

Connections

February 2022

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

Abundant Prayer

Learn to be quiet enough to hear the sound of the genuine within yourself, so that you can hear it in other people.
Marian Wright Edelman

On my Study Tour to Israel with fellow Garden City Clergy, we made the trip to Bethlehem on the West Bank to see the place Jesus was born. Bethlehem today was probably very similar to the Bethlehem that greeted Mary and Joseph. Guards lined the streets in anticipation of someone thinking about getting out of line. An aura of unrest seemed to permeate the air. We stayed close to our Christian guide and didn't wander off.

In the heart of Bethlehem, just a few minutes' walk from Manger Square, there is a beautiful chapel of Margaret Sitti Mariam, "Grotto of the Lady Mary", commonly known as "the Milk Grotto". It is said that the Milk Grotto was the place where the Holy Family found shelter during the Slaughter of the Innocents, before their flight into Egypt. Mary and Joseph decided to stay there until they knew that their newborn baby, Jesus, would be safe from King Herod's soldiers. Legend has it that Mary and Joseph were in this grotto when the wise men visited them.

The grotto's name is derived from the belief, that a drop of Mary's milk fell down onto the ground of the cave and turned it completely white. In fact, the milky white rock covering the grotto's interior has a magical power. For ages, childless women of many religions have made a pilgrimage to the Milk Grotto, in order to ask for the gift of an offspring. Some of the pilgrims will take the stone powder with them and give it to the people who cannot have children.

As we wandered through the grotto we came to a chapel. It was closed off to the public, with a glass wall between us and the simple sacred space. There she was. A lone nun kneeling and praying with her back to us. She didn't move, like the Scotch Guards outside Queen Elizabeth's Palace. We learned that the nuns take four-hour shifts and pray in the Grotto's Chapel 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

The vision of this nun praying struck me. What was her prayer? Was she praying for the past, or praying towards the future? Imagine with me what it would feel like to begin the New Year in an intentional prayer. What would we be praying for? Perhaps it is to restore broken relationships, have a 'do-over' for that one stupid mistake. It might be a prayer of praise, to have gotten through another year. Prayers for health are always included in my prayer list. I suspect we would all be praying that the pandemic is behind us and we can return to normalcy, however we define it.

The Tuesday Morning Prayer Service decided years ago that before we pray for our family and friends for illness, cancer, grief, special intentions, spiritual help and homebound members we say our prayer of Thanksgiving. Acknowledging our thanks is a great way to begin our prayers as there is something each day to be grateful for.

It is my desire that we all begin 2022 praying. Pray for your family, your health, your jobs, your children. Then pray for our church. Pray that we accept the things that we cannot change, courage to change the things we can and the wisdom to know the difference. Pray that we can love one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time. Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; trusting that God will make all things right if we surrender to God's will; and that we may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy in the next with God. Yes, the Serenity Prayer is my prayer for you. Amen

Blessings,

Lynn

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Worship Schedule

Sundays

10:30 AM
Sanctuary

Tuesdays

Intercessory
Prayer Service
9:30 AM
Chapel

Wednesdays

Lenten Book Study
8 PM

Spiritual Coffeehouse
8:00 PM

See dates inside

Letter from our COT Chair, Robin Boyle Laisure

Dear Church members:

As we wrap up 2021, COT expresses gratitude for the various committees and volunteers who have put in a lot of time and effort. The detail of our busy year appears in the Annual Report, which is a collection of reports by COT and other committees, distributed at the Annual Meeting. Additional copies can be obtained from the Church office.

At the last meeting of COT, we reflected on the legacy provided to us by Paul Cohn. We expressed sorrow at having lost someone who was so committed to the Church.

Since Paul's passing, COT and the former search committee members met in a restorative circle to discuss pathways for bringing our working relationships closer together. We look forward to exploring with the rest of the church how to grow our church and build stronger relationships.

On March 13th, we will have an opportunity to do that. During service on that day, our officers will be installed, and our volunteers will be recognized. Then everyone will be invited downstairs to Gardner Hall for lunch. During that time, we will have an interactive session led by Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams, Associate Conference Minister, New York Conference. Please mark your calendars for March 13th. More information about your lunch reservation will be forthcoming.

In peace,

Robin Boyle Laisure, Chair of Council of Trustees

LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday—March 2

Noon, 4:30 pm and 8:00 pm

Spiritual Coffeehouse—March 9, 23—8:00 pm

Lenten Retreat—March 25 & March 26

March 25 7:30 pm & March 26 8:45 am

Lenten Book Study—March 16, 30, April 6, 13

8:00 pm

Palm Sunday— 4/10

10:30 am

Tuesday Prayer Service - 4/11

9:30 am

Maundy Thursday - 4/14

8:00 pm

Good Friday - 4/15

Noon and 4:30 pm - Family Service

Easter Sunday - 4/17

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

Spiritual Coffeehouse - 8:00 PM in the Chapel

February 9, March 9, March 23

This is an informal gathering where we spend 30 minutes together, exploring our Christian faith and expanding our spiritual community. We look forward to meeting you in our newly renovated Chapel. Come prepared to sing, share and become spiritually fulfilled.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

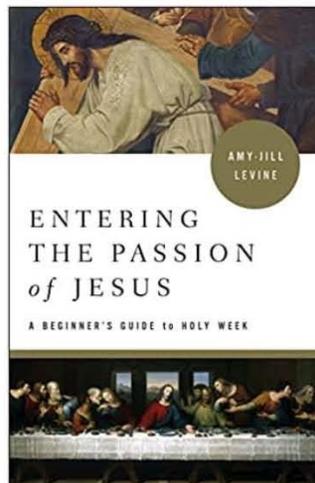
All men are invited for food and fellowship at the Carle Place Diner on Saturday, March 5th and Saturday, April 2nd at 8 am

WEDNESDAY LENTEN BOOK STUDY - 8:00 PM IN THE PARLOR

'Entering the Passion of Jesus, a beginners guide to Holy Week' by Amy -Jill Levine

February 16, March 16, March 30, April 6 and April 13

“Drawn to the Cross” – Lenten Theme
“Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner’s Guide to Holy Week ”
Lenten Bible Study to be Led by Rev. Lynn Sullivan and Prof. Susan Cushman



By Amy-Jill Levine

Jesus’ final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward. Jesus risked his reputation when he entered Jerusalem in a victory parade. He risked his life when he dared to teach in the Temple. His followers risked everything when they left behind their homes, or anointed him with costly perfume. In *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner’s Guide to Holy Week*, author, professor, and biblical scholar **Amy-Jill Levine** explores the biblical texts surrounding the **Passion story**. She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience. We will be looking into the history and literature surrounding the last days of Jesus’ life and analyze the risks and motives of the story’s characters as we travel through the triumphal entry into Jerusalem to Jesus’ prayerful agony in Gethsemane. It will provide a rich and challenging learning experience as we follow Jesus’ final days.

We take risks as we read and re-read these stories, finding new meanings and new challenges.

WE WILL MEET IN-PERSON IN THE PARLOR ON WEDNESDAYS AT 8:00 PM

- **February 16** – Introduction and Jerusalem: Risking Reputation
- **March 16** - The Temple: Risking Righteous Anger and Teachings: Risking Challenge
- **March 30** - The First Dinner: Risking Rejection
- **April 6** - The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends
- **April 13** - Gethsemane: Risking Temptation and Final Thoughts

Amy-Jill Levine, the author, is University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies and Mary Jane Werthan Professor of Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School and Department of Jewish Studies. In 2019 she became the first Jew to teach New Testament at Rome's Pontifical Biblical Institute. Professor Levine, who has done over 300 programs for churches, clergy groups, and seminaries, has been awarded grants from the Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the American Council of Learned Societies. Institutions granting her honorary degrees include Christian Theological Seminary and the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest.

The book is available at the church office for \$15. Please call or email Gloria at churchoffice@thegccc.org to arrange for pick up.

On March 2 we will have our Ash Wednesday Services. The Noon and 4:30 PM services will be in the Chapel and the 8:00 PM service will be in the Sanctuary.

Lenten Series Yoga & Meditation Offerings at the GCCC

**WEDNESDAYS 6-7PM
WITH ED YOO
MARCH 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
APRIL 6, 13**

**Classes take place in
the Chapel, adjacent to
the Kensington Rd.
entrance.**

**Fridays 9:30-10:30am
With Amy McCoy
March 4, 11, 18, 25**

**Saturdays 9:30-10:30am
With Ed Yoo
March 5, 12, 19, 26
April 2, 9**

**Suggested
Donation of
\$10 per class
cash or check at
the door**

**Classes are "All Levels"
Questions? Call Amy 516 551 9390**

WALK THE LABRYINTH

Labyrinth walking is an ancient practice used by many different faiths for spiritual centering, contemplation, and prayer. Entering the serpentine path of a labyrinth, you walk slowly while quieting your mind and focusing on a spiritual question or prayer. A labyrinth is not a maze. It has only one path to the center and back out. It has no blind alleys or dead ends as mazes have. The path twists and turns back on itself many times before reaching the center. Once at the center, there is only one way back out. The labyrinth symbolizes a journey to a predetermined destination (such as a pilgrimage to a holy site), or the journey through life from birth to spiritual awakening to death.



We have on loan a labyrinth from the Parish Resource Center and it will be available at the beginning of our Wednesday programs, and after church. Contact the office for other available dates and times.



'Lingering Grief, Whirling Hope' - A Lenten Retreat

Friday, March 25, 2022 & Saturday, March 26, 2022
7:30 pm – 9:00 pm 8:45 am – 1:00 pm
Garden City Community Church



Speaker: Rev. Dr. Susan Pizor-Yoder

Following our Lenten theme: *Drawn to the Cross*, Rev. Dr. Susan Pizor-Yoder invites us through an interactive retreat to openly share how grief and suffering are an inevitable part of the life, death, new life cycle that Christians claim as the central core belief of our faith. We will explore more deeply where the HOPE lies amidst all that is whirling around and in us.

Join us on Friday as we fellowship together, meeting our speaker and preparing for Saturday. On Saturday, we will have time to listen and respond to the ways we have been impacted by loss, sharing our stories and connecting to each other.

Recommended for those ages 18 and older.

Come early or stay late to walk the Labryinth.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____ Circle: cell home

Registration Fee: \$25.00 Under 30 and Over 80 years old registration fee: \$10.00
(Price includes speaker, hor d'oeuvres, continental breakfast and closing celebration)

****Both Men & Women are encouraged to attend. Donations being received: Hygiene Products****

Please make check payable to: **Garden City Community Church** and return form with payment by **Monday, March 14 to:**

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

**Or Register/pay online: <https://gccc.breezechms.com/form/45951635>
Any questions, contact Rev. Lynn Sullivan at: lsullivan@TheGCCC.org**

LENTEN BROCHURES AND FLYERS

The following brochures and flyers can be found on the Whitehall Conference desk:

Lenten Brochure

Meditation & Yoga

'Lingering Grief, Whirling Hope' - A Lenten Retreat

We mailed out the Lenten Devotional Brochure, 'Drawn to the Cross' to our church members. If you did not receive one, we have a limited amount of copies left in the church office.

Spiritual Coffeehouse

Join the Conversation



Are you looking to forge a spiritual connection? Do you feel like something is "missing" in your life? A new and innovative Christian-based gathering is happening at the Garden City Community Church.

Wednesday, February 9th at 7:30 pm was the premier of our Spiritual Coffeehouse, designed to strengthen your connection with God while building a spiritual community.

All are welcome! This is an informal gathering where we spend 30 minutes together, exploring our Christian faith and expanding our spiritual community.

We look forward to meeting you in our newly renovated Chapel. Come prepared to sing, share and become spiritually fulfilled. Our next scheduled meetings are: March 9th and 23rd at 8:00 PM.

Questions? Contact the Church Office at 516-746-1700 or Christine Hanson at sundayschoolgc@aol.com.

Installation of Officers and Church wide luncheon

March 13, 2022 after the 10:30 am service

Please join us for lunch in Gardner Hall as our officers will be installed, and our volunteers will be recognized. During that time, we will have an interactive session called 'Restorative Conversations' which will be led by Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams, Associate Conference Minister, NY Conference.



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 for more information

New Member Informational Meetings

We will be scheduling a meeting via Zoom in Mid-March for potential members interested in learning more about our church. We hope to have our New Member Sunday on April 24th. Please contact the office if you are interested so that we can send you the Zoom link for the meeting.

Updated Church Directories

Updated directories are available for church members/friends in the church office. Please contact the office if you would like one. If you already have one, and notice information that needs to be updated—please let us know that too.

3rd Grade Bible Class

Each year we run a 3rd grade Bible class as a little more in-depth introduction to the Bible for our 3rd graders before they are given their Bibles at the end of the school year on

June 12th Children's Sunday.

The classes are going to be on March 6, March 13, and March 27 from 9:15 am to 10:00 am in the Parlor.

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

For more information on the class contact Rev. Lynn Sullivan at

lsullivan@thegccc.org



Conflict cannot survive without participation

Middle School Group

Upcoming Meetings—Sundays 10:30 am during Church Service—Middle School Lounge

February 27, March 13, March 27, April 10, April 24, May 22, June 5, June 26



For more information contact Chris Dieguez at chris@thegccc.org

Lenten Choral Meditations



Our Minister of Music, Frank Crosio, will be once again 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.

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.

The 2021 Christmas Pageant & Upcoming Sunday School Lenten Information

Thank you to the parents and volunteers and Sunday School teachers who participated in the Christmas Pageant. The Christmas Pageant saw the usual cast of characters including Mary, Joseph, Two Wise Men and a Wise Boy, Dancing Angels, Shepherds and Processing Angels. Let's not forget our never-fail Donkey which did in fact make it down the aisle!

The sharing of gifts to the congregation was a special ending to the traditional Christmas story and the kids did a very nice job in reaching out to the entire Congregation, in true Christmas fashion.

For January and February, we will continue with our traditional Spark curriculum.

The First Day of Lent is Ash Wednesday, March 2. We will focus our lessons on the Bible stories leading up to Jesus' last days. We will look to have a traditional Lenten Walk for the students so look out for emails leading up to that event. The students will be the readers and we are always looking for volunteers.

The Lenten Walk will require mostly adult participation. We will need someone to play Jesus, the Disciples, and assorted characters such as Mary, an angel, etc. We will send out an email blast in March as we get closer to the date.

Please contact Christine Hanson at 516-375-4251 or email sundayschoolgc@aol.com for further information.

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, 2022.

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 in July.

Each session meets Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:15 - 12:15 - July 5 through July 28. 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.gcccnurseryschool.com or call the school office – 516-746-1756.

CHOIR NEWS

Our New Section Leaders 2021-2022



Joseph Demarest joined the choir last September as our new Tenor Section Leader. He has been active in choral ensembles, educational outreach, liturgical music, concerts, school musicals, recitals, operas and various other musical experiences with organizations such as the New York Virtuoso Singers, New York Choral Artists, New York City Opera, Verbier Music Festival (Switzerland), Opera Theater of St. Louis, Boston Lyric Opera, Connecticut Opera, and the Bard Music Festival. Joseph appears regularly with professional ensembles in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and the Brooklyn Academy of Music. Joseph has completed studies at the Hartt School, University of Hartford, the Boston University Opera Institute, and the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia.

Welcome Joseph!



Georgia Rehbock joined the choir in February as our new Soprano Section Leader. She graduated with a Master's Degree from the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, and a Bachelor's Degree from Long Island University-C.W Post. She has sung with the Newman Singers at Long Island University Chapel, the Queens College Choral Society, and served as a section leader at Westchester Community Unitarian Church in White Plains, and at Christ Church in Oyster Bay.

Welcome Georgia!!

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 or Jan Levine at jansteve64@optonline.net



EASTER MUSIC 2022

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, APRIL 1**

In memory of: _____

OR

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____



EASTER PLANTS 2022

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, APRIL 1**

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

In memory of: _____

OR

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____



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. **Thanks to all of you—we collected more than 520 non-perishable food items!!**



SAVE THE DATE



March 6th



**May 1st
10:30 AM**

Baptisms

Violet Olivia Dachtera—November 14, 2021

Daniel Robert Cox—November 20, 2021

Cameron Lee Delaney—December 26, 2021

CHURCH TABLES AND CHAIRS

Please do not borrow or remove table or chairs from the church without speaking to the church office first.

Deaths

Alice Brown—December 16, 2021

Mable Pochedly (Pam Rivera’s mother) - December 24,2021

Paul Cohn—January 15, 2022

Birthdays in a Box - Lenten Service Project

We are looking to help an organization called Birthday Wishes. They host birthday parties for children in shelters. During Lent we are looking to collect needed items for birthday boxes that are given to the children. Please bring your donations to the church.



For each box we need:

- Small pack of birthday plates (8 or 18 packs) - no solid colors
- Pack of birthday napkins (Usually 16 count) - no solid colors
- Pack of birthday hats (8 count)
- Pack of blowers (8 or 12 count)
- Happy Birthday banner
- Themed tablecloth
- 6 juice boxes (individual size)
- Cake Mix & Frosting

Drawn to the Cross

The Sunday School has put together a church-wide activity for Lent. It is called Drawn to the Cross and we invite all church members to participate.

On a posterboard in the church hallway, there will be a cross drawn on a posterboard. Each week, we invite members to put a post-it note on the cross with their name on it. The different color Post-it Notes will represent a different activity. The four activities are giving, praying, sharing and fasting. Some suggestions are:

FASTING - give up electronics or video games for part of a day, give up fast food for a day or give up desserts

SHARING - share a meal with a friend or stranger, share your time for a worthy cause, help a friend or family member with chores or something they need

PRAYING - say a prayer before a meal, pray before bedtime, thank God for something good in your life

GIVING - give your time and talents to those less fortunate or those in need or donate to a worthy cause

Join us for our

Easter Egg Hunt after
our 9:00am Easter
Sunday Service



VBS (Vacation Bible School) Volunteers Needed

Interested in helping out - Contact Christine Hanson at

sundayschoolgc@aol.com



Come and join us in
our newly
renovated Chapel