



- 1) We live in a world of transitions. Walter Cronkite signed off, “And that’s the way it is.” His successor, Dan Rather signed off, “And that is part of our world tonight.” GGCC has accepted the invitation of Christ to jump on the board and surf the new waves. There is safety in the risk.
- 2) What is the soundtrack of your life? The Psalms offer the Bible its beat. Through the Psalter we enter the dance of: “Orientation, disorientation, new orientation.” -Walter Brueggemann. During Lent we will continue to explore this biblical truth.
- 3) Thank you. The ‘priesthood of all believers’ is alive and well at GGCC. (1 Peter 2:5-10) By name I want to mention: Theresa Cope, Nancy Kronberg, Ron Mitchell, Terry Luce, Lois Auttersen and the Treasury Team of Jane Mang, Dan Evans, Mark Auttersen, Kathryn Ake, Deanne Cruickshank, and Dave Lee.
- 4) We have mourned a great deal in the last year. As a congregation we have circled around those who mourn and both they, as well as we, have been blessed (Matthew 5:4.) Christ has been a faithful companion in the valleys of life and death.
- 5) The school shooting epidemic in our country reminds us of the threat isolation poses to our culture. The Mentoring Ministry of GGCC offers a stream of hope and light to the darkness of loneliness. Thank you, Vikki Luce for your leadership in this and many areas.
- 6) The 3DM curriculum. We have had 26 directly involved in this ministry as they have been learning in a small group format for a couple of years. “Going deeper with fewer.” There will be further means by which more people can enter into this discipling process in 2018.
- 7) Longevity and stability in our community building relationships has been a mutual blessing. With Rock Canyon High School, Open Door, Confluence, The Gathering Place, Booneville Boys and Girls Club, Love Light and Melody and Extreme Community Makeover.
- 8) The blessing and the challenge of our facilities. Blessing: our cash flow is lessened by not having a more expensive facility. Blessing: we are in RCHS where we can begin our ministry in the world right where we worship. Challenge: our community is constructed of people who predominantly grew up in churches with a building that invited new people to attend. A challenge is numerical growth.
- 9) Is GGCC “dwindling”? In a 24/7/365 world the church is affected as well. Our numbers in terms of those who gather include more than merely Sunday morning worship, and more than what we see. Streaming has done much to ramp this up. (GGCC receives financial support from people who stream.) Less is proving to be more.
- 10) Scorecard. There is a kingdom mindset to our compass that few churches I know are blessed with. Thank you, Claudia Larson for your leadership.
- 11) Every church hears the words “the same people do all the work.” Spiritual transformation is often best measured by our time and finances. How is God calling you to go deeper with offering the treasure of your hours and money in 2018?
- 12) My prayer is that GGCC continues to set a course of journeying into adventure with God.
- 13) Special thank you to all the spouses of the paid staff leaders, Kristie Edwards, Judy Edwards, Terry Luce, Roger Larson, and Amy Jensen.