



YOUR PLEDGE SUPPORTS MISSIONS IN OUR COMMUNITY

You should know that the pledge you make to Glenview Community Church funds our support for our mission partners. Each year, we reserve at least 8% of all pledges to be used for direct giving to agencies that deliver aid and comfort to homeless, hungry and suffering individuals and families throughout our community. The Mission Allocations Team is a group of GCC members who volunteer to help oversee this process of distributing our pledge funds among the many deserving partners. This year’s team includes Linda Crowder, Monty Davis, Susan Lindahl, Scott McClung, Nancy Mullarkey and Cathy Shapiro. We are part of the Missions and Outreach Ministry led by Betsy Martin.

The team starts their work in the fall with a review of the current mission focus areas and partners. We highlight 5 major areas: Hunger, Homelessness, Mental Health, Health Care and Social Justice. We give directly to 20 mission partners and contribute to Our Church’s Wider Mission, the UCC’s agency providing support to local congregations in need and a various charitable and justice initiatives. Last year we donated almost \$80,000. (This is in addition to the almost \$70,000 provided by the Women’s Association from revenue generated by New To You, a charitable resale shop.) Glenview Community Church truly lives the commandment to help others!

Given that we have responsibility for ensuring our church’s donations are spent appropriately and effectively, we follow up with each mission partner to get updates on their programs and any change in needs or focus. This also includes proper review of financial documents. Once we do our initial review, we send out a Benevolent Donation Grant Packet in January to each partner which allows us to see what their key initiatives are for the current year and helps determine the greatest need and impact so we can allocate our funds most effectively. The team reviews each partner’s packet and determines the final allocation spread for the year’s grants. This recommendation is sent to Leadership Council for final review and approval in April/May.

It is important for all of us to know where and how our pledge dollars are being spent, so the Mission Allocations Team will provide updates through the year highlighting specific programs. As a start to this communication, we are sponsoring Mission Partner Sharing Moments at upcoming services and coffee hours beginning March 8. We will showcase a specific partner at the service and provide a follow up opportunity at coffee hour to learn more about each partner and their programs. A complete list of partners is below.

If you have any additional questions about the Missions Allocations process or would like to know more about a specific partner, please reach out to me at LCCrowder@comcast.net or 847-922-6827.

2026 Mission Partners:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| A Just Harvest | La Casa Norte |
| Arise Chicago | The Night Ministry |
| Building Peaceful Bridges | Northfield Food Pantry |
| Community Renewal Society | Onward House |
| Connections for the Homeless | Rebuilding Together-North Suburban Chicago |
| Doctors without Borders | Refugee One |
| Family Services center | San Lucas Church Outreach |
| Good News Partners | The Boulevard |
| Helping Hands of Glenview | Thresholds |
| Josselyn Center | |
| Journeys | |

FEBRUARY SPEAKER'S FORUM

We were grateful to gather for our Amos Speakers Forum conversation, "Capitalism and Worship: The Waters We Swim In." Dr. David Bjorlin invited us into a thoughtful and timely exploration of how consumer capitalism shapes our worship practices, and how the church might imagine more faithful, life-giving ways forward. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this rich evening of learning, reflection, and conversation. These are the kinds of questions that help us notice the waters we're swimming in, and discern how God may be calling us to deeper faithfulness.



ASH WEDNESDAY 2026

Rev. Jim and Rev. Abigail offered "drive-through" ashes in the circle drive. A meaningful way for our community to pause and mark the beginning of Lent.



SCOUT SUNDAY

As we celebrated Scouts Sunday at Glenview Community Church, it was a special reminder that the values learned in Scouting: service, leadership, community, and faith can shape a lifetime of purpose. We're grateful for the many ways those lessons continue to show up in our church and in Rev. Jim's ministry today.



CHILI COOK-OFF

GCCs Annual Chili Cook Off one of our most delicious evenings!



REV. JIM'S BIBLE STUDY

Last Thursday we gathered with our friends from Congregation Hakafa for the first session of our Jewish-Christian Bible Study on Genesis. It was a meaningful time of learning, listening, and growing together across traditions.

We're grateful for this partnership and the opportunity to explore Scripture in community. There's still time to join us on Thursdays at 4 PM at Glenview Community Church!



THE FRIENDS OF MUSIC FUND: KEEPING OUR MUSIC MINISTRY THRIVING

In our October article for the Worship and Music Ministry we focused on the aspects that support the weekly worship service: Ambassadors, Ushers, Lectors, and Communion. In this article we feature the Music side of the ministry, specifically the GCC Friends of Music Fund.

If you've ever been moved by the soaring voices of the Chancel Choir performing Fauré's Requiem, delighted by the shimmering tones of our handbell choir, or inspired by the artistry of a Simple Gifts Concert, you've experienced the Friends of Music Fund at work — even if you didn't know it.

The Church's annual operating budget does important, steady work for the Music Ministry. It keeps the Ministry running from year to year, covering choir music for our Chancel, Children's, and Bell Choirs. The operating budget also covers staff substitutes, piano and organ tunings, copyright licensing, continuing education for our music staff, and the guest musicians who enrich our most beloved worship services — Easter, Christmas Eve, our spring Chancel Choir major work, and the newer "Second Sunday" services.

However, there are needs beyond the annual budget to allow the Music Ministry to grow, invest, and dream. That is where the Friends of Music Fund (FOM) comes in.

The FOM Fund helps maintain the Ministry's work by covering the costs of replacing worn bell choir gloves, purchasing new mallets, music stands, and choir folders, cleaning choir robes, and setting aside resources for the kind of recurring-but-not-every-year expenses that don't fit neatly into an annual budget line. For example, about every 10 years or so our brass handbells need professional refurbishing — a roughly \$12,000 investment that keeps one of our most distinctive musical voices sounding its best. The FOM Fund makes that possible.

Donations to the FOM Fund also make improvements that genuinely transform our Music Ministry. Examples include the beautiful Celeste/Harp stop on the organ that adds such color and warmth to our worship and the magnificent 7-foot grand piano you see beside the organ (a designated gift through FOM). FOM also supported the acquisition of several handbells for our bell choir, and along with two generous angel donors, a large percussion mount that allows more people to play our heaviest bells — bells that before were simply too cumbersome for many to play.

The FOM Fund also plays a vital role when our musical ambitions call for a larger ensemble than usual. When the Chancel Choir takes on works like Vivaldi's Gloria or Fauré's Requiem, the FOM Fund supplements our instrumentalist stipends to make those performances possible. And year after year, the FOM Fund is the primary support for our Simple Gifts Concert Series, which brings outstanding musical artistry to our broader community.

Currently the Music Ministry has two high-priority needs: the repair of the organ pedal board and the replacement of our handbell cases. The organ pedal board has worn bushings, making precise playing difficult and producing distracting mechanical noise during worship. The handbell cases, original to 1985, are well past their prime. Their worn linings are accelerating tarnishing on the very bells we just had professionally refurbished. Addressing these needs will be a meaningful investment in instruments we expect to serve this congregation for decades to come.

If you would like to help support the FOM Fund, please speak with anyone on the music staff or contact the church office. Or plan to attend "Scenes From an Italian Restaurant," a benefit specifically for the FOM Fund, on Friday, May 8 at the Church. We promise an evening of fine Italian food and outstanding entertainment from members of the Chancel Choir and GCC musicians in support of the excellent music GCC enjoys throughout the year.

Supporting the Friends of Music Fund is how we, as a congregation, demonstrate that music at GCC matters. Every contribution, of any size, makes a difference in what the Music Ministry is able to offer in worship and in the life of this community.

The Worship and Music Ministry

Peter Stettler, Chair
Gary Wendt, Director of Music

YOUTH GROUP LOCK-IN

What a night! Our youth had an incredible time at our Lock-In, it was full of laughter, connection, games, and meaningful moments together. So grateful for our amazing students, leaders, and volunteers who made it all happen.



CONFIRMATION BAKE SALE

The confirmation class held a bake sale on a Sunday morning. Thank you to everyone who participated. The treats were delicious!



HEALTHY HINTS

The brain is a mysterious organ – we still know surprisingly little about how it works! These lifestyle and nutrition tips, however, have been shown to support neurological function:

- Stay socially connected.
- Exercise regularly.
- Practice meditation or spiritual activities.
- Learn new skills or a new language.
- Do creative hobbies (art, dance, music).
- Follow a Mediterranean style diet.
- Add brain boosting foods:
 - o Blueberries
 - o Dark chocolate
 - o Avocados
 - o Walnuts
 - o Green tea
- Watch for signs like forgetfulness, slow reflexes, or poor focus.
- Support your brain by eating well, moving often, and staying mentally active.

This article was adapted from a “Nourish the Brain” handout from the Institute for Integrative Nutrition Health Coach Training Program.



For all questions or complimentary Health Coaching, please contact Laura O'Mera, Integrative Nutrition Health Coach at 847.814.1565, laura@bramhall.health or visit www.bramhall.health.



Spring is almost here! Support GCCNS while getting your garden ready for the season. Proceeds from our Annual Plant Sale will help fund new classroom furniture, materials, and learning spaces for our students.

Orders due by March 18. Pick up May 5, 10 a.m. in the GCC parking lot.

Order flowers via the QR code here!



Boy Scout Troop 156 Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, March 7th
7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Glenview Community Church
1000 Elm Street
in the Community Room (door F)
Supports camping and
high adventure programs



SUGGESTED
DONATION
\$10



GCC INTERGENERATIONAL MISSION TRIP

June 6-13, 2026

Where?

Greater Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico

How?

We fly to San Diego and cross the border in a rented van

Who?

Adults of any age and youth entering 9th grade and over. You must have a US passport or passport card and medical insurance valid for foreign travel.

Housing?

La Posada (The Inn) is the modern, gated accommodation for volunteers in a safe suburb of Tijuana.

What?

Working with local community members to build housing for low-income families.

Esperanza International

41-year-old nonprofit based in San Diego, California, scan the QR code for more information.



Cost
\$850
plus airfare

RSVP by May 1 james.matarazzo@gccucc.org
847-724-2210

Upcoming Concert

1000 Elm Street
Glenview, IL
www.gccucc.org



2026



Friday, March 13, 7:00 PM

Paul Fey, Organist

Paul is a full-time musician, composer and YouTuber. He is one of the organists at St. Propsteikirche in Leipzig, Germany. The program will be a combination of his own compositions and music from the world of organ literature to celebrate Friday the 13th.

A free-will donation will be collected to benefit the GCC Friends of Music Fund

ALL Are Welcomed To BOARDS + BITES

An intergenerational potluck and board game night!

SUN. MARCH 15
4pm-6pm

Bring a dish to share and some games to play!

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!

GLENVIEW
COMMUNITY
CHURCH

FIND YOUR

COMMUNITY

CHURCH

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Glenview, IL 60025-2897
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GlenviewCommunityChurch/

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SENIOR MINISTER

Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo, Jr.

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Rev. Abigail Lutz

Save the Date

**Scenes From An
Italian Restaurant**

FRIDAY, MAY 8 • 6:00 PM
GCC COMMONS

Italian Dining
With Entertainment by GCC Musicians
To Benefit the Friends of Music Fund