



THE BROADCASTER

CONNECTING OUR GCC COMMUNITY SINCE 1941

JANUARY 1, 2023
VOLUME 82 NUMBER 01

THE CYCLE OF EARTHLY LIFE



Vision of Paradise in Dante's Paradiso as illustrated by Gustav Doré (1832-1883)

Last year, on January 10, 2022, at 5 p.m., I was at the bedside of my mother. It was day 11 since the hospice nurse said she could pass at any moment. Hers was a long “active dying” process by any measure. When I arrived for my turn with her keeping watch (my sister left just an hour before), I saw that she was struggling with her breathing. This was new as she had been serene and unconscious for many days. But I knew what to do. I got the hospice kit and administered drops of methadone and lorazepam under her tongue. These would soon alleviate the shortness of breath and any agitation. I called the hospice service for a nurse to call me back. As I waited, I said a bunch of prayers. The nurse called back and said

that I did the right thing and that this was normal at this stage. After I hung up, my mother was no longer struggling. But she seemed to be breathing without breath. Immediately, I said the Prayer of Commendation over her: “Mom... Go forth, faithful Christian soul. May you rest in peace and rise in the glory of your eternal home, forever in the paradise of God where grief and misery are banished, and light and joy abide. Amen.” And with that, she stopped breathing. I texted my sister to come right away. Maybe she entered the “near death apnea stage” where you breathe only every 2 minutes? But the nurses came and said no, she is not breathing. She had died. I called my sister who came quickly. We both had time alone with my mom. I kissed her forehead and thanked her for being a wonderful mother who made my dreams come true. Later, the hospice nurse arrived to formally pronounce her dead. Within an hour, the undertaker came, reverently shrouded her, and took her away. Alice Marie (Keohane) Matarazzo (August 22, 1942 - January 10, 2022), age 79, died after a long battle with Parkinson’s Disease (PD) and later with PD-related dementia. For the first 15 years, it had little impact and she lived fully. But by 2016, it made its presence known. By 2018, she had PD-related dementia and needed assisted living with what is called “memory care”. When dementia strikes, you in essence lose the person twice. The person you knew fades, although my mom’s essence was still there deep within.

Often, I found myself looking for God’s grace in any of this, but perhaps the grace was that she had the finest care; she never despaired; and she was always cheerful to the end. Her last gift to me was sometime after Thanksgiving Day 2021: a smile that was so radiant in recognition and love that it was for me the image and likeness of God pouring through her. It will be forever with me. Now, I believe, she beholds the beatific vision of God, face to face, and has entered a realm of glory that defies human description.

As is often said, grief is the price we pay for love. And it is most certainly worth that price. Since her passing, I am mostly filled with happy memories and thanksgiving for her life as a beautiful and loving human being as well as a wonderful mother. I wish I had her

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with me longer in earthly life. If not for her medical condition, she may well have lived to be 100 years old, like her Aunt Grace, or my own paternal great Aunt Netta who at age 99 still lives as a widow in her own home independently. But we do not get to decide how long we live on earth. We only get to decide how we will spend the time given to us, whether long or short. We've all heard these phrases before: Carpe diem! Seize the day! Life is short! You only live once! In the sense of earthly life, these sayings are undeniably true. But for the Christian, this life is a road and not an end. The problem we all have with this "road" is that it demands that we pass through death to get to the destination. I wish it were not so. And as St. Paul reminds us, we do not even get to know why it must be so: "For now we see as in a mirror dimly..." (1 Cor. 13:12). We are limited creatures and I have no idea what it would be like to be without limits. The Roman Christian senator and philosopher Boethius (c. 477-524 AD) wrote this about eternal life: *aeternitas est interminabilis vitae tota simul et perfecta possessio*. Translation: "Eternity is the total, simultaneous, and perfect possession of unlimited life." It is perfect life without limits and without time. This is the life of God. And this is the life and joy promised to us. The very idea is mind-blowing. What is a timeless, perfect, unlimited life? As a human, I can't imagine it. But that's just it – resurrection means total transformation, into a glorious new substance, beyond anything we can grasp. From the scientific-materialist view, this may all seem like wishful thinking and fairytales. But from the lens of faith, hope, and love, it is blessed assurance. And with that I conclude with a New Year's carol:

*What cheer? Good cheer!
Be merry and glad this good New Year!
'Lift up your hearts and be glad
In Christ's birth', the angel bade,
Say each to other if any be sad:
'What cheer? Good cheer!'*

*Now the King of heaven his birth hath take,
Joy and mirth we ought to make:
Say each to other, for his sake:
'What cheer? Good cheer!'*

*I tell you all with heart so free:
Right welcome ye be to me;
Be glad and merry for charity!
What cheer? Good cheer!
Be merry and glad this good New Year!*

- Anonymous, in Richard Hill's *Commonplace Book*,
London, 1503-1536.

May this New Year be for you blessed with good cheer, gladness, and joy living each day as fully as you can. And may you trust that all things shall be made well by the Maker of all things.

Happy New Year!
Jim
Rev. Dr. James M. Matarazzo, Jr.
Senior Pastor

GCC MIDWINTER CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - FEB 26, 2023 11:15 AM

The agenda is as follows:

- Approval of the Minutes of the August 28, 2022, Special Congregational Meeting
- Receipt of the Clerk's Report
- Receipt of the Treasurer's Report
- Congregational Vote on Human Resources Organizational Changes for 2023
- Forward in Faith Update
- Adoption of the GCC 2023 Budget
- Congregational Vote on Leadership and Governance Council name changes
- Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo, Jr. report on his first 100 days and looking ahead to 2023

This notice constitutes the official call to meeting. In accordance with the congregation's constitution, no other business shall be transacted. 50 members need to be present to establish a quorum. Please plan to attend.

AMOS SPEAKERS' FORUM @GCC PRESENTS: SAVING PLANET EARTH: WHAT CAN WE DO TO CONFRONT CLIMATE CHANGE?

Mark your calendars for our first Amos Speakers' Forum presentation of 2023. We are excited to announce that esteemed environmentalist David Ullrich will join us on Wednesday, January 18, at 7:00 pm in the Chapel. David will address the world environmental crisis and share some thoughts on what we can do to reverse the tide and save God's earth.

Mr. Ullrich was actively engaged during a 44-year career in environmental problem solving across the Midwest and internationally. From 2003 to 2017 as Executive Director of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, he advised over 130 U.S. and Canadian mayors on how best to advance the protection and restoration of these incredible water resources. The Initiative leads efforts to become a more sustainable region by Integrating environmental, economic and social activities to improve the quality of life and economic well-being of the communities it serves.

Prior to leading the Cities Initiative, Mr. Ullrich served for thirty years at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes regional office in Chicago, including Acting Regional Administrator and Deputy Regional Administrator. A graduate of Dartmouth College and the University of Wisconsin Law School, David will discuss the past 50 years of environmental activism, the challenges of global warming (hurricanes, droughts, floods and wildfires) and explore what's next in the fight to save our planet. Is our political system equipped to deal effectively with the problem and come up with solutions? Are we prepared to do what is necessary to reduce our carbon footprints? Come and experience this critical food for thought, discussion and action.



"The Triumph of the Innocents" by William Holman Hunt (1827-1910)

In this painting, the artist merges two events from the Gospels. The Massacre of the Innocents (Matthew 2:16–18) in which Herod the Great, king of Judea, ordered the execution of all male children who were two years old and under in the vicinity of Bethlehem. Joseph is warned about this in a dream and the Holy Family escapes into Egypt (Matthew 2:13). The Innocents as depicted as angelic babies with halos surrounding the baby Jesus, Mary, and Joseph – but as they are deceased only Jesus can see them. By tradition, the Innocents are deemed Christian martyrs and their feast day, Holy Innocents Day, is December 28. The "triumph" of the Innocents is that Herod failed to kill Jesus and they are able to see the Savior and enter the bliss of heaven.



We remain in prayer for the people of Ukraine, calling for an immediate cessation of violence. As the human toll continues to mount, the United Church of Christ has issued an urgent appeal for funds to help with refugee resettlement as well as aid for those unable to leave the country. We will be working with partners in the area, particularly the Reformed Church of Hungary.

Feel free to donate on-line (gccucc.org), write a check to Glenview Community Church marked "Ukrainian Relief," or place money in the marked baskets near the sanctuary doors. Please be generous. People are on the roads seeking sanctuary from the war.

WONDERING HOW YOU CAN DO YOUR PART TO ADDRESS GUN VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES? COME TO THE GUN SAFETY FAIR ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 15!

The GCC Faith in Action Team is partnering with the League of Women Voters of Glenview-Glencoe to hold a fair to provide awareness of groups in our community and neighboring communities that support gun safety. We currently have representatives from 10 different organizations, including Moms Demand Action, the Glenview Police Department, and the Glenbrook South High School Progressives student organization, who will have the opportunity to summarize their approach at the beginning of the event. Then visitors will be encouraged to stop by each organization's table to get details about the organization, learn about volunteer opportunities, ask questions, and hopefully sign up to take action!

The fair is free and open to the public. It will take place in our Community Room after church on Sunday, January 15 from 11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m.. Please save the date!

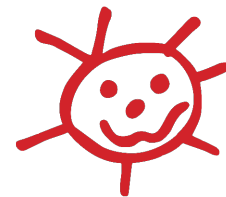


On December 11, our GCC puppet troupe, comprised of adults and youth, presented **"New Beginnings, Part 1"** by Steve Collins to the church school students, teachers, and parents. The audience enjoyed this special story that focused on starting our lives anew with the birth of Jesus. There was action, singing, a jumping dog, a "box of clues", questions, and the promise of answers in the spring production of Part 2. We look forward to lots of fun and excitement in the next show!

The puppet troupe has been working together for over 20 years. Many different people have been involved and currently the group includes adults Jim Habel, Gill Mergl, Peter Grant, and Sarah Lohrbach as well as youth Evan Bauerschmidt, Nick Bonakdarpour-Jaberg, Anna Gartner, Peter Kunkle, Rachel Kunkle, Olivia Monckton, Ali Seed, Lily Stutz, and Gracie Yamakawa. They are on break until January when they will resume meeting on Wednesdays. Folks interested in learning more about the group and their activities are welcome to drop by anytime!

THANK YOU!

This week, just after Thanksgiving, the many pens, cards, calendars, and note pads that were collected over the past month and a half were delivered to **Glenview's Patten House**. The residents of **Patten House** were excited to receive them. As a special plus, **Patten House** residents use cards like these to write encouraging notes to hospice patients at Veteran's Administration and other local hospitals. Thank you all for your contributions. What you did not need has been turned into joy for others. Thank you, Jane Marmet



Glenview Community Church Nursery School

TO THE GCC CONGREGATION

Chapter 1 would like to thank you for the generosity you have shown in supporting the Diaper Drive for the **Northfield Township Food Pantry**. With your participation we exceeded our goal of 5000 diapers and will be able to deliver over 9200 diapers to the Township. A Spring Diaper Drive may be coming!! Thank you again!

CALLING ALL PRESCHOOLERS!

Do you have family members, friends or neighbors with preschool-aged children? Spread the word that registration is now open for Glenview Community Church Nursery School! Applications for the 2023-2024 school year can be found at gccns.com or contact the director Laura Dillon at (847) 729-1440. GCCNS offers programs starting at 2 years old and up. Join this wonderful community of teachers, parents, and preschoolers!

GCC CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

Event Time	Event Name
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Sunday, 01 January 2023

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Worship Service
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	No Church School/No Nursery
11:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Fellowship Time

Monday, 02 January 2023

8:30 AM to 4:30 PM	GCC Building Hours
9:00 AM to 12:30 PM	Elizabeth H. Cluster Mtg

Wednesday, 04 January 2023

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You
5:30 PM to 7:00 PM	Youth Umbrella Fellowship

Thursday, 05 January 2023

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	New To You
9:00 AM to 10:00 AM	Yoga

Friday, 06 January 2023

8:30 AM to 4:30 PM	GCC Building Hours
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You

Saturday, 07 January 2023

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You
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Sunday, 08 January 2023

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Worship Service
11:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Fellowship Time

Monday, 09 January 2023

8:30 AM to 4:30 PM	GCC Building Hours
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Tuesday, 10 January 2023

7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Ministry Steering Group
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Wednesday, 11 January 2023

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You
5:30 PM to 7:00 PM	Youth Umbrella Fellowship

Thursday, 12 January 2023

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	New To You
9:00 AM to 10:00 AM	Yoga
7:30 PM to 8:30 PM	Troop 156 Meeting

Friday, 13 January 2023

8:30 AM to 4:30 PM	GCC Building Hours
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You

Saturday, 14 January 2023

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You
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Sunday, 15 January 2023

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Worship Service
11:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Fellowship Time
11:00 AM to 11:45 AM	GCC Education Session
11:15 AM to 12:30 PM	Gun Violence Prevention Fair

Monday, 16 January 2023

8:30 AM to 4:30 PM	GCC Building Hours
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Wednesday, 18 January 2023

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You
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Event Time	Event Name
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5:30 PM to 7:00 PM	Youth Umbrella Fellowship
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Amos Speaker's Forum
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	WA Meeting

Thursday, 19 January 2023

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	New To You
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Friday, 20 January 2023

8:30 AM to 4:30 PM	GCC Building Hours
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You

Saturday, 21 January 2023

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You
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Sunday, 22 January 2023

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Worship Service
11:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Fellowship Time

Monday, 23 January 2023

8:30 AM to 4:30 PM	GCC Building Hours
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Tuesday, 24 January 2023

7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Spiritual Council Meeting/minister key holder
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Wednesday, 25 January 2023

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You
5:30 PM to 7:00 PM	Youth Umbrella Fellowship

Thursday, 26 January 2023

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	New To You
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Friday, 27 January 2023

8:30 AM to 4:30 PM	GCC Building Hours
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You

Saturday, 28 January 2023

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You
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Sunday, 29 January 2023

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Worship Service
11:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Fellowship Time



FIND YOUR COMMUNITY CHURCH

1000 Elm Street
Glenview, IL 60025-2897
Phone: (847) 724-2210
Web: gccucc.org
Facebook: facebook.com/
GlenviewCommunityChurch/

SENIOR MINISTER

Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo, Jr.

BROADCASTER DEADLINES

January 24, 2023 by 9:00 AM

Email your article to Tania McCarthy at tania.mccarthy@gccucc.org by 9:00 AM on the deadline date.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Inspired by Christ.
Enriched by Faith.
Committed to Inclusivity.
We Serve God As Advocates
for Justice, Compassion,
and Peace.**



And I have felt...a sense sublime
Of something far more deeply interfused,
Whose dwelling is the light of setting suns,
And the round ocean and the living air,
And the blue sky, and in the mind of man;
A motion and a spirit, that impels
All thinking things, all objects of all thought,
And rolls through all things.

William Wordsworth

Community... in Christ