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THE GRAND COMMUNICATOR

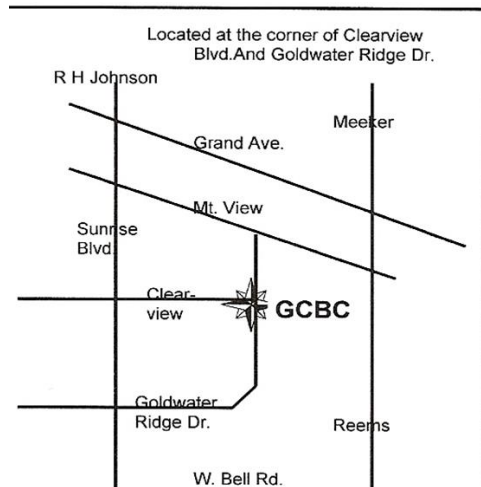
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Early Summer Edition

May – June 2023

OR CURRENT RESIDENT



Magnify God, Proclaim the Gospel, Care for the Community!

The Church office is open Mon. – Thur. from 8:00am to 1:00pm

Please call if you have any questions or concerns. 623-975-6262

Come Worship with Us

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Services

Bible Study at 9:00 AM ... Ministry Center

Worship at 10:00 AM ... Worship Center

Evening Worship at 4:00 PM ... Worship Center

Mondays	8:00 am	Men's Bible Study, Ministry Center Classroom
Wednesdays	4:00 pm	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting, Worship Center
Thursdays	9:45 am	Women's Bible Study, Ministry Center classroom



From Your Pastor
A couple of weeks ago I noticed some unusually large nests on the lower branches of the trees in the parking lot by Angela's Restaurant. I saw a large bird zip in and out of one but didn't see what it was. I figured that if I was patient and checked back when I had more time, I could see it and would have a confirmed nest site to watch through the rest of the spring.

I went back several days later and found that the grounds crew had trimmed out all the foliage in the bottom of these trees as a part of their maintenance, and unfortunately that included clearing these nests.

When I made up my mind to watch the location, I had every reason to expect that there was plenty of time and an enjoyable future of observing that nest. But in reality, it was a very short lived venture. It was cut short by forces I couldn't have predicted. If I had known this destruction was coming, I would have been more careful to identify the bird when I first noticed it. But I didn't, and now it is too late.

Have you missed out on anything by delaying? Perhaps you missed buying something while it was on sale? Or maybe missed it completely because it sold out? Maybe you never got to say goodbye to someone who moved away? Perhaps you wanted to attend an event, only to find out last year's event was the last one?

Missing out is always disappointing, but in some cases it is downright disastrous. Far too many people have delayed addressing spiritual issues. Spiritual questions also have a time limit. Some feel that they have put them off for so long that redirecting now would be hypocritical. Others are waiting for the right opportunity but don't know how to begin or who to ask. My strongest admonition is to not put off these conversations.

We have a number of Bible studies available to help you learn more. I strongly suggest that every member and regular attender be involved in at least one Bible study each week so that you keep fresh and growing Biblically. You would also be welcome to ask for an appointment with a staff member to begin seeking the answers you need. These opportunities are there for you to take advantage of.

Another possibility is that you have a family member or friend who needs to talk. You may want to make a joint appointment with them and one of the pastors. In this manner, they will feel relaxed and ready to address their questions because they have your support and help.

Please Welcome Our New Members!



David & Anita Leimone
Joined April 2, 2023



Tresa Van Fossen
Joined April 2, 2023

Greetings in the Name of the Lord!



Someone asked Jesus to identify the greatest of all God's commandments. In just a single statement Jesus reduced the Ten Commandments (not to mention all of the 613 commandments of the Torah) down to two: Jesus said, *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."* This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: *"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 22:37 - 40).

I want to encourage you to fall in love with Jesus all over again. Ask God to renew your love for Him. Spend time with God in prayer and then come on Sunday and Wednesday and share what God is doing in your life. Love your neighbors. Pray for your neighbors. Invite them to come to our church.

In the Pray & Go ministry we have prayed over 4,530 homes. Our goal is to pray over all the 9,500 homes in "The Grand" community. Keep loving the Lord and keep loving those you encounter. It will make a difference!

In His Service, Brother Gary

Musically Speaking

The Music Department has been hitting high notes in recent months. Our Cantata in December was a labor of joy and well received by the congregation. Choir attendance has been booming – even the Super Bowl didn't keep members from rehearsal. Spring brings opportunities to work on new music and more ways to glorify our Lord.

Our Media Group has been outstanding – most cooperative and efficient. Kudos to all those involved in this important work.

The Grace Notes continue weekly rehearsals (Thursday – 9 AM) and will be singing on Memorial Day Sunday.

Our choir is eager for new members – come join us on Sunday right after the evening service. You'll be glad you did, and we'll be delighted!

Cookie Table



I want to say a special **Thank You** to Kay Plahutnik and Temple Schwartz. In the month of February, Kay made Heart cookies, enough for every Sunday. In March, she made Shamrock cookies for every Sunday. Then she outdid herself and made cross-shaped and egg-shaped cookies for every Sunday in April! Temple brings a plate of cookies every Sunday.

Thank you to all the faithful bakers that made cookies and filled the cookie table each and every Sunday. There have been no leftovers, not even a crumb! Marie Miller, Cookie Lady

In MEMORIAM

Thelma Andersen..... 3/18/2023 Patricia Staten..... 3/20/2023

From the Missions Committee

Because of your generosity through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, God worked a great victory bringing a total of \$13,696 in for the offering. These funds will be used by the North American Mission Board in the United States and Canada for Evangelism, Church Planting and the funding of mission personnel.

If you receive the Portraits Magazine, you may have noticed on page 24 in the Working Together section that GCBC was listed on both the total giving to the Cooperative Program and in the per capita giving to the Cooperative Program. This also is a God given victory, as we live out our purpose by supporting missions. The Cooperative Program allows SBC churches to give a percentage of their budget income to support missions and SBC causes.

Thank you for faithfully praying about what God would lead you to give. Thank you for caring about God's Kingdom and bringing more people into it. Our next mission opportunity will be a baby bottle campaign through the month of May.

The Lunch Bunch



The Lunch Bunch has been enjoying an expansion of our group. March brought us over 40. The numbers will dwindle over the warm months, but our enthusiasm will not!

It is a joy to share stories and laughter with our church family. May brings us to Rio Mirage for some good Mexican food. June is still under negotiation, but will be announced in plenty of time.

Please come and add your warmth and personality to our group! Mark off the 2nd Tuesday of each month so you don't miss the Bunch!

Fun and Games

Grand Community Baptists Church's Saturday Game – Playing Fun that began shortly before the onslaught of the pandemic, is up and running again, with church members who love playing games. If you enjoy games or are curious about playing games, you are invited to come and join the fun of winning and engaging in cheerful, wholesome conversation and fellowship. Bring relatives, friends and/or invite community and neighborhood fun loving game enthusiasts and experts. All are welcome.

The game playing is held monthly in the church's Ministry Center, every 3rd Saturday at 2:00 PM. Snacks are provided or bring your own. See you there!