

# THE BROADCASTER

CONNECTING OUR GCC COMMUNITY SINCE 1941

MAY 1, 2023  
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## THOUGHTS ON THE FUTURE OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

*"I trust that there is not a young man now living in the U.S. who will not die a Unitarian."*  
– Thomas Jefferson (in a Letter written in 1822)

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), the third president of the United States whose face graces the rare \$2 bill, as a Unitarian, did not believe in the divinity of Jesus. For him, Jesus was an enlightened human being, an ethical teacher, but not the Son of God. Jefferson believed in a benevolent Creator and in following the moral teachings of Jesus, but he was uninterested in organized religion and rejected the traditional Christian doctrines. By saying, as quoted above, that every young person living in 1822 would die a Unitarian, he meant that they would believe as he did. But of course, this never happened. Traditional Christianity, not Unitarianism, flourished in the United States.

Fast forward to 2023. There are those that might rephrase Jefferson's quote and say, "I trust that there is not a young person now living in the U.S. who will not die irreligious." To be irreligious is to simply have no religion. Many younger Americans today have no religion at all. They are sometimes called the "nones" because they list their religion as "none." They are often 1-2 generations removed from religious practice. This does not mean that they have no spiritual beliefs. Some believe in God or a Higher Power; some believe in a human soul; and others in a form of an afterlife.

My questions are what does this mean, and does it matter? My first answer is: this is not new. Christianity began as a tiny Jewish

sect, persecuted and despised. The idea that it would become the largest religion in the world was unthinkable to the first disciples. When it spread to other parts of the Roman Empire, it remained an illegal religion until 313 AD when the emperor Constantine ended all state persecution

**CHRISTIANITY, AT 2.4 BILLION PEOPLE OR 31% OF THE GLOBAL POPULATION, IS THE LARGEST RELIGION ON EARTH.**

of Christians. This means Christians were persecuted by Rome for at least 280 years. For comparison, the United States is only 237 years old. At one time, Christianity was the main religion throughout Asian Minor (today's Turkey), North Africa, the Iberian Peninsula, and the Middle East until the Arab-Islamic conquest between 622-720 AD. Those lands were majority Christian for several centuries, but today they are Islamic countries except Iberia (Spain and Portugal). Iberia was gradually reconquered by European Christians between 722-1492 AD. It took almost eight hundred years for Spain to fully revert to Christianity – and only by the sword.

Today, it is not military conquest but secularism and more recently politicization that has reduced Christian practice in the United States. Mainline Protestantism is shrinking the fastest, but all forms of institutional Christianity are in retreat. But this too has happened before. Thomas Jefferson predicted traditional Christianity would disappear in the United States to be replaced by a more rational religion. It never happened. People have been predicting the extinction of Christianity in the U.S. for over two centuries and it hasn't happened yet. Recently, the 2023 Asbury Revival occurred at Asbury University in Wilmore, Kentucky. It began on February 8, 2023, for no apparent reason, and it ended on February 24. It attracted 50,000-70,000 participants nationwide – and most were young people



in their twenties. It was entirely ecumenical – attracting Roman Catholics, various Protestants, and others to this historically Methodist rural university.

Christianity, at 2.4 billion people or 31% of the global population, is the largest religion on earth. But that is not what gives it any legitimacy. Its only legitimacy is this: that it witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus and his twofold commandment that we love God and love our neighbors. If it does not, then these numbers have no meaning. God does not care about human claims of being the largest or the best. If anything, God favors minorities, those on the margins, and those

who do not have power. Jesus refers to his church as “the little flock” (Luke 12:32). In the Book of Acts, the number of Christians in 31 AD was estimated as 120 persons (Acts 1:15). So, to answer the second question (“Does it matter if the number of church-going Christians is in decline?”), the answer must be “No” if we are simply talking about statistics or truly packed churches. The only thing that truly matters is that we embody the teachings of our Lord and put them into practice – and these are his words: “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples,

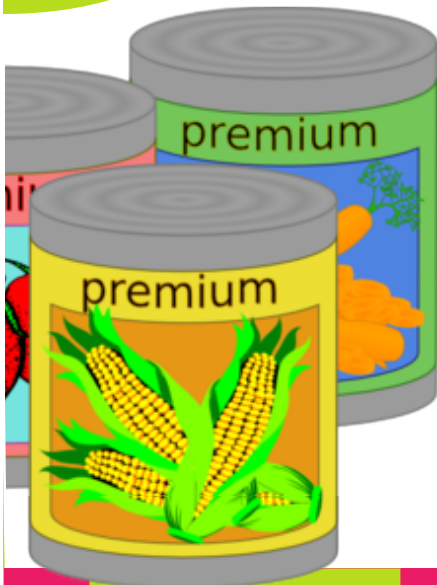
if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35). If we can do this, all things are possible.

So let us grow Glenview Community Church, but not simply to pack folks in, but to make it a place where the living Christ radiates within the hearts of each of us and others who want to share in this warmth of spirit.

See you in church,

*Jim*  
Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo

# SPECIAL FOOD COLLECTION



## ONWARD NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

Gather up some healthy, non-perishable food and drop it in the big bin marked ONWARD NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE by May 10! Please make a special effort to increase GCC's May 1 Food on the First collection as part of a Christian response to the U.S. immigration crisis, and bring a cash/check donation for purchase of grocery gift cards to Amos Speakers' Forum on May 3. The Onward House food pantry serves about 200 clients each week in the largely Latinx Belmont-Cragin neighborhood.

**1 - 10  
MAY**

This special collection is in coordination with the presentation by Onward House Executive Director Mario Garcia, “A Christian Response to the U.S. Immigration Crisis” for the May 3 Amos Speakers' Forum. Learn more about Onward House and the US border crisis at the Forum.

A long-time GCC mission partner, Onward Neighborhood House recently received a 31,000 square foot building in the Belmont Cragin neighborhood, where they will consolidate their food pantry, early childhood and adult education programs, and community center. For more information about Onward House go to [www.onwardhouse.org](http://www.onwardhouse.org).

**CANNED MEATS.  
CANNED TUNA  
AND SALMON.  
PEANUT BUTTER.**

**JELLY (NO GLASS).  
CANNED OR DRY SOUPS.  
CANNED STEWS  
AND CHILI.**

# GCC CHILI COOK-OFF SUCCESS!!!



## A BIG THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who participated in the GCC Chili Cook-off. Congratulations to Jason Stutz for winning the Chili contest! A total of \$489 was raised for the youth.



# VOLUNTEER

## HELPING HANDS FOR THE HOMELESS IN ROGERS PARK



Like to volunteer through hands-on activities? Want to have a concrete and immediate impact to help homeless individuals?

The Outreach Ministry is partnering with **Good News Partners** that provides housing in Rogers Park to individuals and families who are in need of housing security. As part of this, GCC volunteers will help with one-time painting projects to prepare rooms for new occupants. Volunteers will visit the apartment site to paint a one or two room living space with adjacent bathroom. These projects will be scheduled for a day and time convenient for the volunteers. Work will be completed in ½ to one full day. Painting tools and supplies are provided by **Good News Partners**.

We need the helping hands of 3-4 church members for each painting day. The Outreach Ministry hopes to do these 3 to 4 times a year.



We will hold an organizational meeting after church on April 30 at 11:15 in the Founders Room so you can find out more about the work from church members who completed the first painting project on February 17.

If you are interested in participating and can't attend the organizational meeting, please contact Betsy Martin at 847-657-7595 or [betsywisemartin@att.net](mailto:betsywisemartin@att.net) for

more details. George Bermingham, a volunteer board member at **Good News Partners**, will be at the meeting to answer questions and tell you more about this organization which is doing amazing work for those seeking housing security in the Rogers Park area.

## HOST A YOUNG PEACEMAKER WITH HANDS OF PEACE

CHICAGO  
SUMMER PROGRAM  
JULY 12-31, 2023



Looking for a transformative experience for you and your family this summer? **Hands of Peace** is currently looking for host families!

**Hands of Peace** empowers youth (15-18 years old) from America, Israel, and Palestine to become agents of change through their three-week, dialogue-based summer program. This year, the **Hands of Peace Summer Program** will take place July 12-31, 2023 at Glenview Community Church. Host families are essential to the success of the summer program, providing a safe "home away from home" for Israelis, Palestinians, and out-of-state Americans. Host families are responsible for driving participants to and from GCC, providing breakfast and most dinners, and giving participants a private space to unwind after a long day. Consider becoming a host family to develop meaningful relationships that can last a lifetime!

Link to application: <https://form.jotform.com/222836405888164>

**Hands of Peace** is also looking for families walking distance from GCC to host a participant on the weekends of July 14-15 and July 28-29. Please contact Emily Kenward, the Chicago Site Director, at [ekenward@handsofpeace.org](mailto:ekenward@handsofpeace.org) with any questions.

## 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](mailto:jo.gramma.peters@gmail.com) or the sign up link: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040445a5ac2eabfe3-fellowship1#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040445a5ac2eabfe3-fellowship1#/)  Thank you from the Fellowship Team:

*Ann, Dina, Holly, JoAnne, Laura, Marion and Sally.*

## CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

Event Time	Event Name	Primary Loc
<b>Monday, 01 May 2023</b>		
8:30 AM to 4:00 PM	Food Drive	West Entrance
<b>Tuesday, 02 May 2023</b>		
8:30 AM to 4:00 PM	Food Drive	West Entrance
<b>Wednesday, 03 May 2023</b>		
8:30 AM to 4:00 PM	Food Drive	West Entrance
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You
<b>Thursday, 04 May 2023</b>		
8:30 AM to 4:00 PM	Food Drive	West Entrance
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	New To You	New To You
6:15 PM to 7:20 PM	Joyful Ringers	Bell Room
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
7:30 PM to 8:30 PM	Troop 156 Court of Honor	Community R
<b>Friday, 05 May 2023</b>		
8:30 AM to 4:00 PM	Food Drive	West Entrance
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You
<b>Saturday, 06 May 2023</b>		
8:30 AM to 4:00 PM	Food Drive	West Entrance
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You
<b>Sunday, 07 May 2023</b>		
8:30 AM to 4:00 PM	Food Drive	West Entrance
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Worship/Confirmation Sunday	Sanctuary
11:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Fellowship Time	Upper Commc
<b>Monday, 08 May 2023</b>		
8:30 AM to 4:00 PM	Food Drive	West Entrance
<b>Tuesday, 09 May 2023</b>		
8:30 AM to 4:00 PM	Food Drive	West Entrance
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Ministry Steering Group	Founders
<b>Wednesday, 10 May 2023</b>		
8:30 AM to 4:00 PM	Food Drive	West Entrance
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You
<b>Thursday, 11 May 2023</b>		
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	New To You	New To You
6:15 PM to 7:20 PM	Joyful Ringers	Bell Room
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
7:30 PM to 8:30 PM	Troop 156 Meeting	Community R
<b>Friday, 12 May 2023</b>		
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You
<b>Saturday, 13 May 2023</b>		
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You
<b>Sunday, 14 May 2023</b>		
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Worship Service	Sanctuary
11:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Fellowship Time	Upper Commc
<b>Tuesday, 16 May 2023</b>		
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	GCC Leadership Council	Founders
<b>Wednesday, 17 May 2023</b>		
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	WA Meeting	Room 201
<b>Thursday, 18 May 2023</b>		
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	New To You	New To You
7:30 PM to 8:30 PM	Troop 156 Meeting	Community F
<b>Friday, 19 May 2023</b>		
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You
<b>Saturday, 20 May 2023</b>		
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You
<b>Sunday, 21 May 2023</b>		
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Worship Service - Children's Service	Sanctuary
11:00 AM to 12:00 PM	Congregational Annual Meeting	Sanctuary

# KIDS CORNER

The 4th graders who participated in the Bible Study unit during March and April received their Bibles on Sunday. Congratulations to our students Hannah Estes, Lillian Estes, Anders Lane, Grace Martensen, Jack Volpe, and David Yacoub and thank you to their teacher Meredith Estes. Good job!—if you are interested or have questions please contact Chris Calandra, Designated Director of Children's Ministry at [chris.calandra@gccucc.org](mailto:chris.calandra@gccucc.org).

Our Sunday meeting schedule includes:

### May 7

Regular church school schedule; God's House--John 14

### May 14

Regular church school schedule; The Ascension—John 14

### May 21

Regular church school schedule; Jesus Ascends—Acts 1

You can find our church school curriculum and resources at: <https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/store/category/286768/Spark-Lectionary>

## 2023 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL CALL-TO-MEETING

The Glenview Community Church Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 21, 2023, at 11:15 a.m., in the church sanctuary.

The agenda is as follows:

- Approve Minutes of the February 27, 2023 Midwinter Congregational Meeting
- Welcome and Remarks: Moderator Linda Pedian
- Leadership Committee Presentation of Leadership Candidates: Nancy Mullarkey
- Congregational vote on candidates
- Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo administers Oath of Service
- Presentation of proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws
- Vote on the Constitution and Bylaws changes.
- Thank you to Chris Clark and Linda Pedian

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. See you in Church!

Jo Anne Peters, Church Clerk

# 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

May 24, 2023 by 9:00 AM

June 21, 2023 by 9:00 AM

Email your article to Tania McCarthy at [tania.mccarthy@gccucc.org](mailto: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.**



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Meditation is to be aware of what is going on - in our bodies, in our feelings, in our minds, and in the world. Each day...children die of hunger.... Yet the sunrise is beautiful, and the rose that bloomed this morning along the wall is a miracle. Life is both dreadful and wonderful. To practice meditation is to be in touch with both aspects. Please do not think we must be solemn in order to meditate. In fact, to meditate well, we have to smile a lot. *Thich Nhat Hanh*