

The

Visitor

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

Dear friends,

Now that the Thanksgiving dinner is over, do you begin decorating your house for Christmas? What is the first thing you put up for Christmas? Is it the outdoor lights around the edges of the roof, door and windows? Is it the tree? Is it the wreaths?

I won a beautiful Christmas wreath at the *Streets of Venice* fundraising event at GUMC a few weeks ago.

Pastor Eric made it and I cannot wait to put it on our door. We bought a new artificial tree last year and I like that tree. One of these days Chris will play a CD of Christmas carols, drag the tree up to the living room from the basement and Tim will jump up and down with the lights. I know we will get it done, but in the mean time, I am having anxiety, rather than joy, with all the stuff that should be done for Christmas. Preparing for Christmas is not just romantic or smooth, we all know that. It can also be messy. So, I will glue a mustard seed on a piece of paper and put it on the mantle before I do anything for Christmas. It will be the sign of hope and peace of the Christmas season in my house.

Christmas is and was messy, not calm and peaceful. This theme will run through my sermons in December. I will remind you again and again that Joseph and Mary's life was messy with an unexpected pregnancy. The manger where Mary laid baby Jesus was messy with animal food. The magi were messy from their long distance walk over many days and nights. No wonder we feel messy during Advent and Christmas!

I want you to find a way to remind yourself that real life is messy but there is hope, and peace, that only God in Jesus Christ can give to us. Hold on to that sign (it can be a piece of art, music, or an ornament on your tree) and let's be the messengers of good news that the King of Peace is coming!

Happy Advent!

Rev. Eun-Hye Choi



Member News & Happenings!

Let us remember the following members in our prayers.

Scott Harr	Kay Harr
Marilyn Stowell	Sheri Staten
Helen Murphy	Gene Schnell
Marlene Corbige	David Slaght
Tom Schroeder	

Wedding Bells are Ringing! Congratulations to Brian Porrett and Meg Haas, who were married on October 19th; in Melbourne, Australia. Brian is the son of Holly and Ed Porrett.

It's a girl! Priyanka and Srikanth Mareddy gave birth to a baby girl, Amelia, on October 19. Congratulations!

Congratulations to Mike Galarza, a recent recipient of a Lib Nightingale Mission Fund Grant for his service to GUMC and the youth of our church. Upon hearing of a sudden vacancy in our chaperone team, Mike stepped in at the last minute to accompany our youth on their 2018 ASP youth mission trip. Thank you, Mike, for your dedication to the youth of Glenview United Methodist Church.



GIVING A SHOUT-OUT TO: Our crew of Sunday Counting Angels who stay after worship every Sunday to count, record and balance your contributions given in the offering plate. How would the church manage without you. We say a grateful Thank You to:

Rose Ackerman, Dotty Neumann, Elsie Westman

And to our volunteer Finance Secretary **Annette Johnson** who keeps track of all your giving, records it and sends out your statements. It is a very time-consuming mission she does for our church. **Jim Locke**, our Treasurer, logs in more hours than we can count, making sure your church pays its bills, has enough money in its accounts, and fills out all the required reports. We thank them both for the hours these two devote to GUMC.

You may pick up your box of 2019 offering envelopes on the tables outside the choir room during the month of December. These will not be mailed. Thank you!

Welcome to our new members! Jolly and Veronica Macwan, and their daughter Parleen joined GUMC on Sunday, November 25. We welcome them to our church family.

If you are called to service in our local, regional, or international community, please take a moment to review the application for the Lib Nightingale Mission Fund Grant on line at the GUMC website. Funds are available to assist you in fulfilling your call to service. Feel free to contact any Missions & Service Team member for more information. The church office will be glad to forward your inquiry to the Missions Team.

Help Our Youth Serve! In an effort to raise money for their summer ASP trip, the youth will be collecting signatures on the Congregational Christmas card. The suggested donation is \$5.00 and the card will be available to sign on Sundays. Don't miss this fun way to wish a Merry Christmas to all your friends and family at GUMC! Look for the youth outside the social hall on Sundays, December 2 and 9.

Sunday, December 2: First Sunday of Advent :

10:00 a.m., Worship and Communion

Sermon: "Messy News by Messy Angels", Rev. Eun-Hye Choi

Let us begin this joyous Season of Advent together with our church family. We will light the first candle of the Advent Wreath.



"Whose Birthday" Gift Collection and Toys For Olivet UMC -Collection TODAY --bring your gifts to the parlor by 9:50 a.m.

Good Timers CHRISTMAS POTLUCK LUNCHEON

December 6 at 1:00 p.m., in the parlor.

Please bring a dish to share. All are welcome to join us for delicious food and joyous fellowship.



Sunday, December 9: Second Sunday of Advent

Nativity Program and Worship at 10:00 a.m.

The Living Nativity Come and rejoice in the story of God's ultimate gift of love to humanity. Bring friends and family as children, youth and adults share this story that changed the world.



Cookie Walk at 11:15 a.m., social hall

Need some treats for the holiday season? Stop by the social hall after worship and visit the United Methodist Women's Cookie Walk. Purchase a variety of holiday cookies for your family and friends. Proceeds benefit our Church budget.

December 12 at 7:00 p.m. Schram Memorial Chapel 1799 Patriot Blvd.

Community Candlelight Service Come and hear the Christmas story and sing carols in this traditional lessons and carols service. In the midst of busy-ness of this season, this service will offer an opportunity to get together with the community just to celebrate. You won't forget singing "Silent Night, Holy Night" with candlelight in this beautiful chapel!



Sunday, December 16: Third Sunday of Advent

Worship Celebration: 10:00 a.m.,

Sermon: "Messy Nativity", Rev. Eun-Hye Choi

We will light the third candle of the Advent Wreath.



GUMYouth Pot-Luck Christmas Party at 5:30 p.m.

Social Hall

All youth are invited to join in on the holiday fun. Bring a "white elephant" gift for the much anticipated exchange!. GUMY Alumni are invited to join in the fun!

Sunday, December 23: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday Morning Worship - 10:00 a.m.

Sermon: "Messy Community", Rev. Eun-Hye Choi



Christmas Eve at 4:00 and 10:00

(see back cover for additional information)



Sunday, December 30 (First Sunday of Christmas)

Sunday Morning Worship - 10:00 a.m.

Sermon: Rev. Eric Reniva

Be the Spirit of Christmas! People are the true magic of the season and the best "gifts" can come from the most unexpected places. During this holiday season, it can be a difficult time for those in our church family who are homebound, lonely, or suffering. Perhaps you'd like to send a holiday greeting to them to let them know you are thinking of them.

Jan Alexander

J Anderson

Sybil Anderson

Diane & Emil Capitani

Dee Cooper

Marlene Corbige

Bill Forman

Barb Hillis

Isabelle Marth

Mary and Everett Mason

Helen Murphy

Arden Orr

Burt and Mariann Randle

Gene Schnell

Tom Schroeder

Marilyn Stowell

Helen Wilson

Yvonne Theobald

Children's Christian Education News!

Nativity Pageant Rehearsal: We will practice singing and the chimes during Sunday school Dec. 2 and will have a rehearsal to put it all together on Saturday, Dec. 8, 9:00 – 11:30. Please remember to wear something light in color and weight on Dec. 9 for underneath the costumes!

Confirmation Class: Class will meet 5:30 – 7:30 December 2. Youth should complete pp. 17-20 in the student handbook. We will also continue to plan our interview project!

'Tis the season! The United Methodist Women are looking for bakers to provide cookies for the annual Cookie Walk. This year's event is on December 9. Please bake and deliver your festive cookies, candy and bars to the church by Saturday, December 8. Due to the nature of Christmas cookies, nuts are acceptable at this event.



Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway?

Please stop by the sign-up board located outside the social hall and choose one or more needy people for whom you'd like to provide Christmas gifts. For most of those listed, our will be their only gifts.

Let's all make participation in this program one of our Christmas traditions, and take advantage of this opportunity to remember the true meaning of Christmas and to experience the real joy of giving. The new and unused gifts are due no later than Sunday, December 2 before worship.

Olivet Christmas Toy Drive

We are collecting new toys (no clothing, please) for our sister church, Olivet, again this year. Toys are needed for children between birth and 12 years of age, wrapped and labeled with the appropriate gender and age group. Our toy drive begins on Sunday, November 4th, along with the Whose Birthday program, and gifts for both Olivet and Whose Birthday will be collected on Sunday, December 2, in the parlor, before worship.

Oddness of the Season

Before we can finish cleaning up Thanksgiving dinner, many folks will leave the festivities and head into the no-holds-barred shopping frenzy of Black Friday. I have always found it odd that after we prepare for a holiday where we give thanks for our blessings, we follow it up with a day of consuming. Now I will be truthful and admit that I have given into the craze of Black Friday because the sales prices are hard to beat and of course like everyone else I want to give my loved ones something special for Christmas at a decent cost.

As I looked at my calendar to count the Sundays till Christmas, I thought, what if the Advent season started right after Thanksgiving instead of Black Friday. When I looked up the definition of the word "advent," there were several definitions. But the commonality of all the definitions was the word "arrival." Advent is anticipating the arrival of something. So what are we awaiting the

arrival of? Good sales prices or the person who covered the expense of our brokenness?

Now I understand that I can sound like a "Debbie Downer" because there is some fun to be had in getting caught in hustle bustle of shopping and so forth. But Thanksgiving reminds us to be thankful of God's grace in our lives and its followed up by Christmas - in which we celebrate God acting graciously toward us.

I want to remind all of us (including myself) that although we can be gift givers to one another, God gave us the greatest gift of all - his Son.

So as we all head into the Christmas season, don't forget about Jesus. Because that's why Christ came to earth so that we might understand that God doesn't have a particular time of the year to remember us, that God has us in mind always, He never forgets us and loves us dearly.

Peace, Pastor Eric

GUMY 2019

Time flies when you are having fun. As the year is coming to a close, I wanted to write about some of the changes that we will be making in GUMY for 2019 and excitement for ASP 2019.

New Stuff

Pastor Eun-Hye and I sent out a survey and held a meeting with parents to discuss restructuring for GUMY. Starting in January two changes will be made to GUMY meetings:

- 1. Snacks** - Since youth attendance varies from Sunday to Sunday, it's hard to know how much food to prepare. So, we will no longer have supper during GUMY; instead, we have an assortment of snacks provided at GUMY.
- 2. Time Change**- GUMY will be 6-7: 30 pm instead of 5:30-7: 30 pm. We had the extra time to eat supper. So now youth can have that extra half hour to finish homework before coming to GUMY.
- 3. Quarterly Service Project** - Our goal for our church is to: Grow, Play, and Serve. We want to be sure we are getting balanced spiritual diet, so we are planning to have service projects of varying types. The first on the list for February is the Solehope Projects. We will be making soles for shoes out of jeans for children in Africa. We will start a drive for jeans in January and work on the project February.

ASP 2019

ASP 2019 is already in motion, and we are heading back to Kentucky on July 13-20, 2019. I encourage youth and adults to join the mission. If you haven't attended yet, you won't regret it. If you have gone, sign up again, but regardless, I'm stoked to serve with you. The cost is \$340 per person (spread over several payments.) For details, please email me.

We have some awesome fundraiser events for ASP lined up, and I look forward to seeing you there here are the dates and events:

> Chili Cook-Off on January 27

> ASP Dodgeball Tournament on March 17

Lastly, here is my email: ereniva@glenviewumc.org. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me for anything. God Bless.

New Bible Study coming in January!

APOCALYPTIC VISIONS OF THE BIBLE

When we face personal and social crises of our community and nation, we turn to God's prophets in the Bible who show apocalyptic visions for the people of God and we listen to their messages of hope and restoration that give us confidence in the future. There are two books in the Old Testament which have apocalyptic messages: Ezekiel and Daniel and there is the book of Revelation in the New Testament.

There will be two study times offered for **Apocalyptic Visions of the Bible**:

Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. starting on January 9, 2019

Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m. starting on January 13, 2019

We will study Ezekiel and Daniel for six weeks (from 1/9 to 2/13) and Revelation for eight weeks (from 2/20 to 4/10) until the Holy Week. The study books of Ezekiel/Daniel are in the office for \$7 per copy. Or you can order at Amazon.com. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Eun-Hye at echoi@glenviewumc.org.

SERVE

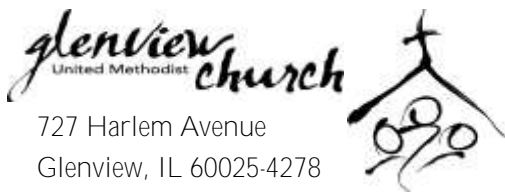
SAVE THE DATE!!! Mon., Jan. 21, 2018 - for Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Day - Service projects for all ages 5 -105. Make it a Day On, Not a Day Off. A feel good day for all volunteers. Registration starts Dec. 31.

The Mitten Tree & Blankets Too: Nov. 18 to Jan 6 - Collecting new or gently used mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, coats, boots, and clothes for all ages. And bedding & blankets. Hang them on or put them under the tree in the Social Hall. The items will go to Olivet UMC.

MANY THANKS

to everyone who came out to our special fundraiser to support the ministries of Glenview United Methodist Church! Lots of fun and fellowship was had by all, eating the wonderful spaghetti dinner prepared by our very own chef, Curt Corbige, and coordination of the dinner service by Linda Kleckner. Thanks, also, to everyone who donated gifts and baskets to be auctioned. The Silent Auction, led by Dawn Bode, Karen Daniels, and Sarane Siewerth was a great hit, with many wonderful donations from both businesses and many of you that got creative, making a wide variety of fun baskets. Scott Daniels, with auctioneer hat and all, led a spirited live auction for dinner with the family of Pastor Eun-Hye Choi. And for all the hard work by Michel & Augustine with the set-up, followed by Eric Reniva, Ethel Doyle, and Pastor Eun-Hye for tackling the washing & cleaning of all the dishes, many thanks! Jim Gernady, Jan Jeffery, Scott Daniels, and David from the Scouts leadership team also pitched in to help clean up, as well. Doris and Janet provided a helping hand, and much support and coordination through the office. A shout-out of thanks also goes to the Praise Band for their special gift of music, and many thanks to Ed Porrett for managing our sound system. It was a great evening of fun and fellowship, and I am grateful to all for making the evening a success!

~Dave Randle



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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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Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24

Worship with Carols & Candlelight - 4:00 p.m.

All are invited to worship together with candlelight and to enter into the holiness of the birth of Jesus.

Traditional Worship Celebration - 10:00 p.m.

Carols, Candles, Choir and Communion! Join in this most joyous celebration in our Christian life. Christ is born!