



CONNECTING OUR GCC COMMUNITY SINCE 1941

April, 2026  
VOLUME 84 NUMBER 4

## INTRODUCING OUR 2026 GENEROSITY THEME: SHARING IN GOD'S WORK

“For we are God’s coworkers, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building.”  
*1 Corinthians 3:9*

Over the past two years, our generosity campaigns have been far more than a slogan for a pledge drive. They have invited us to recognize and celebrate the abundance woven through our past, present, and future at GCC. They have also called us to look around with fresh eyes and give thanks for the beautiful, growing community of belonging we share.

These two words—abundance and belonging—continue to echo through and shape our shared ministry. Day by day, season by season, we discover new expressions of abundance. And again and again, we hear and tell stories of belonging: visitors becoming friends and friends becoming members, each with their own story to share.

Abundance and belonging remain at the heart of who we are—and who we are becoming together.

This year, we build on that foundation by inviting our congregation to see, celebrate, and consider the ways that—simply by being part of this church community—we are **sharing in God’s work**.

Being part of Glenview Community Church means belonging to a community where there is much to celebrate and, it also means actively choosing to share in God’s work in the world. As individuals, when we choose to be all in—when we invest in this church community with our time, talent, energy, and resources—we are choosing to share in God’s work.

We share in God’s work when we care for one another, when we reach beyond the walls of our church, when we gather for worship, and when we help shape the spiritual lives of young people. We share in God’s work when we volunteer our time and gifts to support the ministries and committees that sustain the life of this church, and when we lead in worship through music, prayer, and hospitality. We share in God’s work when we pray and dream for the future of our church and for the healing of the world. We share in God’s work when we are formed in worship and sent out to live differently—carrying God’s love and renewal into our daily lives. Every day of the week, in countless seen and unseen ways, members of this community are sharing in God’s work—pouring out their gifts and participating in something far greater than themselves.

This means that we, in turn, can share in God’s work as a church. We share in God’s work by planning, facilitating, and sustaining programs that nurture spiritual growth for people of all ages. We share in God’s work by opening our building—offering it as a place of welcome for groups that foster connection, care, and community. And we share in God’s work by supporting partner organizations, locally and globally, that are bringing about God’s justice, compassion, and renewal in the world.

In the first letter to the Corinthians, the author writes to the church in Corinth, explaining the role of the church in God’s work: “I planted the seed... but God is making it grow...” This captures a beautiful truth about the

church: we plant the seeds and water them, but it is God who causes them to grow. In sharing in God's work, we rely on God's provision, vision, and Spirit to move and work among us. The passage continues, "For we are God's coworkers, working together; you are God's field, God's building" (1 Cor. 3:9).

What we are doing as a church is bigger than Glenview. It is bigger than our building. It is even bigger than those who call this church home. For we are God's coworkers and together we are sharing in God's work in the world—being the hands and feet of Christ, serving one another, spreading love and compassion, and sharing in God's work.

This is a beautiful and joyful calling we have been given, and it can inspire and guide us both as individuals and as a community. So we invite you to consider what it means to share in God's work—both as a church and as individuals. Let us continue to lean in with generosity, offering our time, talent and resources, and join together in sharing in God's work.

Abundance, Belonging, and Sharing...  
Rev. Abigail

## WOMEN'S RETREAT

This year's Women's Retreat took place March 7-8 at The Well Spirituality Center in La Grange, IL. Thirty-five GCC women of all ages gathered for a time of community and renewal. This year's retreat focused on the theme of "Renewed," which was explored by trying on a variety of Spiritual Disciplines and prayer practices throughout the day. These included walking a labyrinth, coloring prayer, singing, lectio divina, breathing meditation, yoga, praise dance, and more! Spiritual practices like these offer spiritual renewal, and there was something different for everyone! It was a joy to explore these practices together and to make new friends while doing so! The Spirit moved throughout the weekend in beautiful ways. Thanks be to God!

If you have never been on a Women's Retreat before, consider joining us next year!"



## YOUTH GROUP ECUMENICAL VISIT

On March 8 Pathways students participated in a meaningful ecumenical visit to Saints Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Church in Glenview. Students had the opportunity to experience another Christian tradition, learn about Orthodox worship, and see how followers of Christ practice their faith in another branch of the Church. Ecumenical visits like this help our students grow in understanding, respecting, and appreciating the wider Christian community. We are grateful for the warm welcome and hospitality we received. Thank you to Saints Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Church for hosting us!



## BOY SCOUTS PANCAKE BREAKFAST

In March, Boy Scout Troop 156 held their annual Pancake Breakfast. The GCC Men's Ministry attended. Thanks to everyone who helped out. The proceeds will fund various Boy Scout projects and trips.



## BOARDS AND BITES

Sunday, March 15, Boards & Bites had a joyful evening of laughter and connection, filled with board games, a delicious potluck meal, and great company. We took time to celebrate our wonderful Youth Director, Meredith Estes, making the night all the more special!



## SIMPLE GIFTS: PAUL FEY CONCERT

Friday, March 13, GCC hosted internet sensation, organist Paul Fey for a night of endearing music highlighting the versatility of the instrument! We were thankful to have Paul join us and thankful for his up close and personal interaction during intermission and following the concert! Thanks to Gary Wendt, Friends of Music Fund, and the Simple Gifts Concert Series for creating opportunities like this for us and our community!



# Join us... FOR EASTER

AT GLENVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>

9 a.m. Worship Service

10:15 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt  
(GCCNS Playgrounds)

11 a.m. Worship Service

## **APRIL SPEAKERS FORUM: WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT DEI?**

Learn about this hot topic at the Glenview Community Church Speakers Forum on Wednesday, April 8, 7:00 PM in the GCC Chapel.

Terry Adams, GCC Member and Vice President of People at Hireology, will provide an overview of DEI: what it is; how it shows up in the workplace and beyond; and, how it connects with our faith and the mission of the church.

Please bring your friends and neighbors to this program presented as part of the Faith in Action Team's promotion of inclusiveness.

## HEALTHY HINTS

### Produce and Pesticides

Eating healthy isn't just about fruits and vegetables anymore—it's also about what's on them. Many non-organic farms use pesticides to manage pests and fungi, improve appearance, and reduce costs.

It is estimated that nearly 1.1 billion pounds of pesticides are used each year in U.S. modern farming practices. Their existence in our environment has been linked to the following health problems:

- Liver Disease
- Neurological Disorders
- Skin, eye, lung irritation
- Hormone disruption
- Gut Dysbiosis
- Cancer

According to the **Environmental Working Group** (EWG), even after properly washing produce, pesticides still remain because many pesticides are systemic and can be absorbed by the roots.

The EWG publishes a “Dirty Dozen” list of produce that are the worst offenders. If an item is on this list, it is safest to buy it in “Organic” form.

#### The Dirty Dozen (plus two):

- |                                   |                        |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Spinach                        | 8. Pears               |
| 2. Strawberries                   | 9. Apples              |
| 3. Kale, collard & mustard greens | 10. Blackberries       |
| 4. Grapes                         | 11. Blueberries        |
| 5. Peaches                        | 12. Potatoes           |
| 6. Cherries                       | 13. Bell & Hot Peppers |
| 7. Nectarines                     | 14. Green Beans        |



**Is organic worth the extra cost?** Choosing organic can help reduce pesticide exposure and supports more environmentally friendly farming practices.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The **Environmental Working Group** is a non-profit organization that advocates on the American Public's behalf for stricter food and product regulation. Visit [EWG.org](http://EWG.org) for more tips, product samples and the “Clean Fifteen” produce list.

*This article was adapted from information from The Environmental Working Group at [EWG.org](http://EWG.org) and the “Produce and Pesticides” Handout from the Institute for Integrative Nutrition, [IIN.com](http://IIN.com).*

*For all questions or complimentary Health Coaching, please contact Laura O'Mera, Integrative Nutrition Health Coach at 847.814.1565, [laura@bramhall.health](mailto:laura@bramhall.health) or visit [www.bramhall.health](http://www.bramhall.health).*

## CHICAGO RIVER DAY MAY 9—KEEP THE NORTH BRANCH HEALTHY AND BEAUTIFUL!

The North Branch of the Chicago River is a vibrant ecosystem flowing through our community. Many fish, birds, and other wildlife are at home in its clear waters. Since 1979, Friends of the Chicago River has worked to improve and restore the entire 156-mile Chicago River system, including the branches that flow through the North Shore.

[Click/Scan here to register!](#)

Chicago River Day is an annual event sponsored by Friends of the Chicago River. Thousands of volunteers pick up litter, remove invasive plants, build paths, and perform other tasks at 92 sites throughout the watershed—including Techny Basin right here in Glenview! **This year, Chicago River Day is Saturday, May 9, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.** Please join fellow GCC volunteers at Techny Basin to help care for our river and the many species that depend on it. Families with children 8 and older are welcome, and you'll get a T-shirt portraying this year's featured animal, the Virile Crayfish!



Once you've signed up, please email Cathy Shapiro at [cshapiroeditor@gmail.com](mailto:cshapiroeditor@gmail.com) so we know who's participating.

# That 70's Service

Truth-telling to Hopefulness

**Sunday, April 12, 2026**

**10:00 AM Worship Service**

Our annual "Second Easter" service gains inspiration from the music of the 1970's, from Marvin Gaye to Simon & Garfunkel and more.

"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning." Psalm 30:5

## Upcoming Concert

1000 Elm Street  
Glenview, IL  
www.gccucc.org

Simple Gifts  
concert series

2026



**Tuesday, April 14, 7:00 PM**

**Bloom-Funkhouser Duo**

Hailed for "infectious brio," Peter H. Bloom, flute, and John Funkhouser, piano, celebrate Duke Ellington and his esteemed co-composers Billy Strayhorn, Juan Tizol and Mercer Ellington.

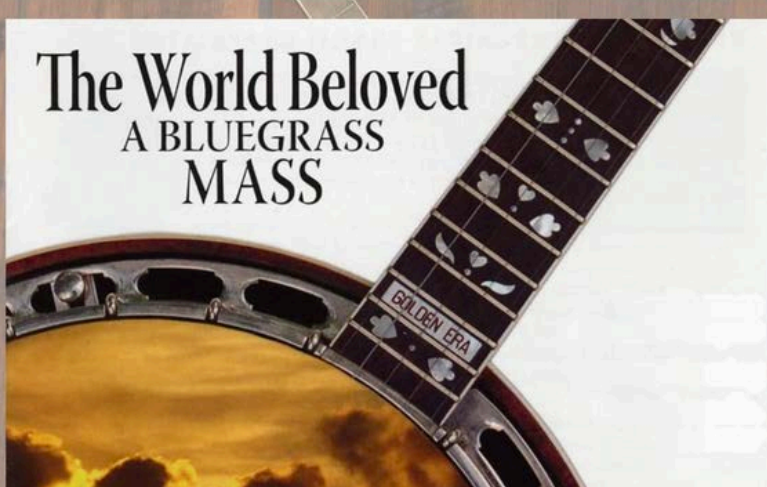
A free-will donation will be collected to benefit the GCC Friends of Music Fund

1000 Elm Street  
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www.gccucc.org

Simple Gifts  
concert series

2026

## The World Beloved A BLUEGRASS MASS

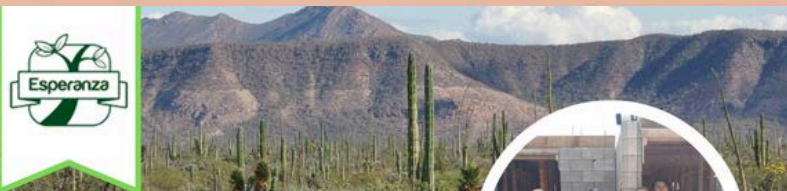


**Sunday, April 26, 10:00 AM**

**The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass**

The Chancel Choirs of GCC and First Presbyterian Church-Arlington Heights combine to offer this unique major work, which brings the solemnity of the classical Mass together with the down-home sparkle of bluegrass to create a work that is unique in scope and a beautiful union of seemingly disparate musical traditions.

This performance will be presented again at 4:00 PM at First Pres.-Arlington Heights



## 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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

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

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Facebook: facebook.com/  
GlenviewCommunityChurch/

**SENIOR MINISTER**

Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo, Jr.

**ASSOCIATE MINISTER**

Rev. Abigail Lutz

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



*Scenes From An  
Italian Restaurant*

AN EVENING OF ITALIAN WINES, FOOD, AND MUSIC

A FUNDRAISING BENEFIT FOR THE  
GCC FRIENDS OF MUSIC FUND

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026  
IN THE COMMONS OF GLENVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

MUSICAL INTERLUDES PROVIDED BY  
THE MUSICIANS OF GCC

[CLICK HERE OR](#)  
[SCAN THE QR](#)  
CODE FOR TICKETS

