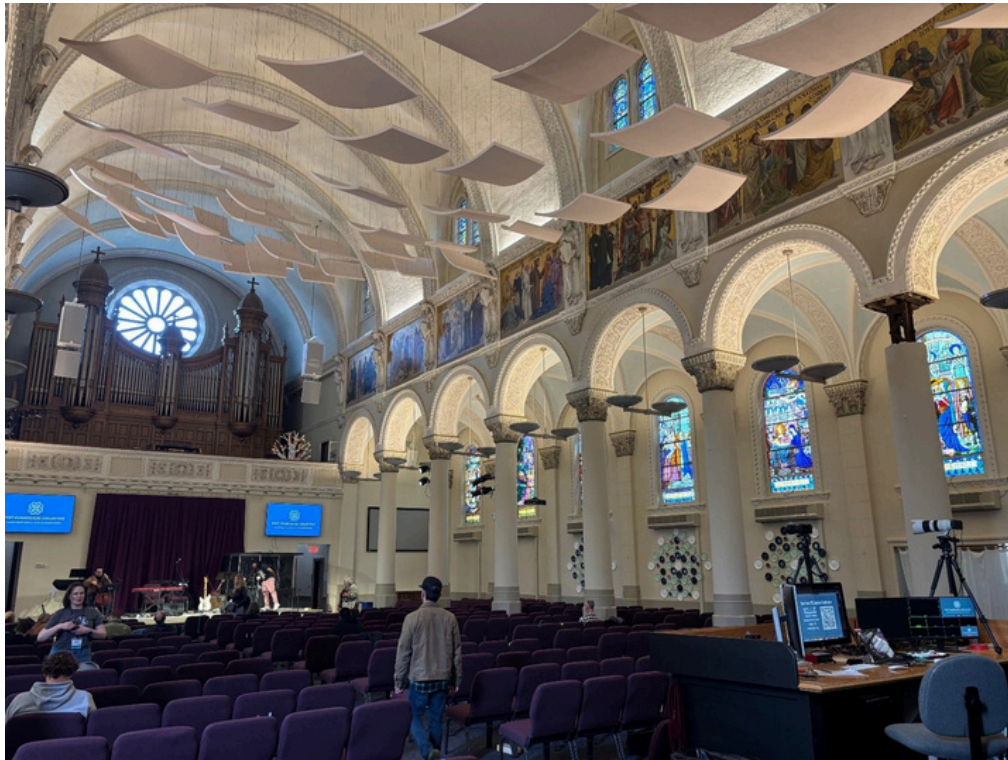


THE BROADCASTER

CONNECTING OUR GCC COMMUNITY SINCE 1941

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A CONFERENCE OF HOPE



The interior of the Reservoir Church, Cambridge, Mass. The church was formerly the Church of Notre-Dame de Pitié (Our Lady of Pity), a French-speaking Catholic Church.

As I type this article, I am attending the Post Evangelical Collective (“PEC”) annual conference being held at the Reservoir Church, Cambridge, Mass. The PEC is a national network of churches that have their origins in evangelicalism but have moved away from that tradition. PEC member churches are egalitarian, accepting women’s leadership as ordained pastors, and LGBT+ affirming, including pastors. Our tenant, A Restoration Church, which meets in the Community Room, is a founding member of the PEC. There are about 350 leaders here which include pastors, artists, musicians, and lay folks. Two other UCC pastors are here along with those representing several Mainline Protestant denominations. But most folks here come from conservative evangelical backgrounds.

Cambridge, Massachusetts, is one of the most liberal cities in the United States. It is called the “People’s Republic of Cambridge” for a reason. But most of the folks here come from deeply conservative parts of the country. The main theme of this conference has been “Christian hope for the future.” Several speakers have commented on the current political climate in the United States and in the world, which at times can feel hopeless. The event involves two days of worship with dynamic preachers and talented musicians, along with workshops on art, worship, mission, and programming. It is the most interesting conference of its kind that I have ever attended. The diversity is palpable: every ethnicity, every age, and about every Christian tradition is represented. Many folks here were asked to leave their former churches, including pastors, for their beliefs in women’s ordination, LGBT+ inclusion, or for other doctrinal differences.

The conference venue is truly unique. The Reservoir Church is housed in a building once known as Notre Dame de Pitié (Our Lady of Pity), a Catholic Church built in 1892 by French-speaking people from Quebec who immigrated to Massachusetts. It was closed by the Archdiocese of Boston in 2003. In 2005, the Vineyard Christian Fellowship of Cambridge purchased the church building. The Vineyard Association grew out of the Jesus Movement in 1960s Southern California. This movement is known for its youthful membership, its contemporary praise songs, and its vibrant worship. The church interior was transformed with the high altar and uniquely Catholic furnishings removed and the orientation was reversed: the former apse is now the entrance, and the narthex is where the new stage/chancel is located. However, all the original stained glass, mosaics, and artwork, including twenty carved angels, were preserved. The Casavant organ, built in Quebec, was preserved and is being restored. This creates a unique, colorful, ecumenical worship space that respects the Catholic history of the building while allowing for post-evangelical worship.

In 2015, the Vineyard Christian Fellowship of Cambridge decided to leave the Vineyard Association and become independent. This decision arose from a growing disconnect and pressure to limit LGBT involvement, a stance the congregation could not support. The church was renamed Reservoir Church because it is close to Cambridge's beautiful city reservoir. Like Reservoir Church, GCC voted to become Open and Affirming in 2010, making official its full acceptance and inclusion of LGBT+ folks. The reason A Restoration Church is our tenant at GCC is because we share the same values of inclusion, although we come from quite different denominational backgrounds.

I am thankful that Glenview Community Church is a place of hope and inclusion, so much so that another church has asked to call our space their home.

May we all be people of hope in these challenging, changing times.

See you in church,
Jim

Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo
Senior Minister

CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE: KEEPING OUR CHURCH HOME IN GOOD SHAPE FOR THE FUTURE!

It's Spring and we are looking forward to enjoying the sunshine, green grass, and beautiful flowers. This season is also time for property maintenance and improvement. In warmer weather, as homeowners know, selected small and sometimes larger repairs are necessary to keep the property in functioning shape. Our church also requires capital investment to maintain and renew capabilities across the property to support GCC's programs.

In the last decade we've funded and completed a successful major remodel of program and fellowship spaces. However, most infrastructure needs have been deferred for 15 years or more given the lack of recurring capital funding. So now, certain property elements are seriously aging and require attention. In recent months, our facility staff and our Capital Projects Committee volunteers have been reviewing property issues and investment requests from our Ministry teams. Upon evaluation, the most urgent projects include replacing failing boilers in our heating system, replacing the sanctuary microphones for regulatory compliance, and repairing some of the building's masonry and windows. In addition, some renewal of our landscaping, our signage and our music assets would provide good value to GCC at a modest cost.

Our boilers heat water for distributing steam to radiators across the church. They are over 30 years old. Suddenly this past winter two have had leaks, one of which had to be turned off. We need to fix this before cold weather arrives later this year. Given this priority, work for the masonry and windows would be delayed to a subsequent

year. The boiler work alone is an expensive issue. To move forward at this level of expense, we need to get congregational approval. A motion for approval will be made at the GCC Annual Meeting on May 17.

Capital spending can be offset potentially in part from bequests we receive or if superior returns occur on our invested reserves. The remaining gap requires support from members' generosity. Graciously, our members already support GCC's Operating Fund, which covers our annually recurring expenses. Yet this doesn't include funding for renewal of church property.

There are many ways we share in God's work. One way is offering our church as a place of worship and service for members and for the community. Capital projects enable us to continue to gather, celebrate and share fellowship at Glenview Community Church in years to come. Meanwhile, let's enjoy the arrival of Spring!

If you have questions about these projects, you can reach Tom MacFadden, chair of the Capital Projects Committee (tmacfadden@gmail.com), or Doug Berg, GCC's Treasurer (douglasrogerberg@yahoo.com).

GCC MEMORIAL GARDENS: REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES

The Memorial Gardens offer a place of remembrance for the cremains of loved ones. The original garden is located in the courtyard north of the Commons—a serene, light-filled sacred space in the center of our church home. Cremains of more than 300 souls rest there, memorialized on plaques, with names also listed in the memorial book by the window overlooking the garden.

Around 2019, our church families realized the original garden had reached capacity and few interment spaces were still available. A committee of GCC members visualized the creation of another Memorial Garden space where cremains of many more loved ones would be placed. That space, now on GCC's east lawn, is a low masonry wall surrounding a patio and a wall of remembrance. In June of 2024, Reverend Jim held a blessing ceremony for the beautifully planted, new Memorial Garden. Families of two beloved individuals, whose cremains had been waiting for a place in the new garden, were the first to inter following the blessing ceremony.

The new Memorial Garden has space for 400 cremains, and is designed for expansion if needed. Memorial plaques for the Wall of Remembrance in the garden are available to remember loved ones interred elsewhere. We invite all GCC members and friends to consider the Memorial Garden in planning for themselves and loved ones. GCC will maintain a space where you and your loved ones can be honored for generations.

The Memorial Garden Care Committee is a devoted group of GCC members who maintain both garden areas. The committee welcomes new volunteers to maintain both gardens. For information on volunteering, contact Peter Grant, pjg816@gmail.com or (312) 641-8948.

For more information on the cost of reserving a spot for cremains, or for the purchase of a plaque on the Wall of Remembrance, contact the GCC office: office@gccucc.org. Refer to the GCC website, gccucc.org, for complete Memorial Garden information. Visit both gardens in person, especially on a sunny day, and rest in the sense of remembrance surrounded by God's beauty.



MISSION & OUTREACH MINISTRY: NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

We all know that GCC members are active and engaged individuals, motivated to make positive changes in the world. Throughout the church year, the **Mission & Outreach Ministry** has been channeling that energy in a variety of ways. Here's a look at Mission & Outreach activities in 2025–2026, all made possible by the generosity of GCC volunteers:

Ministry Activities

The Mission & Outreach Ministry as a whole supports local and global partners, organizes hands-on volunteer projects, and funds programs that share hope, encouragement, and much-needed financial support. This year's activities included:

- Coordinating a **Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service** in January, in cooperation with the Congregational Life Ministry
- Organizing GCC volunteers to make meals for **Feed My Starving Children** in November
- Fundraising to donate \$5 Dunkin' Donuts gift cards to **The Night Ministry**, providing unhoused people with a warm drink and a brief respite from the elements
- Serving lunch twice a month at **A Just Harvest**
- "Food on the First" collection for the **Northfield Food Pantry** and **San Lucas UCC**
- Assisting homeowners in need of help with **Rebuilding Together**
- Collecting clothing for **The Night Ministry** through our Mission Tree at Christmas
- Sponsoring **Amos Speakers Forums** to educate the congregation and community, including a program in April on DEI: what it is, why it matters, and how it connects with our faith
- Coordinating GCC volunteers to support the local environment by participating **Chicago River Day** in May
- Sponsoring and coordinating various Pride events in June, in collaboration with the **Glenview Methodist Church**

Faith in Action Team (FIAT)

The Faith in Action Team focuses on advocacy and education. This year FIAT activities included:

- Collaborating with the Ministries to support the **Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service**
- Sponsoring an Amos Speakers Forum presentation on newcomers to the United States and **Building Peaceful Bridges**, an agency that supports newcomer families
- Sponsoring a **National Coming Out Day** celebration in October

Mission Allocations Team

Did you know that 8% of your annual pledge is dedicated to GCC's mission of uplifting communities and sharing resources with those in need? In January, the Mission Allocations Team began its work of determining how our contribution from gathered pledges will be distributed among our partner agencies in 2026. Team members have:

- Identified groups to receive the special holiday offerings
- Contacted our mission partners to learn about their current activities and financial needs and to ensure that the agencies' work is in harmony with GCC's values
- Invited representatives from selected agencies to address the congregation during services and stay for coffee hour to speak with members individually
- Met to determine how to best allocate GCC's annual charitable donation budget among mission partners

The final allocations will be recommended to the Executive Committee for approval by the end of the church year.

What's Next?

As we approach the summer and begin to plan for next year, the Ministry wants to hear from you. What types of mission and outreach activities do you value the most? Do you have a project you would like the Mission & Outreach Ministry to consider for next year? Please contact Betsy Martin at betsywisemartin@att.net with your thoughts and ideas. And, of course, keep reading GCC's communications for opportunities to volunteer!

The Mission & Outreach Ministry welcomes everyone to participate, whether through hands-on volunteering, joining advocacy efforts, or helping direct benevolence funds. Together, we live our faith by serving others and working toward justice and compassion for all.

EASTER FESTIVITIES

Glenview Community Church was excited to welcome friends and family for our Easter and Holy Week celebrations! Services this year included Palm Sunday (with youth leading the parade of palms), Good Friday Tenebrae (shadow) Service, and two packed Easter Sunday services! One of the highlights this year was the Maundy Thursday service: “A Night of Wilderness and Wonder,” which embodied the spirit of presence and fellowship through a shared meal and hand washing ritual. And what would Easter be without an egg hunt for the kids?? With the Chancel Choir, Joyful Ringers Bell Choir, Brass Ensemble, and meaningful sermon, there was something for everyone on Easter Day.



SECOND EASTER: THAT '70S SERVICE

April 12 was our annual “Second Easter” service, a day of celebration and fun. This year’s theme was “That ‘70s Service,” inspired by the music of the 1970s, and featured music from Marvin Gaye, Simon & Garfunkel, and more. There was singing, dancing, clapping, and sharing of joy and hope!

In addition to the joy of music, we also shared in the joy of welcoming new members: Steve Gregg, Lynn and Andy Kopon, Tina Plunkett, Edward West, and the Hoffer Family - Anne, Joe, Blake, and Stella! Each story, each new member, and each “yes” to belonging and involvement adds something sacred to our community. If you see a new face, whether it belongs to one of our new members or simply someone you haven’t met before, take a moment to say hello - you never know how meaningful that simple welcome can be.



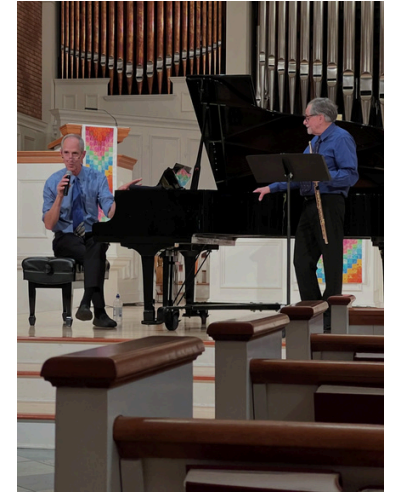
APRIL SPEAKERS FORUM: DEI

Many thanks to GCC member Terry Adams for an informative presentation on DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) at the April 8 Speakers Forum! Her presentation covered how the DEI movement started, its purpose, how it was initially embraced in business and other environments, how that has changed, and how it aligns with our faith and practices at GCC. Approximately 30 attendees participated in small group discussions on how DEI concepts can affect our church community and individual lives.



SIMPLE GIFTS: SALUTE TO DUKE CONCERT

On Tuesday, April 14, GCC hosted the piano-flute duo John Funkhouser and Peter H. Bloom to celebrate Duke Ellington and his esteemed co-composers Billy Strayhorn, Juan Tizol, and Mercer Ellington. This was a groovy concert with impressive improv and a strong jazz feel! Thanks to Gary Wendt, Friends of Music Fund, and the Simple Gifts Concert Series for creating opportunities like this for us and our community!



CONFIRMATION RETREAT

GCC's Confirmation Students prepared for Confirmation Sunday by gathering for a 3 hour "retreat" at GCC on April 26. The retreat included conversations about what it means to be confirmed, a church wide scavenger hunt, some fun games, and a Kahoot to test their knowledge from their Pathways classes! The retreat concluded with a celebratory dinner for the confirmands and their families. Students took turns sharing "what confirmation means to them," including: "To confirm my faith and baptism," "take the next step in my religious life, and getting closer to Christ," and "sealing my place at church!" We are thankful for our thoughtful students and their commitment to being confirmed at GCC, and look forward to celebrating with them during Confirmation and youth Sunday on May 3!



THE WORLD BELOVED: BLUEGRASS MASS

On Sunday, April 26, we were treated to "The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass" performed by the combined Chancel Choirs of GCC and First Presbyterian Church - Arlington Heights, as well as a small ensemble of supporting musicians. Performed at GCC in the morning and First Pres in the afternoon, this major work was a spectacular display of the power of music in sharing our joy and inspiring our faith.



COMMUNITY SERVICE AT GCC

PATHWAYS PACKING FOOD FOR THE HOMELESS

On April 19, Pathways students made the most of their final class time by completing a service project! They prepared sandwiches and packed lunch bags for **Connections for the Homeless**. Thank you to our GCC youth for their eagerness to help their neighbors!



REBUILDING TOGETHER: NATIONAL REBUILD DAY

On Saturday, April 25, GCC teamed up with a group from Glenview New Church to work with **Rebuilding Together** for National Rebuild Day! Our volunteers did a lot of great work to help a Glenview resident clean up the exterior of their house. Work included a full lawn overhaul - cutting back lots of overgrowth in both the front and back yards - as well as repairing and repainting the shutters, garage door, and other elements of the house facade.



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 3rd, 10 am: Confirmation Sunday

Celebrate our youth's milestones with us during worship! 4th graders will receive their Bibles, Confirmands will be baptized (if they were not already), 8th graders will be confirmed, and high school seniors will receive a graduation blessing. *Sanctuary*

May 8th, 5 pm: Scenes from an Italian Restaurant

In support of our music ministry, the Commons will be transformed into an Italian restaurant for a special evening of Italian food, music, and celebration! Ticket sales have closed, but we look forward to seeing so many of you there!
The Commons

May 9th, 9 am: Chicago River Clean Up

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! Join fellow GCC volunteers 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! Once you've signed up, please email Cathy Shapiro at cshapiroeditor@gmail.com so we know who's participating. *Techny Basin*

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



May 10th, 10 am: Puppet Show - "Calm Seas Ahead"

Church School students (and people of all ages!) are invited to attend GCC's Spring Puppets performance featuring biblical stories of storms and seas. Students will start in worship and head to the show after the blessing exchange (in lieu of Church School). *Youth Room*

May 17th, 10 am: Children's Musical - "Magic Schoolboat"

This year's children's musical is "The Magic Schoolboat," which was written by The Voices of GCC! Join us for a whale of a tale as our children's choir takes off on a magical journey to learn about Noah and Jonah. We hope you'll enjoy! *Sanctuary*

May 20th, 7 pm: Speakers Forum - Intro to the Illinois Judicial System

Join us for an informative and engaging evening with GCC member and Circuit Court Judge Cecilia Horan, who will offer an inside look at how the Illinois judicial system is structured and how judges are selected. This forum is a great opportunity to deepen your understanding of the courts, ask questions, and explore the role of the judiciary in our civic life. Open to all—whether you're simply curious or actively engaged in issues of civic education. *GCC Chapel*

May 31st, 11:30 am: Sing a Better Future into Existence

Join us for an afternoon of public community singing — learning and singing songs together as a practice of courage, solidarity, and hope. We will learn and sing music rooted in resistance movements past and present. Singing in community steadies our breath, strengthens our bonds, and helps us remember that we belong to one another. It also prepares us for public, nonviolent witness. This event is open to people of every religious tradition and those with no religious commitments at all who share that vision. No musical background is needed. If you can breathe, you can sing! *Sanctuary*

June 7th, 10:15 am: Buffalo Grove Pride Parade

GCC will kick off Pride Month this year by participating in the Buffalo Grove Pride Parade! Everyone - families, youth, and allies of all ages - is welcome to attend. Please let Rev. Abigail know you plan on coming by May 31st. *Buffalo Grove Rd and La Salle Ln, Buffalo Grove*

June 14th, 11:30 am: Pride Picnic with Glenview United Methodist Church

Join us for our Pride Sunday worship service at 10 am followed by a Pride Picnic at Glenview United Methodist Church (11:30am-1:30pm). A group from GCC will be walking to GUMC after our 10 am service with flags for the picnic! RSVP for the light lunch provided to Rev. Abigail by June 7th. *Glenview United Methodist Church*



FIND YOUR

COMMUNITY

CHURCH

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Web: gccucc.org
Facebook: facebook.com/
GlenviewCommunityChurch/

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Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo, Jr.

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Rev. Abigail Lutz

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