



**GLENVIEW
NEW CHURCH**

A NEW CHRISTIANITY

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PARK NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH

July-August 2025

Pastoral Message

Independence Day

As the Fourth of July approaches, I invite you to think about Independence Day, and specifically the word "independence."

"Independence" is defined in the dictionary as "the fact or state of being independent." In the context of the Fourth of July, the word *independent* means "free from outside control." When the thirteen colonies united themselves under the Declaration of Independence, they sought to free themselves from the rule of King George III of Great Britain. That document, adopted on July 4, 1776, declared that the thirteen American colonies were now free and independent states.

What a momentous time in our nation's history(!) Can you imagine being alive at that time, especially if you were involved in governmental-type decision-making? What would that have been like?

But now let me draw your thoughts away from Independence Day, and the independence our country so gloriously celebrates each year, to a different *kind* of independence. I'm thinking about *spiritual* independence.

If we reflect on the entire process of spiritual reformation and regeneration that we go through while we're alive on earth—a process that begins at birth and continues to our very last breath—isn't that entire process all about gaining independence... independence from forces in the spiritual world that want to capture, enslave, and bind us to them forever? Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a *slave* of sin" (John 8:34, emphasis added). Think about it: The kinds of things that hell inspires—tantalizing, gratifying, and fulfilling as they may feel in the moment—have but one objective, and that is to rule, dominate, and enslave us. And we're told in our theology that if we were to wake up on the other side and choose *that* as our final choice, course, and spiritual resting place, the kind of rule, domination, and slavery that would be inflicted on us would be so far beyond King George and Great Britain that the two couldn't be compared.

Now there's no need to say these things as some kind of scare tactic—a way of scaring you into further efforts at reformation and regeneration. And yet, what Jesus was describing, and what we're told about the rule and domination that exist in hell, are simple facts—facts that hold a good and useful place in our thinking, perspective, and decision-making. It's good to be spiritually informed(!)

Church Calendar

July

4	FRI	9:30	July 4th Park Parade
		12:30	Picnic
6	SUN	10:00	Worship Service—Sanctuary
7	MON	5:00	Women Unwind
13	SUN	10:00	Worship Service—Auditorium
20	SUN	10:00	Worship Service—Sanctuary
25	FRI	5:00	GNCS Popsicle Pop-Up Event
27	SUN	10:00	Worship Service—Auditorium

August

3	SUN	10:00	Worship Service—Sanctuary
4	MON	5:00	Women Unwind
5	TUE	7:00	Park Dwellings Meeting
10	SUN	10:00	Worship Service—Auditorium
17	SUN	10:00	Worship Service—Sanctuary
21	THUR	9:00	GNCS Opening Chapel
24	SUN	10:00	Worship Service—Auditorium
31	SUN	10:00	Worship Service—Sanctuary

The point is, at a time of year when we celebrate so gloriously the independence our country has enjoyed for almost 250 years, it's interesting to think that "independence" is what our entire lifetime in this world is all about. Knowing about, seeking, and gaining that independence is something the Lord deeply desires for each one of us, as he does for any and all countries.

Happy Independence Day, everyone. Happy independence.

Affectionately,

Mark

General Announcements

Women Unwind—July 7 and August 4

Our once-a-month get-together will take place on Monday, July 7 and Monday, August 4 from 5-6:30 pm at Karen Stoeller's, 100 Park Drive, Glenview. Casual - with wine, soft drinks, cheese, crackers, and conversation. Contact: Sandy Ruch 847-724-0363.

Join Us for our School & Church July 4th Parade Entry!

GNCS is an "Entertainer Sponsor" once again for this year's 4th of July parade. And with our parade entry, we plan to highlight the long-standing connection between GNC/S and the Village of Glenview. This year we are asking the community to march with us.

As a joint effort between school and church, our parade entry this year will include live music and lots of patriotic excitement! We invite families and children to march. As this is in part a school parade entry, we would love to feature children and attract more children to enroll.

If you would like to march with us and/or if you have any experience in building parade floats or have access to materials or vehicles that would be helpful, please email Lisa Philbrick at lisap@glenviewnewchurch.org.

July 4th Festivities in the Park!

The Park Parade kicks off at 9:30am. Everyone is invited to create themed floats and/or decorate bicycles to walk in the parade around the Park Drive circle. Prizes will be awarded to all float, bicycle and pet entrants! Park Parade entries assemble in the church parking lot at 9:15am.

The parade is followed by a flagpole ceremony in the church parking lot that includes the singing of the national anthem and a patriotic speech from one of our Park neighbors. Following the morning festivities, there will be a picnic by the Park Lake at 12:30pm with burgers & dogs from the grill, chips, and drinks. Donations requested for the Boys and Girls Club. We hope to see you there!

2025 Schedule of Events

9:15am – Park Parade entries assemble in the church parking lot

9:30am – Park Parade: flagpole ceremony & speeches, prizes for parade entries!

11:15 am – Glenview Village Parade

12:30 pm – Picnic by the Park Lake: hamburgers & hot dogs from the grill, races, egg and water balloon tosses, softball

We're gearing up for a fun-filled July 4th celebration and we'd love your help to make it happen! Whether you can lend a hand with setup, games, food, or cleanup, every bit of help is appreciated. If you'd like to get involved, please reach out to Martha Heilman, Volunteer Coordinator, at

marthah@glenviewnewchurch.org or 847-302-7619.

Thanks for helping us make this a great day for everyone!

Sunday Morning Volunteers Needed

We are offering refreshments following the 10am service, as volunteers are available. The usher schedule is also open. Anyone is welcome to sign-up and students can earn school community service hours for these and other useful duties. Click this link to sign-up or send me a text/email. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0545a5ae2fa7fc1-gncsunday> Thank you in advance! Martha Heilman, Volunteer Coordinator, marthah@glenviewnewchurch.org, 847-302-7619

Popsicle Pop-Up Event—July 25

GNCS is hosting a Popsicle Pop-Up event on Friday, July 25 from 5-7pm here at the school. It's a free open house and enrollment drive. We'll have popsicles, kids activities and a raffle. Current families are welcome. It will be a great opportunity for curious families to check us out and hopefully enroll. And remember, current school families receive a "thank you" worth \$100 for any referrals that enroll —so tell your friends!

GNCS Opening Chapel—August 21

The faculty and staff are excited about starting the 2025-2026 school year. Friends of GNCS are invited to join us on Thursday, August 21 for our school opening chapel service in the Auditorium at 9am. Hope to see you there!

Golf Outing

Plans are still in the works for this year's annual golf outing. Stay tuned for further details.

Park Patter...

Park Patter is on vacation...returning in September.



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07-1-2025