

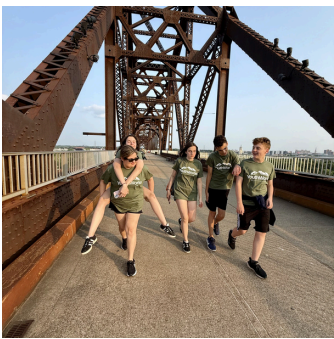


# Confirmation & Youth Sunday



*Celebrating the Lifelong  
Journey of Faith*

Glenview Community Church  
May 3, 2026



## **WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP TODAY**

Thank you for joining us for worship and fellowship today. We are blessed to have you with us and look forward to greeting you after worship.

## **CHILDREN ARE WELCOME AT GCC**

**Nursery (Room 107):** Birth–4 years. Pick up your little ones after the service.

**Godly Play (Room 108):** Kindergarten–5th grade, dismissed after the Children’s Message. Pick up in Room 108 after the service.

**Pathways (Room 201):** Grades 6–8, dismissed after the Children's Message. Will join parents at Fellowship Hour.

If you have any questions or need help finding a room, ask an usher or greeter—they’re happy to help!

## **INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT**

Glenview Community Church is an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ, accepting all without regard to race, color, age, marital status, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or physical ability. It is also a W.I.S.E. church of the United Church of Christ-- welcoming, inclusive, supportive, and engaged with respect to persons facing mental health challenges, their families, and their caregivers.

## **LARGE PRINT BULLETINS**

There are large print bulletins available. If you need one, ask an usher.

## **HEARING DEVICES**

Hearing devices are available for your use. They are located in the Narthex. If you need assistance in locating them, please see an usher who will be able to assist you.

## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Ministers	Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo, Rev. Abigail Lutz
Director of Music	Gary Wendt
Choir Director	Kate Lee
Musicians	Chime In Bell Choir (Sue Cunningham, Edie Harrison, Kathryn Heyser, Lynn Kopon, Doug McCarthy, Mac Papini)
Lector	Anna Greve
Liturgists	Elyse Beavin, Laura McClung
Ambassadors	Holly Little, Cathy Shapiro
Head Usher	Brian Tidwell
Ushers	Linda Pedian, Barbara Pollak, Kathy Tomita
Technical Engineer	Barry Nelson
Offering Steward	George Silca

## **MODERATOR**

Laura Heyser

*[moderator@gccucc.org](mailto:moderator@gccucc.org)*

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
CONFIRMATION & YOUTH SUNDAY**

May 3, 2026

**GATHER**

**PRELUDE**      *Arioso*      J.S. Bach, arr. Charles Maggs

**\*OPENING HYMN**      *For All The Children (see insert)*      David Lohman

**\*WORDS OF WELCOME**

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,

All: You are welcome here.

**OPENING PRAYER**      *"For Youth and Those Who Are Growing"*  
(Adapted from a prayer by Howard Thurman)

**BIBLE PRESENTATIONS**

*Siobhan Elizabeth Cooper, Coraline R. Eckelmann, George Gilman, August Lahn, Logan David Porte, Bennet Ditewig Smith, Braxton David Wotring*

All: Thank you, God for the Holy Bible and for the students receiving them this morning. May we be a community that nourishes their learning about the Bible and about their faith. May their journey of reading and wondering about Scripture lead them each closer to you. Amen.

**LISTEN**

**SCRIPTURE**      John 14:1-14

**ANTHEM**      *The Storm Is Passing Over*

Charles Albert Tindley,  
arr. Barbara W. Baker

Have courage my soul,  
And let us journey on.  
Though the night is dark,  
And I am far from home.  
Thanks be to God,  
the morning light appears.

The storm is passing over  
The storm is passing over  
The storm is passing over, Hallelu

Halleluia

**HOMILY**      *The Part of Faith We Don't Understand*

Rev. Abigail Lutz

**\*HYMN #769** *For Everyone Born*  
Vv. 1, 3, 5

FOR EVERYONE BORN

**RESPOND**  
**RITE OF CONFIRMATION**

**INVITATION**

**QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

One: Do you believe in God?

**All: I believe in God.**

One: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**All: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

One: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**All: I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

**PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION**

**All: Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**ACT OF CONFIRMATION**

*Lillian Dale Airola, Jameson Berry, Connor Donohue, Colin Hayes, Ryan Lynn Huebner, Aniela Lahn, Emma Lundgren, Emily Opensky, Delaney Pierce, Payne Wood, Gardner Gregory Wotring*

One: O God in the grace of Jesus Christ you have accepted this your servant,  
\_\_\_\_\_ through the water of baptism. Nourish in her/him the power of your Holy Spirit that she/he may serve you in the world.

**All: Amen.**

**PRAYER OF CONFIRMATION**

**\*WELCOME OF THE CONFIRMANDS**

**All: We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** *Written by GCC Youth Group*

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**      *Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing*

Gordon Young

Now let us all praise God and sing our great Redeemer's praise;  
That we may all with one accord our joyful voices raise.  
Sing Alleluia!

All ye servants of the Lord, praise Him forever,  
Sing Jehovah's mighty power, praise Him forever.  
Sing of His righteousness, praise Him forever.

So let us all praise God and sing our great Redeemer's praise;  
That we may all with one accord our joyful voices raise.  
Sing Alleluia!

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

### BREAKING OF THE BREAD & POURING OF THE CUP

#### SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

*All are welcome to receive Communion regardless of church membership. Please come forward to receive the bread and cup by intinction (dipping the bread into the cup) while standing. If you do not wish to receive Communion, you are welcome to come forward and cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing from the ministers. If you would prefer to receive communion in your seat, please stay seated, raise your hand, and we will come serve you.*

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**All: God, We thank you for nourishing our faith throughout our whole lives. Thank you for welcoming us as we are with our questions and doubts. Thank you God, for the open invitation to your table, where we can come time and time again to find you and to connect with each other. Would this Communion feast sustain us until we come to The Table again. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #321** *The Church's One Foundation*  
*Vv. 1, 4, 5*

AURELIA

### BLESSING OF OUR GRADUATING SENIORS & BENEDICTION

**All: May you go forward with courage, knowing you are never alone.  
May you trust that the God who called you here is already ahead of you, preparing the way.  
May you carry the love you have received in this place into every place you go.  
May your faith continue to grow, deepen, and expand — wherever life leads.  
And may we, your church family, always be a home you can return to.**

**POSTLUDE** *Variations on "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" - Allegro con fuoco* Gordon Young



**“For Youth and Those Who Are Growing”  
adapted from a prayer by Howard Thurman**

Lord,

We stand in a moment between what has been and what is becoming.  
We are young and growing, learning and questioning,  
Seeking to know who we are and how You are calling us.

We give You thanks for the gifts of youth:  
Curiosity, courage, and the honesty that dares to dream.

We ask Your blessing on all of us, whatever our age —  
That we may grow in wisdom, in kindness, and in faith.

Shape us, O God, not only for who we are now,  
But for who we are yet becoming.

Amen.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **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 Sundays coming up that we need help with. Sign up by clicking [this link](#)!

### **Scenes From An Italian Restaurant: An Event to Benefit the GCC Friends of Music Fund**

*Friday, May 8, 5:30 p.m. - The Commons*

Ticket sales are complete for Scenes from an Italian Restaurant! We look forward to having so many of you join us for this night of Italian dining celebrating the vibrant music ministry of Glenview Community Church!

### **Chicago River Clean Up**

*Saturday, May 9, 9 a.m - 12 p.m. - Techny Basin*

Join GCC volunteers for Chicago River Day as we help care for our local river through cleanup and restoration. Families with children 8+ are welcome, and participants receive a T-shirt! Register by scanning the code, then please email Cathy Shapiro at [cshapiroeditor@gmail.com](mailto:cshapiroeditor@gmail.com).

### **Puppet Show: Calm Seas Ahead**

*Sunday, May 10, during 10 a.m. worship - The Youth Room*

Church School students (and people of all ages!) are invited to attend GCC's Spring Puppets performance. Students will start in worship and head to the show after the blessing exchange.

### **GCC Children's Musical: Magic Schoolboat**

*Sunday, May 17, 10 a.m. - The Sanctuary*

Join us for a whale of a tale as Voices of GCC, our children's choir, takes off on a magical journey to learn about Noah and Jonah! This musical was written by Voices of GCC.

### **Glenview Community Church Annual Congregational Meeting**

*Sunday, May 17, 11:15 a.m. - The Sanctuary*

GCC's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following worship with agenda items to include Approval of Minutes from the Midwinter Congregational Meeting, Receipt of Reports, Nominations for and Elections to Leadership Positions, and the 2026 Capital Project Plan. This notice constitutes the official call to meeting. In accordance with the Church Constitution, no other business shall be transacted. Fifty members shall constitute a quorum, so please plan to attend!

### **Electronic Giving**

Want to give from home? No problem! [Click here](#) to be directed to the GCC giving web page where you can make a donation directly from your phone or computer. Thank you to everyone for their continued support!

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

1000 Elm Street  
Glenview, IL 60025  
Phone: (847) 724-2210  
website: [www.gccucc.org](http://www.gccucc.org)

**MINISTERS**

Rev. Dr. James M. Matarazzo, Jr., Senior Minister  
Rev. Abigail Lutz, Associate Minister

**PROGRAM STAFF**

Gary Wendt, Director of Music & Organist  
Kate Lee, Director of Vocal Music  
Chris Calandra, Children's Ministry Director  
Meredith Estes, Youth Ministry Director  
Laura Dillon, GCC Nursery School Director  
Karen Ornduff, New To You Manager

**OFFICE STAFF**

Dave Aki, Director of Operations  
Kathryn Heyser, Church Administrator (*interim*)  
Julie Evans, Business Manager  
Javier Avila, Custodian

**YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**

Glenview Community Church is a Christian community of acceptance and welcome for all God's people. We strive to make our buildings and grounds a place of sanctuary and safety for each person who comes here. Our church community is:

Inspired by Christ,  
Enriched by Faith,  
Committed to Inclusivity.

We serve God as advocates for Justice, Compassion, and Peace.