



# THE CHRISTIAN ECHO

Glen Echo Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

April 2025

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## Wonder: The Inside Story

Supporting general ministries of the Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ). Received in most congregations

Luke 24:1-12

**Sunday, April 13 & 20, 2025**

or two alternative Sundays in your congregation

At the break of dawn, the women came to the tomb, expecting to find the lifeless body of Jesus. Inside the tomb, the story takes an unexpected turn and invites us inside the story. In the solemn silence where death was presumed to dwell, the disciples instead encounter awe — a wonder that stirs their hearts and shifts their understanding. The resurrection ignites in us that same wonder, the wonder that gripped the first witnesses of the empty tomb — the wonder of love that conquers death, of hope that defies despair, and of a risen Christ whose presence transforms the world forever.

The Easter Offering, received by most congregations on April 13 and 20, 2025, provides vital support for the general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Your generous gift helps equip college students for leadership, strengthens global mission partnerships, sustains health and social service ministries, supports the formation of new congregations, cares for pastors and chaplains, and so much more.

Your gift has the power to transform lives and extend the love of Christ around the world. Give online today, or through your congregation. Thank you for making a difference.

# Minister's Moment

This month has been filled with excitement and meaningful moments. We shared a wonderful church dinner at Chuck's, watched the children learn and perform Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man, and enjoyed Lily's song during Youth Sunday. We were also blessed with an engaging Puppet Show and many other joyful events.

But along with these highs, we have also walked through times of sorrow. We continued to mourn the loss of John Martin, and gathered for a beautiful celebration of his life at the church. We also started the Lenten season with a reflective Ash Wednesday service.

As Easter Sunday approaches, we are reminded to reflect on the challenges God has placed before us, the joy of the salvation Jesus brought, and the power of God's victory over death. Easter is a time to look inward and recognize how God is working in our lives. As we continue our sermon series on life's "in-between" moments, we are reminded that faith is not always about black and white, good and bad—it's often found in the grey areas, and that's okay. I encourage you to use this season of reflection to add something meaningful to your daily routine—something that draws you closer to God, replacing a habit that consumes your time with one that nurtures your faith.

Easter is not only a sacred day for the church but also a time of family, love, and joy. If you'll be in town, I hope you'll invite a loved one to join our Easter service. If you're traveling, may God guide you safely and bless your time away. After our Easter service, we will celebrate Earth Day by spending time outdoors, enjoying the beauty of God's creation. It will be a time of gratitude and reflection on the world He has given us, and we look forward to incorporating more opportunities to appreciate nature in our church community.

Blessings for you this month, and remember that I am only a phone call away. I pray God watches over you, and helps you to know joy and peace during this holy time.

Blessings and love, your brother in Christ,

Pastor Aaron Brunner

## Deacons' Corner

This time I concentrated on finding out if everyone receives the Christian Echo, or at least has access to it in an email or online form.

**Judy Allie:** I tried to reach her several times, but perhaps I don't have the right telephone number, if you are in contact with her, please let us know.

**Marie Long:** She would appreciate calls and visitors and is looking forward to receiving the Christian Echo in the mail.

**Patty Crouse:** She is doing well, she reads the Christian Echo online, and even though she appreciated the call, she does not wish to receive too many calls from the congregation.

**Nina Knight:** She is doing very well. She too reads the Echo online, and does not want a copy in the mail.

**Erin Hobbs:** Erin needs prayers for her eye, it is doing okay but will take some time yet to heal. She receives the Echo via email.

**Mary Patrick:** She sounds as happy and strong as the last time I spoke to her which, admittedly, was some time ago. She had a car accident two years ago, and walks with a cane because of it. Mary and I used to meet often when I was out with my dogs and she with a group of friends. She now walks shorter distances, but is still active. She no longer has a dog, because they are quite a responsibility.

**RuthAnne Free:** RuthAnne needs prayer; she is losing her eyesight. She is not coming to church even if she had transportation, because she does not always feel well enough. She had an operation on her back; it is healing well and getting better. She is now organizing her house, so she will be able to find everything and find her way around.

### APRIL READINGS SCHEDULE

| DATE     | FIRST READINGS                  | SECOND READINGS                        |
|----------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| APRIL 6  | Isaiah 43:16-21<br>Psalm 126    | Philippians 3:4b-14<br>John 12:1-8     |
| APRIL 13 | Isaiah 50:4-9a<br>Psalm 31:9-16 | Philippians 2:5-11<br>Luke 22:14-23:56 |
| APRIL 20 | Isaiah 25:6-9<br>Psalm 114      | 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8<br>Luke 24:13-49  |
| APRIL 27 | Acts 5:27-32<br>Psalm 118:14-29 | Revelation 1:4-8<br>John 20:19-31      |

## Cents of Value

General Fund balance for January and February 2025:

12/31/24 Balance (13,553.90)

Receipts 7,131.00

Fund Transfer 1,917.72

Expenses (6,479.65)

1/31/25 Balance (10,984.83)

Receipts 11,774.00

Fund Transfer 350.00

Expenses (7,034.06)

2/28/25 Balance (5,894.89)

Average monthly receipts (all funds over 12 months):

2024 = 6,848, 2025 = 11,146 (2 mo only)

Average monthly expenses (all funds over 12 months):

2025 = 8,735, 2025 = 6,757 (2 mo only)

Fund transfers occurred in January and February 2025.

2025 Budget Allocated 108,038.04

Budget Actual YTD (2 mo) 13,998.75 13.0%

Jeff Bonner, Treasurer

### From the Mailbox

Thank you all for helping with John Martin's celebration of Life. I know he would have felt honored and loved by all of you. John felt all of you were his extended family! The service and meal were awesome! Thank you!

—Deb Martin

### An Invitation:

If you're lonely or looking for a listening ear, Pastor Aaron Brunner would love to talk to you. His phone number is (515) 954-5280. You can also send him a letter at 1325 NE 50<sup>th</sup> Place, Des Moines, IA 50313.

**Livestreamed Services:** You can see our services from home in real time. Visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/p/Glen-Echo-Christian-Church-100064675272457/](https://www.facebook.com/p/Glen-Echo-Christian-Church-100064675272457/) to watch!

## PRAYER REQUESTS

RuthAnne Free: Furnace  
Sandy Freel's daughter, Tammy  
Bev Katzmman: Jordan; Michael  
Rosemarie Kelling  
Carol Miller: health, Virginia  
Jackie Murphy  
Dorothy Perry  
Carol Smith  
Roy Stuart  
Bill Suiter  
Bev Van Blaricome  
Joan Weiser

*Please contact Pastor Aaron if you have any prayer concerns to add.*

## ATTENDANCE

|          | In-Person | Online |
|----------|-----------|--------|
| March 2  | 26        | 225    |
| March 9  | 32        | 359    |
| March 16 | 26        | 53     |
| March 23 | 30        | 367    |
| March 30 | 34        | 32     |



**Good Fellowship:** 22 people went to Chuck's Restaurant on Friday, March 28. We enjoyed seeing everyone and eating pizza, burgers, tenderloins, cavatelli and guinea grinders! The next Good Fellowship dinner will be a potluck at Glen Echo on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April at 6:00 pm.



# EASTER LILY ORDER FORM



Once again, we are ordering Easter lilies. The cost of each flower is \$12.00. If you would like to order one or more lilies, please complete the enclosed form and return it with your payment to the church by April 6<sup>th</sup>.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_.

I am ordering \_\_\_\_\_ Easter lily(s) in memory of/in honor of:  
(number) (circle one)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name or names of people being remembered/honored)

Please choose one:

My payment accompanies this form. \_\_\_\_\_

My payment has been added to my offering check. \_\_\_\_\_

# APRIL 2025

| SUN                                                                                                       | MON                                        | TUES                                               | WEDS | THURS                                                                                         | FRI                                                         | SAT |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
|                                                                                                           |                                            | 1                                                  | 2    | 3                                                                                             | 4<br><br>Jackie Murphy                                      | 5   |
| <b>6 Fourth Week of Lent</b><br>10:15 Worship<br>After Church:<br>Coffee Fellowship,<br>Deacon Callers    | 7                                          | 8                                                  | 9    | 10<br><br>Justin & Myssie<br>Brunner (Anniv)                                                  | 11                                                          | 12  |
| <b>13 Palm Sunday</b><br>9:00 Edencrest<br>Service<br>10:15 Worship<br>After Church:<br>Coffee Fellowship | 14<br><br>Randy &<br>Lynn Cozad<br>(Anniv) | 15                                                 | 16   | <b>17 Maundy Thursday</b><br>7:00 Service and<br>dinner in Fellow-<br>ship Hall<br>Sue Utsler | <b>18 Good Friday</b><br>Prayer Vigil<br>Danielle<br>Mallas | 19  |
| <b>20 Easter Sunday</b><br>10:15 Worship<br>After Church:<br>Coffee Fellowship                            | 21                                         | 22 Earth Day                                       | 23   | 24                                                                                            | 25<br><br>6:00 Good<br>Fellowship<br>Potluck @ Glen<br>Echo | 26  |
| <b>27</b><br>10:15 Worship<br>After Church:<br>Coffee Fellowship<br>Elders Meeting                        | 28                                         | 29<br><br>Alex &<br>Sterling<br>Brunner<br>(Anniv) | 30   |                                                                                               |                                                             |     |

Glen Echo  
Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
  
**4323 Douglas Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50310**

**APRIL 2025 SERVING SCHEDULE**

| <u><b>April 6</b></u>  |                | <u><b>April 13</b></u> |                   |
|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Worship Leader:</b> | Alex Brunner   | <b>Worship Leader:</b> | TBA               |
| <b>Elder:</b>          | Julie Bonner   | <b>Elder:</b>          | Alex Brunner      |
| <b>Deacon:</b>         | Justin Brunner | <b>Deacon</b>          | Agatha Norton     |
|                        |                |                        |                   |
| <u><b>April 20</b></u> |                | <u><b>April 27</b></u> |                   |
| <b>Worship Leader:</b> | Julie Bonner   | <b>Worship Leader:</b> | Everleigh Brunner |
| <b>Elder:</b>          | Justin Brunner | <b>Elder:</b>          | Kayla Brunner     |
| <b>Deacon:</b>         | Myssie Brunner | <b>Deacon:</b>         | Mary McCarthy     |