



The

Visitor

GROW, PLAY AND SERVE WITH HEARTS
FOR CHILDREN AND HANDS FOR SERVICE!

Lent is On the Way Pastor's Column

Lent has been a season that I have always had mixed feelings about because for me, it has signaled a time of year that I need to “beef up” my spiritual practices. I have to say that even as a pastor the need for spiritual practice is a must. Not because it makes you holier than the next person in the church or because as a pastor you are a “resident theologian” but because it’s always a good and joyful thing to draw closer to God.

Take-On vs Give-Up. One the reasons I often hear from people about why they don’t give up anything for Lent is “Why make a promise I will break?” or “Why set myself up for failure?” As I once said in one of my sermons, spiritual practices, like sports, is partly mental conditioning. We are used to the idea that we must “give up” something for Lent, usually something that we consider an indulgence like: chocolate, soda, video games and so forth. Then, when we back slide by giving into the need for chocolate, or that which we are trying to give up, we feel a sense of failure and shame, like we have let God down.

Lent is not meant for shaming and tearing yourself down. It is meant to build up the connection between you and God. The act of giving up something is letting something go so God can fill up that open space. I believe you can have God fill up a space in your life, by taking on something rather than giving up something. So the idea of taking on something is like telling yourself, I want to get better at playing piano or better a baking. Practice makes perfect. So instead of giving up, you take on the practice so you can get better at it.

For example, take on reading the Bible. Start with two chapters of any Gospel per day. After 40 days you will have finished a gospel or book of the Bible. Small steps to big goals. Pray 10 minutes a day, over 40 days, it is time well spent with God.

Jesus was tempted for 40 days and 40 nights, Matthew 4:1-11 reminds us that Jesus walked in our shoes. Jesus knows how we feel. As the Apostle Paul said to the Philippians (Philippians 4:13), “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Paul is also saying that to you and I. Christ is our life coach urging us to move forward in our challenges and for us to remember we don’t run the race of life alone – Christ goes with us step by step.

This Lenten season, have no fears or apprehensions. Take on a new or old spiritual practice, build on it for 40 days. See where God takes you. See what the Holy Spirit will reveal for you. We can only make discoveries if you are willing to begin the search and adventure.

May your Lenten season be fulfilling and joyful!

Pastor Eric Reniva

Member News & Happenings!

Let us remember the following members in our prayers.

Pat Carlson	David Slaght
Scott Harr	Helen Murphy
Peter Adams	Elsie Westma
Sybil Anderson	Sarane Siewerth
Jay Anderson	

Thank You! I cannot begin to express my gratitude for the prayers, calls, cards and meals provided by this congregation. Having both surgery and losing my mother has been a humbling experience. I am slowly working my way back to getting around and hope to see everyone soon. David and I are blessed to have you all in our lives.

~Linda Duback

Thank you! Thank you all for your prayers, support, cards, and meals while I have been recuperating from surgery.

~Peggy Curkov

Mitten Tree: Thanks to all who donated mittens, hats, coats, clothes and blankets. We made 3 deliveries. Olivet is most appreciative for your contributions to help them help their neighbors. Thank you!!!



In Memoriam

Sincerest sympathy to Linda Duback and her family. Linda's mother, Ruth Wier, passed away Sunday, January 7 in North Carolina.

Sadly, Marcia Mackay died, Friday, January 19, 2018 in Indianapolis, IN. She moved to Indianapolis 2-1/2 years ago to be near family. A Memorial Service was held Saturday, January 27, 2018.

Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers. May God's love and grace comfort them.

Welcome to our newest members: Matthew and Korey Holzhueter. Their sons are Parker and Leo. Welcome to our church family!

Found: The office has two pair of prescription glasses. Stop by the office Monday-Friday to see if they are yours. Generic reading glasses found in the pews on Sunday are left on the sound booth.



Dear Friends in Christ, Thanks to all your prayers and tender loving care, I have recuperated very well from my right hip replacement surgery of November 8th. I am now able to walk without pain and without a cane at home. Your beautiful cards, good wishes and delicious food has helped me to rapidly recover. It is a special blessing to be with you in this loving church family. Rich and I thank you all and your loving care has reflected God's love to us. With much gratitude and our love,

~Carolla and Rich Schmid



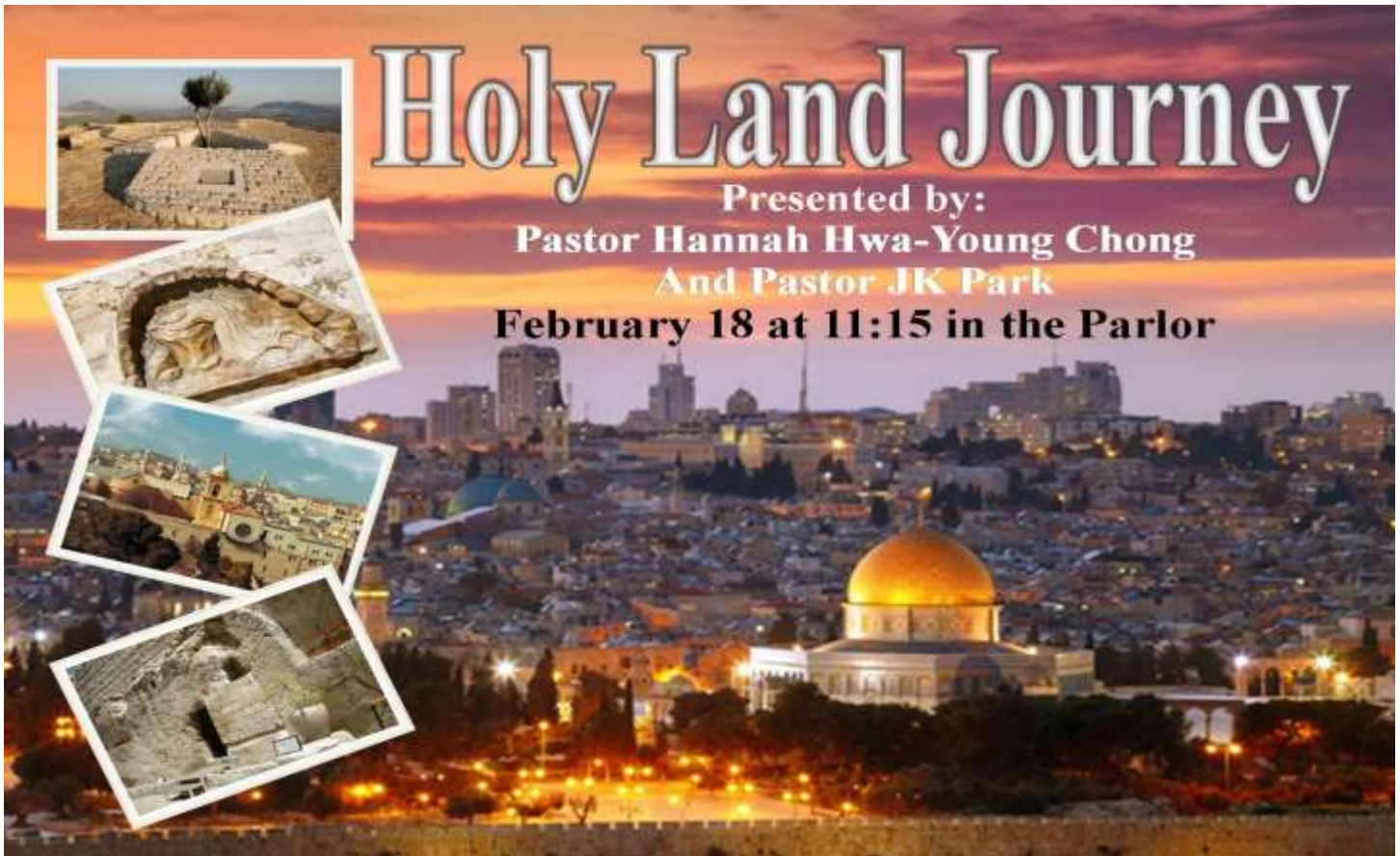
SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, March 17, 2018 We are having a Brunch and Book Review- featuring Lynn Rymarz. Her talk will be on Eliza Hamilton. More to follow.

GROW

Ash Wednesday Services: This year's Lent begins on Ash Wednesday next month on February 14. We will have a simple service of imposition of ashes at 12:15 p.m. and a service with choir and message at 7 p.m. It happens to be Valentine's Day. Perhaps this can be a very special Valentine's Day to explore the deepest love we may have in life – God's love! Please mark your calendar now, and come to one of our services to receive the ashes of love on this first day of Lent.

Adult Bible Study News: *Disciple Short Track New Testament Bible Study*, beginning February 14 & February 18. The schedule will be Wednesdays at 10 a.m. (except on 2/14, we will meet at 11 a.m.) and Sundays at 9 a.m. Please call the church office to register and order the study books for the Disciple Bible Study. The book cost is \$15.

LIFE GOES ON February 20. This group of singles enjoy the fellowship of getting together monthly at various restaurants suggested by the group. All widows, widowers and singles are welcome to join. Call for upcoming restaurant information.



The Endowment Committee of GUMC would like to inform you throughout the year of some ways you can contribute to the Endowment Fund. Even if many of us can't donate as much as we would like to give our church at the present time, there are special ways we can plan for future gifts. Each month the committee will highlight one of those ways. Stay tuned!

GUMC and The Missions & Service Ministries Team

– thank you for your generosity in giving to various mission projects throughout 2017 as follows:

COINS & SINGLES - 2017 – in Sunday collections to 11 designated mission related organization recipients - **Total \$5,989**

Mission Collections for other than Coins & Singles designation

United Voices for Children -	\$222
Heifer Proj.	\$105
Midwest Mission Dist. Ctr. -	\$20
M&SM Garden	<u>\$25</u>
Total	\$372

Alternative Gifts – 11/27 – 12/18/17

Habitat for Humanity	\$125
GUMY/ASP	\$440
UMCOR	\$125
Heifer Proj.	\$175
Hands of Peace	\$100
Wesley Day Care	\$25
Tree of Life	<u>\$65</u>
Total	\$1055

Total Mission Related Collections sponsored by M&SM - \$7,416.53 – THANK YOU!!

Distribution from Alice (Lib) Nightingale Mission Fund for 2017 to the following:

Adult Interfaith Mission Trip	\$500
Apportionments	\$2,000
Garrett ETS –VIM Student Scholarship	\$2,500
SHOMAR – Philippine Water Project	\$1,000
Feed My Starving Children-MLK Day	\$500
Inclusive + Collective – UIC	\$1,000
Refugee One	\$1,500
The Night Ministry	\$1,000
Justice For Our Neighbor (JFON)	\$1,500
Tree of Life Ministry, Pierre, SD	\$1,000
UMCOR – Porto Rico	<u>\$2,000</u>
Total	\$14,500

Loose Coin and Singles for the month of February will be donated to Garret Evangelical Theological Seminary, Field Education fund. Field education is an academic requirement for Master of Divinity (MDiv) and Master of Arts (MA) students beginning in the fall of the 2nd year. MDiv students take two years of field education, serving at their field site 14 hours per week and participating in bi-weekly peer group discussion sessions. The program offers a variety of congregational settings; chaplaincies in both health related and collegiate settings; and social service and outreach ministries in non-congregational settings.

SCRIPs for Service: SCRIP sales are taking place. Scrip gift cards are the same gift cards you can purchase from the retailer. With over 300 of the country’s biggest brands, including grocery and department stores, gas stations, restaurants, hotels and home improvement, SCRIP has something to appeal to everyone. This is a fun and easy way to help the youth raise funds for their annual mission trip. SCRIPS are on sale through February 18. An order form is included in this *Visitor*. Return it with a check before February 18. Late orders cannot be accepted. Thank you!



Adult Interfaith Service Mission Trip will be to Detroit, August 1-5, 2018. Watch for more details as time gets closer or ask Ethel Doyle, 847-965-5417.



GUMC Calendar! The GUMC website has a Google calendar which is updated weekly. Get the most current information from the online calendar. You can also subscribe to the calendar to stay up to date with all things GUMC. Go to: glenviewumc.org/current-events/calendar

Children's Christian Education News!

Ways for Kids to GROW

Sunday School: The unit for February is *Who Then is This?* These stories will show us how Jesus is revealed not only to those of his time but to us today.

Confirmation Class Update: We will meet February 4 and 18. Mentors will have the opportunity to use our Feb. 18 class to meet with their confirmands.

GUMYouTh News from Pastor Eric!

I'm excited to announce that in February we will be having a Youth Praise and Worship night during GUMY on third Sunday - Feb. 18th. Everything will be lead by GUMY.

Feb. 25th we will be hosting our UMYF Cluster gathering and we will be playing Gaga Ball. If any youth could come early at 5 pm to help me set up the Gaga Ball pits that would be awesome.

Youth interested in going to ASP this year please get your registration forms and sign up fees in. ASP will be July 15-21, 2018. We are going down to Kentucky. I will be sending out ASP specific emails for training dates and other info.

February 2018 Sunday Schedule:

Feb. 4 GUMY: Communion will be served at GUMY for Youth before we break off into fellowship and dinner.

Feb. 11: GUMY: Bring a board for your peers to try. I will be bringing two strategy games: Descent and Heroscape.

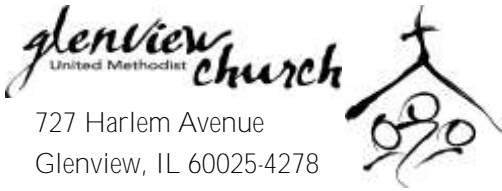
Feb. 18: GUMY Praise and Worship Night: Youth will lead a short worship with Praise music and message. Followed by food and fellowship.

Feb. 25: UMYF Cluster Gather: Gaga Ball! Youth from NI Conference will gather at GUMC for a joint youth group. We will be playing GAGA BALL in 8 GAGA BALL arenas.



The whole church watched with nervous anticipation as the visitors sat where the Martins have sat for 42 years.

“Your” pew? Pastors often know where each member of their congregation sits each Sunday. Some of us worship from the very same pew every week. More of us tend to gravitate toward the same general area, like somewhere in the last two rows on the right. Choosing to worship from a new seat for a season will give you a new perspective—literally. You will see the service from a different point of view, but more than that, it may also change the people around you each Sunday, the usher with whom you interact, the members of the choir or praise team you can see, and more. All of this can help you stay more focused on the worship service as you see things a little differently.



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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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February 14

Lunchtime Imposition of Ashes: 12:15 pm

Evening Worship and Imposition of Ashes: 7:00 pm

This very special Valentine's Day, explore the deepest love we may have in life – God's love! Please mark your calendar now, and come to one of our services to receive the ashes of love on this first day of Lent.

Let us begin this holy season of Lent
together!