



THE CHRISTIAN ECHO

Glen Echo Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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January 2026
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On December 19th, Glen Echo hosted a Craft Fair for the community. Fifteen vendors offered a range of baked goods and hand-made gifts. Lunches were made available, and even Santa made an appearance!



Minister's Moment

Glen Echo Family,

It has been a wonderful year with you! In review, we see that we have celebrated many things together. In December alone, we had a Vendor Fair featuring 15 vendors in our church basement. We had a children's Christmas play with 15 kids in the cast. 50 church members, plus guests from the community, came to our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. We sang Christmas Carols with the Edencrest Retirement Community, and much more. We have been blessed with so many things that it is hard to name them all. We continue to do ministry and look for new ways to serve our community.

As we close the Advent Season and look toward Epiphany (the revelation of God in our lives), we have many strong ministries for which to be thankful. We have youth ministry that continues to thrive as young adults seek God in their lives. We have a book study on how we can engage with the LGBTQIA community, and we are starting conversations regarding if we want to pursue Open and Affirming status as a church.

We have also changed some ministries. We no longer have a large enough congregation to make a full choir, but still we seek to enjoy music opportunities. We no longer have enough people to serve at Meyer Hall, but still we look to serve the young adults there. We are looking at changes to the building and the church in the near future.

We have attempted to start new ideas and ministries. We are going to have a Souper Bowl Party on Super Bowl Sunday where we can enjoy lunch together. We are talking about how to get more people involved in outreach and activities, and we are talking about ways to make the Lenten season as interactive as the Advent season.

This is a hard season for some, and with cold and sickness occurring, it can become burdensome. If you are in need or feeling down, please call me. I would love to visit as many people as I can this month. If you would like a visit, please contact me. We continue to make phone calls and visits to those who cannot regularly attend church. If you have not heard from or seen someone for some time, please call, and we will update that.

Blessings for a good winter season,

Pastor Aaron Brunner

Special Board Meeting: The board and congregation will meet on January 6th at 6:30 pm to discuss further plans for the future of the building. If you would like to participate, all are welcome. We encourage all questions and concerns as we discern a path forward. Our usual Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 13th at 7:00 pm. All are welcome.



Shut-In Spotlight

by Dorothy Perry

If you need a pick-me-up message about now, just give RuthAnne Free a call! She is Chet Prust's mother, and she and Jon Free moved to Des Moines in 2008, attending Glen Echo for about ten years. She said she loved the people here so much. She was on the Worship Committee, helped with funeral lunches, and was on the Fellowship Committee. She loved Bonnie Neiderheiser, Mary Vasey, Jean Davison, Shirley Lockard, and me.

(RuthAnne and I scheduled all the photos the year we printed the Church Directory in 2010 when Olin Mills took the pictures.)

She and Mr. Prust had five children, four girls and a boy. One daughter died when she was 15 years old. She was a wonderful athlete and beautiful girl.

RuthAnne helped start Head Start, worked in the scientific field, poverty agency, outreach, Medicare Insurance, coding, and was even a truck driver for Alcoa for a year! She studied to be an LPN so she was one busy lady!

RuthAnne lives at 1701 Campus Dr., Room 3309, Walnut Ridge, Clive, Iowa 50325. Today was her 96th birthday! Her phone number is (515) 346-9179.

JANUARY READINGS SCHEDULE

DATE	FIRST READINGS	SECOND READINGS
JANUARY 4	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:(1-9), 10-18
JANUARY 11	Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29	Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17
JANUARY 18	Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11	1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42
JANUARY 25	Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1, 4-9	1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23



Good Fellowship: Fifteen of us went to El Rodeo for some delicious Mexican food! We enjoyed popcorn and candy cups made by Dorothy Perry. We hope to see more of you next month! We will be meeting at the Pizza Ranch on 86th Street behind Ruby Tuesday on January 23rd at 5:45 p.m.

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/ to watch!

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 50th Place, Des Moines, IA 50313.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Terry Brunner
 Virginia Johnson
 Bev Katzmann: Jordan; Michael
 Rosemarie Kelling; her brother,
 Hans-Martin
 Teresa Little: Cousin Dave
 Deb Martin: Uncle Allen Long and
 Shelly Wilson
 Lori Martin: friend, Kathy
 Carol Miller
 Jackie Murphy
 Agatha Norton
 Margaret Ripperger
 The family and friends of Jean
 Sharp
 The family and friends of Brian
 Smith's mother
 Ron Smith
 Trevor Sprague
 Bill Suiter
 Alicia Tottser: Cora
 Bev Van Blaricome
 Cassino Company

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

ATTENDANCE

	In-Person	Online
December 7	20	181
December 14	25	160
December 21	47	258
Christmas Eve	56	n/a
December 28	22	249

JANUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 10:15 Worship After Church: Coffee Fellowship, Deacon Callers Ricky Davidson	5 Sean Lockard	6 6:30 Special Board Meeting Ron Smith	7	8	9 Abby Fenton	10 Paula Jennex
11 9:00 Edencrest Service 10:15 Worship After Church: Coffee Fellowship	12 Libby Long Arrianne Hurley Boyd	13 7:00/7:30 Committee/ Board Meetings Ron Smith	14	15	16	17 Carol Miller
18 10:15 Worship After Church: Coffee Fellowship	19	20 Josh Ingram	21 Myque Collin Jones	22	23 5:45 Good Fellowship @ Pizza Ranch	24
25 10:15 Worship After Church: Coffee Fellowship, Elders Meeting	26	27	28	29 Hudson Tottser	30 Bev Van Blaricome Patty Crouse	31

Glen Echo
Christian Church
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**4323 Douglas Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50310**

JANUARY 2026 SERVING SCHEDULE

<u>January 4</u>		<u>January 11</u>	
Worship Leader:	Myssie Brunner	Worship Leader:	TBA
Elder:	Justin Brunner	Elder:	Myssie Brunner
Deacon:	Kayla Brunner	Deacon	Mary McCarthy
<u>January 18</u>		<u>January 25</u>	
Worship Leader:	TBA	Worship Leader:	TBA
Elder:	Kayla Brunner	Elder:	Julie Bonner
Deacon:	Justin Brunner	Deacon:	Myssie Brunner