

The Visitor

January, 2022

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

When you read this newsletter, I believe, we are in between Christmas Day and New Year's Day. As we close this year, which has been a very difficult year, I want to thank you for your support and participation in all ministries of GUMC. I feel this year has been more difficult than last year, which was the first year of the current pandemic. But your faith is strong, your spirit is warm, your resilience is high, and more than anything else, your love for God, church, and people are so amazing. I think the highlight of this year in our church was starting new partnership ministries, such as building a community garden in the middle of the pandemic for students at school district 34 and supporting The Gelfand Children's Foundation. When I think of you, a smile blooms on my face in deep gratitude. My hope for the new year is that we grow the current strong ministries stronger and start new ministries in which we need to reach out and welcome new people. I pray for God's guidance and blessings upon all churches including GUMC in this difficult time.



When things are tough and uncertain, we go back to basics. For us, the basics are loving our God and our neighbors. Facing the new year, I hope and pray that we grow in loving our God in worship, prayer, Bible study, fellowship, and participating in Communion. Also, grow in loving our neighbors by generous sharing, radical hospitality, and kind words and deeds. Love is the reason why we are called to be the children of God.

On the first Sunday of January, we will celebrate Epiphany Sunday. Epiphany is the season remembering the light of God which guided wise men to find and worship the newborn Child.

On that Sunday pastor Brad Underwood will preach and we will celebrate the first Holy Communion of the new year. You can find a bio of pastor Brad in this newsletter. In January we will welcome new members, start a new Bible study class, and gather for a book discussion. I am thankful that our children and youth ministry keep going strong, outreach/mission programs are active, worship and music are spirit filled, and the staff members are dedicated and creative. I truly give thanks to God for all of you!

With gratitude,
Eun-Hye Choi, pastor

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United Methodist *church*

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Glenview, Illinois

Permit No. 30

January 2022 Issue
Mailed December 16, 2020

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

World Famous GUMMY CHEF COOK OFF
Official ASP Fundraiser
SUNDAY January 30
Persons Under 10 Eat for FREE!
CHEFS! Sign up outside the ASP
\$10 per person to eat.
Awards given for:
Best Overall! Hottest! Best Presentation!

Let us remember the following members in our prayers.

Chris Ernst

Members who wish to remain private.

Please let us know if there is a concern in your family.

Pastor Eun-Hye: Echoi@glenviewumc.org or Office@glenviewumc.org

In Memoriam

Long time past member, Pauline Bailey died early November 2021.

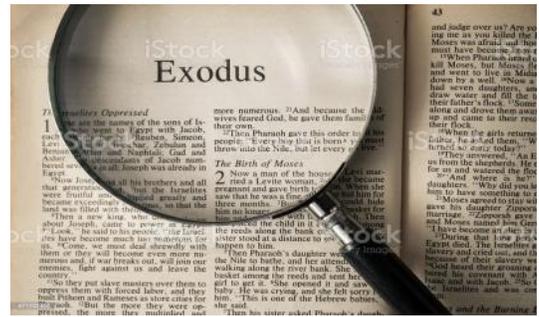
Former member and lay leader of GUMC, Tom MacDonald, passed away November 22.

Former member, James Brown passed away December 1.

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

Meet our Guest Preacher: Pastor Brad Underwood will preach on the first Sunday of January.

Brad Underwood is originally from Colleyville, TX. He spent some time at a sustainability farm before going to seminary, serving as a youth pastor in North Carolina and Illinois and becoming ordained as a Baptist pastor. He's currently working on a PhD in Slavic Studies at Northwestern University. He is very excited to preach for Glenview and thanks everyone for their welcome of his family!



New Year, New Book, and New Group!

Wednesday evening Bible study group will read and study the Book of Exodus.

Beginning January 5, 2022 at 7pm on ZOOM

Do you know what's in the book of Exodus? Wednesday Bible study group will start to read and discuss on the book of Exodus. For the first class, please read the first five chapters of the book and think about what's new to you or what questions you may have. This is a safe time and place to exchange questions, insights, and comments about the Bible. To participate in the class, contact pastor Choi at echoi@glenviewumc.org.



Coins and singles in the offering plate January, February and March: The Dignity Diner.

The mission of the dignity diner, a restaurant style meal program, is to feed the homeless and hungry with respect and dignity. Every Tuesday night they feed approximately 50 homeless and hungry patrons. The diner is located at holy covenant Church in the Lincoln Park area.

Please donate on line at www.glenviewumc.org/donate-online using the "other" option and specify Loose Coins. Or you can mail a check to the church with "Loose Coins Diner" in the memo area.

venture with beth and greg

Writing to you this month with hopefulness in our hearts. The inter-generational? multi-generational? music worship service with nativity was inspiring! Not only because of the amazing singers and instrumentalists, not only because of our readers and Nativity performers, but because we had our largest attendance in months. The energy and anticipation for Christmas was palpable. The Petersons wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

Looking ahead, there will be no Sunday School, Confirmation or GUMYouth during the break (December 26th and January 2nd). We will resume all programs on Sunday January 9th with Sunday School and Confirmation meeting during worship and GUMYouth meeting at 4:30.

After a year hiatus, we are planning to host our annual Chili Cook Off on Sunday January 30th following the 10am service. This is our annual fundraiser for our Summer ASP Trip (which we are also hoping to resume this year!) We need your chili! So start researching your best recipes! Whether it's the hottest, made with various meats or no meat at all! Who will be this year's winners! We need chili eaters as well! So make sure to come on by the Social Hall immediately after the last hymn is sung and purchase your spoons for a great cause, and some amazing chili! Oh, and vote for your favorites!

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and blessed New Year! See you in Church!

Peace
Greg and Beth



*Are you stressed,
alone, anxious,
worried or just need
to talk to others.
Please join our
Thursday*

Confidential ZOOM support group. Meet with Pastor Eun-Hye Choi and others who share your concerns.

Thursday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. Email Pastor Choi to get the zoom link. echoi@glenviewumc.org

GUMC is here for you.



Thank you to all the bakers who donated delicious cookies to this year's cookie sale.

The UMW sold 51 boxes of cookies, for a total of \$510.00. Many thanks to Judy Knoblock, Norma Putman, Suzanne Rudolph, Jan Jeffery and Jane Furch for helping to put together the cookie boxes.

And A HUGE thank you to all those cookie lovers who purchased cookies this year!

You may pick up your box of 2022 offering envelopes in the office during the month of December. These will not be mailed. Thank you!





How long has it been since you updated your will? Does it still express your wishes? Does it leave a gift to your church to carry on its ministry after your death. The new year is a good time to review your documents.

CROP WALK Update: We are grateful again this year for another terrific showing at the Glenbrook Crop Walk. We received over \$30,000 in donations. Forty people walked (maybe more, if some did not sign in) on a beautiful day in Northfield on October 17th. Special thanks to Jim Hutten and Christy Bobart of Northfield Community Church, who organized the event. Glenview United Methodist Church Total donation: \$1,250.

Book Club will read and discuss the book, *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger. It is a story of a boy who is a child of a Methodist pastor, standing at the door of his young manhood, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. The group will meet on January 25 (Tuesday) at 7pm in-person, in the Parlor. Helen Jo Ellis and Meg Pyterek will lead the discussion time.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Here are our January birthdays and anniversaries. If you have a January birthday or anniversary and your name is not listed, please call the church office so we can update our records.

1/1 Creed Kowski	1/1 Joanne Richter	1/5 Samantha Welter
1/7 Jim Gernady	1/8 Barbara Cordell	1/9 Fulton Vasquez
1/10 Korey Holzhuetter	1/11 Kevin Slobodecki	1/11 Ken Welter
1/12 Pat Glass	1/12 Judy Neuberger	1/12 Kristin Slobodecki
1/14 Renelle Agriopoulos	1/16 Ethel Doyle	1/17 Priscilla Nutt
1/18 Julie Radman	1/19 Cathy Stryker	1/19 David Randle
1/19 Tom Tobin	1/21 Howard Tweddle, III	1/22 Jacob Risley
1/25 Nicole Potter	1/27 Grace Murphy	1/29 Barb Galarza
1/29 Sarane Siewerth	1/31 Melanie Cummings	

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

1/18 Judy and Damian Neuberger 1/22 Joanne and Larry Brand

When I wrote this back in 2004 it was because I wondered about the number of dead and where God was in all this. This year I am thinking about the dead and hardship of all those affected by the tornados which tore through Miss., Kentucky, Tenn., and IL. I think it helps to keep perspective when we think about these things and allows us to do as Christ taught us - to love our neighbors.

~Michel Agriopoulos

The Message of Christmas 2004

Looming up through the past comes Jesus
Like a lighthouse beacon as constant as the north star
Did it go out this Christmas?
Free will, free will, everything with a life of it's own
Even the earth, free to act, immune to it's Creator
And then one day it does and a Tsunami is born
Rolling an ocean of water
Over the cries of people no longer here
Down come buildings, down come families
The world collapses and there is no guiding light

Reports flash across screens, we hear the unbelievable
Wall Street stops momentarily,
We swallow against the lump and think:
Glad it's not me
Marveling at the destruction, we want to help
For the first time in a long time we seem like brothers
Like sisters, armies put aside rifles and hurry to help
Muslims, Buddhists and Christians struggle with God
The Tsunami of water is dwarfed by the Tsunami of grief

What could God possibly say?
I am God and you are all within God
Peace will come when your love knows no bounds
I have given everything a life of it's own
Even the power to take life
Look deep and go beyond yourself, beyond what you think you know
And when madness is about to take you, ask me
I am there, I will be there, I am the light of comfort you seek
I have endured all insults, all ridicule, all anger, and I exist still
There are things I will do and others I will not
You must understand even though it is hard:
Earth is not Heaven

Michel Agriopoulos
January 9, 2005