

# THE BROADCASTER

CONNECTING OUR GCC COMMUNITY SINCE 1941

AUGUST, 2024  
VOLUME 83 NUMBER 8

## WE ARE ALL UNDER GOD

I rarely write what might be called a political article in my capacity as a pastor. One reason is that a church pulpit is for the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his kingdom – not the “gospel” of the kingdoms of this world. Another reason is that the spiritual citizenship of the Christian is in heaven (Phil. 3:20), not in any human nation. God does not recognize the passports of human nations – the only Christian “passport” is the Name of Jesus. But, that said, while I will never engage in partisan politics as a preacher or pastor and I will never campaign for a candidate in a pulpit or in print at the church I serve, there are times that issues come up in the life of nations on which clergy do speak or write.

Many Christian clergy endorsed the American Revolution in their sermons, and later promoted the abolition of slavery – especially in the American Congregational Churches, the tradition which gave rise to Glenview Community Church. In the twentieth century, many clergy promoted national causes such women’s suffrage; women’s equality; and equal rights for African Americans and other ethnic groups. We celebrate, as a nation, a Black Baptist minister every year on the Monday nearest January 15 – the birthday of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. His pulpit at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, was non-partisan but absolutely political in content.

Last month, we celebrated the 248th anniversary of the American Revolution that declared our independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain. Many people think of the Fourth of July as rejecting our colonial allegiance to King George III (reigned 1760-1820). Indeed, he was the symbol of the government we rejected. But George III was a constitutional monarch by that time. He had very limited powers and he could not veto Acts of Parliament (at least according to Britain’s unwritten constitution). The last time the royal veto was used in Great Britain was by Queen Anne in 1708, but only on the advice of her government officials. Since then, no British monarch has vetoed a law passed by parliament. In fact, the British monarch has only three limited rights as defined by the British political theorist Walter Bagehot (1826-1877): the right to be consulted, the right to encourage, and the right to warn. He or she may only do this in private with the Prime Minister who never reveals the discussions to anyone else. A British monarch reigns but does not rule. In other words, even George III had only a ceremonial role during the American Revolution. However, since everything is done in the name of the British monarch, the American colonists addressed their declaration and grievances to him. But their actual message was to the British government and parliament.

This all said, one thing remains true about the British monarch even today: the English Common Law maxim *rex non peccavit* (Latin: “the king can do no wrong”) is still legally in effect. This means that today’s Charles III, King of the United Kingdom, cannot be charged,

tried, or punished for any criminal act whatsoever. He is absolutely immune from criminal prosecution whether his action is deemed official or personal. For this reason, British monarchs make sure they never break any law. The late Queen Elizabeth II may be one of the few people on earth who never broke a single law in her long life – not so much as a parking ticket (not that she drove herself). The same can be said for King Charles. Although he is in theory “above the law”, he cannot break the law. If he did, it would result in a constitutional crisis that could end the British monarchy itself.

There was a fundamental legal change on July 1, 2024, in the United States. The Supreme Court majority decided that an American President, as Chief of State and Head of the Executive Branch, is absolutely immune from criminal prosecution for his or her core official acts. He or she is “presumptively immune” for all other official acts. A President’s corrupt activity cannot be examined in a court of law if it is deemed to be official rather than personal, even if such unlawful activity led to an illegal unofficial act. This means, at least in part, the American President is above the law, and he enjoys the same legal privilege as the kings of old – *rex non peccavit* (“the king can do no wrong”) – at least as far as anything that can be deemed “official”. The decision in *Trump v. United States* is so at odds with American constitutional history and theory, that prominent jurists, both conservative and liberal, are labeling the decision as the *Dred Scott* of our times. “*Dred Scott*” refers to *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, a case brought before the Supreme Court in 1857. The case was brought by Dred Scott (1799-1858), an enslaved African American, who had been brought to Illinois for a short period. In Illinois, slavery was not legal. Scott argued that this trip made him a free man. The Supreme Court at the time held that Blacks are inferior, can never be American citizens, have no rights, and have no standing to sue in any court. Scott was deemed to still be “property”. Scott was later freed and died of tuberculosis in St. Louis one year later. He died a free man, but he did not live to see slavery end in the United States. *Dred Scott* is deemed to be the worst Supreme Court decision of all time. It was reversed by the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution (1865) that abolished slavery.

Other jurists deem *Trump v. United States* as one of the four worst Supreme Court decisions in history. The others are the already mentioned *Dred Scott v. Sandford* (1857), *Plessy vs. Ferguson* (1896), and *Korematsu v. United States* (1944). *Plessy* declared that “separate but equal” accommodations for African Americans were legal and thus, enshrined “Jim Crow” laws throughout the American South. *Korematsu* ruled that the World War II internment of American citizens of Japanese heritage was legal. *Plessy* was overturned by *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954). *Korematsu* has

never been formally reversed but has been declared both wrong and unconstitutional in later Supreme Court opinions.

The Framers of our Constitution were well aware of English Common Law and the legal immunity it afforded to the monarch. This is why they never entertained that anyone, even the President, could be deemed to be above the law, whether acting officially or personally. Unless this recent decision is changed by the Court itself, a constitutional amendment, or by Congress using the rarely invoked Exceptions Clause in Article III to regulate the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, we now have, at least in part, an elected king for a four-year term. I never in my wildest imagination thought this could be a possibility in our country – a place where “no man is above the law” not even the President. But here we are – ironically as we recently celebrated our independence from monarchy in favor of a democracy in a constitutional republic.

I want to quote the The American Creed written by William Tyler Page in 1917. It was endorsed by the House of Representatives in 1918. It used to be recited in public schools many decades ago, but it is now largely unknown. This is the text:

*I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.*

In 1848, my great-great-great maternal grandfather, John Heenan, age 21, immigrated to the United States from Ireland. He settled in Boston and later Chelsea, Massachusetts. On his petition to become a US citizen, he made this declaration: “I renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to every Foreign Prince, State, Potentate, and Sovereignty whatsoever –more especially to Victoria, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.” He later fought for the Union in the Civil War from 1862-1865 in the calvary. He was a member of the Theodore Winthrop Chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic, the veteran’s association for Union soldiers. When he died in 1911, age 84, he was one of the last living members of his chapter. I have no doubt that he came to the United States, at least in part, to live in a “democracy in a republic” without a monarchy.

Many of us know the phrase “under God” from the Pledge of Allegiance. The first much shorter pledge was written by a Union veteran of the Civil War, George Balch, in 1885. But the pledge we know today is a revision of Balch’s pledge penned in 1892 by the Rev. Francis Bellamy, a Baptist minister and Christian socialist. His sermons against the evils of capitalism caused him to be ousted from his Boston pulpit. The pledge was further revised at the height of the Cold War when Congress altered it in 1954, at the behest of President Dwight Eisenhower. Rather than saying the original words “one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all” we now say “one nation, under God, indivisible, etc.” In this context, the revised pledge proclaims that the United States is under the protection and supremacy of God – rejecting the state atheism of the Soviet Union. God is supreme; God is our sovereign king, not any human leader. Other commentators argue that “under God” alludes to our rights and freedoms that come from God alone and thus no human institution can take them away.

From the perspective of the Christian Church, regardless of court edicts, no person or nation is above God’s law and sovereignty. Supreme Court rulings are human fallible rulings, and they change nothing as far as God is concerned. Thus, even the most powerful person in the nation, and maybe the world, the American President, is always “under God” and answerable to God for all his or her actions, official or personal, on the Day of Judgment. To God, all human beings are equally responsible for their sins against their neighbors, whether they are kings and presidents, or in the humblest of occupations. No human legal opinion can change that.

Let us remember that we are all radically equal before the law, both human and divine, and that our first obligation is always to God and God’s kingdom in Christ. We can love our country here on earth and its highest ideals – and I certainly do. But no matter what, we must always remember that Jesus Christ is, for us, the one Word of God, whom we are to hear, whom we are to trust and obey, in life and in death. He is our Sovereign, our Judge, and our final hope.

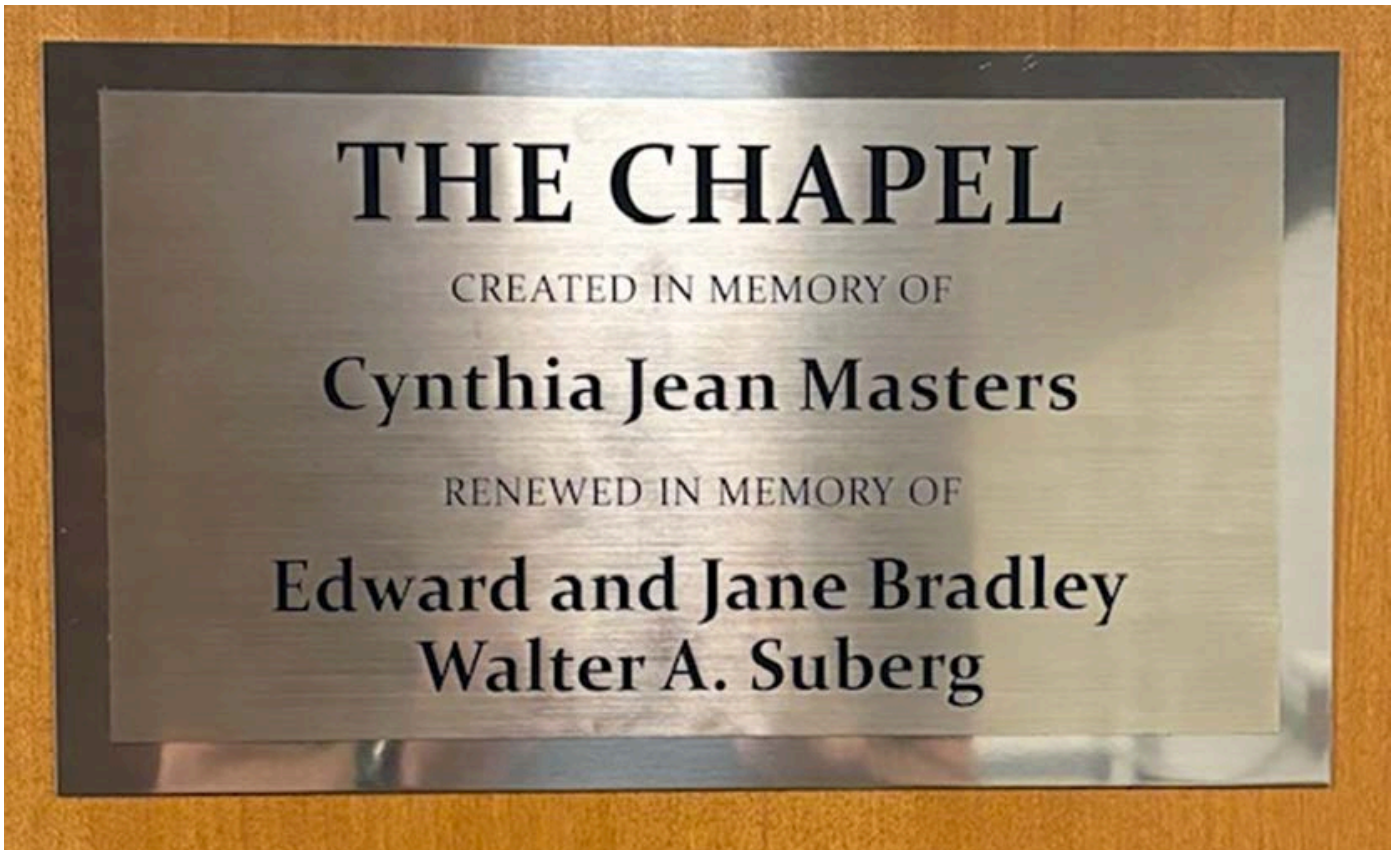
May God bless our nation and keep it true to its highest ideals.

See you in church,  
Jim

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## THE CHAPEL DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF CYNTHIA JEAN MASTERS (1955-1968)



Some of us probably do not know that Glenview Community Church's chapel was created to remember a teenage girl named Cynthia Jean Masters (1955-1968). She died, age 13, on Sunday, July 7, 1968, at about 9:15 AM, when a navy jet fighter crashed into her home at 1325 Swainwood Drive, Glenview – which is half a mile north of GCC. What today is “The Glen” was at one time known as the “Naval Air Station Glenview”, established in 1923 and decommissioned in 1995. The reason GCC has no steeple is that it was too close to the flightpath of the naval air base when the current church was built in the 1940s.

The ill-fated aircraft, a Douglas A-4 Skyhawk, was piloted by Lt. William T. Reinders who was age 32 at the time. The jet fighter lost power after takeoff from NAS Glenview and crashed into Cynthia's house. The pilot managed to eject prior to the crash and survived. He reported that he tried to avoid any houses as best as he could but was unsuccessful. Cynthia was the only person to die in the crash. Her father, Benjamin Masters (1922-1972), and her brother, William (b. 1956), were playing golf and were not at home. Her mother, Jean [née Blix] Masters (1923-2012), was in the backyard gardening and miraculously survived unhurt. However, Cynthia was inside the house. She originally planned to go boating in Wisconsin with GCC members Walter and Nancy Suberg and their daughter. The Subergs arrived at 9:00 AM, but Cynthia opted not to join them as she felt unwell. The Subergs departed, not knowing what had happened until they returned later that evening.

Cynthia was an active member of GCC and sang in the junior high school choir. Her funeral, conducted by Rev. Kenneth Nye, included over 400 mourners, including 60 schoolmates, and five naval officers, among them an admiral and the commander of NAS Glenview. Lt. Reinders could not attend as he was hospitalized with serious injuries. After Cynthia's death and the destruction of their home, the Masters Family moved to Lake Forest, but remained active members of GCC. Cynthia's father, Benjamin, died only four years later, age 49. Her mother, Nancy, lived until the age of 88 and continued attending GCC. Both parents' funerals were held at GCC. All three are buried in Skokie's Memorial Park Cemetery.

Over a decade ago, the chapel was refurbished. The renewal was done in memory of GCC members Jane Bradley (1927-2009) and Edward Bradley (1925-2012) with added funding from Walter and Nancy Suberg. Walter Arthur Suberg (1920-2020) lived to be 100 years old and was married to Nancy Suberg for 67 years. His name was added to the memorial plate on the door to the chapel. His widow, Nancy, remains an active member of GCC.

July 2024 marked the 56th year since Cynthia Masters died. If she were alive today, she would be 69 years old. We remember her and those that renewed the chapel with the words of Jesus: "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though they may die, yet shall they live. And whoever lives and believes shall never die." (John 11:25-26)



## HYMN FESTIVAL!

Join us in worship on August 25th for a special service of hymn singing! We will deepen our understanding of some familiar hymns by learning about the context in which they were written! Come sing with us!



## MOLLY CARLSON VISITS GCC

Rev. Molly Carlson visited GCC and was our guest preacher on July 28th! Rev. Carlson has served as the Conference Minister of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ since August 2020. Her term as Illinois Conference Minister ended on July 31, 2024. We were blessed to be able to worship with her on her last Sunday as Illinois Conference Minister!

Molly's sermon, "Stronger Together" brought a message of hope for us as a church and as a denomination! If you missed the chance to hear it live, be sure to check out the recording of worship from July 28th!

After worship Rev. Carlson shared with us more about the work of the conference and denomination; how we can be involved; and the significance of our financial support and participation in the Illinois Conference.



## LOOKING AHEAD TO A NEW YEAR OF PROGRAMMING!

### CHURCH SCHOOL: GODLY PLAY

Starting on Rally Day, Sept. 8, each Sunday during worship, children ages 4-12 are welcome to leave service when dismissed to go downstairs for their own worship experience in the Godly Play Room! This fall, students can look forward to exploring Old Testament stories during Godly Play!

### PUPPETS!

Puppets is a fun and meaningful tradition at GCC! The first Puppets rehearsal for the fall will be during 10am worship on September 15! All are welcome to join the puppeteers as they prepare a show to share in December! Middle and high school students are encouraged to join in on the fun! (There will be six rehearsals this fall, all on Sunday morning.)

### CHILDREN'S CHOIR: VOICES OF GCC

Children's Choir will be back in the Fall, preparing songs to help lead us in worship! If you have a young one who likes to sing, this is the place for them! Rehearsal is on Sunday from 11:15am-12:15pm. The first rehearsal will be on September 15.



### MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

We look forward to picking back up with regular youth group meetings in the fall for all middle and high school students! We also look forward to taking part in service opportunities together, deepening our faith, and giving to our Fall Youth Retreat at Tower Hill scheduled for October 25-27. Don't miss the opportunity to be a part of this fun and meaningful community of young people!



If you have an interest in any of GCC's programs and want to find out more, reach out to the church office! We would be happy to help you get connected and involved! Call us at (847)-724-2210 or send Riley an email at [office@gccucc.org](mailto:office@gccucc.org).



### CONFIRMATION CLASS

7th and 8th grade students are encouraged to participate in our Confirmation program! Confirmation meets from 9am-9:55am on select Sunday mornings. Our first meeting will be Rally Day, Sept. 8! Confirmation class is a chance for students to learn about the foundations of our Christian Faith while wondering about their own faith and beliefs.



### ADULT EDUCATION: TOM AMOS SPEAKERS FORUM

There is something for every age and stage at GCC! The monthly Speakers Forum events are the place for adults at GCC to come together, learn, and explore new ideas! Be sure to check out the line up for the year ahead!



## MEMORIAL GARDEN DEDICATION

The new and recently completed Memorial Garden was dedicated on Sunday, June 2. This serene sacred space can serve as the final resting place for members of our GCC community for generations to come. Additionally, this new garden includes a Remembrance Wall where loved ones who were buried elsewhere can be memorialized with a Remembrance Plaque. If you are interested in more information about reserving a plot or ordering a Remembrance Plaque to honor a loved one, please visit [www.gccucc.org/gcc-memorial-gardens](http://www.gccucc.org/gcc-memorial-gardens) or contact the church office.



## HEALTHY HINTS

Did you ever wonder where that “gut feeling” comes from? Or where hiccups originate? It's due to an amazing one-of-a-kind nerve in our bodies!

It's called the Vagus Nerve and it is the only nerve in our bodies that communicates between our brains and our internal organs. It begins at the base of the skull and runs down the neck and into the abdomen, where it helps regulate the automatic processes of the body, from digestion to sleep to inflammation.

There are specific foods we can eat to stimulate the Vagus Nerve for better mental and physical health including:

- Tryptophan-Rich Foods: spinach, seeds, nuts, bananas, and poultry.
- Probiotics: kimchi, yogurt, miso, kefir, tempeh, and kombucha.
- Omega-3 Fatty Acids: Fish - salmon, oysters, herring, and sardines; Seeds/Nuts - flaxseeds, chia Seeds and Walnuts.

Other practices that strengthen the Vagus Nerve for health and healing are:

- Practice Meditation and Yoga and practice Deep Breathing
- Take a Cold Plunge or a Cold Shower
- Engage in daily exercise and stay hydrated
- Make sleep a priority and keep a journal
- Enjoy good laughter and practice gratitude.

For all questions or complimentary Health Coaching, please contact Laura O'Mera, Integrative Nutrition Health Coach at 847.814.1565 or [lauraomera@gmail.com](mailto:lauraomera@gmail.com). Source include:Scientific American.com “What is Vagus Nerve Stimulation For”; Wise Mind Nutrition, “Linking Vagus Nerve to Gut Health”; Diet vs. Disease “Vagus Nerve Disorders.”

## BUTTERFLIES AND HUMMINGBIRDS, OH MY!

Flutter on in to learn how your garden can support these important pollinators while you make an affordable donation to Glenview Community Church!

Tim Pollak, Chicago Botanic Garden Manager of Plant Production, will come to Glenview Community Church to discuss butterfly and hummingbird gardening. Tim manages the Garden greenhouses and is presenting this program unpaid as a fund-raiser for the Church of his childhood.

**When:** Wednesday, September 25, 7:00 PM

**Where:** GCC Commons

**Refreshments:** Provided by Women's Association Chapter 20

**Tickets:** \$10 per person

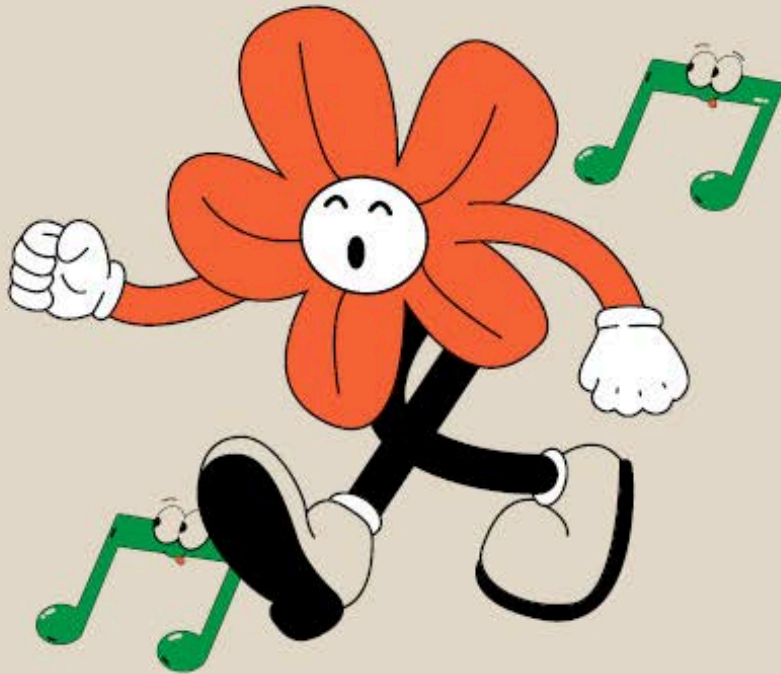
**Available for purchase:**

- In Commons after worship Sundays in September
- By phone to Barbara Pollak 847.833.2032
- By email to Nancy Mullarkey [ngbmull@gmail.com](mailto:ngbmull@gmail.com)
- At the door



# MUSIC LIBRARY GIVE-AWAY

FIND YOUR  
GLENVIEW  
COMMUNITY  
CHURCH



SATURDAY  
**AUG. 17**  
10:00A-11:00A

SUNDAY  
**AUG. 18**  
11:15A-12:00P

1000 ELM STREET, GLENVIEW, IL | BELL ROOM, LOWER LEVEL

The GCC choral music library is getting cleaned out this summer to make room for new music. Hundreds of choral pieces are free to a good home.

They will be recycled on August 19. Stop in, have a donut and peruse if you are interested in checking these out!



# BLOOD DONORS NEEDED



**GLENVIEW**  
COMMUNITY  
**CHURCH**

**Blood Drive!**

**September 14th, 2024**

**9am-2pm**

**Glenview Community Church  
Community Room**

**vitalant**<sup>®</sup>

Scan Here to Register





# RALLY DAY

**SUNDAY  
SEPTEMBER 8**

**GCC SOUTH LAWN  
FOLLOWING 10 AM SERVICE**

**Come celebrate  
with us!**

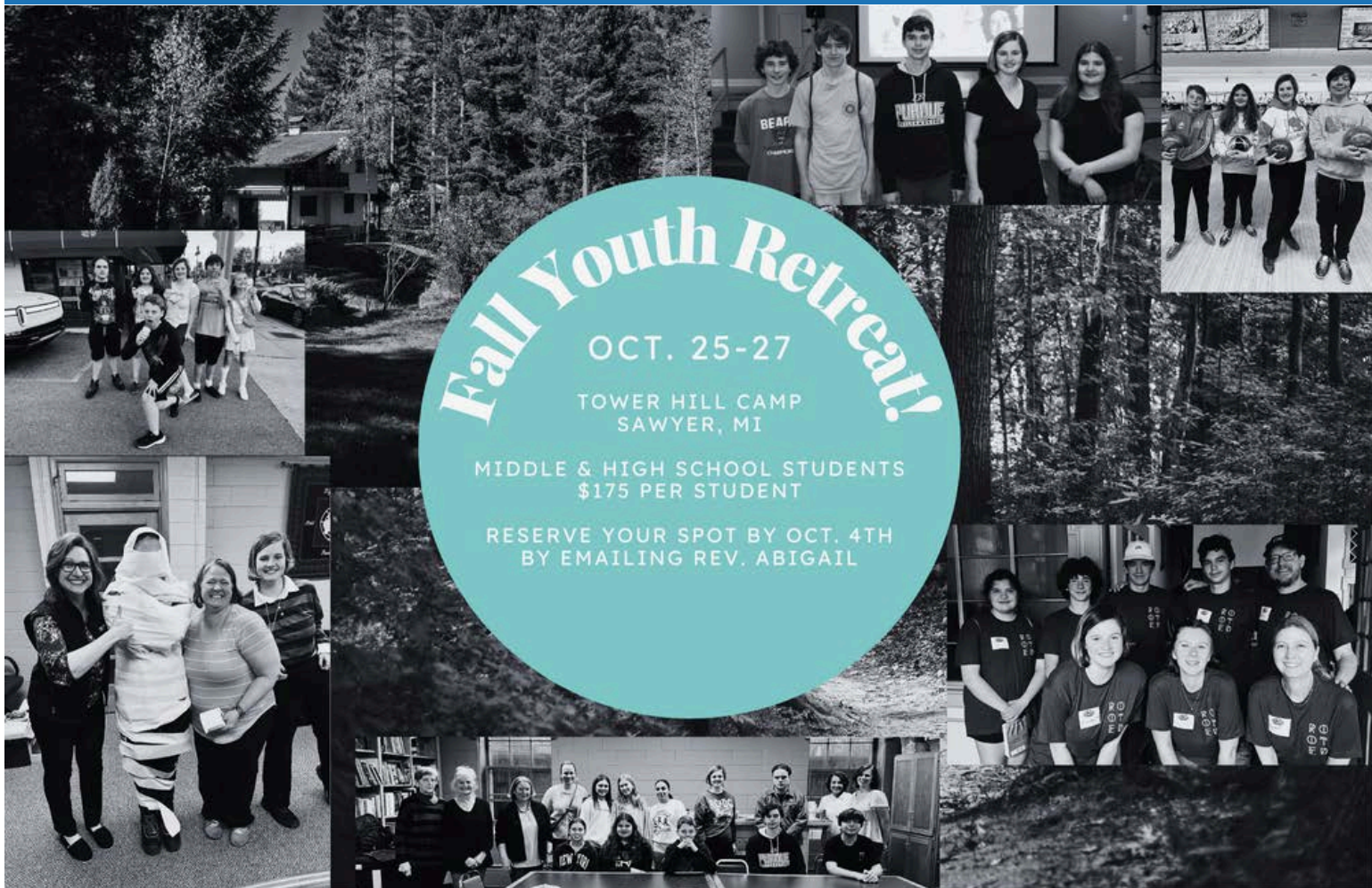
**Games, Crafts, and  
Face Painting!**

**\$10/adult, \$5/child,  
\$25/family**

**Burgers, Hot Dogs, Chips,  
Dessert and Water**

Scan QR Code for payment or donation





# Diving into Scripture!

*Fall Bible Study with Rev. Abigail*

Mondays at 7pm

September 16th- October 28th

All are welcome!

*Learn about how and why we interpret Scripture  
Dive deeper into our Sunday texts in a small group setting  
Connect with your GCC community!*

## WE NEED YOU TO BE A PART OF OUR ABUNDANT COMMUNITY!

There are so many ways to get involved at GCC in the year ahead, below are just a few of them! Consider where your gifts might meet the needs of the church and let us get you connected.

1. Volunteer as an Usher or Ambassador
2. Join the Chancel or Bell Choir
3. Join a Chapter of the Women's Association
4. Volunteer at A Just Harvest with a team of GCC folks
5. Sign up to bring baked goods for coffee hours on Sunday
6. Serve Communion
7. Become a Lector to read Scripture during worship on Sunday
8. Volunteer to drive someone who needs a ride to worship on Sunday
9. Support youth at GCC by volunteering for Godly Play, Youth Group, or Confirmation Class
10. Deliver Altar Flowers after church on Sunday

To get connected with any of these opportunities or to chat about getting plugged into life at GCC, email or call the church office!



## ABUNDANCE OF SPIRIT: GCC SPIRITUAL LIFE TEAMS

It started with curiosity, as many great things do. In 1996, Reverend Bobbie McKay and her husband, Lew Musil, set out to learn more about what the words “spiritual healing” mean to people in the United Church of Christ. The quest for understanding led Bobbie and Lew to visit with more than a thousand people throughout the United States. These people shared stories about their spiritual lives.

According to Bobbie, “Almost immediately, the words ‘spiritual healing’ were transposed into ‘spiritual life.’ People shared experiences of the Presence and/or Action of God in their lives which were described as transforming.” Importantly, Bobbie noticed that these experiences commonly happened during people’s everyday lives. She wrote, “Mostly these were moments when people experienced the unexpected presence of God in their life that became a life-changing event.” At GCC, Bobbie has often spoken of these sometimes intimate, always powerful, moments of revelation—which she calls “God moments.”

Bobbie and Lew went on to speak with people of many faiths about their spiritual lives and experiences with the divine. Their research led them to publish four books on aspects spiritual life and healing. Crucially for GCC, this work also led to the formation of the Spiritual Life Board and the Spiritual Life Teams.

Since 2015, nineteen Spiritual Life Teams have formed at GCC. The Spiritual Life Board began in 2019. The teams gather to discover and share their own experiences of the Presence and Action of God in their lives. Members enjoy the freedom to talk about their personal God moments without fear of being judged as strange, crazy, or too religious. Spiritual Life Teams also aim to support the spiritual growth of the GCC community.

In 2023, Bobbie published a Spiritual Life Team Workbook that clearly defines the work of the teams:

### Our Mission

- To become more consciously connected to God
- To act as a Spiritual Link between the Pastor and the congregation
- To serve as an Advocate for the spiritual growth of the larger community

### Our Vision

- To minister to all of God’s People as Agents of God’s Renewing and Healing presence in the world today

### Who We Are

- Individuals who want to help grow and build the spiritual life of the congregation and encourage spiritual dialogue among different groups in the community.

The benefits of Spiritual Life Teams are not just for GCC alone. In 2021, Bobbie facilitated the first online team with a group from Abundant Aging in Ohio. Currently, Greg Bliss is hosting another online team. To support Spiritual Life Teams gathering in any community or faith tradition, Bobbie created a Spiritual Life Team Workbook that went digital in 2020. The Spiritual Life Board has also created a Facilitator’s Guide as well as videos of Bobbie working with groups.

As we prepare for Bobbie’s retirement, we are grateful for her myriad gifts to the congregation. Among them, the Spiritual Life Board and Spiritual Life Teams are a blessing to last for lifetimes. If you are interested in joining a Spiritual Life Team, please contact Greg Bliss at [gbliss.blisstraining@gmail.com](mailto:gbliss.blisstraining@gmail.com).

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

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**SENIOR MINISTER**

Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo, Jr.

**BROADCASTER DEADLINES**

July 2024 Broadcaster - June 21  
August 2024 Broadcaster - July 26  
September 2024 Broadcaster - August 23  
October 2024 Broadcaster - September 20  
November 2024 Broadcaster - October 25  
December 2024 Broadcaster - November 22



*Frederick Sandys (1829–1904), Whitlingham,  
Norfolk (1860)*