



# THE CHRISTIAN ECHO



Glen Echo Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Telephone: (515)274-9124; Email: glenechocc@msn.com

April 2020  
Volume 64, Issue 4



**WITHIN TWO DAYS, THE ROOF WAS DONE. MAY IT KEEP US DRY FOR YEARS TO COME.**

The roofers were scheduled to replace the roof at the end of April, but they had an available opening and the work was completed early. The energetic crew ripped off old shingles and stapled on new ones during a two day period. Members of the Property Committee cleared the sanctuary and covered the pews with plastic so they would be kept clean from falling dirt and debris. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to complete this large task in a timely manner.



# MINISTER'S MOMENT

I need Easter this year. It's been a long Lent, and spiritual shadows have appeared as we've adjusted to living with COVID-19. The normal cheery interchanges that we have with our neighbors have seemed muted as we dance at a distance from people whose company we enjoy. Concerns about how to maintain physical health and spiritual connections among our church members have been very present in my thought processes. The inability to gather physically and worship God with you has created a hunger in my heart for your company. As I've talked with you on the telephone and during video conference calls, I've discovered that many of us share this hunger.

The circumstances that we face currently appear to have spiritual commonalities with the disciples who walked with Jesus in the first century. When Jesus was arrested, most of the disciples isolated themselves. Public exposure could result in their deaths. They were uncertain how to live their faith and what form that faith would take in their changing circumstances. And then, Easter arrived. Mary Magdalene and other believers ventured forth in the darkness and found that death could not cancel the love of Christ. Jesus had risen, his spirit was alive, and the Good News spread throughout Jerusalem.

As time passed, the gospel reached other continents, and Christian practices evolved to meet the needs of the people who it encountered. The message of God's amazing and saving grace remained the same, but the methods used to communicate the gospel changed. I doubt that the first century disciples would have imagined that their words would be broadcast on television some day by evangelists such as Billy Graham.

The presence of the pandemic means that we are finding new ways to be the church and share the gospel. Emails, social media, video conference calls, online devotional services, and Drive-In Church (see the next page) can help us to remain connected in Christ when our standard worship habits change. Our General Minister and President, The Reverend Teresa Hord Owens, communicates that even though we are practicing social distancing, we do not have to be in social isolation. We can reach out to each other through the telephone, cards, and electronic means.

And, like the first century disciples, we will discover that Easter has come. COVID-19 cannot cancel the love of Christ.

Blessed to be on this journey with you,

*Pastor Dawn*

## APRIL PREACHING SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FIRST LESSON</u>	<u>SECOND LESSON</u>	<u>SERMON TITLE</u>
APRIL 5	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	Luke 7:36-47	"Beginning Again"
APRIL 12	Colossians 3:1-4	John 20:1-18	"Emerging from Darkness"
APRIL 19	Psalm 16	1 Peter 1:3-9	"More Precious Than Gold"
APRIL 26	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19	Luke 24:13-35	"Open Eyes"

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## COMING ON EASTER: DRIVE-IN CHURCH!

COME AS YOU ARE  
AND STAY IN YOUR CAR!

Beginning Easter, April 12, Glen Echo Christian Church will host "Drive-In Church." Park in the church's south or east parking lot by 10:15 and listen to our worship service on your car's FM radio! Bulletins (with song lyrics) will be posted on our website and emailed to the congregation ahead of time. People who don't have computers will receive the bulletins by mail.

During the service, Patty will play and Pastor Dawn will lead the other portions of worship, including a Children's Message. We will celebrate communion with bread & juice that each person brings from home. An offering will be collected in a unique and safe way, and we will have an opportunity to enact the words, "Honk If You Love Jesus."

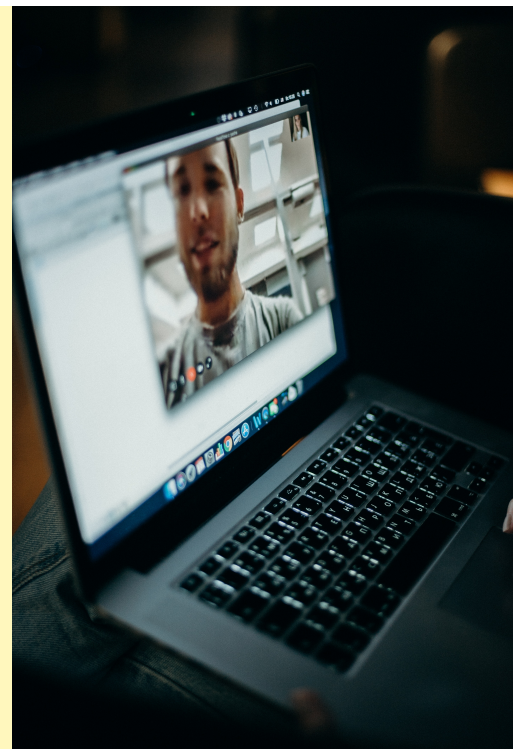
Drive-In Church will continue each Sunday morning until we can gather safely in the sanctuary (unless a "Shelter in Place Order" is issued). If the weather is nice and people sit six feet apart, they are welcome to bring chairs and portable radios and sit on the front lawn.

Join us as we explore this method of coming together to worship God!

## ENCOURAGING ECHOES

Another way to remain connected as a congregation during this time of social distancing is to become part of the newly established Wednesday evening "Encouraging Echoes." Each Wednesday night at 7:30, Pastor Dawn will host an online video conference through the free technology program, "Zoom." Interested participants need to notify the Pastor ahead of time that they would like to be part of the conversation, and Pastor Dawn will email an invitation to them. On the night of the event, participants will click on the link that is embedded in the invitation, and they will be connected to the video conference.

Ten people participated in the first video meeting on March 25. Even with initial technical difficulties that were resolved, folks enjoyed seeing and listening to each other as personal updates, thoughts about faith, and communion were shared. The experience was a positive one, and several requests were made to have this become a recurring event. These video meetings will continue until we can worship in the sanctuary.



## PRAYER VIGIL

The Good Friday Prayer Vigil is April 10, from 6:00 AM to midnight. This year, folks are encouraged to pray at home, but they can also pray at Glen Echo. If you come to the church, please be certain that you don't have a fever. Wipe down the inside and outside door handles with disinfecting wipes, as well as any books and pens that you touch.

Please email the church office if you would like to pray during one of the following 60 minute time slots:

- 6 AM
- 7 AM
- 8 AM
- 9 AM
- 10 AM
- 11 AM
- 12 PM (noon)
- 1 PM
- 3 PM
- 4 PM
- 5 PM
- 6 PM
- 7 PM
- 8 PM
- 9 PM

Participating in the Good Friday Prayer Vigil is another way that we can be spiritually connected, even when we are physically separated.



*(Photo by Dennis Martin)*

## NEW GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN!

Shirley has two new great grandchildren! Rosalie was born March 19, to Nikki and Alex.

Josiah arrived March 23, to one of Shirley's granddaughters who lives in Minneapolis.

Welcome to the world, Rosalie and Josiah, and congratulations to your families!

## OUR NEWEST MEMBER

Bev has visited Glen Echo several times in the last two years, and on Sunday, March 1, she joined our congregation. We are so glad that she is officially a member of our family of faith.

**Welcome, Bev!**

# Schedule Updates

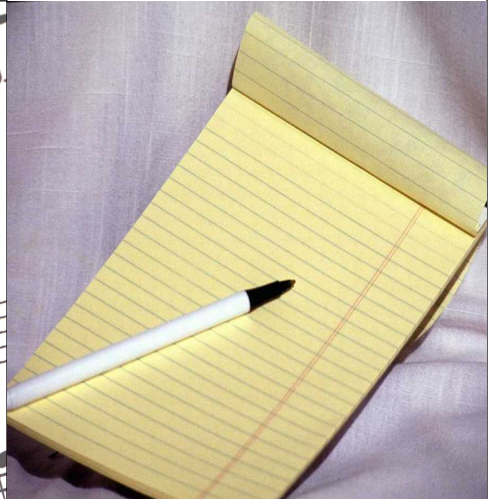
Governor Reynolds' extension of the State of Emergency has affected Glen Echo's calendar in the following ways:



Because folks will work outside and can remain 6' apart, the Property Committee's Outdoor Clean Up Day will continue as planned on Saturday, April 4. The Make Up Day is April 11.



**Choir Practice is cancelled through the end of April.**



The April 14 Cabinet Meeting will not occur. Committees are encouraged to communicate any business by group email, telephone, or text.



With the exception of Drive-In Church, Sunday morning and evening activities at Glen Echo are on hiatus through April 30. Sunday School, Coffee Fellowship, the Elders' Meeting, the Edencrest Chapel Service, and Les Youth Group are cancelled. However, all are encouraged to call, text, or email one another to keep in

*The Outreach Team is in the process of determining if they will proceed with the scheduled dinner at the Central Iowa Shelter on April 23.*



Safe and sanitary social distancing techniques will continue to be observed during Contemplative Prayer on Thursday afternoons. Please let Pastor Dawn know if you have specific needs for which you would like prayer.

## SENSE OF VALUE

Even though our congregation is unable to congregate on Sunday mornings for a while, bills continue to arrive at the church. If you are able to do so, please continue to support the church financially by sending in your tithes and offerings.

Thank you for your continued support of Glen Echo Christian Church.

## COOL-AID CAMPAIGN



**\$12,671 has been collected so far for the Cool-Aid Campaign.**

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Kathy  
Ruth  
Steve  
Marlene  
Mike  
DeAnn  
Eileen  
Mindy  
Doris  
Sandy  
Marge  
Marilyn  
George  
Candy  
Danielle  
Rammie  
Donna  
Nelda  
Pat  
Linda  
Alyssa  
Galdino  
Krista  
Mary  
Monica  
Sally  
Randy  
Brenda  
Bill

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

March 1	71
March 8	56

We entered March in the midst of a virus invasion,  
Causing our lives to take a big deviation.

It could be a while before we can gather together,  
But we must stay in touch with each other.

So I'm staying positive as I sit in my shelter,  
I will continue sending Cool Aid poems helter-  
skelter.

I'm planning to join you in our cooled pews,  
With handshakes and hugs, catching up on your  
news.

So if the poems are not too lame,  
Maybe you could "take me out to the ball game."  
Be safe y'all! The prayer list includes us all.

-- Joel

# APRIL 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<b>1</b> 7:30 PM Encouraging Echoes	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:00 AM Outdoor Clean Up
<b>5 Palm Sunday</b>  Online Devotional Service <a href="http://glenechochristianchurch.com/sermons.html">http://glenechochristianchurch.com/sermons.html</a>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7:30 PM Encouraging Echoes	<b>9 Maundy Thursday</b> 2:00 Prayer	<b>10 Good Friday</b> 6 AM - midnight Prayer Vigil	<b>11</b> 9:00 AM Make Up Day for Outdoor Clean Up (if it rains on April 4)
<b>12 Easter</b>  10:15 Drive-In Worship	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7:30 PM Encouraging Echoes	<b>16</b> 2:00 Prayer	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 10:15 Drive-In Worship	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7:30 PM Encouraging Echoes	<b>23</b> 2:00 Prayer	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 10:15 Drive-In Worship	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 7:30 PM Encouraging Echoes	<b>30</b> 2:00 Prayer		

**Glen Echo  
Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)**

**4323 Douglas Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50310**



**SERVING SCHEDULE**

April 5                      Online Devotional Service                      April 12

<http://glenechochristianchurch.com/sermons.html>

Drive-In Worship at Glen Echo  
Christian Church's Parking Lot

April 19                      Drive-In Worship at Glen Echo  
Christian Church's Parking Lot                      April 26

Drive-In Worship at Glen Echo  
Christian Church's Parking Lot