

Connections

January 2023

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

Pastor's Message

Sometimes God calms the raging storm and lets nature rest for awhile. Sometimes God allows the storm to rage and calms those who ask for inner peace and courage. -

Unknown

Happy New Year! I have found lately that I am ready to say goodbye to a year (2022) and welcome the opportunities and blessings that a new year brings. I am truly ready to welcome 2023.

I read the quote above several times before selecting it for this electronic newsletter. It is truly words to ponder. That is how I see the winter season. Sometimes nature brings on a storm (residents in the Buffalo and the midwest area know all too well what that feels like), and sometimes we wake up to the beauty of snow on the trees and our village looks like a winter wonderland. What I am reflecting on is what *inner peace and courage* look like and how I plan to take that into the new year.

Our Advent bible study focused on the book by James A. Harnish, *When God Comes Down*. He reminded us that 'we cannot prepare to experience God's presence in the present unless we are rooted in what God has done in the past.' He explains, 'We recognize God coming into our lives today because we have lived with the story of the way God came into the lives of those who went before us.'

That is why reading the scriptures, experiencing worship, and meditating in silence is such an important discipline in our faith journey. Let's not turn the page too quickly away from Zachariah and Elizabeth, Joseph and Mary, the shepherds and the angels, and the wise men's visit to the manger. Let's reflect on how these stories can live within us throughout the year: the stories of faith, obedience, letting go, following our heart and ultimately having a close relationship with our Lord.

I am looking forward to a year of new opportunities.

Blessings,

Lynn

Senior Pastor

Please continue reading the newsletter and learn more about an Island-wide program called Abraham's table, and the call to our annual meeting,

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- Will Sing for Food Concert
- & more

Worship Schedule

Sundays

10:30 AM

Livestream & In-person

Tuesdays

Intercessory
Prayer Service

9:30 AM In-person

Call to the Annual Meeting

Our By-Laws are clear that we must announce the annual meeting according to the laws of the state of New York. We hope that you will make it a priority to attend the meeting as the church operates on its membership. All members need to take an interest in the future of the church and find ways to get involved and support its leadership. We also encourage you to accept the invitation to be on a committee or team to help our church grow and continue to be a vital part of our community.

Annual Corporate Meeting

In accordance with the Religious Corporations Law of the State of New York, and the by-laws of the Garden City Community Church, notice is hereby given of the Annual Corporate Meeting to be held on Sunday, February 5, 2023 at noon following the 10:30 am Worship Service.

The purpose of the meeting will be:

- **to elect successors to the trustees;**
- **to act on the church budget for 2023;**
- **to elect a slate of officers for 2023;**
- **to conduct any other business that may properly be presented at that time.**

The meeting will be in-person and additionally, participants will be able to join remotely using Zoom.

Mission Trip Male Leader Needed – July 16th- 22nd South Carolina Trip

Planning is well underway and we are very excited to have 23 students setting off to serve those in need in South Carolina this summer! We have some wonderful leaders in place; but we are very much in need of at least one additional male leader. Please reflect and consider if you may feel compelled to join our team. It promises to be a very rewarding and fulfilling trip! All leaders set off thinking they are going for the youth, and come back with stories of interactions that have changed their own lives. **Please consider if it may be the right time for you to step up; we cannot hold the trip if we do not have at least one more male leader.** If you would like to discuss the role and learn more about what it entails, please feel free to reach out to me: Tracey Lawson, 516-984-4470 or traceymlawson@gmail.com.



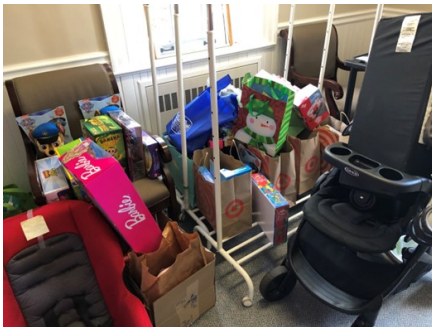
This is a picture from last year's trip. Please volunteer and join the fun!!

Annual Reports due January 9th

Please get your annual reports into the office if you are responsible for reporting for a committee/group. We need time to print these before distribution on February 3rd. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.



We received an enormous outpouring of gifts for Bedford Hills, Anna House, the INN and Nueva Vida Presbyterian Church.



Thank you for all the Christmas Gift Donations!

NOMINATIONS REQUESTED

Our Church's Membership Committee is responsible for considering candidates to serve as Trustees, Delegates, and Members of various committees. We ask for your prayers and your support as we pursue this task in preparation for our Annual Meeting to be held on Sunday, February 5, 2023.

In particular, we are looking for people with:

- Financial skills to serve on our Finance and Administration committee.
- Fundraising skills to serve on our Finance and Administration committee.
- Legal skills to serve as a liaison and update/inform Council of Trustees.
- Programming skills for social events to foster Christian love/Connections.
- Programming skills for Service ministry dedicated to good works.
- Skills for organizing Training events and Leadership Development.

Please know you will not be alone, there are members willing to train and guide you on how to proceed in God's service.

Members of the congregation are encouraged to submit names for nomination. Feel free to nominate yourself!! Please consider your nominees prayerfully. Attributes to bear in mind for prospective church leaders might include:

- Leadership-Your confidence in their decision making.
- Example-Their faithful participation in the life of the church.
- Love-Do they demonstrate love for God and Neighbor?
- Maturity/Understanding-in listening and communicating.
- Open-Mindedness-their willingness to learn and grow as they serve.

Please send any names you want to submit for consideration to Membership Committee Chair Celia Petersen at gpcatspawr@msn.com or to the Church Office at churchoffice@theGCCC.org . All nominations must be received no later than Sunday, January 29, 2023 for consideration prior to the Annual Meeting.



Garden City Community Church
Attn: Rev. Lynn Sullivan
245 Stewart Avenue
Garden City, NY 11530

November 29, 2022

Dear Rev. Sullivan,

On behalf of the Long Island Council of Churches' Board of Directors, staff, and the hungry Long Islanders we serve I would like to personally thank you for your contributions during the year. Your congregations' consistency in collecting food to help feed our neighbors in need is praiseworthy.

You are a blessing, and your mission is commendable giving back to help support those in need within Nassau County. Our Emergency Food Center proud recipients of your graciousness, whether it be from the Congregation that follows your lead or the board you chair and their charitable giving, we appreciate you!

I apply for and get money from United Way Emergency Food & Shelter Program which basically aids us in helping qualified candidates with mortgage/rental assistance & utility assistance, a portion of that is used for us to purchase bulk food items only. Your support is mentioned frequently throughout the year to our board as an example of caring leadership and your giving back to help us in our mission to help those in need.

I sincerely wish you and your members a blessed holiday season and a prosperous 2023.

Respectfully,

Yolanda Murray

Program Coordinator/Manager

Deaths

Ann Mollouk—November 9, 2022
 Carl Saenger—November 10, 2022 (Karen Zalewski's father)
 Patricia Gordon—November 19, 2022
 Robert Hegeman—November 27, 2022
 Rafael Olivo—December 3, 2022 (Clem Olivo's father)
 Charles (Chuck) Vasoll Sr.—December 3, 2022

New Members

New Member Sunday was December 11, 2022. We welcomed new member Kristine Newell to our congregation. Kristine has two children in our Sunday School class. The children are Luciana and Marella. We hope you get a chance to meet Kristine and her family and welcome them to our 'church family.'

SAVE THE DATES – COMMUNION CLASS

This year we will once again be celebrating Communion Class with our young people in **grades 4-7** who have not taken the class before. This class is held every other year and will be taught by Rev. Lynn Sullivan and Mrs. Amy McCoy. We will be sharing with our young people the sacredness of Communion and the meaning it holds for us as a Christian Sacrament.

Communion Class will be held in the new year on the following Sundays from 9:15 am—10:00 am.

January 29, 2023

February 5, 2023

February 12, 2023

February 26, 2023 (make-up class and rehearsal)

We will share Communion together during worship on **March 5th, 2023**. More information will follow and registration will open in January.

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, Jan. 7th and Feb. 4th at 8:00 am at the Carle Place Diner.**
No reservations needed - just show up.



ABRAHAM'S TABLE ON LONG ISLAND

" Becoming a Beloved Community: A Long Island Interfaith Response to Hate," is a faith response that will be happening across the island January 13-16, 2023. This idea started in a meeting room in a synagogue on Long Island through a group that calls themselves Abraham's Table and has grown to over 90 faith communities across the island. Participation is left up to each faith community and the goal is for faith communities join their voices to speak out against hate. Here is some data:

- Despite the fact that many hate crimes go unreported, U.S. Department of Justice data show that in New York State hate crimes rose by 31% between 2018 and 2020.
- In late April 2022, the ADL reported that New York State led the nation in antisemitic acts.
- In late July 2022, vicious antisemitic flyers were distributed on lawns in Rockville Centre.
- On July 4, 2022, a firebomb was thrown at a sacred symbol in front of Fatima Al-Zahra Mosque in Ronkonkoma.
- In February 2022, a Bayport man was charged with sending dozens of hate-filled letters to Long Island LGBTQ organizations.
- In January 2022, a Long Island couple faced hate-crime charges after they verbally harassed a Black Family.

On Maundy Thursday, 2021 our Senior Pastor was at the GC Village Police Station reporting hate mail sent to her home. The church's Easter ad in the newspaper was marked up as the *Gay Church* with a 'shame on you' message. In response to that report, there was heightened security at all the Easter Services.

We ask that you pay attention to the articles and events being promoted across the Island and join where you are able.

We have invited Rev. Rayford Howell, Associate Pastor at the South Hempstead Church, UCC to be our guest speaker on January 15, 2023. We are also working with the local clergy to share an event at the Jewish Center. Stayed tuned as plans develop.

The faith communities in Garden City also participating in Abraham's Table include The Garden City Jewish Center, Church in the Garden, The Cathedral of the Incarnation, Garden City Community Church.

**We are like snowflakes. Alone, we are insignificant.
but when we stick together we can sure do a lot.**

The Christmas Fund



We will be collecting for the UCC Special Mission Offering for the Christmas Fund on Sundays, January 8th and 15th. This offering helps retired clergy and church workers supplement their pensions, maintain health insurance, pay bills and meet emergency needs. Your gift makes a difference, easing the anxiety of constant financial worries.

Offering envelopes will be available in church on the dates mentioned above. You can also send in a check payable to the church with UCC Christmas Fund in the note, or you can pay on line.

Thank you for your generous support of this worthy mission.

Is our Church 5 for 5?

A 5 for 5 church fully supports Our Church's Wider Mission. They give to Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) and all four special mission offerings.

OCWM Basic Support – Provides funding from congregations for Conferences and the national ministries of the UCC (Wider Church Ministries, Local Church Ministries, Justice and Witness Ministries, General Ministries and Pension Boards.)

UCC Special Mission Offerings – Part of the OCWM, these four offerings sponsor vital ministries that bring hope to people in the U.S. and around the world.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Neighbors in Need

Strengthen the Church

The Christmas Fund

Please help us be a 5 for 5 church by giving to the UCC-The Christmas Fund Offering Collection

Don't strive to make your presence noticed,
but to make your absence felt.

Sunday Forum

January 29th - 11:45 am - Parlor - led by Melva Victorino



Get information and guides to learn how to take virtual training to be a Literacy Nassau Volunteer Tutor, and how to register for Virtual Narcan Training to help prevent drug overdosing. (This will give explain how to take the virtual training online). Learn how to get certification to administer Narcan to prevent drug overdosing and how to receive the overdose rescue kit. Also learn about becoming an ESL tutor to make a difference in the life of a non-English speaking person. For more info on upcoming Forums, email Melva Victorino at melva130@optonline.net

Souper Bowl of Caring

We are writing to invite you and your family to participate in our **GCC Church's 2023 Souper Bowl of Caring** "pick up" canned food drive on **Saturday, Feb. 11th**. The Souper Bowl of Caring is a national campaign which involves young people to combat hunger and poverty in the United States. On a day usually focused on national sports pastime, football and food, we want to remember the less fortunate and empower youth to make a difference.

This year, we are again going out into the community to pick up the food. We realize that not all can physically get to our church with COVID, and during the winter months it is harder. So we will organize drivers to pick up the food and drop it off at the church.

There are two ways you can participate with your children:

- 1) **Donate Canned Goods on Saturday Feb. 11th.** Leave canned or non-perishable food items outside your front door between 9:00 am and 11:00 am and volunteers from the church will come pick them up and deliver them to the church as part of the weekly collection to the Long Island Council of Churches in Freeport. Here is the link if you want to participate by donating food: <https://gcc.breezechms.com/form/459516524954>
- 2) **Sign-up to be a driver to pick up the canned food at specific local addresses on Saturday, Feb. 11th between 9 and 11am** and drop it back at the church Whitehall Blvd. Porch by 12:00 noon. This is a fun activity you can do with your kids, and it is contactless and COVID-19 safe. Here is the driver sign-up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-drivers3>

If you have any questions, let us know. Thank you in advance for giving back and taking this opportunity to involve our children in tackling the problem of hunger in our community.

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://qccc.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.

Americana Fair Luncheon

The Americana Fair thank you luncheon will be held on Sunday, January 22 at 12:30 pm at Season’s 52. If you would like to attend, please send check, cash to Cindy Campbell in the amount of \$71.70 before January 8. If you have any questions, please email Cindy Campbell at cindala86@gmail.com or call/text cell at 516-524-1617.

Many thanks for all those who volunteered at the Americana Fair. We raised \$17,570.34.

Americana Fair Wrap Up Meeting

On **Sunday, January 8th at 11:45 am** there will be an Americana Fair wrap-up meeting for fair volunteers in the Kensington Room. For further information, contact Cindy Campbell at cindala86@gmail.com

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.**

Altar Flower Sign-up

Remember a loved one or a special event by providing the flowers on the Altar one Sunday for a \$50 donation to the church.

You can sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-2023>



Hosting Fellowship Hour

Interested in hosting a fellowship hour? It is a wonderful way to remember someone or celebrate a special occasion. The occasion will be mentioned in the Order of Worship.

You can sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084bacad2eaa8-20232#/>



USHERS AND LITURGISTS NEEDED

Are you interested in becoming an usher or liturgist? It only takes a few minutes and you can meet other church members. For more information, contact Cindy Campbell at cindala86@gmail.com or Jan Levine at jansteve64@optonline.net



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. Rehearsals 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: January 11th, January 25th, February 8th and 22nd. Donations should be left on the Whitehall porch before noon on the dates mentioned above. Any donations you can make will be greatly appreciated.

Drivers are needed to deliver the food. Please sign up if you are available to help:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-20233>



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**

THE GAREN CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH

BECOME A VOLUNTEER



CO-LEADER NEEDED

6 P.M.

**1
FEB**

HS YOUTH GROUP

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER
TO BE A CO-LEADER OF THE YOUTH
GROUP**

We will be meeting one Wednesday night a month. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to volunteer please email Amanda Dias (adias@thegccc.org) Our First meeting will be Feb. 1st



JANUARY

Sunday School



Sunday

1

No Sunday School

Sunday

8

SS: Anti-Hate Lesson

Sunday

15

No Sunday School

Sunday

22

SS: The Story of Deborah

Sunday

29

SS: David is Chosen



MS YOUTH GROUP

UPCOMING DATES



DEC 25TH & JAN 1ST | NO GROUP

JAN 8TH | 6PM

JAN 22ND | 6PM



YOUTH ROOM | FOR MORE INFO EMAIL CHRIS

chris@thegccc.org

Community Adventures – A Super-FUN Summer Program

The holidays are behind us and It's frosty and cold outside - Time to start making summer plans!!

Registration will begin for the Nursery School's summer program – Community Adventures on Monday, February 1, 2023.

Community Adventures is a program designed to keep bodies busy and minds moving while providing a safe, loving environment where children feel free to explore, learn and most importantly, PLAY.

Community Adventures meets for 4 sessions beginning in July. Each session meets Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:15 - 12:15 - July 11 through August 3.

Tuition: \$160.00 per session - MINIMUM enrollment - 2 (1 week) sessions.

Children who are entering a 3 or 4 year old program or kindergarten in the fall are eligible to attend.

Registration is open to all. Visit our website to download the registration form and for more information about Community Adventures & the Community Church Nursery School: www.GCCCNURSERY SCHOOL.com or call the school office – 516-746-1756.



WILL SING FOR FOOD 2023—HERE WE GO!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Join us Sunday January 22nd 5:30 pm -8:30 pm at Mulcahy's Pub & Concert Hall 3232 Railroad Avenue in Wantagh (doors open at 5pm)

For tickets - go to https://www.ticketweb.com/event/will-sing-for-food-mulcahys-pub-and-concert-hall-tickets/12721605?pl=mulcahys&fbclid=IwAR2j_ZVzQxun2qLX-Jrer_p0FFRN5joQ7qldQISyEPEI8muY2Kpfl58phsw

GA \$25.00 on line /\$30.00 at the door. VIP tables and 4 top tables are available but go fast! 100% of the proceeds go to Long Island Cares, Inc. The Harry Chapin Food Bank. WE ARE BACK! [Long Island Cares](#)

