

# Connections

February — May 2023

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

## Pastor's Message

*"Return to the Lord, your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love."* Joel 2:13

In the English language, the special season before Easter is called "**Lent.**" The word comes from the "**lengthening**" of daylight hours as we progress from the darkness of winter to the new light of spring. But other languages, such as Spanish, have a name for this season that is derived from the word for forty. It is the season of the **forty days**. Lent is not just about "giving up something" - it is about improving our own spiritual nutrition. Below are some of the opportunities available to enhance our spiritual lives.

Researching Lenten opportunities, I discovered that the first time Amazing Grace was sung it accompanied the author, Rev. John Newton at his New Year's Day sermon January 1773.

Two hundred fifty years later, we are still singing this hymn as a way to acknowledge our own journey with Jesus. Theologian Michael Hoy was inspired by Rev. Newton's words in the Lenten Devotion dedicated to the hymn Amazing Grace. You are encouraged to pick up the devotional booklet when you come to church and spend quite time reading the reflections and entering a sacred time of Prayer.

Our Lenten Book Study will be an in-depth study using renown Pastor Adam Hamilton's book, *The Lord's Prayer, The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught*. Sometimes we need to pause and reflect on the prayers we say in our head and not our heart. Join us for the Sundays in Lent to be awoken and inspired by this prayer.

Rev. Candace Whitman (who was raised at Garden City Community Church) will be leading the Lenten Retreat using the artwork by Rembrandt, "The Return of the Prodigal Son" as the focal point. Guided by Rembrandt's painting of Jesus' parable in Luke 15:11-32, we will explore the biblical themes of repentance and forgiveness to deepen our experience of this holy season.

Frank will once again provide Choral Meditations every Friday of Lent linking us to exceptional pieces of music around the world.

Tara, Katie and Amanda have wonderful programs for children to help them understand the meaning of Lent and Easter.

Carefully go through this newsletter and find ways to enhance our spirituality, and opportunities to serve others.

Hope you see you at our Ash Wednesday Services to begin this time of Amazing Grace.

Faithfully,

Lynn

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## Worship Schedule

### Sundays

10:30 AM  
Sanctuary

### Tuesdays

Intercessory  
Prayer Service  
9:30 AM  
Chapel

### Sundays

Lenten Book Study  
11:45 am

See dates inside

## From your Chair of COT, Kirsten Bahlke

To the congregation,

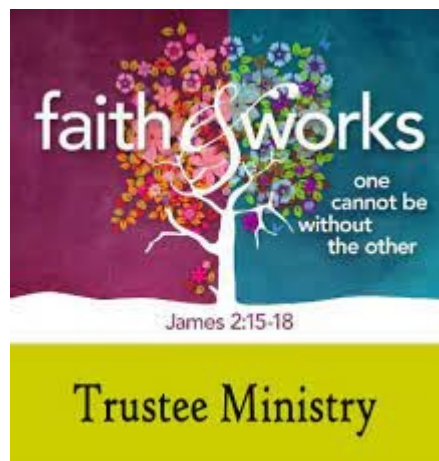
Thank you for granting me the honor of being the chair of the Council of Trustees. Previous chairs Paula Tusiani-Eng, Robin Laisure, and Drew Hearon left me some big shoes to fill! I thank them for their guidance, dedication, and passion. Without their leadership, we wouldn't have made it through Covid and other major events as well as we have.

We had our first COT meeting and discussed our vision for 2023 and how we as the council want to move forward against the strategic plan. I will share more details in the coming weeks. We also talked about increasing the transparency of COT actions and decisions so you will be hearing more from us in the coming year.

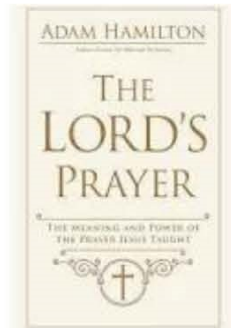
If there is anything you would like to share, feedback, concerns, or suggestions, please don't hesitate to reach out. My email address is: [kbahlkeny@gmail.com](mailto:kbahlkeny@gmail.com)

Thank you and stay well!

*Kirsten*



**“The Lord’s Prayer  
The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught”  
*Lenten Bible Study to be Led by Rev. Lynn Sullivan***



**By Adam Hamilton**

**Most Christians know the Lord’s Prayer by heart. We pray it often, at different times and in different settings. We remember it as the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. The challenge is to really know the prayer, to understand it and appreciate the meaning and power of its words and what we ask God each time we pray it.**

**Let us gather and really study the words of the sacred prayer.**

**Adam Hamilton is one of the most well regarded and influential mainline ministers in America.**

**WE WILL MEET IN-PERSON IN THE KENSINGTON ROOM ON SUNDAYS FROM 11:45 AM – 12:30 PM**

- **February 26** – Introduction and Our Father, Who Art in Heaven, Hallowed Be Thy Name
- **March 5** – Whose Will Be Done?
- **March 19** – Our Daily Bread and Forgive... As We Forgive
- **March 26** – And Lead Us, Not into Temptation
- **April 2** – For THINE Is the Kingdom, Power, and Glory

**A limited supply of this book is available at the church office for \$10.**

**Please call or email Gloria at [churchoffice@thegccc.org](mailto:churchoffice@thegccc.org) to arrange for pick up.**

**On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will have our Ash Wednesday Services. The Noon service will be in the Chapel and the 8:00 PM service will be in the Sanctuary.**

## Lenten Choral Meditations



Our Minister of Music, Frank Crosio, will once again be offering Lenten Choral Meditations during the season of Lent. They will be posted on the church website and will be available on Friday each week of the Lenten season. Frank will offer some thoughts and insights about the musical offering for each day as well as a YouTube link to a performance.

### LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### Ash Wednesday—February 22

Noon and 8:00 pm

#### Lenten Retreat—March 25

8:30 am—1:00 pm

#### Lenten Book Study—Feb. 26, March 5,19,26,

April 2 11:45 am

#### Palm Sunday - April 2

10:30 am

#### Tuesday Prayer Service - Feb. 28, March 7,

March 14,21,28, April 4 - 9:30 am

#### Maundy Thursday - April 6

8:00 pm

#### Good Friday - April 7

Noon and 4:30 pm - Family Service

#### Easter Sunday - April 9

6:30 am (Sunrise Service) 9:00 am & 11:00 am

Easter Egg Hunt after 9:00 am service

**Don't take criticism from someone you would never go to for advice.**



### **Mar. 4th Family Skating Event Cancelled**

Watch our e-blasts for a Bowling Event instead

### **SUNDAY LENTEN BOOK STUDY - 11:45 AM - 12:30 PM**

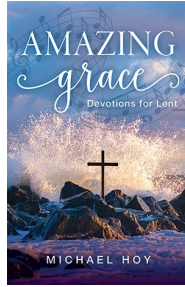
#### **IN THE KENSINGTON ROOM**

'The Lord's Prayer - The Meaning and Power of the Prayer  
Jesus Taught' by Adam Hamilton

February 26, March 5, March 19, March 26 and April 2

## LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BROCHURE

The Lenten Devotional Brochure, 'Amazing Grace' is available to be picked up on the desk outside the Whitehall Conference Room.



### **A Lenten Service of Music**

**March 26 4:00pm Gettemy Chapel**

Korliss Uecher, soprano

Tammy Hensrud, soprano

Frank Crosio, organ



A Service to honor the season of Lent and celebrate Women's History Month.

Mass for 2 Equal Voices by Cecile Chaminade (1857-1944)

2 Choral Preludes by Jeanne Demessieux (1921-1968)

Cecile Chaminade and Jeanne Demessieux were celebrated French women composers of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Their music is well-crafted, melodic and accessible.

It is fitting to celebrate their accomplishments during Woman's History Month.

### **Installation of Officers and Church wide luncheon**

**March 12, 2023 after the 10:30 am service**

**Please join us for lunch in Gardner Hall after the installation of our officers. Our program will be led by Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams, Transitional Conference Minister, NY Conference.**





## **RIDE TO SOUTH CAROLINA**

**SATURDAY MARCH 4TH**

**MIN. DONATION \$35**

**Doors Open 12.00pm**

**Ride starts 12.30pm**

The Garden City Community Church youth and leaders will be serving the underprivileged community in Lexington County, SC from July 16th - 22nd working primarily on construction projects in homes that are in disrepair. We are excited to be partnering with Next Step Ministries again this summer and look forward to making an impact in this community.

@traceymlawson

**ENTER TO WIN \$500 VISA GIFT CARD:**

**\$20 = 1 ticket, \$50 = 3 tickets**

Drawing will take place March 4, 2023 after the CycleBar fundraiser at 1.30pm. Proceeds support the mission trip. Need not be present to win.



950 Franklin Avenue, Garden City, NY 11530

[www.gardencity.cyclebar.com](http://www.gardencity.cyclebar.com)



**Questions or to register:  
Call/text Amy 516.551.9390**



Join Us For  
**CHAIR  
YOGA**

**LENTEN YOGA SERIES**  
AT THE GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH

GCCC Chapel  
Fridays March 17, 24, 31  
10:30-11:30

Classes led by Amy McCoy, RYT200  
\$10 donation

Classes are all levels  
No yoga experience necessary

# “THE ART OF FORGIVENESS” – LENTEN RETREAT

Saturday, March 25, 2023  
8:30 am - 1:00 pm  
Garden City Community Church



## Speaker: Rev. Candace Whitman

Join us on Saturday as we fellowship together, meet our speaker and view the artwork by Rembrandt, "The Return of the Prodigal Son" as the focal point of our Lenten Retreat. Guided by Rembrandt's painting of Jesus' parable in Luke 15:11-32, we will explore the biblical themes of repentance and forgiveness to deepen our experience of this holy season.

Recommended for those ages 18 and older. No art background necessary!

Name .....

Address .....

Email .....

Phone..... Circle: cell home

Registration Fee: \$20.00 Under 30 and Over 80 years old registration fee: \$10.00  
(Price includes speaker, continental breakfast, raffle baskets and closing celebration)

Please make check payable to: **Garden City Community Church** and return form with payment by **Monday, March 13** to:

Garden City Community Church  
245 Stewart Avenue, Garden City, NY 11530  
(516) 746-1700

**Or** Register/pay online: <https://gcc.breezechms.com/form/4595163591>

Any questions, contact Rev. Lynn Sullivan at: [lsullivan@TheGCCC.org](mailto:lsullivan@TheGCCC.org)



**GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH  
COUNTY LINE COUNTRY MUSIC  
FUNDRAISER**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup> FROM 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM**

**WE WILL BE HOLDING A CHURCH FUNDRAISER LED BY CHURCH MEMBERS AND COUNTY LINE BAND MEMBERS, PAMELA AND JOE RIVERA, WHO ARE DONATING THEIR TIME AND TALENT TO GIVE BACK TO OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY.**

**COUNTY LINE IS A 5-PIECE, DANCE-CENTRIC, LIVE COUNTRY MUSIC BAND PLAYING THE BEST OF MODERN COUNTRY, CROSSOVER COUNTRY AND SOUTHERN ROCK FOR YOUR LINE AND PARTNER DANCING OR LISTENING PLEASURE.**



**Line Dancing**

**THEY WILL BE PROVIDING SOME LINE DANCING LESSONS, SO GET YOUR DANCING BOOTS ON!**

**COST: \$20 PER PERSON – AGES 13 AND ABOVE  
CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER ARE FREE  
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS OR SNACKS WILL BE AVAILABLE**

**TO REGISTER GO TO:**

**[HTTPS://GCCC.BREEZECHMS.COM/FORM/61C92F472551501770](https://gccc.breezechms.com/form/61c92f472551501770)**

**County Line Band - Country Music Fundraiser  
Volunteers and Planning Committee Needed  
Saturday, March 25th—7:00 pm—10:00 pm**



This will be a fundraiser for our church to help us raise money needed to sustain and expand our programming in Christian Education, Service and Ministry. Tickets cost \$20/person ages 13 and above. Children 12 and Under are free. We need some volunteers to help arrive at 6:00 p.m. to set up, to donate drinks, snacks or provide home-baked goods which will sell at this event. **Please note that as this is a fundraiser, volunteers who attend the event are encouraged to make donation for the registration fee.** If you are able to volunteer, sign up <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-20234>  
To register <https://gccc.breezechms.com/form/61c92f472551501770>

We could also use any donated items for raffle baskets at this event. To get involved or if you have questions, contact Paula at [ptusianieng@aol.com](mailto:ptusianieng@aol.com) or 516-456-3174. Join us for a fun night of fellowship, music, dancing, and giving back to our church community !

**New Member Informational Meetings**

We will be scheduling a meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, April 4th at 7:30 pm for potential members interested in learning more about our church. We will have our New Member Sunday on April 23rd. **Please contact the office if you are interested so that we can send you the Zoom link for the meeting.**



**Communion Class**

Our Communion class has been meeting and will share Communion for the first time on March 5th.  
**Join us as we share in this special day with our students:**  
Everly Forelli, Bridget Meehan, Emilia Rosa, William Schrafel and Daniel Socha

**3rd Grade Bible Class**

Each year we run a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Bible class as a little more in-depth introduction to the Bible for our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders before they are given their Bibles at the end of the school year on  
June 11<sup>th</sup> Children's Sunday.

The classes are going to be on March 19 , March 26, and April 2 from 9:15 am to 10:00 am in the Parlor and led by Amy McCoy and Rev. Lynn Sullivan.

**Please let the office know if your child will be attending these classes.**

For more information contact Rev. Lynn Sullivan at [lsullivan@thegccc.org](mailto:lsullivan@thegccc.org)



## Annual Reports are Available

The annual reports are now available to be picked up. If you would like to come to the office and pick one up, please let us know.

If you would like a copy but are unable to pick one up, please let us know and we will get a copy to you.

Call the church office at (516) 746-1700 or email us at [churchoffice@thegccc.org](mailto:churchoffice@thegccc.org) for more information

## EASTER MUSIC 2023

If you would like to enhance the Music Program of our Church in memory of or in honor of loved ones you are invited to contribute to the Music Fund. Please fill out the form below and return it to the church office no later than **FRIDAY, MARCH 24**

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

OR

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

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## EASTER PLANTS 2023

We invite you to have Easter 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 **FRIDAY, MARCH 24**

I would like to have an Easter plant in the church this year...

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

OR

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

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## USHERS AND LITURGISTS NEEDED

Are you are 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](mailto:cindala86@gmail.com) or Jan Levine at [jansteve64@optonline.net](mailto:jansteve64@optonline.net)



## 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>



## Souper Bowl of Caring

The "Souper Bowl of Caring" is an annual event that is national in scope, yet local in impact. We invited our neighbors in Garden City to join us in helping the families and people of our area who need food assistance. On the weekend of the big football game, where millions of dollars are spent on the festivities, we gathered canned and nonperishable food items for those who are in need on Long Island. Our donations this year supported The Long Island Council of Churches Emergency Food Pantry in Freeport. We collected 214 non-perishable food items (390 pounds of food). **Thanks to all of you!!**



## SAVE THE DATE



**March 5th**

## Confirmation II Dinner

**May 4th**



**May 7th - 10:30 AM**

## Intercessory Prayer Service

At the Intercessory Prayer Service, we faithfully pray for your loved ones each Tuesday morning at 9:30 am in the Chapel. If you have a request for prayer, please fill out the yellow "Prayer Request" card in the back of the pew and place it in the offering plate or give it to an usher or minister. All matters of prayer are strictly confidential. All are invited to join us in the work of prayer each Tuesday morning.

## 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, March 4, April 1, and May 6 at 8:00 am at the Carle Place Diner. No reservations needed - just show up.**



**Looking for a new way to serve God and the community this year?**

**Join our Sandwich Sunday Snack Bags Ministry**

Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> - 11:30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Gardner Hall (after worship)



We have missed participating in this activity but we can finally make snack bags for the Interfaith Nutrition Network (INN). Please join us as we help this worthy cause.

**All are welcome to attend**

Children are welcome to decorate bags (little children) and sort snacks/drinks/napkins (older children), while teens/adults make and check bags.

Get INNvolved:

Please use the sign-up genius to help out

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-sandwich11>

Volunteers needed for each Snack Bag Sunday to:

Donate non-perishable food items, such as paper goods, snacks or waters, and make snack bags

Drive completed snack bags to the INN in Hempstead on Monday morning

For questions, contact the church office at (516) 746-1700

Thank you for your generosity and assistance to help the Garden City Community Church provide snack bags for guests at the INN!



*Serving Hungry and Homeless Long Islanders*

**WE ARE**  
**INN** **OF BABY DIAPERS**  
**NEED**

THE INTERFAITH NUTRITION NETWORK IS IN NEED  
OF DISPOSABLE BABY DIAPERS & PULL-UPS  
(ALL SIZES)  
& OTHER BABY SUPPLIES (BABY WIPES,  
FORMULA, BABY BOTTLES, BABY SHAMPOO,  
LOTION & DIAPER RASH CREAM)

PLEASE JOIN US ON: SUNDAY, APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup> IN  
GARDNER HALL (AFTER THE 10:30 AM SERVICE)  
AS WE SORT OUR COLLECTED ITEMS

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL: [JESSICA DOWD-WILDE](mailto:JESSICA.DOWDWILDE@GMAIL.COM)  
[JESSICA.DOWDWILDE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JESSICA.DOWDWILDE@GMAIL.COM)

[WWW.THE-INN.ORG](http://WWW.THE-INN.ORG)



*Serving Hungry and Homeless Long Islanders  
with Dignity, Respect, and Love*

**GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH  
2023 PLANT SALE & CAR WASH**

**SATURDAY, MAY 13<sup>TH</sup> FROM 8AM-12PM**



*Please come out to help support our Mission Trip to Lexington County, SC this summer by getting your car washed, purchasing beautiful plants, and our bake sale items. One stop shopping - it can't be beat!*

*All proceeds of the Plant Sale and Car Wash go towards the 2023 Mission Trip to Lexington County, SC*

*Held Rain or Shine*



# LONG ISLAND COUNCIL OF CHURCH FOOD CENTER



WE HAVE BI-WEEKLY COLLECTIONS OF NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS WHICH WE DELIVER TO THE FOOD CENTER.

OUR NEXT DATES TO DROP OFF YOUR DONATIONS ARE:

FEB. 22, MAR. 8 & 22, APR. 5 & 19 AND MAY 3, 17, 31

WE ASK THAT YOU DROP OFF YOUR ITEMS ON THE WHITEHALL BLVD. PORCH BEFORE NOON ON THE DAYS ABOVE

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A DRIVER AND TAKE THE ITEMS TO THE FOOD CENTER YOU CAN SIGN UP HERE:

[HTTPS://WWW.SIGNUPGENIUS.COM/GO/904084BACAD2EAA8-20233](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-20233)

## Family Programming

We are working on bringing more family-oriented programming to the congregation. We have ice skating coming up on March 4<sup>th</sup> and bowling planned soon after. We would love families to join us in creating this time and space for community bonding. There are definitely more programs coming and if you have activities you would like to see please feel free to reach out. If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please email Amanda Dias at [adas@thegccc.org](mailto:adas@thegccc.org).



## Sunday School

The Sunday School continues to grow and thrive every week. It is never too late to enroll your child! We have some fun event planned for the rest of the Sunday School Year including fun activities for Lent. The last day of classes will be June 4<sup>th</sup> and we will be having a Picnic Day on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Please join us our adventures in learning about the bible.

For more information or to get more involved please contact Amanda Dias at [adas@thegccc.org](mailto:adas@thegccc.org).

## Middle School Youth Group

The Middle School Youth Group is still going strong. We have a core group of attendees that make every week fun and enlightening. Of course, it is never too late to join us!

We are still meeting every other week. We are also looking to have more outings like the Haunted House we went to last year, so stay tuned.

If you have any questions please reach out to Amanda Dias at [adas@thegccc.org](mailto:adas@thegccc.org).



## High School Youth Group

We are slowly building up our high school youth group. We have people signed up and willing to start. However, we will need another chaperone. We are looking for someone who has a passion for working with the youths and can spare one weeknight a month to this cause. We are looking to start the group ASAP so if you can please consider working in this ministry. For more information or to get involved please contact Amanda Dias at [adas@thegccc.org](mailto:adas@thegccc.org).

## College Aged Youth

Calling all college aged youth! If you are looking to hang out this summer when you are home from college, come hang out with us! See what all your friends have been up to. If you are interested in getting a group started, please contact Amanda Dias at [adas@thegccc.org](mailto:adas@thegccc.org).

## VBS (Vacation Bible School)

This Years VBS will be a little different. We are always trying to find new and innovative ways to keep families engaged and we think that this year's Summerama. We will be holding 4 weekly sessions in the summer. Our theme is Hero Hotline. More information to come soon so be on the lookout. For more information or to get involved please email Amanda Dias at [adas@thegccc.org](mailto:adas@thegccc.org).

## Middle School Youth Group

Upcoming Meetings—Sundays 6:00 pm in the Youth Lounge

February 19, March 5, March 19



For more information contact Amanda Dias at [adias@thegccc.org](mailto:adias@thegccc.org)

### 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.



Join us for our  
Easter Egg Hunt after  
our 9:00am Easter  
Sunday Service



### Deaths

Beverly Ahlberg (Rev. Ahlberg's wife) - December 26, 2022  
Alfred Urban—February 2, 2023  
Jerald Mooney (Liz Galzerano's father) -February 9. 2023

### **VBS (Vacation Bible School) Volunteers Needed**

Interested in helping out - Contact Amanda Dias at  
[adias@thegccc.org](mailto:adias@thegccc.org)

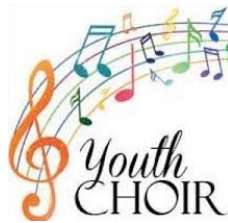


## Musical Ensembles

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