

THE BROADCASTER

CONNECTING OUR GCC COMMUNITY SINCE 1941

APRIL, 2024
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THE CHURCH IS ALWAYS CHANGING

So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

The Christian Church has never been static. It has evolved over the centuries, often rapidly. These changes have resulted in many divisions. There are more than two hundred Christian denominations in the United States and over 45,000 denominations globally. Glenview Community Church, as a congregation of the United Church of Christ (“UCC”), is part of the Mainline Protestant Church tradition, a small segment of worldwide Christianity.

One of the major challenges facing Mainline Protestant Churches in the United States and abroad is the demand for change. Most UCC churches operate and worship in ways that have not changed significantly since the 1960s. Certainly, some things have changed: the ordination of women and the greater acceptance of LGBT+ persons. Neither was remotely the norm sixty years ago. But when it comes to patterns of worship, fundraising, and governance, things have changed very little. This is not in itself bad. However, American demographics have shifted such that most younger people no longer feel any attachment to our forms of worship, are baffled by the concept of pledging, and find our governance structures antiquated. This is further complicated by the fact that “younger people” at GCC means anyone under 60 years of age. And this is hardly unique to our church. The small number of Mainline Protestant churches that are actually packed during Sunday worship are nonetheless filled with persons at or near retirement age.

Some of you may recall the phenomenon known as the Crystal Cathedral of Garden Grove, Orange County, California, headed by the late Rev. Robert Schuller (1926-2015). This immense glass structure of a church

had a televised service that reached millions globally. It was nominally a member of the Reformed Church in America, a church with Dutch immigrant origins. Robert Schuller was truly innovative. He founded Garden Grove Community Church in 1955 in a drive-in movie theater. In 1961, he built a new church that was a “drive in, walk in” church that allowed him to simultaneously preach to those inside the church and those parked in the drive-in area that accommodated up to five hundred cars. In 1980, the new “Crystal Cathedral”, one of the largest glass structures in the world at the time, was dedicated. It could accommodate 2,248 people. America’s drive-in movie theaters largely disappeared by the early 1980s (thanks to the VCR among other factors) so Schuller did not include a drive-in option for his new glass church. Schuller called his main televised service the “Hour of Power” and in many ways his preaching style and message were reminiscent of that of the Rev. Norman Vincent Peale (1898-1993), also a Reformed Church minister and longtime pastor of Marble Collegiate Church (founded by the Dutch in 1628), in Manhattan, New York. Peale published widely and had a radio program that also reached millions. In many ways, Schuller tapped into the heyday of drive-in movies (1940s-1960s) and then into television evangelism which remains a phenomenon to this day.

Yet, the days of the Crystal Cathedral and the Schuller ministry were numbered – in large part due to simple demographics. The Crystal Cathedral went bankrupt in 2010 – due to a shrinking congregation, leadership infighting within the Schuller family, and the decline that occurred when Robert Schuller retired in 2006. Even in its televised glory days of the 1980s and 1990s, with its dancing water fountains and enormous pipe organ, the cameras would scan the congregation and one thing was clear: it was a sea of gray hair. The majority of attendees were older. Like GCC, the Crystal Cathedral was still within the Mainline Protestant tradition and demographic

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shifts were against it. In 2011, the building was sold to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange. It was renamed Christ Cathedral, reordered to accommodate Catholic liturgy, and consecrated as the diocesan headquarters. A much smaller church, known as Shepherd's Grove in Irvine, CA, continues the Schuller legacy, headed by his grandson Rev. Bobby Schuller. It became a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 2019 when it merged with Irvine Presbyterian Church. And in spite of the collapse of the Crystal Cathedral and radical changes, the smaller Shepherd's Grove is thriving and still has a television ministry with a global reach.

What does this mean for GCC? I think it means that we will have to change in order to survive – and such change requires immense flexibility. This brings up another challenge: many of us who are older do not welcome change easily. We like our traditions. We want stability and familiarity. For some of us, we might prefer any substantial changes to wait until we have departed this transitory life. But alas, this is something that GCC cannot do. Change is upon us. If we genuinely want to be relevant to our missing demographic (those in their 20s, 30s, and 40s), then we will have to find ways of worship and programming that accommodate them.

The interesting thing about GCC is that when it was reorganized in 1941 (previously, it was the Congregational Church of Glenview, founded in 1897), GCC was deemed an innovative type of Protestant church. It was part of the new Community Church Movement. And it thrived for several decades. In other words, we have done this before. We can do it again!

See you in church,
Jim

Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo
Senior Minister

INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

GCC welcomed Rabbi Reni Dickman, Executive Director of the Chicago Board of Rabbis and Senior Jewish Educator at the Jewish United Fund, to the Amos Speakers Forum for a conversation about rising levels of antisemitism and Islamophobia related to the conflict in the Middle East, as well as other issues that relate to Judaism, Islam and Palestine. Over 40 people joined Rev. Jim and Rabbi Reni Dickman for very thoughtful and thought-provoking dialogue that continued well after the forum ended.



SPRING INTO SPRING SENIOR LUNCHEON

Our Spring Senior Luncheon was complete with delicious soups, salad, bread, cookies, wonderful fellowship, and even some Spring Equinox Trivia! Did you know March 19 was the Spring Equinox? Or that it was also the Feast of Saint Joseph? Or that the warmest it has been in Chicago recorded history on March 19 was 79 degrees while the lowest was 0? Those were just a few of the fun facts we learned together during our delicious and festive lunch! Our GCC community loves any time when we get to BE in community. Thank you to Karen & Tom Aldrich and to all who helped create this opportunity to be in community. Spring here we come!



EASTER SUNDAY

How many minutes does it take 30 kids to find 300 Easter Eggs? Well... we didn't time it. So, we don't know. But it was quick! Our speedy Easter Egg Hunt was only part of the joy and celebration of the Resurrection at GCC on Easter Morning! Not photographed was the beautiful music from the brass accompanists and Chancel Choir, the powerful Easter Message preached by Rev. Jim, the meaningful opportunity to take communion together, and the warm and welcoming atmosphere at our church each and every Sunday! Happy Easter to all of you! May we be changed by our experience of resurrection each and every day!



YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS!

GCC's middle and high school youth group meets on Wednesday nights for dinner and fellowship. Recently we have asked the congregation to support the youth group by signing up to provide dinner for our Wednesday meetings. Congregants have been so generous! The best part is that our youth get the chance to eat with congregants who they might not meet otherwise. This month women from Chapter 1 of the Women's Association brought a delicious dinner and got to sit down and participate in our weekly reports of "highs and lows!" That same night at youth group was special for another reason too... our youth group partnered with The Grace Network to help package hygiene items that will be delivered to Chicago schools!



PEACE CONCERT

This month GCC hosted the 10th annual Concert for Peace. The program invited meditation on what it means for the work of peace to begin at home. Thank you to Katherine Hughes for putting this concert on year after year, to Gary Wendt for all he does to support the many ways GCC ministers through music, and to all the musicians who were a part of this beautiful concert.



BOY SCOUT PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Early in March, GCC supported Boy Scout Troop 156 at their pancake breakfast! The troop was hard at work making delicious pancakes all morning long! It is a joy to have their troop as a part of the GCC community and it was great to enjoy some pancakes with fellow congregants after morning worship! Thank you, Troop 156!



CONFIRMATION CLASS HIGHLIGHTS

GCC's confirmation class had a fun March! The month began with a GCC Speakers Panel where our 7th and 8th grade students got to meet four members of GCC and learn about them and their involvement at GCC. It was a great way to learn more about our church and what it means to be a church member. The month ended with a class about Holy Week and Easter. We learned about the events of Jesus' life in the week leading up to Easter Sunday. Check out the confirmand's posters on display downstairs by the youth room. We look forward to celebrating Confirmation with our 8th grade students on May 5!



HEALTHY HINTS

Welcome to April "Healthy Hints!" We often say, "April Showers bring May Flowers." How about Cold Showers? What do they bring? In Ian Fleming's 1954 book, "Live and Let Die," 007 James Bond takes what he calls a "Scottish Shower" and steps out of the water a new man, feeling like a million bucks. A "Scottish Shower" is a shower that starts hot and then ends cold. Cold water makes your blood vessels constrict, sending blood rushing to your core and vital organs. The blood naturally becomes oxygen-rich and nutrient-rich in the process, helping to flush out inflammation and bolster your immunity.

Additional cold shower* health benefits:

- Increased circulation
- Increased metabolism
- Healthier skin and hair
- Increased energy
- Decreased depression

Here's how to do it: start with a 10 second cold shower at the end of your hot shower. Each time you shower, gradually reduce the hot water and increase the cold water in 10 second increments. Work up to your desired time. Research suggests a 2-5 minute cold shower is optimal.

Breathe and know that you are doing something great for your health!

*Check with your doctor first if you have high blood pressure or heart disease.

For all questions or complimentary Health Coaching, please contact Laura O'Mera, Integrative Health Coach, at 847.814.1565 or lauraomera@gmail.com. Adapted from "6 Cold Water Benefits to Consider," from UCLAhealth.org.



DAVE'S HELPERS

In the next few months GCC has a **TON** of events coming up. Our Operations Manager, Dave Aki, has been working seven days a week as he maintains and manages these events. Let's give him a break! We are looking for people to help with setting up for events, cleaning up after events, and other day-of odd jobs. Mostly for the weekend, but evening events during the week are also possible. If you would like to volunteer you can give the office a call and we will add you to the list. Or if you know someone working on a merit badge or someone who needs community service, we would also appreciate their help. The church is bustling on the weekends and having an extra pair of hands or two would make a lot of difference, not only for the event, but more importantly for Dave.



LOOKING AHEAD



APRIL 7, 2024

10:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE
GLENVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH
1000 ELM STREET, GLENVIEW IL

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL "SECOND EASTER"
SERVICE OF SECULAR SONG, FEATURING THE
CHANCEL CHOIR, THE JOYFUL RINGERS, GCC VOCALISTS
AND INSTRUMENTALISTS, GUEST MUSICIANS, AND OUR
CONGREGATIONAL CHOIR SINGING ALONG TO THE
INSPIRATIONAL MUSIC OF THE BEATLES!



MYRA LORIS PRESENTS "OUR HUDDLED MASSES"

Tuesday, April 23, at 2:00 p.m. in the GCC Community Room.

"Our Huddled Masses" looks at American immigration, as well as nativism and assimilation, both past and present, as a driving force in framing the uniqueness of the American experience.

Educator Myra Loris provides lectures that focus on current social, political, and economic issues of critical importance to our nation and looks through the lens of history to understand the significance of such issues to our present and future.

Come at 1:30 p.m. for refreshments, followed by the one-hour lecture from 2-3:00 p.m.
The cost is \$15 payable at the door.

For questions, contact Beryl Bills berylbills@comcast.net

⚡ GCC'S ANNUAL ⚡
CHILI
COOK-OFF
04.14.2024 **BRING THE HEAT!** 6-8:00 PM

Who will WIN this year's contest?
Community Room
Contact Justin Bill for more info billjust@gmail.com
salad, cornbread, fruit and desserts provided

\$3/TICKET
\$10/5 TICKETS
\$20/10 TICKETS

Please join us for the GCC Chili Cook-off on April 14 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room. Enjoy fellowship and healthy competition as you taste homemade chili and vote for your favorites! Voting tickets: \$3 per ticket, 5 tickets for \$10, and 20 tickets for \$20. Salad, Bread, and Dessert will be provided. Chili Contestants, please email Justin Bill to sign up. Those interested in helping, please email Meredith Estes. Donations are welcome and benefit our GCC Youth Programs.

MORE EVENTS

April 14: Bells Before Brunch (Bell performance in Sanctuary following worship) & Chili Cookoff

April 21: Thank You Brunch for Pledging Community

April 28: Confirmation Retreat and Family Dinner

May 5: Confirmation Sunday and Fourth Grade Bible Presentations

ABUNDANCE: MISSION GIVING AND SERVICE AT GCC

You'll be seeing the word abundance around GCC over the next few months, as we celebrate abundant gifts we receive and give as a congregation. Abundance is expressed in our youth programs, our music, and our gatherings for fellowship, worship, and learning. It's also apparent in GCC's commitment to mission giving and service.

Glenview Community Church has a long and robust history of mission giving and outreach. Our generosity has been a draw for this congregation and for new members for decades. GCC's annual mission budget, which is calculated based on the prior year's collected pledge dollars, is used to support nonprofit organizations that aid and uplift people as Christ calls us to do. It is with gratitude that we report the 2024 church budget includes \$58,000 for mission allocation.

Every year, the Outreach Ministry team reviews organizations and determines where our funds will be allocated. Our mission partners fall into several categories including this partial list from 2023:

- Advocacy: Arise
- Serving children/seniors: Helping Hands, Onward Neighborhood House
- Homelessness: Connections for the Homeless, La Casa Norte, The Night Ministry, The Boulevard
- Hunger: A Just Harvest, Northfield Food Pantry
- Mental Health: Family Services Center, Josselyn Center, Thresholds

Our mission-driven contributions are multiplied through grants made by the Women's Association. Some of these allocations are made to the same agencies, and some are made to different organizations such as the Debra Gelfand Children's Foundation and Youth Services of Glenview/Northbrook. For GCC's fiscal year 2023, the mission allocation combined with Women's Association cash grants exceeded \$150,000.

In addition to funds from the budget (your pledge dollars at work!), many groups and individuals within GCC also donate money, goods, and services to support local, regional, and international needs. Here is just a sampling of the long list of events and activities led by GCC members:

- Youth group bake sales
- Dunkin' Donuts gift cards for distribution by The Night Ministry
- Food on the First program
- Mission Tree annual winter outer gear drive
- Painting apartments for Good News Partners
- Packing meals to help the fight against childhood hunger around the world through Feed My Starving Children
- Serving meals to children at Youth Services of Glenview/Northbrook

And, of course, we abundantly share our time and care with each other. We create a welcoming space at GCC by serving as ambassadors, ushers, communion servers, scripture readers, choir members, Sunday school teachers, and coffee hour servers. GCC is an abundant place indeed!

We are grateful for the abundance your generous pledging has brought to the mission and outreach work at GCC.

2024 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO MEETING

The Glenview Community Church Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, May 19, 2024** at 11:15 am, in the church sanctuary

The agenda will include:

- Approval of Minutes of the January 21, 2024 Midwinter Congregational Meeting
- Receipt of Reports
- Nominations for and Elections to Leadership Positions
- Presentation and Consideration of Proposed Amendment of the Constitution

This notice constitutes the official call to meeting. In accordance with the Glenview Community church constitution, no other business shall be transacted. Fifty members shall constitute a quorum. Please plan to attend!

See you in church!

Jo Anne Peters

Church Clerk

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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Permit NO. 41

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SENIOR MINISTER

Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo, Jr.

BROADCASTER DEADLINES

May 2024 Broadcaster - April 19
June 2024 Broadcaster - May 20
July 2024 Broadcaster - June 21
August 2024 Broadcaster - July 26
September 2024 Broadcaster - August 23
October 2024 Broadcaster - September 20
November 2024 Broadcaster - October 25
December 2024 Broadcaster - November 22



Almond Blossom, Vincent van Gogh (1853 - 1890)

