



OUT OF THE DESERT

אֱלֹהִים, אֵלֵי אֶתָּה / O GOD, YOU ARE MY GOD;

... early will I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh longs for you in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. Psalm 63:1 (NKJV)

Lent is traditionally a time of self-denial, prayer and fasting. It is also a time of preparation for Easter. But let's face it: it had been "Lent" from March 2020 until roughly March 2023 – a three-year period of pandemic lockdowns, social distancing, masking, vaccines, and boosters. We were in a kind of barren desert – a time of wandering that denied us human connection, freedom to gather and travel, and an ability to simply breathe as we once did. We were indeed thirsty for "social water" and we grew tired of the many impositions on our lives. We were also in a time when we entered the "valley of the shadow of death" (Ps. 23:4) with 1.13 million Covid-related deaths to date in the United States alone. And although much diminished, the shadow of death has not fully left us. The 7-day average death rate due to Covid is 469 as of March 1, 2023. Of course, in this life, we are always in the valley of the shadow of death – death is part of earthly life.

The psalmist above speaks of a longing for God that is like a thirst. In the Hebrew, the psalmist uses different words for 'God' shown in Hebrew above. The first is Elohim (אֱלֹהִים) which is a plural word but treated as singular. This is because the God of creation is understood as encompassing everything. The nearest equivalent would be the word 'Godhead'. The second word for 'God' is El (אֵל) which simply means a single god (or God). The psalmist is literally saying "O God of the universe, you are my God". It is the one Supreme Being, the only true God, that is his (or her) God. It is for the Creator that he or she thirsts. But the interesting thing about Elohim is that the word itself implies that God is a social being. In Genesis 1, Elohim creates the heavens and the earth not

alone, but with the whole company of heaven (the angelic beings). For most Christians, God is indeed supremely One, but also triune: God is not alone within God's self: God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God has an inner relationship. You will remember that in Genesis 2, Elohim says: "It is not good for the human to be alone." As the human was made in the image of God, Adam would reflect the divine need for society. Elohim is never alone. Thus, our journey in the Covid desert time would seem to challenge our divine need for human social contact.

As we approach Easter, it will be the first time we celebrate it as a post-pandemic feast. Those of who know the Eastern Orthodox tradition of Easter are aware of just how much feasting and socializing happen – it starts before midnight and continues in some places for 48 hours of food, drink, friends and family, dancing, music, and joy. Perhaps our Easter feast on April 9, 2023, should be no different.

While we await the Easter feast, I wish you a Lenten encounter with the fullness of the God of creation who desires to be in a relationship with each one of you. And when we exit this desert, may we have a feast worthy of the Promised Land.

See you in church,

Jim

Rev. Dr. James M. Matarazzo, Jr.
Senior Minister

תשובה

Teshuvah Repentance

LENTEN CALENDAR

SUNDAY, March 5 – 10 AM
Second Sunday of Lent
Holy Communion

MONDAY, March 6 - Noon
*Bible Study on the Book of Job

SUNDAY, March 12 – 10 AM
Third Sunday of Lent

Concert for Peace - UTOPIA - 3:00 PM

MONDAY, March 13 - Noon
*Bible Study on the Book of Job

SUNDAY, March 19 – 10 AM
Fourth Sunday of Lent

MONDAY March 20 - Noon
*Bible Study on the Book of Job

SUNDAY, March 26 – 10 AM
Fifth Sunday of Lent/Laetare Sunday:
Annunciation of the Lord to Mary

MONDAY March 27-- Noon
*Bible Study on the Book of Job

SUNDAY April 2 - 10 AM
Palm Sunday with Blessing of Palms

MONDAY April 3 - Noon
*Bible Study on the Book of Job

WEDNESDAY, April 5 - 7:00 PM
Amos Speakers' Forum - speaker, Lumi Stutz

THURSDAY, April 6 at 7 PM
Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion
and Foot Washing

April 7 - 7 PM
Good Friday with the Office of Tenebrae

EASTER SUNDAY, April 9
9 AM and 11 AM

***BIBLE STUDY**

During Lent, there will be brown bag lunch Bible Study on the Book of Job on Mondays at Noon in the Upper Commons led by the Senior Minister. It is BYOL but beverages will be provided. We will use a special translation of the Book of Job by Stephen Mitchell (New York: HarperCollins, 1992) that will be provided to everyone at the first meeting with a modest donation requested to offset the cost of the book.

The Bible Study will meet Mondays at Noon on:
February 27; March 6; March 13; March 20; March 27; April 3

GCCNS PLANT SALE

NAME _____ PHONE _____

FLATS OF ANNUALS	COLOR	QTY	\$20
AGERATUM	BLUE		
ALYSSUM	WHITE		
BEGONIA	MIX		
COLEUS	MIX		
IMPATIENS	RED		
	MIX		
	VIOLET SHADES		
MARIGOLD	ORANGE		
	YELLOW		
SALVIA	RED		
	VICTORIA BLUE		
ZINNIA	MIX		
TOTAL:			

4" ACCENT PLANTS	QTY	\$5
DRACENA SPIKE		
SPRENGERI ASPARAGUS FERN		
IVY		
VINCA VINE		
IPOMOEA		
TOTAL:		

10" HANGING BASKET	QTY	\$20
BEGONIA DRAGON WING		
SUNPATIENS		
SUPERTUNIA		
12" HANGING BASKET		\$30
ANNUAL COMBO		
TOTAL:		

4.5" POTS 10/TRAY	QTY	\$40
GERANIUM	RED	
TOTAL:		

EMAIL _____ ADDRESS FOR DELIVERY _____

HERBS	QTY	\$5
BASIL		
CHIVES		
CILANTRO		
MINT		
OREGANO		
PARSLEY		
ROSEMARY		
TOTAL:		

TOMATO & PEPPER	QTY	\$5
SLICER TOMATO		
SMALL FRUITED TOMATO		
HOT PEPPER		
SWEET BELL PEPPER		
TOTAL:		

12" HERB BOWL	QTY	\$20
Tuscan Trio (parsley, basil, oregano)		
Good Grillin' (parsley, chives, rosemary)		
Kitchen Favs (dill, oregano, basil, parsley)		
Assorted Lettuce Bowl		
TOTAL:		

ORDERS DUE MARCH 9 - PICK UP MAY 19

TOTAL	
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Specify Payment: ___ Brightwheel ___ Check payable to GCCNS

Specify Pick Up: ___ GCCNS ___ \$10 Delivery

COLOR SELECTIONS SUBJECT TO SUBSTITUTIONS

KIDS CORNER

The budget for the 2023-24 church year was passed at the Congregational Meeting after church on February 26. We are all looking forward to future programs and projects here at GCC! In church school we are thinking about Summer Church School, Vacation Bible School, and the church school classes and teachers for the Fall. More information is coming—if you are interested or have questions please contact Chris Calandra, Designated Director of Children's Ministry at chris.calandra@gccucc.org.

Our Sunday meeting schedule includes:

MARCH 5

Abram's Call—regular church school and childcare available (4th grade Bible Study unit begins). We are now in Spring Year A of the Spark lectionary curriculum.

MARCH 12

Women at the Well—regular church school and childcare available.

MARCH 19

Pool of Siloam—regular church school and childcare available.

MARCH 26

NO CHURCH SCHOOL or Childcare.

PLANNING AHEAD

NO church school or childcare on March 26 or April 2 due to District 34 and District 225 spring break schedule. There is also NO church school on April 9, Easter Sunday. Regularly scheduled church school will resume on April 16.

You can find our church school curriculum and resources at:

<https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/store/category/286768/Spark-Lectionary>



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead by one hour on Saturday, March 11, so you can wake up and get to church on time on Sunday, March 12.



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.



TURKEY AND SYRIA EARTHQUAKE

The news continues to unfold about the devastating earthquakes on the border of Turkey and Syria. The death toll continues to rise – numbers are pointing to over 45,000 – depending on the source. This is shattering news and adds to the challenges of the war in this area for over a decade.

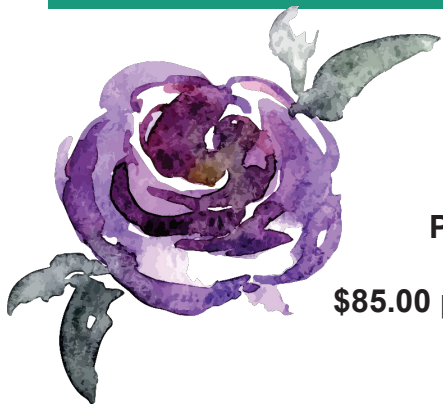
Our international partners are assessing the needs of survivors. They are providing food, blankets, medicine, clothing, and shelter in response to immediate needs.

All donations will be deposited into the International Emergency fund designated for **"Turkey and Syria Earthquake Response"**. Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery. You can also mail a check made payable to the United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "Turkey and Syria" on your check in the memo section.

You can also type in this link in your browser:

<https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/>

Copied from the ucc.org site.



Altar Flower Arrangement Order Form -- 2023

Please return form to Susan (susan.woodsme@gccucc.org)

\$85.00 per arrangement - checks payable to Glenview Community Church

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

Please place my order for a plant to be used for Sunday Worship.

Donated By _____

Please print

In Memory Of _____

Please print

In Honor Of _____

Please print

REQUESTED SUNDAY _____, 2023

Month

Date

Alternate Sunday _____, 2023

Month

Date

FLOWERS WILL BE DELIVERED TO A GCC MEMBER OR FRIEND.

THERE MAY BE MORE THAN ONE DONOR ON ANY GIVEN SUNDAY.

NO ALTAR FLOWER ORDERS FOR THE FOLLOWING DATES IN 2023:

April 2 & April 9

December 25

January 1, 2024

Easter Season

Christmas

Christmas Season



Save The Date

CONCERT FOR PEACE

Concert and art exhibit to benefit
Hands of Peace - www.handspeace.org
Interfaith performers and artists
Part of the Simple Gifts Concert Series

SUNDAY
March 12
3 PM

GLENVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH 1000 Elm St.
 Glenview, IL 60025
 847-721-224

UTOPIA

CONCERT AND ART EXHIBIT TO BENEFIT HANDS OF PEACE

Featuring Jade Maze, Katherine Hughes and Artistrings, the Kevin Kizer Jazz Quartet, Gary Wendt, Guillermo Muñoz Küster, and members of the GCC Chancel Choir. With special guests Elliot Dvorin and Group Yakamoz. Also featuring visual artists include: Steve Grant, Sophia Anastasiou-Wasik, Frank Zirbel, Dr. Elana Ashley and Ebru by Nejla Akovali (paper marbling) demonstration.

Hands of Peace has been empowering youth from Israel, Palestine, and the United States to become agents of change. Their program builds understanding and deep connections across identities, borders, and faiths. Visit the Hands of Peace website at handspeace.org for more information.

A free concert and open to the community at Glenview Community Church.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Please sign up to volunteer to serve at Sunday Fellowship Hour or to bring cookies, brownies, cake, coffee cake, fruit, donut holes, cheese and crackers (or be creative). Sign up by contacting JoAnne Peters at jo.gramma.peters@gmail.com or the sign up link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040445a5ac2eabfe3-fellowship1#/>. Thank you from the Fellowship Team: Ann, Dina, Holly, JoAnne, Laura, Marion and Sally.

Plant Sale

The GCCNS Plant Sale is now open! Although it may not look like it outside, spring is on its way and your gardens are calling! Please consider ordering your annual flowers and herbs through GCCNS to help us reach our "Spread a Little Sunshine Campaign" goal for the sparkling new playground! Get your orders in by March 9 for May 19 pick up or delivery. Thanks for your continued support of our school. Happy Gardening!

Please use the form on page 3 or pick up a form at Glenview Community Church.

GCC CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

Event Time	Event Name	Primary Location	Event Time	Event Name	Primary Location
Wednesday, 01 March 2023			Thursday, 23 March 2023		
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	New To You	New To You
5:30 PM to 7:00 PM	Youth Umbrella Fellowship	Community Room	6:15 PM to 7:20 PM	Joyful Ringers	Bell Room
Thursday, 02 March 2023			7:00 PM to 8:45 PM	156 Troop Meeting	Community Room
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	New To You	New To You	7:30 PM to 9:00 PM	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
6:15 PM to 7:20 PM	Joyful Ringers	Bell Room	Friday, 24 March 2023		
7:00 PM to 8:45 PM	156 Troop Meeting	Community Room	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary	Saturday, 25 March 2023		
Friday, 03 March 2023			9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You	Sunday, 26 March 2023		
Saturday, 04 March 2023			10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You	11:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Fellowship Time	Upper Commons
Sunday, 05 March 2023			Tuesday, 28 March 2023		
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Worship Service	Sanctuary	6:00 PM to 9:00 PM	STL Rehearsal	Sanctuary
11:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Fellowship Time	Upper Commons	7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	GCC Leadership Council	Founders
5:00 PM to 6:00 PM	GCC Confirmation	Youth Room	Thursday, 30 March 2023		
Tuesday, 07 March 2023			6:15 PM to 7:20 PM	Joyful Ringers	Bell Room
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM	STL Rehearsal	Sanctuary	7:30 PM to 9:00 PM	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
Wednesday, 08 March 2023			Sunday, 02 April 2023		
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You	10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Worship - Palm Sunday	Sanctuary
Thursday, 09 March 2023			11:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Fellowship Time	Upper Commons
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	New To You	New To You	Wednesday, 05 April 2023		
6:15 PM to 7:20 PM	Joyful Ringers	Bell Room	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You
7:00 PM to 8:45 PM	156 Troop Meeting	Community Room	7:00 PM to 8:00 PM	Amos Speaker's Forum - Lumi Stutz	Chapel
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary	Thursday, 06 April 2023		
Friday, 10 March 2023			9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	New To You	New To You
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You	7:00 PM to 8:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Service	Sanctuary
Saturday, 11 March 2023			Friday, 07 April 2023		
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You
Sunday, 12 March 2023			7:00 PM to 8:00 PM	Good Friday Service - Tenebrae Service	Sanctuary
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Worship Service	Sanctuary	Saturday, 08 April 2023		
11:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Fellowship Time	Upper Commons	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You
3:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Concert For Peace	Sanctuary	Sunday, 09 April 2023		
4:00 PM to 5:30 PM	Concert Reception	Upper Commons	9:00 AM to 10:00 AM	GCC Easter Celebration Service	Sanctuary
Tuesday, 14 March 2023			11:00 AM to 12:00 PM	GCC Easter Celebration Service	Sanctuary
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM	STL Rehearsal	Sanctuary	Monday, 10 April 2023		
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Ministry Steering Group	Founders	8:00 AM to 8:30 PM	GCC Closed for Easter Holiday	Sanctuary
Wednesday, 15 March 2023			Tuesday, 11 April 2023		
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You	6:00 PM to 9:00 PM	STL Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	WA Meeting	Room 201	7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Ministry Steering Group	Founders
Thursday, 16 March 2023			Wednesday, 12 April 2023		
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	New To You	New To You	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You
6:15 PM to 7:20 PM	Joyful Ringers	Bell Room			
7:00 PM to 8:45 PM	156 Troop Meeting	Community Room			
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary			
Friday, 17 March 2023					
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You			
Saturday, 18 March 2023					
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You			
Sunday, 19 March 2023					
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Worship Service	Sanctuary			
11:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Fellowship Time	Upper Commons			
5:00 PM to 6:00 PM	GCC Confirmation	Youth Room			
Tuesday, 21 March 2023					
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM	STL Rehearsal	Sanctuary			
Wednesday, 22 March 2023					
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You			



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

April 19, 2023 by 9:00 AM

May 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.

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



Nonprofit Organization

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