

# The Gnu's Letter

October 23, 2022



Volume 1 – Issue 9

One of the things I wanted to mention in this issue is that we are coming up on the Annual Meeting. The board decided this week to slide it from November 6<sup>th</sup> to December 11<sup>th</sup>. *That means change it on your calendars!* We have set the board size for 2023 at 5 elected directors, and we have three directors coming off the board, so three empty seats to fill. Also, every year we look at the roster and confirm who should stay on the Active Member List, and make whatever adjustments are needed to get the roster in order for voting. We have been back in the church for the hybrid services for a while now, and it is clear we will be using Zoom for the foreseeable future, so the advancements in church technology have to be taken into account on a permanent basis, and we will be discussing that. See “Wrapping Up 2022.”

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## UPDATES TO ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Swedenborgian Road Angels** Correction to last issue... It was Ron, Val, and Susan who visited Dick while he was in West Palm, rather than Ron, Susan, and Linda. Linda was on the phone.

**Swedenborg Study Group** is now meeting regularly on Wednesday evenings, so **Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00-8:30 pm** is the next session. For the groupies, we are now up to page 68 of *When Tragedy Strikes*.

**Annual Meeting** being moved from **November 6<sup>th</sup> to December 11<sup>th</sup>** gives us a bit more time to get ready. Your board is getting organized for elections, 2023 budget approval, and 2023 program proposals. It will be hybrid, so everyone should find it easy to attend. The format will be a little different this year – less integrated into the worship service than we traditionally do it - Since our congregation has quite a few non-members who may prefer to not have an extra-long gathering, most of the business will be moved to *after* the regular order of worship is completed. Friends and visitors are welcome to stick around but can bail out when they wish.

**Teacher Team Project.** Shannon says they can use water bottles as well as the things on the Amazon Wish List.

## GLENDALE CHURCH NEWS

The sale of the Glendale Church building is moving along in a very slow and orderly process. It looks like we will have possible use of the church for hybrid services and special events for most of 2023 if we want to stay there. Their present plan is to continue to get some of the physical repair work completed before it goes on the market, in particular the replacement or reconditioning of the metal roof on the addition. GNC has funding to do that work, but it will take some planning to get it started. Gloria says that we will be continuing to take reservations for weddings at least through the end of 2023. We will be notifying the denomination of the building sale status in case there is any interest there.

**THE CALENDAR** Here is a list of events scheduled between now and the end of the year. All times listed are eastern time zone. Cincinnati hosted services are identified by the **worship leaders of the golden font**, and are at 11am. A new addition is Rev. Ron Brugler has agreed to lead the October 16<sup>th</sup> service, which allowed us to finalize Rev. Sherrie’s service on October 30<sup>th</sup>. The usual 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> worship schedule will end at the end of November. As usual, though, we will pick up the open Advent Sunday November 27<sup>th</sup>. As shown below, in December GNC takes over 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays, and we hold Advent services on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays. No service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday which is Christmas Day. In January we will begin our regular 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> schedule on a routine basis.

Wed.	Oct. 26	Swedenborg Study Group at 7 – 8:30 pm
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Oct. 30	Rev. Dr. Sherrie Connelly
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	Nov. 6	Pete Toot
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	Nov. 13	Glendale Sunday
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	Nov. 20	Sue Ditmire / Harvest Feast
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Nov. 27	Rev. Dr. Sherrie Connelly ( <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent - Hope</i> )
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	Dec. 4	Rev. Clark Echols - Glendale New Church Worship ( <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent - Peace</i> )
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	Dec. 11	Rev. Ron Brugler ( <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent - Joy</i> ) / Annual Corporation Meeting
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	Dec. 18	Rev. Catherine Lauber ( <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent - Love</i> )

**BIBLE JUMBLE** Provided for Jumble Gymnasts of the Swedenborgian persuasion. The usual rules apply. Unjumble the letters to make 5 key words and then arrange the circled letters to solve the Bible question.

A K K R A N	— — ○ ○ — —
P S X I H N	— — ○ ○ ○ —
L A C J A K	○ ○ — — ○ —
S T R E E D	— ○ — ○ ○ ○
S N A W A	○ — — — ○



A complete copy of the Gospel of Thomas is in the Nag Hamadi Library. Where was this “library” found?  
 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ .

Last issue’s Bible Jumble solution: (The picture clue hinted that the key words were related to flowers.) Key words were: Violet, Pansy, Clover, Aster, and Begonia  
 Gnu-man said, “Mark and Matthew often tell the same stories, but there is a difference. Mark provides \_\_\_\_\_.” The answer was “a longer version.”

“A striking way in which Mark does not look like an abridgement of Matthew is the fact that the individual sections within it don’t tend to be shorter than the parallels in Matthew. Instead, they tend to be longer. Mark typically uses more words to tell a given story about Jesus than Matthew does. For example, the number of words employed by Mark to tell the stories of the Gadarene Demoniac (Mark 5:1-20), Jairus’ Daughter (Mark 5: 21-43), and the Feeding of the Five Thousand (Mark 6:30-44) are respectively 325, 374 and 235; Matthew contrives to tell them in 136, 135 and 157 words.” Nevertheless, the whole book of Matthew, though it would have fit on one scroll, is about 60% larger than Mark since it has a lot of things in it that are not in Mark at all.




From an article that explaining how we know that Mark wrote the first gospel, and Matthew used it as a source.


**WRAPPING UP 2022** Hopefully everyone is getting a chance to enjoy the fall colors, though in Florida that color, I have been informed, is green. It is a weird-weather fall, for sure. Hurricane Ian was an extremely bad hurricane, leaving a tragic mess on the left coast of Florida, and historic lingering floods northeast of Orlando. The drying up of the Mississippi River is from lack of rainfall in the Ohio River Valley. We've had less than ½ inch in Cincinnati in October. And winter forecasts? – drier than usual in the South, wetter in Ohio.


But with Zoom, the weather outside (*as long as it stays outside*) won't bother New Church of Montgomery congregations. We'll continue with hybrid services for a while, but we may go to Zoom-only if it gets impractical to travel to Glendale for in-person gatherings. The Board has asked that a poll be taken of Cincy area folks about how we want to proceed going forward. We will be considering three options: (1) Keep doing what we're doing now, hybrid when practical for Sunday worship and for special events. It allows locals to gather, which some of us do now. NCOM rents the space whenever we use GNC, though at a very friendly rent. (2) Only do Zoom for Sunday worship, but keep using the church for special events. That saves a little cash. We could probably sell the AV equipment. There is a trade-off for online vs. onsite worship, logistics is easier, socializing is restricted, and unison / responsive features are awkward. (3) Cut financial ties with GNC and do everything online, making special arrangements for locations (could be GNC) for any special events we continue to have in-person.


As to the rest of the 2022 calendar, the pulpit schedule is fixed, Eileen will contact you about Harvest Feast coming up in November, with a physical meal at GNC and maybe one in Florida, too. November / December community events are being looked at now... Adopt-A Family for Christmas, a winter coat project for Glendale Elementary that will allow the school to have warm coats to share with children to enjoy recess safely, and a holiday book sale in cooperation with Blue Manatee Literacy Project and Bethany. We are also exploring helping out Beech Acres (a foster child placement agency) - a new idea that may not happen right away, if found practical. Monetary donations can support these programs where volunteering doesn't make sense.

**What's New in Religion?** Besides the Lord making all things new all the time, what in the world's going on?

 The acting general secretary of the **World Council of Churches** met recently with Patriarch Kirill, the Russian Orthodox Church head who has drawn global criticism for lending spiritual support for Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Kirill agreed that **churches should be peacemakers**, Christians should not "support wars and killings" that "war cannot be holy," and insisted churches "must not add fuel to the fire."

 Pope Francis used strong words to criticize the **mistreatment and abandonment of migrants** during a mass where he canonized Italian Bishop Giovanni Battista Scalabrini, making a saint the priest known as the Father of Migrants. "The exclusion of migrants is criminal, it lets them die before our eyes." Francis noted over 3,000 migrants died in the Mediterranean Sea during their journey toward Europe in 2021.

 The **United Methodist Church** is going through a **split over sexuality**. The prospect of permitting same-sex marriages and the ordination of openly gay clergy resulted in a "Global Methodist Church" break-away being launched in May when the denomination's General Conference, which planned to address the issue, was delayed to 2024. Expected 1500 churches to exit this year, with perhaps 3000-5000 exiting next year, after 2023 exiting congregations cannot retain their property, which is owned by the denomination. There are over 32,000 United Methodist Church congregations in the U.S.

 The **Parliament of the World's Religions** - Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM view a special 1-hour pre-Parliament event in support of the 2023 Parliament of World's Religions' theme *A Call to Conscience: Defending Freedom & Human Rights*. Presented by the **Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America**, the program explores the world's first charter of human rights - 2,500 years old. [Register Here](#)

**WORD FIND**  
Find the names of the following Parsi months...  
Farvardin, Ardibehest, Khordad, Tir, Amardad, Shehrevan, Meher, Ava, Adar, Deh, Boman, Aspandard.

K	D	R	A	D	N	A	P	S	A
N	S	E	N	F	V	T	A	P	R
A	H	N	N	A	I	K	R	E	D
M	E	H	E	R	M	H	S	N	I
A	H	O	V	V	O	O	I	T	B
R	R	M	A	A	R	R	B	A	E
D	E	E	R	R	E	D	D	M	H
A	V	H	E	D	A	A	S	A	E
D	A	X	D	I	K	D	G	N	S
O	R	R	A	N	T	Y	A	K	T



Courtesy of Borivli & Suburban Zoroastrian Association

**NOTE: THE PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS CONVENES AUGUST 14-18, 2023, MCCORMICK PLACE, LAKESIDE CENTER, CHICAGO**