



# Garden City Community Church Connections October 2024

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

## Council of Trustees News (COT)

Dear Church-

Many of us pray. Many of us probably pray every day. But how many of us pray for this church? I ask that as we move through the Fall and into Advent you add the Garden City Community Church to your prayers. Here are some I will be adding:

I pray that God's Spirit and power fills our church.

I pray for our church to walk in His wisdom, humility, and strength.

I pray for the leaders of this and every church, that their hearts and minds are directed towards Christ.

What prayers would you add? Let's lift our voices to God for the Garden City Community Church.

Faithfully submitted,

Kirsten Bahlke – Council of Trustees (COT) Chair



## **Message from the Search & Call Committee**

*The Search & Call team had our third meeting on Rally Day Sunday, along with the congregation in the playscape area with all 10 S&C members, and Reverend John Livingston in attendance. Our achieved goal was to re-orient and re-organize the path forward for the Search & Call Team, acknowledging the recent ministerial changes.*

*The S&C Team met for our 4th time together on September 22nd and they discussed the Congregational Conversation, now scheduled for after church on Sunday September 29th.*

*We ask you please make every effort to attend this very important meeting, for forging the future of the Garden City Community Church.*

*Your opinions, your joys, your concerns, all need to be heard by the S&C team, so we can craft the Garden City Community Church "Church Profile" document, to be published and released in the near future.*

*Your opinions and thoughts are vitally important to the future personality and life of our Church. This is a key step as the candidates for our new pastor will only be supplied by the UCC once they receive our new local church profile.*

*On **Sunday, September 29th after the Service**, we will have a quick fellowship of bagels and coffee, and then move into smallish groups to get some time with each one of you. We have several questions for your consideration and response. We figure it will take an hour, or just a bit longer, to hear each one of you in our groups. If you are not comfortable speaking in front of others, you can speak privately to Rev. Livingston, or Russ Fincher, who will be roaming amongst the groups.*

***So, please do join us on September 29th, after the worship service, Your voices need to be heard, for helping us develop the future of the Garden City Community Church!***

*Prayerfully submitted, your S&C Team*





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### **Worship Schedule**

#### **Sundays**

10:30 AM  
Livestream & In-person

#### **Tuesdays**

Intercessory  
Prayer Service  
9:30 AM In-person

## MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

### News from our Sunday School , Confirmation & Youth Groups

We had a wonderful start to the Sunday School year! Welcome Day was a huge success. We are still looking for Sunday School teachers so if you are interested, please contact Amanda, [adias@thegccc.org](mailto:adias@thegccc.org)

Confirmation II is starting up again this month! The first class will be on Sunday, October 20th at 7:00 pm in the Youth Room. Please pray for this Confirmation 2 cohort as they begin their journey to Confirmation! For more info contact Amanda, [adias@thegccc.org](mailto:adias@thegccc.org). To register: <https://gcc.breezechms.com/form/HSYG24>



### HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH PROGRAMS

High school youth groups are also starting up this month. Our first meeting will be joint with the Middle School. We will be going to a Haunted House on Friday, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>. We are also looking for a co-leader for this program as well! Meetings are once a month! If you are interested in joining or leading please contact Amanda, [adias@thegccc.org](mailto:adias@thegccc.org)

### MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH PROGRAMS

Middle School Youth Group is starting up again this month as well. We will be having our meetings Sunday Nights at 6:00pm-7:00pm. Our first meeting will be Friday ,Oct. 18<sup>h</sup>. We will be going to a haunted house. **We are also still looking for a co-leader for this group.** It is an amazing bunch of kids and it is sure to be a rewarding experience! If you are interested, please contact Amanda, [adias@thegccc.org](mailto:adias@thegccc.org). To register: <https://gcc.breezechms.com/form/MSYG24>



### PUMPKIN FEST

Sunday, Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> will be our annual Pumpkin Fest! There will be pumpkin crafts and themed snacks and games! Everyone is encouraged to wear their costume! A Sign-up Genius, to RSVP, will be sent out soon!

## 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 October 5th and November 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 reach out to the office or George Bashian 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 email [churchoffice@thegccc.org](mailto:churchoffice@thegccc.org).



### Strategic Planning Associates Presentation

Join us on Wednesday, October 2, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Parlor for a meeting with Strategic Planning Associates. They will be discussing general investment approaches for non-profits and will also have a big picture conversation about the Garden City Community Church investment policy and approach to our long-term holdings. Can't make it to the meeting in person? Join us at the meeting via Zoom. To register for the Zoom meeting go to: <https://gccc.breezechms.com/form/61c92f1481197448222253>.

**This is a required meeting for our F&A committee members.**



## 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.

### 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](mailto: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'.

### 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 to 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!

**Join us: Wednesday evenings, beginning Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Come: Experience the life and ministry of Jesus in a whole new “Way” (John 14:6)**



**The groundbreaking streaming television series about the life of Jesus**

**This series depicts how many of the stories in the Bible may have taken place and the struggles that Jesus and his disciples may have faced.**

**6:30pm: watch episode together**

**7:15pm: refreshments**

**7:30pm: group discussion**

**If you cannot make it to church at 6:30pm, feel free to watch the episode at home (free on Prime Video or <https://watch.thechosen.tv/page/seasons%201-3>) but be sure to join us at 7:30pm for a group discussion that will bolster your faith and strengthen your sense of community and service.**

**Questions: contact Karin Melkonian ([karinmelkonian@gmail.com](mailto:karinmelkonian@gmail.com))**

# ANNUAL PUMPKIN FEST AT THE GCCC

FOLLOWING CHURCH,  
JOIN US FOR CRAFTS,  
HARVEST TREATS,  
SPOOKY GAMES, AND A  
PUMPKIN PATCH

October 27th

11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

245 Stewart AVE

Garden City, NY 11530

## SEE YOU THERE!

to RSVP email Amanda Dias

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACA-D2EAA8-51534142-pumpkin#/>

SIGN UP HERE





## MISSION EVENTS

### Bi-weekly Food Collections will be given to the INN

We are donating our non-perishable food items to the Interfaith Nutrition Network (INN.) The INN is located at 100 Madison Avenue in Hempstead.

Our next scheduled donation dates are October 2, 16 and 30. Please drop off your non-perishable food items on these dates before noon on the Whitehall Blvd. porch. If you want to sign up to be a driver (to deliver our donations), please sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-46044897-2024>



### Lions Club International

We are still collecting usable eyeglasses and hearing aids for the Lions Club International. The donation box is located in the church building hallway.



### Neighbors in Need

In 2024, the Neighbors in Needs theme is “Mental Health Justice For All!” This year’s focus is on Mental Health Justice . In 2015, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a resolution to become WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged) for mental health. A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are in life’s mental health journey. Please help support this year’s Neighbor in Needs campaign “Mental Health is a Universal Human Right” by donating to this cause in the month of October.

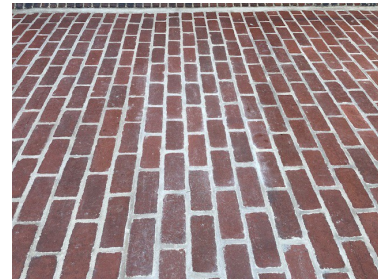
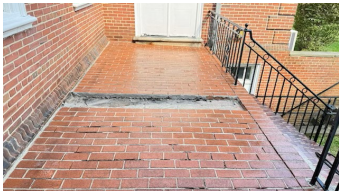
Just a reminder... The church needs YOU at the Search & Call Conversations on Sunday, Sept. 29th after the worship service. Your input is important in the selection of our next Senior Pastor! Coffee & bagels will be provided. See you there!



## News About the Building



Recently there has been an ongoing project of repairing cracks which have caused leaking problems throughout the building. Here are some before and after pictures.



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*Thank  
you*

We want to take a moment to thank Rev. Arlen for his efforts here at the church. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

## 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.

## Americana Fair

Hello everyone,

This is your fearless leader of 12 yrs! These are the areas we need your help with:

1. Sorting starts Saturday, November 2 from 10am—4pm. We also need someone to assist with sorting during the week either morning or afternoon. You can select your own hours. It's very busy this week and I can't physically do this myself. I need your help.
2. Chairpersons for Bistro, gourmet, new gifts, lamps & luggage & Security

**Drop off dates:** Sat. Nov. 2—10am-4pm, Sun. Nov. 3—11:30am—4pm, Mon. Nov. 4—8am—4pm, Tues. Nov. 5 (Election Day) 10am-4pm, Wed. Nov. 6—8am—4pm, Thurs. Nov. 7 - 8am—4pm,  
**Fri. Nov. 8—We will not accept merchandise**

**Americana Fair hours: Sat. Nov. 9 from 10am-3pm (doors open for volunteers—8am)**

Any ideas are greatly appreciated. Please contact Cindy Campbell at [cindala86@gmail.com](mailto:cindala86@gmail.com) or 516-524-1617.

Thank you. Cindy Campbell



## 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>

Online  
Giving



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.

## Musical Ensembles September through June

**Adult Choir** – Open to H.S. students through adults. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 8:00 pm – 9:30 pm.



**Youth Choir** – Open to grades 3-5. 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](mailto:music@thegccc.org)



## It's Time to Register for NURSERY SCHOOL

Nursery School registration for the 2025/26 school year will begin in November.

Making friends on the playground, painting, dressing up and building with blocks are just some of the fun activities the children can look forward to.

The GC Community Church Nursery School provides children with a quality educational program which inspires them to create, discover and achieve; fosters self-awareness and self-esteem; teaches them to treat others with gentleness, respect, compassion and generosity; and prepares them for advancement to the next level of learning.

Classrooms are set up to encourage free exploration, with a wide variety of materials and activities that are fun and interactive, and experiences that stimulate all of their senses. Programs are offered for 2, 3 & 4 year olds.

We have added some wonderful Enrichment programs to complement our Nursery Pre-K program. Enrichment classes include Community Cooking, Great American Artists, Science Explorers Class & Lunch Bunch. We also offer two programs for 2-year-olds, PlaySchool – a gentle separation program, and Next Steps – a drop-off/pick-up program for older 2's.

The Nursery School is proud to promote its Healthy Snack policy as well as its Healthy GREEN Cleaning policy.

Church members and school alumni may register beginning November 1, 2024. There is a 10% discount on tuition for church members and for one child of families with two children enrolled. Open Registration begins on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

For more information or to schedule a tour,  
Email Cathie McCullough, Director – [gcccnursery@gmail.com](mailto:gcccnursery@gmail.com) 516-746-1756  
Or visit us at [www.gcccnurseryschool.com](http://www.gcccnurseryschool.com)



# AMERICANA FAIR

**Saturday, November 9, 2024**

**10 am – 3 pm**

**GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH**

*245 Stewart Avenue at Whitehall Blvd.*

*Garden City, NY 11530*

*(516) 746-1700*

**Free Admission**

**Contact:**

Chair: Cindy Campbell [cindala86@gmail.com](mailto:cindala86@gmail.com)

Sorting: **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!!**

Youth Coordinator: Robin Laisure [rblaisure421@gmail.com](mailto:rblaisure421@gmail.com)

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**SILENT AUCTION--Antiques, Collectibles**

**SHABBY/CHIC**

**ACCESSORIES**

**ATTIC TREASURES**

**HOLIDAY & GIFT BOUTIQUES**

**LINENS, LAMPS, CHINA, SILVER,**

**JEWELRY**

**TOYS, PICTURES, FRAMES,**

**GOURMET SHOP**

**BISTRO LUNCHEON or Hot Dog Tent**



## Best.Day.Ever!

By Julia Weede, Guest Contributor

“**T**his is the BEST DAY EVER!” I shouted to the sun and sparkling water.

My husband Tom and I had rented a boat in our favorite waterfront village and went to our favorite lake spot that we had all to ourselves on a perfect summer day. It was magic – we anchored and swam with our favorite music in crystal clear water.

Best. Day. Ever! What a gift. What a memory. Together.

Perfect days and perfect moments – it is too easy to take them for granted. But our amazing God fills our lives with them, leading us beside still waters, restoring our souls, delighting us with beauty, love, friendship, joy.

In the moment, I yearn for those times to last forever, knowing they are fleeting. Too soon, it feels like they are forgotten in the press of life’s demands.

But they are not forgotten. I promise.

They are like money in the bank that you don’t know about, or like perfect fruit that surprises you unexpectedly out of season.

Seven years after our crystal water perfect day, Tom was home and bedridden after months in ICU and rehab. We knew we didn’t have much time. We were trying to hold on to our shared life as long as we could.

I looked at him and asked, “Remember that day? How perfect it was? It was one of our best days ever.” And he lit up with the memory and said something funny I had forgotten. We started drawing down our bank of Best Days Ever – laughing with tears and sharing our life. The memories carried us for weeks – one at a time.

What a gift. What a sweet, sweet joy in a time we badly needed it. We felt God’s presence. They are His memories too. He created it all. He was orchestrating it all.

So drink deep of your best days, and best moments. Cherish them in your heart and keep them safe. They will stay there until you need them. Invest in more. Listen to the Spirit – do something you know in your heart someone will love. Even if it isn’t perfect, the memories are.

Then draw them out when they are needed - from your beloved, your grandmother, your best colleague, your child, your best friend. You all are blessed and rich beyond measure in these gifts – together – wrapped in the restoring and timeless love of the Creator of all things who holds all our days forever.

*This month’s Guest Contributor is Julia Weede. Julia is a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church, the Bronx and former Chief Communications Officer at Carnegie Corporation of New York.*

Call the Lutheran Counseling Center at 516-741-0994 or 1-800-317-1173 or e-mail us at [Center@lccny.org](mailto:Center@lccny.org) for more information or to set an appointment.



# October



# 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Prayer Service 9:30 am	2 Food Donation drop-off for INN by noon Strategic Planning Assoc. Presentation 6 pm	3 Adult Choir 8:00 pm		5 Men's Breakfast 8 am Carle Place Diner Karen Zalewski Memorial Service 10:30 am
6 Sunday Service/Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30 am	7	8 Prayer Service 9:30 am	9 Council of Trustees (COT) 7:30 pm	10 Adult Choir 8:00 pm		12 Wedding 10 am
13 Sunday Service 10:30 am <b>Voluntary Church School 10:30 am</b> Fellowship Hour 11:30 am Snack Bag Sunday 11:30 am Ministry Meeting 12:00 pm	14 <b>Columbus Day – church office closed</b>	15 Prayer Service 9:30 am	16 Food Donation drop-off for INN by noon	17 Adult Choir 8:00 pm	18 M.S. & H.S. Haunted House trip 6 pm	19
20 Sunday Service/Church School 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30 am Hulf/Vasus Wedding 1 pm Confirmation II Meeting 7 pm	21	22 Prayer Service 9:30 am	23 Council of Trustees (COT) 7:30 pm	24 Adult Choir 8:00 pm	25	26
27 Sunday Service/Church School 10:30 am Pumpkin Fest 11:30 am Confirmation II Meeting 7 pm	28	29 Prayer Service 9:30 am	30 Food Donation drop-off for INN by noon	31 Adult Choir 8:00 pm		