



Pastoral Message

New Religious Programming

Every year brings new life. Friendships are given new life. Our interests are given new life. People we love die and are granted a new spiritual life. Babies are born and given brand new life from the Lord. At the core of all this new life is the Lord - the Lord communicating through unique individuals a message to us. He lets us sense His heavens through a newborn. He communicates our need for fullness, growth, humility, strength, understanding, and love through friends and family. He brings new life within us every morning and works to open our eyes to the new life we most need each day. What do we do with all that energy and light coming from our Divine source? What have we done with it over the course of our lives?

The New Church religion is unique in that it teaches, "Every religion is a way of life, and its life is the doing of good" (Doctrine of Faith 1). We can take two main ideas from that quote: the life you live in the way you live it is your personal "religion", and if you want your "religion" to have the most life within it, you should make your life about "doing good". We also don't need to quote all the passages in our doctrine that teach us that your guiding "love" is the thing that defines you at any given time and positions you with the angels (or evil spirits) that are around you now and will lead you to your angelic (or hellish) society in heaven (or hell). Considering this information, where are you with your religion today? Where will you be at the end of this year?

Let's imagine our life as an ever-building radio tower - the higher it gets, the farther its signal can travel. The tower is built upward, year by year. The first year it sends out some pretty amazing and strong signals for such a tiny tower, mostly because the angels are running all the programming being sent out. As time goes on, the tower grows higher, and we are more and more in control of what is being broadcast. In our teen years, the offerings from our station were played too loud, or too quiet, or both. The variation of stations to choose from in our twenties and thirties is mind-boggling. Some of us air programs all about how to make more money, for some of us it is never-ending talk radio about childcare, and for others it is constant party music. Our towers have a good signal that can reach out to many, but it is listened to mostly by people who share our same interests. By our 40s or 50s, our towers are plenty high to reach a good far distance - for some of us the programming is eclectic, for others it is highly specialized, maybe even esoteric. By retirement age, we have our daily line-ups figured out - easy listening in the early morning, talk radio before lunch,

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Park News

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Church Calendar

January

4	SUN	10:00	Worship Service—Sanctuary
5	MON	5:00	Women Unwind (100 Park Drive)
6	TUE	7:00	Park Dwellings Meeting
7	WED	10:30	Arcana Class 7:00 Boys Club/Girls Club
8	THURS	7:00	Board of Trustees Meeting
11	SUN	10:00	Worship Service—Auditorium
14	WED	10:30	Arcana Class 7:00 Boys Club/Girls Club
18	SUN	10:00	Worship Service—Sanctuary
20	TUE	7:00	MANC Board Meeting
21	WED	10:30	Arcana Class 7:00 Boys Club/Girls Club
25	SUN	10:00	Worship Service—Auditorium
28	WED	10:30	Arcana Class 7:00 Boys Club/Girls Club

classic rock after lunch, a little news and classical music in the evening (or whatever your line-up is). As our tower gets ever higher, we start to put more thought into what our programming contains. We think, "What will be my final broadcast?"

What has your "radio tower" aired over the years? Do you look at a certain portion of your "tower" and think, "wow, I'm glad people don't listen to that stuff anymore? I wish I could remove that from my life." The thing is, like a radio tower, you can't remove it without taking the whole tower down to that point, and then the rest of the tower wouldn't fit if you tried to put it back on. We are all stuck with whatever we did in our past; the good part is that we don't air those programs anymore. That's how "new life" works; it is always growing, and building off what it was, whether what it was before was good for others to listen to, or complete garbage. The critical challenge for us is to take care of what we are "airing" now. What would you fill the airwaves with today if you were gone tomorrow? What a fun and exciting thing to spend some time contemplating!

I think about all the dear people we lost this last year (and every year) and how wonderful each one of their "frequencies" was. There will never be a "call sign" (or "religion") as they held on this earth. And, luckily, unlike a physical station, I can go up or down the "radio band" any time and still catch their signal.

General Announcements

I am also always looking for new “programming” to listen to and can’t wait to hear all the great things that will be aired by all the little ones that are growing up around me. I can’t wait for their little signals to reach me here in Glenview, IL., on Park Lane. All those air-waves around us contain new signals of love and goodness in their own unique individual way. Hope you tune in. Happy New Year.

Rev. Elmo K. Acton

And the application can be found here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScMEmeNz05XYQhT9hQjXip9BNCyFREr5aQgo2bnfbEMeKzsSg/viewform>

We would love to give you or your friends a tour and show what makes GNCS so special! If you have any questions, please call Lisa Philbrick at 847-724-0057X104.

Teaching Position Open

The Washington New Church School is seeking a Grade 3/4 teacher for the 2026-27 school year. This full-time position will oversee a combined 3rd and 4th-grade classroom with the possibility of an alternative job description focused on older grades, PE and math. Candidates are required to have a Bachelor’s degree and strong classroom management skills and be an active, baptized member of the New Church, committed to its educational principles and doctrines. Apply by January 10th, 2026, to Brian Smith at brian.smith@washnewchurch.org; 301-850-3029.

Women Unwind—January 5

Our once-a-month get-together will take place on Monday, January 5 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

Pajamas for Christmas—Thank You!

On behalf of the 45 children and families at Lydia Home in Evanston, thank you to those who generously contributed to our pajama project in December. Each child received pajamas and slippers in one package and a fuzzy, cozy blanket in another package gift wrapped by the students of Glenview New Church School. The students were thrilled to hear they were going to children who really needed help. On behalf of Lydia Home and GNCS thank you so much for your support of this pajama project – let’s do it again next year. (Phil Parker, GNCS Principal)

Ushers Needed

We are rebuilding our usher team at the Glenview New Church. Ushers help greet, post hymn numbers, and assist during the 10am Sunday service. No experience needed - just a friendly smile! High school & up (great for service hours). Interested? Contact Martha Heilman at marthah@glenviewnewchurch.org, 847-302-7619 or use this Sign-Up Genius Sunday Morning Volunteers link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0545a5ae2fa7fc1-gncksunday>

Mailing Address Change

Please note the following mailing address change, to ensure that mail reaches Cindy & Dusty Edmonds via family caretakers: Dusty and Cindy Edmonds, P.O. Box 2159, Glenview, IL 60025

GNCS Enrollment 2026-27

Glenview New Church School enrollment has begun for the 2026-27 school year! Let's keep our numbers strong! Please tell your friends and neighbors with school-aged children about our school. Families can get more information by calling us at 847-724-0057 or filling out this inquiry form: <https://glenviewnewchurchschool.org/contact-gncts/>

Park Patter...

Park Patter is still on an extended break. Hopefully it will return in February. HAPPY NEW YEAR!



GLENVIEW
NEW CHURCH

A NEW CHRISTIANITY



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Glenview New
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1-1-2026