

Connections

November/December 2022

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

Pastor's Message

"I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell all of your wonderful deeds." (Psalm 9:1)

A few weeks ago Alison Forelli and I gave a presentation to the Mineola/Garden City Rotary Club regarding the service opportunities at our church. After the presentation one of the members shared that as a recipient of a new backpack during his school days, he is grateful for churches like ours who makes it a priority to reach out to our neighboring communities (INN, Anna House, LICC Emergency Food Pantry) to assist children in need.

We have been diligent in our giving opportunities with the giving garden, backpack project, hygiene kits (72), Soles for Souls, candy for veterans, and soon our Thanksgiving and Christmas giving opportunities. It doesn't matter how much one person gives because collectively we are making a difference

"I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell all of your wonderful deeds." (Psalm 9:1)

Recently, The Strategic Planning Committee gave presentations about the growth plan for our future emphasizing four areas:

Nourish Spirituality, Deepen Connections, Empower Service, Strengthen Operations

This plan cannot happen without the support and commitment of all of us. The respective committees and teams will be meeting to see what areas they are responsible for and will be relying on all of us to help in its implementation process over the next few years. Join us in finding ways to *Build a community where all are enriched through Christian Love, Service and Spiritual Renewal*. It is a time of great possibility for our congregation and the future of its mission.

We have the opportunity to come together for Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas and be reminded that our God wants us to redirect our energy, time and talents to thanking God with our whole heart. God wants us to focus on all God's wonderful deeds.

"I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell all of your wonderful deeds." (Psalm 9:1)

Blessings,

Lynn

Senior Pastor

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Worship Schedule

Sundays

10:30 AM

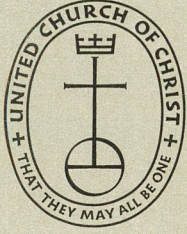
Livestream & In-person

Tuesdays

Intercessory

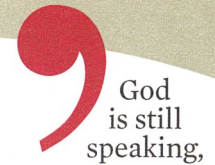
Prayer Service

9:30 AM In-person



The Garden City Community Church

United Church of Christ



Dear Church Members,

Thank you for attending the Council's recent presentations to share an update with the community about our church's 2022 Strategic Planning process.

We have been reviewing the results from our Spring churchwide survey and small group feedback sessions all summer and were so excited to be able to finally share it with you!

The attendance was very encouraging, and the questions were a sign of the community's genuine curiosity, and investment in our future planning and growth.

In response to requests, attached you will find:

- 1) The One-Page Summary of Strategic Plan Goals.
- 2) Roster of COT members

A copy of the [PowerPoint Presentation summarizing the Survey Data](#) will be available upon request by contacting the church office. They make better sense if you heard Kirsten's explanation.

We hope this gives you more time to reflect on the information shared. The next step is for our Council Committees and teams to review the 7 Page Strategic Plan objectives on how to implement the goals, in specific areas.

We welcome all church members to contact the chairs and attend their meetings where the strategic plan will be discussed in more detail.

Education Committee – Oversees educational programs for church school, youth ministry/middle school, Confirmation, Adult Education.

Finance and Administration Committee – Oversees finances of the church, including income and expenses from congregation members, renters, special events and worship services.

Operations, Administration & Communications Committee – Oversees communications with the office with a particular emphasis on our church's technical needs. This includes our tech team, social media, and other issues.

Community Service Committee - Oversees all community service and justice driven activities at the church, including seasonal service projects, Sandwich Sundays, Collection Sorting, as well as the Mission Trip.

Personnel Committee – Oversees human resources and personnel issues related to the church, including hiring, job descriptions and staffing.

Ministry Committee – Oversees all aspects of planning our worship services, including deacons, ushers, liturgists, decorating the sanctuary, special services, music and more!

Membership Committee – Oversees all aspects of membership, including welcoming new members, maintaining our membership directory and supporting new members at events.

Buildings Committee – Oversees all aspects of the building, including maintenance, service contracts, capital projects, or infrastructure upgrades, in collaboration with building staff and finance and administration.

Each committee either has met or will be meeting in the coming weeks to review the sections of the Strategic plan that relate to their specific ministries.

We invite all congregation members to attend these meetings, for committees that may interest them. We welcome your feedback, and believe that with your support, the final plan that emerges will be even stronger and in line with the community's deepest desires reflected in the churchwide survey and interviews. Our hope, after committee review of the plan, is that we can present a more final version to the community by the end of year.

Thank you again for your support for the Strategic Planning process. With your help and God's grace, together, we can create this roadmap to our future growth and sustainability, so that we deepen our faith and serve one another as the Garden City Community Church. Let us know if you have any questions! Email us at: cot@thegccc.org.

Peace,

Council of Trustees & Strategic Planning Committee

GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH STRATEGIC PLAN

as of 9/1/2022

Objectives

NOURISH SPIRITUALITY

Continually grow and strengthen our spirituality by providing Christian education and rejuvenation for all ages.

DEEPEEN CONNECTIONS

Engage active, lapsed and prospective community members to build comradery and cultivate our open and affirming nature.

EMPOWER SERVICE

Enable our service (time, goods and/or monetary donation) to those in need in our congregation, local area and greater world.

STRENGTHEN OPERATIONS

Ensure our building, organization and finances are fit for purpose and adapt to meet the needs of congregation and community.

Strategies

Offer vibrant worship opportunities for multiple audiences

Deliver outstanding faith formation programming

Enhance music capabilities and variety

Provide personalized pastoral care

Exemplify by action that all are welcome

Increase penetration of internal communications

Amplify GCCC communication to a broader audience

Encourage relationship building among the congregation

Provide multi-generational service opportunities

Ensure that our efforts serve the local community

Support the UCC-wide efforts

Secure financial stability

Ensure ministerial support for priorities

Develop lay and minister leaders

Leverage technology

Maximize the effective and efficient use of physical space

2022 Council of Trustees (COT) Members

We welcome your comments and feedback. Contact us by email at cot@thegccc.org

Kirsten Bahlke**
 Joe Stanco**
 Paula Tusiani-Eng
 Cindy Campbell
 Vacant
 Alison Forelli
 Tara Noll-Socha
 Celia Petersen
 Mico Faella
 Hugh Lacy
 Andrew Schrafel
 Viki Rehkugler
 Tim Martens III
 Robin Laisure

Information Officer (infoofficer@thegccc.org)
 Treasurer & represents F&A
 Chair, Council of Trustees
 Ministry Committee
 Program Committee, Connections
 Program Committee, Service
 Program Committee, Education
 Membership Committee
 Personnel Committee
 At Large-Buildings
 At Large-IT Team
 At Large-IT Team
 At Large-AV Tech Team
 At Large-Legal

Nonvoting-Officers of the Church**



Dear Members and Friends,

Throughout our faith journey, we are extended several invitations. From the invitation to make our confession of faith to the invitation to care for a sick neighbor, to the invitation to bring food to the next church event, to the invitation to Christ's Table, our life in a community of faith is full of invitations.

During this stewardship season, let's be especially intentional about how we respond to the variety of invitations we receive and how those invitations spur us along in our faith development. In particular, focus on what it means to gather at the sacred table, and how being welcome there calls us to become powerful agents for the good that God is doing in our world.

Our faithful financial stewardship is one way we are invited to respond to Christ's invitation. Our generosity funds the mission and ministry that we are deploying as a sign that God's Realm is among us. On **October 30th**, we will begin our stewardship campaign, an intentional reflection, titled *From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving* as a preparation for determining our 2023 investment in the ministry and mission of the Garden City Community Church. The time of prayer and reflection will culminate on Commitment Sunday as part of worship on **November 20th** and I hope you will be intentional about responding to this important invitation to be there, not simply to offer your commitment card, but join us for the short celebration after the service.

God has done and continues to do remarkable things through us and with us – things that matter in our community! Your prayers and your participation are keys to helping us advance further on the pathway of discipleship.

Thank you for walking alongside me as a part of the Garden City Community Church.

Blessings,

Lynn

Rev. Lynn Sullivan
Senior Pastor



INN BIN REQUEST

Please hold off on dropping clothes off at the church until further notice as the INN is not accepting clothing donations in the usual capacity at this time.

Ready to Join the Church

The next opportunity to join our church is December 11, 2022. While we welcome our Friends to enjoy all aspects of our community, we also want to provide an opportunity for those interested in learning more about the ministries and programs of the GCCC and our greater UCC denomination.

Informational Meeting: Zoom November 16th 7:30 PM

New Member Sunday: December 11th 10:30 PM Worship Service

If you would like to attend this meeting (or if you cannot attend but would like more information) please email churchoffice@thegccc.org or phone (746-1700).



All Saints' Day

We will be celebrating All Saints' Day on Sunday, November 6th at our 10:30 am worship service. We will remember members and friends of Garden City Community Church who have died since last year's All Saints' Day by lighting a candle during worship and giving thanks for their lives.

All Saints' Day is a universal festival of the Church. The custom of commemorating all the martyrs of the Church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints' Day (Nov. 1) celebrates not only the martyrs and saints, but all the people of God, living and dead, who together form the mystical body of Christ.

Please join us as we honor the following people:

Gertrude (Trudy) Anderson
Frank P. Chiusa
Walter Frey
Helen Gettemy
Mable Pochedly
Glenn J. Sipkin
Blanche Volz

Stephen A. Baymack
Paul Cohn
Sueli Alves Gaewski
Constance Coles McKeown
Lavala Rundlett
Roger Tillotson
Edward 'Ned' Wright

Alice Brown
Thomas A. Davis
Roger Gerber
Martha Pearson-Burns
Carol Saenger
Arthur Typermass

Here is the link for the service if you are unable to attend in person:

<https://livestream.com/accounts/14879187/20221106nov>

**Stop accepting the things you cannot change
and start changing the things you cannot accept.**



Henri Nouwen's book, *The Spirituality of Fundraising* reminds us, "Whether people respond to our fundraising appeal with a "Yes," a "No," or a "Maybe," is less important than the knowledge that we all are gathered as one in the holy ground of God's generous disposition toward us. In prayer, therefore, we learn to trust that God can work fruitfully through us no matter where we are or who we are with."

Our church, The Garden City Community Church, is part of a protestant denomination that is responsible for its own budget, mission and vision. We do not receive funding from our National Offices, instead we pay 'dues' per person to our association. This year's theme, **From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving** connects God's generosity and our stewardship. Please consider giving so we can continue to be a vital part of our wider community of faith.

"You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us." 2 Corinthians 9:11.

Sunday Forum

October 30th - 11:45 am - Parlor

Want to Become a
Literacy Nassau
Volunteer Tutor?



Fill out the registration form on our website at www.literacynassau.org under the volunteer tab. We will notify you when we add new Orientations. You may also call us at (516) 867-3580.

Get information and guides to learn how to take virtual training to be a Literacy Nassau Volunteer Tutor, and how to register to a Virtual Narcan Training to help prevent drug overdosing. (This will give how to take the virtual training online).

For more information on upcoming Forums, email Melva Victorino at melva130@optonline.net

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>

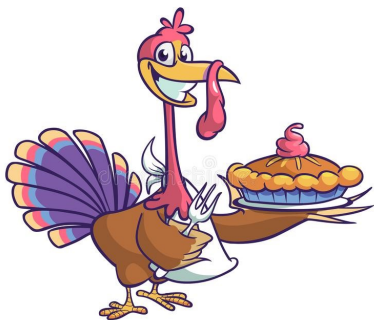
Giving can also be accessed through GCCC website via the “GIVE” button

<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.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

Worship service will be at 8:00 PM in the Sanctuary and via livestream



November 23rd at 8:00 PM

Our speakers will be:
Decia Roach and Kristine Newell

Soles4Souls Service Project

Sorting on Sun. October 30 11:30 AM

We have been collecting all styles and sizes of new or slightly worn shoes & sneakers. We will be donating them to an organization called Soles4Souls. They create sustainable jobs and relief through the distribution of shoes around the world.



Join us as we sort the donations on Oct. 30th. Service time is available for students that help out at the event.

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. Lynn Sullivan if you have a prayer request.

All requests are kept confidential.

2023 Mission Trip

Lexington County, South Carolina

Planning is underway for the 2023 Mission Trip which will be serving in Lexington County, South Carolina during the week of July 16th—July 22nd. 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 or 516-984-4470, to see if it is still possible to register. Student and chaperone registration forms are on the Whitehall Blvd. desk.



Sunday School - October 30th

Sunday Oct. 30th the Sunday School aged children are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes and celebrate with us at church. We will have a Halloween themed craft and a trick-or-treat goodie bag.



CALLING ALL GCCC FOODIES

GCCC foodies, we need your baked and cooked goods for this year's Americana Fair! Please make batches of your favorite pies, cakes, cookies, soups, chilis, etc. and drop them off to the Gardner Hall kitchen. If you drop them off before **Saturday, November 5th**, put them in the Gardner Hall freezer or hand them in on Saturday morning on the 12th. Pies, soups, chili, etc. should be placed in the freezer and clearly marked for the Fair. **Fresh items may be dropped off the day before or the morning of the fair.** All baked items must be wrapped in plastic wrap or Ziploc baggies; liquid foods should be in sealed plastic containers. **Please include ingredient lists with your contributions.** If need be, containers are available from the Gourmet Shop so please let us know in advance how many you will need and we can drop them off at your home. Please contact Christine O'Neill for containers or info at cmtulip@yahoo.com or 516-946-7342.



Assemble Thanksgiving Fixin' Bags for INN Guests

The Mary Brennan INN has asked for volunteers to donate holiday side dishes fixin' bags for their guests. **Please assemble the following items in a durable, reusable grocery bag with handles. Every bag must have the same items inside, based on the list below.** Sizes of items (Boxes and cans) may vary. **Please no glass items.**

- Either 1 box of Macaroni & Cheese **OR** 1 box of Boxed Mashed Potatoes (**please choose one or the other**)
- 1 can of cranberry sauce
- 1 can of fruit
- 1 can of soup
- 2 cans of vegetables
- 1 can of gravy
- 1 can of yams
- 1 box of stuffing

Once your bag is complete, please drop it off at the church by Sunday, November 6th.

If you need a reusable grocery bag with handles – you can get one off our 'giving tree'. Please sign our list when you take a bag so that we know who is making a bag for us.

If you have any questions, please call the church at (516) 746-1700 or email us at churchoffice@thegccc.org



Rev. Lynn Sullivan's Advent Study
When God Comes Down: An Advent Study for Adults
By James A. Harnish
Sundays: 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18—11:45 am



When God Comes Down is an Advent study where each lesson includes a key Scripture, a brief reflection, discussion/reflection questions, a brief prayer, and a focus for the coming week. In this study, Harnish explores the meaning of the incarnation...God with us in human flesh.

Often our Advent/Christmas journey is focused on us – our memories, feelings, relationships and experiences. This study puts the focus on God's action in Jesus Christ. It encourages participants to think more deeply in terms of the biblical, theological, and spiritual meaning of the Nativity and to apply it to their own life experiences.

The study looks at the stories of the primary biblical characters in the birth stories through whose lives the miracle of incarnation happened: Zechariah, Elizabeth, Joseph, Mary, and Jesus. Harnish also looks at a traditional character in nativity plays, one who is not mentioned in the Bible, the innkeeper. Through all these characters, he helps us claim for ourselves the reality of God's presence with us.

Our study will focus on the following:

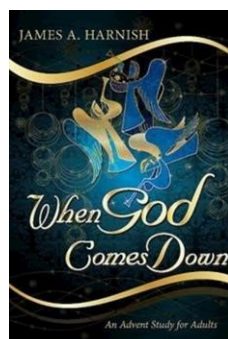
November 27th -Zechariah and Elizabeth: Waiting for the Sunrise.

December 4th-Joseph: Faithful Obedience to the Undressed God

December 11th-Mary: "Le Point Vierge"

December 18th-The Innkeeper: The Place Where Jesus is Born

Books can be purchased on Amazon if you wish to participate in this Advent Study.





ATTENTION ALL CHURCH MEMBERS!

The Garden City Community Church is scheduling volunteers to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas 2022!

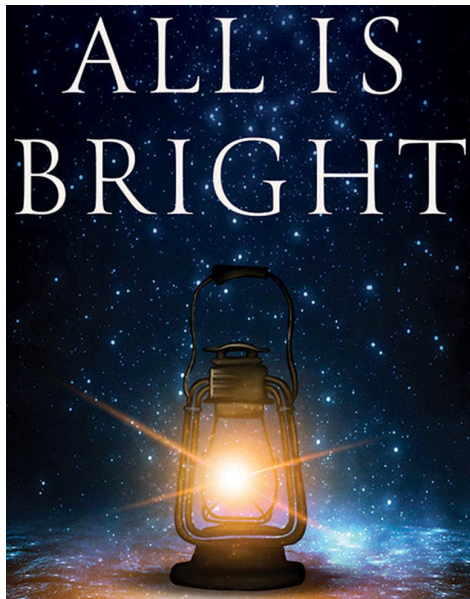
Please let us know if a family/friend team is interested in decorating on Tuesday, November 29 starting at 3 PM.

We will have a small fellowship dinner immediately after the decorating is done. Soup and salad will be served!

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

We look forward to hearing from you!





We hope the devotional booklet , ‘All is Bright ’ (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. 11 New Member Sunday at 10:30 am

Dec. 11 Vespers Service at 4:30 pm—in person & via Livestream

Christmas Week: Tuesday , Dec 20 Prayer Service at 9:30 am

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

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

 Sunday, Dec. 25 10:30 am – Sanctuary service - Come as you are—in person & via Livestream

Advent Seasonal Opportunities

Nov. 27 Advent Study 11:45 am

Nov. 29 Decorating the church 3:00 pm

Dec. 3 Tree Sale 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Dec. 4 Advent Study at 11:45 am

Dec. 11 Advent Study at 11:45 am

Dec. 11 Deadline for our gifts for the children at the Nueva Vida Presbyterian Church

Dec. 11 Deadline for our gifts to the Christmas Program at Bedford Hills Prison

Dec. 11 Deadline for coats for Anna House

Dec. 11 Deadline for the hat & mitten tree donations for the INN: socks, hats, gloves, scarfs, gloves and mittens

Dec. 12 Deadline for ordering Christmas flowers in memory or honor of loved ones

Dec. 14,28 LICC Food Collections

Dec. 17 Caroling to homebound members

Dec. 18 Advent Study at 11:45 am

Two rules to success in life:

1. Don't tell people everything you know.

Candlelight Vespers 2022

A Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 11th at 4:30 pm—in person & Via Livestream



From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving

In Remembrance of Me (based on Mark 6:30 –44)



GCCC Annual Stewardship Campaign
Stewardship Sunday November 20, 2022

Celebration luncheon to follow

Pledge online anytime

<https://www.gardencitycommunitychurch.org/give>

Christmas Tree Sale - Dec 3rd!

Please join us on **Saturday morning, December 3rd**, for our annual Christmas Tree Sale fundraiser for the Mission Trip! Come get a wonderful tree and decorations for your home and support our youth as they go off to serve others. **This year we will also be selling wreaths and garland!** All youth who are in 8th through 12th grade will be invited to help with the receiving of the trees and sale preparations on Friday Dec 2nd and with the sale on Saturday morning. At this time a sleep over component is not in the plans unless we can find adult volunteers to stay the night. There will still be lots to do and many hands make light work. A sign-up genius will be sent out closer to the date!



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 INN. Please drop off your items by Sunday, December 11th.



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 12

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 11th. The sign-up to donate these gifts will be sent out near the holidays. For more information, please contact the church office.

Girls Ages

4 years (two girls)

5 years (one girl)

10 years (one girl)

12 years (1 girl)

16 years (1 girl)

17 years(3 girls)

18 years (1 girl)

Boys Ages

9 years (1 boy)

10 years (one boy)

11 years (two boys)

16 Years (one boy)



Upcoming Advent Events

Advent Book Study
 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



If you have to whisper to say it...don't

Deaths

Gertrude (Trudy) Anderson - July 16, 2022
 Edward 'Ned' Wright—July 20, 2022 - (Carole Halvorsen's father)
 Roger Gerber - September 18, 2022
 Stephen A. Baymack—September 22, 2022—(Stephen Baymack's father)

Church Services

Tuesday Prayer Service 9:30 am
 Sundays 10:30 am—in person and livestream
 Vespers Service —Dec. 11 in person and livestream—4:30 pm

Christmas Week (in person & via Livestream)

Saturday, Dec 24 Family Service - 4:30 pm
 Saturday, Dec 24 Candlelight Communion - 10:00 pm
 Sunday, December 25 '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 11th.

Checks may be sent to the Church Office (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 4T (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

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; Action 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

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)

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 11.**

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is on a roll! We are working our way through different bible stories that showcase the love of God. We have just covered the story of Adam and Eve. It has been fun and enlightening to get to know these kids.

The Sunday School team is looking for volunteers to occasionally help teach. Other volunteers are welcome as well. If you are interested in helping out, contact Amanda Dias at adias@thegccc.org

The Sunday School will be having their Christmas Pageant on Dec. 18, 2022 during the 10:30am service. Come watch our children tell the story of Jesus' birth. More info to follow.



Middle School Youth Group

The Middle School Group (6th - 8th graders) has begun. We are excited to begin this journey in person once again. Our first meeting was Oct. 16th. The youth group will be a mix of learning about faith and fun filled activities like the Tanglewood Spooky Fest which is coming up shortly. Our meetings will usually take place on Sundays at 6:00 pm in the Youth room, unless otherwise specified. Look out for emails and events.

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

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>

Confirmation 2 (9th Grade)

Our Confirmation Class has gotten off to a great start and we are all thrilled to be back in the Youth Room. We are grateful for the parents who offer us support and for our leaders:

Confirmation II leaders: Cassidy Hayes, Win Hayes, Chris Dieguez, Rev. Lynn Sullivan



Classes are held

Confirmation II – Tuesdays at 7:30 pm

High School Youth Group

We are hoping to start a high school youth group. We are looking to meet 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.



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 Saturday, Nov. 5th and Dec. 3rd at 8:00 am at the Carle Place Diner.**

No reservations needed - just show up.



Youthful Adults Group

We are looking to start a youthful adult's program. That would include anyone ages 19-35. We understand that is a big age difference, but you might find that we all have more things in common than you might think. We know how hard it can be to feel connected to a church especially the past few years. Take a chance and find friends with us. We are looking to meet once a month in fellowship doing different things like bowling, axe throwing, etc... We are looking to make this group suit the needs of the people. If you are interested in joining us on this endeavor, please contact Amanda Dias at adias@thegccc.org.



Young Adult Ministry

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

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 2, November 16, November 30, December 14 and December 28. 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.



Sermons and Services

We can mail a copy of our Sermons and Service to people that are NOT able to go on live stream to see our Sunday service. Please tell the church office if you know of someone that can't see our Live stream service that would like to receive a copy of the Sermon and Service.



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.



**PLEASE NOTE THE
NEW ADDRESS &
PHONE NUMBER**



It's Time to Register for NURSERY SCHOOL

Nursery School registration for the 2023/24 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 also offer some wonderful Enrichment programs to complement our Nursery 3's & 4's program. Enrichment classes include Community Cooking, Great American Artists and Science Explorers Class.

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, 2022. 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 9th.

For more information or to schedule a tour,
call Cathie McCullough, Director - 516 -746-1756 or
visit us at www.gccnurseryschool.com



AMERICANA FAIR

Saturday, November 12, 2022

10 am – 3 pm

GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH

245 Stewart Avenue at Whitehall Blvd.

Garden City, NY 11530

(516) 746-1700

Free Admission

Contact:

Sorting: Celia Petersen gpcatspawr@msn.com

Youth Coordinator: Robin Laisure rblaisure421@gmail.com

SILENT AUCTION--Antiques, Collectibles

SHABBY/CHIC

ATTIC TREASURES

HOLIDAY & GIFT BOUTIQUES

LINENS, LAMPS, CHINA, SILVER, JEWELRY

TOYS, PICTURES, FRAMES

GOURMET SHOP

BISTRO LUNCHEON or Hot Dog Tent



From BREAD and CUP to FAITH and GIVING

Our Stewardship theme, “From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving,” connects God’s generosity and our stewardship. What would it mean for our lives to embody God’s abundance?

At the table, God uses the loaf and the cup as visible signs of God’s pure, unbounded love for us and for all. The everyday ingredients become symbols of God’s abundance. Love that invites everyone in.

Food enough for all. **Cups** shared, even when not everyone agreed. In all the different ways we celebrate it in our congregations, communion allows us to taste and imagine God’s gracious providence.

Too often, our minds get stuck on thoughts of scarcity. “There will never be enough,” we tell ourselves. And if there’s not enough, we want to control who gets what. Perhaps that’s why the word sparse

(meager) contains the word parse (divide).

Fears of scarcity divide us.

Our fears make God’s table manners ever more crucial. God invites. God provides.

God pours – until our cup overflows.

Such abundance allows our hearts to imagine a new way of living. We can embrace God’s unconditional love as the basis for our lives as individuals and communities.

Stewardship ponders this question: how can we reflect God’s abundance with what we have? This question can help us think about ways to connect our experience of God’s generosity with the choices we make in our lives.

The Strategic Planning Committee has provided a growth plan for our future emphasizing four areas:

- Nourish Spirituality
- Deepen Connections
- Empower Service
- Strengthen Operations

This plan cannot happen without the support and commitment of people like you. We want to invite you to join us in our decision to respond to this important invitation with an increase in the amount of your financial gift in the coming year. It is a time of great possibility for our congregation and the future of its mission.

CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME

| Annual Income | Monthly Income | 2% | 3% | 4% | 5% | 10% |
|------------------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 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.



AMERICANA FAIR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2022

245 STEWART AVENUE, GARDEN CITY (516-746-1700)

10AM-3PM: FREE ADMISSION
WE WELCOME YOUR DONATIONS TO THE FAIR
AND WILL ACCEPT CLEAN, GENTLY USED:

Silent Auction - gently-used furs, special treasures and collectibles will go to the Silent Auction (please wrap and label these separately). Jewelry, china, crystal, silver, pictures and frames, lamps, new, unloved items for the Boutique, toys, holiday items and household items for Attic Treasures.

Make sure all items are clean and in saleable condition.

There will be Shabby/Chic Clothing for adults and children's items.

NO LARGE PIECES OF FURNITURE, BOOKS OR ELECTRONICS, PLEASE.

Items may be delivered beginning:

Sat., Nov. 5 - 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Sun., Nov. 6 - 11:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Mon., Nov.7 - 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Tues., Nov 8 - (ELECTION DAY) - 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Wed., Nov. 9 - 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Thurs., Nov. 10 - 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

NO DONATIONS ACCEPTED AFTER THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10.

Please bring all donations down one flight to GARDNER HALL.

Celia Petersen is in charge of sorting: gpcatspawr@msn.com



PLUS A VARIETY OF BOUTIQUE VENDORS



Grief Has No Time Limit

By Chris Abatelli, LMHC, LPC, LCC Youth and Family Counselor

There are many times loss and death hit us at awkward times- middle of the night, walking to the bathroom, enjoying a cup of coffee, or whenever. For some, it can be like we are stuck in time, lost, or feeling wayward. But expecting people to just “get over it” or “shouldn’t you be done by now,” is dismissive and full of rejection, let alone it can lead to more pain. It has been just over 4 years since my nephew/Godson, Andrew McMorris, was killed by a drunk driver. I can tell you that the pain and loss is still real today. The emptiness, the hole, the gap in our family is still there. I know no one likes to feel pain or sadness but it's part of the human experience. A lot of times this world wants us to push past and not look at it. I firmly believe this is a reason we are more disconnected with each other. Grief has no time limit! I say it again: Grief has no time limit! We need to accept this fact. Some of us have become so caught up with what is happening around us that we miss the fact that time does stand still for parents, siblings, uncles, aunts, cousins, and friends that have lost a loved one. Any major milestone that happens is now a hole. Some of us are still experiencing these milestones such as a first day of school, first love, first kiss, teaching our kids to drive, graduation, mother-son/daughter dates, father-son/daughter time, even when we ground our kids. We also must acknowledge that for the siblings, that empty room across the hall that was always full of sibling rivalry, love, best friend, and a partner in crime, is suddenly missing. I really hope that you feel the pain. That feeling is a connection with another human. A lot of us may never experience a loss like this, but can you feel it? We should feel it.

In my previous article, Screaming for Unconditional Love and Acceptance, I mentioned empathy having 4 main qualities by Theresa Wiseman: Perspective taking, Stay out of judgment, Recognizing emotion in another person, and Being able to communicate it back. These qualities are important because no one wants to be pacified or just tolerated. Once you understand this, then you can help and show compassion (I see your pain and relieving it).

So how do we help with this death, loss and grief?

1. Recognize there is no time limit.
2. It is OK to feel and look to relate to the person instead of just making excuses.
3. Ask if it is ok to talk about the loss or person.
4. Talk about the person and what you miss or think about what they would be doing.

Best example I can come up with is a personal example:

Recently, we were in Disney with my sister, Alisa McMorris, and her family (Andrew’s immediate family) walking to Tomorrowland, laughing, joking, and stuffing our faces with popcorn. My daughter suddenly stopped and began getting watery eyed. She felt the empty spot where her cousin, Andrew, was supposed to be. Rather than say “get over it, we are in Disney. We are supposed to be happy.” We allowed my daughter and ourselves to feel the sadness. I admired my sister (Andrew’s mom) for doing what my wife and I usually do. Alisa went over to my daughter and talked to her and acknowledged her pain. They stood there for a minute, felt the emptiness, loss, and pain together. Then my sister asked her “what would Andrew be doing right now?” We all provided a response, smiled, and then we went on.

Did you see what happened? We allowed each of us to feel the emptiness, which is something we don't do in this world. We need to allow ourselves to feel the pain, grief, and hurt together. We need to heal, grow, and walk out together.

I will leave you with a verse from a song of my favorite band, Remedy Drive, called Daylight. “Has everything you've counted on, Left you right here with no warning, Have your dreams become invisible, Wait with me dear till the morning, Light will make the night burnout. Hold on - daylight is coming, Daylight is coming to break the dawn, Daylight is coming.”

Chris Abatelli provides secure telehealth counseling sessions for young adults, adult, teens and families. Please see Chris's bio here: <https://lccny.org/chris-abatelli/> For an appointment, call LCC at 1-800-317-1173 or e-mail us at <https://www.LCCNY.org>.