



# THE BROADCASTER

CONNECTING OUR GCC COMMUNITY SINCE 1941

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## A STORY OF ABUNDANCE

I spent the last three years in seminary contemplating with my classmates and professors (among other things) what the future of church ministry was. There we were: students, faculty and staff committed to the future of the church, our faith, and theological education. There I was dedicating years of my life to learning biblical studies, theology, and ministry skills in preparation for church ministry. In our classrooms we were engaged and energized, but there always seemed to be an elephant in the room: The church was changing. Perhaps most importantly and what seemed to be the most intimidating for the future of the church: children and young families were not in church anymore. Churches were not growing. Or so we thought. It felt like everywhere I went the narrative was the same. The church was declining. Our futures looked grim.

We surprisingly did not talk about this explicitly very often. Perhaps we were scared to name these fears aloud. But I think all my classmates probably had similar thoughts to me at some points: are we walking towards a dying church? Is the church still relevant? Is ministry still relevant? Will it be relevant in the future? Even admitting these doubts now in writing makes me want to cringe. Naming them seems to give them a life that I do not want them to have.

Every church I have ever been to can reminisce: Our sanctuary used to be full. We used to have so many kids. Oh, the choir used to be so big! I too can reminisce. My own childhood church once had a vibrant program for youth that now looks much different. I know what nostalgia feels like.

There are all sorts of theories and likely all sorts of reasons why the church looks different than it used to. We could analyze them all day if we want. We could also brainstorm all day to produce solutions to make our church more attractive and flashier to pull in new people. But I also have a different idea.

I find myself in a unique position at Glenview Community Church. I do not have any concept of what "used to be." (Other than, of course, what I am learning from the stories that people tell me.) For

the most part, I only see what exists right now. I look around and I see GCC for what it is in the present without the context of what it may have been in the past. I do not reminisce or have nostalgia. (Not to mention, I am also completely new to the area, so I do not even have context for what Glenview used to be or what Chicago or Illinois used to be. It is all new to me!)

Let me tell you what can be seen from this unique point of view... Abundance! There is SO much good at GCC. There are people who are passionate about this church and about the community. There are children and youth and yes, even young families, who are here and ready to participate. There is a building that is beautiful and hospitable. There are staff who are dedicated and deeply rooted in the life of the church. There is a leadership team which is thoughtful and wise. There are ideas and energy. There is so much generosity. There is an active outreach team that regularly supports local organizations. There is a thriving Nursery school and "New to You" store. There is an active Women's Association that has a long history of providing a place for the building of meaningful relationships as well as supporting the work of the church. There is a beautiful music ministry and SO much more! We are surrounded by and in the midst of an abundance.

Now let me clarify something. For those of you who can reminisce about what was at GCC, I am not asking you to put that aside. We need you to help us discern what God is calling our church to be. To help revise old, revive existing, and empower and develop creative programs for the future of our church.

But the story we tell matters. The story of Glenview Community Church is a story of abundance. So, tell that story. Tell the story of what you see that is good and plentiful right now. This is the story that I see and will continue telling of Glenview Community Church. I hope you will join me!

Pastoral Resident: Abigail Lutz

## CONGRATULATIONS BOBBIE!

GCC's very own pioneer minister, Rev. Dr. Bobbie McKay, has been selected as the recipient of the **Illinois Conference Chalice Award**. According to the Illinois Conference, "the **Chalice Award** is awarded to servants of the Illinois Conference who have demonstrated exemplary leadership, by extending self to others, and making a significant impact on the ministry and witness of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ, as an extension of God's love in Christ Jesus, Head of the Church."

Rev. Bobbie will receive the **Chalice Award** at the **Banquet of the Illinois Conference's Annual Celebration** which will be held on Friday, November 3, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Martini Banquet Hall- Yorkville, 171 Saravanos Dr., Yorkville IL 60560. The full Annual Celebration will be held Friday and Saturday, Nov. 3-4, at Yorkville Congregational Church, UCC, 409 Center Parkway, Yorkville, IL 60560.

If you would like to register to attend the Illinois Conference Annual Celebration or the Friday Banquet only, you may go to this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/2023AnnualCelebration>

Please join me in congratulating Rev. Bobbie!

Rev. Dr. Jim Matarazzo  
Senior Minister

## SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION!

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 6-9 PM**

We are excited to invite all women for an evening of fellowship and fun during the busy Christmas season! Appetizers and beverages will be served.

Stay tuned for more information and for a chance to RSVP. On behalf of the Women's Association of GCC and Pastoral Resident, Abigail Lutz, we hope to see you there!

## MYRA LORIS THIS NOVEMBER!

**November 7, 2023, Myra Loris presents.....REALLY?! Things I Learned While Recuperating.**

This program looks at recent trends in the news, both negative and positive, and at the history that expands and explains these current issues. The question of whether, as a nation, we are moving ahead or receding into the past will be explored by looking at such critical issues as child labor, gun control, environmental breakthroughs, and much, much more.

**REFRESHMENTS** begin at 1:30 p.m.

**LECTURE** is 2:00-3:00pm

**COST** is \$15

**TICKETS** are available at the door.



The Generosity Campaign is well underway and I am pleased to report that we now have 78 pledges for a total of \$399,263. But we can't stop there. Last week we heard an inspiring message from the CEO of The Boulevard of Chicago. The work they do to help the homeless is nothing short of amazing. At this week's service, we will have a speaker from Good News Partners to describe the services they provide. You may be familiar with this organization as GCC is partnering with it this weekend on a painting project. The money you pledge goes to such worthy organizations. If you have pledged, I thank you deeply. If you have not yet, please do so now. Don't put it off. So many people need our help. Let's make GCC an even better church! Thank you.

## HEALTHY HINTS

Welcome to "Healthy Hints" for November! This month we will focus on the practice of Yoga and how it promotes health and vitality.



Yoga fulfills 3 of the "tips to keep your health in balance" that we listed last month: exercise, community and spiritual practice.

It is a unique practice because it moves the body and trains us to be mindful of the breath, keeping us in the present moment so we can feel a deep sense of calm and resiliency.

Yoga also focuses on deep breathing, which activates the parasympathetic nervous system and helps to reduce stress and anxiety.

This is something we can all use, especially with the holidays right around the corner!

Other benefits of yoga include:

- Increased mobility and flexibility
- Improved brain health and vitality
- Enhanced cardio and circulatory health

Did you know that GCC offers Yoga Classes? They take place on Thursday mornings from 9-10 a.m. in room 201. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat if you have one.

Thank you to Kelly Golding, R.Ph., registered yoga teacher for contributing to this article.

Our Health Team is looking for Professionals and health enthusiasts to join us in bringing new wellness ideas and programs to our GCC Community. If interested, please contact Laura O'Mera at 847-814-1565 or [lauraomera@gmail.com](mailto:lauraomera@gmail.com).

# Community Outreach

## Volunteer and Donation Opportunities

### Food on the First

The face of hunger may seem distant but many families in our community struggle every week to make sure their families are fed. The Northfield Food Pantry provides a source of help for these families. GCC has supported the efforts of the pantry for years and one of the key ways we help is to bring food items on the first Sunday of the month to be collected and dropped off to the pantry. Collection bins will be available in the narthex and outside the chapel. If you would prefer to donate money, monetary donations (checks made payable to GCC with Food on the First in the memo line) can also be dropped off.

### Feed My Starving Children

Turn hunger into hope with your own two hands by packing nutritious meals for hungry children around the world. Join our annual meal packing event on Saturday, November 18 at 9:00am. Share the joy and bring a friend or neighbor! Reservations are required so reserve your spot today using this QR code.



### Winter Clothing Drive

As we close 2023, we will be collecting winter gear (hats, scarves, mittens/gloves, socks, coats, and more) for a local shelter. Look for the Giving Tree in the narthex during Advent.

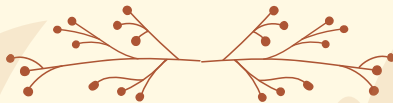


YOU ARE INVITED TO THE  
GLENVIEW COMMUNITY  
CHURCH

**FAMILY**



**FALL**  
**FESTIVAL**



**NOVEMBER 11 FROM 10AM-12PM**

- FALL GAMES AND CRAFTS FOR  
KIDS OF ALL AGES -
- PIZZA LUNCH -

GLENVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH  
100 ELM STREET, GLENVIEW, IL

FIND YOUR **GLENVIEW**  
COMMUNITY  
**CHURCH**

# WHY PERFORMANCE PSYCHOLOGY MATTERS

*and Not Just to  
Athletes*

We look up to professional and amateur athletes alike, amazed by how they stretch the limits of the human body. We also revere professionals who possess superior psychomotor skills and perform under intense pressure such as surgeons, firefighters, law enforcement officers, military personnel, and performing artists. Though the growing field of performance psychology has its roots in physical activity, what researchers are learning has consequences for all of us seeking to improve our personal performance. Locally, Glenbrook South HS Athletic Director Tom Mietus is working to transform the landscape of expectations, best practices, and attitudes toward competition for students, coaches, parents, and the rest of us.

**WEDNESDAY  
NOVEMBER  
8 @ 7PM**

**GLENVIEW  
FIND YOUR COMMUNITY  
C H U R C H**

*Tom Amos*  
**SPEAKERS  
FORUM**

**FIND YOUR** **GLENVIEW**  
**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**

November 15, 2023

Nonprofit Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
Glenview, IL  
Permit NO. 41

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

