Dreaming with God  Pastor’s Column

The Kingdom of God is like a grain of mustard seed, which you took, and sowed in the field; which indeed is smaller than all seeds. But when it is grown, it is greater than the herbs, and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in its branches. “Matthew 13:31-32

Henry David Thoreau writes on the very first page of his book, Faith in a Seed, "Though I do not believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed. Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders." Even though he does not make a direct reference to the Bible, his words remind us of Jesus’ teaching. A small seed can do wonders!

This month we are beginning a new program year. On Rally Day, September 10, we will welcome our choir back to worship. Children’s Sunday School and GUMY have already started and I ask for your prayers for a year of wonderful growth for all our children. Our picnic on Rally Day will be a kind of homecoming for all of us. Many of us have been gone at various times during summer, and we are getting back together with good food and fellowship. Our new Associate Pastor Eric is with us now, and we pray that it will be a wonderful year of growth for Pastor Eric and for all of us. I am excited about our new program year with many learning opportunities we have.

Barbara Boigegrain, a member of our church, will be guest speaker on Sunday, September 17. Barbara is the General Secretary (our church’s term of CEO) of Wespath Benefits and Investments. This is our denomination’s board that handles the retirement and health benefits for all United Methodist pastors and employees around the world. Barbara is a global leader in our denomination.

She grew up in the Methodist family with her father being a pastor. She will share with us her faith formation and her passion for ministry. I had a chance to hear her message before and know that it will be an inspiring story for all of us.

We will begin a new Bible Study on Moses. We will use the curriculum by Rev. Adam Hamilton who is the lead pastor at the Church of the Resurrection near Kansas City in Kansas. This is a relatively new church in the long history of our denomination, and has grown to be the largest church in the United Methodist Church. I always learn so much from Rev. Hamilton for his wisdom, insight, and love for God. It will be an engaging study, and I’d like to invite all of you to join!

Each of our serving and learning opportunities is like a seed in our relationship with God. Whether it be saying a brief moment of prayer, reading of scripture passages while drinking your morning coffee, or giving your hour of our week to worship or study, I pray that each action we do in our relationship with God will be a seed that grows into the biggest of all.

Expect wonders this month. Let God work in your lives. Let us begin this new beginning with joy and thanksgiving.

Peace and Love,

Pastor Hannah Hwa-Young Chong
Member News & Happenings!

Let us remember the following members in our prayers.

Pat and Gus Carlson          Jay Anderson
Emil & Diane Capitani       Peter Adams
Sybil Anderson              Wanda Frye
Helen Wilson                Burton Randle
Scott Harr                  Rose Ackerman

Sincere Sympathy to Tammi and Vito Ferri and their family. Tammi’s father, Earl Wenzel, passed away suddenly on August 16. A memorial service was held on August 21 in Niles. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers. May God’s love and grace comfort them.

Congratulations to Elyse and Luke Martinsen of Glenview on the birth of their first child, Elle Rose Martinsen, on July 12th. The proud first time grandparents are Joanne and Andy Richter.

Thank you all who sent me cards, or gave me a call, after my car accident in Georgia a few weeks ago. I thank God neither me nor my daughter were seriously injured, but it was a very scary accident I’m still recovering from, both physically and emotionally. Your thoughts and prayers are helping me each day.

~Helen Wilson

New email address for Becky Netherland. Please update your address books: bnetherland53@gmail.com

Welcome Pastor Eric!

We are excited that Pastor Eric has started his ministry with us! We welcomed Pastor Eric and his family on August 20 during our service, and look forward to sharing ministry together. Pastor Eric will typically be in the church office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the morning. He is at Glenview UMC on a half-time appointment. His other half-time appointment is at Cosmopolitan United Methodist Church as their lead pastor in Melrose Park. He will be leading G UMY on a weekly basis, and will be with us on Sunday mornings about twice a month. In September he will be at G UMC on September 10 and September 24. He will preach on September 24. Please remember to introduce yourself to Pastor Eric, next time you see him!

ALL ALONE?
Don’t be. God doesn’t want us to be all alone. He wants us to turn to others when things are bothering us. Stephen Ministers will walk with you through your troubles and be there for you when you need them. For more information contact Pastor Hwa-Young, or a Stephen Leader, Ethel Doyle (847) 965-5417, Diana Berger 847-486-0428 or Damian Neuberger (847) 998-8574.

Too often we find out about illnesses, crises and hospitalizations after they occur. This is a missed opportunity for the calls and visits we would like to share. Please let us know if there is a concern in your family or in another congregants family (with their permission) We need your help in order to offer ours.
Women's Wellness Weekend has been announced: September 22 - 24. AT CAMP EDWARDS IN EAST TROY, WI!

PLAY
Women's Wellness Weekend has been announced: September 22 - 24. AT CAMP EDWARDS IN EAST TROY, WI!

GROW
Sunday, September 17
Guest Speaker: Barbara Boigegrain

Our own member Barbara will be sharing her faith stories and her commitment to ministry. Barbara is the CEO of our denomination's benefits and investments board, Wespath. Her message will inspire us all!

Spaghetti Supper
Friday, September 30
Doors Open at 5:30
Here at GUMC!

Please come for the wonderful evening of great food, joyful fellowship, and good music. Food will be coordinated by Marianne Brackey. Free will offering will be collected to defray the cost of food. Bring friends! Please sign up at the church or by calling the church office by Tuesday, September 26.

A New Bible Study Class:
"Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet"
For six weeks on Wednesday mornings 10 - 11 a.m., Choir Room, Led by our pastors

Please join us for a lively study on the life and mission of Moses. The study will include a 10-minute video. The study will be based Adam Hamilton's book, Moses. This book is widely available at bookstores. You are encouraged to read the book, but you are also welcome to just come to the class without reading the book. There will be weekly reading assignments of the Bible. Please see the schedule below. If you have any questions, please ask Pastor Hwa-Young.

9/13: "The Birth of Moses"
9/20: "Two Moments That Defined the Man"
9/27: "The Exodus"
10/4: "The Ten Commandments"
10/11: "Lessons from the Wilderness"
10/18: "Don't Forget... Pass It On"

EMERGENCIES
At night or on the weekend, please contact Pastor Hwa-Young via email at: hychong@glenviewumc.org
Loose Coins and Singles for the month of September will be donated to the Tree of Life. This ministry with the Lakota Native Americans addresses needs on the Rosebud and Pine Ridge reservations in South Dakota by nurturing the body, strengthening culture and enhancing the spirit. The ministry provides groceries and meals to the hungry, repairs to substandard homes, and supports local teachers as they reclaim native culture and language.

YUMMMM! DESSERTS!!! The Fellowship Committee is looking for dessert donations for Rally Day. Are you able to help out? These can be homemade or store bought. Please let the church office know if you can bake or bring sweets on September 10.

Rally Day Events Announced!
Children’s Christian Education News!

New Sunday School: We will begin our new classes Rally Day Sunday, September 10. During the month of September we will hear the story of Samuel and see how God hears our prayers as well as calls us to do his will. On Rally Day, we will also have a teacher dedication as we support and bless the work of those in ministry with children.

3rd Grade Bibles: As United Methodists, we say that God speaks to us through the Bible. We will present our 3rd graders with their own Bible on Sunday, September 17. Please let Linda Duback know the name you would like written in your child’s Bible. You will also be receiving suggestions on how to use the Bible as part of your family’s faith formation.

Confirmation Class: Confirmation class will resume meeting September 17 at 5:30. We will continue to meet with GUMY for the first part of the evening with games and a light meal and then break off into our class. We will finish at 7:30 as usual. Also, be sure to join in the fun Sept. 24 when GUMY goes to Northbrook UMC for games with other youth groups from the area!

Ways for Kids to GROW

GUMYouTh News from Pastor Eric!

Why I believe God digs Nerf.

Pastor Rob Hamilton once told me that I have an “unorthodox” approach to youth activities – but my approach totally works. I told him, thank you for affirmation and then told him the basis for my approach.

In Mark 10:13-16, the writer of Mark recalls an encounter Jesus and his disciples had with a group of parents and their children. As Jesus was sitting in this house with his disciples, families with children began to come to Jesus so that he could bless the children. In my mind I imagine that there was a fair amount of kids there, they were probably running around and just being kids.

However rowdy these kids were, it was enough to make the disciples flip out and tell the parents to go away and leave Jesus alone. Jesus tells the disciples to chill out and back off. Or as the writer of Mark puts it, “Jesus became indignant” with his disciples. Jesus told his disciples “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone, who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

As we are called to put our “big kids” pants- life’s calling can overshadow the calling of Christ. It is my hope that as we spend time together at GUMY playing nerf and being rowdy like the kids in the bible story, that through play and fellowship – we remember that we are beloved children of God.

GUMY in September:

3 No GUMY
10 GUMY at Rally Day!
17 GUMY/Confirmation Starts
24 Northbrook UMC Youth Cluster: 5-7pm
GUMC is a Reconciling Congregation

Following the loving example of Jesus Christ, we affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person as a beloved child of God. We welcome into the life and ministry of Glenview United Methodist Church all persons of every age, ability, race, gender identity, ethnicity, nationality, marital status, sexual orientation, family configuration, or socioeconomic or employment status.

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