

# PRIDE

# THE BROADCASTER

CONNECTING OUR GCC COMMUNITY SINCE 1941

JUNE 1, 2023  
VOLUME 82 NUMBER 06

## STRANGERS AND SOJOURNERS



Thom Higgins (1950-1994)

*Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear unto my cry; hold not thy peace at my tears: for I am a stranger with thee, and a sojourner, as all my fathers were. O spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more.*  
Psalm 39:12-13 (KJV)

June is Pride Month, a celebration of LGBT+ persons. The use of the word "Pride" is credited to Thom Higgins (1950-1994), a gay rights activist in Minneapolis. He is best known for throwing a pie into the face of anti-gay activist Anita Bryant (b. 1940) on live television in 1977. The origins of the use of the word "Pride" ultimately trace to the Stonewall Riots, a series of spontaneous protests in New York City by members of the gay community in response to a police raid. It occurred in the early morning hours of June 28, 1969. In 1970, there was a parade one year later to commemorate the event with signs that read "gay and proud" – and this was later changed to "pride." Hence, the phenomenon of gay pride parades spread and now occur worldwide.

The twenty-first century has seen a rapid shift in American attitudes toward the acceptance of LGBT+ persons. Massachusetts was the first state to permit same-sex marriage based on the Supreme Judicial Court ruling in 2004. Glenview Community Church declared itself Open and Affirming in 2010. Four years later, Illinois legalized same-sex marriage and all 50 states did so in 2015 due to a Supreme Court ruling. Such changes would have been unthinkable for the protesters at Stonewall in 1969. Yet, today, "Pride" and "Pride Month" have become largely

mainstream in the United States and many other countries. Many corporations, organizations, churches, and synagogues now celebrate Pride Month. The rainbow flag and Pride Progress flag are relatively commonplace symbols nationwide, especially in urban areas.

Yet, in most of the world and in parts of our own country, the intolerance and hatred of LGBT+ persons remain common. The Republic of Uganda recently passed the "Anti-Homosexuality Act of 2023" which can result in life imprisonment for anyone convicted of same-sex relations – and in some cases, the death penalty can be imposed. The Ugandan media often refers to this law as the "Kill the Gays" law. It is so draconian that many American conservative politicians joined in denouncing the law as barbaric.

Uganda was the first country in Africa that I ever worked in – in 2004. At that time, homosexuality was illegal – a carryover from British colonial laws. But the law was rarely enforced. The very small openly LGBT+ community in Uganda had achieved a small degree of toleration. However, this has since been destroyed. The origins of this terrible law and similar laws in sub-Saharan Africa can be traced to American evangelicals who began exporting their anti-LGBT+ messaging overseas. Since their agenda had failed in the United States, these groups found a receptive audience abroad. In Uganda, this began in 2009. The result of this hateful export (done

*continued on page 2*

in the name of Christianity) is the 2023 law that was passed. In other words, the origins of the current Ugandan law lie in our own country with our own citizens. It is a national tragedy.

While there have been major strides in acceptance in parts of the world, most LGBT+ folks remain “strangers and sojourners” on this earth, to quote the psalm above. The English word “stranger” originally meant “foreigner” – in Latin, the word is *alienus* or in English “alien.” It literally means to be an outsider. The word “sojourner” means “wanderer” or someone who has no permanent dwelling. Most of the world’s LGBT+ population are indeed aliens within their own countries, often forced to flee to save their own lives – and thus also wanderers. And their cry goes up to God: “O spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more.”

I suggest that during Pride Month, we might reflect on how we can align our lives with the gospel of Jesus. Our Lord would never desire anyone to be deemed a stranger or sojourner, nor want anyone to be rejected, despised, jailed, or executed for their unique humanity – including that person’s sexual orientation or gender identity. We must remember that every human person bears the image of God and this gives that person sacred worth. The stern Protestant Reformer from Geneva, John Calvin (1509-1564), reminds us: “For Christ, having received, not one or two of us, but all together, has thus connected us, so that we ought to cherish one another.” We are all the body of Christ, and we are commanded to love all people, even our enemies.

Happy Pride!

See you in church,  
*Jim*  
Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo, Jr.  
Senior Minister



## CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY IS BACK AFTER COVID

The Congregational Care Ministry at GCC is beginning again. This ministry is an integral part of Congregational Life. Based on Jesus’s commandment to “love one another,” this ministry strives to provide support, comfort and companionship to fellow congregants. Our neighbor is one who is in our midst and has a need. Our care is available and provided in many different ways.

1. Called to Care provides companionship with one-on-one personal interactions. This is a short-term ministry with Companionship training and group supervision provided. This ministry will start in the fall.
2. Alter flower delivery – Every three months a schedule is circulated allowing volunteers to sign up to deliver the alter flowers on a designated Sunday.
3. Sending notes -- thinking of you, encouragement and sympathy cards to fellow church members. Names and addresses, cards and stamps will be provided.
4. Memorial reception support – Join Marion Alexanian and her team to provide receptions after memorial services.
5. We Care – join a team to provide meals for the ill and emergency support for the homebound by providing rides to doctor’s appointments, church, shopping, etc.
6. Phone calls – make periodic encouraging phone calls to reconnect with congregants.
7. Holiday flower decorations– Help beautify the sanctuary with flowers at Christmas and Easter and help coordinate delivering the flowers to shut-ins.

We encourage you to find a way that you can provide ministry and support to someone at GCC. What a wonderful opportunity to share God’s love, comfort and compassion. Stay tuned for more information in the next few months.

If you have suggestions for future care ministries or questions about getting involved, please contact Karen Aldrich at: 847-309-8218 or [kaaldrich@comcast.net](mailto:kaaldrich@comcast.net).

## 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#/>. Thank you from the Fellowship Team:

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



Thank  
You!



8th Grade Confirmation Pet  
Drive for Heartland Animal  
Shelter was a huge success!

# PYF IS BACK! IN FULL FORCE!



16 high school kids (9-11 grades) came to pack lunches for **The Night Ministry**.

First event since Julie Evans joined as youth director. PYF has instantly grown by 800%!



# CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE AND JULY

Event Time	Event Name
<b>Thursday, 01 June 2023</b>	
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	New To You
6:15 PM to 7:20 PM	Joyful Ringers
7:30 PM to 8:30 PM	Troop 156 Meeting
<b>Friday, 02 June 2023</b>	
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You
<b>Saturday, 03 June 2023</b>	
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Car Wash - Eagle Scout Project
<b>Sunday, 04 June 2023</b>	
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Worship Service
11:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Fellowship Time
<b>Wednesday, 07 June 2023</b>	
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You
<b>Thursday, 08 June 2023</b>	
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	New To You
<b>Friday, 09 June 2023</b>	
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You
<b>Saturday, 10 June 2023</b>	
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You
<b>Sunday, 11 June 2023</b>	
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Worship Service - Mental Health Sunday
11:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Fellowship Time
<b>Wednesday, 14 June 2023</b>	
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You
<b>Thursday, 15 June 2023</b>	
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	New To You
<b>Friday, 16 June 2023</b>	
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You
<b>Saturday, 17 June 2023</b>	
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You
<b>Sunday, 18 June 2023</b>	
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Worship Service
11:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Fellowship Time
<b>Wednesday, 21 June 2023</b>	
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You
<b>Thursday, 22 June 2023</b>	
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	New To You
<b>Friday, 23 June 2023</b>	
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You
<b>Saturday, 24 June 2023</b>	
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You
<b>Sunday, 25 June 2023</b>	
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Worship Service
11:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Fellowship Time
<b>Wednesday, 28 June 2023</b>	
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You
<b>Thursday, 29 June 2023</b>	
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	New To You
<b>Friday, 30 June 2023</b>	
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You

Event Time	Event Name
<b>Sunday, 02 July 2023</b>	
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Worship Service
11:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Fellowship Time
<b>Wednesday, 05 July 2023</b>	
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You
<b>Thursday, 06 July 2023</b>	
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	New To You
<b>Sunday, 09 July 2023</b>	
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Worship Service
11:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Fellowship Time
<b>Wednesday, 12 July 2023</b>	
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You
<b>Thursday, 13 July 2023</b>	
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	New To You
<b>Sunday, 16 July 2023</b>	
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Worship Service
11:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Fellowship Time
<b>Wednesday, 19 July 2023</b>	
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You
<b>Thursday, 20 July 2023</b>	
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	New To You
<b>Sunday, 23 July 2023</b>	
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Worship Service
11:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Fellowship Time

## KIDS CORNER

### SUMMER CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

June 4—summer church school starts—ages preK-5th grade; Childcare for those 3 years and under available.  
 June 11—summer church school and childcare  
 June 18—NO CHURCH SCHOOL, Father's Day  
 June 25—summer church school and childcare

#### Our Sunday procedures and class locations:

Children ages 3 years and under may go to Childcare in room 107. Children aged preK-5th grade will meet in a "one-room-schoolhouse" format. They will start the morning in the sanctuary with their families and then, after the Children's Message, convene for class in the Youth Room on the lower level. The lessons and activities for the summer will center around the theme of God's World and God's and Jesus' Love. Please dress children for time outside as we may visit the garden and/or playground if time and weather permit.

Regular church school will start again on Rally Day, September 10. We are looking for teachers at all age/grade levels! We are planning for fall church school—if you are interested or have questions please contact Chris Calandra, Director of Children's Ministry at [chris.calandra@gccucc.org](mailto:chris.calandra@gccucc.org)

**GLENVIEW  
FIND YOUR COMMUNITY  
CHURCH**

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Web: gccucc.org  
Facebook: facebook.com/  
GlenviewCommunityChurch/

**SENIOR MINISTER**

Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo, Jr.

**BROADCASTER DEADLINES**

June 21, 2023 by 9:00 AM

July 19, 2023 by 9:00 AM

Email your article to Tania McCarthy at [rania.mccarthy@gccucc.org](mailto:rania.mccarthy@gccucc.org) by 9:00 AM on the deadline date.

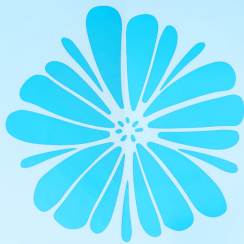
**Inspired by Christ.  
Enriched by Faith.  
Committed to Inclusivity.  
We Serve God As Advocates  
for Justice, Compassion,  
and Peace.**



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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



Empty yourself of everything.  
Let the mind rest at peace.  
The ten thousand things rise  
and fall while the Self watches their return.  
They grow and flourish and then  
return to the source.  
Returning to the source is stillness,  
which is the way of nature.

*Lao Tzu*

