

THE BROADCASTER

CONNECTING OUR GCC COMMUNITY SINCE 1941

I think part of the role of a pastor is being a “meaning maker”. In crafting rituals, planning worship, hearing people’s stories, we are helping people make meaning. It is hard sometimes to make meaning. We might not want to make meaning of things that are painful, or we might feel apathetic and declare something as simply “meaningless”. It is also dangerous sometimes to make meaning. We (as pastors, chaplains, ministers, etc.) should be careful not to give people our own meanings, but instead to encourage and empower them to find their own.

I have been thinking about how a new year is ripe with potential for meaning making! While in many tangible ways, nothing may change from December 31st to January 1st... We can choose to see the transition from 2023 to 2024 as a sacred new beginning. We can make meaning of the transition to a new year.

For the past few years, I have done this by writing a letter to myself. Each year, around New Year’s Eve or New Year’s Day, I open last year’s letter, read it, reflect on it, and then set out to write a new letter (to be opened next year around the same time). The letter tends to start with retrospective reflection on what the last year has been. Although I have not written my letter yet for this year, I imagine this section will talk about how at the beginning of 2023 I was preparing for my last semester of seminary, unsure of what my next steps would be after graduation. I might follow that arc all the way to the summer where I began to prepare for a move to Glenview, and to where I am now, four months into my position as pastoral resident at GCC! I will likely then take time to relish in feelings of gratitude, recognizing and giving thanks for God’s hand in opening doors and leading me to where I ended up.

The letter also includes a “looking ahead;” what my hopes are for the year to come.

I look ahead to where I want to see God work, and how I want to be a part of that work. Some might be more measurable: “I want to start doing this...” but others might be less so: “I want to feel this way...” or “I want my year to be full of... community, joy, intentionality, etc.” These things are less measurable but just as meaningful. Then I put my letter in an envelope and seal it, not to be opened until the following new year. Come to think of it, that is an important part of the ritual. The letter, the reflecting, and most importantly the “hopes for the new year”, are not hung on my wall to act as a “to-do” list. Instead, they get tucked in an envelope and I trust that the year will emerge exactly as God intends for it to emerge. Then next year New Year’s Eve or New Year’s Day, I might just open my letter and realize something I thought would be a priority ended up not being so, and there is grace, and there is curiosity, and sometimes I might laugh at my past self for my naivety and then... I start the whole ritual again.

My letter writing ritual is just one of the ways that I choose to make meaning of the new beginning that is a new year. I wonder what a new year means to you. I wonder what arc you might draw if you look back at the year past. I wonder what hopes you have for the year ahead. What is it you want to feel? How is it you want to be? Whatever meaning you find yourself making this new year, I am praying God’s blessings for you, for our church, and for our community.

May you look back and reflect on where you experienced God in the year past.

May you look ahead in anticipation of seeing God’s work and how you are meant to be a part of it, in the year ahead.

In Gratitude and Love,
Pastor Abigail

IMPORTANT COMMUNICATIONS NOTICE

GCC is mailing out almost 300 print copies of the Broadcaster each month. To save on mailing costs and to cut down our paper consumption, **January 2024** will be the **last** Broadcaster mailed out to our current mailing list. The Broadcaster is emailed out monthly and is available on the church website at gccucc.org.

If you would like to continue receiving the monthly Broadcaster via physical mail please let Riley in the office know. You can give him a call 847-724-2210 or email him at office@gccucc.org to ensure you won’t miss out on future mailing. If we do not hear back from you, we will assume you **do not** want to keep getting physical copies of the Broadcaster.



YOUTH AT GCC!

Our Confirmation Class and Youth Group got into the Christmas Spirit this past month by writing Christmas Card's to GCC members, wrapping up gifts for Connections for the Homeless, and helping put up our sanctuary Christmas trees!



GCC PUPPETEER PERFORMANCE!

On December 10th, the GCC Puppeteers performed for Church School during morning worship. They gave a powerful and meaningful lesson on prayer! What a great ministry for our church! Thank you to all who help lead the puppets ministry and to all the puppeteers for teaching our church school attendees about the power of prayer.



HOLIDAY GIVING AT GCC

This Holiday Season the Outreach Committee invited our community to help those who are experiencing homelessness in Chicago. Thank you to all who donated new clothing items that will be distributed through The Night Ministry to those living in poverty and homelessness. Our giving tree in the narthex is overflowing with items to be donated! In addition to the clothing items, we collected over \$1,300 worth of Dunkin Donuts gift cards. These gift cards will also be distributed by The Night Ministry. The gift cards afford an invitation to enter a warm, welcoming space to get out of the elements and have something to eat and drink. Our Christmas free will offering also went to The Night Ministry and Connections for the Homeless. Thank you for your generosity this holiday season!

GCC WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The first ever Women's Christmas Celebration at GCC was a huge success! It was a joy filled night of festive fun and fellowship! Thank you to all who were able to attend and brought their joy with them. Thank you to the GCC Women's Association for sponsoring, and to Sally Thuresson and Pastor Abigail Lutz for their leadership in planning and facilitating this event. For those who weren't able to make it, do not fret! We are already brainstorming more events like it for the future!



HEALTHY HINTS

Welcome to "Healthy Hints" for January! This month we will focus on eating whole foods.

Anything that comes in a box and comes with an "ingredients" list is usually processed food and the ingredients might surprise you. Sugar is often a hidden ingredient, which leads us to crave more instead of feeling satisfied. Check the ingredients on the box. The more ingredients, the worse it is for your health.

Here are some examples of how to replace processed food with whole food:

- Replace boxed potatoes with real potatoes
- Replace applesauce with real apples
- Chuck your chips for some chopped vegetables

- Replace store-bought Orange Chicken with a homemade recipe

• Make your own salad dressing with olive oil, balsamic vinegar and Dijon mustard

Shop the perimeter of the Grocery Store and buy sparingly in the center where the processed foods are. You'll reduce your sugar intake and give your body essential nutrients instead of extra "hidden" ingredients that the food industry adds for shelf life. Did you know we offer complimentary one-on-one Health Coaching? Please use the contact information below if you are interested.

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.



TOYS FOR TOTS

The 30th annual Toys for Tots concert made a joyful noise for all to hear! Thank you to all who make this concert happen, year after year and to all who contributed gifts to donate to the U.S. Marines Toys for Tots!



DECEMBER SPEAKERS FORUM

'Tis the Season: Jazz to the World!', otherwise known as the December 6 Amos Speakers Forum, saw the transformation of GCC's Commons into a jazz club with a trio led by Neil Carson on saxophone along with "The Two Jakes," Jake Shapiro on piano and Jake Sucher on guitar. As many attendees of the nearly 100 attendees noted happily, the Commons' acoustics are wonderful for music!



MEMORIAL GARDEN PROGRESS

New Construction is Under Way

If you have driven by the front of our church this week, you have seen large equipment - and a large pile of dirt on the North side of our front lawn. This is Very good news...after years of planning... ground has been broken for the new Memorial Garden! We anticipate it to be completed by Spring, 2024.

Since the original Memorial Garden is now full, plans were made for a new Garden and our congregation voted yes on it . It is very exciting to see the beginning of this very important addition to Glenview Community Church.

An informative mailing will be coming soon.



FALL DRIVE

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE FALL BLANKETS, BAGS, BOXERS AND BELTS DRIVE A SUCCESS!

On behalf of the GCC confirmation students, sending out a big thank you to all those who donated to the fall Blankets, Bags, Boxers and Belts drive this fall. We had a full van load of items to deliver to Connections for the Homeless in Evanston and some additional items we were able to donate to the Night Ministry in Chicago as well. Thank you for taking the time to donate these much-needed items. They will help make the upcoming winter a little easier for many folks facing housing insecurity. Thank you again!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Christmas Eve was a special day at GCC! The morning started with our 10a.m. Advent IV service with communion. Our 4p.m. Family Christmas Eve service was a meaningful and interactive retelling of the birth of Jesus. The 11p.m. candlelight Christmas Eve brought warmth to all who were there through scripture, word, and marvelous music by the Chancel Choir, Joyful Ringers, and the Brass Quintet. Thank you to all who made these services possible! We hope all had a very Merry Christmas!



SAVE THE DATE

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

GOSPEL OF JOHN BIBLE STUDY

The Gospel of John Bible Study led by Rev. Jim that began in December is continuing in the new year! It is not too late to join in. The group meets weekly on Thursdays at noon (except on January 11th.) 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). All are welcome.

MARDI GRAS SENIORS EVENT

Attention: GCC Seniors

You are invited to a Mardi Gras Senior Luncheon



Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 11:00 A.M. in the Upper Commons

Join your fellow Seniors as we celebrate Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) and prepare for the season of Lent leading to the Easter miracle.

RSVP - Karen Aldrich - 847-309-8218, kaaldrich@comcast.net



John the Apostle, unknown, ca. 1500





Transgender & Gender Expansive Teens & Young Adults Panel Discussion

Wednesday, January 24th
7pm-8:15pm
Glenview Community Church
1000 Elm Street, Glenview, IL

Join us in discussion with transgender and gender expansive youth in our community; allowing them to share their journeys and share with us how we can support them.

Contact:
Audry Farber (she/her/hers)
audry_claire_f@hotmail.com










KIDS NIGHT OUT

Friday, February 9th
6-8:30pm

Parents are invited to drop off kids ages 3+ for a night of Valentine's Day themed games, crafts, and food!

RSVP for your kids by February 1st
(chris.calandra@gccucc.org)

*This event is put on by
GCC Church School and
Faith Formation Ministry*



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

1000 Elm Street
Glenview, IL 60025-2897
Phone: (847) 724-2210
Web: gccucc.org
Facebook: facebook.com/
GlenviewCommunityChurch/

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SENIOR MINISTER

Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo, Jr.

BROADCASTER DEADLINES

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

