



THE BROADCASTER

CONNECTING OUR GCC COMMUNITY SINCE 1941

DECEMBER 8, 2022
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Christmas is associated with innocence – the innocence of children and chiefly the Christ Child: his fragility, purity, sinlessness, and holiness. Yet, Christ was born into a world that was sinful, violent, and filled with wars. In Matthew’s Gospel, Christ’s birth causes King Herod to order the massacre of all male children under two years old in the vicinity of Bethlehem (Matthew 2:16). Herod will not tolerate any threat to his rule over Judea, even by an infant who some claim is the messianic king. Warned in a dream, Joseph, Mary, and Jesus flee to Egypt for safety – and Jesus is spared (Matthew 2:13-15). In the above painting by the English artist William Holman Hunt, there is a depiction of the “Triumph of the Innocents.” The Holy Family is surrounded by the young souls killed by Herod’s army. By tradition, they are the first Christian martyrs. The Christ Child can see these souls, but Mary and Joseph cannot. The Innocents have ‘triumphed’ because they have all been crowned as holy martyrs and they rejoice that Jesus has escaped Herod’s plot. This event is commemorated on Holy Innocents Day, celebrated on December 28. It was once called Childermas (Children’s Mass) in England. This story only occurs in Matthew’s Gospel and most biblical scholars and historians consider this event to be fictional. There is no historical record of such a massacre during Herod’s reign. But what the story does tell us is that Jesus Christ was born into a violent world. His native village was Bethlehem, in Roman Judea. It is now located in today’s West Bank in Palestine, where it goes by its Arabic name Bayt Lahm. This region has seen repeated wars and strife for millennia, yet it is the Holy Land – the place where our faith was born.

The horrors and outrages committed in Israel and Gaza on October 7 and the terrible vengeance being inflicted on Gazan civilians would seem to have nothing to do with the Nativity, the Birth of Jesus Christ. But this is not quite true. Jesus was born into a violent world. The Holy Land was and is a place of constant military conflict. Our peaceful images of Mary and Child in the manger, in a serene

landscape, do not capture the reality of life at that time. Today’s Holy Innocents are in Gaza, Israel, Ukraine, and many other places. The Prince of Peace does not take sides in human conflicts because he is only on the side of peace itself. Despite wars and conflicts, Christmas is still a feast of hope. It is the celebration God’s love and mercy in the form of a child. This is the heart of Christmas. The Russian Orthodox theologian and mystic Sergei Bulgakov (1871-1944) wrote that the Incarnation of Christ has begun an unstoppable spiritual evolution in humanity. No matter how bad things are, this process cannot be stopped. For Bulgakov, our destiny is union with God and no human force can prevent this. The Christmas event is thus not a single event in history, but a continuous process of Christ being born within us, transforming our hearts.

I will close this message with the last verse of “O Little Town of Bethlehem”, the well-known carol by Phillips Brooks (1835-1893), onetime Rector of Trinity Church in Boston and Episcopal Bishop of Massachusetts. He visited Bethlehem in 1865 and was inspired to write these words:

*O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray,
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!*

I wish you all a blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas, and a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

See you in church,
Jim

FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL

Families from GCC and the wider community came together. Thanks to the GCC community who came out and supported Feed My Starving Children earlier this month. Over 60 GCC members participated and packed food to feed 85 children for a year. This event continues to be a great multi-generational opportunity to serve others and build our GCC community! For a morning of fall fun! It was a joy filled morning of games, crafts, music, and food! Thanks to Church School, Faith Formation, and Community Life for sponsoring and supporting this event!



REV. DR. BOBBIE MCKAY RECEIVES THE CHALICE AWARD FROM THE ILLINOIS CONFERENCE OF THE UCC

The recipients of the Chalice Award are a recognized servant of Christ and the Church, who have demonstrated exemplary leadership, 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 the Christ Jesus Head of the church.

Reverend Bobbie McKay, Ph.D. is both an Ordained Minister in the United Church of Christ and a licensed Ph.D. Psychologist. She was ordained in 1970 and completed her Ph.D. in 1974 at Northwestern University. Her dissertation topic was "Feminine Attitudes toward Women Who Achieve". Bobbie has published eleven books on spiritual life, is a composer and lyricist, and has contributed meaningful research around interfaith studies and spiritual life. In our own congregation Bobbie, originally hired by the Women's Association, eventually formed and facilitated Spiritual Life Teams for a number of years; a ministry with a legacy that continues today. Perhaps above all of these things, Bobbie's spirit and smile are a gift to our church week after week! We are so lucky she is and has been a part of our congregation and could not think of anyone more deserving to be recognized by the Illinois Conference to receive the Chalice Award! Congratulations Bobbie!



GODLY PLAY AT GCC

Beginning in January, we will start using a new Church School curriculum called Godly Play. Godly Play is a montessori style curriculum that includes telling students a story with specific props, and then inviting students to respond individually as they see fit. All students will meet together in Room 9 when dismissed from worship. We are excited about launching this new curriculum and look forward to engaging students as well as adults! If you want to learn more or get involved, please contact: chris.calandra@gccucc.org



WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION SUNDAY

The Women's Association has been a vital part of GCC for more than 70 years bringing women together in fellowship, worship and engagement in the life of this church as well as in the community. With over 120 members in 8 different Chapters, mission outreach, as well support of GCC, continues to be the cornerstone of the Women's Association. Last year, over \$70,000 was donated to charities throughout Chicago as well as financial pledging and support of GCC. Funds for this financial support are from their resale shop, New to You, as well as individual donations from the 8 Chapters.

On Sunday, November 12th, members of the Women's Association provided an additional glimpse of what they are about during service and coffee hour... new members are always welcome! Contact women@gccucc.org to find out more or get involved!



NOVEMBER SPEAKERS FORUM

Our November Speakers Forum brought Tom Mietus, Athletic Director at Glenbrook South to teach us about why performance psychology matters (and not just to athletes). It was engaging for all in attendance. Be sure to join us for the remainder of this year's Speakers Forum Series! Dates and Topics of upcoming Speakers Forums are here: <https://www.gccucc.org/faith-formation/>

HEALTHY HINTS

The Christmas Season is upon us. For some of us (me included), the process of checking off our lists and making things special for Christmas can lead to a feeling of stress and anxiety. This can translate into sickness, which can take us out-of-commission and prevent us from enjoying the season. Here are 6 WAYS to avoid stress, anxiety and illness this Christmas:

- 1) Prioritize Sleep – get 7-8 hours of sleep each night; begin a wind-down routine 1 hour before bedtime
- 2) Eat Right – eat whole fresh meats and vegetables and avoid processed and fast food; drink plenty of water and avoid sugary drinks and minimize caffeine.
- 3) Exercise – walk or jog 30 minutes 3 times a week. Bundle up and enjoy the outdoors!
- 4) Pursue a creative outlet – play a musical instrument, decorate or bake.
- 5) Enjoy company – surround yourself with friends and family and savor every moment.
- 6) Relax and Refresh – schedule time to meditate, do yoga or deep breathing exercises; go to church and reflect on the miracle of Jesus' birth and the magic of Christmas.



GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH VISIT

Our 7th and 8th grade confirmation class visited St. Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox church. The students had a chance to participate in worship and see what similarities St. Peter and Paul share with GCC as well as what the differences are. We are thankful for the ecumenical connections in our community and for the chance to teach our students just how diverse the Christian family is!





FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Thanks to the GCC community who came out and supported Feed My Starving Children earlier this month. Over 60 GCC members participated and packed food to feed 85 children for a year. This event continues to be a great multi-generational opportunity to serve others and build our GCC community!

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Welcome to Riley Smith our new Church Administrator. Riley is an avid disc golf player and draws everyday. He spent two years as the administrative assistant at UCC Des Plaines. Stop by in the office to say hi!



LOOKING AHEAD/SAVE THE DATE

Congregational Carolfest in the Commons with organ, flute, violin, and homegrown voices (Sunday January 7, 2023 following worship at 11:15)

FIAT sponsored Transgender Forum in the Commons (January 24th at 7pm)

Celebrate Christmas Eve with Glenview Community Church

4:00p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service

"The Light of the World"

Featuring the GCC Puppeteers,
the Kevin Kizer Jazz Quartet,
Intergenerational Choir and more!

11:00p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve

Featuring Chancel Choir, Joyful Ringers
and Brass Quintet.

with Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo preaching

FIND YOUR
COMMUNITY
CHURCH

2024 MIDWINTER CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO MEETING

The Glenview Community Church Midwinter Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 21, 2024, at 11:15am, in The Church Sanctuary.

The agenda is as follows:

- Approval of the Minutes of the September 24, 2023, Special Congregational Meeting and the receipt of the Clerk's Report
- Senior Minister Update – Rev. Dr. James M. Matarazzo, Jr.
- Pastoral Resident Update – Rev. Abigail Lutz
- Mission Giving – Lauren Bauerschmidt
- Treasurer's Report – Douglas Berg
- Adoption of the GCC 2024 Budget – Douglas Berg
- Transfer of the Role of Moderator from Douglas Morgan to Susan Johns

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!

Jo Anne Peters
Church Clerk

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

In the Spirit of the Season

Two Ways to Support the Night Ministry

Homelessness and hunger, two of the saddest words spoken and made especially urgent as another Chicago winter approaches. Since 1976, the Night Ministry has strived to build relationships with vulnerable youth and adults out on the night time streets. This season, the Outreach Ministry offers two ways for you to support those suffering from poverty and homelessness. Donations will be collected from December 3 through January 3.

THE HOLIDAY GIVING TREE

The Holiday Giving Tree is an opportunity to donate much needed clothing items that will be distributed through The Night Ministry to those suffering from poverty and homelessness. Most of The Night Ministry's clients are men. Please limit donated clothing items to the list below. Also, only new items are being accepted.

- New white or black tube socks, sizes L-XL
- Unopened packages of new adult-size underwear (men's boxer briefs, sizes M-2XL; women's briefs, sizes M-2XL)
- Sports bras, sizes M and up
- Thermal kits
- New men's t-shirts (sizes M-2XL; short and long sleeve)
- New men's sweatpants (sizes M-2XL)
- New adult-size sweatshirts/hoodies (sizes M to 2XL; dark colors preferred)
- New men's sports shorts (sizes MM-2XL)
- New gym shoes (not slides) and boots (men's sizes 10 to 14; women's sizes 7 to 9)

Bring your donations to church and leave them in boxes provided by the Christmas tree in the Narthex. We can be a "God Moment" to someone who is facing a harsh Chicago winter with inadequate clothing.

TRANSGENDER YOUTH FORUM

Please mark you calendar and save the date for the Transgender Youth Forum on Wednesday, January 24, from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm in the Upper Commons at Glenview Community Church. A panel of transgender youth from the community will talk about their journeys and tell us how we can support them.

GOSPEL OF JOHN BIBLE STUDY

There will be a weekly lunchtime Bible Study on the Gospel of John led by the Senior Minister beginning Thursday, December 7, at 12 Noon. It will last one hour ending at 1 PM. The event is BYOL (bring your own lunch). Water, coffee, and tea will be provided. A study guidebook will be provided. A \$10 donation is requested for the book. Bibles will be provided or you can bring your own. The translation we will use is the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). The group will meet weekly on Thursdays except December 28, January 4, and January 11. All are welcome.



DUNKIN DONUTS GIFT CARDS

Four years ago Chapter 20 started the \$5.00 Dunkin Donuts gift card donations. These afford an invitation to enter a warm, welcoming space to get out of the elements and have something to eat and drink. If you would like to donate in this way, gift cards can be placed in decorated boxes in the office during the week and in a decorated box at the coffee hour on Sundays. You can also use a check to fund gift card purchases. Be sure to make the check out to Glenview Community Church and mark N.M. gift card in the check memo line. Checks can be placed in the offering baskets on Sunday.

Questions? Please contact Betsy Martin, betsywisemartin@att.net



John the Apostle, unknown, ca. 1500

**GLENVIEW CLERGY ASSOCIATION
GLENVIEW, ILLINOIS**

STATEMENT ON THE CRISIS IN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6)

We, the undernamed members of the Glenview Clergy Association, recognize that no public statement is adequate to address the tragic situation in Israel and Palestine. However, as leaders within the Abrahamic Faiths, we wish to express our empathy and solidarity with those who are heartbroken and outraged.

As religious leaders, we recognize that God is the Giver of life and that every human being is a person of sacred worth. Therefore, we categorically condemn the killing of Israeli and Palestinian civilians.

We affirm the human rights of all people be they Israeli or Palestinian. Therefore, we condemn the taking of Israeli hostages by Hamas.

We affirm Israel's right to defend itself, yet we also condemn the retaliatory violence that has severely impacted Palestinian civilians living in Gaza. Therefore, we urge the Israeli and Egyptian governments to allow desperately needed supplies into Gaza and to allow innocent civilians to safely leave Gaza to seek refuge in Egypt under United Nations supervision.

We are alarmed at the domestic and global rise of antisemitism and Islamophobia associated with this crisis. Therefore, we unreservedly condemn any form of antisemitic or Islamophobic expression, action, or violence. The crisis in Israel and Palestine reminds us that we cannot indulge in dehumanizing others. Even in the midst of unimaginable loss, we must allow for grief and mourning. We must also struggle to defend the dignity of all people.

As religious leaders, we strive to put into practice the moral courage that grounds all of our faith traditions. We are committed to doing all we can to exchange fear for compassion, hatred for sympathy, apathy for commitment, and arrogance for humility wherever we find these moral demands.

We call upon all people of goodwill to pray for peace in the Holy Land.

November 8, 2023

Rev. Elmo K. Acton, Assistant Pastor, Glenview New Church

Rev. Fr. Richard Andrews, Protopresbyter, Saints Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church, Glenview

Rev. Jeremiah Boland, Pastor, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, Glenview

Very Rev. Dennis C. Callan, SVD, Superior Delegate, North American Provinces, Society of the Divine Word

Rev. Eun-Hye Choi, Pastor, Glenview United Methodist Church

Rabbi Steve Hart, Jewish Faith Leader, Children of Abraham Coalition

Rabbi-Cantor Nancy Landsman, Congregation Avahat Olam, Glenview

Rev. Isaac Lara, Pastor, St. Catherine Labouré Catholic Parish, Glenview

Pastor Abigail Lutz, Pastoral Resident, Glenview Community Church

Rev. Dr. James M. Matarazzo, Jr., Senior Minister, Glenview Community Church

Dr. Shirley Paulson, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, Glenview

Rev. Mark Pendleton, Senior Pastor, Glenview New Church

Rev. Paul Peterson, Interim Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Glenview

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

1000 Elm Street
Glenview, IL 60025-2897
Phone: (847) 724-2210
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Facebook: facebook.com/
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SENIOR MINISTER

Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo, Jr.

BROADCASTER DEADLINES

January 2024 Broadcaster - December 18th
February 2024 Broadcaster - January 19th
March 2024 Broadcaster - February 19th
April 2024 Broadcaster - March 15th
May 2024 Broadcaster - April 19th
June 2024 Broadcaster - May 20th



Community... in Christ