

# THE BROADCASTER

CONNECTING OUR GCC COMMUNITY SINCE 1941

“ARAMI OVED AVI”

DEUTERONOMY 25:5-8

*I gave the following address at an evening gathering at Congregation Beth Shalom, Northbrook, on Wednesday, September 18. I was invited as an interfaith guest to an event “Unity in Community” which was a short service of prayer, song, and hope. The purpose of the event was to show solidarity with the Jewish Community. It was prompted by a controversial film to be shown at the Northbrook Public Library by a group known as “Jews for Palestine.” The current situation in Gaza and the Holy Land has caused major divisions within the Jewish Diaspora nationally and worldwide. I am sharing my words with you in this edition of The Broadcaster.*

Hear these words from Parashat *Ki Tavo*, from *Devarim* or Deuteronomy Chapter 25, the Torah reading assigned to this week’s Shabbat: “You shall make this response before the Lord your God: ‘*Arami oved avi* - A wandering Aramean was my father; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.”

When I was asked by Rabbi David Chapman to speak to you this evening as an interfaith guest, I was struggling with what words I could offer. We are all well aware of the events in the Holy Land – in Israel, in Gaza, in the West Bank. And now we hear of exploding devices belonging to members of Hezbollah in Lebanon. And I knew that this is a service of hope in solidarity with the local Jewish community at a very difficult time after the horrors of October 7 and the terrible retribution that followed. I knew that a controversial film was to be shown at the Northbrook Public Library, although it was now cancelled.

What should I, a Christian clergyman, say? And I recalled the three words that just so happen to be assigned to this week’s Torah portion: *Arami oved Avi* – “A wandering Aramean was my father.” The Torah portion *Ki Tavo* begins with the words “When you have entered the land that God is giving you” – meaning the Land of Canaan – and then goes on to explain the obligation to offer the first fruits of the land (*bikkurim*) in the temple. But what came to my mind was the idea of wandering – even though the word “oved” has many translations, but I am sticking with the traditional one. Judaism begins with a wanderer, Abram (later renamed Abraham) who sets out into the wilderness. And to be a wanderer is to be insecure. Yet, that is at the very core of the religion of Israel – there are wanderings and deliverances, the most famous being the deliverance from the Egyptians. Even Judaism’s creation story involves wandering: the mythical expulsion of Adam and Eve from *Gan Eden* (the Garden of Eden) is read by most Christians as the Fall

of Humanity, the origin of sin – and this “original sin” is inherited by all human beings. But not so in Judaism. Rather, humanity, created *b’tselem Elohim*, in the image of God, is exiled from the garden and must wander the earth. There is no original sin. Human beings are born with pure souls, but we also have two impulses: one for good (*yazter hatov*) and one for evil (*yazter harah*). And we must cultivate the *yazter hatov* and tame the *yazter harah* as we wander this earth. But it is in this wandering that human beings evolve, such as through the doing of *mitzvot* (obeying God’s commands) or good works (*tzedakah*) and this spiritual evolution will result in humanity’s return in *Gan Eden* – whether through a Messiah or a messianic age or an entrance into *Olam Habah* (the world to come). And this hope is embedded in the wandering and in the insecurity. This hope is embedded in being an ethnic and religious minority, even though this status has resulted in much suffering. Yet, this mixed blessing of being Hashem’s Chosen People has resulted in profound contributions to human civilization. Just 0.2% of the world population is Jewish, but the contributions of the Jews are staggering in proportion to this number. I won’t list all the famous Jews – ok I’ll mention one, Albert Einstein. I also only learned today that Elizabeth Taylor converted to Judaism sometime in 1958. When I did my PhD in theology at Oxford, I got not one but two advisors. My academic advisor was a liberal German Catholic theologian, Werner Jeanrond. But my college advisor, the one who looks out for my welfare and offers what Oxford calls pastoral support, was Brian Klug, a philosophy professor, an expert on Ludwig Wittgenstein, and an expert on antisemitism. He was born and raised in London in an Orthodox Jewish home, and he lived for more than two decades in Chicago, doing his PhD at the University of Chicago and teaching at DePaul University and St. Xavier University where he was head of the department. He later returned to the UK and was a fellow of my college at Oxford. I met Brian last week in Sweden. We were attending the installation of my friend and Oxford housemate as a theology professor at Lund University. Brian, now semi-retired in London, told me a story of being asked to speak at a Black church in Chicago’s South Side. At the time, it was considered a dangerous neighborhood, but Brian did not know that – so he took the bus. When he got off the bus, he discovered he was a stranger in a strange land. An African American man walked up to Brian, the only white man in sight, and said: “why do white people hate Black people?” Brian replied: “I don’t know. I’m Jewish – why does everyone hate us?” In that instant, there was recognition between these men. The Black man smiled. They were different, yet the same – both part of a diaspora, both subject to wandering, slavery, and persecution, even genocide. Yet, there was abundant hope. If you have ever been to a Black Church service, you realize it is a house of hope, joy, and praise. Brian stood with that man on the South Side street. I stand with you this evening, as one who is made, like you, in God’s image, as one who has wandered the earth not as a Jew, but as a stranger in my own way – as a gay man,

married to a man, ordained in the Christian church (which has not been kind to queer folks for millennia), and as someone who worked in overseas development in very poor countries. I have worked in, lived in or visited some 99 countries and territories. My hope has been embedded in my wanderings and insecurity, but it has also led me to many joys. Maybe that is why I have been close to the Jewish community, with many Jewish friends, my entire life.

I want to close with the blessing and prayer for lighting the first light of Chanukah: "Blessed are You, Hashem our God, Ruler of the universe, who hast kept us in life, and has preserved us, and enabled us to reach this season. We kindle these lights on account of the miracles, the deliverances and the wonders which You did for our ancestors, by means of Your holy priests. During all the eight days, these lights are sacred, neither is it permitted us to make any profane use of them; but we are only to look at them, in order that we may give thanks to Your Name for Your miracles, Your deliverances and Your wonders." And let us say Amen.

You, the Jewish people, are a people of miracles, of deliverances, and of wonders. Thank you for letting me speak to you this evening.

*See you in church,  
Jim*

Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo  
Senior Minister

## RALLY DAY

An abundance of joy was evident at Rally Day 2024! It was a beautiful day to kick off our program year! From inspiring worship to joyful fellowship, we are so excited for the journey ahead. Thank you to everyone who joined us and made this day so special!



## GCCNS FUN RUN

Another GCCNS Fun Run in the books! This past month the preschool hosted the 16th annual Run Back to School Kids Fun Run and fun was certainly had by all who attended. The Glenview Fire Department joined, as well as Bloom Bright Books, a charming mobile children's bookshop. A big thank you to The Fun Run committee who planned and executed a great event and to the wonderful sponsors, The Little Gym, Hi-Five Sports, Eilts Buccola & Associates, Foss Swim School and City Kid Theatre Company.



## BUTTERFLIES AND HUMMINGBIRDS, OH MY!

On September 25th, Chapter 20 of the Women's Association hosted an evening event with Tim Pollak, Manager of Plant Production at Chicago Botanic Gardens who shared about butterfly and hummingbird gardening! It was a night full of great information about colorful flowers to attract these beautiful creatures. The event was also a fundraiser for GCC! Thank you to Chapter 20 and to Tim Pollak for their generosity in facilitating this event and for all who came out to learn!



## BLOOD DRIVE

This September, GCC partnered with GCCNS to host a life-saving Blood Drive through Vitalant. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who came out to donate! We are truly blessed to be part of a community that embraces outreach in so many meaningful ways. GCC's impact continues to extend far beyond our church walls!



## FRONT PORCH CONCERT

In September we kicked off the Simple Gifts Concert Series with a Front Porch Concert featuring the Kevin Kizer Jazz Quartet. It was the perfect September night to enjoy beautiful music on GCC's front lawn. Pick up a Simple Gifts Concert Series Pamphlet at church so you don't miss an opportunity to attend a free concert at GCC this year!



## PEACE ART PROJECT

In late September we had the opportunity to collaborate with Glenview Public Library as they collected input for their community art project. The project focuses around the themes of peace and unity. The artists have been surveying people of all ages and backgrounds throughout Glenview to contribute to the piece! If you want to participate or learn more, visit the library. Also, be sure to visit the library later in the fall to check out the results of this community art project!



## SPEAKERS FORUM SEPTEMBER

This month we kicked off our 2024-2025 Speakers Forum Series! We drilled deeply into multilingual education in District 34, featuring a team of nine from Westbrook School.

We were so lucky to learn from this amazing crew! All who attended were in for a treat. Don't wait to check out the line up for the rest of the year! There are so many good opportunities to learn as a community coming up. See you there!



## YOUTH PROGRAMS ARE BACK!

September marked an exciting return to full swing for our youth programs! From Youth Group and Church School to Puppets, Confirmation Class, and Children's Choir, the energy and joy were palpable. Each program offers meaningful experiences for children and youth at GCC. We look forward to a year filled with growth, connection and celebration of the abundance within our youth programs at GCC!



## HEALTHY HINTS

Welcome to Cold and Flu Season. Do you ever wish you could “wish away” a cold or stop it from happening in the first place? I think we’ve all heard the main things we’re supposed to do to prevent a cold:

- Get 7-8 hours of sleep
- Eat nutritious meals – mainly colorful fruits and vegetables
- Adopt stress relief practices like meditation and yoga
- Get enough exercise
- Maintain a positive mindset



Did you know that you can also prevent colds and other illnesses/conditions by rejuvenating your immune system? It is called “Immuno Rejuvenation” and it essentially cleans up bad inflammatory cells and makes way for healthy, more resilient cells.

There are many ways to do this, one of which is tricking your body into GOOD STRESS, here is how:

- Fast for at least 16 hours
- Exercise at a high level or do HIIT
- Spend time in a sauna
- Take a 2-minute cold shower or plunge

These “Good stressors” trick your body into “fight or flight” and the body responds by activating its healing, rejuvenation and repair systems.

To read more, visit [drmarkhyman.com/blogs](http://drmarkhyman.com/blogs), “How to Reset Your Immune System at a Cellular Level.”

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

## GETTING INVOLVED

### FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Glenview Community Church will be packing food again at Feed My Starving Children on Saturday, November 23 from 9:00 to 10:45 am. Please join us as we help feed children around the world. Feel free to invite friends and family members to join our church community for the fun packing event. Anyone 7 years and older can volunteer. To join the GCC at this event go to [fmssc.org](http://www.fmssc.org) and click on Volunteer. The Join Code is: 6BZPWM. Or you can click on this link: <http://www.fmssc.org/join-group?joincode=6BZPWM>. You will need to have or create a login account. If you do not wish to create a login, please send an email to Audry Farber at [audry\\_claire\\_f@hotmail.com](mailto:audry_claire_f@hotmail.com) and she will be happy to sign you up. You can also call her with questions at 847-997-2537. Spots are limited, so please sign up early.



A Just Harvest is accepting volunteers once again to serve lunch from 11-2:30. Its mission is to fight poverty and hunger in the Rogers Park and greater Chicago community by providing nutritious meals daily while cultivating community and economic development and organizing across racial, cultural and socioeconomic lines in order to create a more just society.

This fall A Just Harvest needs teams of 2-4 people to serve lunch at their site in Rogers Park. GCC volunteers will work on the following dates: Sundays October 6, November 3, and December 1. Or Wednesdays September 18, October 16, November 20, and December 18. A team could be made up of GCC members, a member with friends or relatives, a family team, a Women's Association chapter team, or youth 12 years and older accompanied by an adult supervisor/driver.

If you are interested in making up a team or being part of a team this fall, please contact Betsy Martin at [betsywisemartin@att.net](mailto:betsywisemartin@att.net). The Outreach Team will sign you up for a date that fits your schedule and will send you all the information you need to volunteer. If you would like to car pool with another GCC member, the Outreach Team will arrange that.

### ALTAR FLOWERS

GCC community! We need volunteers for everything Altar Flower related! If you would like to dedicate the Altar Flowers, deliver them, or just know someone who would appreciate the flowers after worship, you are in luck! You can follow the QR code here and sign-up now or click on the link [here](#). If you have questions call Riley in the office.

The background of the central text area is a collage of various photographs showing church members engaged in community service, social gatherings, and group photos. The photos are arranged in a grid-like pattern, with some overlapping, creating a sense of active community involvement.

**Glenview Community Church**  
**2025 Generosity Campaign**

In the spirit of celebrating abundance, we are now extending an invitation to

*Share Abundantly!*

**Turn in your 2025 pledge by November 10th**

*And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.*

*~2 Corinthians 9:8~*

## LOOKING AHEAD!

### NEW CALENDAR

The GCC website is being updated daily! We have made changes to some of the pages, hopefully to make it easier to navigate. One of the main updates we have made is to the events calendar. Follow the QR code here or go to our website [gccucc.org](http://gccucc.org) to take a look at everything coming up in the next year. If you want to plan an event or save a space let the office know; you can give the church a call or send an email to [office@gccucc.org](mailto:office@gccucc.org).



### AT A GLANCE

#### October 6

Bobbie McKay retirement luncheon after worship at 11:00 a.m.

#### October 6

CROP walk celebration, during and after worship.

#### October 7

Diving into Scripture with Rev. Abigail in the Commons at 7:00 p.m.

#### October 16

Speaker's forum at 6:30 pm: "Sisters of Mercy, Sisters in Handcuffs," with Sisters Pat Murphy and JoAnn Persch of Catherine's Caring Cause, immigration advocates supporting asylum seekers in Chicago

#### October 18

25th Organ Anniversary and Concert and Recital at 7:00 p.m.

#### October 19

AGO Organ Master Class in the commons at 10:00 a.m.

#### October 20

Organ Rededication during worship service at 10:00 a.m.

#### October 21

Diving into Scripture with Rev. Abigail in the Commons at 7:00 p.m.

#### October 25 - 27

Youth Fall retreat at Tower Hill Camp Sawyer, Michigan. Contact Rev. Abigail if you are interested in signing up! The deadline is coming fast.

#### October 26

Master Singers concert in the sanctuary at 7:30 p.m.

#### October 27

Master Singers concert in the sanctuary at 3:00 p.m.

#### October 28

Diving into Scripture with Rev. Abigail in the Commons at 7:00 p.m.

#### November 11

Speaker's forum "Emergency Preparedness in an Age of Perpetual Uncertainty," with Jill Ramaker, executive director of the Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy

#### November 16

Family Fall Festival 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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

1000 Elm Street  
Glenview, IL 60025-2897  
Phone: (847) 724-2210  
Web: gccucc.org  
Facebook: facebook.com/  
GlenviewCommunityChurch/

**SENIOR MINISTER**

Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo, Jr.

**BROADCASTER DEADLINES**

October 2024 Broadcaster - September 20  
November 2024 Broadcaster - October 25  
December 2024 Broadcaster - November 22  
January 2025 Broadcaster - December 16  
February 2025 Broadcaster - January 24  
March 2025 Broadcaster - February 21  
April 2025 Broadcaster - March 21  
May 2025 Broadcaster - April 21  
June 2025 Broadcaster - May 23



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*Autumn Leaves (1931) by Yokoyama Taikan*