



Garden City Community Church Connections November 2024

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

Pastor's Message

***Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today,
and creates a vision for tomorrow.*** By Melodie Beattie

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve The Garden City Community Church. I will be one of the Pastors serving the church during the search for the new settled Pastor. I will be working with the Search and Call Committee; leading worship and preaching twice a month; working with the confirmation leaders; assisting with other pastoral needs including Memorial/Funeral services and Weddings; and working with Boards and Committees during this time of transition.

In many ways serving this church is like coming home.

On June 5, 2022, after 37 years, I retired from being the Pastor of the United Church of Rowayton in Connecticut. I was called to Rowayton in 1986 after serving The Garden City Community Church from 1981-1986. I was one of the Associate Pastors, focusing on the Children and Youth Programs. They were such fulfilling and meaningful years, working with Senior Pastor Ralph Ahlberg and (at that time) Associate Pastor Jim Adelman.

My Service of Ordination was held at GCCC and my wife, Judi and I began our family here, having both Kelly and Samantha while we were here. We had our third child, Michael in 1990. We now have 4 grandchildren. Luca and Everly both 9 years old, Vivienne, almost 2 years old and Scarlett, 6 months.

Life has been amazingly fulfilling as Judi and I ministered together and recently celebrated 46 years of marriage.

There has always be a very special place in our hearts for the friends we established here in Garden City. However, our connection to Garden City goes back further than this.

I grew up in Queens Village, just a few miles from Garden City. My parents had their wedding reception at the (Old) Garden City Hotel. Judi (who was raised in Manhasset Hills) and her parents were members of the Garden City Country club.

After graduating from Grace Lutheran Day School in Queens Village, I received a scholarship to attend Saint Paul's School, Garden City. After graduating from Saint Paul's I attended C.W. Post College, Long Island University in Brookville, where Judi and I met and fell in love! We both were Music Education Majors and began singing together in various groups, traveling throughout the world, and have been making music together ever since.

After C.W. Post I attended Union Seminary in New York City where I earned my Masters of Divinity. While at Union I worked at The Manhasset Congregational Church, where Judi and I led the youth programs and were joyfully married there!

After graduating from Union Seminary in 1981, I was called to The Garden City Community Church.

Gratitude..... makes sense of our past!

Moving forward, during my 37 years in Rowayton I was trained to be one the United Church of Christ, Ct. Conference Congregational Conflict Consultants and served on the Fairfield West Association Committee on Church and Ministry. Following my retirement the church called me back to be their Interim Pastor and 9 months later the church called a New Settled Pastor. Since January 2024 I have been providing Pulpit Supply for churches in Connecticut, which brings this article full circle back to The Garden City Community Church where I was invited to preach on Sunday, August 11th. I returned to lead worship and preach on Sunday, September 15th GCCC Welcome Day!

Gratitude.....brings peace for today!

I am very enthusiastic about my role as one of your Pastors who will primarily working with the Search and Call Committee. This Committee is a wonderful, dedicated, very gifted group of people who love this church and care deeply about the future of this church. I encourage you to take the time to express your gratitude to each on one them.

Kirsten Bahlke

Russ Fincher (Chair)

Nicki Frazer

Robert Gordon

Tom Masters

Cathie McCullough

Ivette Olivo

Steve Short

Joe Socha

William Stone

On September 15th, our Welcome Day, we sang the hymn, *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*.

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace. We respond with deep commitment. Fresh new lines of faith to trace. May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend, equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

This is such an exciting, wonderful time in the life of The Garden City Community Church and it is an honor for to be a Pastoral presence during this journey!

Gratitude..... creates a vision for tomorrow.

With much gratitude we are **moving forward** together!

Peace,

Pastor John Livingston



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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-

Ah, November. Falling leaves. Cooler temps. And of course, Thanksgiving. I would bet that when most of us hear the word “thanksgiving” we think of a golden roasted turkey, creamy-smooth mashed potatoes, savory stuffing, and pie...lots of pie. We may also begin to engage in classic debates, pumpkin or sweet potato pie? Homemade cranberry relish or bought from the store?

While I am firmly in the homemade cranberry relish camp this is not the conversation I want to spark this holiday. This year I want us all to take time for thanks–giving and then make a habit of thanks-giving.

During the month of November, let’s all put into practice giving thanks to those who have come before us and made our lives easier. Let’s spend time giving thanks for all our joys and the sorrows too because they made us appreciate the joy even more. Let’s pause often, giving thanks for the love of family and friends.

And, when the feast and the football are finished let’s continue with our thanks-giving. Let’s use our words and deeds as Jesus did to spread a joyful message of gratitude. Imagine the power of all that gratitude flowing through our congregation into our community and out into the world.

We are so blessed with many thanks to give. Please think of these, share them and live a life filled with gratitude.

Faithfully submitted,

Kirsten Bahlke – Council of Trustees (COT) Chair



Council of Trustees News (COT)

Facilities expenses of \$383,266 are 24.4% greater than YTD plan. The following repairs and maintenance items, have been completed to date which is causing the overage in aggregate:

o Harder Tree Service	<i>\$6,070</i>	Beech tree removal
o Pyro signal & Suppression	<i>\$3,300</i>	Replacement of motherboard and loop boards
o SERV Electrical	<i>\$2,600</i>	Installation of new exit signs
o American Well	<i>\$8,200</i>	New Motor for irrigation system
o Rainbow Carpet	<i>\$3,600</i>	New Floor in Youth Room
o Rocon Plumbing	<i>\$6,400</i>	Plumbing repairs
o Rubby Hone	<i>\$52,360</i>	Repairs on Building Foundation

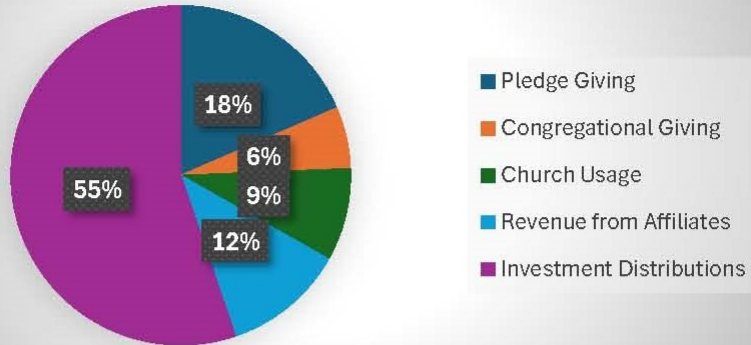
Total cost of repairs on the building YTD 2024 is \$82,530, vs budget of \$17,500.



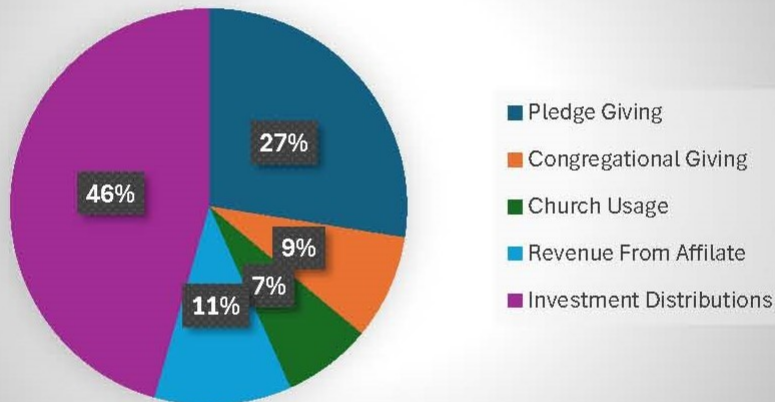
Council of Trustees News (COT)

Garden City Community Church-Revenue Sources

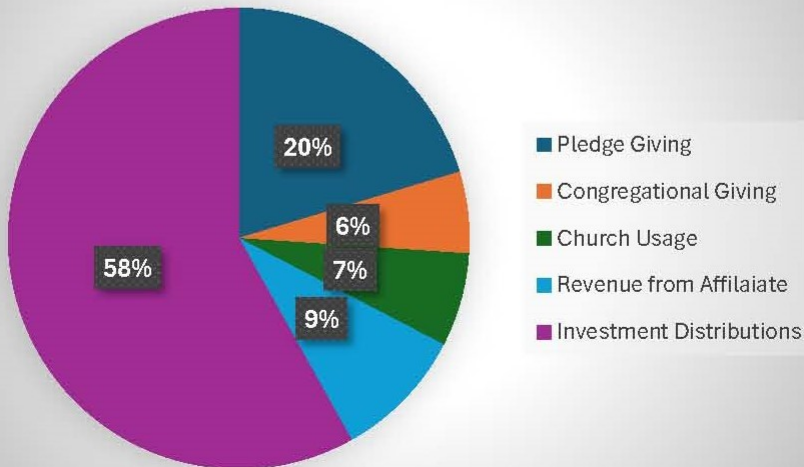
Church Revenue Jan - Sept 2024



Church Revenue Jan - Sept 2023



Church Revenue Jan - Sept 2022





October 20, 2024

Dear Garden City Community Church,

During this season of thanksgiving, we are grateful for your generosity giving your time, talents and financial contributions to sustain our church.

Because of YOU, the GCCC provided Christian Education for our young people, offered inspirational music and worship, prioritized pastoral care to the sick or homebound, and served people in need. Here are some ways your generosity benefited some people in our community:

"I enjoy serving on the board of deacons and find serving at liturgy rewarding. It allows me to give and receive the gifts God has given to me." – Jan Levine

"As I reflect on what is most meaningful for me at the GCCC, it would be the Wednesday food pick-up. When the trunk is filled, it is a gift to bring it from our church to hungry people in need." – Mary Dewar

"We choose to be a part of this community because our family felt immediately welcomed and cared for from the first service we attended. We are grateful for this community and for the events including the amazing family programming." – The Roche Family

Will you help us imagine what is possible for our church in 2025, and help even more people be touched by the GCCC?

We are excited to announce the kickoff of our 2024 Stewardship Campaign on October 20th! This year's theme is *"Imagine Together,"* which feels especially fitting as we enter an important new chapter together, creating a collective vision for new growth and leadership.

As you know, finding the right minister to lead our church is a top priority. To attract a strong candidate from a highly regarded seminary, we will need to offer a competitive compensation package. By contributing to our Stewardship Campaign, YOU will provide the GCCC with funds that will directly impact what we can offer our next minister, ensuring we bring in someone who shares our vision and values. **We need to raise \$300,000 by Dec. 1st in pledges or gifts to sustain our operations and growth in 2025.**

We invite you to make a pledge or annual donation within your means to help shape the future of Garden City Community Church. Your commitment will not only support our programs and ministries, but also help us have the resources to take care of our building, which serves the wider community and lead our congregation effectively.

As we embark on this stewardship campaign, we ask you to consider how you can contribute to the future of Garden City Community Church. Here are three ways to give:

1. **Make an annual pledge** by mail or online. Give in small amounts during the year to meet your pledge goal during the calendar year. Please scan the QR code below to make your pledge and recurring payments below, or go to [www https://gcc.breezechms.com/form/e9713e4374](https://gcc.breezechms.com/form/e9713e4374)



2. **Make a one-time gift now.** Donate today what you can to support our church. Please scan the QR code below, or go to <https://www.gardencitycommunitychurch.org/give>



Your participation is essential as we strive to bring hope, change lives, and welcome a new minister who will help lead us into the future.

Thank you for being a part of this exciting journey. We are excited to “Imagine Together” with you and to build our future together. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at (516)746-1700 or email us at controller@thegccc.org.

Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us secure the future of our church and attract a strong leader for the years ahead.

With gratitude,

Kirsten Bahlke
**Council of Trustees
Chair**

Drew Hearon
F&A Chair

Joseph Stanco
Treasurer

Stewardship Committee:

Jill Emmer
Paula Tusiani-Eng
Martha Yasso

S&C Team Report from September 29, 2024

The Garden City Community Church held its first 21st century “Congregation Meeting and Conversation” hosted by the 10-member Search and Call Team and our guide, the Reverend John Livingston.

We had nearly 80 folks, some who signed-up ahead, and others who joined us spontaneously.

After a blessing and some directions from the Team and Rev. Livingston, and a quick division into our working groups, we were off to work!

These meetings were held throughout the GCCC Church building, including Gardner Hall, the Narthex (lobby), the Sanctuary, the Parlor, and the Kensington room.

The format was to have the group leader(s) discuss the preliminary question, and open the floor to discussion and opinions. Each participant was given two minutes to express their thoughts and positions, and each group had a 2-minute egg timer. That speaker then passed the egg timer off to the next participant.

The Leaders were all awed and humbled by the willingness and thankfulness of all of the participants. Everyone seemed to appreciate “just being asked their thoughts”, and they all enthusiastically jumped into the discussion, and sharing some of the high points in their own history, with the Garden City Community Church.

The leaders took notes and shared them (and their own “take-aways”) from the conversations, with the S&C team. Our snap opinions were that:

1. This was a very valuable exercise, and quite productive.
2. The GCCC Congregation was really ready to have these discussions.
3. There were some folks who did not have an opportunity to participate.
4. And that we should offer follow-up conversations for those who have more to say, and for those who were not able to be present on 9/29/24
5. The S&C Team is inviting anyone to join us for informal gatherings, immediately following the Service on November 10th, 17th, and 24th. Get your coffee at the Fellowship Hour and come to the Kensington Room!
6. AND there will be a 7:00 pm evening opportunity to meet with us for another Congregational Conversation, on a mid-November date, TBD.
7. If you missed the 1st conversation, please do join us at one of these dates in November, as your voice does need to be heard!

From the information and opinions gathered at these conversations, the S&C Team will meet and begin the process of distilling all of the input and opinions we’ve received (and there is a LOT of input to cover)

Lastly, we would like to thank you all for your kind support and willing participation. Your efforts and support make our work that much easier.

Prayerfully submitted,

Garden City Community Church Search and Call Team



Assemble Thanksgiving Fixin' Bags for INN Guests
Garden City Community Church
245 Stewart Avenue Garden City, NY 11530

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
- 64 ounce plastic bottle of apple juice

Once your bag is complete, please drop it off at the church by Tues. November 5, 2024.

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 want to sign up to help online use the QR code below or go to:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-51607900-assemble>

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



MISSION EVENTS

Bi-weekly Food Collections

The LICC Emergency Food Pantry is hoping to re-open on November 1st. Their new address is 353 West Sunrise Highway in Freeport, NY

Our next scheduled donation dates are November 13th and 27th. Please drop off your non-perishable food items on these dates before noon on the Whitehall Blvd. porch. If you want to sign up to be a driver (to deliver our donations), please sign up here:

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



Lions Club International

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



Sunday Forums

The Sunday Forum for November has been postponed.

Please watch for our Forum schedule in the near future.



ADMIT ONE

GCCC CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS CONCERT & DINNER

DECEMBER 8, 2024
AT 4:30 PM

SAVE THE DATE
MORE INFO TO FOLLOW

ADMIT ONE

Americana Fair — Chicken Salad



A long held custom at GCCC is Chicken Salad served at the Americana Fair!

We are requesting contributions of cooked boneless chicken breast to continue that tradition!

Donations should be placed in ziploc bags, marked for the fair and be placed in the basement refrigerator on Thursday, Nov. 7th and early morning Friday, Nov 8th.

We will gather to make the chicken salad on Friday, Nov 8th- time to be determined. Please join us! Questions - contact Janet Martens 516-815-9563

Baskets for Americana Fair

We'd love to raffle off baskets at **November 9th Americana Fair** but we need your help. Please think about making a donation for the gift basket raffles or if you can, please help out at the raffle table. For more info please contact Cindy Campbell at cindala86@gmail.com



Americana Fair

Americana Fair – Saturday, November 9th from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm - The fair is fast approaching and here are the areas we need your help with:

1. Sorting starts Saturday, Nov. 2 from 10am— 4pm. We also need someone to assist with sorting during the week either morning or afternoon. You can select your own hours.
2. Chairperson for new gifts and cashier for Gourmet.

For more info please contact Cindy Campbell at cindala86@gmail.com or 516-524-1617.

Americana Fair drop off dates: Sat. Nov. 2—10am-4pm, Sun. Nov. 3—11:30am—4pm, Mon. Nov. 4—8am—4pm, Tues. Nov. 5 (Election Day) 10am-4pm, Wed. Nov. 6—8am—4pm, Thurs. Nov. 7 - 8am—4pm, **Fri. Nov. 8—We will not accept merchandise. Americana Fair hours: Sat. Nov. 9 from 10am-3pm (doors open for volunteers—8am)**





AMERICANA FAIR

Saturday, November 9, 2024

10 am – 3 pm

GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH

245 Stewart Avenue at Whitehall Blvd.

Garden City, NY 11530

(516) 746-1700

Free Admission

Contact:

Chair: Cindy Campbell cindala86@gmail.com

Sorting: **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!!**

Youth Coordinator: Robin Laisure rblaisure421@gmail.com

SILENT AUCTION--Antiques, Collectibles

SHABBY/CHIC

ACCESSORIES

ATTIC TREASURES

HOLIDAY & GIFT BOUTIQUES

LINENS, LAMPS, CHINA, SILVER,

JEWELRY

TOYS, PICTURES, FRAMES,

GOURMET SHOP

BISTRO LUNCHEON or Hot Dog Tent



MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

News from our Sunday School & Youth Groups



Thank you to everyone who came out and made our third annual Pumpkin Fest a great success! We hope everyone enjoyed the fall feeling and fellowship.



We will be going Christmas Caroling on December 7th, 2024. Please SAVE THE DATE and join us as we bring some Christmas joy to the homebound of our church. We will have hot chocolate after at a place to be determined.



Sunday School: The Christmas Pageant is coming up (Sunday, Dec. 22nd) and if you would like your child to participate, please be sure to register them for Sunday School or Middle School Youth Group (if they want to participate or help out.) We will begin learning the songs and parts throughout November and December. If you have any questions please contact Amanda at adias@thegccc.org

Sunday school students register here: <https://gcc.breezechms.com/form/61c92f14812713>

Middle School Youth Group register here: <https://gcc.breezechms.com/form/MSYG24>



Youth help needed for the Americana Fair on Saturday, November 9th

We need youth to help set up and break down the fair. If you are interested please fill out the form with your availability. Form link: <https://gcc.breezechms.com/form/americanayouth24>

Wednesday evenings

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



The groundbreaking streaming television series about the life of Jesus

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

7:00 pm: watch episode together

7:50 pm: refreshments

8:00 pm: group discussion

If you cannot make it to church at 7:00 pm, watch the episode at home (free on Prime Video or <https://watch.thechosen.tv/page/seasons%201-3>) and join us at 8:00pm for a group discussion that will bolster your faith and strengthen your sense of community and service.

Questions: contact Karin Melkonian (karinmelkonian@gmail.com)

MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

Worship Altar Flower Donations

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

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

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

2024 Fellowship Hour Sign Up

Hosting Refreshment and Friendship after worship conversation

Perhaps hospitality and hosting are your passion. Schedule two ways: notebook in the Parlor or:

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

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



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'.



Service Commitment Sunday—Thanksgiving/Friendsgiving Luncheon

On Sunday, Nov. 24th, the last Sunday of our Stewardship Campaign, we will celebrate our collective effort to Imagine our future together with a special Thanksgiving/Friendsgiving themed luncheon which will be held after our 10:30 am church service. At this luncheon, we will celebrate all of the good gifts God has given us, and recognize our efforts to service our church and one another through Stewardship. Lunch is complimentary. Please watch our e-blasts for a registration form so that we know how many people to expect.

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 November 2nd and December 7th 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, or George Bashian if you have a prayer request. **All requests are kept confidential.**

Worship Ushers or Liturgists Opportunity

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



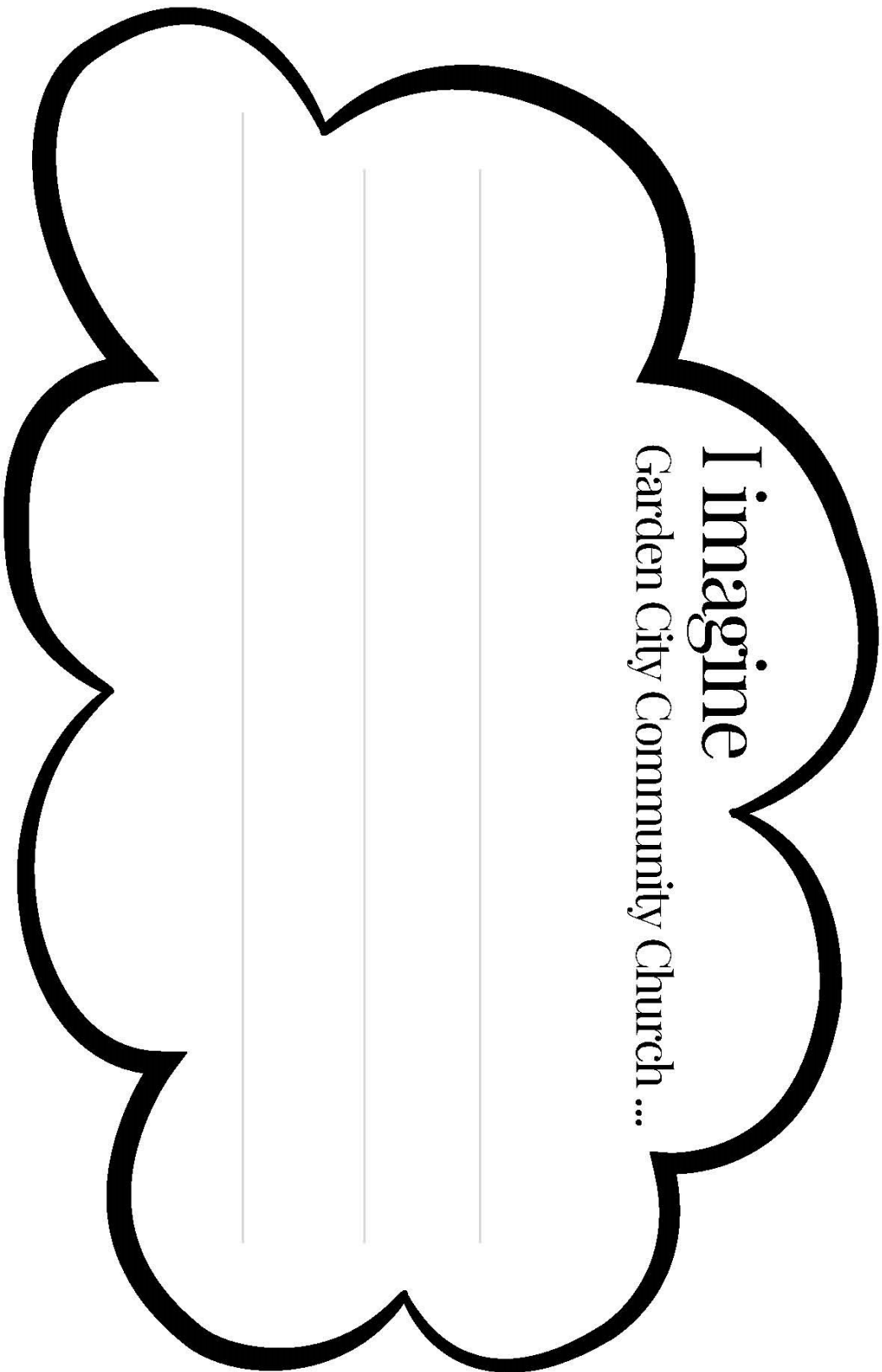
Thought Bubbles

Our Stewardship theme this year in the UCC materials is "*Imagine*." On the **next page** you will find a thought bubble.. We need your help. Please complete the phrase "I imagine..." in your own words, reflecting what you can *imagine* for GCCC as we move forward.

Perhaps you *imagine* ... Potluck Dinners? alternative times for services? walks in nature with outdoor worship? Maybe you *imagine* a family bowling night, or can *imagine* new ways to spread love in the community? Visiting shut-ins? Car pools? Maybe reinstating Christmas caroling events or a crafting afternoon? We want to hear from you. We want GCCC to connect to all who worship here. Helps us to strengthen our mission by sharing your thoughts. We will display these "*Imagine*" bubbles within the Church which we hope will provide new ways we can learn and grow in faith together. **Please bring the finished bubble to church, mail it to the church or email it to**

churchoffice@thegccc.org

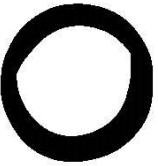
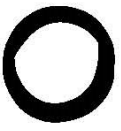




Imagine
Garden City Community Church ...

We want to be all we can moving forward for both our members and those who worship with us. Your ideas will guide us. Please share your thoughts in the bubble and add your name below.

Thank you.



Imagine Together



GCCC Annual Stewardship Campaign
Stewardship Sunday, November 24, 2024
Celebration luncheon to follow

Joy
Healing
Wonder/Awe
All at the Table
Commitment

Pledge



GIVE

Log into existing account



Create an Account



Quick Give



Mission Trip 2025

We are excited to announce that our next Mission Trip will be in Oklahoma City, July 13th - July 19th.

We will be partnering with Next Step Ministries and Habitat for Humanity to help the community of Moore, Oklahoma after a devastating tornado tore through the community in 2013 (yes this date is correct.)

Volunteering for a church mission trip can be a deeply enriching experience, offering a unique blend of personal growth, community service, and spiritual fulfillment. Individuals often find that they gain a broader perspective on life and a deeper understanding of different cultures and communities. Through acts of service, such as building infrastructure or providing education, volunteers can make a tangible difference in the lives of others.

Mission trips can be a catalyst for spiritual growth, allowing participants to live out their faith in practical ways and develop a stronger connection to their beliefs. The shared experiences of working closely with others towards a common goal also foster lifelong friendships and a sense of global citizenship. Whether it's through the joy of helping others or the personal insights gained, the impact of a mission trip can resonate long after the journey has ended.

Please submit forms along with the deposit to the church office by November 5th . **To get forms or ask questions email Jill Frain at jillfrain@gmail.com or Amanda Dias at adias@thegccc.org**

Forms can also be found on the Whitehall Conference Desk



All Saints' Day

We would like to let you know that we will be celebrating All Saints' Day on November 3, 2024 at our 10:30am worship service.

We will remember members and friends of Garden City Community Church who have died since All Saints' Day last year by lighting a candle during worship and giving thanks for their lives. We wanted you to know about this special service. Please feel free to share this information with your friends and family.

If you are unable to attend in person, a Livestream video feed will be available for you to watch the service on your computer or smart phone. if interested: <https://livestream.com/accounts/14879187/20241103nov>

Below are the names of those we will honor:

Nancy L. Fardelmann
Kristine Harder
Joan Kuster
Mark van Schenkhof
Catherine Tusiani

Alexander Giocondi
Steve Haussel
Ronald H. McGlynn
Alfred J. Schrafel Jr.
Nancy Wagner

Rayna Goodman
Rev. Dr. Jane Huber
Patricia Ann Rivera
Patricia Sullivan
Karen Zalewski



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.

News About the Building

Kristian and Joe have been busy. They have repaired the community room wall and ceiling and repainted the room. The men's bathroom ceiling hole has been fixed. The Sanctuary altar area, the stairway and alcove in front of the church office and the staircase down to the Sunday school wing and have all been painted. The World Church Room window has been repaired and repainted.



Take a look around to see the great job they have done!!

GC Community Church Tech Team

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

Contact Steve Short, Tim Martens, or William Stone

Or Just join us some Sunday, in the balcony



Musical Ensembles September through June

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



Youth Choir – Open to grades 3-5. Rehearsal are Sundays from noon to 12:30pm. Performs 1 Sunday a month at the 10:30 am service before Sunday School dismissal.



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



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



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



It's Time to Register for NURSERY SCHOOL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For more information or to schedule a tour,
 Email Cathie McCullough, Director – gcccnursery@gmail.com 516-746-1756
 Or visit us at www.gcccnurseryschool.com

CHRISTMAS MUSIC 2024

If you would like to donate to enhance the Music Program of our Church, you are invited to contribute to the Music Fund in memory of or in honor of loved ones. Please fill out the form below and return it to the church office no later than **Monday, December 9th**

In memory of: _____

OR

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____



CHRISTMAS PLANTS 2024

We invite you to have Christmas plants placed in the Sanctuary in memory of or in honor of loved ones. Please fill out the form below and return it to the church office no later than **Monday, December 9th**

I would like to have a Christmas plant in the church this year...

In memory of: _____

OR

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____



Losing a Pet

By Danielle Eisenberg, LCSW, LCC Counselor

A topic sometimes overlooked is the grief of losing a pet. I will never forget the pain I felt when I lost my beloved dog Snuggles. As a therapist, I often encounter people who also lost pets, and hear of the hole it leaves in their hearts. Combining psychotherapy with Christian faith can offer a comprehensive approach to healing – I know it did for me.

Psychotherapy provides a safe space to express feelings and memories associated with the pet, while being guided through the stages of grief. Processing sorrow, guilt, anger and all of the other mixed emotions are critical in healthy healing. Tools such as journaling, art therapy, and creating a memorial can be instrumental in honoring the pet's memory and facilitating emotional release. Support groups for those who also lost pets can remind us we're not alone. Far too often those who are hit hardest by lost pets neglect therapy and suffer needlessly for it.



Christianity offers additional comfort and hope. The Bible speaks of God's care for all creation, including pets, and how all life is cherished by Him. Scriptures such as Psalm 34:18, "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit" provide solace, reinforcing God's presence in times of sorrow. Prayer too can be powerful, helping connect us to God's comforting presence. I personally found the support of my church community and pastor to be invaluable.

While therapy provides a safe place to process loss, Faith provides a hope comfort and strength unattainable elsewhere. This holistic approach respects both the psychological and spiritual dimensions of grief. Ultimately, the journey through pet loss is deeply personal. I hope this article will help those who felt similar loss to me and stand as one more memorial to my beloved Snuggles.

Danielle Eisenberg, LCSW, counsels' adults for anxiety, depression, women's issues and grief/loss and is a couples' counselor. For an appointment or for more information, call the Lutheran Counseling Center at 516-741-0994 or 1-800-317-1173 or e-mail us at Center@lccny.org.

November



2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Men's Breakfast Carle Place Diner 8am American Fair Drop off hours 10am - 4pm
3 All Saints' Day Sunday Service/Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30 am American a Fair Drop off hours 11:30 am - 4 pm Middle School Youth Group Meeting - 6 pm Confirmation II Meeting - 7 pm	4 Americana Fair Drop off hours 8 am - 4 pm	5 Prayer Service 9:30 am American a Fair Drop off hours 10 am - 4 pm	6 Americana Fair Drop off hours 8 am - 4 pm The Chosen viewing & discussion NOT SCHEDULED Virtual Council of Trustees (COT) 7:30 pm	7 Americana Fair Drop off hours 8 am - 4 pm Adult Choir 8:00 pm	8 Americana Fair NO MERCHANDISE DROP OFFS	9 Americana Fair 10 am - 3 pm
10 Sunday Service 10:30 am Church School 10:30 am - NOT SCHEDULED Fellowship Hour 11:30 am Search & Call Cong. Conversations 11:30 am Confirmation II Meeting 7 pm NOT SCHEDULED	11 Veterans Day church office closed	12 Prayer Service 9:30 am	13 Food Donation drop off - noon The Chosen viewing & discussion 7:00 pm	14 Adult Choir 8:00 pm	15	16
17 Sunday Service/Church School 10:30 am Fellowship Hour & Search & Call Congregational Conversations 11:30 am Ministry Meeting 12:00 pm Confirmation II Meeting 7 pm	18	19 Prayer Service 9:30 am	20 The Chosen viewing & discussion 7:00pm Search & Call Congregational Conversations 7:00 pm	21 Adult Choir 8:00 pm	22	23
24 Sunday Service/Church School 10:30 am Friendsgiving/Stewardship Fellowship 11:30am Search & Call Cong. Conversations 11:30 am Confirmation II Meeting 7 pm	25	26 Prayer Service 9:30 am	27 Food Donation drop off - noon The Chosen viewing & discussion 7:00 pm	28 Thanksgiving Day church office closed	29 Thanksgiving Day Weekend - church office closed	30