

The Visitor

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

Dear friends,

On the first Sunday of Lent I preached about one of Jesus' disciples, Nathanael. While he was just sitting under a fig tree, he was seen and called by Jesus. In my sermon I said that this year's Lenten practice for us could be just sitting and looking out the window while waiting for Jesus to find us. At that time, I didn't have any idea that the time was coming soon that we had to just sit and wait. When I sit and wait for Jesus to see me, I think about you long and hard. How are you doing? How are your children doing? How are your aging parents and grandparents doing? How are your neighbors doing?

You and your loved ones are in my prayers. I believe you hold the members and friends of GUMC in your thoughts and prayers. I believe you call them to check on them and to share any good news you have. I heard from you through emails, facebook postings, and phone calls. You are concerned for others and willing to help. Your concern for each other and concern for the community move me. Recently, our church helped Northfield Township Food Pantry in the hope that all the children of our community would have enough food at home in this difficult time.

One of my friends emailed me saying, "be healthy and sane." I believe it is true for all of us. Our emotional and mental health is at risk too. Let's be

kind and compassionate to each other and to ourselves. No matter how much we are broken and worried, we are enough in God's hands. Psalm 139 says, "Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I make my bed in Shel, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast." I hope you find comfort in God's guiding hands.

The Holy Week starts with Palm Sunday on April 5th. Because we are under the "Shelter in Place" order through April 7th there will be no in-person Palm Sunday worship at church. Our youth and children were preparing to lead Palm Sunday worship with songs, chime bells and a drama but that plan has changed. The directors of youth and children ministries and I will let you know when we have a new plan. How about children make Palm Sunday or Easter cards and mail them to their grandparents or church pals? How about we all join in a conference call and sing "Hosanna?" How about we read Jesus' passion story together at home at the same time? We will update you through Tuesday's and Thursday's enews.

Jesus suffered all human troubles, problems, pains, and worries in his life, especially, during Holy Week. While Jesus was hanging on the cross and staying in the tomb for three days, the world didn't see God's

Member News & Happenings!

**Let us remember the following
members in our prayers.**

Burton Randle, Judy Knoblock, Greg
Peterson, Tom Schroeder, Chris Ernst, our
world!

Please let us know if there is a concern in your family.
Pastor Eun-Hye: Echoi@glenviewumc.org or
Office@glenviewumc.org



**With profound regrets, we announce the passing
of our dear member and friend:** Ellen Fagerburg,
the long-time Executive Director of Wesley Child
Care Center. Ellen passed away on March 17, 2020
after a courageous battle with cancer. Due to the
current health crisis within our country, the family
will hold a memorial service at a later date. Ellen
joined this church on September 24, 1978. She
had one daughter Tori and two grandchildren.
Ellen was also recently on the Memorials
Committee.

*Please keep Ellen's family and loved ones in your
prayers. May God's love and grace comfort them.*

The church office is being minimally staffed during
this crisis, if you have questions, you are welcome
to call Doris Stengl at home – 847-729-7324. Doris
or Janet are personally in the office Mon – Thurs.
from 10 am to 2 pm.

Juanita Smith will be moving to Kentucky the week
of April 19. We will truly miss Juanita who has been
a very active member of our church since 1961. We
will miss her smiling face in Bible Study, UMW and
Sunday Worship. We wish Juanita safe travels and
blessings on her new beginning.

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unfolding work toward Easter. Easter is coming. God is
bringing the new beginning, new life, and new creation
that we can see only through the eyes of faith. We are
Easter people and disciples of Jesus Christ who live in
hope, faith and love.

May the blessings of the Holy Week and Easter be with
you!

Eun-Hye Choi, pastor



Nilson Scholarship: Now is your chance to apply for
the Nilson \$1,000 Scholarship Award. It is for any
GUMC member who will be enrolled in the fall of 2020
as a full time student in a 4-year college or university.
Your entry for this award should consist of a short
essay highlighting your accomplishments and
activities, your higher education plans, and future
career and personal interests. Also, please include a
brief explanation as to how this award would benefit
you. Entries must be submitted to the church office in
a sealed envelope marked "Scholarships." The
deadline is June 1.

April Loose Coins and Singles: Bishop's Appeal. If you
would like to donate to the Loose Coins and Singles for
the month of April please send a check to GUMC with
Loose Coins in the memo line. Bishop Sally Dyck has
designated the **Secondary School of Tanzania** as the
recipient of the 2020 Bishop's Appeal. UMC
missionary, Christina Kim, is involved with the youth of
Tanzania. Many are born into poverty and are only
able to receive a primary education. She saw a real
need to have more education available. Ground was
broken in August of 2019 but funds are needed for the
building of the next phase for the school.

From the Finance Committee

Dear GUMC,

We hope and pray that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy. The Finance Committee of GUMC always appreciates your sacrificial giving of offerings, talents, and time to support the mission and ministries of church. Though in-person worship and gatherings are paused in this crisis time, the ministries of GUMC are going strong. We know that some of you may have lost your job recently, some of you lost regular income, and some of you serious worry about how long you may hold your job. We pray for you. Please contact pastor Eun-Hye Choi at echoi@glenviewumc.org if you need emergency help. The GUMC has a family support fund. We want to support you.

As always, we can do our ministries because of your willing offerings and donations. There are many ways you can keep giving. You can mail your check to church office. The office is open Monday through Thursday between 10am and 2pm. You can go to the church website at www.glenviewumc.org to find the donation link. You can choose to give one time, or set up a recurring giving plan. *(You can make a one-time donation or repeating weekly or monthly donations. You can cancel repeating donations at any time through the same web site. The donation web site is secure and hosted by Vanco Payment Solutions and has been used by our church for electronic giving for several years.)* If you need help, please call church office to learn how to set up a recurring giving plan. We are grateful we are in ministry together.

May God's peace and protection be with you and your loved ones.

Thinking of Loved Ones

A Reflection

Space exists beyond our limits to understand
Fabric of a vast universe behind which
I imagine a force no-one can grasp
Striving to stay within our limits
Thinking of Earth and our life on it
Meditating on this microcosm of something larger
Baffled by the vast number of lives in which we co-exist
Sifting for the intelligence beyond random occurrence
So we wrestle to unravel mysteries, only to discover more
We have to learn to be at peace
Being still and hearing the voice which says 'I am God'
For those who do, it's our pledge of faith
Through which we are connected, not knowing how exactly
It's always a work in progress, reaching for spiritual light
An illumination in which all mysteries are seen.

Michel Agriopoulos

March 19, 2020

[I was thinking about my brother a lot the last couple weeks as he died on the 19th of this month. I was thinking about relationships that not only span family, past and future, but also our connections to everyone else on the planet. It's a little daunting, but I've been trying to distill something out of these thoughts for the last couple months. This is it].



News from Sunday School

Well, my article this month was supposed to be about all the amazing activities we had planned this spring. Now the plans are out the window, but I wanted to share this reflection with you. In these strange times, let us find new ways to live out the love of the Gospel! And also, this will end eventually, so sign up for our church's email E-newsletter, so you can know when events get started again. Love you all!

"I've seen some posts from Christians suggesting that many of the cancellations of events and gatherings represents "living in a spirit of fear", so I'd like to offer some basic and hastily written theology in response.

Recognizing the danger that coronavirus poses to vulnerable populations and taking precautions to help protect those populations is not "living in a spirit of fear".

Christian scripture has a prominent theme of contrasting fear with love. Not with bravery, not with foolhardy action. Love is consistently portrayed as the corrective measure for fear.

This shows up in two primary ways.

First, understanding that we are loved by God is meant to be a different foundation on which to build our loves than that provided by fear. Knowing that we don't have to prove ourselves valuable, that we don't have to earn our right to exist, that we aren't ultimately performing for approval gives us a different basis for all of life.

Understanding that we exist because we are loved, that we are loved even at our worst, and that we will continue to be loved by God frees us from the stress and anxiety and fear of being all alone and unwanted if we don't measure up.

Second, the love that roots our very identity empowers us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Because we are not--at our core--in competition

with others for a scarce supply of love and worth, we are free to recognize that each and every person we encounter is more loved than we can imagine.

We are freed to love them ourselves, recognizing that love means wanting and pursuing that which is best for them, working toward their well-being.

And so, when we are confronted with something like COVID-19, we do not simply do the brashest most brazen acts of the status quo to show off that we aren't afraid. Instead, we ask what it means to love our neighbors in these circumstances.

Because our identities are rooted in love, we don't have to fearfully "look out for number one", concerned chiefly with our own self-interest.

We must consider that seeking the well-being of our medically vulnerable neighbors might require us to dramatically change our daily life for a few weeks. We listen and pay attention to the insight of experts in public health and epidemiology for guidance on how we can best protect the health of people we know and people we may never meet.

Of course, we must also consider what the cancellation of gatherings might mean to people who are lonely and isolated without those gatherings. We must ask how we can look to their emotional and psychological well-being as well as their physical health.

We must ask how we can look to the financial well-being of those who are struggling with bills due to the impact of our precautions.

We must ask how we can share from our own community resources to meet one another's needs.

It isn't the spirit of fear that puts baby gates on staircases or buckles seatbelts or clears snowy sidewalks.

It is love that seeks the well-being of our neighbors."

Author: Sam Greenlee, Sacramento, CA

venture with beth and greg

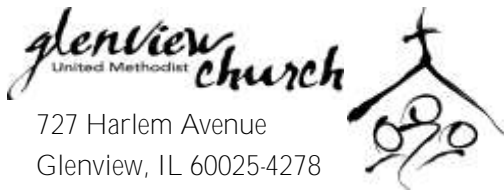
Our first year at GUMC - around Oscar time, I overheard a member talking about how her group of friends tries to see as many nominated movies before their Oscar party. I thought, "How Fun!" We always loved the movies, had our family traditions of times we went to the movies, but it wasn't a priority until an overheard conversation. Ever since, it has been a family quest - to see as many of the Oscar nominated movies we can before a friend's Oscar Party. It would be a lie to say that we didn't take advantage of 30 - day free trial offers and the theaters that show second run movies. But more importantly, it is another way to connect and make memories. Of course we need to watch the other award shows for research purposes. This year at the Golden Globes, Tom Hanks - who with his wife, are recovering from Covid 19 - won the Cecil B. deMille Life Time Achievement Award. In his acceptance speech, Tom Hanks said, "You know, you are a dope if you don't steal from everyone you have ever worked with. And I have stolen from the likes of the people that only need one name... you know like Meryl, like Denzel, like Antonio, like Meg, like Julia, like Sally Field." In a humorous way, Hanks acknowledges that the last one is two names, not one. But he follows it with the sentiment that we can learn from the great examples we have in our life.

We are on a few children and youth ministry listservs, (A Listserv is a method of communicating with a group of people via email.) some by choice, some solicited. We read them all because you just never know what might be a timely, needed inspiration or a fabulous resource. The following is adapted from *The Church of the Brave in the Day of the Fear* by Kevin A. Thompson. "As COVID-19 spreads around the world, the church faces a unique challenge of how to carry out its mission without its most common tools: worship, Sunday School, youth group, vital support groups, etc. Being a pastor, leader, or key volunteer of a church doesn't free us from fearing the uncertainty of the day. Others are looking to us for answers and faith, with the probability of ministry needs increasing even if ministry funds may be dwindling. It's okay to be afraid. Name your fears. Write them down. Voice them to a friend. Tell your spouse. Feel every doubt that you have. Denying them won't be useful. Pretending as though your faith is unshakeable and stoically ignoring the uncertainty will not be helpful. Feel your fears, but don't be ruled by them. Refuse to make decisions based on them."

I think this is pretty good advice for all of us, regardless of our individual, family, local or global challenges. It may also be a good time to use your passion, whether it be for watching movies, reading, playing an instrument, knitting or even yes, cleaning, to connect with your family or maybe just to exhale. I find something new to clean each day and I can't wait to get out into the yard a bit more. That will have to wait as there is currently snow on the ground - ugh...March in Chicago. It is a reminder to slow down and open the Bible a bit more. Given our love for the movies, it is a good thing (or perhaps a God thing) we stumbled across a resource that connects movie clips with lessons and stories of Jesus and the Bible. We have already sent a few to our middle school and GUMY families in preparation for Holy Week. If you are interested in being added to the list let us know at petersons@glenviewumc.org.

Rather than printing dates for events in April, we will update the GUMC families as soon as we can solidify schedules. Until then, we pray that all are healthy and are finding new ways to connect with your family, your community and with Jesus - One who only needs one name.

Peace,
Beth and Greg



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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

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

MOVED ONLINE

We invite you to worship with us on Sunday morning. There are two ways to watch the service:

Glenview United Methodist Church Facebook page: (You must have a Facebook account)

YouTube: Search for Glenview United Methodist Church. (No account is necessary).

Turn up the volume and enjoy Time for Children, Scripture Readings,
the Sermon and Announcements following the postlude.

