

# THE BROADCASTER

CONNECTING OUR GCC COMMUNITY SINCE 1941

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## WE NEED MERCY FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS



“Esther before King Ahasuerus” by Antoon Claeissens (1536-1613)

*For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:14 ESV)*

Queen Esther, according to the Hebrew Bible, was the Jewish wife of Ahasuerus, the emperor of the Persian Achaemenid Empire, which was founded by Cyrus the Great in 550 BC. According to the Book of Esther, Ahasuerus banishes his wife and chooses Esther to be his new queen. Ahasuerus does not know that Esther is Jewish. An orphan, she was raised by her cousin Mordecai, a Persian Jew. Mordecai's bitter enemy at the imperial court is the wicked Haman, the king's right-hand man. Because Mordecai fails to bow before him, Haman plots not only Mordecai's death but also the extermination of all the Jews in the Persian empire. Mordecai calls on Queen Esther to save her people by asking the king for help. He says to her: “For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:14 ESV) Esther heroically risks the king's wrath by appearing unbidden before him. According to Persian law, to approach the king unbidden would result in death, even for the king's wife. But the king spares Esther. Her intervention succeeds, saving the Jews. The annual Jewish festival of Purim celebrates this victory.

In a recent sermon, I said that we have a spiritual crisis of humility in our nation. Each side feels superior to the other. But we also have another spiritual crisis: a lack of mercy. Mercy is a virtue that is out of fashion. The United States is a notoriously litigious society. Many folks desire stiff penalties upon those who break our laws, even

for minor offenses. When it comes to immigration offenses, our national leaders have chosen an extremely harsh approach, especially in Chicagoland. The news is filled with reports of immigration raids in just about every community, whether wealthy or poor.

In this time of national disagreement and division, we are confronted with the conundrum of Esther. Should we keep silent on the issues of the day? Or should we speak out in the name of mercy? Jesus clearly desires his disciples to be merciful: “Blessed are the merciful for they shall be shown mercy.” (Matt. 5:7) However, there are many who support the current administration’s deportation efforts and methods. But what would Esther do? Esther represents a minority, the Jews, in the Persian Empire. We know what she would do: she would ask for mercy. And what would Jesus do? It is likely obvious to any Christian that Christ’s Gospel always favors mercy over vengeance. His constant reference to support for the Samaritans, the outcasts of his time, is proof of this. We know what Jesus would do.

So, what should we do? I do not have a blueprint. But I think there is at least one thing we can do no matter whether we identify politically as “red” or “blue” or “purple” or nothing at all: we can advocate for mercy. We can promote the Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” (Matt. 7:12) We can obey the Great Commandment: to love God and neighbor (Matt. 22:30-40). I believe we must find the ability in our hearts, politics aside, to love the other, the stranger, and the terrified.

There are currently 14 million unauthorized residents in this country. Everyone knows it is not logistically, financially, legally, or morally possible to deport this many people. The costs are staggering. The American Immigration Council estimates the cost to deport one million persons to be \$88 billion per year. It further estimates that to deport 14 million would cost a trillion dollars and take at least a decade. The inhumanity and brutality of such an operation, never mind the cost, would go far beyond an offense against mercy.

The Law of Moses that Queen Esther knew is still relevant: “When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.” (Lev. 19:33-34) At minimum, this means that we must find a way to be merciful to those who do not have a legal right to reside in the United States. I do not have an answer, but I know the current tactics will have to give way to something far more humane, lest we lose our soul as a nation. Jesus said: “And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?” (Mark 8:36 NLT)

See you in church,  
*Jim*

Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo  
Senior Minister

## CROP WALK

Members of Glenview Community Church joined together for the annual CROP Hunger Walk, raising awareness and funds to fight hunger both locally and around the world.

Thank you to everyone who walked, donated, and prayed with us! Every step made a difference helping families access food, water, and hope.

## NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY

This month, members of Glenview Community Church came together to show our love and support for National Coming Out Day.

At GCC, we believe that every person is a beloved child of God, worthy of love, dignity, and belonging. GCC stands with our LGBTQ+ community celebrating authenticity, courage, and the beauty of living fully as who God made us to be.



## YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES

### FALL YOUTH RETREAT TO TOWER HILL

This month, we continued our beloved tradition of heading to Tower Hill Camp in Sawyer, MI, for our annual youth retreat! Middle and high school students from GCC, along with adult chaperones Meredith Estes, Shawna Moorad, Jim Beavin, and Rev. Abigail, set off on Friday night, October 24, for a fall weekend in southwest Michigan.

This year's retreat focused on prayer. Recognizing how much stress our teens carry, we centered our time around giving them tangible prayer tools—practices to turn to when they feel overwhelmed and reminders that God and faith can meet us in our worries. Our guiding scripture was Philippians 4:6–7:

“Do not be anxious 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.”

What a beautiful reminder for all of us when anxiety creeps in. The weekend was filled with faith-building, prayer, laughter, fellowship, and, of course, climbing the sand dunes along Lake Michigan.

We're so thankful for our amazing chaperones who made it happen—and for our youth who made it joyful!



### THE GRACE NETWORK

Our GCC Youth Group partnered with @gracenetworkchi - The Grace Network - to pack hygiene boxes for students in need across local schools.

Together, they assembled kits filled with essential items that help kids feel confident and cared for each day. What a beautiful example of faith in action and love for our neighbors!



### “HOW WE LEARN TO BE BRAVE” BOOK STUDY

Over the past seven weeks, a group of GCC members has been reading “How We Learn to Be Brave” by Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde. Each week, we gathered to explore what it means to be brave—in life and in faith.

We discovered that brave moments can come in times of hardship as well as through small, everyday acts of courage. Our discussions led to personal stories of times we found courage—or wished we had—and reflections on how biblical figures lived out bravery in their own lives.

These conversations have been thought-provoking, honest, and deeply encouraging. In the end, we found that being brave is about perseverance—and that our faith is the tool that helps us persevere.

Thank you to all who read and reflected with us. May we continue to live our faith bravely!



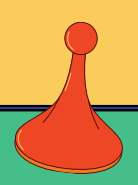
An intergenerational  
potluck and  
board game night!

People of all ages are  
encouraged to join us for  
this fun potluck event.  
Table games will be  
provided but feel free to  
bring your favorites from  
home as well!

# BOARDS +BITES

6pm-8pm  
FRI. NOVEMBER 14

Bring a dish to share  
and some games to  
play!



2025 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

## We Give Thanks

Sponsored by the Glenview Clergy  
Association

25 NOV | 7:30PM

Glenview United Methodist Church  
727 Harlem Ave., Glenview  
**Keynote Reflection**

Rev. Eun-Hye Choi

*A monetary offering will be collected to benefit Wesley  
Child Care, Glenview Youth Services. A food collection for  
the Northfield Township Food Pantry will be taken as well.*

*This service will also be livestreamed by the Glenview  
United Methodist Church (via Facebook and Youtube)*

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION & Dinner with Santa



FRI. DEC 12, 2025

6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

*The Community Room*

Lasagna Dinner, Christmas Cookies, Trivia, Kids Crafts & Games,  
Carol Singing, Santa, Fellowship & More!

RSVP to: [office@gccucc.org](mailto:office@gccucc.org)



Sign Up Here  
to help out  
or volunteer to  
bring something!



A Community of

# Belonging

## What Does Belonging Mean to You?

- Acceptance and support.
- Commitment to serve.
- Feeling valued, included, affirmed, and safe — the ability to be vulnerable.
- Community rooted in shared beliefs.
- Loving others and being loved.
- Meeting others and getting to know them.
- Gathering together in faith.
- A sense of comfort and welcome.

## When Have You Felt Belonging at GCC?

- You told us you've felt belonging...
- When your family faced a serious health challenge
- Through prayers and care
- By being involved in leadership
- Singing in the Chancel Choir
- Preparing food for the Women's Christmas Celebration
- "When I came home from college and was welcomed back with hugs"
- In Youth Group

## Where Do You Find Belonging at GCC?

- In the places and moments that bring us together:
  - Bell Choir
  - Women's Chapters
  - "It's nice to be able to hold my partner's hand here. (queer couple)"
  - Scouts
  - Post-service coffee
  - Nursery
  - Traditions shared across generations
  - Puppets and Children's Choir
  - Godly Play
  - Worship — especially Passing the Peace
  - Volunteering
- Being greeted by smiling faces — even those we don't yet know

*In September, we asked members of GCC to reflect on belonging — what it means, where they find it, and how we can nurture it together. Here's what you shared...*

*Thank you to everyone who shared your reflections. Together, we continue to grow as a community where all belong.*

## How Can We Help Build Belonging at GCC?

- Be kind and forgiving
- Call and care for one another
- Get more involved
- Reach out to isolated members
- Talk to someone new at coffee hour — make the circle wider
- Welcome new members, care for current ones
- Walk a little farther during Passing the Peace
- Pray for one another
- Keep God at the center
- Speak to those we don't already know

## FAITH FORMATION AND LEARNING MINISTRY

The Faith Formation and Learning Ministry supports the faith formation of children, youth, and adults at GCC. The ministry includes four elected members and is supported by the Director of Children's Ministry and the Director of Youth Ministry. The ministry includes the following programs:

**Godly Play:** Godly Play provides a Bible-based, Montessori-like church school experience for children ages kindergarten-5th grade. The program uses storytelling, hands-on materials, and play to help children explore their faith. The stories cover the old and new testaments and provide a foundation for the children to begin their Christian faith development and appreciation of church traditions.

**Pathways:** Pathways is our new middle school and confirmation program at GCC. The program provides GCC youth (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade) space to explore their faith, ask big questions, and grow together in community. It is designed to help the students grow in faith and prepare for confirmation in their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. Students began by exploring world religions and are now beginning their journey through the bible. Studies so far have included one week focused on Jesus' life in the four Gospels and a study of the Apostles Creed. In November, the class will make an interfaith visit to Ismaili Jamatkhana to learn more about Islam.

**Youth Group:** GCC's Youth Group program is designed for middle school and high school youth (grades 6-12) with the goal of nurturing their faith exploration and spiritual growth while also building a strong community of peer support. The program meets weekly during the school year to provide an inclusive, welcoming environment with fun, social and service-oriented activities.

**Puppets:** The Puppets Team consists of middle school and high school youth (grades 6-12) who deliver faith and bible stories via puppetry, music and humor. The puppeteers plan to host two performances for the church school and one performance in church this year. New puppeteers and adult volunteers are welcome (all rehearsals fueled by donuts).

**Spiritual Life:** Spiritual Life Teams offer the opportunity to 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 teams provide a safe place to awaken and explore your spiritual self, recognize that God is ever present and active in your life, and share your spirit with others. The teams meet monthly from October to May.

**Speaker's Forum:** The Amos Speakers' Forum enriches adult education through a wide variety of engaging programs. Named in honor of Tom Amos – longtime GCC member, educator, and advocate for lifelong learning – the series offers monthly presentations from September through April in the Commons. Over the past year, nearly 400 people have joined us, averaging 40 participants per event, including many from outside GCC – helping the Forum grow into a true community initiative. Looking ahead, the 2025-2026 season promises inspiring and practical presentations, and we hope you'll join us – and bring friends, family, and neighbors along!

A special thank you to the many volunteers who help support these programs! If you are interested in getting involved with any of these programs, please reach out.

Chris Gilman

Faith Formation and Learning Ministry

[cgilman86@gmail.com](mailto:cgilman86@gmail.com)

## NOVEMBER SPEAKER'S FORUM

**Building Peaceful Bridges** is a nonprofit organization supporting people of all faiths whose mission is to foster multicultural relationships by assisting in the integration of refugees into American society and educating communities on the challenges facing refugee populations through their stories. The BPB Mission statement gives us a hint about their work, which is more important now than ever before. Join GCC's Debby Fosdick and other BPB leaders, **Wednesday, November 19 at 7 p.m.** as they share how the families they mentor, from countries like Syria, Afghanistan, and Democratic Republic of Congo, are faring at a time when the topic of immigration, especially in Chicago, is front page news. Learn about the dreams of these brave newcomers as they strive to become independent in their new homeland.

## 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.



We are near filling up the designated slots for the Feed My Starving Children event. We cannot add more slots at this time. If you get one of the last slots, great. If you do not, then you can email Audry and she will maintain a waiting list in case slots open up. Audry email: [audry\\_claire\\_f@hotmail.com](mailto:audry_claire_f@hotmail.com).

## FELLOWSHIP HOUR HELP

Bringing treats & helping with set up/clean up for fellowship hour is an easy but important way to help out at GCC! We have some Sunday's coming up that we need help with! Please sign up here to help!





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

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

**SENIOR MINISTER**

Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo, Jr.

**ASSOCIATE MINISTER**

Rev. Abigail Lutz

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Permit NO. 41

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



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