



Garden City Community Church Connections February 2024

Building a community where all are enriched through Christian Love, Service, and Spiritual Renewal.

Pastor's Message

Dear Garden City Community Church,

Hear a little news.

- Confirmands are in the second half of their first year of a two-year faith formation journey.
- Valentine's Day, and Ash Wednesday - the beginning of Lent - occupy the same day this month.
- On February 11th all gather for the congregational Annual Meeting.
- The Council of Trustees and Leadership are blessed and commissioned on February 18th.
- The Mission Trip leadership have chosen t-shirts, their Friday "fun-day" activities, and Team / Group building event for early Spring.

Friends, may I state the obvious? Church, you are hands-on, doers, point-me-in-the-right-direction-how-can-I-help people, and these five ministry items are a snap-shot of just that. They are short-hand too, for conversation, planning, meetings, worship participation and leadership, administrative and custodial support, and more. Such strong muscles! Such powerful gifts!

Doing describes one essential congregational posture and grace. *Being* describes the other. Together they artfully, intentionally, advance mission and ministry. Both are attentive to two horizons: near and far. Both are attentive to habits that nurture effectiveness and efficiency. Both are nourished by intimate and transparent relationship: with God, with self, with others. *Doing* energy always closes a circle: from begin to complete. *Being* energy always opens a circle: from now to always.

Doing energy shows up in this way (check me on this): Church, you are very good at noticing What needs attention and How to advance or accomplish What you wish to produce or perform. For example, worship and confirmation name What to do. An order of worship and a curriculum describe How to do it. More finely, an order of worship describes What to do and an annotated Order for liturgists describes How to do it.

You, friends, deeply value clarity and focus for What to do and How to do it. This *doing* energy makes you effective (What) and efficient (How) in the near-term.

Your *being* energy provides effectiveness and efficiency in the long term. Asking and agreeing on purpose and possibility (Why) advances effectiveness. Here one remains nimble and ready, anticipating, in conversation with the now and not yet.

Asking and agreeing on Who - who are the publics involved, who serves, who decides, who joins with, (including God) - provides efficiency in the long term. Here one moves into the moment with context and an ever-deepening mutual trust and respect.

Being energy advances what nourishes: possibility, clarity, new (and current) ever-deepening relationships. Church, check me on this, your Why and Who energy shows up less often and easily. Perhaps this is so because Why seems accepted and understood (it's who we are!) and Who seems obvious (look who shows up and says "yes"). *Doing* energy rules.

During Lent, I invite you, church, to practice *being*. Three Gospel Graces, as I call them, provide a template and guide.

- Generous Hospitality: a spirit and practice with attention to embracing, welcoming, all that seems new, strange, different, or wrong.
- Respectful Community (Community): a respectful and trusting spirit and practice toward persons and ideas, embracing stakeholders, friends, companions, strangers, and perceived enemies.
- Glad Collaboration: welcoming the best of the past, the present, and the hoped - for future.

Whenever two or three gather: meetings, fellowship, worship, prayer, fun, and work having to do with church life, practice *being*. Here is your challenge: engage *being* energy before *doing* energy. Start with Why, not What. Start with Who, not How.

Neuroscientists observe that we are wired for efficiency and effectiveness: food, rest, safety, routine. The brain goes to what one already knows and does before it goes to the less known and less practiced. Neuroscientists also observe that one learns throughout their lifetime. Old dogs, so to speak, learn new tricks, and we learn best by practicing every day, making small moves, over the long-term, daily.

Why lean into *being* energy? Why start with Why and Who? *Being* energy surfaces the Garden City Community Church focused purpose, values, core beliefs and identity. These serve as guiding star and property line. *Being* functions as foundation and cornerstone.

Know, congregation, that your COT are already leaning into this practice. Know that your governance structure encourages this practice and confirms and their leaders are practicing this too. Perhaps you have already noticed: this practice follows Jesus' example and that of the first century church. No doubt, says the neuroscience, this practice will feel uncomfortable, even wrong, clumsy and time-wasting... at first. All the same, lean in. For this practice takes the first earnest step in preparing to answer the church profile prayer: "God, what are you calling this congregation to be and to do? God, who is our neighbor?"

Lent helps us practice our whole life, including death and resurrection. You, church, know *doing*, practice *being* so to live into your whole life, your deep gladness (*being*) in service to your worlds need (*doing*).

Being and practicing with you, gladly!

Peace,



The Reverend Arlen G. Vernava
Intentional Interim Senior Pastor

Schedule a Visit with Pastor Arlen

In person, or on Zoom, and at your place of choice.

Calendar: <https://bookme.name/WalkingAlongside/beingwith-hour>

His email address is revarlen@thegccc.org. Mobile: 585-455-2289



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Worship Schedule

Sundays

10:30 AM

Livestream & In-person

Tuesdays

Intercessory

Prayer Service

9:30 AM In-person

MISSION EVENTS

The Garden City Community Church has a unique and special connection to The Reverend Dr. Jose Beto Chipenda. He was born in Bailundo, Angola, in October of 1929 and ordained in 1956 by the Evangelical Church in Angola. Following ordination he desired to continue his education in the United States. Doing so required a sponsoring organization: the United Church of Canada or what is now the United Church of Christ, both supporting the Evangelical Church in Angola.

The Rev. Avery Post joined the Garden City Community Church as Associate to the Reverend James Gettemy in 1957, just around the time Jose Belo Chipenda was hoping to study in the United States. The precursor to the UCC Mission Board reached out to The Garden City Community Church, one of its leading congregations in that day, to inquire: would they sponsor this newly ordained Angolan? Soon thereafter Jose Belo Chipenda was sponsored by this congregation and in time studied at the Hartford Theological Seminary (now Hartford University for Religion and Peace), in Hartford Connecticut.

While in the United States, Jose Belo Chipenda visited, and introduced the church to the marvelous singing of the Ovimbundu people, sparking such interest in Bill Hayes, a singer and lover of music, to begin planning a hoped-for church trip to Angola. The Rev. Post, with a strong mission interest, reached out to the United Church of Christ Mission Board, requesting they send a speaker to the Garden City Community Church. This speaker had just finished serving in Angola. They had met Jose Belo Chipenda while he was a seminary student. They knew his father: the first ordained minister in Bailundo. They had never been to or knew much about the Garden City Community Church. This speaker was Mary Dewar. Sometime in 1959 or 1960 Mary talked all evening in Gardner Hall and then went to Bill Hayes' house, drank cocoa and talked until the wee small hours. Too late to return to the city, Mary spent the night there.

The Reverend Dr. Jose Beto Chipenda. The Garden City Community Church. Avery Post. Bill Hayes. Mary Dewar. Oh, how wonderful are the ties that bind our hearts in Christian love.

The Rev. Dr. Chipenda was short, small-boned and thin but he became a giant of love and kindness, with great leadership skills. He was perceptive and fought for justice and peace, and also civil rights, especially for women. Following his Hartford studies, he returned to Angola and pastored the Lobito Congregational Church. His ability led to his appointment to the National Student Christian Federation and soon thereafter to the World Student Christian Federation, with headquarters in Geneva, serving there from 1966-1969.

1969-1973: Secretary of Africa, World Student Federation

1973-1980: Secretary program to combat racism, World Council of Churches

1980-1985: Director, Center for the Study of Theology and Culture, Lobito, Angola.

1985-1987: General Secretary, Angola Council of Churches.

1987-1998: General Secretary, All Africa Conference of Churches, Nairobi.

Finally he returned to Lobito where, as the elder statesman, he sponsored and mentored many students, supporting his wife in her work with women. He and his wife Eva had two children, a boy Gilberto who died some years ago and a girl Selma, who lives in Sherbrooke, Canada, some two hours east of Montreal. She and her husband took care of the Chipendas for six years.

Jose was a great leader in Africa, Europe and the United States, working for peace and justice and supporting all others who were doing the same, much as did Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King, Jr. I was honored to know Jose personally in Angola in the 1950's and in Geneva, Switzerland in the 1960's.

The Reverend Dr. Jose Belo Chipenda, October 1929 - 10 January 2024. 95 years.

Submitted by: Mary Dewar, with Pastor Arlen.



MISSION EVENTS

2024 Mission Trip — July 14-20

Knoxville, Tennessee

The planning for the 2024 Mission Trip is well underway! We will be traveling to Knoxville, TN to do construction work projects to improve the lives of others. Although we set out to do work to benefit others, these trips are incredibly impactful for all involved, deepening our faith, our bond within our church community and our dedication to service.

This year's leaders are Jessica Dowd-Wilde, Drew Hearon and Karin Melkonian. Erin Lanning and Avery Hearon will be serving as jr. leaders. **We are very much in need of one additional adult male leader. You do not need to be a parent- the trip can not happen without an additional volunteer.** Please reach out to Tracey Lawson at traceymlawson@gmail.com you are interested in hearing more about the trip and the commitment.

Our Christmas Tree sale was a great success, thank you all for your support! The plant sale and car wash will be held on May 11th rain or shine.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Join us on Wednesday, February 14th at 7:00 pm in the Chapel for our Ash Wednesday Communion Service.



Bi-weekly Food Collections for the Long Island Council of Churches Food Pantry

We have been collecting non-perishable food items to support the Long Island Council of Churches Emergency Food Center. Your generosity has been a testament to what we can accomplish, even under the most trying of times. If you are able to make a donation, they are especially in need of soup (NOT Vegetarian and NOT low-sodium), pasta, peanut butter, and jelly. Our next few scheduled donation days are: February 7th and 21st and March 6th and 20th. Donations should be left on the Whitehall porch before noon on the dates mentioned above. Any donations you can make will be greatly appreciated .

Time to volunteer? [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-46044897-2024#/#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-46044897-2024#/)

Birthday in a Box - Service Event

On March 10th (time TBD) our older youth (6th—12th graders & Confirmation class volunteers) will be putting together boxes with birthday supplies for an organization called 'Birthday Wishes of Long Island.' They will create boxes with the supplies needed for a child that is experiencing homelessness to have a Birthday Party. Birthday Wishes gives the party box to children and their families that are staying in domestic violence safe shelters. You can help them with this project by donating needed items. Sign up here to donate items in February <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-46627334-birthday>



Council of Trustees News (COT)

To the GCCC Congregation-

February is often thought of as the deepest part of winter. We are in the throes of the coldest weather struggling to feel hope that Spring will come. Does it feel to you that we are in our own type of spiritual February? Our long-time Senior Pastors have left, our new Intentional Interim Senior Pastor has joined us, yet the path to calling a permanent Senior Pastor seems as hard to see as the horizon in a blizzard. But just like Spring always comes, so our path forward will also become clear.

We are all clear as to the goal on the horizon - call new leadership. But to fast-forward directly to the call would be doing our congregation a great disservice. In the UCC's guide to Interim Ministry they wisely say that "[n]o matter why a pastor leaves a church, there are swirling emotions related to the departure... Whether pain and grief or relief or guilt, emotions must be dealt with...If you don't take time to deal with the feelings about the loss, they likely will interfere with the next pastorate." The guide indicates that the emphasis on the importance of the interim process is based on a discovery the Alban Institute in Washington, D.C. made several years ago. The Institute found that the transition time between pastorates is ripe with opportunities for bringing renewed life and direction to the church. It is the purpose of the Intentional Interim Senior Pastor to not only fulfill the usual pastoral duties of preaching, teaching, administering the sacraments, etc. but also to help the church understand its past and process the mix of emotions. Only having done this work will we then be able to confirm our mission and be ready to begin the search process.

But I am sure you are asking, "how do we do this work?" As Pastor Arlen notes in his letter this month, we are a church of doers. So of course, we want to know when will meetings begin, what tasks will be assigned, who will be able to participate, how can we help? The difficulty for us, including myself, is that the interim time is less about doing and more about being. There will of course be meetings and tasks. But the biggest ask for all of us to practice being. Pastor Arlen provides us direction to do this by asking us to live the Three Gospel Graces:

Generous Hospitality: a spirit and practice with attention to embracing, welcoming, all that seems new, strange, different, or wrong.

Respectful Communality (Community): a respectful and trusting spirit and practice toward persons and ideas, embracing stakeholders, friends, companions, strangers, and perceived enemies.

Glad Collaboration: welcoming the best of the past, the present, and the hoped for future.

So here is the answer you have been seeking. The most important tasks on our path to calling a new senior pastor are not filling out a job description or forming sub-committees. The most important task for every person in this congregation is to live the Three Gospel Graces while leaning into the practice of being. If we all are comfortable asking Why, before getting to What and starting with Who, before How this will help us break free from doing things just because that is the way we have always done them and create room for a beautiful new way of doing.

Council of Trustees News (COT)

GENERAL TIMELINE	
Now through the Summer of 2024	Conversations to celebrate and take stock in who we have been and who we are now.
Fall 2024 through Winter 2025	Conversations to engage on three questions: 1. God, what are you calling this congregation to be? 2. God, what are you calling this congregation to do? 3. God, who is our neighbor?"
Spring of 2025	Begin to update the Profile based on the learning from above
Summer of 2025	Commission Search and Call Team and begin search

COT, with partnership from Pastor Arlen, will lead these conversations. We will use several ways to spark dialogue including, but not limited to, in-church small group discussions, “cottage meetings” hosted by congregants in their home, surveys, and forums. The goal is to get as many people engaged in answering these questions as possible as they will be the basis of the updated GCCC profile.

Finally, I want you all to know that I have heard the rumblings of discontent surrounding some of the changes we have made. This is totally normal and expected. Your Council of Trustees feels the discomfort as well. I ask you to join me and the COT in embracing change and respectfully questioning why. By practicing being and living by the Three Gospel Graces our path forward will be illuminated. Just as crocuses poke through the snow to signal the beginning of Spring soon we will see the signs that we are on the right path towards our goal.

Faithfully submitted,

Kirsten Bahlke—Council of Trustees (COT) Chair

Council of Trustees News (COT)

Annual Corporate Meeting

In accordance with the Religious Corporations Law of the State of New York, and the by-laws of the Garden City Community Church, notice is hereby given of the Annual Corporate Meeting to be held on Sunday, February 11, 2024 at noon following the 10:30 am Worship Service.

The purpose of the meeting will be:

- to elect successors to the trustees;
- to act on the church budget for 2024;
- to elect a slate of officers for 2024;
- to conduct any other business that may properly be presented at that time.



The meeting will be in person and via Zoom if you are unable to be there in person. To register to attend the Zoom meeting go to: <https://gcc.breezechms.com/form/61c92f1481197448>

The installation of officers will be on Sunday, February 18th during our 10:30 am Sunday worship service.

News About the Building

Rob Sipkin and Kristian Rhein will begin painting the Whitehall entryway next week and will be touching up various areas around the building. They will also be stripping and waxing the floor in Gardner Hall.

MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

News from our Sunday School



The Sunday School Team is hard at work trying to put together family friendly events. We have a family game night and ice skating coming up. Join us in fellowship as the families really get to know one another.

Lent is just around the corner. The Sunday School Team is challenging the Sunday Schoolers to complete a challenge. Game Boards will be handed out in Sunday School and included in the weekly emails. The game will require each participant to do things over the Lenten season. This could include making a giving jar or a card for a loved one. All this to get ready for Easter! Any child who hands in a completed form at the end of Lent will win a prize!

The children will be preparing a song for Palm Sunday in Sunday School! Please join us for some palm waving and to listen to the Sunday Schoolers share a song with the congregation.

MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

Worship Altar Flower Donations

A \$50.00 dollar donation provides a gift of love! Use this link:

<https://www.gardencitycommunitychurch.org/give> and go to the online giving 'quick give' and choose the dropdown line: 'Give to 2024 Flowers' - or - hand deliver or mail to The Garden City Community Church.

Sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-46046622-2024> Include the wording you wish us to include in the Order of Worship.



Sunday Forum

Karin Melkonian will be the guest speaker at the Sunday Forum on February 25th at 11:45 am. Watch our e-blasts for more information.



2024 Fellowship Hour Sign Up

Hosting Refreshment and Friendship after worship conversation - Perhaps hospitality and hosting are your passion. Schedule two ways: notebook in the Parlor or:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-46048741-2024> Questions?

Reach out to *Ministry Committee* or email churchoffice@thegccc.org

Fund a Refreshment and Friendship conversation time:

<https://www.gardencitycommunitychurch.org/give> and go to the online giving 'quick give' and choose the dropdown line: 'Give to 2024 Fellowship'.



MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

Men's Breakfast

All men of the church and their visitors are welcome; it is an opportunity to enjoy relaxed fellowship and conversation over a shared meal. **Next meetings are on Feb. 3rd and March 2nd at 8:00 am at the Carle Place Diner—151 Old Country Road in Carle Place. Reservations are not needed.**

Tuesday Prayer Service

The Prayer Service welcomes anyone who wishes to join us. We are meeting in the Chapel Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am. Please email the office, George Bashian or Rev. Arlen G. Vernava if you have a prayer request. **All requests are kept confidential.**

Worship Ushers or Liturgists Opportunity

Perhaps you love to greet and welcome and lead, and work best as part of a team? Reach out to the *Ministry Committee* or *Pastor Arlen*, or email churchoffice@thegccc.org.



GC Community Church Tech Team



We are looking for youth (and the otherwise young-at-heart) to contribute to bringing our weekly services, special services, and other content to our homebound and our away-from-home members. This is also our chance to reach out for those seeking a new church home. But we cannot do this alone, we need your help, or your children's help in making this happen. Absolutely no experience required, and while we will guide newcomers, we will also gladly take advice from the old-sages.

Contact Steve Short, Tim Martens, or William Stone

Or Just join us some Sunday, in the balcony!



Words from Our Minister of Music, Frank Crosio

In the month of February, the attention of our worship turns from celebrating the Sundays after Epiphany and Transfiguration Sunday to Lent, the commemoration of Christ's fasting and praying in the desert in preparation for the beginning of his public ministry. In fact, Christmastide and Lent share some striking similarities; did you know that they were both originally forty days long?

The liturgical celebration of Christmas used to begin on Christmas Day and continued until February 2, the Feast of the Presentation. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends forty days later on Palm Sunday.

During Lent you will notice some subtle shifts in the music for the season; the organ music will be more subdued, the choir music will often be *A Capella* (sung without instrumental accompaniment) and you will not hear the word, Alleluia, either said or sung from Transfiguration Sunday until Easter Sunday.

In 2024, one interesting confluence between the secular calendar and the religious calendar is that Ash Wednesday falls on February 14th, a day when many will also be observing Valentine's Day. At first the clash between the two things seems rather jarring, but upon reflection, aren't both observances really about love? The 20th century clergyman, W. H. Vanstone (1923-1999) offers a beautiful poem that reflects upon this theme at the conclusion of his book, *Love's Endeavor, Love's Expense*.

Morning glory, starlit sky, soaring music, scholar's truth,
Flight of swallows, autumn leaves. memory's treasure, grace of youth.

Open are the gifts of God, gifts of love to mind and sense;
Hidden is love's agony, love's endeavor, love's expense.

Love that gives, gives evermore, gives with zeal, with eager hands,
Spares not, keeps not, all outpours, ventures all, its all expends.

Drained is love in making full, bound in setting others free,
Poor in making many rich, weak in giving power to be.

Therefore he who shows us God helpless hangs upon the tree;
And the nails and crown of thorns tell of what God's love must be.

Here is God; no monarch he, throned in easy state to reign;
Here is God, whose arms of love, aching, spent, the world sustain.

Lenten Choral Meditations:

Once again this Lent, our Minister of Music, Frank Crosio, will offer a weekly Choral Meditation each Friday during the season of Lent. It will contain a brief meditation and some background about the musical selection along with a link to a YouTube video of a performance of the choral piece.

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

HAVE YOU CHANGED ANY OF YOUR CORRESPONDENCE INFORMATION LATELY?

Moving or preparing to move?

Do you have a new address, a new phone number or a new e-mail address?

Do you want to receive our weekly e-blasts about all the activities going on in the church?

Are you getting the mailings from the church?

Please let the church office know if any of your information has changed so that we can stay in touch with you! We are updating our files and want to make sure we have the correct information.



Deaths

Mark van Schenkhof - January 1, 2024 (GCCC former organist and choir director)

ON-LINE GIVING UPDATE

Garden City Community Church has partnered with Breeze Church Management Systems to support our *On-line Giving Initiative*. If you would like to set up "Recurring Contributions" or make a "Onetime Contribution" to support our many Ministries, please click on the link below. Our online giving platform allows us to align our congregational giving with our member data base, resulting in greater efficiency and clarity for Church Members.

<https://gcc.breezechms.com/login/create>

Giving can also be accessed through
GCCC website via the "GIVE" button

<https://gardencitycommunitychurch.org>

We appreciate your support in our efforts. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Liz or Kim in the office (516)746-1700.

Nursery School Registration

Community Adventures – A Super-FUN Summer Program

The holidays are behind us and It's frosty and cold outside - Time to start making summer plans!!

Registration will begin for the Nursery School's summer program – Community Adventures on Monday, February 1, 2024.

Community Adventures is a program designed to keep bodies busy and minds moving while providing a safe, loving environment where children feel free to explore, learn and most importantly, PLAY.

Community Adventures meets for 4 sessions beginning in July. Each session meets Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:15 - 12:15 - July 9 through August 1.

Tuition: \$160.00 per session - MINIMUM enrollment - 2 (1 week) sessions. Children who are entering a 3 or 4 year old program or kindergarten in the fall are eligible to attend.

Registration is open to all. Visit our website to download the registration form and for more information about Community Adventures & the Community Church Nursery School: www.GCCCNURSERY SCHOOL.com or call the school office – 516-746-1756.



Musical Ensembles

Adult Choir – Open to H.S. students through adults. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 8:00 pm – 9:30 pm. Performs Sundays & Holidays September through June.



Youth Choir – Open to grades 3-8. Rehearsal are Sundays from noon to 12:30pm. Performs 1 Sunday a month at the 10:30 am service before Sunday School dismissal.



Handbell Choir – Open to H.S. students through adults. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings from 6:45 pm – 7:45 pm in modules. Performs 4 times a year.



Youth Band – Open to H.S. students through adults. Rehearsals are 1-2 Saturday mornings per month. Performs 1 Sunday or Special Occasion per month.



For more information contact Frank Crosio, Minister of Music at music@thegccc.org



UPDATE FOR FEBRUARY 2024

WITH COUNSELING SITES LOCATED IN:
NASSAU SUFFOLK MANHATTAN QUEENS
WESTCHESTER BROOKLYN

Prepared especially for LCC Association
Congregations & Schools

THIS ELECTION YEAR, BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

By Rev. Thomas Taylor, LCSW-R, Ph.D., LCC Pastoral Counselor

For years, I never knew my neighbor's politics. Then political flags popped up all around us. We've always had plenty of US flags but these flags were different and felt different – they were political, for one politician or another.

One of our neighbor's politics was hard to miss. In addition to flying his flag in support of his favorite candidate, talk radio blared throughout the day so neighbors couldn't avoid hearing about his political views. Despite our different views, we still greeted him cordially whenever we saw him out with his dog. Then one day he stopped my wife and struck up a conversation. He asked about her mom. He said he hadn't seen them out walking for a while and wondered if she was alright. Touched, my wife told him her mom had died. He said he was sorry to hear that and that he'd always enjoyed seeing them out walking. Although my wife's feelings about his politics had not changed, she felt more connected to him. Their brief talk humanized them both.

We are now in an election year and tensions are going to mount among those we consider our neighbors and those we do not. According to the American Psychological Association, 68% of Americans reported feeling stressed leading up to the last presidential election. This increase in stress requires that we deliberately find ways to ground ourselves. Looking for our common humanity is one way to ground ourselves, especially when faced with difficult conversations around politics. Rachael Dunkel-Dodier, Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor and Founder of Bridger Peaks Counseling in Bozeman Montana*, observes "The more that we create disconnection, even in our differing values, the more we create pain and hurt in our country." To counter this tendency to disconnect, Dunkel-Dodier recommends we pivot and ground ourselves by leaning "into saying, yes, you are different than me, and I still honor who you are as a human, and honor where you're coming from, without creating more of a divide."

The Gospel message is we are all children of God who share a common humanity and the same neighborhood – God's neighborhood. Find an excuse to talk with your neighbors so we can appreciate and enjoy our shared humanity. What a gift!

Happy New Year and here's praying for a more connected and less stressful election year.

Tom Taylor
Interim Co-Executive Director, LCC

* Carroll, Bryanna "Mental health counselors offer tips to cope with Election Day stress," NBCMONTANATV, November 7th 2023.

The Rev. Thomas S. Taylor, PhD, LCSW-R, STM, is currently Interim Co-Executive Director of the LCC. He is a Certified Psychoanalyst and Licensed Clinical Social Worker. He is currently President of the National Psychological Association for Psychoanalysis (NPAP) and a Clinical Supervisor for LCC. He is counselor-in-residence at Advent Lutheran Church in New York City. An ordained pastor of the ELCA, he has extensive experience working with individuals and couples and as a seminar presenter.

For an appointment with any of our counselors or for more information, call LCC at 1-800- 317-1173. For safety, all sessions are currently provided using a secure, HIPAA compliant virtual video and/or audio platform.



February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Adult Choir Practice 8pm	2	3 Men's Breakfast 8am Carle Place Diner
4 Church Service 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30am H.S. Youth Group 6pm Confirmation I class 6:45pm	5	6 Prayer Service 9:30am Chapel	7	8 Adult Choir Practice 8pm	9	10
11 Church Service 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30am Annual Meeting 12pm M.S. Youth Group 6pm Confirmation I class 7pm	12 Trustees (COT) Meeting 7:30pm	13 Prayer Service 9:30am Chapel	14 Ash Wednesday Service 7pm	15 Adult Choir Practice 8pm	16	17
18 Church Service and Installation of Officers 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30am Ministry Meeting 12pm	19 Building closed	20 Prayer Service 9:30am Chapel	21	22 Adult Choir Practice 8pm	23	24
25 Church Service 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30am Sunday Forum 11:45 am M.S. Youth Group 6pm Confirmation I class 7pm	26	27 Prayer Service 9:30am Chapel	28	29 Adult Choir Practice 8pm		