



# Garden City Community Church Connections June 2024

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

## Pastor's Message

Dear friends,

The classical view of the brain, Lisa Feldman Barrett explains, describes it as having distinct parts doing unique jobs: sections responsible for thinking, others for feeling, others for movement. 20th century popular culture often referred to the brain as a *triune brain*. The oldest part supposedly inherited from reptiles, with the emotional system inherited from mammals, and finally, "our allegedly rational and uniquely human cortex."

Today we know differently. She writes:

"The human brain... within one physical structure, can reconfigure its billions of neurons to construct a huge repertoire of experiences, perceptions, and behaviors....Complexity, not rationality, makes it possible for you to be an architect of your experience.... The human brain is structured to learn many different concepts and to invent many social realities, depending on the contingencies it is exposed to..."

"Every thought, memory, perception, or emotion that you construct includes something about the state of your body.... A visual prediction, for example, doesn't just answer the question, 'What did I see last time I was in this situation?' It answers, 'What did I see last time I was in this situation *when my body was in this state?*'..."

"All we need is an exceptionally complex human brain that wires itself to its social and physical surroundings, ultimately producing different kinds of minds." (from *How Emotions are Made* by Lisa Feldman Barrett) "

Friends, Lisa Feldman Barrett impresses upon us two essentials: the primacy of past experience - one's personal and collective history - that re-forms and shapes current reality, and the primacy of an ever-learning brain that connects to others, to the past, present, and future, and therefore, "different kinds of minds."

The first happens without our awareness, so genius and seamless are we made, constructing efficient and therefore safe and comfortable realities. By comfortable I do not mean one always "feels" comfortable, rather, the moment arrives with familiarity, and action now reflects action past. These effective and efficient moves are essential when in mortal danger, or when wishing to express intimacy and affection. Our brain is not as helpful when we are faced with something for which we have little or no history, or are faced with an unpracticed experience.

At these moments we become, most of the time, time-tellers - not clock-makers (to use the phrase coined by Jim Collins, from my message on May 19th). Time-tellers will avoid, resist, and defend against the unpracticed moment and the seeming strange and new, because the brain is loudly complaining that to do otherwise is inefficient and not effective: "danger" it yells. This protective move, remember, is based on reassembling past experience. Here enters the good news. We can challenge, must challenge, our brain's predictions in the midst of the seeming new and unpracticed. When we do, as we must, our brain learns the new, and with time this practice feels right. The new and unpracticed, when we challenge our brain, becomes comfortable, efficient and effective.

I am, of course, by analogy, describing my life of faith and church life, and your life of faith and Garden City Community Church life.

Jesus' friends and foes, frequently judged Jesus' being and doing dangerous, wrong, confusing, and blasphemous. Of course, Barrett says! Their collective minds and context little prepared them. Jesus challenged and invited them into a new way of being and doing, because "God is still speaking." Jesus invited time-tellers to practice clock-making: knowing full well they would not feel efficient, or effective, or comfortable, until, three years later, a core group of disciples were a body of Christ. Now their collective minds and spirit leaned into their always still speaking God where they comfortably (though not easily), more efficiently and effectively practiced clock-making - growing the Kin(g)dom of God by the leading of the Holy Spirit.

For seven months the collective mind of the Garden City Community Church has, like the disciples with Jesus, experienced and practiced clock-making. Church, you have been learning and growing, though it's not easy, as have I.

*Although we always bring the past forward, Barrett says, we can challenge it's prediction. We challenge it by participating, and testing our judgment against the present (new experience). We challenge it by receiving nourishment of other minds. We challenge our collective, comfortable judgements and bias through practicing grace, leaning into failure, courageously resisting time-telling, and following Holy Spirit.*

Friends, summer has arrived. Anticipate soon helping make plain this congregation's history: an annotated timeline that illustrates your way of being and doing in all its sweet and all its tart. Look forward to upcoming congregational conversations where Holy Spirit will nourish your clock-making more than your time-telling, as you pray and uncover: *God, what are you calling us to be and to do and become? God, who is our neighbor?*

I am glad to help and be with you on the next part of this journey, and eagerly await your discovering, naming, and claiming your big, hairy, audacious faithful future! Until next time,

Peace,



Schedule a Visit with Pastor Arlen

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

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

His email address is [revarlen@thegccc.org](mailto:revarlen@thegccc.org). Mobile: 585-455-2289



### **Inside This Issue**

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### **Worship Schedule**

#### **Sundays**

10:30 AM  
Livestream & In-person

#### **Tuesdays**

Intercessory  
Prayer Service  
9:30 AM In-person

## Council of Trustees News (COT)

Dear Church-

As I write this, COT just met last night again to work on the slate for the Search and Call committee. We are working hard to move quickly while ensuring we are doing what is best for GCCC.

I am sure it is difficult at times to see progress but know that your volunteers and staff are like a duck...calm on the surface but paddling like heck underneath! The COT now meets every two weeks and sometimes even more frequently (instead of once a month) to make progress and minimize delays. The committees are all working hard to continue the day-to-day running of our church and support the interim process. The Membership committee has clocked many hours reviewing the Search and Call (S&C) committee nominations, speaking with nominees and discussing the potential slate. And our church staff continues to be a bedrock we depend upon! A large and hearty THANK YOU to all our volunteers and staff for all their great work!

Soon our S&C committee, in conjunction with COT, will lead the next phases of the interim work – creating a living annotated GCCC timeline from inception to today and our congregation wide cottage conversations. These are powerful tools that will help the S&C committee build a GCCC profile that is rooted in our past and jointly created by the entire congregation.

I am open to hearing your feedback, concerns and any words of assistance. Please reach out to me!

Faithfully submitted,

Kirsten Bahlke—Council of Trustees (COT) Chair



**Council of Trustees News (COT)**  
**Congregational Meeting—Sunday June 2nd**  
**Estimated start time 11:50 am ET**

Join us in the Sanctuary following the morning worship in person or via Zoom. A meeting has been scheduled for the purpose of voting on the members to form an *ad hoc* committee of the Church, namely, the Search Committee. The Search Committee's ministry includes: engaging the Congregation in the work of preparing a Local Church Profile, then searching for and recommending a Minister, the Senior Pastor, to the Congregation. Church members in good standing are called on to attend and participate in the vote. To Pre-register to attend via Zoom: <https://gcc.breezechms.com/form/61c92f148119744822>



## MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

### News from our Sunday School & Youth Groups

Congratulations to our Sunday School student, William Schrafel! The Sunday School entered into the Vote for Climate Hope art contest from the UCC and William was one of the 75 finalists from congregations all over the country! You can watch the slide show with all the student's art here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlzVaAn3uoQ>

If you are interested in watching the award ceremony you can watch it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7KL5jfhPDV4>

Summer Sunday Funday's are back this year starting June 9th. The rest of the dates are coming soon. This will just be a fun time during the service that the kids get to have fun with each other! We are looking for adults to supervise so if you are interested in helping please email Amanda, [adidas@thegccc.org](mailto:adidas@thegccc.org)

The Middle School Youth Group has ended! WE send a special thank you to Kristine Newell for co-leading this amazing group of kids! If you interesting in joining next year's group please email Amanda, [adidas@thegccc.org](mailto:adidas@thegccc.org)

The Confirmation 1 class will be having an end of the year bonding event on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. They will be meeting for mini-golf at 6pm at the Spring Rock Golf Center. If you have not already done so please email Amanda your permission slip.

We hope that you are able to join us on June 23rd for our Church School Sunday and luncheon. We need volunteers to help out and to donate food items. Sign up here: if you are planning to attend or to help out. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-49730507-church>



## MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

### Confirmation I Class—Mini Golf

The Confirmation I Class will be going to a mini-golf event on Sunday, June 2nd at 6:00 pm. For more information email Amanda Dais at [adias@thegccc.org](mailto:adias@thegccc.org)



### 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'.



## 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 June 1st & July 6th at 8:00 am at the Carle Place Diner—151 Old Country Road in Carle Place.** **Reservations are not needed.**

### Tuesday Prayer Service

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

### Worship Ushers or Liturgists Opportunity

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



### GC Community Church Tech Team



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

Contact Steve Short, Tim Martens, or William Stone

Or Just join us some Sunday, in the balcony!



## Words from Our Minister of Music, Frank Crosio

Service of Music, May 19.

May has been a month of varied and exciting music making at the Garden City Community Church. After successful and well-attended performances by the Great Neck Choral Society and the Long Island Choral Society on the first weekend of May, our own GCCC Adult Choir presented their Service of Music on Sunday, May 19. The featured works were the Mozart “Laudate Dominum” from the Solemn Vespers, the Church Sonata in F for strings and organ, also by Mozart, and the cantata “Hear My Prayer” by Mendelssohn.

Many thanks are due to the members and friends of our church whose generous contributions to the Special Music Fund made possible the performances of our outstanding string quartet and guest organist. Our soprano soloist for both works was church member, Tammy Hensrud, who is the Coordinator of Vocal Studies and Adjunct Professor of Voice at Hofstra University.

### The Chamber Orchestra

Michael Mandrin, violin I      Thomas Duboski, violin II  
Drew Vella, viola              Debbie Sepe, cello  
Meredith Baker, organ



## MISSION EVENTS

### Mission Trip—Knoxville, TN

The 2024 Mission Trip planning is almost complete! We are so excited to serve in Knoxville, TN this summer from July 14th to July 20th. We hope the entire congregation will join us for the 10:30am service on July 21st to hear all about our trip! For those participating in the trip, and their parents, please make sure to attend the June 2nd, 10:30am service. The Commissioning of the Mission Trip will take place during the service. We will also be having a brief meeting on June 2nd at 8:00 pm in the Parlor. This meeting will review the travel and packing logistics, answer any questions and hand out our travel t-shirts! Make sure to attend! Please let Tracey Lawson know if you are unable to attend by emailing her at : [traceymlawson@gmail.com](mailto:traceymlawson@gmail.com).



### 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.



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

The two potential sites that the Long Island Council of Churches were looking at fell through. They have started to look at commercial sites again. If you know of a place that might work out for them please contact Anthony Achong at [LICCAntony@optonline.net](mailto:LICCAntony@optonline.net)

Meanwhile they are still accepting donations which they will be giving to another pantry in Freeport. Our next scheduled donation dates are June 12th and June 26th. 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>



## News About the Building

Rob Sipkin and Kristian Rhein are continuing to repair and paint the walls outside of the boiler room. They have fixed the outside shed.



## NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

HAVE YOU CHANGED ANY OF YOUR CORRESPONDENCE INFORMATION LATELY?

Moving or preparing to move?

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

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

Are you getting the mailings from the church?

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



### Deaths

Alexander Giocondi - January 1, 2024 (former church member)

### Baptisms

Eleanor Lucia Gulmi—June 2, 2024

### ON-LINE GIVING UPDATE

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

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

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

<https://gardencitycommunitychurch.org>

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

## 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)



# Summer Sunday Funday!

## DATES:

- ★ June 9th
- ★ June 16th
- ★ July 14th
- ★ July 21st
- ★ August 4th
- ★ August 11th

During the 10:30am service!

**COME HAVE FUN WITH US THIS  
SUMMER!**

# CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY!

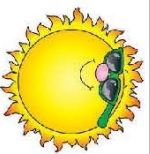
SUNDAY 23 JUNE  
AT THE 10:30AM



COME CELEBRATE OUR  
CHURCH'S YOUTH!  
THERE WILL BE A  
CELEBRATION TO FOLLOW  
THE SERVICE, PLEASE JOIN  
US!

Address: 245 Stewart AVE, Garden City, NY 11530  
for more information email Amanda, [adias@thegccc.org](mailto:adias@thegccc.org)

# June



# 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Men's Breakfast 8am Carle Place Diner
2 Service/Sunday School/ Commissioning the Mission Trip 10:30am Fellowship Hour 11:30am Congregational Meeting – est. start time 11:50am Confirmation Class I mini/golf 6pm Mission Trip Meeting 8pm	3 Trustees (COT) meeting 7:30pm	4 Prayer Service 9:30am	5	6	7	8
9 Communion Service 10:30am Church School Summer Funday 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30am	10 Prayer Service 9:30am	11 Prayer Service 9:30am	12	13	14	15
16 Service 10:30am Church School Summer Funday 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30am Ministry Meeting 12pm	17 Trustees (COT) meeting 7:30pm	18 Prayer Service 9:30am	19 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	20	21	22
23 Service/Church School Sunday 10:30am Luncheon 11:30am	24 Prayer Service 9:30am F&A Meeting 7:30pm	25	26	27	28	29
30 Service 10:30am <b>Sunday School – Not Scheduled</b> Fellowship Hour 11:30am						