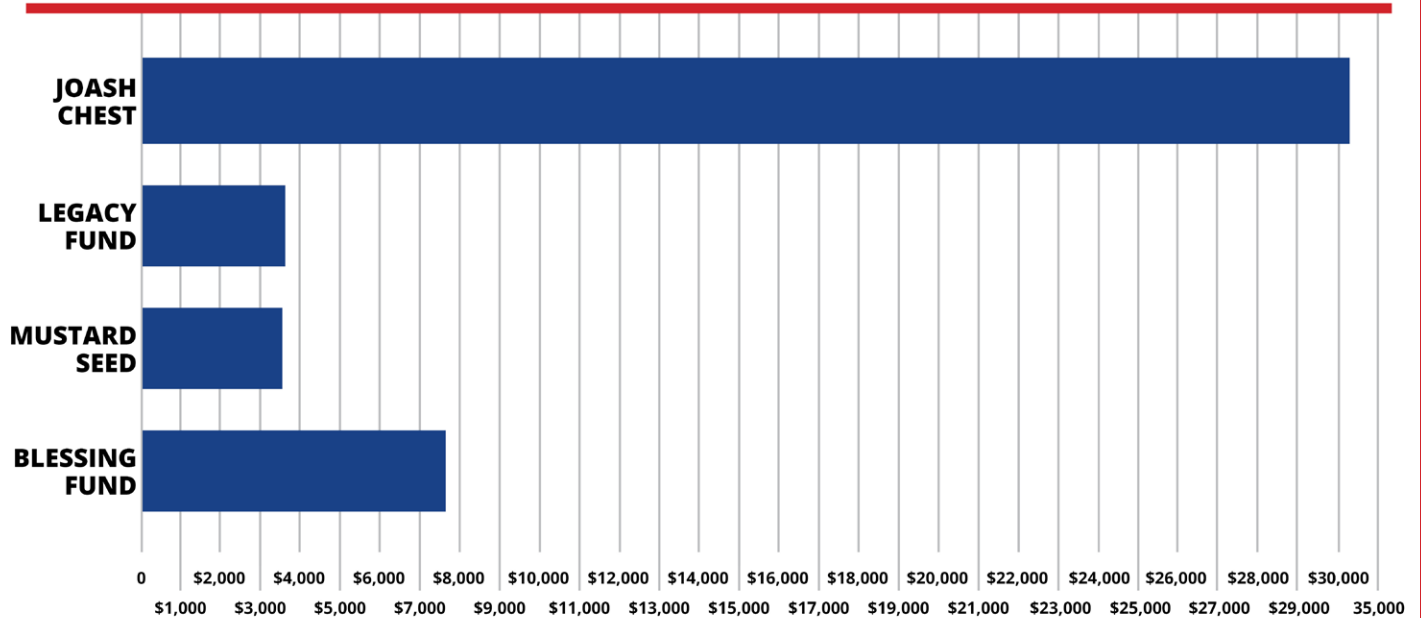


SHARPSHOOTERS CLUB

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. **May 17th 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.

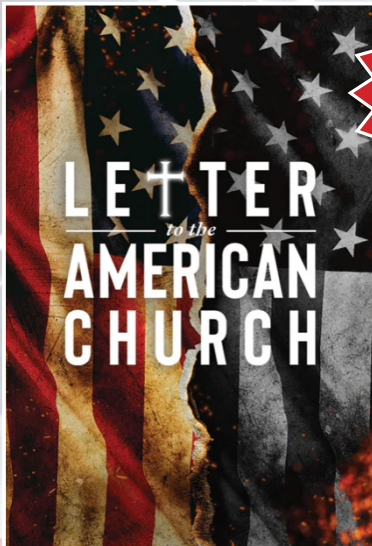
ABOVE & BEYOND



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Above and Beyond Fundraiser.
The final amount of donations totaled \$47,705.

Although the Above and Beyond fundraiser is ending, you may continue to donate to any of the above funds at anytime.

The success of our church would not be possible without generous donors like you.
Thank you again for your commitment and generosity.



ENCORE
SHOWING
OF MOVIE

MAY
15TH
AT
1 PM

JOIN US FOR A SCREENING OF **LETTER TO THE AMERICAN CHURCH**

From the film's website... A film adaptation of the best-selling book, "Letter to the American Church" written by Eric Metaxas.

The film lays out the parallels between early 1930's Nazi Germany and other totalitarian regimes with what is happening in America today.

This film is a wake-up call to the church to stand up and speak out against the evil that is manifesting in our country.

IMAGE OF GOD

Imago Dei

He is a 'god-fearing man'
Created in God's image is he
Self-sacrificing, virtuous and devout
This is what Imago Dei is all about!

She's a 'creative genius'
Recreating in God's image is she
The poet, the builder, the entrepreneur
Is this Imago Dei so much truer?

Qualities of our character,
Capacities of our nature
To which does Imago Dei pull
I'll side with creative rule.

T. Roger Merritt

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Our Sunday School class, which normally meets on Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m., will be on hiatus until Fall.

GIFT CARD SCAM

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...

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.**

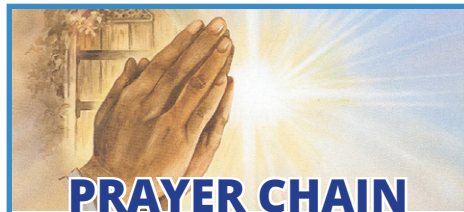
Worship Bulletin & Newsletter Deadlines

If you would like to submit information for the weekly worship bulletin (for events, meetings, etc.) please send an email to the church office (grace@gcc-epc.com) with the information on **Monday of the bulletin week**.

Also, personal notes such as thank you messages, etc. will now be placed in the monthly newsletter rather than in the weekly worship bulletins.

Please submit any newsletter information to the office by the 20th day of the month prior to the publication month. For example, by April 20th for the May newsletter.

Thank you for your assistance.



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.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Janet Kosky	5/6
Merv Olson	5/7
Pat Davis	5/8
Marie Rogeness.....	5/9
Penny Coffman.....	5/15
Ruth Lee.....	5/16
Steve Wilmeth.....	5/20
Julie Grenrod.....	5/24
Glenn Schmitt	5/25
Jim Curley.....	5/26
Randy DeLeeuw.....	5/28
Altha Sleeman.....	5/31

MAY 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. - 3:00 p.m.

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

Website Address:
gcc-epc.com

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