

GLENVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE VISITOR



Dear GUMC members and friends,

Where do I begin? I remember my first Sunday at Glenview UMC as if it were yesterday. My family and I had moved into the parsonage just two days earlier. Unopened boxes were everywhere, and we still hadn't found the right bed sheets for each bed. Ready or not, we came to church that Sunday.

From the very beginning, I said that I wanted to listen—to hear your stories and your yearnings for the church. It seemed, however, that few were interested in my desire to listen. Many were more interested in whether I had a strategy, a plan, or some kind of magic to turn the church around and fill the pews, especially with young people. To be honest, I struggled with that same question for a long time. I found myself wondering, "Now that I've arrived at another church, what am I going to do here?" Beyond church growth, I questioned what the true purpose of the church should—or could—be.

One thing I knew for certain was that simply attracting people to our building or our pews could not be the purpose of the church. I wanted to know your origin stories—how you came to faith, how you found God and how God found you along the way. I wanted to hear what you yearned for in faith and in life, and how you hoped to live out that faith each day. I invited you for coffee, breakfast, lunch, or a meal at the parsonage. You, in turn, invited me into your homes, hospital rooms, and the most important moments of your lives—both joyful and painful. I believed then, and I believe now, that even if we failed at church growth, we succeeded in knowing one another and sharing stories of faith and life. That is sacred and holy, and that is enough to be the church.

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"Connecting with others through Mission, Music, and Ministry."

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Ed Porrett
Patrick Keenan

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday:
10:00a.m. –2:00 p.m.

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
www.glenviewumc.org
office@glenviewumc.org
847-729-1015

IN SYMPATHY

Long-time beloved member, Ellen Schaden, passed away on Dec. 7th. She passed away peacefully at home. Ellen was an "office angel" who donated her time supporting GUMC for many years. Her quiet grace will be missed. A memorial service will be held in the upcoming months. Please hold her husband Chuck, and the family, in your prayers. We grieve for their loss and hold them close to our hearts. -- May God's love and grace comfort them.

We are sad to announce the passing of Paul Randle on January 15. He is the son of Mariann and the late Rev. Burton Randle. Paul's Celebration of Life will be Saturday, February 7th at Warren Cemetery, 1475 N Cemetery Rd, Gurnee, IL. 10:00a - Visitation, 11:00a - Celebration of Life Service, 12:00p - Graveside Burial, 12:30p - Light Reception. Tina and family welcome all who would like to say goodbye to Paul. Please keep Mariann, David and the Randle family in your prayers.

PRAYERS ARE NEEDED

Let us remember the following members in our prayers.

**Alice Ramos, Chris Ernst, Emma Ramos
Ted Sawicz, Jim Weinstein, Linda Kleckner
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

LENT BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Bible study group will study Adam Hamilton's book *"The Message of Jesus"* starting on Feb. 25. The books are available in the church office with \$14/copy.

In this six-week study, pastor and best-selling author Adam Hamilton explores six of the most important themes in Jesus's teachings, why they matter, and how they speak to us today. The book will explore Jesus's preaching on the Kingdom of God, the Sermon on the Mount, the parables, the "I am" sayings in John, and more. Jesus's message is not only life-changing, but world-changing.

No class on Ash Wednesday.

...continued from the front page.

As I prepare for my upcoming retirement, I deeply cherish the many conversations we have shared—in meetings, Bible studies, fellowship hours, funeral and memorial services, and around tables with meals and coffee. I am grateful that you allowed me to be vulnerable in worship and preaching, and I am equally grateful for the vulnerable moments you shared with me. I never felt that I had to pretend to be anyone other than myself in order to be your pastor. You and I are both broken, imperfect, and flawed, yet we remain rooted in faith through God's mercy and love. That, too, is sacred and holy. And that is enough. For all of this, we give thanks to God together.

By the way, if you have not yet heard, I will be retiring this June. I hope that you and I will have one more conversation before that time comes. May God bless you abundantly on your faith journey.

May I say one more thing? Please stay and trust in God—because God knows you.

With gratitude and grace,

Pastor Eun-Hye Choi

Children, Youth & Families

Directors

Beth and Greg Peterson
Petersons@glenviewumc.org

Teachers

Susanne Rudolph & Maddie Peterson
Sundayschool@glenviewumc.org

First of all we'd like to thank everyone that braved the cold and snow for the GUMYouth Annual Chili Cook Off! Thanks to all of our chili chefs who made some fantastic chilis for this year's event! Thanks to all who came with an appetite and helped us raise \$740! And finally to all the youth that helped with everything from set up and decorating to collecting the donations and tabulating the votes! (Also helped clean out the Sunday School classrooms after a radiator pipe burst).

Sunday School will meet every Sunday in the month of February during the Worship Service.

Sunday, February 8th will be our monthly Confirmation Class. We will meet from 10am until 1pm, taking a break to collect donations for the Souper Bowl of Caring and fellowship.

Mardi Gras Sunday will take place on Sunday, February 15th! Join us for the service and the fellowship immediately following the service including Jambalaya!

Ash Wednesday takes place on February 18th. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lenten season and an important time to worship and reflect as Christians. We hope you will join us for the evening service.

On Sunday, February 22nd, we will join with Bach 2 Rock of Northbrook and our Director of Music, Cindy Applebee for an Open Mic from 4:30pm until 6pm. All ages are welcome.



The results are in. It was a tough match up of 13 chilis but this year's standouts are: Best Overall : Curt Corbige, Hottest: Michael and Eileen Ribordy, Most Original: Susanne Rudolph and Taylor Woitesek, Best Presentation: Mike Vilches.

Best Presentation: Mike Vilches.

We would like to thank all the chefs who participated! Linda Kleckner, Lindsay Kleckner, Dave Kleckner, Curt Corbige, Holly Field, Chris Field, the Doherty family, Barb Galarza, Chris Walters, Sharon and Mikko Espino, Mike and Eileen Ribordy, Maddie Peterson, Mike and Gina Vilches, Susanne Rudolph and Taylor Woitesek. But the real winners are the youth! GUMYouth earned over \$740 for their programs! Thanks to all who cooked and ate! This is a great GUMC tradition that gets better every year.

RAINBOW TEAM

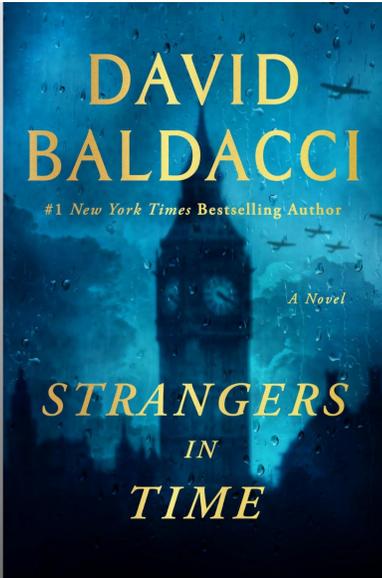
The Rainbow Team invites you to a joy filled Feb. 8 rainbow coffee hour. And what is the Rainbow Team you ask? Its purpose is to help our congregation live out a reconciling way of life. GUMC's Reconciling mission statement reminds us that in following "as the loving example of Jesus Christ, we affirm 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". Our team members include Ethel Doyle, Linda Duback, Brooke McCarron, Diana Berger, Marilyn Robb and Laura Sailer. Please feel free to contact one of us to learn more and join us at any time. Love and joy, sounds very Methodist to me!

BOOK CLUB

Book Club

Without guardians and stability, teens Charlie and Molly find an unexpected ally and protector in Ignatius Oliver, and solace at his bookshop, The Book Keep. Mourning the recent loss of his wife, Ignatius forms a kinship with both children, and in each other they rediscover the spirit of family each has lost.

But Charlie's escapades in the city have not gone unnoticed, and someone's been following Molly since she returned to London. And Ignatius is harboring his own secrets, which could have terrible consequences for all of them. Charlie, Molly, and Ignatius learn that while the perils of war rage on, their coming together and trusting one another may be the only way for them to survive.



DAVID
BALDACCI

#1 New York Times Bestselling Author

A Novel

STRANGERS
IN
TIME

Discussion: March 3

7:00p.m., parlor

Everyone is Welcome

Join in the Book Club discussion of *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon on February 3 at 7p.m. Start reading *Strangers in Time* by David Baldacci for March.

POETRY

Looking For Peace

*Dear God I'm praying for our world - weary of violence
Weary of tragedy played out in "breaking news"
Petitioning for your assistance
Because we seem mired in our madness
I confess we no longer seem willing to love our neighbor
Now I join in our cries for help*

*Please walk the Earth with us
For we have much need of your blessed presence
Radiate your love
Let those who do not feel it fall away
Let those who do, shine in their blessings
Rescue us so that we may see you in the eyes of others
Let some joy return to our lives once again*

Jan 12, 2026
Michel Agriopoulos

THE MUSIC CORNER NEWS

Greetings of music! February is here and the Sanctuary Choir continues to lead musically and spiritually through a season of transition. We are concluding the Genesis study, which grounded worship in stories of beginnings, promise, and God's creative faithfulness. During Epiphany, we have listened for God's light and revelation, discovering how God's message continues to unfold.

Throughout Epiphany, the hymn "**Be Still, My Soul**" has carried through worship life at GUMC. Different verses have carried the story — from trust in God's guiding hand, to patience in uncertainty, to hope rooted in God's faithfulness. Beginning in February, this hymn continues to bridge the light of Epiphany with the reflective season of Lent.

On **Sunday, February 15**, (the threshold of Lent) we have **Mardi Gras Sunday**. At **9:45 a.m.**, a pre-service jazz combo will offer uplifting selections — a musical celebration that honors the tradition of good food and re-joining before we enter the Lenten season.

Our Lenten journey begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 18 at 7 p.m.**, as the Sanctuary Choir, joined by guest instrumentalists, leads worship with **Taizé chant**. This prayer-centered service invites stillness and reflection.

On **Sunday, February 22**, the **First Sunday of Lent**, the Lenten theme begins: "**The Message of Jesus.**" "**The Kingdom of God Has Come Near,**" is drawn from the Gospel reading **Mark 1:9–15**. The service music will include the Taizé chant "**Wait for the Lord,**" inviting attentive listening, and the anthem "**Come to the Water,**" which reflects Jesus' baptism and God's invitation to new life.

We look forward to worshipping with you as we listen, pray and sing together.



CHOIR JOY

Sharing God's Love Through Song at Chestnut Square

Last month, the **Glenview United Methodist Church Sanctuary Choir** was honored to sing at the annual Memorial Service at **Chestnut Square Retirement Village**, alongside Chaplain Mayra and the residents of the community. Together, we remembered and gave thanks for the lives of 20 individuals who passed away in 2025.

The choir supported hymn singing and offered the anthems *Down to the River to Pray* and *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*, sharing God's love through music in a sacred time of remembrance. We are grateful for the choir's faithful presence and the opportunity to offer comfort, hope, and peace beyond our church walls.

Mission & Service Committee

Martin Luther King, Jr, Volunteer Day

Thank you, to all who served on Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Day, Jan. 19. GUMC partnered with Arlington Heights First United Methodist Church, who arranged a variety of projects at the church and off site. GUMC folks participated at FUMCAH, Feed My Starving Children in Schaumburg and Libertyville and at Bernie's Books in Lake Forest. Thank you!!! You helped more people than you realize.

Coins & Singles - Thank you.

Thank you for your coins, single dollar bills, and designated giving in the Forth Quarter of 2025.

The designated Mission recipient:

Midwest Mission, \$842.40

Other recipients:

United Voices for Children \$200.00,

Food Pantry \$5.00,

"For Needs for Community"

Debra Gelfand Children's Foundation \$150.00 goes to the to help Glenview School Dist. 34 children in need. Thank you all, for your generosity in helping others in need.



Mitten & More Tree 2025 Update:

Belated Big Thanks to Ethel Doyle, Barb Garlarza, and Marilyn Robb for their Epiphany Sunday help in "un-decking" the tree, then sorting and bagging up the fruits of our congregation's generosity. Care for Real's clothes closet was full up, so we added Wings as a recipient of a portion of our items. Wings is an organization that supports those experiencing domestic violence. Extra thanks to Ethel for delivering to Wings. Thanks also to Olivet Lay Leader, Chester Lacey for braving some crazy January rush hour traffic to stuff his car full of the items for their community's needy seniors and families. Last, but not least, let us thank Master Tree Architect Mark Netherland for freeing our tree of its Old Chapel brick foundation, disassembling and packing away all the extras, then releasing the tree back to its forest home.



Since it began in 1989, the Souper Bowl of Caring has provided over \$100 million worth of food and money to local hunger charities all across America. The youth of GUMC will be collecting food and monetary donations on Sunday, February 8th before and after worship. Help provide assistance to those in need and empower our young people to make difference in our community and reinforce the Methodist ethic of service.



On behalf of our three participating agencies, please accept my sincere thanks to all of you who participated in the "Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway" program this past December. This was our fortieth year of Glenview United Methodist Church's participation in this program. Your generosity provided gifts for thirty-five young adults from Methodist Youth Services, thirty-eight seniors from Glenview Terrace, and over sixty children and teens in the Olivet UMC neighborhood. Your gifts provided a day of hope and joy to over 130 members of our surrounding communities. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for so generously sharing your blessings with others.

So many people helped to make this program a success. Every year, Doris Stengl provides invaluable support to me and the congregation by answering questions and safely securing the gifts brought early to the office. Janet manages the publicity for the weeks prior to the event and makes sure the Sign-Up Genius link is available to everyone. Thank you both for your much appreciated support.

A special thank you goes to Helen Jo Ellis, Judy Keenan, and Sheri Staten for helping with check-in and packaging the gifts for delivery. Ed Porrett helps each year to deliver the gifts to Glenview Terrace and Diana Berger coordinates with Chester for the gift pickup for Olivet UMC. This year, we had many members stop by after coffee hour to help us box the gifts up for delivery. Please know your help was appreciated.

As always, your Missions & Service Committee supports our efforts for this program. When you see one of their committee members, please let them know you appreciate their work.

I once again share with you a few words from the thank you email we received from Glenview Terrace. Please know your generosity during the holiday season is truly appreciated.

Holly Porrett
Missions and Service Committee

...Your kindness made our resident's Christmas brighter. It was a great pleasure to see that they were opening the gifts with enthusiasm... (A) few residents said God has sent angels to help them.

This Christmas, you've brought the real happiness to our residents. Your support truly makes them feel seen and cared for during this special time of year, and we are so grateful to your church members.

Thank you again for being a strong pillar of hope and for making this holiday season brighter for so many residents. You are the real heroes of Jesus. God Bless you abundantly.

Jollamma Abraham
Activity Director
Glenview Terrace



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent — a time for reflection and preparation for Easter.

Pastor Eun-Hye will offer individual ashes on Wednesday, February 18, in her office from 12 – 1 pm. Worship will be in the sanctuary at 7 pm.

Journey through the flavors of the Himalayas! Join GUMC Members and Guests for another "Dinner Around the World" at *The Clove Indian and Nepali Cuisine* in Glenview!



Give yourself a treat and join us! Below are details:

Saturday, February 7. at 5 PM

1827 Waukegan Road, Glenview

Each person will order individually. The cost will be about \$50 per person, including food, beverage, tax, and tip.

They will take a limited number of separate cheques.

RSVP: Email or call the Church office ASAP!

RUMMAGE SALE NEWS

Our 63rd Annual Rummage Sale will be held on Friday, March 27 and Saturday, March 28. We will begin accepting gently enjoyed donations on March 22. Places to look for donations: kitchen, family room, foyer, front closet, bedrooms, dining room, basement, attic, garage, toy room, office.

Some items we can't take: mattresses, computers, lawn equipment with gasoline. Items should be clean and sellable. Sweaters with holes are great to get rid of... but not at the rummage sale. Those need to go in the trash. Our volunteers are looking forward to the fun and unique items you will be donating. Any questions, contact the church office.

IT'S A CELEBRATION!



The 1970s were marked by major political and cultural shifts, with growing emphasis on self-improvement and increased momentum for women's, and environmental rights. During this same era, GUMC experienced a period of growth. People were drawn to the Methodist Church's evolving social and theological perspectives, and the strong presence of the United Methodist Women.

On Sunday, February 15, at 10:00 a.m., GUMC will honor those who became members during the 1970s. We will celebrate their lasting commitment to the life and ministries of GUMC. Please join us in recognizing these beloved individuals, and stay afterward for a special Mardi Gras fellowship gathering.

BIRTHDAYS

2/2 Claire Cummings	2/2 Leigh Dierbeck	2/2 Sally Villaflor
2/3 Cindy Carlson	2/4 Avery Ellis	2/4 Olivia Rowlands
2/6 Tom Johnson	2/7 David Vander Ploeg	2/9 Bill Forman
2/12 Ben Campbell	2/12 Vince Curkov	2/13 Sue Acer
2/13 Lauren Locke	2/14 Maya Depies	2/14 Matthew Holzhueter
2/15 Troy Conlin	2/17 Nick Depies	2/18 Emerine Cummings
2/20 Matthew Chorvat	2/22 Nolan Tagtmeier	2/24 Tim Lankford
2/24 Darlie Rejuso	2/25 Chris Ferrone	2/26 Leslie Schroeder

(No anniversaries listed for February.)

SOUP AND SUBSTANCE

Theme: A Christian Discernment Practice based on the book, "Pursuing God's Will Together: A Discernment Practice" by Ruth Haley Barton



*Soup
with
Substance*

When: Wednesday evenings (6pm – 7pm) starting on February 25.

What: Soup and Bread dinner, Presentation, Discussion

Where: The Narthex of GUMC

Cost: Free Will donation for the meal; No need to buy the book

Feb. 25: The Beginning of Discernment Practice (Eun-Hye Choi)

March 4: Discernment Practice in a Christian Community (Laura Underwood)

March 11: The Values of Discernment Practice (Joann Richter)

March 18: An Example of Community Discernment (Chris Walters)

March 25: Doing God's Will Together (Eun-Hye Choi)

PASTORAL TRANSITIONS

Tues., Feb. 3 7 - 8 p.m.

Online Via Zoom: Free event; no registration needed

LINK: www.umcnic.org/calendar/pastoral-transitions-101

Join us for a practical and informative webinar designed for SPRC members and anyone in the local church who wants to better understand pastoral transitions. Rev. Danita R. Anderson will guide participants through the basics of itineracy and the appointment system, how to welcome and support a new pastor, and what to expect when a pastor retires. Whether you're new to church leadership or simply looking to strengthen your congregation's hospitality and care, this session offers valuable insights for every church setting.



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LENT 2026

ASH WEDNESDAY
FEB. 18
12PM & 7PM



BIBLE STUDY
BEGINS FEB. 25

SOUP &
SUBSTANCE
BEGINS FEB. 25

