



CONNECTING OUR GCC COMMUNITY SINCE 1941

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LETTING GO OF A SCARCITY MINDSET TO EMBRACE A HEART OF GENEROSITY

It is so easy to feel like there is not enough: not enough time, not enough energy, not enough resources. In our own personal lives, we might see this in small ways. We might be hesitant to share our food at a restaurant because, “what if there isn’t enough?” At work and at home it is easy to start to worry feeling like no matter what we do, we just don’t have enough time to get it all done. In our personal finances when there is an invitation to give or to spend our money on someone other than ourselves, it can feel scary. It is very tempting to believe we don’t have enough to be generous. It is tempting to be cautious with what we share, because what if there isn’t enough left for us?

At church, this sort of scarcity mindset shows up in a different way. We might fret about not having enough volunteers to complete a job or not having enough people show up to make an event feel “worthwhile.” In all that we do, there is the potential for this underlying fear... “what if we don’t have enough?” As we begin to open our building to outside groups, we might think, “well we can’t give it all away, because there has to be enough left over for us.”

Certainly, in our budget conversations as we try to balance our budget, there is a real urgency to hold our fists tighter, to keep more for ourselves, and even to cut down on our giving. We are tempted to think, “there is not enough.” We don’t have enough members. We don’t have enough kids. We don’t have enough volunteers. We don’t have enough money...

Perhaps you know this feeling. Maybe you have felt it in your own life, or you have felt it for our church.

All of that aside, there is great importance to good stewardship of time, energy, and resources. I believe as individuals and as a church, we are called to steward what we have responsibly. Nevertheless, I don’t believe we are called to lead with a scarcity mindset.

Since arriving at GCC, I have often used the word “abundance” to describe what I see and encourage others to see all that our church does have rather than focusing on what we don’t. I have and continue to encourage us to open our eyes and see abundance all around us. I still see abundance at GCC and love it when others share with me a shifting mindset as they are able to see it too. Recently I came across a piece of art. It was a drawing of loaves and fish with the caption, “The solution to scarcity is not abundance, it is generosity.”

The loaves and fish echo the story from the gospels where Jesus feeds the five thousand. In the account of this story from the Gospel of Mark, Jesus ends up having an impromptu teaching session to a large crowd. As it gets later in the day Jesus’ disciples realize that all these people are going to get hungry and there isn’t easy access to food nearby. They suggest that Jesus should send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding villages and buy themselves something to eat. But Jesus answers, “You give them something to eat.” The disciples thought this an impossible request! Surely, they could not afford to feed all these people.

Jesus then sends them out into the crowd to see exactly how much food they had. I imagine that they walked through the large crowds of people calling out to see if anyone had food to share. It seems that most of those gathered forgot to pack their lunch that day because the disciples are only able to come up with five loaves of bread and two fish. A few people in the crowd had brought food and they were willing to share. I can imagine that the disciples looked annoyed when they presented their findings to Jesus as if to say, “We told you so. There isn’t enough.” But Jesus doesn’t see scarcity. Jesus sees the generosity of the crowd and gives thanks to God for it. Jesus sees this feast as more than enough to feed the crowd. And it is in fact more than enough. It is written that they all ate and were satisfied and there were basketfuls of leftovers. In Jesus’ economy, the sharing and generosity of the crowd meant that there was more than enough!

I wonder if this story is not about an abundant feast that appears miraculously. Perhaps it is about the abundance that exists when we, in faith, share what we have with one another. It is the few people who happened to pack their lunch that day and were willing to say, “well we don’t have much, but we are willing to share.” I wonder if the miracle is the generosity itself.

I can’t help but think of a good potluck. When we each bring something small to share and all of a sudden there is so much more than enough.

Generosity is a spiritual practice. Each time that we practice being generous we are strengthening our spiritual muscles. We are training ourselves to believe that we do indeed have enough. We are also reminding ourselves that what we have is not ours, it is a gift from God, and it is meant to be shared. Generosity teaches us to trust. To trust that we have enough. When we share our food, we realize we had plenty. When we choose to rest, we realize we had enough time to get it all done after all. When we give, we learn that we did in fact have enough; we had enough to share!

Generosity is the answer to scarcity. This Fall as we get ready for our annual generosity campaign, let us flex our generosity muscles. Not only as we prayerfully discern our own 2025 pledges, but also as we as a church consider how we share our building, run our ministries, and plan our budget. May we learn to open our hearts and our fists, to share what we have and in doing so would our eyes be opened to see the abundance all around us.

In gratitude for the abundance of this community,

Rev. Abigail Lutz

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN SING

Congregational songs connect us! Each week we sing hymns to enrich our worship. However, rarely do we take a moment to wonder where, when and why those hymns were written. On August 25, in our Congregational Hymn Sing we learned the history of some familiar hymns and lifted our voices in praise and prayer together!

Thank you to Rev. Dr. Janet Aldrich for inspiring this service for our congregation, and to the Summer Choir, Gary Wendt, and Edie Harrison for leading us in song!

May our music continue to bind us together in heart and spirit.



NEW DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY!

We were lucky last year to have Julie Evans in the position of Director of Youth Ministry at GCC. After Julie transitioned to Business Administrator in June, we were on the lookout for someone new to step into the role of Director of Youth Ministry. We are excited to announce that Meredith Estes has agreed to step into the role for the year ahead! This position oversees middle and high school youth group; planning regular opportunities for fellowship, faith development and service as well as special events such as retreats, mission trips, and more! Meredith brings with her energy, enthusiasm, ideas, and organizational skills that promise to make the year ahead a good one for youth group at GCC!

A FRESH NEW LOOK TO YOUTH SPACES

Summer months provide a little extra time to focus on things such as creating and re-creating hospitable and welcoming spaces. This past month we took the time to move things around in our youth room and to give it a fresh and welcoming feel. We took time to consider who uses the space and reorganized it in a way that makes most sense for all its users. The finishing touch was putting up some canvas artwork painted by GCC youth last spring! If you haven't done so recently, take time to walk downstairs and check out our new youth room as well as our Godly Playroom which we have been using and continuing to improve since last January. We are excited to welcome youth back into these spaces this fall!



GODLY PLAY TRAINING

On August 18 we had a Godly Play training session for new doorkeepers and storytellers. We are excited about a new semester of Godly Play and thankful for all the volunteers who make it happen. This session also served as an opportunity to debrief what went well last year and what we can change. For both new and experienced Godly Play volunteers it was a chance to get excited about the year ahead and the potential for youth in our church to learn about faith, Scripture, and spirituality.



STAFF STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT

In early August, GCC staff participated in a day-long retreat to brainstorm long term goals for our congregation. Under the leadership of Rev. Carol Hill, we were invited to dream a "God sized dream" for our congregation... and we did!

To begin our time together we looked back at the past two years and made a list of big and small things that we as a congregation have to celebrate and the list was long!

Our long day of looking back and looking ahead led us to the draft of a strategic plan that will be brought to Leadership Council for editing and approval. Having a strategic plan to guide our work as staff and lay leaders, means we can all work together to accomplish goals and work towards our "God sized dream."

Staff left excited and optimistic about the future of the ministry of our church, and you should be too!

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.





AT GLENVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

~September~

- 8- **Rally Day**~ 10am
- 14- **Blood Drive**~ 9am-2pm
- 18- **Tom Amos Speakers Forum: "Back to School with 60+ Languages"**~ 7pm
- 20- **Simple Gifts Concert Series: Front Porch Concert**~ 5:30pm
- 22- **Peace Sunday**~ 10am
- 22- **Inquiring Members Brunch**~ 11:15am
- 25- **"Butterflies and Hummingbirds, Oh My!": Pollinator Gardening with Tim Pollak**~ 7pm

~October~

2025 Pledge Drive Begins!

- 6- **Retirement Celebration for Rev. Dr. Bobbie Mckay**~ 10am
- 6- **Northbrook CROP Hunger Walk**~ 1pm
- 16- **Tom Amos Speakers Forum: "Sisters of Mercy, Sisters in Handcuffs"**~ 6:30pm
- 18- **Simple Gifts Concert Series: 25th Anniversary Organ Recital**~ 7pm
- 20- **Organ Rededication**~ 10am
- 25-27- **Fall Youth Retreat**
- 26 & 27- ***Chicago Master Singers**~ 7:30pm & 3pm (respectively)

~November~

- 9- ***Voices of Hope Community Chorus**~7:30pm
- 10- **Deadline to get in your 2025 Pledge!**
- 11- **Tom Amos Speakers Forum: "Emergency Preparedness in an Age of Perpetual Uncertainty"**~ 7pm
- 16- **Family Fall Festival**~ 10am-12pm
- 23- **Feed My Starving Children**~ 9am-10:45am
- 24- **Thanksgiving Sunday**~ 10am

Fall Bible Study: Diving into Scripture with Rev. Abigail~ Mondays at 7pm Sept. 15th-Oct. 28th

For more information about upcoming events at GCC visit gccucc.org/upcoming-events/

*Non GCC Events at GCC

FIND YOUR **GLENVIEW**
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HEALTHY HINTS

September is for streaking! I'm not talking about running around without clothes in public. I'm talking about motivating yourself to keep doing something by keeping up a "streak."

This "streak" concept came to me years ago after hearing my kids talk about their Snapchat "streaks."

Using a "streak" can work for anything that you wish to keep going. Here are some examples of some Health Goals to keep as streaks (choose one):

- Walk or run 15-30 minutes three days a week
- Practice yoga or meditation 10-30 minutes a day, 5x a week
- Eat fresh meals prepared at home 5 days a week
- Drink 5 glasses of water a day
- Get together with friends 2x a month
- Tend your garden every other Saturday afternoon

I challenge everyone to start a "streak" and to keep it going! It is important, however, to be realistic with your goals and set yourself up for success.

I wish you the best of luck and in the comical words of the actor Will Farrell, "Let's Go Streaking!"

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 or visit www.bramhall.health.com



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
- At the door



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. 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.

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 or contact the church office.

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 fmsc.org and click on Volunteer. The Join Code is: 6BZPWM. Or you can click on this link: <http://www.fmsc.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 and she will happy to sign you up. You can also call her with questions at 847-997-2537. Spots are limited, so please sign-up early.

ALL MINISTRIES MEETING

It takes a community to build a community. We are so lucky to have a whole community of people who make the ministries of GCC possible! This month GCC ministry board members, staff, and ministers, all got together for a meeting to kick off the year ahead. We talked through GCC governance structure, communication guidelines and the 2024-2025 calendar. There are so many people who make ministry at GCC possible, YOU included!



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!*

ABUNDANCE AT GCC IS MADE POSSIBLE BY YOUR GENEROSITY

2 Corinthians 9:8 “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.”

Abundance is evident everywhere at GCC. We see it in our generous financial support for our mission partners, volunteer support and service with organizations, and our own ministries. We experience abundance whenever we interact with the GCC community.

In our communications this year—the monthly Broadcaster, the weekly eblast, and the Sunday bulletins—we have highlighted mission giving, our re-emerging youth programs, Faith in Action Team accomplishments, and our Spiritual Life team programs. This just begins to describe GCC’s abundance. Consider our music offerings, led by Director of Music and Organist Gary Wendt and Choir Director Guillermo Muñoz Küster. GCC’s dedicated, talented vocalists and instrumentalists lead us in worship and enrich our community with performances throughout the year. Our Women’s Association contributes to fellowship, stewardship, and service for GCC—and of course, WA oversees New to You, a charitable resale shop and significant financial support for various community service agencies.

As we prepare the GCC budget for 2025 based on the generous financial pledges of our GCC members and friends, we are grateful for all who pledged abundantly for 2024! THANK YOU! Join us in sharing abundantly (consider a 10% increase for 2025) so we may continue and enhance abundance at GCC. This is vital work, God’s work, we do for the love of GCC and our GCC community.

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! Check out this lineup for the year ahead!

The 2024-2025 Amos Speakers Forum

Unless noted, programs are held on Wednesday evenings
and begin at 7 pm in The Commons

September 18: “Back to School with 60+ Languages!”, with Patrick Hoeft, principal of D34’s Westbrook School; Raquel Kim, Assistant Superintendent for Multilingual Services; and literacy educators

October 16 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

Monday, November 11: “Emergency Preparedness in an Age of Perpetual Uncertainty,” with Jill Ramaker, executive director of the Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy

December 4: “’Tis the Season: Music of the Angels,” with Sue Cunningham, flute; Linda Fisher, harp; Kathryn Hughes, violin; and Tricia Melzer-Swaydrak, soprano

January 15: “Resolved for 2025: Healthy Fueling at Meals and Snacks,” with Arleen Turner-Witcoff, registered dietitian at Illinois Bone and Joint Institute

February 5: “Soul-Searching in Suburbia: Glenview and Race Relations in the 1960s,” with Susan Johns, Glenview History Center president and GCC moderator

March 12: “DC Briefing: Political Activism in Fraught Times,” with Derek Johnson, managing director of Research Collaborative, formerly with Global Zero

April 9: “Poetry Slam: Let’s Leave ’em Thinking and Laughing,” with longtime colleagues and friends Timothy Pappageorge and Allan Ruter

FIND YOUR **GLENVIEW**
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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

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