



Garden City Community Church Connections

September—November 2023

Building a community where all are enriched through Christian love, service, and spiritual renewal

Pastor's Message

Dear Friends...

By the time you read this we will already be in the month of September, only two months shy of Rev. Arlen's arrival as interim minister on November 1st. As we start a new church year, and a new chapter in the life of the church, opportunities abound for you to join in and help the church be the best it can be.

The summer has flown by with lots of wonderful plans rolling out for Sunday School with our Youth Ministry & Outreach Coordinator, Amanda Dias. Aside from weekly worship, Sunday School is probably the most important ministry a church does. Our commitment to spread the Gospel begins with our littlest ones. Such a commitment takes both parent involvement and helpers to provide quality lessons and activities to nurture faith. Volunteer to prepare a craft, help in the classroom one Sunday or lend a hand at one activity and you will be helping raise the next generation of Garden City Church members!

Confirmation too is starting up under Chris Dieguez's leadership with help from Amanda Dias. Something as easy as making phone calls to parents is a huge way of supporting our Confirmation team. For those of you who are looking for adventure, the Mission Trip will be here soon enough and you can sign on as a chaperone.

If you are looking for spiritual refreshment during the week, stop by our Prayer Service every Tuesday at 9:30am in the chapel. Drop in to pray for someone else or be prayed for! We can never have too many prayers or prayers!

Men, of all ages, if you are free the first Saturday of the month and up for good conversation, join the Men's group at the Carle Place Diner at 8am.

High-schoolers are welcome to learn how and actually help run the church livestream services every Sunday and even get credit for community service hours for it! All while getting the best seat in the house!

These are but a few ways to get involved but opportunities to serve God are limitless, if you have a willing spirit. Where is God leading you and your gifts in this wonderful church?

God bless you all,

Bonnie

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- Lions Club needs used eyeglasses
- Donate your time or talent
- Coffee & Craft event
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- Church Calendar
- & more

Worship Schedule

Sundays

10:30 AM
Sanctuary

Tuesdays

Intercessory
Prayer Service
9:30 AM
Chapel

WELCOME BACK!

Sunday, Sept. 17th is Welcome Day. Join us at 10:30 am as we ring in the next Sunday School year. We will be having a fun craft for the kids and a luncheon to follow the service. Please RSVP here to let us know if you are coming to the luncheon and/or can donate a side dish or dessert: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084bacad2eaa8-20235#/>

Sunday School Registration: We are excited to be starting another year of Sunday School! We had a wonderful group of students this past year and we are looking to grow. The Sunday School team is working to bring you fun and engaging activities inside the classroom and out. Children will come to the 10:30 am service and then be dismissed after the Children's message to go to class. All ages from 3 years old to 5th grade are welcome. Please register your child here: <https://gcc.breezechms.com/form/61c92f148127>

Interim Minister, Rev. Arlen Vernava

Our new interim minister, will be attending our 10:30 am Worship Service on Sunday, October 15th. Please join us and greet him at our fellowship hour. All are welcome to attend. His official start date with us is Wednesday, November 1st.



**Candlelight Christmas Concert
& Dinner—December 3rd 4:30 pm**

MEN'S BREAKFAST

All men are invited for food and fellowship at the Carle Place Diner on Saturday, September 2nd, October 7th, and November 4th at 8 am
Come and join us!

GENTLY USED FURNITURE NEEDED

We will be furnishing Arlen Vernava's apartment and are in need of donations. Arlen will be our interim minister. We need a queen size bed, kitchen items (e.g. dishes, pots and pans, etc.) nightstands, lamps, tv and linens. We have donations of a sofa, coffee table, tv stand, and side tables. Anything would be very much appreciated! Please contact Kirsten at cot-chair@thegccc.org. We will take donations at any time. Thank you in advance!

SCHOOL SUPPLY SERVICE PROJECT



Thanks to everyone that donated 'back to school supplies' so far. You still have time to drop off items. We are requesting backpacks, notebooks, rulers, calculators, binders, folders, packs of pens and pencils, pencil sharpeners, crayons (not assembled, loose items), memory sticks, glue sticks, index cards, binders, highlighters, sharpies, loose leaf paper, lunchboxes, art materials, binder dividers, protractors, pre-sharpened pencils, pencil bag, whiteout correction tape, sticky notes, heavy duty folders. There is a box inside the building at the Whitehall Blvd. door for your donations.

Tech Team

The Tech Team actively invites High School and college youth to join us in our efforts to bring the Sunday services to our home-bound and vacationing congregation (and for the curious visitors, too).

Our work takes place primarily on Sunday mornings, and encompasses the audio and visual aspects of producing and livestreaming our weekly services. There are also the occasional special services (weddings, memorials, baptisms, etc.) which take place on Saturdays, or the very rare weekday.

Time spent with us is considered service hours and students will receive community service certificates detailing the length and object of their work.

Working on the Tech Team also serves as a great learning opportunity for students to familiarize themselves with live streaming platforms, audio equipment, and cameras. We have had previous members use their experience on resumes for college and other opportunities.

If interested, please email the Church Office at churchoffice@thegccc.org and a member of the Tech Team will contact you.



OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT SEPTEMBER 16, 2023—6:30 PM

We will be showing Disney's *Moana*! Bring a blanket or a chair and enjoy a family friendly movie in the playscape. Kids from 1 to 100+ are welcome! RSVP here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084bacad2eaa8-outdoor>



WELCOME TO FORUMS 2023

**Join Us Every Last Sunday of the Month at 11:45 a.m.
in the Church Parlor**

September 24th - "The Power of Friendship" with Debbie Pecora

October 29th - Faith Journey

November 26th – Getting to Know You

Please contact Melva Victorino for more information:

melva130@optonline.net



Non-Perishable Food Donations Continue

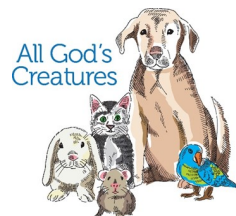
Unfortunately, there is still a great need for non-perishable food items to be donated to the Long Island Council of Churches Emergency Food Center. Our next collection dates are : September 6, 20, October 4, 18, and November 1, 15, and 29. Sign up to be a driver at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-20233>



Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 1, 2023

4:00pm Church Lawn



Bring any pet you wish to be blessed. All pets **must be leashed, in a cage or tank or a picture.** A member of the clergy will provide a blessing to all God's creatures.

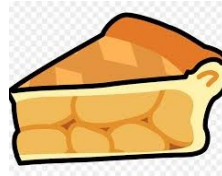
Time to make Apple Pies for the Americana Fair!

Sunday, October 22nd

11:30 am—12:15 pm (during coffee hour) We need 8-12 adults and teens to peel apples.

11:30 am—3:30 pm We need 3-4 baking assistants to help assemble pies. NO baking talent or experience necessary!

Contact Kimberly Pauley (516) 356-7301 (text) or email kfpauley3@gmail.com



Pumpkin Fest – October 29th

Join us on a crisp October afternoon (right after church service) to celebrate the autumn. We will have snacks and pumpkins! Look out for a Sign-Up Genius link coming soon.



Sunday School Halloween Party—October 29th

Halloween Dress-up! Come for Sunday School at 10:30 am in your Halloween costume for this not-so-spooky Halloween Party!



Confirmation I Class

The mandatory parent and student orientation meeting for the Confirmation I class will be on Sunday, September 17th at 7:30 pm in the Parlor. Classes will begin the week after Columbus Day on Monday, October 16th at 7:30 pm and will continue on Mondays through December 18th. Full calendars will be given out at the orientation meeting.



Americana Fair Drop-Off Schedule



If you are planning to donate items for our upcoming fair, here are the dates that we will be accepting donations:

Saturday, November 4th 10:00 AM—4:00 PM
Sunday, November 5th 11:30 AM—3:00 PM
Monday, November 6th 10:00 AM—4:00 PM
Tuesday, November 7th (Election Day) 10:00 AM—4:00 PM
Wednesday, November 8th 8:00 AM—4:00 PM
Thursday, November 9th 8:00 AM—4:00 PM

NO DROP-OFFS AFTER THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH

Middle School & High School Youth Groups



The Middle School youth group will begin on Sunday, October 1st from 6:00pm—7:00pm. Mark your calendars because the group meets every other week. We are looking forward to a great group of kids this year! We will explore our faith as well as enjoy fun activities. You can sign up here: <https://gcc.breezechms.com/form/61c92f14811991>

The High School youth group meets monthly beginning on Sunday, October 15th from 6:00pm—7:00pm. Register here: <https://gcc.breezechms.com/form/61c92f1481197689>

Exciting activities are planned for both groups including a trip to a haunted house on Oct. 15th!

Online Giving

Garden City Community Church has partnered with Breeze Church Management Systems to support our *Online Giving Initiative*. If you would like to set up recurring contributions or make a one time contribution to support our many ministries, please go to:

<https://gcccc.breezechms.com/login/create>

Giving can also be accessed through GCCC website via the “GIVE” button

<https://gardencitycommunitychurch.org>

Your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

If you have any questions please call Liz or Kim in the office (516)746-1700.

Used Eyeglasses & Hearing Aids Needed

Lions Club International is looking for donations of used eyeglasses and hearing aids. We have a box for these items in the church building hallway.

Any donations you can make will give someone a brighter future. We recently donated 26 pairs of eyeglasses and three sets of hearing aids. They were very appreciative of our donations.



Baptisms

Mackenzie Shea Edwards—July 16, 2023

Mateo Paul Siebold—August 27, 2023

Deaths

Thomas Bradley, Melissa Bradley’s husband

August 4, 2023

Bonnie Piotrowski—August 10, 2023

Tuesday Prayer Service

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

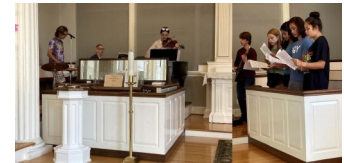
Ushers and Liturgists Needed

Are you are interested in becoming an usher or liturgist? It's not hard work and only takes a few minutes to do on an occasional Sunday; but it is a great way to make church friends and to welcome new visitors to the church. For more information, contact Cindy Campbell at cindala86@gmail.com or Jan Levine at jansteve64@optonline.net



Youth Band

Our youth band periodically leads the music at our Sunday 10:30 am worship services or special services on Thanksgiving or Christmas Eve. We are seeking middle school and high school students with interests or talents in band or orchestral instruments, singing or microphone set-up.



This is a fun opportunity to connect with other students (grades 8-12) and share musical talents. if you are interested in learning more about it and participating, please send your name, grade, musical talent/instrument, years of practice or experience to Frank Crosio at music@thegccc.org All are welcome – invite a friend!

Music Ensembles

Want to join our adult choir, bell choir, youth choir or our youth band email Frank Crosio at music@thegccc.org



Altar Flowers or Fellowship Hour Donations

Remember a loved one of a special event by providing the flowers on our Altar for a \$50 donation to the church. To sign up go to:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-2023>



Sponsor a fellowship hour in memory of a special person or event, or in honor of a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion. To sign up to provide the snack/drink items or to provide \$30 to cover the cost:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-20232>





*GCCC Church Member and art educator, Jill Emmer, is returning to bring more creativity and connection to adults on three dates this fall. **Coffee & Craft** will take place in the Kensington room on October 4th, November 1st and December 1st. It will run for 90 minutes: 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Come for one, two or all three sessions. A different creative activity is planned for each.*

*Each meeting will focus on the current season at hand: **Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas**. No art skills required, simply bring your interest and enthusiasm. All materials will be supplied. Sign up will be on Breeze, see link below.*

<https://gcccbreezechms.com/form/61c92f472551501770775647>

Payment is \$45.00 per session which includes all materials, provided by Jill. (Half of the net proceeds from each session will be given to GCCC.) Limited to 18 participants. Feel free to bring coffee, tea and/or a snack if you like.

*"You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have."
- Maya Angelou*



AMERICANA FAIR

Saturday, November 11, 2023

10 am – 3 pm

GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH

245 Stewart Avenue at Whitehall Blvd.

Garden City, NY 11530

(516) 746-1700

Free Admission

Contact:

Sorting: Celia Petersen gpcatspawr@msn.com

Youth Coordinator: Robin Laisure rblaisure421@gmail.com

SILENT AUCTION--Antiques, Collectibles

SHABBY/CHIC

ACCESSORIES

ATTIC TREASURES

HOLIDAY & GIFT BOUTIQUES

LINENS, LAMPS, CHINA, SILVER, JEWELRY

TOYS, PICTURES, FRAMES GOURMET

SHOP

BISTRO LUNCHEON or Hot Dog Tent





It's Time to Register for NURSERY SCHOOL

Nursery School registration for the 2024/25 school year will begin in November.

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

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

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

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

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

Church members and school alumni may register beginning November 1, 2023. 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 13th.

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

GCCC



September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Men's Breakfast 8am Carle Place Diner
3 Church Service 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30am	4 Labor Day office closed	5 Prayer Service 9:30am Chapel	6	7	8	9
10 Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30am	11 Trustees (COT) Meeting 7:30pm Parlor	12 Prayer Service 9:30am Chapel	13	14	15	16 Outdoor Movie Night 6:30pm - Playscape
17 Church Service 10:30 am Welcome Back Sunday Luncheon 11:30 am Conf. I Mandatory Parent/Student Orientation 7:30pm Parlor	18	19 Prayer Service 9:30am Chapel	20	21	22	23
24 Church Service 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30am Forum – The Power of Friendship –Debbie Pecora 11:45 am Parlor No Sunday School	25	26 Prayer Service 9:30am Chapel	27	28	29	30

GCCC



October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 World Communion Sunday Church Service 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30am Blessing of the Animals 4pm MS Youth Group 6:00 pm	2 Trustees(COT) Meeting 7:30pm Parlor	3 Prayer Service 9:30am Chapel	4 Coffee & Craft by Jill Emmer 10:00am -11:30am	5	6	7 Men's Breakfast 8am Carle Place Diner
8 Church Service 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30am No Sunday School	9 Columbus Day office closed	10 Prayer Service 9:30am Chapel	11	12	13	14
15 Church Service 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30am Interim minister Rev. Arlen Vernava will be visiting MS/HS Group Haunted House Trip 6:00pm	16 Confirmation I Class 7:30 pm Youth Room	17 Prayer Service 9:30am Chapel	18	19	20	21
22 Church Service 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30am Making Apple Pies for Americana Fair 11:30 am	23 Confirmation I Class 7:30 pm Youth Room	24 Prayer Service 9:30am Chapel	25	26	27	28
29 Church Service 10:30 am Sunday School Halloween Party 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30am Pumpkin Fest 11:30am Forum Faith Journey - TBA 11:45 Parlor	30 Confirmation I Class 7:30 pm Youth Room	31 Prayer Service 9:30am Chapel				



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Rev. Arlen Vernava's first day as interim minister Coffee & Craft Jill Emmer 10:00am -11:30am Nursery School registration for church members & alumni	2	3	4 Men's Breakfast 8am Carle Place Diner American Fair drop-off 10am – 4pm
5 All Saint's Day & Comm. Service 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30am Americana Fair drop-off 11:30am – 3:00pm	6 Trustees (COT) Meeting 7:30pm Parlor Americana Fair drop-off 10:00am-4:00pm	7 Prayer Service 9:30am Chapel Americana Fair drop-off 10:00am-4:00pm	8 Americana Fair drop-off 8:00am-4:00pm	9 Americana Fair drop-off 8:00am-4:00pm	10 Office Closed for Veteran's Day Americana Fair NO drop-offs	11 Americana Fair 10:00am – 3:00pm
12 Church Service 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30am	13 Confirmation I Class 7:30 pm Youth Room Nursery School Open Registration	14 Prayer Service 9:30am Chapel	15 Americana Fair drop-off 8:00am-4:00pm	16	17	18
19 Church Service 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30am	20 Confirmation I Class 7:30 pm Youth Room	21 Prayer Service 9:30am Chapel	22 Thanksgiving Eve Service 8:00pm	23	24	25
26 Church Service 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30am Forum –Getting to Know you – TBA 11:45 am Parlor No Sunday School	27 Confirmation I Class 7:30 pm Youth Room	28 Prayer Service 9:30am Chapel	29	30		