



The

Visitor

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

Dreaming with God Pastor's Column

*Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ~ Isaiah 43:19*

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! It is my hope and prayer that this New Year will be filled with peace, love, and joy for you and all your loved ones.

Prophet Isaiah's words are powerful, as we begin a new year. Isaiah 43 is understood to be part of the writing written shortly before or after the Babylonian exile, one of the most painful periods in the Old Testament history. The Temple was destroyed, the national sovereignty was lost, and families were taken away from their homes. In the midst of it all, Isaiah spoke to give the words of hope to God's people. "A way in the wilderness" or "rivers in the desert" most likely seemed like something impossible for the Hebrews. They knew what a wilderness or a desert was like – the vast, wild, and uninhabitable place. With the kind of tools and skills they had at that time, it was inconceivable to have a way, or rivers, in the wilderness. Yet, the prophet envisioned that what was impossible for humans became possible for God.

These words are for us as well. We live in a world in which it is not a big deal to make a way in the wilderness or rivers in the desert. Surgeries are done remotely, new stars are being discovered every year, and self-driving cars are being developed. We can see farther, go faster, and climb higher than people even a generation ago did. Yet, it seems that there are impossible realities all around – violence in the streets and cities all around the world, the ever-increasing gap between the rich and the poor, the presence of hurt and enmity among people. Do we believe that God will do a new thing for us today?

I so believe. Otherwise, I do not know where to find hope. And if we do not believe, how else might we experience God's power to transform? Sometimes we may try to use all options we have until we realize the only alternative that's left is trusting in God. Instead of turning to God as the last resort, how about beginning with God? I imagine how our world might be a different place if we all pray to God first even before we do anything.

So, I'd like to suggest that we practice turning to God this year. Let us begin with a prayer this New Year. Let us bring all our hopes and dreams before God, and trust that God will do "a new thing" for us. May your New Year be a great year of growing in God!

Love with Peace,

Pastor Hannah Hwa-Young Chong

Member News & Happenings!

Let us remember the following members in our prayers.

Pat Carlson
Scott Harr

Peter Adams
Burton Randle



Sincere sympathy to Shirley Riley and her family on the death of her husband John, who passed away recently in Tucson, Arizona. Shirley was very active in this church until her move many years ago to Arizona.

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



Congratulations: On Sunday, December 17, we welcomed **Scarlett Brooke Jones** into our family of faith through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Scarlett is the daughter of Matthew and Katie Jones.

Thank You! Thank you so much for your words of joy and support on my engagement! I am deeply grateful and excited. Tom Smith is a faculty member of the College of Education, Northern Illinois University. Tom and I share so much in common, and look forward to a life together. We will have a small family wedding this coming summer. All of you will be invited to a simple reception sometime after the wedding! We should be able to finalize the dates soon. Thank you so much again for all your blessings!

~Pastor Hannah Hwa-Young Chong

Cookie Walk News! Thanks to all our Walkers and Bakers! We made \$630. All proceeds go to the church.



New address for Pat Carlson:
Wauconda Care, 176 Thomas Ct.,
Wauconda, IL 60084

Thank you everyone! We raised \$172.00 on our Congregational Christmas Card this year. This money will go towards our Appalachia Service Project trip during this upcoming summer.

OUTSTANDING! That was just one word to describe our Choral Worship on Sunday, December 3rd. We want to give our heartfelt thanks to Tom Tobin, our Sanctuary Choir, Kathy Heetland and our guest musicians for a wonderful, beautiful, inspiring beginning to our Advent Season. Thank you!

2017 Taxes: Please be sure your monetary donation to the church for the year 2017, for tax purposes, is dated and received by December 31, 2017.

OFFICE HOURS! The church office will be open Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 27-28, shorter hours due to the holidays. If you are stopping by, please call to be sure someone will be in the office. Merry Christmas Everyone!

Pastor to the Holy Land: Pastor Hwa-Young will join a group of pastors, including two pastors from the Northern Illinois Conference, to a study trip to the Holy Land, from **January 12 to January 25**. This trip includes following the path of Exodus and the important sites of Jesus' life and ministry. For pastoral emergencies during this time, please contact the church office or Pastor Eric.

UMW Sunday: January 28; Join us in worship for our guest speaker, United Methodist Women, Program Advisory Group, North Central Jurisdiction President, Rita L. Smith.

Whose Birthday and Olivet Thanks!

Thanks so much to everyone who generously participated in our thirty-second annual Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway program and our Olivet toy collection. It's wonderful that we have so many people who make sharing with those in need a priority. I greatly appreciate everyone who offered to buy extra gifts to make sure every person was covered, as well as the following people, who helped with the program: Sue Acer, Dana and Matt Booker, Janet Ferrone, Ken Ready, Sheri Staten, Doris Stengl and Lil Strezishar.

~Sue Ready

Craft Fair Update: We had a very successful 2017 Craft Fair this past November. We were able to raise over \$2,000.00 which will be used to help meet our 2017 church budget. We thank everyone who helped to make it the success that it was.

Thank you! I'd like to thank everyone for their support during my recent surgery & recovery. I loved the cards, phone calls & food. Thank you all for your kinds words & deeds. It meant a great deal to me.

~Susan Urban

For after hours

EMERGENCIES

At night or on the weekend, please contact
Pastor Hwa-Young via email at:
hychong@glenviewumc.org
Pastor Eric Reniva via email at:
ereniva@glenviewumc.org

Offering Envelopes are waiting for you outside the choir room. They will be there until December 31. Please pick them up, as they will not be mailed.

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. Thanks!

BE WELL for Breast Cancer Survivors, January 23 at 2:00 in the parlor. This is a support group offering the ability to share experiences of breast cancer in your life. It is in the sharing of your thoughts and feelings with others of like experiences that you can gain new knowledge and spiritual support. This group is open to all women who have had breast cancer.

LIFE GOES ON January 16. This group of 20-25 singles enjoy the fellowship of getting together monthly at various restaurants suggested by the group. It provides an opportunity to meet and socialize with people and enjoy delicious food together in a great environment. All widows, widowers and singles are welcome to join. Call for upcoming restaurant information.

2018 Altar Flowers: We invite the congregation to commemorate a special occasion, such as a birthday, anniversary or a child's special achievement by hosting the altar flowers on Sunday. On your flower Sunday, a note commemorating your event will be published in the *Sunday Bulletin*. Of course, "To the Glory of God" is always a good choice too. There is a small fee for the flowers and you may take them home to enjoy following the service.

GROW

Lent Preview: 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: We will finish the Creed study in January: Lesson 5 on January 24 (Wed., 10 a.m.) & January 28 (Sun., 9 a.m.) and Lesson 6 on January 31 (Wed., 10 am) & February 4 (Sun., 9 am). Then in Lent, we will begin The **Disciple Short Track New Testament Bible Study**, beginning February 14 & February 28. 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.

SAVE THE DATE!!! Mon., Jan. 15, 2018 - for Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Date - Service projects for all ages 5-105. Make it a Day On, Not a Day Off. A feel good day for all volunteers. Registration starts Dec. 31. See the enclosed yellow flier.

Loose Coin and Singles for the month of January will go to: **NEW + INCLUSIVE**. This new and exciting ministry at the University of Illinois at Chicago is just over a year old. It offers spiritual direction, fellowship, worship. And service projects for the student. The ministry provides shepherding and guidance for all college students. A representative will be at church on January 14.

SERVE

Spiritual Resolutions for the New Year (reprinted from First Olympia UMC)

Each year in the week between the feast of the nativity (Christmas Day) and the start of the New Year many people begin to make resolutions for the coming year. As Christians, our new year began on the first Sunday of Advent; however, we often do not consider the start of the liturgical year as a time to make resolutions and align our resolution making with the civil calendar.

This year we encourage you to take the opportunity to make all of your New Year's resolutions ones that will deepen your relationship with Christ and strengthen your soul. Here are some ways to think through this:

1. Be open to God's grace at work within you. As Methodists we believe that God is working through us all the time. As you consider your resolutions, spend time in prayer. Ask God what God's hopes are for you in the coming year. As the year progresses, be open to the way that God may lead you in new ways and to new places.

2. Rewrite your current resolutions. How can you rewrite them to keep Jesus at the center? For example, one of the most common new year's resolutions is weight loss. Rephrase "I want to lose weight" to "I am a beloved child of God. I am thankful for the body that God has given me. My body is a good body. This year I will show gratitude for my body by using it well and give thanks for the bounty of God's earth through the eating of more fruits and vegetables."

3. Look to the example of our ancestors in faith. Who do you admire most in the Bible or in our Methodist tradition? Whose faith do you admire in your own life? How did that person/persons grow in her/his relationship with God? How can you emulate her/his example this year?

4. Pray on New Year's Eve. Early in our Methodist tradition, John Wesley introduced "watch night" services on New Year's Eve. As an alternative to the drunken revels of others, Methodists would gather together for prayer, singing, Scripture reading and renewing their commitment to grow in their faith. You likely already have plans for New Year's Eve. Within those plans, take a moment away from others and ask God to be present with you in the coming year and guide you deeper into your faith.

Children's Christian Education News!

Meet a teacher: Paula Stoddard, our main 1st – 3rd grade teacher, joined GUMC in 1993. She has been teaching Sunday school since 1995, including kindergarten through 8th grade! She enjoys getting to know the children and watching them grow up. She says "I cherish the memories of the students I had my first year of teaching, who were in kindergarten, as I now see them marry and have children." Paula is definitely one of GUMC's saints!

Sunday School: The unit for January is titled "Jesus the Greatest Prophet". From the Magi looking for the new King to the feeding of the multitudes with a boy's lunch, we see how people met the Greatest Prophet. These stories are an important part of how we come to know Jesus, the son of God.



Confirmation Class Update: We will meet January 7 and explore prayer, "the grand means of drawing near to God" as John Wesley put it. Then on Jan. 21 mentors will meet that evening with their confirmands.

GUMYouTh News from Pastor Eric!

I'm looking forward to adding something different to our GUMY line-up. We are going to have a Praise & Worship night once a month. Playing praise music you hear at Camp Timber-Lee and K-Love. I'm looking to have our youth be in the line-up to play music and help pick topics and issues that are important to youth and see where the Word of God meets those issues and how God calls us to answer them. Let's rock out for the new year.

Peace and Grace,
Pastor Eric

January 2018

Jan.7 Confirmation /GUMY

To ring in the new year will play one of my favorite games –Dodgeball. After the confirmands head to class we will have assorted group games and devotion and check-in time.

Jan.14 GUMY

This Sunday we will have a Praise & Worship service w/our supper and fellowship right afterward. I'm looking for Youth to play music on the pilot of our youth service.

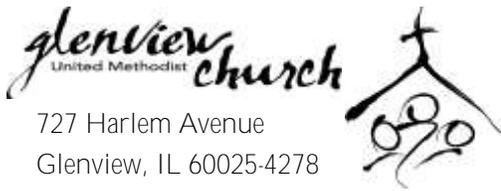
Jan.21 Confirmation/GUMY

We are opening with a game called, "The Underground Church" before the confirmands split off. We will continue the night with a variety of group games and end with Check-in and Devotions.

Jan.28 – ASP Chili Cook-Off

The Chili Cook-off will take the place of our GUMY time. Please enter a Chili and support our ASP team.





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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.

Get Your Monthly Visitor
online at:
www.glenviewumc.org

Mark your calendars for January 28 and join us immediately following worship for our annual Chili Cook-Off! This event helps



our youth group raise money for their annual mission trip with Appalachia Service Project, and it is always a lot of



fun (and tasty too!) If you'd like to enter your favorite chili in the cook-off, simply sign up by the social hall doors. The sign-up sheet will be out during the month of January. Sign up on your own, or as a family, or with friends! Bring your chili that morning and get set up for our tasters, who will come in after worship, spoons in hand! Feel free to bring decorations, come up with a theme for your chili, etc. Awards will be given for Hottest Chili, Best Presentation, Most Original and Best Overall. If you're not up to making chili, we need you to be a taster—only \$5 gets you a taste of each of the marvelous concoctions. Can't wait to see each of you there!

