

A "COME TO JESUS" MESSAGE

That phrase – **Come to Jesus** – has become common in our contemporary conversation; even idiomatic. It comes from the life-changing experience of coming to Jesus, of welcoming Him into our hearts, and of allowing Him to change our lives so that we can follow Him. More generally, a **Come to Jesus** moment is an epiphany that is a sobering realization and saving transformation...repentance and forgiveness... honesty that prepares the way for hope.

This is a **Come to Jesus** moment for GCC. As I write this, Making a Difference with God's Love (our 2019 generosity campaign) is woefully short of its goal of \$970,000. Our current pledge total of \$851,200 simply cannot sustain this church's Message, Ministries and Mission in 2019. For the past seven years we have been losing the battle of the budget to the point that we have depended on unrestricted bequests to sustain our daily life. Our inadequate pledging is chronic. We simply don't pledge enough money to equal GCC's ongoing financial needs, and we haven't for years. In 2018 our Spiritual Council faced that sobering reality head-on and made the gut-wrenching decision to reduce our expenses. In a church where nearly 70% of the budget is devoted to staff compensation, reducing expenses means reducing people. So we ended our part-time facility staff position (Gabriel Berumen) at the end of March. We ended our Pastoral Associate for Congregational Life position (Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds) at the end of June. We reduced our mission allocation from 10% of the previous year's pledge income to 8%. We reduced our Pastor position (Rev. Pam Keckler) to half time at the beginning of this month and anticipate her retirement a year

from now. In total, these changes will reduce our budget by approximately \$150,000 with the promise that, if the congregation maintains its 2018 pledging level in 2019 and beyond, the budget will balance. But, at this point, that's not happening.

Our generosity campaign asked us to stay the course and maintain our level of pledging and giving. But we have not. Some pledges have been reduced, and some pledges have not returned. The distasteful changes we made to reduce expenses have disappointed and angered some members of our congregation to the point that they have reduced their pledges or eliminated them altogether in protest. Hard decisions made by church leadership to deal with inadequate giving have resulted in a further reduction of our giving! It is counter intuitive and it makes my head hurt and my heart ache! This is the honest reality of my Come to Jesus message for you.

But that's only half of what **Coming to Jesus** means. The other half is our response to the reality; a response that means a change of our hearts and a transformation of our behavior. That response depends on the persuasion of God's grace and our receptivity to it.

In our congregation...in Glenview...in the Chicago metropolitan area...in our nation ...and around the world, GCC is doing so much good for God and God's people! We are on the cusp of experiencing the gift of our newly renovated and expanded building that will make GCC a more functional, welcoming and accessible home for All God's People.

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JANUARY 21, 2019 WORSHIP 10:00 AM JANUARY

THIRD SUNDAY IN EPIPHANY



Scripture: Micah 6:8 Matthew 28:18-20 John 13:34-35; 15:12-17

Sermon: *Ears Attentive to Diving Commands* Rev. Dr. Chuck Mize

FEBRUARY

FOURTH SUNDAY IN EPIPHANY HOLY COMMUNION

Scripture: Numbers 22:22-35 Luke 22:39-42

Sermon: *The Pride of Sinful Will* Rev. Dr. Chuck Mize

FEBRUARY

FIFTH SUNDAY IN EPIPHANY 10

Scripture: Genesis 11:1-9, Psalm 118:22-24 I Corinthians 3:10-11

Sermon: *Building with God* Rev. Dr. Chuck Mize

continued from the front page

I am praying to God and pleading with you to experience the transforming power of Jesus' love by expressing that love in your financial support of GCC's Message, Ministries and Mission. Specifically:

- If you haven't pledged, prayerfully do so today.
- If you've reduced your pledge, prayerfully consider restoring it.
- If you've maintained your pledge, prayerfully consider increasing it.
- And, if you've already increased your pledge, prayerfully consider adding to your increase.

If the Holy Spirit moves you to take any of the above actions, you can communicate your decision to the church by contacting our Business Administrator Lucinda Fuller at <u>lucinda.fuller@gccucc.org</u> or at (847)724-2210 ext. 227.

For a long time I've been moved by the Apostle Paul's interpretation of God's gift of manna to the people of Israel in the wilderness:

The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little. –II Corinthians 8:15

I believe that that will be our experience as well – right here, right now at GCC – if we come to Jesus; if we come to the sobering reality of our situation and to the saving power of Jesus' love. After all, coming to Jesus, and bringing others to Jesus, is the heart and soul of the church. **So, Come to Jesus!** And I'll see you in church!

Chuck Mize

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2019 GENEROSITY CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Happy New Year! We had more pledges come in just before the new year. Thank you for the generous year end pledges! A reminder to those who haven't pledged - your pledge of financial support is still needed. Complete a pledge card and drop it into the offering plate. Or, you may send a confidential email to our Business Administrator at **giving@gccucc.org**. As of January 8, we have 278 pledges for \$837,499.

We are making a difference with God's love!

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SPIRITUAL COUNCIL MEETING REPORT DECEMBER 18, 2018

Good news was a theme of the December Spiritual Council meeting, as several reports highlighted successful church events and other positive developments.

Fellowship and Service: The November gathering at Feed My Starving Children was a multigenerational success, with 100 GCC members joining to package meals for hungry youths in Africa. The Toyful Celebration concert on December 15 collected 2,500 toys for needy children, setting a GCC record. Also in December, the 60+ Christmas luncheon at Covenant Village was well attended, and the guests were very entertained by a surprise visit from Santa.

Construction Update: Progress continues apace, and the new area was expected to be weather-tight by Christmas. The new water service line has been installed, and work is advancing well on other fronts as well. Our contractors are still estimating that we should be able to use the new space by Easter. Those who have not contributed to the Forward in Faith campaign may still do so. With a \$25,000 challenge gift in progress, there has never been a better time! Contact the office or Karen or Tom Aldrich.

Treasurer's Report: Despite lags in pledge fulfillment, total revenues are \$26,000 ahead of budget. Year to date, revenues and expenses are \$51,000 ahead of budget. In the absence of last-minute surprises, we should end the year with a deficit of about \$28,000. In large part, our positive numbers are due to the fact that our building did not require major repairs—and excellent resource management by our staff.

Generosity: At the time of the meeting, pledges received totaled \$800,000. The Generosity Team will continue following up with those who have not responded yet.

Mission Statement: The Spiritual Council discussed possible mission statements for the church. In the upcoming months, the congregation will be asked share their feedback on the final wording of our mission statement. Look for announcements of meetings and other opportunities to weigh in.

MIDWINTER CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Glenview Community Church Midwinter Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 24, 2019, at 11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Agenda topics for this meeting include the presentation and vote for adoption of the Church Budget for 2019, reports from the Church Clerk and Treasurer, and updates from the Construction Committee and the Constitution Working Group.

This notice constitutes the official call to meeting. All members of the church are urged to be present.

CHILDREN AND TEEN FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY

December was a busy time for families. As children head back to school, they are reconnecting with their church friends. PYF spent time cooking and sharing a meal together. PYF has been cooking this year at Holy Trinity Lutheran church while GCC is under construction. Cooking is an important part of our team building activities. We all come to the kitchen with different skills and talents; we teach and learn from one another. It is the blessing of sharing a meal that brings God's love to our fellowship. The church school children assembled annual New Mother Bags for **The Night Ministry** in January. They worked hard sorting, counting and organizing all the donations. We celebrate the hope of Epiphany by gathering gifts for mothers in need of support and love.

Blessing and Peace to all this New Year, Elizabeth



PYF SUNDAYS & WEDNESDAYS (GCC'S HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP)

JANUARY 18-19 Winter Trip to Cascade and Kalahari.

JANUARY 27

Topic: Hunger for a Changed Heart

PYF Game ON! Come and enjoy some favorite games.



FEBRUARY 10

Topic - Hunger To Make a Difference Luke 10:25-37 **Mission Project** - Packaging cookies for the Night Ministry.

FEBRUARY 17 Pizza Snack 4 – 5 p.m.

FEBRUARY 24

Topic: Hunger & Caring for Self

Activity We will assemble and create different self-care items. Candles etc.



FEBRUARY 27 Serving alongside **The Night Ministry** bus in Uptown. 7-10 p.m.

MARCH 3 *Topic: Hunger to Make a Difference* 2 Kings 5:1-14, Luke 10:1-12 Cooking at Holy Trinity.

MARCH 8 Mystery Dinner and Lock-In at Holy Trinity.

MARCH 18 Hunger for Stuff Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 Luke 12:32-48 Activity The Joy of Painting.





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Drive for the Night Ministry!!



For 20 years our church has been baking, buying, and bringing cookies for **The Night Ministry** to our church kitchen. Then PYF packages them (3 per package), and delivers them to **The Night Ministry** office. Then they are given to the Night Ministry bus to give to the cold, hungry folks who have come to the bus for warmth, counseling, and health care, For some, this may be their only meal for the whole day.

Please no NUTS or PEANUT BUTTER

This special bus is on the streets 6 nights a week at specific locations in Chicago offering assistance to street people. In addition to

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community

the bus, **The Night Ministry** also has a team of brave folks who go into the underpasses, bridges, etc. where there are known homeless enclaves. These teams bring sandwiches and medical care with them. **The Night Ministry** also provides housing, health care, outreach spiritual care and social services to teenagers and young adults in Chicago who struggle with homelessness, poverty, and loneliness. GCC has helped support this agency for many years.

Please bring your cookies to the church kitchen by Sunday morning, February 10. Be sure to mark them NIGHT MINISTRY Questions: call Elizabth Ciccolini: (847) 724-2210 Ext. 233

AWESOME PACKING DAY AT FMSC!



Many thanks to the 112 volunteers who participated in Glenview Community Church Packing Day, Saturday, December 15 at **Feed My Starving Children** in Libertyville. It was wonderful to see all ages putting their time and energy into making God's love real for hungry children all over the world. We packed 181 boxes (39,096 meals), which will feed 107 children for **ONE YEAR.** That means each person there had the impact of preserving a life for a year. Pretty awesome! *With much gratitude from the Outreach Ministry*.



Bring your family to *"Mearra – Selkie From the Sea"* on Saturday, January 26, at 6:30 p.m. **The Simple Gifts Concert Series** presents Linda Marie Smith and her talented band of eight musicians (featuring our own Katherine Hughes!) in this Celtic fairy tale fantasy. This 60 minute show is presented through original songs, theatrical lighting and animated projections. Ms. Smith's folk-rock style has been compared to Natalie Merchant and Sarah McLachlan. "Mearra" premiered at the Irish American Heritage Center and was televised on Chicago's PBS station WYCC in 2015. Visit <u>http://www.lindamsmith.com/mearra/</u> to watch a video clip of the show. Don't miss this unique multimedia experience!

SAVE THE DATE!

Plans are underway for our sixth annual **Chili Cook-off and "Hometown" Auction** on Sunday, April 28 at 5:00 p.m. The Congregational Life and Faith Formation ministries are teaming up to sponsor this event, with all proceeds supporting this summer's PYF mission trip to Birmingham, Alabama. Look for additional information on how you can participate in this year's event during the upcoming weeks.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

The Annual Women's Retreat will be the weekend of April 5-7. The retreat promises to be a great time for the women of GCC to gather, connect, celebrate, and grow in faith together. Would you be interested in helping plan and organize? The Planning Team would meet 2 – 3 times between now and the retreat. The Team would help recruitment, promotion, determine location, help plan meals, help with theme, and the fellowship activities of the retreat. Please contact **Elizabeth.Ciccolini@gccucc.org** by February 1 if you're interested in being a member of the Planning Team.

GCC VALENTINE PIZZA PARTY!

We would LOVE to have you join us on Sunday, February 10, immediately following the worship service, in the Gym, for pizza and fellowship. In addition to the pizza, there will be salad, drinks, and deserts, and arts & crafts for kids in the Art Room.

If you would be willing to provide a salad, desert, or other support, please go to this link to sign up: <u>https://www.signupgenius.</u> <u>com/go/10C0D45ABA828A5F58-</u> <u>valentine/</u>.

This event is for everyone - with or without kids. Admission is free, but we will gratefully accept a freewill offering!

Please contact Julie Zylke at jzylke@sbcglobal.net or call her cell phone (847) 337-8259 to RSVP.

Hope to see everyone there!

SEEKING FELLOWSHIP TIME HOSTS

In 2019, we are opening Fellowship Time Hosting to all members of GCC. We are looking for 2 different categories of hosts: 1) Church groups or individuals willing to host Fellowship Time once a month or once every other month, 2) Church groups or individuals who are willing to host Fellowship Time occasionally. Please see one of the Fellowship Leaders on Sunday morning to sign up: Jeanie Bond, Sally Thuresson, JoAnne Peters, Ann Grant, or email Jeanie at <u>birdeebee@yahoo.com</u>.



The end of 2018 brings my tenure as Business Administrator at GCC to a close. I want to thank you all for the many expression of best wishes and congratulations for my retirement. Your cards, email messages, phone calls and personal visits were very kind and greatly appreciated. Thank you for the retirement gifts! The Green Bay Packers logo watch is a "timeless" gift that I will cherish always, and which will remind me of my time here at GCC. And your collective cash gift is extremely generous! Emily and I will be traveling to Arizona and Texas in March and will spend that gift in many fun ways during that trip! Thank you for your generosity! Finally, thank you for all your support and assistance during my 10 years of service at GCC! I've enjoyed every day of those 10 years and feel fortunate to have met and become friends with so many of you during that time. I will enjoy retirement, but will surely miss you and the Glenview Community Church faith family!

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We Would Be Building

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Event Time	Event Name	Primary Location
Monday, 21 January	2019	
8:00 AM to 8:30 PM	GCC Closed - MLK Jr. Day	Sanctuary
Tuesday, 22 January	2019	
9:15 AM to 10:00 AM	Music & Movement Class	Cradle/Toddler Room
10:15 AM to 11:00 AM	Music & Movement Class	Cradle/Toddler Room
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Spiritual Council Meeting	Youth Room
Wednesday, 23 Janu	lary 2019	
9:15 AM to 10:00 AM	Music & Movement Class	Cradle/Toddler Room
10:15 AM to 11:00 AM	Music & Movement Class	Cradle/Toddler Room
4:15 PM to 5:15 PM	FISH	Youth Room
5:30 PM to 7:00 PM	612 Youth Group	Youth Room
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM	Church School Teacher Meeting	Cradle/Toddler Room
Thursday, 24 Januar	v 2019	
9:00 AM to 10:00 AM	Yoga	Room 201
2:00 PM to 5:00 PM	Resale Pop Up	Gym
6:15 PM to 7:20 PM	Joyful Ringers Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Pack 156 Scouts	Gym
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Friday, 25 January 2	019	
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Resale Pop Up	Gym
3:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Chair Yoga	Chapel
Saturday, 26 January	v 2019	
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM	GCC Resale Shop Pop Up Event	West Entrance
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM	Mearra - Selkie From the Sea	Sanctuary
Sunday, 27 January	2019	,
8:45 AM to 9:50 AM	8th Grade Confirmation Class	Youth Room
10:00 AM to 10:15 AM	Church School Children Meet in Sanctuary	SanctuaryM
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Worship Service	Sanctuary
11:05 AM to 11:30 AM	Refreshments and Fellowship	Narthex
4:00 PM to 5:55 PM	PYF	Youth Room
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM	7th Grade Confirmation Class	Youth Room
Monday, 28 January	2019	
10:00 AM to 4:30 PM	Resale Shop Pop Up	Gym
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM	Yoga	Room 201
Tuesday, 29 January	-	
9:15 AM to 10:00 AM	Music & Movement Class	Cradle/Toddler Room
10:15 AM to 11:00 AM	Music & Movement Class	Cradle/Toddler Room
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM	PYF Youth Auction Committee Meeting	Youth Room
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9:15 AM to 10:00 AM	Music & Movement Class	Cradle/Toddler Room
10:15 AM to 11:00 AM	Music & Movement Class	Cradle/Toddler Room
4:15 PM to 5:15 PM	FISH	Youth Room
5:30 PM to 7:00 PM	612 Youth Group	Youth Room
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Thursday, 31 Januar 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM	Yoga	Room 201
2:00 PM to 5:00 PM	Resale Shop Pop Up	Gym
6:15 PM to 7:20 PM	Joyful Ringers Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Pack 156 Scouts	Gym
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Friday, 01 February		,
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Resale Shop	Gym
		Gym
Saturday, 02 Februar 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM	-	Cum
	Resale Shop Pop Up	Gym
2:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Resale Staying Up	Gym
Sunday, 03 February		
8:45 AM to 9:50 AM	8th Grade Confirmation Class	Youth Room
10:00 AM to 10:15 AM	Church School Children Meet in Sanctuary	SanctuaryM
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Worship Service	Sanctuary
11:05 AM to 11:30 AM	Refreshments and Fellowship	Narthex
Monday, 04 February		D C C C C C C C C C C
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM		Room 201

THE NEXT DEADLINE FOR THE BROADCASTER IS JANUARY 23, 2019 BY 9:00 AM

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on **GIVING GLIMPSE NOVEMBER 2018** The Message, Ministries and Mission of Glenview Community

Church thrive because you fulfill your stewardship commitments and make faithful contributions. It is essential that we remain current in our giving and ensure the fiscal health of the church. In the midst of our busy lives, we offer you this update reminder to keep in focus our progress on completing our financial commitments to GCC. This Financial Snapshot will be updated monthly and included in the worship bulletin and Broadcaster.

	YTD	Over/(Under)Budget
Pledge Fulfillment	\$785,821	(\$34,179)
Other Income	\$193,620	\$60,495
Expenses	\$1,150,732	(\$24,809)
Net Total	(\$172,389)	\$51,125

SUMMARY: We are \$51,125 better than budget through November. Our approved budget defines an annual deficit of \$79,779, so if the balance of the year holds to plan, we will end 2018 with an operating deficit of \$28,654.



Hands of Peace is an interfaith organization that empowers young people to raise their voices as leaders of change. Through the power of dialogue, Palestinians, Israelis, and Americans partner to pursue peace, equality, freedom and justice. This year our annual summer program in Glenview will run from July 10 - 29, and we are asking you to be a part of it!

We are currently looking for host families and participants for our 2019 program. Participants can be teens between the ages of 15 and 17, who are willing to immerse themselves in this experience for three weeks in July. We also need families willing to take in one or two of our Middle East guests for that period, providing lodging, transportation, and some meals. The daily dialogue sessions will be held at GCC. Transportation to and from the airport, and to activities outside of Glenview, is usually provided by bus, and we also create carpools.

Please contact our Site Director, Darling Kittoe at <u>dkittoe@</u> <u>handsofpeace.org</u> or at 773-562-4279 for more information. It could be the most rewarding thing you'll do all summer! Applications for participants and host families and more information are online at <u>www.handsofpeace.org</u>.



January 3, 2019

Rev. Dr. Charles Mize, Senior Minister Glenview Community Church 1000 Elm St. Glenview, IL 60025

Dear Rev. Dr. Mize:

On behalf of all those whom The Night Ministry serves, I would like to thank the members of Glenview Community Church for their generous support of The Night Ministry during this Christmas Season.

The Night Ministry is honored to provide housing, health care, and human connection to more than 5,600 individuals every year. Those whom we serve are often forgotten by the rest of society, kicked out by their families, and ignored as thousands walk by them every day. However, by reaching out to those individuals most in need, The Night Ministry lets them know that they are not forgotten, that we care for and accept them without question or concern for their past. Our housing, medical, and outreach services are low-threshold in nature; no one should ever have to stand in line and answer questions, in order to receive services.

The Night Ministry's five youth housing programs and our Outreach and Health Ministry Program could never be as effective as they are without the support of congregations such as Glenview Community Church.

According to our records, 2019 will mark the 40th anniversary of the Church's involvement with The Night Ministry! During these 40 years, Glenview Community Church and its members have provided The Night Ministry with financial support, in-kind donations such as socks, gift cards, hats, scarves, and meals that are a vital part of the hospitality we provide to those whom we serve. Such generosity and the spirit compassion for the least among us was once again exhibited this Christmas season.

Thank you for being such an integral part of The Night Ministry's mission over the years, and for your congregation's generous support over the holidays, as we celebrated compassion and hope incarnate.

Please extend to the members of Glenview Community Church my heartfelt gratitude. With best wishes for the continued health and spiritual growth of the Congregation, I remain...

Sincerely yours,

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Paul W. Hamann, MA, MNA President & CEO



GLENVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

1000 Elm Street Glenview, IL 60025-2897 Phone: (847) 724-2210 Fax: (847) 724-2213 Web: www.gccucc.org

PASTORS

Rev. Dr. Charles E. Mize, Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Pamela Keckler, Pastor Rev. Elizabeth Hartung-Ciccolini, Associate Pastor for Youth and Children

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

REGULAR CHURCH HOURS

MONDAY AND FRIDAY 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. SATURDAY 8:00 a.m. - noon SUNDAY 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Nonprofit Organization

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

God be with us as we find a way to make new possibilities our own Help us to walk forward with confidence in all we are capable of. God, remind us that our potential may become a reality. Amen.