

Connections

November 2020

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

Pastor's Message

"Why are you putting me to the test?" Matthew 22: 18

Throughout September and October, the lectionary text directed us to parables where the Jewish Leaders were trying to discredit Jesus. Jesus always answered their questions with clever responses and added parables to show them how far they are from the Kingdom of God.

I have heard many people say that they thought God was testing them during these past seven months when our lives have been uprooted due to COVID-19. This will be a point to ponder for years to come. I am not sure God has used this Pandemic to test us, but I do believe we will have to answer to God what we have been doing with our time. Our church has lived our Purpose Statement: **Faithfully Reaching Out, Inclusively Drawing In**, as we welcomed new people into our Bible Studies, Book Discussions, Social Justice Discussions, Worship and Prayer Services. We have gone the extra mile with food distributions, clothing drives, mask making and contacting our members and friends. We have been active as we Brought the Church to the People in creative ways.

This Thanksgiving Eve, our Service will be Live-Streamed. Our Theme will be: PAUSING AND PRAYING DURING A PANDEMIC. Donna Mongiardo and Chris Dieguez will share from their hearts what these past eight months have meant to them. Log on through the website or Facebook at 8:00 pm.

Our Advent Theme will be: PREPARE YE. Each week we will learn how to prepare for the sacred birth by: Pondering, Praying, Praising and Proclaiming. Stay tuned for some wonderful opportunities to grow in God's grace.

Let us use these final weeks of 2020 to Reconnect with God. Take advantage of the many programs we are offering to feel God's Holy Spirit and act upon it. What is our Purpose, and how are we Going into the World?

Blessings,



Senior Pastor

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- & much more!!

Worship Schedule

Sundays

10:30 AM
Livestream & In-person

Tuesdays

Intercessory
Prayer Service
9:30 AM
Conference Call

Wednesdays

8 PM

GRATITUDE GROWS!

- Our COT leadership and Committee Chairs: Janet Martens, Cindy Campbell, Paula Tusiani-Eng, Christine Hanson for their love and commitment
- Stewardship Committee: Kirsten Bahlke, Robin Laisure, Andrew Ellis, Laura Sullivan
- Kimberly Pauley's labor of love in the Giving Garden.
- Drivers to the LICC Emergency Food Pantry: Marion Levins, Kathy Yoo, Janet Martens, Paula Tusiani-Eng, Brad Gustavson, Mary Dewar, Andy and Nancy Morreale, John Feyrer, Peg Mainusch, Linda Schroeder, Lisa Goettelmann, Joanne Pennecke
- Confirmation 2 Leaders: Chris Dieguez, Christine Hanson, Laura Baymack, Rev. Lynn Sullivan.
- Confirmation 1 Leaders: Chris Dieguez, Christine Meringolo, Kenny Martens, Susie Henriquez, Rev. Lynn Sullivan
- Mico Faella and the search committee's progress for our Associate Pastor
- Anne Short and Janet Martens for their flowers on Sunday, and Janet for decorating the altar with the Fall harvest theme. Mico Faella for beginning her work on the Christmas decorations.
- Confirmation 1 and 2 Classes made over 600 snack bags for the INN. Thank you Tina Palmer, and her Sandwich Sunday committee for coordinating this wonderful project
- Confirmation 3 Class for making 30 individual Italian Meal Kits for the INN
- The clothing Drivers are: Diana Clarke, Carole Halvorsen, Steve Haussel, Skip Laisure, Drew Hult, Cindy Campbell
- Everyone that helped load, unload and deliver our donated clothes to SAVERS: Cindy Campbell, Liz Bonchonsky, Marcia Matzelle, Celia Petersen, Laura Lanning, Joe Rivera, George Bashian, Jim Burdi, Amy & Matt McCoy
- Cindy Campbell for all her behind the scenes help with the Clothing Drive Fundraiser
- Everyone that donated clothes for our Fundraiser
- Peg Mainusch for the use of her garage to keep the bags of clothing until the drop-off date
- Our mask makers: Janet Martens, Jill Mennicken, Margie Price, Faith Short, Paula Tusiani-Eng (Sarah and Emily), Liz Hux, and Ruth Randi
- Mary & Peter Clarke for donating 2 chairs and a love seat for our hallway
- Melva Victorino for all her contributions to the Garden City News
- Barbara Nelson for her help with all our church mailings
- Marion Levins for her help with getting this Newsletter ready for mailing

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.

ON-LINE GIVING UPDATE

Garden City Community Church has recently 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 new 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

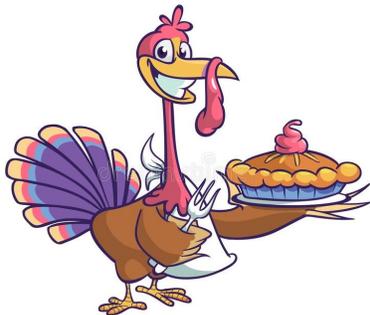
<https://gardencitycommunitychurch.org>

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.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

Worship service will be Live-Streamed

The link will be on the website.



Please join us, for lots of surprises

November 25th at 8:00 PM



SUNDAY 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICES HAVE RE-OPENED

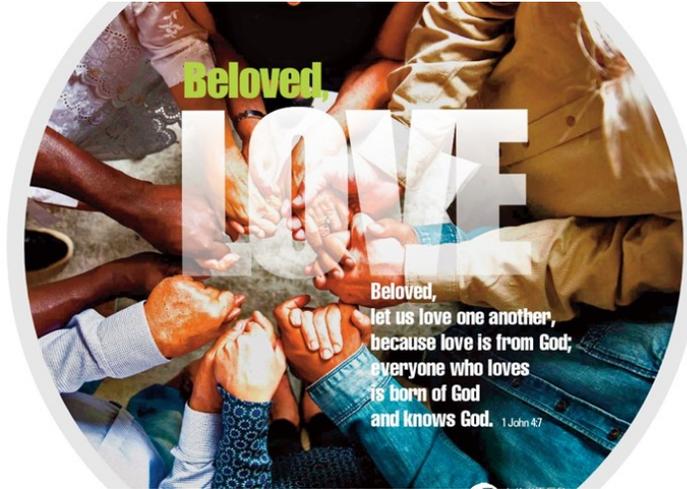
We have on-line registration forms that need to be filled out if you wish to attend the service. COVID related questions will be on the form. The link to the form will be on the Wed. and Fri. e-blasts the week before the service. Contact the church office for more information. If you are unable to register online, contact the church to register.

TUESDAY PRAYER SERVICE CONTINUES

We continue to hold the Prayer Services via Conference call each Tuesday morning at 9:30 am Please email the church office, George Bashian or Rev. Lynn Sullivan if you have a prayer request. All requests are kept confidential. If you want to join the call the number is 1+ (712) 770-4598 Access code 877848.

INN BIN REQUEST

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



GCCC Annual Stewardship Campaign

November 8th to November 22nd

Pledge online any time

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

Garden City Community Church Awarded a \$50,000 Grant

We are thrilled to announce that Christian Theological Seminary (CTS) has awarded the Garden City Community Church a grant for its clergy renewal program funded through the 2020 Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program. This will fund Rev. Lynn Sullivan's sabbatical, and create programs at the church in her absence. The Sabbatical Committee was headed by Paul Cohn with Janet Martens and Paula Tusiani-Eng offering their support and resources. This program was presented at the June Town Hall Zoom meeting. Below is what the church will do in Lynn's absence, based on Romans 11:16-20:

During her absence, the Church intends to invite clergy from the diverse NY Metro Association to lead worship services. The Church will encourage these ministers to include musical, liturgical dance, and other elements of worship in the services they lead with a goal of discerning how different types of worship connect with people in ways beyond our current experience. The Church will enhance its Vacation Bible School program (or launch a new comparable program), which currently includes church members and folks from neighboring communities, to connect in new ways and increase connections to a broader community. The Church will add and enhance music, drama and other offerings directed at expanding the families that join us. During the sabbatical, the Church will also invite the General Minister and President of United Church of Christ to share with the Church ways churches can strengthen and expand connections in a changing world. The connections between the Congregation and Lynn's sabbatical will be reinforced through a church-wide dinner after she returns at which she will share some of the learnings and new ideas that came out of her sabbatical and the Church will share its experiences, challenges and growth during her absence.

Congratulations to the Church and to Lynn for this prestigious award. If you are interested in being on the committee to bring these programs to fruition, please contact the office.



The theme for Advent is PREPARE YE, with each week focusing on Pondering, Praying, Praising, and Proclaiming. We hope this devotional booklet will help keep you and your family centered. Below are some giving and worship opportunities that we hope you will mark on your calendar. Details are in the Nov./Dec. newsletter and website. Contact the church office if you have any questions.

Worship: Sundays at 10:30 am*
 Wednesdays at 8:00 pm

Dec. 13 Vespers Service Live-Streamed via website – 4:30 pm

Christmas Week: Wednesday, Dec 23rd at 8:00 pm

 Thursday, Dec. 24 Family Service on the lawn 4:30 pm (each family stands by a star – Rain or Shine)

 Thursday, Dec. 24 Candlelight Communion 8:00 pm – Live-streamed

 Sunday, Dec. 27 10:30 am – Sanctuary service - Come as you are

 Wednesday, Dec. 30 - No service

Advent Seasonal Opportunities

Dec. 1,2,3 Decorating the church

Dec. 2,16,30 LICC Food Collections

Dec. 5 Tree Sale 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Dec. 7 Deadline for ordering Christmas flowers in memory or honor of loved ones

Dec. 13 Deadline for our gifts for the children at the Nueva Vida Presbyterian Church

Dec. 13 Deadline for our gifts to the Christmas Program at Bedford Hills Prison

Dec. 13 Deadline for the hat & mitten tree donations for the INN: socks, hats, gloves, scarfs, gloves and mittens

Dec. 24 Bring Homemade Hygiene Kits to Christmas Eve Family Service

TBD DIY (Do it Yourself) Advent Calendar Boxes

TBD Gift Wrapping for Belmont Child Assoc.

TBD 'New Coat Drive' for Anna's House

TBD Diapers & Layette Items Donation

TBD Pizza Day Contributions for the INN

TBD INN Snack Bags Project

* You will need to pre-register if you want to attend this service in person. Check the weekly e-blast for the link to the registration form.



CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

Just as we are getting ready to give thanks in November, we are also already hard at work preparing to celebrate Jesus' birth throughout advent and leading up to Christmas. And this year, as you know, it will all look a bit different but will be no less meaningful and spiritual.

This year we are very excited to share a different Christmas Eve Family Service at 4:30 on December 24, 2020. Just as much of the story of Jesus' birth takes place outdoors, so will our service. We will meet, socially distanced on the front lawn of church, gathering around stars to light our way. Families will have the opportunity to bring the story of Jesus' birth to life by interacting with 6 foot nativity figures across the lawn.

For our offering this year, in the spirit of the struggles the Holy Family encountered, we invite everyone attending worship to bring a hygiene kit that can be shared with those who have been displaced due to disaster, violence, or poverty. These kits should be assembled in 1 gallon plastic zipper bags and include the following items:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 15" x 28" to 16" x 32" (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb removed from the package
- One fingernail or toenail clipper removed from the package (either one is acceptable)
- One bath-size bar of soap in the original package
- One toothbrush in the original package

Ten standard size Band-Aids

Throughout Advent we will have Pondered, Prayed, and Praised our way through the Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace of the season. And on Christmas Eve we get to Proclaim the Good News of the birth of Jesus Christ with each other and to all those that pass by and see the light of the stars we will worship around. We look forward to celebrating the blessing of Jesus' birth with you!



DIY (Do it Yourself) Advent Calendar Boxes



This year for Advent we are offering DIY Advent Calendar Boxes to the congregation. Knowing that we can't all be together for services every week, this is something we can do in our own homes that can connect us together during the continued social distancing.

Each box will contain pre-cut fabric and all the supplies needed to make a 5-week, re-useable Advent Calendar wall hanging. The liturgy used in worship each week for the Advent Candle-Lighting will also be included in the box so that we may share in that time together, even though we may not all be in the same space.

We invite each household to participate in this new Advent experience. If you would like a DIY Advent Calendar Box, please fill out this REGISTRATION FORM at <https://gcc.breezechms.com/form/80fa89> or contact the church office and we will have one ready for you. The Boxes will be available for pick up the week before Thanksgiving.



CRAFTY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We will be putting together our DIY Advent Calendar Boxes on Sunday, November 15th, at 12:30 at the church. We are looking for some volunteers who are handy with scissors and would be willing to fellowship for an hour or two to join us in cutting out fabric and assembling the Boxes that we will be making available to the congregation.

If you are interested, you can fill out the volunteer information on the DIY Advent Calendar Box REGISTRATION FORM at <https://gcc.breezechms.com/form/80fa89> or contact Margie Price at margie@thegccc.org



ATTENTION ALL CHURCH MEMBERS!

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

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we must stagger the decorating teams this year.

Please let us know if a family/friend team is interested in decorating on either December 1, 2 or 3

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

Once your team(s) are confirmed, all volunteers will be emailed a formal Sanctuary Decorating Registration Form (with COVID-19 related questions) before your scheduled day/time.

We look forward to hearing from you!



Christmas Tree Sale- Dec 5th!

Please mark you calendars now for our annual Christmas Tree Sale! The sale will be on the morning of Dec 5th. All youth who are in Confirmation through 12th grade will be invited to help with the receiving of the trees and sale preparations on Friday Dec 4th, and with the sale on Saturday morning. Although there will be no sleep over component this year there will still be lots to do and many hands make light work. A sign up genius will be sent out closer to the date!



Hat and Mitten Tree

Our tradition of loading up the mitten tree lives on. Please bring your contribution of New Hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and socks to the church. Items will be donated to the INN. Please drop off your items by Sunday, December 13th.



We invite you to have Christmas flowers placed in the church in memory or in honor of loved ones. If you would like to contribute, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office no later than

Monday, December 7

Given in loving memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____



Gifts for the Children at Nueva Vida Presbyterian Church

We will once again be supporting the children of the Nueva Vida Presbyterian Church by donating gifts for Christmas. See the list below for the gender and age of a child to purchase a gift for. Once you have chosen a child, let us know so that we can give you the child's name for the gift tag. Then return the wrapped present (with gift tag) to the church no later than Sunday, December 13th. For more information, please contact the church.

Girls Ages

1 year 7 months (one girl)
 2 years 8 months (one girl)
 3 years (2 girls)
 9 years (2 girls)
 10 years (2 girls)
 12 years (one girl)
 13 year (2 girls)
 14 years (3 girls)
 15 years (one girl)

Boys Ages

3 years (one boy)
 5 years (2 boys)
 7 years (one boy)
 8 years (3 boys)
 9 years (3 boys)
 13 years (one boy)



Upcoming Advent Events

Ordering Christmas flowers for the church
 DIY (Do it Yourself) Advent Calendar Boxes
 Decorate the Church for Christmas
 Hygiene Kits -Family Christmas Eve Service
 Bedford Hills unwrapped gift drop off
 Hat & Mitten Tree Donation
 Giving Tree - Nueva Vida Church
 LICC Food Collections
 INN Snack Bags Project
 Christmas Tree Sale

Possible Additional Projects

Watch e-blasts for more info

Gift Wrapping for Belmont Child Assoc.
 'New Coat Drive' for Anna's House
 Diapers & Layette Items Donation
 Pizza Day Contribution for the INN

Baptisms

Jonathan William Henchy—October 4, 2020
 Mia Lucia Manno—October 18, 2020



Deaths

Bill Chesney September 21, 2020 (Ruth Randi's father)
 Graham Rose (Nancy's husband & Virginia's father)

Church Services

Sundays 10:30 am—in person or livestream
 Wednesdays 8:00 pm—zoom
 Vespers Service —Dec. 13 Livestream—4:30 pm

Christmas Week

Thursday, Dec 24 Family Service 4:30 pm (rain or shine)
 Thursday, Dec 24 Candlelight Communion :8:00 PM Livestream
 Sunday, December 27 10:30 Sanctuary Service—Come as you are
 Wednesday, December 30—No service

WE ARE COLLECTING GIFTS FOR CHILDREN OF MOTHERS AT THE BEDFORD HILLS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

On Sunday, December 13, we will continue the tradition of collecting NEW, UNWRAPPED gifts for the children of mothers incarcerated at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. Please use the enclosed "Wish List" to choose your donations. Bring gifts to church by December 13th. Checks may be sent to the Church Office.

This year, they anticipate over 200 mothers will select gifts for over 500 children, as well as providing gifts to correctional facilities across New York State so that many more incarcerated parents can give gifts to their children during the holidays.

The Parenting Center at Bedford Hills Holiday Program Wish List

(NEW and UNWRAPPED Items Only, Please)

Ages 0-2: V-Tech (6-36 months – we need 26 of the same type);

Clothing: for Newborns to 4T (No Blue, Black, Orange, Gray); Baby Blankets (Toddler Size - No Solid Colors of Blue, Black, Orange, Gray); Rattles; Teething Rings (NUBY Brand); Muslin Swaddles; Winter Hats (Newborn – 1 year); Stacking Cups/Rings; Baby Einstein or Fisher Price Toys; Shape Sorters

Ages 3-5: Large Trucks; Baby Alive Dolls; Disney Frozen Character Items; Crafts Sets; Baby Dolls; Disney Princess Dolls

Ages 6-10: Legos; K'Nex/Playmobile; Barbie/Bratz/Monster High Dolls; Trucks; Transformers; Action Figures - Captain America, Stars Wars, Superman, etc.; Matchbook Tracks and Car Sets; Plastic Knitting and Crocheting Kits; Cranium, Brain Quest; Painting and Art Sets; 3D Glasses and Books; Train Sets; Card Games such as: Skip Bo, Uno and Monopoly

Ages 11-17: Craft Kits; Sports Balls - Basketball, Soccer, Football; Baseballs, Mitts (No Bats); Chess and Checker Games; Friendship Bracelet Kits; How to Knit/Crochet Books; Make-Up Kits Only (No Mirror or Glass); Burt's Bees Lip Gloss; Burt's Bees Shower Gel And Body Wash (No Alcohol in Ingredient List); Wallets (boys and girls), Burt's Bees Face Wash; Sunglasses (No Bling); Headphones/Ear Buds; Watches (Analog only and No Bling); Board Games for Ages 10 and Up such as: Apples to Apples, Life, Trivial Pursuit (Adult and Children Versions) etc.; Leather Bracelets; Musical Instruments (No Recorders)

ITEMS ALWAYS NEEDED FOR HOUR NURSERY MOMS (New or Gently Used) Strollers; Pack 'N Plays; Baby Swings; Bouncing Chairs; Medela Breast Pumps and Accessories; "Boppy" Pillows and New Car Seats

NONE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE ALLOWED: Glass, scissors, sharp objects, pencil sharpeners, mirrors, clay, Play-Doh, items that promote violence, teen/adult clothing, electronics, DVDs, no rhinestones on watches or toys, metal or items in tins; wooden toys, soft dolls or stuffed animals.

All donations are tax deductible

We gratefully accept check donations – please make checks out to: **THE HOUR CHILDREN PARENTING CENTER**

Please bring items to the Church Office **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 13.**

Mission Trip 2021

The Mission Trip Committee is meeting and discussing what is possible for the summer of 2021. Please stay tuned for updates. Tracey Lawson- tlawson@optonline.net

ABS—ADVENTURE BIBLE SCHOOL

We're back! On October 18th, 2020, Katie Masters and I started a 6-week session of ABS that will take us to November 22nd, 2020, right before Thanksgiving. We gather by Zoom at 12:30 each week and spend time enjoying each other's company, learning about God, and having fun along the way. Each week we all start out together, sharing our weeks together and praying together. Then we split into different classrooms for lessons so we can better tailor our lessons to meet the needs of our children. Each child was provided an ABS Activity Kit with all of the supplies they need for the 6-week session, along with little trinkets, just for fun, and face masks, for safety.

All in all, we're having a great time together learning about God's love and how we can better serve God.

We're looking forward to Advent, too. We have planned DIY Advent Calendars that we will all be making at home. Each week we will be adding new candles and ornaments to our calendar during ABS so we can remember the Hope, Love, Joy and Peace of Advent as we Ponder, Pray, Praise, and Proclaim our way through the season. Stay tuned for that registration. We can't wait to share this time with your children.

Blessings,
Margie Price

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 Ms. Margie Price. 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 24, 2021—zoom meeting

January 31, 2021—zoom meeting

February 7, 2021—zoom meeting

February 28, 2021- (in-person meeting)

We will share Communion together during worship on **March 7th, 2021**.

More information will follow and registration will open in January.

YOUTH GROUP

As with so many other things, Youth Group is looking very different this year, too. But we're still moving forward and still meeting with our youth to share times of fellowship and discussion: making those important connections between God, our Faith, and all of those things we encounter in our everyday lives.

Youth group is taking place primarily through Zoom and is meeting every other week through the end of the year. The schedule is as follows:

October 4, 2020 - Fall Kick Off Game Night

October 18, 2020 - "Thanos Did Nothing Wrong:" A Meme with a Meaning

November 1, 2020 - Together Again (In Person)

November 15, 2020 - Zacchaeus and the Mandalorian

December 6, 2020 - Will Advent Bring Us Something New?

December 20, 2020 - Youth Group Christmas Party

Most of the meetings will take place from 8:00PM – 9:00PM through Zoom. The November 1st meeting was the one exception, as an in-person, socially-distanced meeting. Safety is our biggest concern during these times and, in all we do, we strive to ensure our youth and our leaders while sharing fellowship and God's love with each other.

We look forward to our remaining meetings this year and planning for the meetings to come in the new year!

Blessings,
Youth Group Leadership

MIDDLE SCHOOL GROUP

HEY PARENTS AND STUDENTS! MIDDLE SCHOOL GROUP (6TH-8TH GRADE) WILL BE RESUMING THIS FALL ON SUNDAYS AT 2PM. WE WILL BE MEETING BIWEEKLY ON NOVEMBER 8TH AND 22ND, AND DECEMBER 6TH AND 20TH

CHRIS

Confirmation 1 (8th Grade) and Confirmation 2 (9th Grade)

Confirmation 1 – Mondays at 7:30 PM

Confirmation 2 – Tuesdays at 8:30 PM

If you have not registered your child in the program yet, please contact the office.

BI-WEEKLY FOOD COLLECTIONS FOR THE LICC EMERGENCY FOOD CENTER

We have been collecting non-perishable food items the past few months 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 cereal, canned vegetables and fruits, and shelf stable milk. We are also in need of drivers to take the food to the food pantry. Our next few scheduled donation days are: November 18, December 2, December 16 and December 30. Donations should be left on the Whitehall porch before noon on the dates mentioned above.

If you want to sign up to be a driver to deliver the food to the pantry on one of our donation days, please go to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084bacad2eaa8-licc>

GCCC 2020 Information Form & Directory Update

In our last newsletter we sent out forms to help us update our Church information . Thanks to those that have already sent back their forms. If you haven't filled out a form yet, please do so. The forms are available through our e-blasts or you can call the church office to receive one. This information will only be used for church purposes and it will be kept private and not shared. You also have the choice to 'opt in or out' of the church wide directory.



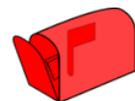
HAVE YOU CHANGED ANY OF YOUR CORRESPONDENCE INFORMATION LATELY?

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!



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



For Such a Time as This” Esther 4:14

By Melva Victorino

Since last March, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the emergency financial needs of many who serve the church have increased dramatically. In the early months of the pandemic, the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, which administers this funds, experienced a 400% increase in requests for emergency grants over the previous year. Over the past nine months, the needs have been greater, but thanks to the generosity of more than 275 donors to urgent appeals for assistance was granted.

The success and sustainability of the United Church of Christ's national ministries is relying on our gifts to the basic operating support and mission. Our church is a leader in providing support to Our Church's Wider Mission and the Special Mission Offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen The Church, Neighbors In Need and The Christmas Fund.

One of these special mission offerings is the Christmas Fund that each one of us give as an act of compassion for the active and retired clergy, church workers and their families. This Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, by providing heat and safe homes and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. These difficult times make the need for the Christmas Fund more urgent than ever.

Churches and members such as GCCC have blessed the Christmas Fund with generosity for many years. This year, our care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need.

“For Such a Time as This,” the need for the Christmas Fund is more urgent than ever. As part of our yearly gifts to others, this Thanksgiving and the Advent Season, GCCC is dedicating on Sunday, November 29th a time to share our blessings with others to help to give the joy of a Thanksgiving dinner to a family, the gift of hope to supplements the financial expenses during illnesses and deaths, the unexpected gift peace knowing that they are not alone.

As an alternative to envelopes this year, please consider to donate directly and securely at www.christmasfund.org. The “Donate” button will link to a clear and secure online option. We can donate anytime, even after November 29.

Most of the donors who responded to these special emergency appeals were older persons and nearly half were first-time contributors to the Christmas Fund. Many are also themselves recipients of Ministerial Assistance.

We will never know how it feels to receive such gift until we are a recipient ourselves, as one retiree shared, “I must tell you that before I opened the envelope with the check I prayed that whatever the contents, that somehow I would make the days to come work . . . and when I opened that envelope with a great amount of trepidation, I could not believe my eyes that you and your Committee granted me even more than I had requested! I am still in shock, and still feeling so very grateful as I sit down with that fear off my shoulders.” He further exclaimed, “Wow, what can I say but a very humble thank you. This is tremendously generous gift and I never, ever expected it. The best I had hoped for was to cover my recent medical bill. I am surprised and tearfully grateful.”

Another retired clergy expressed her gratitude, “The emergency grant money arrived in last night's mail. THANK YOU to all who approved this emergency grant. I will be able to pay back loans that were made to make rent. We will also be able to supplement our rent money for quite some time until greater income starts coming in. We are hopeful those days will come.” Tearfully, she showed her gratitude, “I’m speechless - Thank you all so very, very much! Keeping you all in my prayers. May the gift of your generous blessing spread wide and far.”

GCCC is a Giving Church and “**For Such a Time as This” Esther 4:14**, let us open our hearts to the cry of our siblings in Christ. May our love be born in us.

Update on the progress of the SEARCH AND CALL COMMITTEE FOR AN ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Dear Church Friends:

As the appointed Chair of the Search Committee for a Full Time Associate Minister, the following is a report on the initial progress of our committee.

We remain eager to move ahead to achieve our Church's goals. Unfortunately, due to personal issues, some of our critical Committee Members are not able to continue their service. The remaining members, listed below, continue to proceed on behalf of the church:

Michaela (Mico) Faella

Peter Clarke

Melva Victorino

Karin Melkonian

Melanie Ross

Doug Yasso

We are pleased to announce that we are now working on the FINAL draft of the Church Profile. The Church Profile gives potential candidates a feel for the size, resources and primary style and priorities in our Church's worship and ministries.

Thank you to the many Church Members who have returned their very thoughtful responses to our church-wide questionnaire. We very much appreciate your replies! If you still have not returned the survey, there is no time limit.

In conjunction with our Congregational Survey, please also be on the lookout for a "Welcoming Diversity Inventory Survey" which likely will be sent to all Congregation Members via an email blast or Survey Monkey. This new, recent UCC requirement for all UCC churches in a Search and Call mode must be sent out to the entire congregation, with your responses noted in the final Church Profile. When the results of that online survey are collated, the Rev. Gary Ferner (UCC Associate Conference Minister for Search and Call) will hold an online Zoom/conference call with members of our church to discuss what was learned from the survey responses. After that, the Church Profile will be signed and ultimately posted online.

I can be reached by email (micofaella@gmail.com) or by phone (516-650-4604) and sincerely welcome your input. Thanks to you all!

Respectfully submitted,

Mico Faella

Chair, Search and Call Committee for an Associate Pastor



It's Time to Register for NURSERY SCHOOL

Nursery School registration for the 2021/22 school year will begin in November.

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

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

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

We also offer some wonderful Enrichment programs to complement our Nursery program. Enrichment classes include Community Cooking, Great American Artists and Science Explorers Class.

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 2, 2020. There is a 10% discount on tuition for church members and for one child of families with two children enrolled. Open Registration begins on November 9th.

Check out our School Tour photo album to see all the fun activities. <https://photos.app.goo.gl/eYfHP8ta47CWe97X9>

You can email the school office to get a registration - gccnursery@gmail.com

Call Cathie McCullough, Director - 746-1756 or visit us on the web - www.gccnurseryschool.com if you have any questions.

The Right Amount of Help For Our Young Adult Children?

By Elizabeth Geiling, MSED, LMHC

Emerging Adulthood, defined as 18-25 years of age is a critical juncture in development that sets the stage for the transition into adulthood and independent living (Arnett, 2000). In the last several decades, the societal expectations for emerging adults has changed dramatically. Previously, these years included developmental milestones like leaving the parental home, acquiring a full time job, getting married, becoming a parent and assuming independent living.

Currently, the young adult is encouraged to embrace all the possibilities of what life might become and **take their time** figuring it all out! This shift has resulted in a prolonged dependence on their family of origin. This delay has been accompanied by a more intense, highly involved style of parenting that exists longer than any other generation to date (Furstenberg, 2015).

A common source of tension in most families is the continued financial dependence, whether it is college tuition, car insurance or the cell phone bill! It is estimated, that parents have shifted their greatest spending on their children during emerging adulthood (Kornich & Furstenberg, 2020). Ultimately, the final measure of parenting is launching your child into independent living, but this prolonged support impacts parental retirement. Keep in mind, there is no scholarship for retirement. For most parents today, due to many factors (economic, pandemic, career preparation), launching their young adult is taking longer and is more expensive than expected!

It leaves many parents asking the question on all levels, – **“how much am I supposed to help my grown up child?”** Do I give them money, do I help write a college paper, do I run their errands etc.? It seems that figuring out a healthy balance is a critical and complex task.

Some thoughts to consider while determining the “right amount of parenting”:

- Parents have a role to play in the emotional development of their young adult and continued guidance from parents is linked to positive outcomes.
- Parents offering assistance and willingness to discuss career options is helpful and linked to better young adult choices.
- Parenting that limits young adult autonomy interferes with college success, and the development of solid decision making skills.
- *Overparenting* can immobilize the young adult by creating dependence and an unwillingness to take initiative.
- A never ending level of financial support can impede the development of the self-control needed to attain and budget money successfully.

Most importantly, keep the dialogue open and recognize their developmental need for autonomy as you assume the most helpful role.

Betty Geiling counsels children, teens, adults, couples and families. To set an appointment with her or with any of our counselors or for more information, call LCC at 1-800-317-1173. For safety, all sessions are currently provided using a secure, HIPAA compliant virtual video and/or audio platform.