

THE BROADCASTER

CONNECTING OUR GCC COMMUNITY SINCE 1941

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JOY AMIDST THE DEVASTATION



Mortals, born of woman, are of few days and full of trouble. They spring up like flowers and wither away; like fleeting shadows, they do not endure. (Job 14:1-2 NIV)

Though the fig tree does not blossom and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold and there is no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation. (Habakkuk 3:17-18 NRSV)

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again, I say, rejoice! (Philippians 4:4 KJV)

As we start a new church and school year at GCC, we confront a nation and a world full of uncertainty. This is not a new condition for our republic or the world. Reading the above quotes from Scripture, we note the writers of sacred text were well aware that human life was difficult and sometimes terrible.

The above photo may seem like it comes from current devastation in the Gaza Strip that began after the October 7, 2023, attacks. But it dates from May 2021 during an earlier conflict between Hamas and Israel. Gaza, an ancient part of the Holy Land, has been a war zone more or less continuously since 2007. But it has been a place of intermittent conflict since 1948 during the first Arab-Israeli War. So, for those who live in Gaza, it has been a place of devastation with hardly any reprieve. Of course, Gaza is hardly alone in the world as a place of devastation. There are many places that share its fate as I write this article. One might think of Ukraine. But according to the International Rescue Committee, there are numerous disasters, wars, and famines occurring worldwide. The IRC's top ten are: Sudan, Myanmar (Burma), South Sudan, Burkina Faso, Mali, Palestinian Territories, Syria, Lebanon, Haiti, and Somalia. Ukraine is indeed at war with a terrible cost, but it does not make the IRC's top ten list. Gaza does. Some of the countries listed are unknown to most Americans.

But even in these places of devastation, there is joy. Right now, children are somehow laughing and playing in all of them. There are births and weddings and other celebrations. It is hard to believe that happiness can exist amidst suffering, but it does. I have seen it myself when I worked in some of the poorest countries on earth like Sierra Leone and Haiti.

The British-American Catholic theologian Paul Griffiths (b. 1956) calls the world we live in “the Devastation.” He uses this term because our world is *fallen*. The mythical Fall of Humanity in the Garden of Eden seeks to explain why our world is disordered, often violent, and a place where evil seems to freely reign. The Christian solution to the Fall is Jesus Christ. His reversal of the Fall is in two parts. We are living in Part 1. There is forgiveness of sin and promise of eternal life, but only at the Second Coming of Christ will the universe be restored to glory. Thus, we live in the Devastation until that happens. We live in the world of Good Friday awaiting Easter Day.

The bible verses I chose above illustrate this conundrum. The words of Job state it clearly: mortal human beings suffer and only live for a brief time. We are like a flower that blooms then withers away. The Prophet Habakkuk acknowledges this. Using the language of a farmer, he notes that in life our crops may fail, and our herds may scatter and die. Yet, he says he will still rejoice in the Lord even in the midst of devastation. Finally, Paul, in his letter to the church at Philippi, urges the disciples to “rejoice in the Lord always.” Paul writes this while he is in prison and under sentence of death. He does not know how long he will live and yet he urges rejoicing. All of the prophets and apostles urge rejoicing in spite of evils because God has given us life – and life itself is a precious gift. So, we are thankful even in dark times because of this gift. And Paul urges rejoicing because eternal life awaits us. We may die, but we will not die forever. Our death is our Easter Day.

It is difficult for those of us who live in a wealthy, stable country, like the United States, to relate to any of this. Certainly, we do know suffering: we get injured or sick. We cannot escape aging and all of us will die. Some of us know financial hardship and even poverty. And there is crime here just like anywhere. But we do not know the horrors of Gaza. We do not live in a warzone like eastern Ukraine. There has been no war fought on the American mainland since the Civil War – and that war was between ourselves and not a foreign enemy. While London experienced the Blitz during World War II, no American city was bombed except Honolulu’s Pearl Harbor – and that only happened once. We who live in North America have been truly fortunate compared to many.

That all said, we will have challenges and sorrows, even if they are “first world problems” that seem trivial by global standards. So, as we start a new church year, may we, when tough times befall us (and they will) remember that even in places of devastation, there is laughter and joy. May we be able to follow Saint Paul’s seemingly crazy command: to rejoice in the Lord always. I will conclude with the full text from Paul:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:4:9)

See you in church,
Jim

GODLY PLAY CAMP

Godly Play Camp was a wonderful week at GCC! Twenty-three children joined us to dive into the story of Creation through the Godly Play curriculum, experiencing the wonder of Scripture in an engaging, hands-on way. Each day included singing and dancing, a Godly Play story, games, snacks, and crafts. We were blessed with the support of nine incredible teen and adult helpers from GCC, whose energy and care made the week run smoothly. The Women’s Association played a special role as well, with different chapters providing snacks each day—a gift of hospitality that the children (and leaders!) greatly appreciated. The camp concluded with an ice cream party, which was a joyful celebration of all we had learned and shared together. Families expressed gratitude for the experience, and many are already asking when we’ll hold the camp again. It was truly a week filled with learning, laughter, and community.



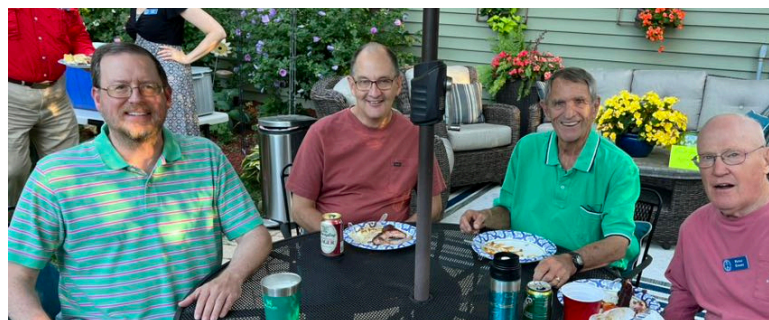
ALL MINISTRY MEETING

GCC staff and lay leaders got together to brainstorm fellowship, celebrate, and connect before the kick off to our church year on Rally Day! We have an amazing team of leaders and are looking forward to our shared ministry in the year ahead!



MEN'S MINISTRY BBQ

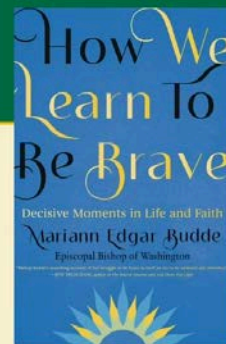
A great time was had at our Men's Ministry BBQ! It was an evening of fellowship, food, and fun, bringing our community together in faith and friendship. We're grateful for everyone who came out to share a meal, connect, and enjoy the summer afternoon together.



Fall Book Study
with Rev. Abigail
Mondays at 7pm-
Sept. 22- Nov. 3
The Commons

"How We Learn to Be Brave" by
Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde.

**Get the book and read the first
chapter for our first meeting.**



OUTDOOR MEMORIAL GARDEN: REMEMBRANCE WALL PLAQUES

Take a stroll through GCC's exterior Memorial Garden to see the beautiful new garden sign and the recently added plaque on the Remembrance Wall. The Remembrance Wall provides an opportunity for members to honor their families or memorialize loved ones—whether they are buried in Glenview or Glasgow—through a personalized bronze plaque. The wall will hold 96 plaques, mounted on 12 bronze backer plates, making each dedication a lasting tribute.

While you are there, take a moment to reflect on the Memorial Garden itself. Many members have chosen it as a resting place for their own ashes or those of a loved one, drawn to the thoughtful care the committee has given in planning and maintaining the space.

For more information about purchasing a Remembrance Wall plaque or a plot in the exterior Memorial Garden, please contact the church office. You may also reach out directly to Scott Lothian (ScottLothian@outlook.com) or Peter Grant (pjg816@gmail.com) for details about either of GCC's Memorial Gardens.



WELCOMING KATE LEE!

This September we welcome Kate Lee as our Director of Vocal Choirs at Glenview Community Church!

Kate is thrilled to serve as the Director of Vocal Choirs at Glenview Community Church. During the week, she is the Director of Choirs and Instructional Coach at Maine East High School in Park Ridge. In 2021, she was honored as the Illinois State Board of Education's Outstanding Early Career Educator of the Year. Kate holds a Bachelor of Music from Northwestern University, a Master of Music Education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Principal Certification from Lewis University. A proud Korean-American immigrant, Kate is passionate about equity in choral music. She has led DEI work in her school and district, served on the Illinois ACDA Board as the Diversity Initiatives Committee Chair, and co-authored the Illinois Racism-Free Schools Law in 2023. Beyond the classroom, she also sings with professional choral ensembles including Music of the Baroque and Stare at the Sun.



FALL YOUTH RETREAT: OCTOBER 24-26, 2025

Middle and high school students are encouraged to join us on our fall weekend retreat to Tower Hill Camp in Sawyer, Michigan!

The retreat promises to be a meaningful and fun getaway!
Cost is \$175 per student.

Reserve your spot by Oct. 4th by emailing our Director of Youth Ministry- Meredith Estes at meredith.estes@gccucc.org

SEPTEMBER



➔ WELCOME BACK!

SUN. SEPT. 7

Rally Day: Celebrate the Kick Off of the Church School Year with a BBQ on the South Lawn after 10am worship.

- **Godly Play** is Back (Kindergarten-5th Grade in Room 108.)
- **Pathways Begins!** (6th-8th Grade in Room 201)

WED. SEPT. 10

Speakers Forum: Cyber Safety
7:00 p.m. in The Commons
Childcare will be provided.

SUN. SEPT. 14

Puppets Begins (Middle and High School Students. 10:00 a.m. Youth Room)
Youth Group Meets (Middle and High School Students. 4-6 p.m. Youth Room)

JOIN A SPIRITUAL LIFE TEAM

This Fall we are launching three new Spiritual Life Teams! These small groups will meet once a month throughout the year to explore spirituality, pray together, share “God moments,” and grow in faith through community. Stay tuned for details on how to join a team—and if you have questions, talk with Rev. Abigail.

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

September is Directory Update Month! During Fellowship Hour, stop by to make sure we have your most up-to-date contact information and take a photo for our new Breeze membership database. You can also log into Breeze for the first time to access the churchwide calendar and membership directory!

MINISTRY OVERVIEW: FINANCE AND RESOURCES

The Finance and Resources Ministry manages Finance, Generosity, Capital Projects, and Resource Development. In addition to four elected ministry members, Finance and Resources team members work with called ministers, the Treasurer, the Operations Director, the Business Manager, and Church Administrator, as well as cross-ministry collaboration and the congregation.

What does the Finance Team do?

- **Create GCC's annual operating budget.** Next year's **expenses** are estimated. Working with the Treasurer and needs assessment from lay Ministries, as well as assumptions regarding compensation and benefits for ministers and other staff; and expenses for operations and properties (e.g. insurance, utilities, supplies, building maintenance). Additionally, there is an allowance for GCC's Missions Allocation. Next year's **revenue** budget is estimated based on anticipated pledges, other member donations, building use fees, and investment income generated from reserves.
- **Conduct quarterly review of overall reserve investment performance.** GCC's investments are professionally managed by William Blair. For 2025, the operating budget anticipates reserve investment performance that provides 9% of the overall budget.

What does the Generosity Team do?

- **Conduct a year-round initiative of communication and awareness of GCC's inspiring values for our members and the wider community.** In 2025, the team is raising awareness on the theme of Belonging at GCC. Several church members/families have participated for video interviews. The resulting videos are very different takes on what "belonging" means at GCC. All videos are inspiring!
- Plan and conduct the annual Generosity campaign (having reminded and inspired members to engage and support GCC's operations) with aspirational goals of collecting pledges of financial support from 300 members and friends of GCC.
- Plan campaign communication and follow up through personal outreach during pledge collection time, for example, outreach to affinity groups (Choir, Women's Association, Men's Ministry, Confirmation parents).
- Note the crucial relationship between Generosity and Finance: **72% of Operating Budget revenue is from pledges.** When actual pledges received fall below what is anticipated, the congregation may be faced with a deficit budget. A deficit budget reduces funds from reserves. As noted above, reserve investment returns are a source of revenue for the annual operating budget.

What does the Capital Projects Team do?

- **Maintaining and improving our church building requires planning and investment over time.** These kinds of projects are different from day to day expenses which are covered in the annual Operating Budget mentioned above. Instead, capital projects focus on important upgrades that last many years and keep our building safe, comfortable, and welcoming for everyone.
- Some capital facility needs that require attention for future improvements include
 1. Outdoor maintenance, including landscaping, signage, parking lot drainage
 2. Lighting updates in the sanctuary, with eventual switch to energy-efficient LEDs
 3. Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) improvements for better comfort and efficiency
 4. Repairs to exterior walls and stonework to protect against weather damage
 5. Window maintenance including painting and re-glazing to improve efficiency
 6. Technology upgrades for worship streaming and office systems
 7. Ongoing electrical and plumbing maintenance to ensure safety
- Through careful planning and investment, identified improvements will be made as funding is available. A recent capital project, upgrading heating controls, is now being completed. This project is part of our long term effort to care for our aging church building with thoughtful planning and strategic funding appeals. (The future funding appeal is separate and not connected to the annual Generosity campaign.)

What is Resource Development?

- **Donor appreciation is a key initiative to help meet long term planning goals.** First, clear information about GCC's financial position is provided. On a monthly basis, the church Treasurer prepares financial reports presented to the Leadership Council. These reports reflect revenue and expenses against the annual operating budget and are available upon request.
- Future financial needs such as capital projects are not part of the Operating Budget and need to be communicated to donors.
- Donations in the form of bequests, directed through estates, or from living members and friends of GCC are most appreciated.
- Church-affiliated groups, including Women's Association and GCCNS (the Nursery School) have donated funds specified for capital projects.
- In October, the Amos Speaker's Bureau presentation will be on tax- advantaged Charitable Giving and will highlight giving opportunities.
- You, members and friends of GCC, are the resource to be developed!

Thank you for your ongoing interest, engagement, and care for your Church Community. You make GCC a great place to belong!

Ann Deakyne, for the Finance and Resources Ministry

GLENVIEW
FIND YOUR COMMUNITY
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ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Rev. Abigail Lutz

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



"Forest in Autumn" by Gustave Courbet, 1841