

# THE BROADCASTER

CONNECTING OUR GCC COMMUNITY SINCE 1941

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## BELONGING AT GCC-WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?

This summer we have been exploring the idea of belonging-through stories, videos and conversations about what it means to be part of this church family. Belonging is a gift GOD gives us and it is what we share with one another at GCC. Part of belonging in any community is sharing with others-your hopes, your prayers, your time and your resources. In that spirit, I am excited to join the Resources Committee this year as your new Generosity Team Leader.

I first came to the church as a new arrival in Glenview with 2 small children and not a lot of family or community support. I started attending GCC to provide my daughters with an opportunity to learn about God through Sunday School and enrolled my youngest in the terrific GCC nursery school. From the beginning, I was wowed by the kindness, dedication, and welcoming response I saw at GCC. Over the years, I had the opportunity to serve on the Missions Board and participate in many projects with the dynamic FIAT. Again and again I saw people supporting and caring for each other and the greater community. I truly felt that GCC provided my family and me with a place to belong. I still remember Pastor Doug Runnels saying that a church membership is three-legged stool: 1) participating worship to build your spiritual link with GOD; 2) engaging in service to others to build your link to the community and; 3) giving of your time and resources to allow this community of belonging to grow and reach others. It takes all 3 actions to work.

In the Belonging stories on the website (please check them out)-you can hear many of your fellow GCC members talking about how they found community at GCC. All the programs and activities at GCC- including our inspiring music and choir, engaging youth programs, our dynamic Faith in Action team, generous mission giving and outreach initiatives, exciting adult education presentations and dedicated spiritual life teams-create countless opportunities for everyone to connect and discover their own story of belonging. Your support in the past and in our 2026 pledge campaign makes all of this possible!

As we start this new and exciting year, I hope we all ask ourselves: How can I continue to support creating the spaces where all of us can experience the joy of belonging too? Your pledge not only supports this vision but also gives us the ability to plan ahead, use our resources wisely, and nurture the relationships and connections that make GCC a place where everyone belongs.

We are grateful for all who pledged to help us build this wonderful community of belonging in the past. THANK YOU! Please prayerfully consider your pledge for 2026 so we may continue to build a community where everyone can belong. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at 847-922-6827 or [lccrowder@comcast.net](mailto:lccrowder@comcast.net).

*Romans 12:5 "So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others"*

In the Spirit of Belonging,  
Linda Crowder  
GCC Generosity Team Leader

## REV. ABIGAIL INSTALLED AS ASSOCIATE MINISTER AT GLENVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

A Note of Gratitude (Written 9/29/25)

Yesterday morning—early in the morning, before folks began arriving to prepare for our 10 .a.m. service—I slowed down for a minute and did some journaling. I wanted to pause, reflect, and let the meaning of the day sink in.

Over the past two months, preparing for the installation service sometimes felt a little funny. After all, I've already been at GCC for two years. Becoming "settled" as Associate Minister feels in many ways like a continuation of the ministry we've already been sharing. And in these two years we've already celebrated so many milestones together—ordination being one of them! Did we really need another big celebration?

But as I reflected yesterday morning, I realized that installation marks something unique. It celebrates being called and confirmed into a "settled" pastorate—a dream that began for me about ten years ago, back when I was a junior in high school. At that point, it wasn't much of a dream at all—just a small thought that crossed my mind: maybe I could be in ministry? I couldn't picture what that would mean then, but I now see how so many moments along the way—mentors and pastors in high school, classes and experiences in college and seminary, and of course these last two years here at GCC—have slowly been shaping that call. Yesterday felt like the arrival of a dream that has been growing in me since I was a teenager.

Of course, the journey is not over. I will continue to grow, learn, and change—among you and in the years ahead of ministry. But installation gave me the gift of pausing, looking back, and feeling a tremendous amount of gratitude—for God, for this call, for this community, and for the many people and places who have nurtured me along the way.

That gratitude overflowed throughout the day—as I spent time with family and friends who traveled to be present, as I hugged congregants, as I was presented with a beautiful robe, stoles, and generous gifts from GCC, as I looked around the sanctuary filled with so many of you, as I listened to Rev. Makgoba's powerful homily, as I heard the choir sing and saw our liturgists lead, and as I witnessed my family and friends experience my church family, some for the very first time. Last night, as I reflected with my mom and Moh, I went to bed with my head spinning, overwhelmed with gratitude and joy.

So how can I possibly say thank you? Thank you for yesterday's celebration. Thank you for your support and friendship over the past two years. Thank you for calling me to serve as your Associate Minister.

**Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.**

With prayerful hope for the ministry ahead,  
Rev. Abigail



## PATHWAYS: A JOURNEY IN FAITH — OFF TO A GREAT START!

This past month we joyfully kicked off Pathways: A Journey in Faith, our new middle school and confirmation program at GCC! Each Sunday, students begin in worship with the congregation before being dismissed to class, where they are diving into big topics: this first month learning about the program, exploring world religions, and beginning their journey through the Bible. Pathways is led by a rotating team of eight dedicated teachers (two teachers per team) who guide our students each week. Designed to help 6th–8th graders grow in faith and prepare for their confirmation year in 8th grade. Pathways is already off to a wonderful beginning. We're grateful for the energy and curiosity our students bring each week and for the support of the whole congregation as we walk this journey together.



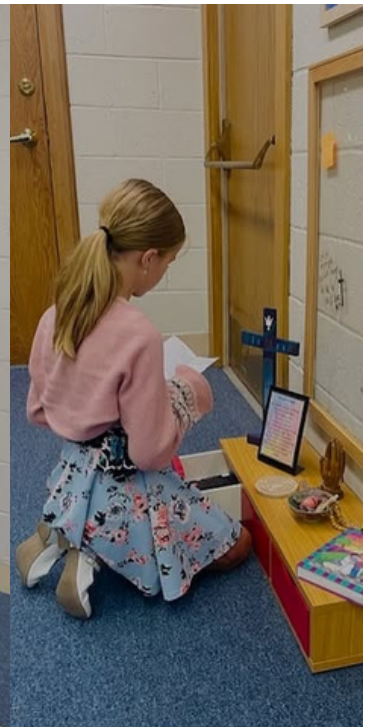
## RALLY DAY

What a great Rally Day. Thank you to all who volunteered (over 17 signed up through SignUpGenius and even more were walk up volunteers). Thanks also to all who attended, it was a great turnout. The weather was wonderful, the food was delicious, and the games/crafts were great fun. Welcome to the new church year.



## GODLY PLAY

On Rally Day we welcomed 15 children ages 5-12 to our newly refurbished Godly Play church school room! The children had a wonderful time hearing the story of Ruth and then creatively responding to it! We are always happy to welcome adult and teen volunteers to help with our classes. Exciting learning, fellowship, and faith development are happening in Godly Play!



## SPEAKER'S FORUM

We kicked off our Amos Speakers' Forum series on September 10 at 7 p.m. in the Commons. Officer David Maize of the Glenview Police Department presented "Cyber Safety, Staying Safe Online for Parents." Officer Maize shared real-world insights, common online risks, and practical tips to help keep children safe in today's digital world. We had a light but engaged crowd of parents and grandparents who left enlightened and perhaps a bit uneasy at the vast array of dangers surrounding children and the internet.



## YOUTH GROUP SANDWICH PACKING

Our Youth Group put their faith into action this month by packing sandwiches for Connections for the Homeless.



## FALL BOOK STUDY – HOW WE LEARN TO BE BRAVE

Our fall book study has begun! On Monday nights at 7:00 p.m., a group from GCC is gathering to read and discuss *How We Learn to Be Brave* by Rev. Marilyn Budde. Together we're exploring what courage looks like in our lives and in our faith, sharing stories, and learning from one another along the way. The study runs through November 3, and we look forward to the ways this time of reflection and conversation will strengthen our community.



## GETTING INVOLVED

### SPIRITUAL LIFE TEAM MEETINGS

Join a Spiritual Life Team! New Spiritual Life Teams are starting this October! Come explore your faith, discover “God moments,” and grow in Spirit with a small group from GCC. Designed by GCC’s own Rev. Dr. Bobbie McKay, these monthly groups (October–May) are a meaningful way to deepen your spirituality and build connections with others in our church community.

Choose the group that best fits you—and sign up with Rev. Abigail or Greg Bliss!

**1st Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. (Starting Oct. 2)** — Family Friendly Spiritual Life Team (Led by Rev. Abigail) Especially for new members and families with children (but all are welcome!). Childcare will be provided.

**3rd Wednesdays at 7 p.m. (Starting Oct. 15)** — Men’s Spiritual Life Team (Led by Greg Bliss)

**4th Wednesdays at 7 p.m. (Starting Oct. 22)** — Open Group Spiritual Life Team (Led by Greg Bliss)

Curious about what a Spiritual Life Team is? Talk to Rev. Abigail or Greg Bliss to learn more!

### LOOKING AHEAD

**CROP Walk**- Sun. Oct. 5

**October Speakers Forum (Maximizing Charitable Giving)**- Wed. Oct 15 at 7 p.m. in the Commons

**Wines for Humanity (Fundraising Event hosted by Rev. Jim)**- Fri. Oct 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Commons

**Boards & Bites (Intergenerational Potluck and Board Game Night)**- Fri. Nov 14 at 6 p.m. in the Community Room

**November Speakers Forum (Building Peaceful Bridges Panel Discussion)**- Wed. Nov 19 at 7 p.m. in the Commons

**Feed My Starving Children (Churchwide service activity)**- Sat. Nov 22 at 9 a.m.

**GCC Christmas Celebration**- Fri. Dec. 12 at 6 p.m. in the Community Room

### FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Glenview Community Church will be packing food again at **Feed My Starving Children** on Saturday, November 22 from 9:00 to 10:45 a.m. Please join us as we help feed children around the world. Feel free to invite friends and family members to join our church community for the fun packing event. Anyone 7 years and older can volunteer. To join the GCC group at this event go to [fmsc.org](https://fmsc.org) and click on Volunteer. The Join Code is: **B2XVY5**. Or you can scan the QR code. You will need to have or create a login account. If you do not wish to create a login, please send an email to Audry Farber at [audry\\_claire\\_f@hotmail.com](mailto:audry_claire_f@hotmail.com) and she will be happy to sign you up. You can also call her with questions at 847-997-2537. Spots are limited, so please sign up early.



### A JUST HARVEST

Volunteer for Fall Lunch Service at **A Just Harvest**. Please consider volunteering to serve lunch from 11-2:30 at **A Just Harvest** this fall on Sundays or Wednesdays. This fall **A Just Harvest** needs teams of two people to serve lunch at their site in Rogers Park, where they fight poverty and hunger by providing nutritious meals daily to those in need. GCC volunteers will work on the following dates: Sundays, October 5, November 7, and December 7, or Wednesday October 15, November 19, or December 17.

A volunteer team could be made up of 2 GCC members, a member and family member or neighborhood friend, 2 members of a Women's Association Chapter, 2 members of the Men's Ministry, or GCC youth with an adult supervisor/driver.

If you are interested in making up a team or being part of a team this fall, please contact Betsy Martin at [betsywisemartin@att.net](mailto:betsywisemartin@att.net) or 847-562-6166. We will sign you up for a date that fits your schedule and will send you the information you need to volunteer.

The Outreach Ministry Team

### INCLUSION BEYOND DEI

#### What’s the big deal about “DEI”?

DEI stands for **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**. For the 2025–26 church year, the Faith in Action Team (FIAT) has selected “**Inclusion**” in all its forms as our central theme. Throughout the year, FIAT will host presentations, discussions, and activities designed to broaden our congregation’s understanding of the many dimensions of inclusion.

Highlights include:

- **October 5:** FIAT will partner with the Open and Affirming (ONA) Committee for a special event focused on supporting and celebrating National Coming Out Day (October 11) and the LGBTQ+ community.
- **Speaker’s Forum (November 19):** Leaders and client family members from **Building Peaceful Bridges**, a local nonprofit welcoming newcomer families to the Chicago area, will join us for a panel discussion.
- **Martin Luther King Day of Service:** In collaboration with the **Congregational Life Ministry**, FIAT will host a day of service and learning centered on Dr. King’s teachings.
- **DEI in Daily Life:** Terry Adams will offer an overview of how DEI shows up in the workplace and beyond.

Inclusion is a vital part of GCC’s mission, and FIAT invites you to participate in these thought-provoking sessions and action opportunities throughout the year. Together, we can deepen our commitment to building a truly inclusive community.

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY

The GCC Worship and Music Ministry assists the pastoral leadership with the weekly worship service including ushers, ambassadors, communion, lectors, sound booth and video streaming, and fellowship hour. In addition, our Ministry supports the music ministry of GCC including the choir and the Simple Gifts concert series. Our teams provide members with an easy way to become involved with GCC in a meaningful way at a time you are already at the church. So, if you are looking for an opportunity to increase your sense of belonging to GCC, consider joining one of our teams below:

**Communion:** Our Communion Team is more than thirty people strong, but we are always looking for more people of all ages. We serve on the first Sunday of the month, as well as a few other special occasions throughout the year. If you join our team, you will get one email per month asking if you want to serve Communion for the following month. There is no obligation, no meetings, and no guilt! Some people like to serve often. Others may serve once a year. No experience is necessary. Children and adults of any age can be on the team! Please contact Karen Patterson O'Brien if you or your child wants to be added to our team list: [karen@glenviewlaw.net](mailto:karen@glenviewlaw.net) or 847 226-7818. We promise you will find it to be a deeply spiritual and meaningful experience. We appreciate everyone who serves! Co-Chairs, Ginny Hotaling, Sally Hicks, JoAnne Peters, and Karen O'Brien

**Ambassadors:** The purpose of our Ambassadors is to welcome every person that comes in the door, but also to answer any questions or assist with directions. There are two ambassadors scheduled each week, one at the East door and one at the West door. It is a fun way to see many people and meet new ones. We can always use more members on our team!

**Lectors:** Lectors read the weekly scripture passages provided by the ministers. This is a good way to develop public speaking skills (names can be challenging), especially for junior high and high school students.

**Ushers:** Like the Ambassadors, Ushers are at the entrances to the sanctuary each Sunday to greet everyone, provide the weekly bulletin (order of worship), and assist with seating if necessary. Ushers also collect the weekly offerings. Our ushers are currently organized in teams that rotate each week, minimizing the time each individual needs to serve.

**Choir:** The choir is always looking for new voices to lift spirits on Sundays. The choir sings most Sundays, as well as on special occasions. Rehearsals are held on Thursday evening, so feel free to drop in learn more about the choral program at GCC.

Beyond our teams, the W&M Ministry works with the ministerial staff on overall worship needs. For example, this past year we introduced 2nd Sundays at GCC: an opportunity to explore worship that is refreshing, surprising, and transformational. These special services, taking place most second Sundays of the month, have featured soloists, new instrumental arrangements, a more conversational preaching style, and even more casual dress from our ministers. Everything we do has intention—2nd Sundays invites us to recognize that we can hear from God and connect with God in a variety of ways: through different styles of music, worship, and even when our ministers set aside their robes and stoles.

Of course, 2nd Sundays is just one example of the intentionality in our worship planning. Each week, Gary, Rev. Jim, and Rev. Abigail collaborate to shape services that speak to our church community. Musical ensembles such as the Chancel Choir, Joyful Ringers, Pilgrim Wind Trio, Children's Choir, and the ever-expanding Bell Trio (which can't really be called a "trio" anymore!) all enliven our worship experience. We know that the people of GCC love music—and so do we! We are deeply grateful for all who participate in our music ministry.

Special Sundays have also given us space to highlight music in unique ways. Second Easter (also known as Secular Music Sunday—this year featuring the music of Bob Dylan) and our Congregational Hymn Sing in August were joyous opportunities to celebrate the gift of song. Youth also played a central role in worship last spring: our "Puppet Show" Sunday focusing on Faith, the Children's Musical telling the story of Noah's Ark, and our Confirmation & Youth Sunday lifted up the gifts of young people at every stage of life.

Worship both reflects and shapes who we are as a church. Your participation matters: more voices leading and contributing ideas is what communal worship is all about. If you'd like to get involved—by serving communion, reading Scripture, leading prayer, or offering music—talk to Gary, Jim, or Abigail. We would love to hear your voice!

Peter Stettler  
Chair, Worship and Music Ministry  
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Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo, Jr.

**ASSOCIATE MINISTER**

Rev. Abigail Lutz

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*"Forest in Autumn" by Gustave Courbet, 1841*