

## THANK YOU JESUS... GLORY TO GOD!!!

*“...giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

- Ephesians 5:20

As a pastor I’ve had the privilege of meeting a lot of unique people over the years. One such person was Adeline.

Adeline was poor as dirt, but she loved coming to church for worship and for special events. She enjoyed volunteering whenever possible.

What was notable about Adeline was that about every other sentence that came out of her mouth was, “*Thank you Jesus! Glory to God!!*”

Now I could appreciate Adeline’s enthusiastic expressiveness as well as her willingness to always be thanking the Lord, but it could be a bit annoying.

There came a point, however, when I wondered just how sincere she was in her thanksgiving. So, I asked her about it. “*Adie, you say ‘Thank you Jesus’ all the time. Do you really mean it all the time?*”

Adie peered at me through her disheveled hair as if I was a total moron. Then she smiled and burst out laughing. “*Sit down Pastor Cliff. I’ll tell you why I say that.*”

For the next hour Adie told me about how she never

knew her father and how her alcoholic mother abandoned her at the age of five. She was taken in by some people who did unspeakable things to her until she became a ward of the state.

*“Pastor, the onliest person who showed any care for me was a lady who would pick me up and take me to Sunday School and church. She taught me everything I know about God and Jesus. When I was old enough, she let me live in her house (a three-room mining shanty). When she died, she left me her Bible and that house. Now do you see why I say ‘Thank you Jesus! Glory to God!!’?”*

*I’m as rich as can be. That Bible is the very word of God and I get to read it. That house belongs to God and I get to live in it. God watches over me Pastor. He takes care of me. I have so much to be thankful for... Thank you Jesus! Praise God!!”*

I was amazed by Adeline’s answer to my question. It was so deeply heartfelt that ever after hearing her story it was music to my ears to hear her say “*Thank you Jesus! Glory to God!*”

Friends, genuine thanksgiving is an act of the heart’s affections as much as it is outwardly expressed. It’s willed, but awakened. It’s not a decision of the will, but a reflex of the heart.

*continued →*



As we recognize all that God has blessed us with it causes within us a fountain of gratitude and the result is glory to God. Psalm 50:23 says, "The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice *glorifies me.*"

Similarly, Paul says in 2 Corinthians 4:15, "As grace extends to more and more people it increases thanksgiving, to the *glory of God.*"

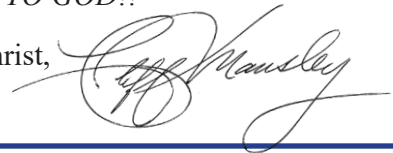
All turkey, stuffing and football aside, a thanksgiving of the heart is what truly pleases the Lord. When I consider just how much I am able to experience the wonderful, undeserved grace of God in my life, the more a great movement of *thanksfeeling* rises in my heart. When I consider all that my Lord Jesus Christ has done for me by taking my place on the cross that's when

*thanksfeeling* from the heart overwhelms my soul and brings glory to God.

So what is it for you? For what are you grateful to God? Friends? Family? Home? Grace Community Church?

Nothing compares to the great salvation which we have in Christ Jesus our Lord. To Him belongs all thanks and glory and praise... now and forever!

Oh yes, if you want to bring a smile to your pastor's faith... remind me from time to time of Adeline and don't be shy about shouting out a hearty "*THANK YOU JESUS! GLORY TO GOD!!*"

With Love in Christ, 



# Thank You

## GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Dear Grace Community Family & Friends,

It was with great delight that we read your many cards of encouragement during Pastor's Appreciation month. Thank you for your very uplifting thoughts and other genuine expressions of love. You truly make serving at Grace Community a great and wonderful joy!

Jane and I look forward to serving you in the years ahead.

With Love in Christ,  
Pastor Cliff and Jane



# Thanksgiving Eve SERVICE

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, AT 3 PM**

There will be an informal service followed by a light lunch.

The church will provide sandwiches. Bring along a soup or dessert to share.

**SIGN UP IN LOBBY**



# PRELUDES IN CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

*(It's Not Just Background Music)*

Most Sundays here at Grace we begin our worship services with a musical prelude. It usually begins 2 to 3 minutes before the Welcome. It is typically a song with piano and voice or instrument(s). But what is a prelude and what is its purpose? The definition from my Belwin Dictionary of Music is, “a musical introduction to a composition or drama.” That’s okay, straight and to the point. The Merriam-Webster dictionary expands that and states, “an action or event serving as an introduction to something more important.” That’s better, but let’s see another. The Cambridge Dictionary reads, “something that comes before a more important event or action and introduces or prepares for it.” That is almost a perfect description of what and why we have preludes in our worship services, but it is missing the spiritual influence.

Within the reformed and evangelical churches that I have belonged to, nearly every service has begun with a musical offering to prepare the congregation for worship. It is an opportunity for the gathering congregation to turn their thoughts away from themselves and circumstances and turn their focus toward the Triune God and the teaching and theme of the day’s worship. It draws us into a holy place by quieting and focusing. Our prelude nearly always ties directly into the pastor’s selected scripture for the preaching or the Call to Worship.

So, what is that more important event that our worship prelude is preparing us for? There are five scripture-based events that happen in our services that are the “more important” event. According to the EPC Book of Order, Part Three, The Book of Worship, Section 2-1A, they are:

1. The reverent and attentive reading of the scripture, the sound preaching, and the conscientious hearing of the Word.  
*1 Timothy 4:13*
2. “Singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.” *Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16*
3. The proper administration and receiving of the sacraments. *1 Corinthians 11:27-32*
4. Prayer and thanksgiving. *1 Timothy 2:1-4*
5. The giving of tithes and offerings.  
*1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:7-8*

These five elements of worship ARE the elements of the more important event of WORSHIP, and we use the prelude to set the stage, per se, to introduce and engage the congregation in preparing for the true worship, that is experienced “in spirit and in truth.” *John 4:23.*

How will you know when it is time to settle down? FOUR things are going to happen just after 9:55 a.m.:

1. Sanctuary lights are dimmed.
2. Doors are closed.
3. Pastors and leadership proceed to their seats on the platform.
4. The title of the prelude song is projected.

As we continue through the book of Genesis and begin to think and prepare for Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas, please take these few moments at the beginning of worship each Sunday to quiet and focus on our time of corporate worship of our Living God.

Blessings, Michele Southerland



# LET THERE BE LIGHT!!!

Once again, the Joash Chest Fund has allowed us to improve our facilities.

With a rapidly degrading lighting system in the sanctuary, Ken Marshall and sons have been doing an amazing job installing all new lighting in our sanctuary. This includes our stage lighting, uplighting and general lighting.

Why is new lighting so important? First, some replacement bulbs are no longer available which would largely leave us in darkness. Second, LED lighting uses less energy and saves us money. Third, LED lighting



does not generate as much heat as the old system. Fourth, our new system allows us to manipulate lighting from one control panel. Fifth, the new system will allow us to create hundreds of color scenes that were impossible with the old system.

There is a learning curve in understanding how the new lighting system fully operates and it will take a while before we see all its extraordinary benefits. If you are interested in learning how to operate our new lighting system please speak with Ken Marshall.



## “I Lived” & “Stop The Bleed”

**SATURDAY • 11/18/23**  
**8 AM TO 4 PM**



**Prepare. Prevent. Respond. Recover.**

Arizona Christian Security Network will be presenting a full day of classes here at Grace Community Church on Nov. 18th.

The two classes are: “I Lived” and “Stop The Bleed”. “I Lived” is Violent Intruder Response Training. We will learn how to mitigate the loss of life and increase survival during an active attack and “Stop the Bleed” we will gain the ability to recognize life-threatening bleeding and how to intervene effectively.

**PLEASE SIGN UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**



# 2023-2024 CONCERT SERIES

JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT CONCERT...

## ARIZONA SWING KINGS

NOVEMBER 17 - 7 PM



### MORE UPCOMING CONCERTS

December 8, 2023, 4 PM  
**PARK PLACE BRASS**

January 12, 2024, 7 PM  
**GOLD RUSH**

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](http://GCC-EPC.com/events)

# THE GOSPEL IN GENESIS

FINDING FAITH & HOPE  
IN A FALLEN WORLD

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

## TUESDAY MORNING

— PRAYER GROUP —

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

Sharing  
& Caring

**SUPPORT GROUP**

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

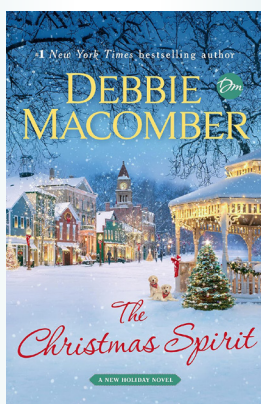
# Women's

BOOK CLUB



The Women's Book Club will meet on Thursday, November 9th, at 10:30 a.m.

The book for November is *The Christmas Spirit* by Debbie Macomber.



## NOVEMBER'S SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

*“Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name! We give thanks to the Lord for His goodness and His love.” Psalm 100:4*



## GET ON THE WATER WAGON!!!

We need volunteers willing to pick up water from Costco or Sam's Club on a regular basis. We need the packages with the smaller 8 oz. bottles.

Currently, our overworked staff is lugging most of the water in and its getting difficult to keep up.

Please see Patti French if you are willing to get on the water wagon!!!



## WHY READ THE BIBLE?

### *It Teaches You How to Forgive*

*Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:31-32, NIV)*

One of the key components of the gospel message is that Jesus died on the cross to forgive sins. Since this is such a central aspect of who God is — a forgiver — the Bible has a lot to say about forgiveness. Even if you are not a follower of Christ, check out the various verses on forgiveness, because they will still be helpful for your everyday life. Think about who you need to forgive, and then practice removing any bitterness you may be holding on to toward that person.

# NOVEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY					
<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="background-color: #d9ead3; padding: 2px;">Worship &amp; Study</td> <td style="background-color: #f4cccc; padding: 2px;">Group Meetings</td> <td rowspan="2" style="background-color: #6aa84f; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><b>SPECIAL ACTIVITIES</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #d9ead3; padding: 2px;">GCC Rehearsals</td> <td style="background-color: #f4cccc; padding: 2px;">Other Groups</td> </tr> </table> </div>			Worship & Study	Group Meetings	<b>SPECIAL ACTIVITIES</b>	GCC Rehearsals	Other Groups	1	2	3	4
			Worship & Study	Group Meetings		<b>SPECIAL ACTIVITIES</b>					
GCC Rehearsals	Other Groups										
			Dr. Clement Class 10:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal 9:00 - 11:00 AM	TOPS Meeting 8 AM - 10 AM						
			Parkinson Support Group 3:00-4:30 PM	Sharing & Caring 10:30 AM							
				Bell Choir 1:00 PM							
5	6	7	8	9	10	11					
Class w/ Dr. Clement 8:30 AM	Men's Breakfast at GCC 8:00 AM	Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM	Dr. Clement Class 10:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal 9:00 - 11:00 AM	TOPS Meeting 8 AM - 10 AM	<i>Veteran's Day</i>					
Worship Service 10:00 AM	Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM	Pastor's Bible Study 11:00 AM	<b>SURPRISE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXPO</b> 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Women's Book Club 10:30 AM							
<b>Communion</b>	Worship Meeting 11:00 AM	Trail Life 6:00 PM		Deacon's Meeting 2:00 PM	Bell Choir 1:00 PM						
New Member's 4:00 PM			Game Day 1:00 PM								
12	13	14	15	16	17	18					
Class w/ Dr. Clement 8:30 AM	Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM	Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM	Dr. Clement Class 10:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal 9:00 - 11:00 AM	TOPS Meeting 8 AM - 10 AM	CPR / Stop the Bleed 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM					
Worship Service 10:00 AM	Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM	Pastor's Bible Study 11:00 AM	Session Meeting 1:30 PM	Sharing & Caring 10:30 AM	Sharpshooters 9:30 AM						
Box Dedication for Operation Christmas Child	Worship Meeting 11:00 AM	Trail Life 6:00 PM		Bell Choir 1:00 PM	Finance Team 10:00 AM						
New Members 4:00 PM					<b>SWING KINGS CONCERT</b> 7:00 PM						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25					
Class w/ Dr. Clement 8:30 AM	Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM	Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM	Dr. Clement Class 10:00 AM	<i>Happy Thanksgiving</i> (office closed) 	<i>(office closed)</i>						
Worship Service 10:00 AM	Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM	Pastor's Bible Study 11:00 AM	<b>THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE</b> 3:00 PM								
New Members Presented	Worship Meeting 11:00 AM										
26	27	28	29	30							
Class w/ Dr. Clement 8:30 AM	Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM	Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM	Dr. Clement Class 10:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal 9:00 - 11:00 AM							
Worship Service 10:00 AM	Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM			Bell Choir 1:00 PM							





We need volunteers to help us deck the halls for the Christmas season. Come join us for fun-filled decorating.

**FRIDAY, 12/1 AT  
10 AM & SATURDAY,  
12/2, AT 9 AM**

*Sign-up in the lobby today.*

## *Holiday*

### OFFICE SCHEDULE

**OFFICE CLOSED**

Thursday & Friday  
November 23 & 24

**OFFICE CLOSED**

Monday  
December 25

**OFFICE CLOSED**

Monday  
January 1

# Christmas Party



**SAVE THE DATE FOR  
OUR ANNUAL PARTY**



**12/13 AT  
11:30 AM**

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon featuring a wacky gift exchange.

For the gift exchange each participant should bring a wrapped white elephant or gag gift. The more silly, fun or outrageous the gift the better.

**MORE DETAILS  
COMING SOON**



# TRAIL LIFE BBQ A BIG SUCCESS!!!



For the second year in a row our Trail Life boys along with their dads and moms held a wonderfully successful BBQ!

Many thanks to the hundreds of people who came out in support of Arizona Troop 1. Because of you our boys will be able to go camping, hiking and kayaking and have the proper equipment they need to do it.

In case you're wondering, Trail Life is a Christ-centered, Bible-based ministry for boys and their dads. We emphasize faith, character and skill development.

What a blessing that Grace Community Church can sponsor such a dynamic ministry at a time in our nation's history when it is especially important. Your love, encouragement and support help make Arizona Troop One the great success that it is today. THANK YOU!!!





**Operation  
Christmas Child  
boxes need to be  
returned to the  
church by Sunday,  
November 12th!**

# LIFE GROUPS

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 year-round groups that are already meeting and we are particularly looking for seasonal life group interest (November - April).

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](mailto: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...

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.



**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.

**NEW OFFERING BOXES**

We wish to thank Mark Brown for creating our beautiful new offering boxes. These boxes are beautifully made, and will provide us with security for our donations.

**Thank You Mark!**

*Thank you from  
Pastor Bud & Pat*

Thank you for all the cards and sentiments! We truly appreciate each and every one!

**MEN'S BREAKFAST  
AT GRACE COMMUNITY**

The Men of Grace Community Church will be holding our first-ever on-site Men's Breakfast November 6th at 8 a.m. Now that we have an outdoor cooking griddle and grill our men's cooking team are excited to prepare pancakes, bacon (thick-cut!), sausage, coffee, juice and more!

Please sign-up early in the Sheep-Gate (lobby) as we need to know how many men to prepare for. This is going to be a fantastic change of pace!!

**NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> - 8:00 AM - GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH**

# NEW GREETERS & USHERS MINISTRY AT GCC

Grace Community is ramping up our game for Sunday worship and special events!

In the past we would randomly ask folks to greet incoming people at the front doors of the church. Most of the time that worked out pretty well since we have really nice people! We also didn't see much need for ushers as we used to be a relatively small congregation.

As we've grown, however, we've increasingly sensed the need to be a little more organized and to offer training to those serving as greeters and ushers.

The training is fairly simple and straightforward. Picking up on what we will be doing as greeters & ushers won't take a lot of time.

Whatever the case, it is exciting that we will be more effective in coordinating our efforts to welcome people into worship and the fellowship of the church.

Interested in participating in this simple, yet important ministry? See Betty Eldridge or Patti French today!



## WHAT IS EVANGELISM EXPLOSION?

Evangelism Explosion is a presentation developed by Rev. D. James Kennedy. It teaches us how to articulate our faith in an orderly way. St. Peter tells us that we should always be ready to do this.

This course does require some memorization, but it is thought for thought learning not word for word accuracy.

Beginning in mid-January, we shall be teaching Evangelism Explosion.

**Keep watching for details.**



*Classes led by Dr. Clement*

## PRACTICES OF THE PRAYING HEART

How the Prayers of the Bible Shape our Relationship with God  
**Sunday Mornings at 8:30 a.m. in the Prayer Room**

## DECISIVE ISSUES FACING CHRISTIANS TODAY

How Christians Make Sense of a World Upside Down  
**Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Area**

# HOME & HEALTH EXPO

A Community Building Program of Your Chamber of Commerce

## FOOD, FUN & MUSIC

Home & Landscape  
Health & Wellness  
Services & Resources

**FREE**  
ADMISSION

**FREE Food Samples & Vendor Giveaways**



Hosted at Grace Community Church

**WEDNESDAY  
NOVEMBER 8  
10 AM - 2 PM**

## STEWARDSHIP

*“Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others.”*

— Mark 12:43

If you see someone’s checkbook, you can figure out a great deal about their priorities. We spend money on things that are important to us, and the way we handle our finances is a good way to check the condition of our hearts.

In the story of the widow’s offering, Jesus looks at the act of giving as something more than providing for the needs of temple ministry. After watching in silence while generous donors placed large amounts in the temple treasury, Jesus noticed that a poor widow donated two small coins worth less than a penny. Jesus was not impressed because of all that would be accomplished with two copper coins; he was impressed by the condition of the widow’s heart. Her gift revealed her priorities.

The act of giving can reveal the condition of our hearts, and it can also be part of the process of shaping our priorities. Whenever we invest in something, we immediately become more attuned to our investment. When a newlywed couple buys their first home, or a young entrepreneur invests in her new business, they quickly learn about caring for their new purchase, because it is such a significant investment. The act of financially supporting ministries for God’s work is good for those ministries, but it is also good for our hearts, because in the process of giving, our hearts can be drawn nearer to God.

*Holy Spirit, change the way I use the resources you have given me so that my heart may be drawn nearer to you. Amen.*





## HAVE YOU BEEN BAPTISED?

*“We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.” – Romans 6:4*

Have you placed your faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? The Bible tells us that every one of us must make a decision as to whom we will follow... either Jesus Christ or the world, the flesh and the devil. If you've made the decision to follow Jesus then we're taught that we must be baptized as an outward sign of Christ's inward work of grace. Please take time to visit with Pastor Cliff if you haven't yet taken the very important step of being baptized.



## 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.



## NOVEMBER

### BIRTHDAYS

Connie Merritt.....	11/1	Gayle Arkema .....	11/20
Karin Winters .....	11/1	Donna Smith .....	11/21
Arlene Larimer.....	11/7	Marvin Koop.....	11/25
Priscilla Lords .....	11/9	Michael Mallett.....	11/26
Larry Laursen.....	11/10	Tiger Tague .....	11/26
Sathya Clement .....	11/13	Ava Olson.....	11/27
Judy Miller .....	11/12	Debbe Davis.....	11/28
Joe Osowiec .....	11/15	Richard Urwiller .....	11/28
Steve Paetz.....	11/19		

### ANNIVERSARIES

Gary Wahlert & Arlene Larimer .... 11/2  
Dick & Dona Kane..... 11/23



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](http://gcc-epc.com)

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