



THE CHRISTIAN ECHO

Glen Echo Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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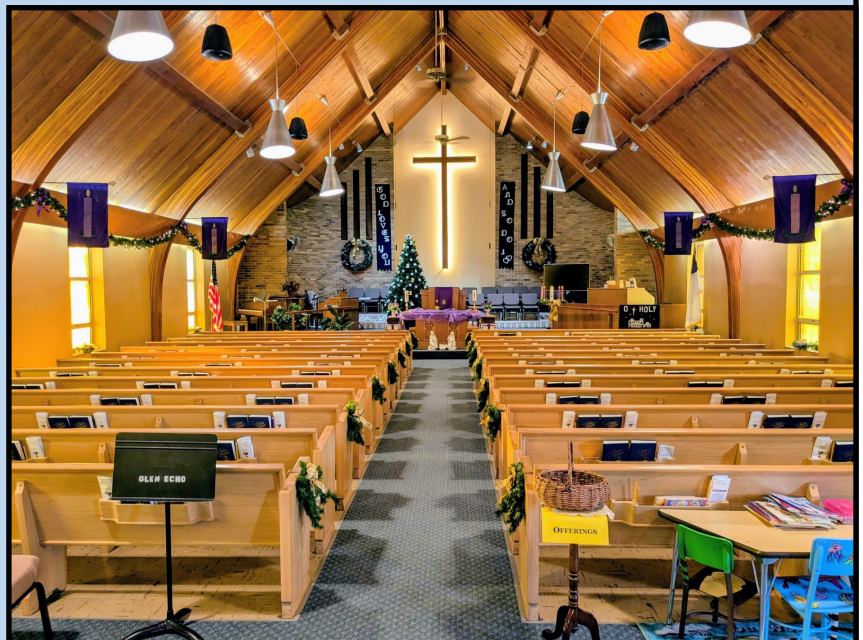
December 2025

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On Thanksgiving Day, Glen Echo hosted a meal for the community. Neighbors joined church members in an event full of warm food and good company.

The following Saturday, members of the church met to hang the greens and herald our journey into the Advent season.



Minister's Moment

Glen Echo Family,

As we close the year this year in thanksgiving and in celebration, we take time to give thanks to God for what we have, to thank the people who volunteer and dedicate time to the church for continued operation, and to all those who pray for our church and community.

We have been with the community this month helping to support where we can with food insecurity, celebrating Thanksgiving with Edencrest, prepping for Advent as we dive into what can and cannot wait, and continuing to love our neighbors and community in need.

Over the last month, we started a book study on Colors of Hope to discuss the LGBT community and our discernment toward Open and Affirming. We have pushed our understanding of faith in who is welcome in our community, and our use of language for those in our community and church. We will be starting an Advent Series about what can and cannot wait, talking in depth about our community, the needs around us, and how our church can be involved.

We will be hosting an All-Children's Nativity on December 21st, and we encourage all community members to attend. We will also have a Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve and another Nativity to help celebrate the season.

We are committed to growth for our church and have a Vendor Fair planned for December 19th inside our church basement. We are also exploring ideas on space utilization and nesting. We encourage anyone who has ideas on how to utilize our space, or to continue to support our community, to bring those ideas to me or the Board.

This time of year is difficult for some, and so I pray for peace for families and those going through grief, doubt, anxiety, joy, hope and fear. You are not alone. If you ever need anything, please reach out to me by phone or email anytime of the day or night.

Be blessed this holiday season and have peace.

Blessings,

Pastor Aaron Brunner



Shut-In Spotlight, by Dorothy Perry

The eldest member of Glen Echo is Mary Margaret Bierma. She will turn 102 on December 27th. She grew up in the little town of Hartford near Carlisle. A 1946 Drake graduate, Mary played piano, chimes, keyboard, drums, and clarinet. She was also a great soloist. Mary started teaching piano at the age of 13. She taught grade school music at Weeks, Monroe, and Hanawalt for many years and taught lessons out of her home.

Glen Echo was so lucky to have Mary Margaret for 38 years. We had treats after every choir practice. We had a fall round-up dinner and skits by the choir. We had a Spring Fling dinner where funny prizes were given to members for things that happened to them during the year, and we honored everyone's birthdays. She was so easy to work with, and I never heard her raise her voice in all of those years! Mary directed the choir under six ministers and several organists. She was a charter member of Glen Echo. Happy Birthday, Mary!

DECEMBER READINGS SCHEDULE

DATE	FIRST READINGS	SECOND READINGS
DECEMBER 7	Isaiah 11:1-10	Romans 15:4-13
DECEMBER 14	Isaiah 35:1-10	James 5:7-10
DECEMBER 21	Isaiah 7:10-16	Romans 1:1-7
DECEMBER 28	Isaiah 63:7-9	Hebrews 2:10-18

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

We are ordering poinsettias to decorate the church for Advent. The cost of each flower is \$12.00. If you would like to order one (or more) poinsettias, please complete this form and return it with your payment to Deb Martin at the church by **December 14th**.

My name is _____.

I am ordering _____ poinsettia(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. ☐



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
 Kathy Hooper: Michael
 Virginia Johnson
 Bev Katzmann: Jordan; Michael
 Rosemarie Kelling; her brother,
 Hans-Martin
 Lori Martin: Brenda's family and
 friends
 Carol Miller
 Jackie Murphy
 Agatha Norton
 Margaret Ripperger
 Ron Smith
 Trevor Sprague
 Roy Stuart
 Bill Suiter
 Bev Van Blaricome
 Cassino Company

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

ATTENDANCE

	In-Person	Online
November 2	33	n/a
November 9	20	210
November 16	27	193
November 23	23	202
November 30	10	239

DECEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Bev Katzmann	3 Rachel Jennex	4	5	6 Justin Brunner
7 10:15 Worship After Church: Coffee Fellowship, Deacon Callers	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 9:00 Edencrest Service 10:15 Worship After Church: Congregational Meeting	15	16	17	18	19 9:00 am— 4:00 pm Craft Fair 6:00 pm Good Fellowship @ El Rodeo	20
21 10:15 Worship After Church: Coffee Fellowship	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 7:00 pm Candlelight service	25 Christmas Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27 Mary Margaret Bierma Katie Hurley Boyd
28 10:15 Worship After Church: Coffee Fellowship, Elders Meeting, Book Study	29	30 RuthAnne Free	31 New Year's Eve Steve Perry Mary Willson	Good Fellowship: We will meet for dinner at El Rodeo (at 75 th and Douglas), on December 19 th at 6:00 pm. Please sign up in the hallway or let Dorothy know if you are coming so we will have enough treats. Please bring friends and neighbors!		

Glen Echo
Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

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

DECEMBER 2025 SERVING SCHEDULE

<u>December 7</u>		<u>December 14</u>	
Worship Leader:	Everleigh Brunner	Worship Leader:	Kathleen Smith
Elder:	Myssie Brunner	Elder:	Julie Bonner
Deacon:	Mary McCarthy	Deacon	Alex Brunner
<u>December 21</u>		<u>December 28</u>	
Worship Leader:	Julie Bonner	Worship Leader:	Kathleen Smith
Elder:	Alex Brunner	Elder:	Kathleen Smith
Deacon:	Julie Bonner	Deacon:	Dorothy Perry