



Glen Echo Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE... ADVENT

Do you feel connected to God's hope, peace, joy and love during this Advent season? Or, are you distressed by world and national news, the economy, and/or personal events in your life? Wherever you find yourself on this spectrum, you are invited to spend time with your brothers and sisters in Christ at Glen Echo Christian Church. Attend Sunday School, Sunday morning services, or Contemplative Prayer (Thursdays, 2:00–3:00 PM). God is near, and the Holy One welcomes us as we connect with the Divine Presence and prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ.



MINISTER'S MOMENT



“And again, Isaiah says, ‘The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope.’ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:12-13)

The Reverend Dr. Lillian Daniel, Christian author and minister of First Congregational Church of Dubuque, writes that our society focuses a great deal on happiness instead of joy. Dr. Daniel communicates, “Happiness is a feeling, brought on by inner and outer circumstances. But joy is a theological concept that speaks to more than feelings or circumstances.” Joy results when deep meaning and deep pleasure intersect. Joy can be present during uncertain or unhappy circumstances, such as when transitions occur or sacrifices are made. “Joy springs up in that odd moment when despair turns madly, unexpectedly, against all odds toward hope.”

I have found these words to be true in my life. I think that the reason why joy can be present even in depressing circumstances is because God’s divine Spirit is also present. The Holy Spirit nurtures hope, gives perspective, and reassures us that the One who is in us is greater than the one who is in the world (1 John 4:4). The pain that we feel, the sorrow that we experience, and the uncertainty that affects our sense of well-being are short-lived in the scope of eternity. Distress is temporary; joy and hope are eternal.

I wonder if Mary, Jesus’ teenage mother, experienced joy and hope in the distressing circumstances that surrounded Jesus’ birth. She was in a strange town, separated from her familial support network, when she gave birth to a baby who was considered to be illegitimate in the eyes of the world. Tradition tells us that the lodging where Jesus was born was not a clean, antiseptic birthing room that hindered the spread of infection and disease. Instead, it was place where animals dwelt, which included the germs, smells and organisms found in a barn. The “Root of Jesse” and the Hope of the Gentiles made his entrance into the world in such a place. These less-than-perfect circumstances (by modern standards) could not thwart God’s divine plan to redeem the world that God loves.

Less-than-perfect circumstances do not have to thwart God’s redemption in our lives. In spite of pain or sorrow, we can experience the reality of Lillian Daniel’s words: “Joy springs up in that odd moment when despair turns madly, unexpectedly, against all odds toward hope.” I pray that we experience God’s joy and hope during this Advent season and throughout the new year.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Dawn

DECEMBER PREACHING SCHEDULE

SCRIPTURE READING

SERMON TITLE

December 4	Isaiah 11:1-10	“A Curious Kingdom”
December 11	James 5:7-10	“Waiting Room”
December 18	Matthew 1:18-25	“A Different Way of Doing Things”
December 25	Luke 2:1-7	“Vulnerability Vanquished?”

Once again, we are ordering poinsettias from Rene's Greenhouse to decorate the sanctuary for Advent. The cost of each flower is \$8.00. If you would like to order a poinsettia(s) that can be taken home on Christmas Eve, please let the office know as soon as possible. We hope to have the poinsettias in place by Sunday, December 11.



The Christmas Caroling Party has been scheduled (tentatively) for Sunday afternoon, December 18, at 3:00 PM. We will carpool and sing at several senior living facilities, and then we will gather at a local restaurant to share a meal. Stay tuned for more details.

The Christmas Offering will be received December 11 and 18. This offering stays in the Upper Midwest Region and supports the ministries in our area, including the Christian Conference Center and training for clergy and congregations.



These two cuties will be dedicated during the worship service on Sunday, December 18. The congregation will have the opportunity to pledge our love and support to their family.



WORSHIP AND WELCOME



The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held in the sanctuary after the worship service on December 18. We will vote on the budget and the church officers for 2017.



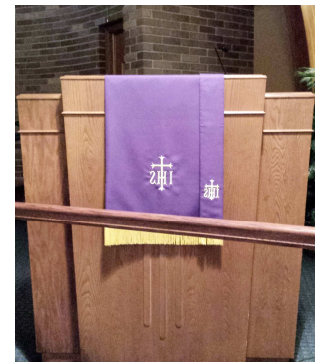
Boxes of Christmas cards have been donated to the church. They can be found on the table in the hallway, and they are free to good homes. Please help yourself.



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

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|---|--|
| Saturday evening, December 24; 7:30 | Traditional service of lessons & carols with visits from the Holy Family and friends |
| Sunday morning, December 25; 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship | The worship service will be quiet, simple, and reflective. |
| Saturday evening, December 31; 6:00 Meyer Hall 8:30 Church Party 12 AM Prayer | We'll return to Glen Echo for a night of games and a short Prayer Service at midnight. |
| Sunday morning, January 1, 2017 | Regular schedule |

The sign up sheet for 2017 Worship Leaders is hanging on the bulletin board. Everyone is welcome to lead a service. Please talk with Pastor Dawn or the Worship Committee if you have any questions.



OUTREACH



HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

The Outreach Team has decided to have a "Heifer Tree" this year instead of a "Mitten Tree." The tree in the entryway is adorned with animal ornaments. You are invited to select an ornament and make a donation so that people in underdeveloped regions can achieve sustainable livelihoods. Cash and checks may be placed in the designated cans under the tree or put in the offering plate. Checks may be made out to the church with "Heifer" written on the memo line (along with the kind of animal that you would like to purchase or the project that you would like to support). We can make a difference in the lives of children and families around the world.

GAMES FOR WILLARD SCHOOL

The Outreach Team is encouraging us to collect new or gently used games for the children of Willard School. Please place the games underneath the Christmas tree in the sanctuary through Dec. 18. If you wrap the presents, please indicate if they are appropriate for specific ages. Nurse Maggie will pick up the games from Glen Echo on Monday, December 19.



THE GRUB CUPBOARD

Thank you for your generous donations to the Grub Cupboard during the month of November. The following 194 items were delivered to the DMARC Food Pantry:

7 boxes of cereal; 2 packages of beans; 1 box of cornbread mix; 2 boxes of cake mix; 2 boxes of crackers; 1 package of Oreos; 3 boxes of Jell-O; 30 cans of meat; 12 cans of fruit; 24 packages of pasta; 3 containers of juice; 4 boxes of dry milk; 11 jars of peanut butter; 6 jars of pasta sauce; 2 packages of popcorn; 13 cans of potatoes; 3 boxes of rice; 20 cans of soup; 2 boxes of stuffing; 44 cans of vegetables; and 2 packages of toilet paper. You are a blessing to others!



MINISTRY AT THE CENTRAL IOWA SHELTER

Approximately 10 members of Glen Echo served hot meals to 185 people at the Central Iowa Shelter on Tuesday evening, November 29. The night was cold, the shelter was busy, and almost all of the food disappeared ~ even the green beans! Many thanks to the Outreach Team and friends who served food and shared the warmth of God's love with our neighbors in need.

Please bring casseroles for the Salvation Army to the church on Sunday, December 18.

MEYER HALL

We will take personal care products to the teens at Meyer Hall on Saturday, December 31. Donations of shampoo, body wash, toothpaste, deodorant, chapstick and scrunchies are welcome. The Outreach Team and (adult) friends will carpool from Glen Echo at 6:00 PM.



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & TIMES

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

2016 started strong with a tremendous amount of giving, but for the last five months expenses have exceeded the receipts. The following is October's breakdown:

9/30/16 Balance	(\$5,215.06)
Receipts	10,854.41
Expenses	<u>12,272.29</u>
10/31/16 Balance	(\$6,632.94)

Please remember to give faithfully to the church. Thank you.

Terri, Stewardship Chair



GLEN ECHO ALPHABET SOUP

Our resident Poet Laureate, Joel, accepted Pastor Dawn's invitation during a recent sermon to write an acrostic of gratitude, where each line of the acrostic begins with a successive letter of the English alphabet. Joel has written one-line rhymes for letters A through L, as well as Y and Z. Joel invites other members and guests of the congregation to write a line (or two) for letters M through X. The hope is to have the acrostic complete by December 27 so that it can be shared with the congregation on January 1.

If you write a rhyme for a letter, please give your words to Joel or Pastor Dawn.

The first half of the acrostic is printed below:

Angels never fear to tread with us,
Because you give of yourselves
without a fuss.
Clouds of darkness are chased by rays
of sun,
Driving despair away on the run.
Enduring friendships cheer us along
the way,
Fellowship embraces us every moment
of every day.
Glen Echo is a no judgment zone,
Happy with Pastor Dawn's jokes that
make us groan.
Inspiring infinite hope from our
congregation,
Jesus loves us all without reservations.
Keeping the faith is not a chore,
Living life in Christ's love is not a
bore...

(M through X contributed by congregation)

Young at heart are we, living life
happily, full of joy,
Zest for sharing with others well done.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

November 6	74
November 13	67
November 20	66
November 27	56

Sometimes, we receive visits on Sunday mornings from people who ask our kind-hearted members for help with private financial concerns. If you are approached in this manner, please refer the person to an Elder or to Pastor Dawn.

FROM CHRISTIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

John Ray is the 2016 recipient of Glen Echo Christian Church's Ben and Irene Williams Memorial Scholarship. John received a B.A. degree in Music from Northwestern University in May 1986, and he entered the Master of Divinity program at Christian Theological Seminary in the fall of 2014. John is employed currently with Light of the World Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as the Minister of Worship.



John is originally from Kentucky. He is married and he has two sons. His letter of appreciation is printed below.



1000 West 42nd Street, Indianapolis, IN 46208
Voice 317.924.1331 Fax 317.923.1961

www.cts.edu

October 2016

Dear Friends of Glen Echo Christian Church,

My name is John Ray and I am in my third year of the M.Div program at Christian Theological Seminary. I am most appreciative of your generosity through the Ben and Irene Williams Memorial Scholarship Fund with the Glen Echo Christian Church that has allowed me to obtain a great education without the stress of the financial obligations that go along with higher education.

My family and I have been so blessed by your contributions that I am able to plan for my two sons to attend college.

Sincere thanks,



John Ray



DECEMBER 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 2:00 Prayer	2	3
4 9:00 S.S. 9:45 Choir 10:15 Worship 11:30 Coffee Fellowship	5	6	7 7:15 Choir	8 2:00 Prayer	9	10
11 9:00 S.S. 9:45 Choir 10:15 Worship 11:30 Coffee Fellowship	12	13 7:00 Meetings	14 7:15 Choir	15 2:00 Prayer 7:00 Elders	16 10:00 Deacon Callers	17
18 9:00 S.S. 9:45 Choir 10:15 Worship & Child Dedications 11:30 Annual Meeting SA Casseroles 3:00ish Caroling	19	20	21 7:15 Choir	22 2:00 Prayer	23	24 Christmas Eve 7:30 Service
25 Christmas 9:00 S.S. 10:15 Worship 11:30 Coffee Fellowship	26 Office closed for the holiday	27	28	29 2:00 Prayer	30	31 New Year's Eve 6:00 Meyer Hall 8:30 Party 12:00 Midnight Prayer Service

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

4323 Douglas Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50310



SERVING SCHEDULE

December 4

Worship Leader: Brian
Elders: Deb, Kathleen
Diaconate: Rosemarie, Lori
Carol, Craig

December 18

Worship Leader: Nina
Elders: Kelly, Deborah
Diaconate: Mark, Mary
Judy, Sandy

December 25

Worship Leader: Lily
Elders: Deborah, Kelly
Diaconate: Rosemarie, Darlene
Mary, Lori

December 11

Worship Leader: Rosemarie
Elders: Kathleen, Deb
Diaconate: Carol, Craig
Rosemarie, Lori

December 24

Worship Leader: Brian
Elders: Sandy, Ron
Diaconate: Judy, Sandy
Rosemarie, Darlene

Visiting Elders for December: Bev, TBA

**Elders, Deacons, the Worship Leader and the Choir are asked to gather in the lounge at 10:10 AM for prayer.*