



# Garden City Community Church Connections December 2023

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

## Pastor's Message

Almost Advent and Christmas GCCCers!

First, invitations...

**A family Advent / Christmas story quiz** – E Blast and other places. Bring your answers to worship on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Rules: if a family, do it together. If single, do it with at least one single friend. No Bible, no Google (search engine), nor Chatgpt. It's a "quiz" :).

**Join me for an after worship – after coffee time visit. Or Monday – Thursday** – In your home – or elsewhere – for a meal or not -Perhaps you will tell me about yourself, and about you and God, and about you and GCCC...

**Read this monthly newsletter.** It's one of the places where I will weave inspiration, provocation (in a good way), and narrative for you and GCCC: the life of faith and ministry and mission in the near-term and the far-term and habits of the heart past, present, and emerging.

**Attend worship weekly.** Here – on-line or in-person - beside advancing the content named just above, it's the one place to give and receive together, where GCCCers and those giving thought to joining with GCCC give each other their heart. Worship. God gives us their heart. We give God our heart. We give and receive one another's heart. Wonderful! Vulnerable! Heart-mending and heart-breaking. Life-giving and life-sustaining. Better than any movie, really!

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Friends, GCCC and the 1<sup>st</sup> Century Christian church share a journey narrative; you, as did they, are walking a path not trod for a generation, or more. You, as did they, grieve what once was. You, as did they, are glad for those who lead and wonder what the future will bring. You, as did they, "*believe in...God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify...*" (from *Preamble*, page 1, *GCCC By-Laws*, 1 January 2019) You, as they, are living in a present moment unlike any other before. You, as they, are praying "not my will, but your will be done, O God." You, as did they, embark on a journey with one another and with God.

Twenty-five to thirty years are often thought the span of a generation. A Senior Pastor can, in that span, hold an infant in their arms at baptism, confirm that teenager and welcome them into the congregation, stand before them as they exchange vows on their wedding day, and baptize the infant they offer for baptism. Some of you have participated in GCCC ministry during a season longer than thirty years, before a time when Jim was Associate, succeeding to Senior Pastor, then Lynn as Associate succeeding to Senior Pastor. For the first time in more than a generation, the spirit of GCCC, and some of you, enter a season without an Associate succeeding to Senior Pastor. Instead, me ....

GCCC, your emotional and spiritual muscles are stretching and growing. And as an athlete knows, growing muscles ache and pain. They need effort and recovery, nourishment and rest. They need regular and constant exercise. They do not grow, generally for their own sake. Advent, a "little Lent," prepares us for pondering the wonder and goodness of God-with-Us. Advent serves as our first practice – leaning into one another as Intentional Interim Senior Pastor and people – together we prepare for our emotional and spiritual work.

Edgar and Peter Schein observed that only one essential posture and practice grounds *humble leaders* and *humble leadership*: **personization**. It's a word they coined to describe what I have described as generous hospitality, respectful communality and glad collaboration. Lately you may have heard me offer this metaphor: these gospel graces are about sharing and giving ones' heart and receiving another's heart. Jesus described Schein's *personization* as loving God with one's whole self, and loving the stranger, enemy and neighbor with the same measure of love one loves on oneself.

Join me in practicing this life and faith posture. Open. Vulnerable. Intentional. Leaning in will prepare you and the spirit of GCCC for every eventuality, no matter what; even a Mary - cousin of Elizabeth - not yet pregnant by holy Spirit – God conversation moment. I am glad to be with. In anticipation of visiting and worshipping together ... A blessed Advent one and all!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Arlen'.

Arlen G. Vernava

Intentional Interim Senior Pastor

As Advent is the start of the liturgical year, we will be stewarding God's good creation and our own resources. We will only be sending out this and future newsletters via email and on the website. If you want to request a paper copy of the newsletter, please contact the church office and we will put a paper copy aside for you to pick up.

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## 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.**




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## BI-WEEKLY FOOD COLLECTIONS FOR THE LICC EMERGENCY

### FOOD CENTER



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: November 29, December 13 and December 27. Donations should be left on the Whitehall porch before noon on the dates mentioned above. Any donations you can make will be greatly appreciated —especially before the upcoming holidays.

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## Worship Schedule

### Sundays

10:30 AM  
Livestream & In-person

### Tuesdays

Intercessory  
Prayer Service  
9:30 AM In-person

## 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://gccc.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.

### Upcoming Advent Events

Ordering Christmas flowers for the church  
 Decorating the Church for Christmas  
 Bedford Hills unwrapped gift drop off  
 Hat & Mitten Tree Donations  
 Giving Tree - Nueva Vida Church  
 LICC Food Collections  
 Christmas Tree Sale  
 Coats for Anna House  
 Christmas Caroling to our Homebound Members



### 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 December 2nd and Jan. 6th at 8:00 am at the Carle Place Diner—151 Old Country Road in Carle Place. No reservations 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.**

## 2024 Mission Trip Knoxville, Tennessee

Planning is underway for the 2024 Mission Trip which will be serving in Knoxville Tennessee during the week of July 14th—July 20th. These trips are always incredibly impactful and rewarding! The registration deadline was October 21st but if you missed the deadline and are interested, you may contact Tracey Lawson at [traceymlawson@gmail.com](mailto:traceymlawson@gmail.com) or 516-984-4470, to see if it is still possible to register.



### Mission Trip Christmas Tree Sale

**On Saturday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8:00 am – noon** we will be having our Annual Christmas Tree sale to help support our 2024 Mission Trip. There will be 6-9 foot trees, garland, wreaths as well as baked goods and ornaments to purchase – something for everyone. Each year the proceeds of the sale go toward offsetting the cost of the summer’s youth program. Please come out to find your perfect tree and support our youth program.

### Youth Support needed for Tree Sale

Come out and support the Mission Trip! Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> will be our Christmas Tree Sale! The youth will be getting together on Dec. 1st to unload trees, make wreaths, decorate ornaments, and make signs. This year we will also be bringing back the sleepover. **All youth, 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade, are invited to participate regardless of Mission Trip status. To make sure this sale is successful we will need lots of adult help too.** You can sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084EA8AA28A2FC1-45896580-gccc#/>



### Americana Fair

**Thanks to everyone that helped make the Americana Fair a success. We made over \$20,000. Please attend a follow up meeting on January 7th at 11:45 am in the Kensington Room.**



## Stewardship Campaign

Dear Garden City Community Church,

I am pleased to announce our Stewardship theme this year is, "Because of You, Our Church Changes Lives." I feel this is so fitting for GCCC. If you have ever been at the service where the Mission Trip folks talk about their week you know that The Garden City Community church truly does change lives.

Throughout the year, we are a congregation of generous people, who invest much time and energy into the life work of our church. Now is the time when we ask you to also make those financial pledges that are so critical to our future. Stewardship is an invitation to acknowledge the change we have seen and want to see come about through our GCCC experience. Your pledge, no matter the size will help ensure, our children and youth ministries are strengthened, our beautiful church is available for future generations, our staff is well-supported, and our missions and outreach programs increase.

To make pledging easy, we are offering an online form (simply put the web address below into your browser), or you can use a pledge card. Our campaign ends on December 3<sup>rd</sup> with a special acknowledgement during the 10:30am service. Whether you pledge before December 3<sup>rd</sup> or on that day, join us for a very special worship service. See you there.

With continued gratitude,

*Kirsten Bahlke*

Kirsten Bahlke

Chair, Council of Trustees

Give online by going here: <https://gcc.breezechms.com/form/e9713e43>



Because of **YOU** our church changes lives.

Dear Garden City Community Church members and friends,

Some of you have spoken to me of your rich and profound experience as a Mission Trip participant: you and those you worked alongside experienced changed lives. I know I am changed too, by every daily conversation... "how are you?" "would you help me with?" "I so appreciate you..." Perhaps you are too?

Relationships of mutual trust and respect: with God, with oneself, and with others nourish and sustain. Filled to overflowing, we *be* and *do*: contribute and grow in every way and always.

The UCC Statement of Faith states it thus: (page 514, *Book of Worship*)

"God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God... you call us into your church to share the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil...

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing..."

Our Stewardship theme this year says: *Because of You, our Church Changes Lives*. Because of You, God, GCCC changes lives. Because of You, GCCC member and friend, GCCC changes lives. Because of You, spirit of GCCC, GCCC changes lives. Giftedness. Talent. Expertise. Time. Money. Material resources. Spiritual and emotional resources. With God's help, following the way of Jesus, each one of us and all of us together, change lives!

How so? We walk alongside and be with every kind of person and community. How so? With time and energy... from heart and deep gladness... with prayer and care, with material resources: money, and things, and expertise in kind. How so? Through the infrastructure of building and grounds and the holy things and practices that occupy that space... Zoom and streaming technologies and all that...all for the sake of kin-dom. *Because of You, GCCC Changes Lives!*

Americana Fair! Confirmation! Youth, Children, and Family ministry! Music! Worship! Prayer Service! Staff! And more... I see you: Thank-you! Thank-you! May I claim for you and for us God's abundance? For all we know about this moment, for all you know about this moment, you are, and we are, GCCC, people of emotional, spiritual, and material abundance.

Now. In what way, I wonder, will you bless GCCC in 2024? In what powerful, tangible, glad and joyous way will you advance the way of Jesus? Your promise to God, your "yes" (in a measure that fits this season of your life) giving time and talent and your gift of financial support says: because I love God - I am loving on GCCC and beyond. Money, gladly, supports and advances all of the ways you, as church, with God's help, change lives. In what powerful, tangible, glad and joyous way will you advance the way of Jesus?

You may pledge your financial gift online (simply put the web address below into your browser) or use the included financial pledge card. On first Sunday of Advent, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, worship includes celebrating your generosity - a perfect time to say "yes," again, to God. Because of all of us, church, with God's help, GCCC changes lives.

Blessings and ...

Peace,

Rev. 

Intentional Interim Pastor, 9 November 2023

Give online by going here: <https://gcc.breezechms.com/form/e9713e43>



**ATTENTION ALL CHURCH MEMBERS!**

**The Garden City Community Church is scheduling volunteers to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas 2023!**

**Please let us know if a family/friend team is interested in decorating on Tuesday November 28 starting at 3 PM.**

**We will have a small potluck fellowship dinner immediately after the decorating is done. Soup will be served and any other food donations would be appreciated!**

**Suggestions: Salad, Bread, Pizza, Cookies and whatever else is delicious!**

**To be added to the Decorating Schedule, please reach out to Mico Faella - Email: [micofaella@gmail.com](mailto:micofaella@gmail.com) or cell 516-650-4604**

**We look forward to hearing from you!**



**Garden City Community Church  
Mission Trip Fundraiser  
Christmas Tree, Wreath, and Garland Sale!  
Saturday, December 2nd, 8-12 pm**



**The Garden City Community Church** (corner of Whitehall and Stewart) will be holding a **Christmas Tree Sale Saturday 12/2 from 8am to 12:00pm**. There will be trees from 6-9 feet, garland and beautifully adorned wreaths for sale, as well as a bake sale and ornament sale! The proceeds for the sale go toward offsetting the cost of this summer's youth mission trip. Each year the youth spend a week working construction, and other projects, to improve the lives of those less fortunate. Please come support this worthy cause while getting beautiful items to fill your home with the holiday spirit!

Please plan to come support our Mission Trip! We really appreciate your support!

**Garden City Community Church  
245 Stewart Avenue  
Garden City, NY 11530  
516-746-170**



# Christmas is Coming!

Start the holidays with music,  
fellowship and dinner!

## Candelight Christmas Concert

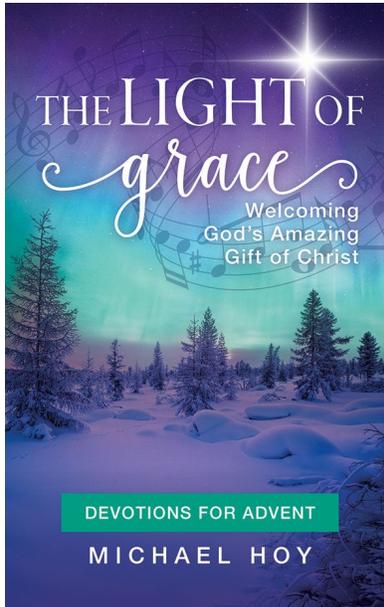
Adult, children, and bell choirs

Save the Date:

Dec. 3, 2023

4:30pm

For additional information, please contact the church office at  
516-746-1700 or [churchoffice@theGCC.org](mailto:churchoffice@theGCC.org)



We hope the devotional booklet , ‘The Light of Grace’ (which we will be mailing out shortly), will help keep you and your family centered. Below are some giving and worship opportunities that we hope you will mark on your calendar. Details are in the this newsletter, our weekly e-blasts and on our website. Contact the church office if you have any questions.

Worship: Sundays at 10:30 am

Dec. 3 Christmas Candlelight Concert at 4:30 pm—Dinner to follow—in person & Via Livestream

Christmas Week: Saturday, Dec. 24 Worship Service at 10:30 am—in person & via Livestream

Saturday, Dec. 24 Family Service at 4:30 pm—in person

Saturday, Dec. 24 Candlelight Communion 10:00 pm - in person & via livestream

Sunday, Dec. 31 10:30 am – Sanctuary service - Come as you are—in person & via Livestream

#### Advent Seasonal Opportunities

Nov. 28 Decorating the church 3:00 pm

Nov. 29 LICC Food Collections

Dec. 2 Tree Sale 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Dec. 2 Caroling to homebound members—3:00 pm

Dec. 10 Deadline for our gifts for the children at the Nueva Vida Presbyterian Church

Dec. 10 Deadline for our gifts to the Christmas Program at Bedford Hills Prison

Dec. 10 Deadline for coats for Anna House

Dec. 10 Deadline for the hat & mitten tree donations for the LICC Emergency Food Center: socks, hats, gloves, scarfs, gloves and mittens

Dec. 11 Deadline for ordering Christmas flowers in memory or honor of loved ones

Dec. 13,27 LICC Food Collections

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (UCC) CHRISTMAS FUND

will be collected in January

This fund helps provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retired church workers, emergency assistance to clergy families in need, and Christmas checks to hundreds of annuitants, as administered by the Pension Boards. Please help support this UCC Special Mission.



## Because of YOU Our Church Changes Lives



**GCCC Annual Stewardship Campaign**  
**Stewardship Sunday December 3, 2023**

**Pledge online anytime**

<https://gcc.breezechms.com/form/e9713e43>

Every gift to our congregation helps strengthen who we are and what we can do together. Because of you, our church changes lives.

### CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.

## Spread the Warmth this Christmas Season

### New Coat Donations



We will be collecting new coats for the students of Anna House. Anna House is a child care and early education center for the children of those who work at Belmont Race Track in Elmont, New York.

Coats will be due by Sunday, December 10th. To sign up to donate go to:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-46204303-2023>

### Hat and Mitten Tree

Our tradition of loading up the mitten tree lives on. Please bring your contribution of New Hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and socks to the church. Items will be donated to the LICC Emergency Food Center. Please drop off your items by Sunday, December 10th.



**We invite you to have Christmas flowers placed in the church in memory or in honor of loved ones. If you would like to contribute, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office no later than**

**Monday, December 11**

Given in loving memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_



## Gifts for the Children at Nueva Vida Presbyterian Church

We will once again be supporting the children of the Nueva Vida Presbyterian Church by donating gifts for Christmas. See the list below for the gender and age of a child to purchase a gift for. Once you have chosen a child, let us know so that we can give you the child's name for the gift tag. Then return the wrapped present (with gift tag) to the church no later than Sunday, December 10th. Sign up at the church or you can sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-46164565-2023>

### Girls Ages

10 months (one girl)  
5 years (one girl)  
6 years (one girl)  
9 years (two girls)  
11 years (one girl)  
13 years (one girl)

### Boys Ages

3 months (1 boy)  
10 months (one boy)  
6 years (one boy)  
7-9 years (two boys)  
11 years (one boy)



## All Church Christmas Caroling On December 2nd at 3:00 pm



All are welcome to come Christmas Caroling to the homebound of the church. We will be meeting at the church at 3pm to carpool to a few homes in the area. Caroling books will be provided. Hot chocolate and Christmas cheer to be shared afterwards, place to be determined. See you there! For more info email Amanda Dias at: [adias@thegccc.org](mailto:adias@thegccc.org).

## Thanksgiving Fixin' Bags

Thanks to everyone that donated a Thanksgiving Fixin' Bag for the Interfaith Nutrition Network. We were able to donate 41 bags of food to them.

## Deaths

Bonnie Piotrowski—August 10, 2023  
Robert McMillan—September 10, 2023  
Pat Lazzaro—October 18, 2023  
Hanne Andreassen—October 21, 2023 (choir member)

## Church Services

Tuesday Prayer Service 9:30 am  
Sundays 10:30 am—in person and livestream  
Christmas Candlelight Service (Dinner to follow)—Dec. 3rd 4:30 pm

## Christmas Week (in person & via Livestream)

Sunday Dec 24 Worship Service - 10:30 am  
Sunday Dec 24 Family Service - 4:30 pm  
Sunday Dec 24 Candlelight Communion - 10:00 pm  
Sunday, December 31 'Come as you are' - 10:30 am

## **WE ARE COLLECTING GIFTS FOR CHILDREN OF MOTHERS AT THE BEDFORD HILLS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

We will continue the tradition of collecting NEW, UNWRAPPED gifts for the children of mothers incarcerated at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. Please use the enclosed "Wish List" to choose your donations. Bring gifts to church by December 10, 2023.

Checks may be sent to the Church Office no later than Dec. 10th:  
(please make checks out to: **THE HOUR CHILDREN PARENTING CENTER**).  
\*All donations are tax deductible\*

This year, they anticipate over 200 mothers will select gifts for over 500 children, as well as providing gifts to correctional facilities across New York State so that many more incarcerated parents can give gifts to their children during the holidays.

The Parenting Center at Bedford Hills Holiday Program Wish List **(NEW and UNWRAPPED Items Only, Please)**

Ages 0-2: V-Tech (6-36 months – we need 26 of the same type);  
Clothing: for Newborns to 2T (No Blue, Black, Orange, Gray); Baby Blankets (Toddler Size - No Solid Colors of Blue, Black, Orange, Gray); Rattles; Teething Rings (NUBY Brand); Muslin Swaddles; Winter Hats (Newborn – 1 year); Stacking Cups/Rings; Baby Einstein or Fisher Price Toys; Shape Sorters, Hooded Fleece Bunting in various sizes up to 18 months.

Ages 3-5: Large Trucks; Baby Alive Dolls; Disney Frozen Character Items; Crafts Sets; Baby Dolls; Disney Princess Dolls

Ages 6-10: Legos; K'Nex/Playmobile; Barbie/Bratz/Monster High Dolls; Trucks; Transformers; Actions Figures - Captain America, Stars Wars, Superman, etc.; Matchbook Tracks and Car Sets; Plastic Knitting and Crocheting Kits; Cranium, Brain Quest; Painting and Art Sets; 3D Glasses and Books; Train Sets; Card Games such as: Skip Bo, Uno and Monopoly, Lip Smacker lip gloss, hats, and scarves.

Ages 11-17: Craft Kits; Sports Balls - Basketball, Soccer, Football; Baseballs, Mitts (No Bats); Chess and Checker Games; Friendship Bracelet Kits; How to Knit/Crochet Books; Make-Up Kits Only (No Mirror or Glass); Burt's Bees Lip Gloss; Burt's Bees Shower Gel And Body Wash (No Alcohol in Ingredient List); Wallets (boys and girls), Burt's Bees Face Wash; Sunglasses (No Bling); Headphones/Ear Buds; Watches (Analog only and No Bling); Board Games for Ages 10 and Up such as: Apples to Apples, Life, Trivial Pursuit (Adult and Children Versions) etc.; Leather Bracelets; Musical Instruments (No Recorders), Hats & Scarves, Jewelry, New Kids Books, Nail Polish, Lip Smackers, Bath Bombs, Shower Sponges

ITEMS ALWAYS NEEDED FOR HOUR NURSERY MOMS (New or Gently Used) Strollers; Pack 'N Plays; Baby Swings; Bouncing Chairs; Medela Breast Pumps and Accessories; "Boppy" Pillows and New Car Seats

**NONE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE ALLOWED:** Glass, scissors, sharp objects, pencil sharpeners, mirrors, clay, Play-Doh, items that promote violence, teen/adult clothing, electronics, DVDs, no rhinestones on watches or toys, metal or items in tins; wooden toys, soft dolls or stuffed animals.

Please bring items to the Church Office **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 10, 2023.**



## High School Youth Group

Our high school youth groups is meeting once a month. There will be service and leadership opportunities as well as fun activities! If you are interested in registering your high schooler for the group, please contact Amanda Dias at [adias@thegccc.org](mailto:adias@thegccc.org).

Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>: We had our First High School Youth Group meeting. We talked about "Gratitude". We had a special guest join us - Steve Short!

Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>: High school youth group regular meeting—Steve Short will be our special guest.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL



**Dec. 3rd 4:30pm: Christmas Concert:** Join us at the Candlelight Christmas Concert formerly known at the Vespers Service. We will be featuring some lively music sung by both the choir and the children. Dinner will be served after. We would love to have you join us.

**Dec. 15th 5:30pm: Christmas Pageant Practice:** The kids will be rehearsing for the Christmas Pageant. They will be singing the songs and going through the whole pageant. Please try your best to be there!

**Dec. 17th 10:30am: THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:** Our Christmas Pageant this year will be "The Gifts of Christmas". Join us as we talk about the reason for the season. We are looking for middle and high schoolers help! If you would like your child/children to participate, please contact Amanda Dias ([adias@thegccc.org](mailto:adias@thegccc.org))

## Middle School Youth Group

**Nov. 26th—600pm** —We are hoping to have a friendsgiving. Bring a little bit of your favorite Thanksgiving dish. Please let Amanda Dias know if you are able to make this meeting. ([adias@thegccc.org](mailto:adias@thegccc.org))

**Dec. 2nd 3:00 pm** - We will be going caroling to the homebound church members

**Dec. 17th—6:00 pm** - We will be having a regular meeting

The Youth Group is looking for occasional volunteers to help supervise the group. If you are interested in participating, contact Amanda Dias at [adias@thegccc.org](mailto:adias@thegccc.org)

It is never too late to join the middle school youth group. If you are interested, please contact Amanda Dias or register at: <https://gccc.breezechms.com/form/61c92f148119>

## 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](mailto:music@thegccc.org)

# December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Tree Sale Prep	2 Tree Sale 8am – noon Men's Breakfast 8am Carle Place Diner Bell Choir 9am/Adult Choir 10am Caroling 3pm
3 Service/Sunday School 10:30am Fellowship Hour 11:30am Christmas Concert/Dinner 4:30 pm M.S. Youth Group 6pm Confirmation 1 class 7pm	4 Trustees (COT) meeting 7:30pm	5 Prayer Service 9:30am	6 Adult Choir Practice 8pm	7 Adult Choir Practice 8pm	8	9
10 Service/Sunday School 10:30am Fellowship Hour 11:30am H.S. Youth Group 6pm Confirmation 1 class 7pm	11 Prayer Service 9:30am	12 Prayer Service 9:30am	13 Adult Choir Practice 8pm	14 Adult Choir Practice 8pm	15	16
17 Service/Pageant 10:30am Fellowship Hour 11:30am M.S. Youth Group 6pm Confirmation 1 class 7pm	18 Prayer Service 9:30am	19 Prayer Service 9:30am	20 Adult Choir Practice 8pm	21 Adult Choir Practice 8pm	22	23
24 Service/ <b>No Sunday School</b> 10:30am Fellowship Hour 11:30am Christmas Eve family service 4:30 pm M.S. Youth Group 6pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 10pm	25 <b>Christmas Day</b> <b>Office closed</b>	26 <b>Office Closed</b>	27	28	29	30
31 Service/ <b>No Sunday School</b> 10:30am Fellowship Hour 11:30am						