

THE BROADCASTER

CONNECTING OUR GCC COMMUNITY SINCE 1941

FEBRUARY, 2024
VOLUME 83 NUMBER 2

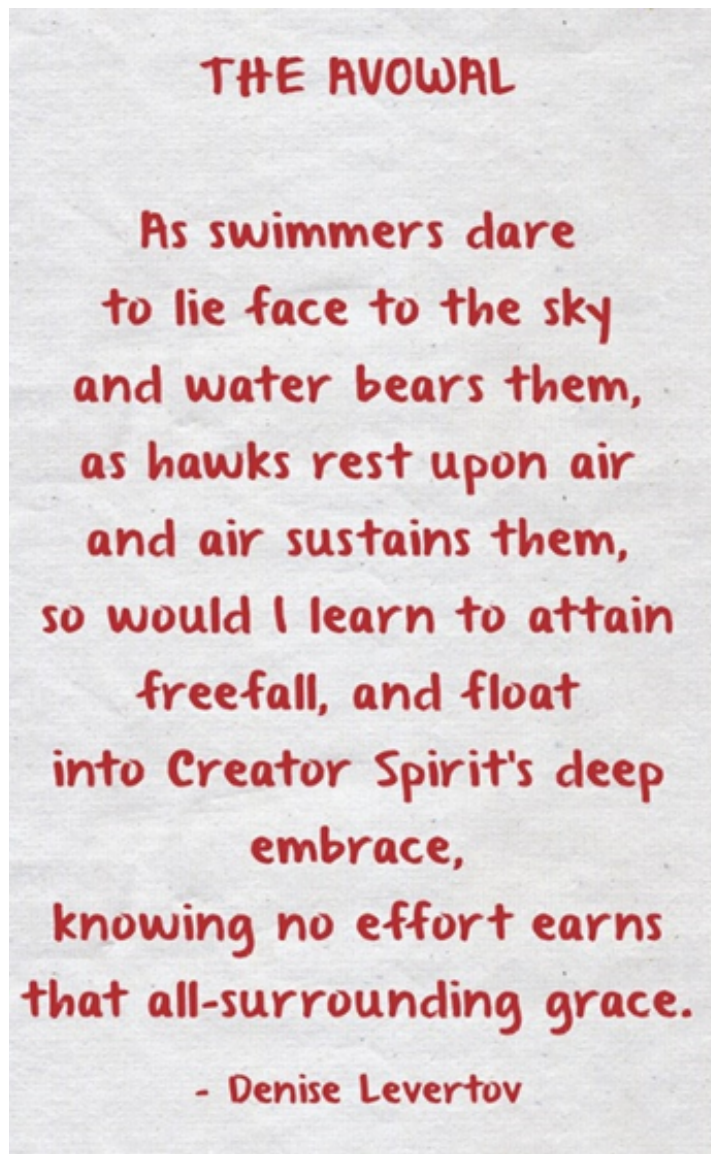
LEARNING TO FREEFALL INTO GRACE

Denise Levertov (1923-1997) was a British-born American poet. Her father was a Russian Hassidic Jew who first immigrated to Germany then to England where he converted to Christianity and became an Anglican priest. Her mother was from a mining village in North Wales. Levertov was raised in suburban London. Her parents and sister were political activists for progressive causes. She corresponded with the poet T.S. Elliot at age 12 who encouraged her writing. She published her first poem in 1940 at age 17. During the London Blitz of World War II, Levertov worked as a nurse. In 1947, she married an American writer and they moved to New York City. She became a US citizen in 1955. She wrote and published twenty-four books of poetry, received many awards and prizes, and she taught at Brandeis, MIT, Tufts, and finally at Stanford – where she held a full professorship. She died in 1997 due to lymphoma, age 74, in Seattle.

What I find fascinating about Levertov is that religion and spirituality suffuse her poetry. She was always interested in religion, but she was an agnostic most of her life. She converted to Christianity in 1984, at the age of 61. In 1989, she became a Roman Catholic. A year before her death, in 1996, she published a small volume of poems that include “The Avowal”. It was written in 1983 and had this dedication: “For Carolyn Kizer and John Woodbridge, Recalling Our Celebration of George Herbert’s Birthday.” George Herbert (1593-1633) was an Anglican priest and English poet, and we still sing today some of the hymns he wrote. Levertov’s whole life can be considered one of conversion – an exploration of faith mixed with doubt. In what may be her most famous poem, she writes “so I would learn to attain freefall, and float into Creator Spirit’s deep embrace.” She had not achieved the ability to fall into God’s grace yet – at least not in 1983.

As we enter the season of Lent on February 14, Ash Wednesday (yes, it’s also Valentine’s Day), I think Levertov has the ideal Lenten message for us: we who call ourselves Christians must always be *learning* to attain freefall into God’s amazing grace. The first thesis of Martin Luther’s *Ninety-Five Theses* (1517) is this: *When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said “Repent,” he intended that the entire life of believers should be repentance.* Yet, the word “repent” also means “convert.” We can thus rephrase this: *When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said “Convert,” he intended that the entire life of believers should be one of conversion.* Both words mean “turning” – as in turning toward God. It is a process, not a one-off event – and it is an uneven one, full of doubts and detours. But that is ok. We never stop converting until we too experience the Easter event and faith is replaced with fulfilment.

See you in church,
Jim
Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo



RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR

The Commons was filled on Sunday, January 7 with about 60 people for Carolfest 2024. From much-loved Christmas carols to seasonal tunes we rarely sing to favorite portions of Handel's Messiah, there was something for everyone. And all of the merry music was topped off with hot chocolate and cookies! We don't sing after services every Sunday but there's always time for fellowship over coffee and a sweet treat.



FACT OR FICTION? HOW DO YOU DISCERN IF WHAT YOU ARE READING IS TRUE?

Over 30 people were in attendance at our last Tom Amos Speakers Forum event to hear Lindsey Dorfman, Executive Director of the Glenview Public Library, share some enlightening (and a bit scary) research about information literacy. Want to learn more? Now through the end of February, Glenview Public Library will be hosting additional information literacy programs. Learn more at glenviewpl.org/register



LAUNCHING GODLY PLAY

We love our kids at GCC, and we want their time at church to be meaningful. For the past few months, we have been working to prepare for the launch of our new church school curriculum: Godly Play. This January we finally launched the new curriculum! Godly Play is a Montessori style church school curriculum that invites people of all ages to wonder about their faith while learning about key bible stories and Christian traditions. The first lesson we did in our Godly Play classroom was called, "The Circle of the Church Year", and was all about the Church Calendar year. Check out Room 9 and you will see the Circle of the Church Year that is hanging on the wall so we can keep track of which church season we are in. Godly Play promises to be a gift to all those involved, kids and adults! Thank you to all the storytellers and doorkeepers who have stepped up to help us launch this new curriculum! If you want to find out more about Godly Play at GCC, contact Chris Calandra or Pastor Abigail.



GCC TAKES ON LOUISVILLE, KY TO CELEBRATE PASTOR ABIGAIL'S ORDINATION SERVICE

A note of Thanks from Pastor Abigail: Preparing for my ordination service was far more stressful than I had anticipated. There were practical things to plan yes, but there were also some spiritual and mental roadblocks along the way. Being “called” to ministry is no small claim; I felt that in the days leading up to my ordination. In the days prior to traveling down to Louisville, although often feeling tired and discouraged, the support of GCC folks kept me going! Thank you for your kind words, cards, gifts, emails, for traveling down to Louisville, for watching the service virtually, for going above and beyond to show me your support. It meant the world to me. I am so thankful Glenview Community Church is a part of my call story. It is an honor to serve and learn in this place.



HEALTHY HINTS

Welcome to “Healthy Hints” for February! Since Valentine’s Day happens this month, it seems like a good time to focus on the impact that positive relationships can make on our wellbeing.

Our relationships, whether they be with spouses, partners, children, parents or friends, are the cornerstones of our lives. Loving relationships are like food for the soul that nourish the body, mind and spirit.

Love and affection can trigger the release of hormones such as oxytocin and dopamine, which have positive effects on mood, overall health and longevity. Other benefits can include:

- 1) Decreased risk of heart disease
- 2) Lower blood pressure
- 3) Improved immune health
- 4) Lowered tension and stress
- 5) Better sleep and waking feeling refreshed

Here are some tips on how to enhance your important relationships:



- Set aside regular time with that person – and stick to it so it’s a habit
 - Suggest an activity to do together – like taking a walk or playing a game
 - Be present - spend time really listening to your loved one and asking questions
 - Take time for yourself too – you’ll be better able to give of yourself if you attend to your own needs first
- By bringing loving focus on enhancing the relationships in your life, you’ll impact your health and happiness in a huge way as well as inspire loved ones to do the same.

For all questions or complimentary Health Coaching, please contact Laura O’Mera, Integrative Health Coach at 847.814.1565 or lauraomera@gmail.com. This article was adapted from the Health Coach Training Program from the Institute for Integrative Nutrition, October 2022.

A TRANSFORMATIVE EVENING

The Upper Commons at GCC was transformed by the Faith in Action Team to host the Transgender & Gender Expansive Teens & Young Adults Panel Discussion. Four young adults/teens (all beautiful, courageous, and confident individuals) and a panel facilitator spoke to an audience of over 60 attendees about their journeys to understand their true selves and to share their truths with family and friends. They bravely told us of the challenges they face in our current social and political climate to find acceptance, obtain appropriate (and sometimes life-saving) health care, and fair and equitable resources and treatment in school. While references were made to how little acceptance the LGBTQ community of previous generations experienced, the panelists are still clearly fighting to pave the way for future generations of trans and gender expansive individuals. How can you help? Drop gender stereotypes, ask thoughtful and supportive questions, listen to the answers that are given, respect others by affirming who they are and using their preferred pronouns and chosen names. For additional information/resources, please visit [Christmas Eve was a special day at GCC! The morning started with our 10a.m.](#)



YOUTH GROUP LOCK-IN

We were so glad to continue the GCC tradition of having a lock-in for our youth this January! On January 20th-21st thirteen middle and high school students spent the night at church, cooking together, playing games, relaxing and yes... even some sleeping! We are so thankful for opportunities like this to build community amongst our youth group students. If you or someone you know wants to get involved in youth group at GCC, all are welcome every Wednesday night from 6-8pm for dinner and a time of fellowship. For more information contact Julie Evans at julie.evans@gccucc.org.

GETTING INVOLVED

NEW MEMORIAL GARDEN

Hiding under a blanket of snow on the east lawn, just north of the circular driveway is the initial construction of our new Memorial Garden. Many of you have heard that our original and beloved Memorial Garden has reached capacity. After many years of planning, the congregation voted to move forward with the construction of a second Memorial Garden on the north end of the Elm Street lawn. Construction will resume when the weather breaks and we anticipate the garden to be ready to receive cremains in the spring or summer. Plots can be reserved now for \$2000 per plot. Please contact Riley Smith in church office to make a reservation and to select the plot location within the garden. The Memorial Garden Caring Committee will continue to oversee the maintenance and beauty of both Memorial Gardens to ensure a tranquil and serene final resting place for all whose cremains are interred within.

CONFIRMATION BAKE SALE

The confirmation students will be holding a bake sale after worship on Sunday February 25th in the Commons. All money raised will be donated to the two organizations confirmation is supporting this year- Connections for the Homeless and the Night Ministry. Remember to bring cash that day and your sweet tooth!

LOOKING FOR A QUICK AND EASY WAY TO MAKE A BIG IMPACT?

Altar Flower delivery could be for you!

Altar Flowers are delivered to members in need and those unable to attend Sunday Worship.

For just a short trip to someone's house after Sunday worship approximately once a month, you can make someone's day and feel great doing it!

We are looking for new volunteers – Men, Women, Families, Confirmation Students and Parents, PYF Members, High School and College Students, Nursery School Parents and anyone who has transportation.

Please sign up on this Sign Up Genius link: [Christmas Eve was a special day at GCC! The morning started with our 10a.m.](#)

If you cannot access the link, please contact Laura O'Mera at 847.814.1565 or lauraomera@gmail.com.

Thank you, from the Congregational Life Team.



TRIP DETAILS

Where: Benton Harbor, MI

When: June 9th-14th

Who: High School Students
(entering 9th-graduating seniors.)

Cost: \$700

Registration Deadline:

Feb 22nd~

Verbal Commitment
and \$100 Deposit due.

March 22nd ~

Remaining \$600 due.

Contact: Pastor Abigail
(abigail.lutz@gccucc.org)

JOIN US ON OUR 2024

MISSION TRIP!



youthworks.com



SAVE THE DATE

10 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED AT GCC (AND WHO TO CONTACT)~

Wanting to get plugged into life at GCC but not knowing where to start? Check out just a few of the many ways below! We would love to help you find the perfect space for you to use your gifts and passions at GCC!

1. Deliver Altar Flowers (Laura O'Mera)
2. Serve Communion (Karen Patterson)
3. Help with Fellowship Hour on Sundays (JoAnne Peters)
4. Become a Storyteller or Doorkeeper for Godly Play (Chris Calandra)
5. Join a Chapter of the Women's Association (Sally Thuresson)
6. Volunteer at New to You (Karen Ornduff)
7. Join a Bible or Book Study (Rev. Jim or Rev. Abigail)
8. Join the Chancel Choir or Bell Choir (Gary Wendt or Guillermo Munoz Kuster)
9. Volunteer to make dinner one week for GCC Youth Group (Julie Evans)
10. Volunteer as an Usher or Ambassador (Scott Frerichs/ MJ Carlson)

For contact information for any of these individuals or to chat more about getting plugged into life at GCC, email or call the church office! We would love to help you get connected.

SUPPORT GCC YOUTH BY FEEDING THEM!

Each week our youth group meets on Wednesday nights for dinner and fellowship. This year we are trying something new to help our kids connect with GCC members. You are invited to sign up to provide dinner for youth group one Wednesday night and to join us for dinner on the night you provide it! (6:00-6:30pm) Dinner does not have to be fancy or challenging! Plan to feed about 10-15 students. Make a tray of pasta, bring spaghetti and meatballs, make a big pot of your favorite soup or stew, bring sandwiches or pizza, pick up prepared foods from Costco!

This is a great chance to get to know our youth and for them to get to know you. To sign up for a Wednesday night, contact Julie Evans at julie.evans@gccucc.org. Thank you so much for supporting our youth!

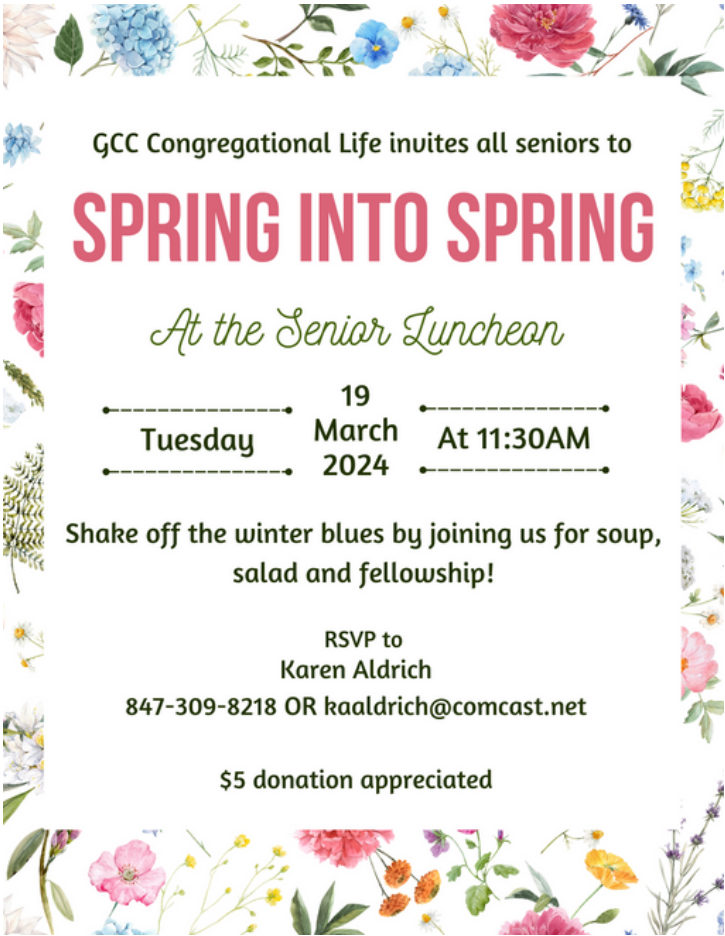


GOSPEL OF JOHN BIBLE STUDY

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. It will last one hour ending at 1 PM. The event is BYOL (bring your own lunch). The translation we will use is the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). All are welcome.



John the Apostle, unknown, ca. 1500



GCC Congregational Life invites all seniors to

SPRING INTO SPRING

At the Senior Luncheon

Tuesday ¹⁹ March 2024 At 11:30AM

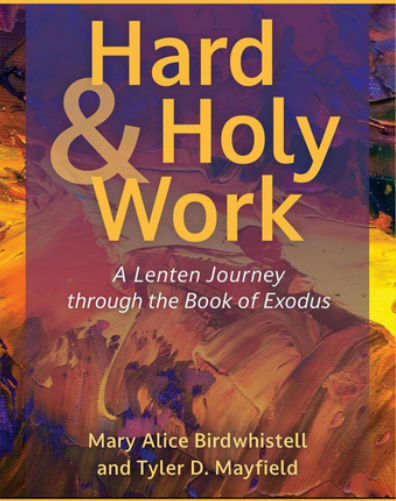
Shake off the winter blues by joining us for soup, salad and fellowship!

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

\$5 donation appreciated

Lenten Book Study with Pastor Abigail

Feb. 12th-March 25th
Monday Nights ~ 7:30-8:30pm
in The Commons



Hard & Holy Work
A Lenten Journey through the Book of Exodus
Mary Alice Birdwhistell and Tyler D. Mayfield

Order a copy of the book off Amazon or contact Pastor Abigail to order a book for you.



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*

GLENVIEW
FIND YOUR **COMMUNITY**
CHURCH

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

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Organization US
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Permit NO. 41

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SENIOR MINISTER

Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo, Jr.

BROADCASTER DEADLINES

March 2024 Broadcaster - February 19th

April 2024 Broadcaster - March 15th

May 2024 Broadcaster - April 19th

June 2024 Broadcaster - May 20th



Community... in Christ