

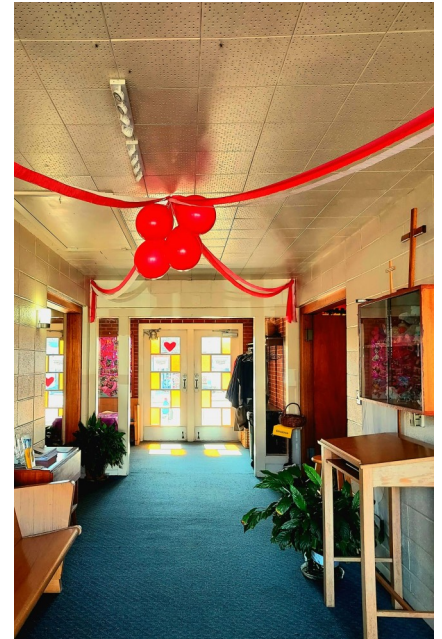


THE CHRISTIAN ECHO



Glen Echo Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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March 2022
Volume 66, Issue 3



The Holy One's great love for us was celebrated during "God's Lovefest" on February 13th. The service was based upon 1 John 4:7-13 and Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poem, "How Do I Love Thee?" Valentines and love beads were distributed with the bulletins, and church members enjoyed feasting on sweet treats after the service. Elder Julie (*below*) taught us a song that incorporated the scripture, which she had learned at the Christian Conference Center. The Holy Spirit was present, and God's love was experienced during the celebratory morning.



MINISTER'S MOMENT

I am extremely excited about the upcoming Lenten season that begins on Wednesday, March 2nd. Some of my favorite Lenten activities, such as Prayer Stations and in-person mid-week studies, were put on hiatus for two years as we implemented necessary precautions to keep us healthy. Conditions have improved to the point where in-person studies can resume and Prayer Stations can be placed in the sanctuary.



A picture of one of these stations is included in this article. Each week, a new Prayer Station will appear, and folks are invited to read the accompanying directions and add their petitions. The stations can be accessed during the week and on weekends, and folks are welcome to spend additional time at the church as they commune with God.

I am also excited about the devotional book that we will use during Lent, *Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* by Dr. Kate Bowler (and Jessica Richie). Kate is a 41 year old wife and mother who finds meaning in life in spite of her Stage 4 cancer diagnosis. One of her poems is titled, “A Blessing for a Joyfully Mediocre Journey,” and part of it is printed below:

“Blessed are you who are tired of pretending that raw effort is the secret to perfection. It’s not. And you know that now.

“Blessed are you who need a gentle reminder that even now, even today, God is here, and somehow, that is good enough.”

The last two years have demonstrated that many factors are beyond our control, and life is different than we had envisioned. My prayer for Lent is that we will discover, as Kate has, that God is here, and somehow, that is good enough.

Blessed to be walking with you on this journey,

Pastor Dawn

MARCH PREACHING SCHEDULE

| DATE | SCRIPTURE LESSONS | SERMON TITLE |
|---------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ASH WEDNESDAY | Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 | “Perfectionism versus Transformation” |
| MARCH 6 | Luke 4:1-13 | “Holy, Ordinary Lives” |
| MARCH 13 | Luke 13:31-35 | “Control Issues” |
| MARCH 20 | Luke 3:1-9 | “A Different Kind of Medicine” |
| MARCH 27 | Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 | “Risk and resilience” |

PREPARING FOR LENT

Materials provided by Dr. Marcia McFee of Worship Design Studio, in conjunction with Duke Professor Dr. Kate Bowler (and Jessica Richie), will be used this year during Lent. We will build a *Good Enough* ladder garden in the sanctuary (*left*), which will encourage us to accept life's imperfections and bloom where we are planted. Weekly studies based upon the book (*below right*) will be held on Wednesdays. The in-person meetings will occur at Glen Echo at 10:00 AM beginning March 2nd, and the 7:30 PM Zoom meetings will commence on March 9th. Packets with study materials have been prepared for all who have signed up.

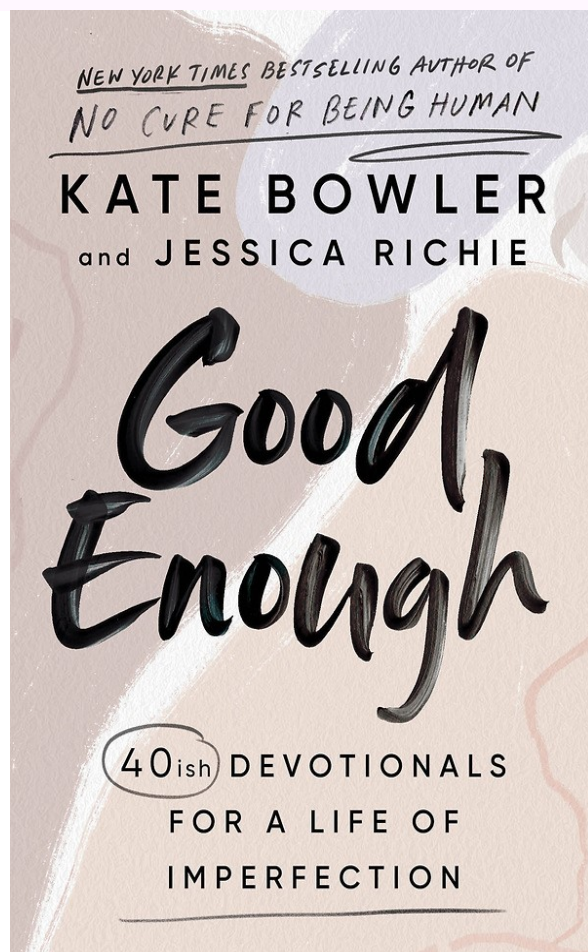
This year, we will share some of our Holy Week traditions with River Valley Disciples. Pastors and lay leaders from both congregations will plan and lead the 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service on April 14th. The Egg Hunt will be hosted by the two churches after Glen Echo's Service on Easter Sunday. The full Special Lenten Schedule is listed below.



Lent

SPECIAL LENTEN SCHEDULE

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| March 2, 10 AM | In-person "Good Enough" Book Study |
| March 2, 7 PM | Ash Wednesday Service |
| March 9, 10 AM | In-person "Good Enough" Book Study |
| March 9, 7:30 PM | Zoom "Good Enough" Book Study |
| March 16, 10 AM | In-person "Good Enough" Book Study |
| March 16, 7:30 PM | Zoom "Good Enough" Book Study |
| March 22, 7:00 PM | Plan Maundy Thurs. Service with RVD |
| March 23, 10 AM | In-person "Good Enough" Book Study |
| March 23, 7:30 PM | Zoom "Good Enough" Book Study |
| March 30, 10 AM | In-person "Good Enough" Book Study |
| March 30, 7:30 PM | Zoom "Good Enough" Book Study |
| April 6, 10 AM | In-person "Good Enough" Book Study |
| April 6, 7:30 PM | Zoom "Good Enough" Book Study |
| April 10, 10:15 AM | Palm Sunday Worship Service |
| April 14, 7:00 PM | Maundy Thursday Service |
| April 15, 6 AM—Midnight | Good Friday Prayer Vigil |
| April 17, 10:15 AM | Easter Sunday Celebration |
| April 17, After Church | Easter Egg Hunt with RVD |



In keeping with our church's discernment that we are being led to partner with other congregations for Outreach projects, Joan and Pastor Dawn met with representatives of River Valley Disciples on February 17th to discuss joint Outreach activities. As was explained by Pastor Sheldon and RVD member, Deb, partnering with other ministries is one of River Valley Disciples' core values. We were able to find several projects in which both congregations can participate in the upcoming weeks and months.

After Glen Echo's worship service on Sunday, March 20th, GECC and RVD will make casseroles for the Salvation Army in the Fellowship Hall. 16 Sally Souffles will be made at the same time, as this is the maximum number that our ovens can hold. All are welcome to come to this time of shared mission and fellowship.

OUTREACH

River Valley Disciples have a ministry called "Loads of Love," where they visit a local laundromat and offer

quarters to folks to cover the costs of washing clothes. One load of laundry can cost between \$8.00—\$10.00, which can be difficult for people with limited incomes. While the clothes get clean, RVD folks get to know the neighbors who come to the laundromat. Cookies and conversation are offered to all who would like to partake.


Glen Echo folks have been invited to participate in Loads of Love, either by donating quarters or by joining River Valley Disciples when they visit laundromats. We will collect quarters for the next washday that will occur at the start of April. Please add your .25 to the jar on the table in the church entryway.



SOME FUTURE OUTREACH POSSIBILITIES

Joan, Deb, Pastor Sheldon and Pastor Dawn discussed additional ideas during the productive meeting in February. Other ministry possibilities include distributing water during the Beaverville Farmers Market, supplying suppers for families at the Ronald McDonald House, and cooking for approximately 25 folks who seek meals at the Catholic Worker House. (Eventually, we may be able to resume providing meals at the Central Iowa Shelter if there are enough strong backs and willing hands available in the two congregations.)



Dear Glen Echo,
Thank you for my book
I got the book the
Gingerbread PUP. It is really
interesting! 

From

Irene

I LOVE
MY BOOK!

During our Visioning Retreat in January, those present discerned that we are being led to continue to support and expand our assistance to Oak Park Elementary School. The Outreach Team, and individual members of our congregation, are already donating funds so that all of the students in Julie's class can order Scholastic Books throughout the year. Pictured are thank you notes that we have received from the students.

Thank You
Notes
from
Oak Park
School

Dear Glen Echo,
Thank you for my book.
I got Spot the cat get's a job.
I really like my book.
I appreciate you. I'm am
going to read it everytime
when we have reading core
because it is funny I love
the part of doodad and chark
ankly. From Brooklyn

I LOVE
MY BOOK!

Dear Glen Echo,
Thank you for my book
Spot the Cat Get's a Job, I
think it is funny.

From
Kaden

I LOVE
MY BOOK!

We plan to obtain a list of items that Oak Park needs from the school's community donations coordinator. Each quarter, we will collect these items at Glen Echo and take them to the school. Once we receive the list, we will publish the desired items in the bulletin, newsletter, and on social media.



Dear Glen Echo,
Thank you for my book.
I got the book Attack of
the Thirteen Nicotines who
Saved Christmas.
I thought it was
funny, & I think you
are nice. I hope you
get a nutcracker. From Tessa
young

I LOVE
MY BOOK!

Thank you,
Glen Echo
folks,
for your
generosity!

Dear Glen Echo,
Thank you for my book.
I got the book The Gingerbread
Pup I appreciate it!
Thank you so much!

From
Yean

I LOVE
MY BOOK!

SENSE OF VALUE

The January 2022 Financial Report is below.

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$59,635.32 |
| Receipts | \$ 9,914.10 |
| Expenses | \$13,320.99 |
| Ending Balance | \$56,228.43 |

Terri, Treasurer



We've Got Mail

To My Church Family,

I have a hard time expressing in words what this congregation's thoughts and prayers have meant to me and my family in our darkest of days. Ryan's sister has taken comfort in a poem entitled "Footprints in the Sand." This poem has given me the words I need to share with you. The poem's second paragraph: "This bothered me because I noticed during the low periods in my life — when I suffered anguish, sorrow, or defeat — I could only see one set of footprints." I will be forever grateful for the Lord, Pastor Dawn, and my church family for leaving their footprints beside each member of Ryan's family.

God Bless,

Ron and Family

Jean thanks our church members for all of the cards, calls, and visits that she has received at Deerfield.

PRAYER REQUESTS

L. Louise
 Tammy
 Jeanine
 Abby
 Jim
 Mandy
 Geri
 Cynthia
 Donald
 Marilyn
 Jeff
 Lisa
 Siobhan Joy
 Julie
 Shawn
 Laura
 Brenda
 Grant
 Doug
 Karen
 Tara
 The people of Ukraine
 Mary

ATTENDANCE

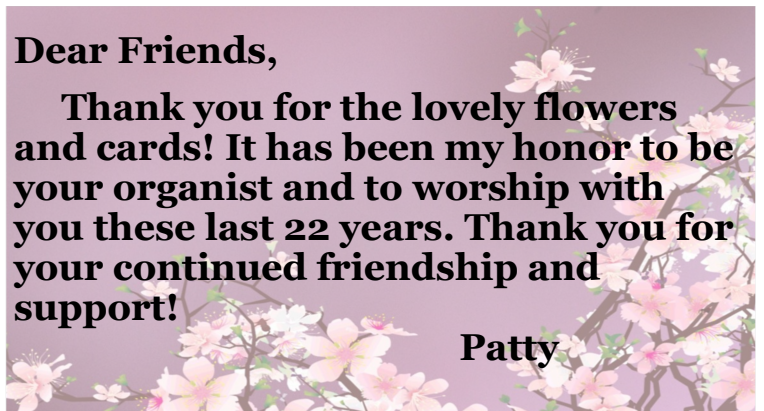
| | In-Person | Online | Total |
|--------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| February 6 | 32 | 18 | 50 |
| February 13 | 33 | 23 | 56 |
| February 20 | 28 | 20 | 48 |
| February 27 | TBA | | |

(Links to services and bulletins can be found at www.glenechochristianchurch.com/sermons.html.)

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the lovely flowers and cards! It has been my honor to be your organist and to worship with you these last 22 years. Thank you for your continued friendship and support!

Patty



March 2022

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|-----------|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| | | 1 Shrove Tuesday | 2 Ash Wednesday 10:00 Good Enough 7:00 Ash Wed. Service | 3 2:00 Prayer | 4 | 5 |
| 6 10:15 Worship After church: Property Committee Meeting | 7 | 8 7:00 Board Meeting | 9 10:00 Good Enough 7:30 Good Enough | 10 2:00 Prayer | 11 | 12 |
| 13 10:15 Worship Daylight Saving Time starts | 14 | 15 | 16 10:00 Good Enough 7:30 Good Enough | 17 2:00 Prayer 7:00 GECC & RVD Core Group Meeting | 18 | 19 |
| 20 10:15 Worship After church: Make Salvation Army Casseroles | 21 | 22 7 PM Plan Maundy Thurs. with RVD | 23 10:00 Good Enough 7:30 Good Enough | 24 2:00 Prayer | 25 10:00 Deacon Callers | 26 |
| 27 10:15 Worship After Church: Elders' Meeting | 28 | 29 | 30 10:00 Good Enough 7:30 Good Enough | 31 2:00 Prayer | | |

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

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

MARCH 2022 SERVING SCHEDULE

March 6

Worship Leader: Kathleen

Elder: Pam

Deacon: Linda

March 13

Worship Leader: Brian

Elder: Rosemarie

Deacon Mary

March 20

Worship Leader: Rosemarie

Elder: Kathleen

Deacon: Julie

March 27

Worship Leader: Julie

Elder: Julie

Deacon: Darlene