

Connections

September 2020—Fall Report

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

Pastor's Message

...be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is..." Romans 12:2

In an inspirational daily calendar, a back-to-school message reminds us: "Other books were given for information; the Bible was given for transformation."

This quote made me pause because many of us forget the power of the Bible. It is often an afterthought. In Louise Manigault's* book, *The Power of Your Faith*, she shares, "It is important to feed our mind and spirit with scriptures that demonstrate God's everlasting power...As soon as you wake up, say a prayer and read a few scriptures that affirm the promises of God's love." Below is one of her daily prayers and scripture. I hope it provides the comfort you are seeking:

Remember that God's words are more powerful than any situation you face.

· "Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; God's love endures forever." Psalm 100:1

· "Sing to the Lord for God has done glorious things." Isaiah 12:5

"Look to the Lord for strength; seek God's face always." 1 Chronicles 16:11

Over the past months, I have felt the transformative power of God through God's Word. I have taken to heart what it means to "Wait upon the Lord," "May the God of Hope fill you with all Joy and Peace," and "Trust in the Lord with all your Heart." I have understood the importance of being grounded in God's word. I hope you feel God's transformative love through our services and programs – virtual or in person. For we know, "where two or three are gathered in God's name, God is present."

Please read this newsletter and respond accordingly. We have information regarding our return to worship and other programs, a questionnaire created by the search committee, materials from F&A and Stewardship, and our heartfelt thank you to each of you. Lastly, let us all wait in love. I am finding as time passes, we are waiting with different purposes. Give thanks for God is good.

Blessings,

Lynn

Senior Pastor

*Louise Manigault, Metro UCC's Executive Director, author and speaker (and often attended our worship services) passed away September 4, 2020. She will be dearly missed.

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Worship Schedule

Sundays

10:30 AM
Livestream

10/18/20
Church open
10:30 AM

Tuesdays

Intercessory
Prayer Service
9:30 AM
Conference Call

Wednesdays

8 PM
Zoom Meeting

GRATITUDE GROWS!

Gratitude Grows has been a way to thank and highlight members of our faith community who continue to take the extra step in helping our church and volunteering their time. We are a blessed church!

- Russ Fincher, Dan McCarthy, Doug Yasso, Steve Short, Rob Pontecorvo, Evelyn Yasso for clearing the tree that came down on our church property during the storm.
- Liturgists over the summer: Karen Zalewski, Janet Martens, Vikki Rehkugler, Marilyn Yasus, Cindy Campbell, Maria Campese, Mary Dewar, Bob Stark Jr, Sarina Appelgren, Frank Crosio, Mico Faella, Robin Laisure, Jim Burdi, Steve Short.
- Our tech team who has been attending worship weekly since March 15: Doug Yasso, Steve Short, Mark Sullivan. Andrew Ellis for editing services and greetings from home and Russ Fincher, who recently joined the team.
- Corey Laisure who interned with us as part of the tech team. Rainer DeLalio, Faith Short and Rebecca Melkonian for joining the tech team.
- F&A interns: Troy Ross and Lisa Noody who just left for college and our new additions, Morgan Noody and Faith Short.
- Katie Masters for creating the Prayer Vigil for Erase Racism and the liturgists and behind the scene supporters: Jillian Yoo, Marilyn Yasus, Cindy Campbell, Susie Henriquez, Amber Henriquez, Melva Victorino, Kathy Yoo, Frank Crosio, our Tech Team.
- 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 and Linda Goettelmann.
- Ying Westfall and Grace Church for donating 500 masks to our church.
- Campese, Francie and Paul Cohn, Chris Dieguez, Christine Hanson, Rev. Lynn Sullivan.
- Mico Faella and the search committee's progress for our Associate Pastor.
- Conner Eschmann for coordinating the back-to school supplies drive for the INN.
- Hugh Lacy, Steve Short, Rick Herbst, Robin Laisure and Clem Olivo checking the air quality in the building
- Diana & Jeffrey Clarke and Carole Halvorsen for helping with the delivery of our clothing donations for storage
- Peg Mainusch for allowing us to use her garage for storing our clothing donations.
- Margie Price for her Youth Movie Series dealing with Racial Injustice
- Marilyn Yasus, Dorothy Gist, Paula Tusiani-Eng, Kathy Yoo, Katie Masters and all the others on the Social Justice Committee for their work & participation in the discussion groups
- Janet Martens who has been decorating the altar with flowers weekly
- Rob Sipkin & Billy Gagat who transformed the church school wing.
- Paul Cohn for creating and leading the GCCC mandated sexual harassment seminars

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.



The Garden City Community Church

United Church of Christ

God
is still
speaking,

Dear Garden City Community Church Family –

“This is the Day the Lord hath made, let us Rejoice and be glad in it.” Psalm 118: 24

Get ready, bring on your spirit, and wear a smile (under your mask), we are headed back!

The Clergy, Ministry Team and Council of Trustees have prayerfully been putting together a plan to return to Worship and Church Activities for Autumn, 2020. Yes, things will be different, yet we are hopeful and embrace the wonder and rejuvenation that transformation brings. We are excited to share reopening plans and hope that everyone understands that flexibility will be key as some changes may still take place. Our goal is to open the building in such a way that we will be able to remain open during the transitional phases of our community.

We plan to have our **Resurrection Sunday on October 18, 2020**. This will be a day to celebrate. We will continue to Live-Stream our Service and our Tech Team is making enhancements to continue offering quality services. For the rest of the month, meetings and other services will continue to be Zoomed or through a Conference Call. We will be creating a re-opening video to show you what it will look like when you return. The Fall Newsletter will be going out at the end of the month with information regarding all programs.

We know by opening there will be many questions regarding safety and security. Please read the enclosed documents and you will see that we have been thorough in our re-opening plans. We have one for the building and one for worship and programs.

It will be thirty-one weeks since we worshipped together, and we know that not all of us will be able to return on October 18th. Please know we are all working to get us back together as soon as possible and until then, we can continue to gather in our creative ways. I have been so touched at the outpouring of support for the many ways we have been giving back to our community. We truly are a community that *Faithfully Reaches out and Inclusively Draws In*.

Blessings,

Lynn

Enclosures

August 27, 2020

Garden City Community Church Re-Opening

The GCCC has begun instituting policies and procedures in accordance with CDC and NYS guidance to re-open the Garden City Community Church Building. Our work, worship and meeting practices will be modified from our pre-pandemic ways. The modifications are in three categories for re-opening the building in the safest manor possible:

Social Distancing

Room setups will be reconfigured to ensure social distancing of at least 6 feet apart in all directions.

Rooms will be sanitized after each use by the GCCC custodial staff or other designated parties.

Room usage will have an assigned bathroom.

Directional tape will be placed in the main corridor and stairwells.

Kitchens in the Parlor and Gardner Hall will not be used.

No gatherings that involve sharing of food will be permitted. For individual use, such as when a staff member brings lunch for himself or herself, food must be wrapped and contained, and plates and utensils must be brought by each individual.

One person permitted in the elevator at a time.

Night receptionist will be on duty for evenings that the building is in use by outside groups. He or she will be responsible for monitoring our procedures relating to social distancing, PPE, and log-book sign-in.

Contact Tracing

The following procedures will apply, except as otherwise provided in written form by the Church:

All Church visitors, tenants, employees will enter the building on the Whitehall side of the building, unless otherwise arranged by the Church and stated in writing.

All visitors, employees, renters will be required to read the COVID-19 Visitor Attestation questions (see below) provided at the entrances and sign the log book upon arrival. The Church will provide a sign-in log placed at each entrance (Whitehall and Kensington).

All renters will be responsible for having their guests/clients fill-out and sign a hardcopy of the GCCC COVID-19 Visitor Attestation form. (The Church office will have additional blank hardcopies available.) Renters will be responsible for maintaining a file with the collected Visitor Attestation forms.

All renters will be responsible for keeping a Log of Room Usage of their participants, dates, rooms used and contact information.

When state and federal guidelines necessitate information to be shared with the Church, renters must provide to the Church pertinent information on the COVID-19 Visitor Attestation form and their Log of Room Usage. The Church and renters will strive to maintain confidentiality, to the extent reasonable. Each room will have a cleaning log to be initialed and dated by Church custodial staff after cleaning has been completed.

Prior to entering the designated rented room, renters must check the log to ensure that the room has been cleaned.

PPE

The Church will maintain an adequate supply of required PPE, masks and gloves.

Renters are required to supply PPE to participants of their programs, GCCC will have back-up PPE in an accessible location if needed.

Hand Sanitizer will be available outside occupied rooms and at the Whitehall Blvd and Kensington entrances.

Hygiene notices will be placed in each bathroom.

All occupants of the building must wear masks when 6 ft distance cannot be maintained

Renters will be responsible for ensuring all guests are adhering to PPE requirements.

Renters will be responsible for cleaning and sanitizing space used.

GCCC will require all renters to provide Church COVID-19 Visitor Attestations for themselves and their guests as to the following:

If they have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

If they are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms in the past 14 days.

If they have knowingly been in close or proximate contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 14 days.

If they have visited any states within the past 14 days listed on NYS website with significant community spread necessitating quarantining.

Your full cooperation with these procedures will help to create a safe environment for our Church. Any questions should be directed to Liz Galzerano, Business Manager, during Church business hours and at (516) 746-1700, or by email at controller@thegccc.org.

Garden City Community Church Re-Opening Worship Guidelines

Initial Re-opening Considerations

The decision for the GCCC to Re-Open the building has been carefully and diligently thought through. There are two re-opening plans: one for the Church Building and one for returning to Worship and other church programs. Our Re-Opening plans could change depending on state and local guidelines. Our main goal is to keep everyone healthy and safe. We hope we have created a plan that will optimize us remaining open through the transition. Thank you for your patience.

The Re-Opening Building Policy is the main document to adhere to (attached).

New Policy for Worship:

1: Sanctuary – Re-Opening date October 18, 2020 at 10:30 am – maximum 55 (including tech team and worship team)

- a. Congregation will pre-register for Worship via Breeze, or call Gloria in the office and she will sign up the person. Pre-entry questions will be on the Breeze sign-up. This week's wait list will be automatically inputted into next week's service.
- b. Congregation will enter by the Whitehall and Kensington Doors with an usher present to assure everyone wears a mask and signs in.
- c. Sign-in sheets will act as the Friendship Register, pre-entry questions, and used for contact tracing (please consider coming early to allow time for this process).
- d. Entry to the Sanctuary will be by the Elevator, and Kensington Room, and Exit will be the doors in the Narthex. Ushers will be present to assist with seating.
- e. A table will be by both entries with the offering plate, and bulletins for individuals to pick-up (Pew Bibles and Hymnals will not be used). If it is a Communion Sunday, the individual Communion Cups will be there for pick-up. Additional sanitizers will be on the tables.
Baskets for used communion cups will be in the Narthex as people are leaving to dispose of their cups.
- f. Seating in the Sanctuary will follow the Social Distancing Guidelines. Please sit in the pre-marked seats socially distanced for your convenience. Please understand you may not be in your regular pew. Ushers will assist.
- g. Following guidelines, there will be no singing with the music.
- h. The Service will continue to be Live-Streamed for the benefit of everyone.
- i. Children will not come forward for the children's message, Passing the Peace will be creative, fellowship hour is suspended.

2: Music:

- a. For the first two weeks we will not have the soloist. If all goes well, the soloist can resume November 1, 2020. Non-wind instruments are encouraged.
- b. Until indicated, there will be no choir nor congregational singing.
- c. Until indicated, there will only be one soloist, and non-wind instruments.

3: 8:30 am Worship Service:

- a. We will resume the 8:30 am Worship Service November 1, 2020, following the same sign-in procedures.
- b. See 1.e for bulletin pick-up
- c. Discussion whether it will be in the Chapel or Sanctuary are still ongoing. Chapel max is 25

4. Wednesday Worship 8:00 pm:

- a. we will resume the 8:00 pm Wednesday Worship in the building November 18, 2020, following the same sign-in procedures.
- b. Until indicated, there will be no choir nor congregational singing.
- c. Until indicated, there will only be one soloist, and non-wind instruments.
- d. Discussion whether it will be in the Sanctuary or Gardner Hall is ongoing.
- e. Thanksgiving Eve Service will be live-streamed.

5. Confirmation 1 and 2:

- a. Parent/Youth Orientation is scheduled for October 19,20, 2020 via zoom
- b. Confirmation 1 will be Monday Nights, Confirmation 2 will be Tuesday Nights
- c. We will determine when to meet in the church building early October.

6. Tuesday Prayer Service:

- a. I propose to keep Tuesday Prayer Service via Conference Call through the end of 2020.

7. ABS

- a. Margie will run a 6 week ABS study in the fall via zoom
- b. Advent and Christmas – see below

8. Forums

- a. I propose Forums and other group discussion programs continue via zoom until 2021.

We will create an Action Team to discuss Advent and Christmas



The Garden City Community Church

United Church of Christ

God
is still
speaking,

September 6, 2020

Hello fellow Church Members!

I am pleased to announce that on August 31st, the Council of Trustees has unanimously approved the ReOpening of our beloved Garden City Community Church. I encourage you to read my post letter notes depicting the timeline and Phased ReOpening Plan, articulating the lengths we have taken to open in the most safe and compliant fashion imaginable.

Writing this letter to you is a bit emotional for me for two reasons. First, I'm feeling elated! I'm so excited to share this news with you, and all the people with whom we connect. However, I am also experiencing another emotion: the feeling of having the burden lifted. It's been a burden knowing how decisions we at the Council were making this past 6 months impacted your social and spiritual lives. I am grateful for the entire ongoing unanimous support of the Council of Trustees, of Ministry, and most importantly, the support of the Congregation. Thank You.

Going forward, we are still working hard to normalize operations in a safe, responsible manner. Our Business Office (led by our most capable Liz Galzerano) has shown throughout the Summer the ability to learn, adapt and master all the new challenges of ReOpening. The Business Office will continue as our central key to safely Scheduling and Managing our Building and Programming and is definitely ready for our final phase of ReOpen in October.

Reverend Lynn Sullivan has officially announced In-Person Worship Services beginning in October. Programs will slowly scale up this Fall as well. I would emphasize that with Nassau County Schools all opening in September, it was important to me, and to the Council, that we stay paused throughout the month of September as Families endure new stresses, new challenges, and the inevitable new Covid19 exposure announcements. We felt it prudent to patiently await through October, and to offer all our prayers and support to the Teachers, the Administrators and the STUDENTS returning to the Classrooms this week.

Best Regards,

Drew Hearon
Chairman, Council of Trustees

PS. I highly encourage those who consider themselves in a High Risk category to continue to enjoy our Virtual and LiveStream services in the comfort of home, as we will continue with these offerings.

Garden City Community Church

Key Time Line of Events:

March 9th: Council of Trustees meeting: Evolving Crisis discussed at length, and a 4-Category Decision matrix was implemented regarding Building Closure and Organizational Response:

March 11th: Council of Trustees assigns status to Level 1

March 13th: In conjunction with neighboring nursery schools, Garden City Nursery School announces immediate indefinite Nursery School Closure.

March 14th: Council of Trustees Moves to Level 3, in response to Local Community Closures and the Garden City School District Schools closure announcement

March 16th: Garden City Community Church office Coordinates a 2 day Deep Cleaning of Building

March 18th: Council of Trustees Conference Call #1. Confirmation of continuing Building Closure procedures discussed. *Conference Calls are joined by Ministry, Church Office, and all 2020 elected Church Leaders.*

March 23rd: Council of Trustees Conference Call #2 discussing ongoing crisis and projected length of Closures through at least April. *We will continue these weekly COT Conference Calls until we have firmer visibility on a timeline to building reopening and full programming recommencing.*

March 30th: Council of Trustees Conference Call, On Going Situation Monitoring

April 2nd: Council of Trustees Conference Call, On Going Situation Monitoring and Planning

April 6th: Council of Trustees Conference Call: SBA 'PPP' Loan Application Approval Building to remain closed to June 1.

April 10th: Council of Trustees Conference Call: Addressing emerging Virtual Security concerns

April 13th: Council of Trustees Conference Call, On Going Situation Monitoring

April 20th: Council of Trustees Conference Call, On Going Situation Monitoring

April 27th: Council of Trustees Conference Call – Preparing conversion to Building Closure to 3 Phase ReOpening Plan

May 13th: Council of Trustees Conference Call – Finalizing Building and Organization 3 Phase ReOpening Plan *with expectation to commence Re Opening Phase 1 once Nassau County officially opens.*

June 7th: Garden City Community Church first ever Congregation Wide Virtual Town Hall

July 6th: Council of Trustees Conference Call – Approval Initial ReOpen Building as per Plan

Aug 31st: Council of Trustees Conference Call – Approval ReOpen Plan for In Person Worship and related Programming and Nursery School.

Garden City Community Church

5/20/20 UPDATE

RE-OPEN PLAN Detailed framework following the Center for Disease control (CDC) Guidelines. Additionally, the following applies to all Organizational, Business office and Business related activities. Effective at the end of our Level 4 building Closure status, which retires on May 31, 2020, we will move to the following Phases and begin with Phase 1 on June 1, 2020.

- **PHASE 1: Initiates June 1, 2020:**
 - o Building remains Closed to Congregational Members and general Public
 - o 10 Maximum person restriction with strict adherence to Social Distancing Guidelines
 - o Worship Services to continue as LiveStream and Zoom Services only*
 - o Renters within the Building, operating so named 'Essential Business' by the State of New York, permitted access with updated Policy Compliance requirements and attestation of their Business essentiality and their Safety Compliance. No General Public permitted
 - o Office Staff restricted to Mandatory Personnel only, preparing for a rotating Phase-in of Employees on an as-required basis and practicing strictest Social Distancing Guidelines
 - o Schools and Camps Remain Closed**
- **PHASE 2: Initiates when Nassau County enters Phase 4 of the State of NY "NY Forward"**
Re-Open Plan
 - o Building to be open to Congregational members only, not to General Public.
 - o 10 Maximum person restriction with strict adherence to Social Distancing guidelines.
 - o Building Common Areas remain closed.
 - o Worship Services to continue to LiveStream and Zoom Services, and limited in person allowances*
 - o All Building renters permitted to reopen provided continued strict adherence to policy.
 - o All Office Staff Permitted to work within building under strict adherence to Social Distancing guidelines.
 - o Schools and Youth Programming permitted to Open.**
- **PHASE 3: Initiates after 4 weeks of Nassau County entering Phase 4, and continuing on-schedule for full reopening, also requiring a Council of Trustees Confirming Vote to full re-opening per below.**
 - o Full resumption of Programming and Building use.
 - o 50 Maximum person restriction on gatherings until CDC, or Health Dept. advises otherwise.
 - o Worship Services as per updated GCCC Ministry recommendations and guidance
 - o Permanent policy instituted for instances of confirmed Communicable Infectious Disease within the Building at 245 Stewart Ave.

** Regarding Worship Services: Garden City Community Church Ministry led by Rev Lynn Sullivan, will provide on-going Guidance as to the Schedule, Framework, and permissibility while respecting CDC, the State of New York, and the UCC-NY Guidance regarding Worship Services and In-Person Gathering limitations.*

*** Regarding School: For both Church School and the Garden City Community Church Nursery School, it's our intention to follow The Garden City Union Free School District (GCFUSD) guidance based upon State and County determination and we expect this guidance will be further determined and clarified, resulting in adaption to above Phases.*

The Garden City Community Church reopen plan is derived directly recognizing CDC and State of New York Guidance, to the best of our ability and will be changed/adjusted as needed and as is communicated by aforementioned agencies. Additionally, the UCC New York Conference has issued guidance that we will also recognize as our policies evolve. The Garden City Community Church will strive to adhere both safely and conservatively within these guidelines.

Additionally, the CDC notes the following definition as High Risk Population to illness and that High-Risk Population refrain from in-person activity and take extra precaution if circumstances require otherwise:

Resource Appendix:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>

<https://forward.ny.gov/>

<http://uccny.org/covid-19/>

“BELOVED”

September 14, 2020

Dear Congregant:

In light of recent times, we have fewer people in our pews, but not with diminished spirit. We continue to improve our streaming capabilities and make available our weekly Church message and word of God. We encourage you to watch our livestreamed worship services on Sundays at 10:30 AM and our Wednesday night service at 8 PM via zoom.

Our hearts remain committed, but to sustain our beautiful Church, online giving is necessary. Our Church has improved our website and its online-giving capabilities. Behind the scenes, our bookkeeping systems were improved for recording of donations. Our online giving has always been secure, and it continues to be so.

We encourage you to keep abreast of developments by checking our website. Our Summer and Fall activities and expenses paint a robust picture of a healthy and loving Church:

Commitment to our Staff and Ministry:

Maintaining the services of our Church staff and ministry at full salary.

Facilities Improvement:

Indoor painting projects included walls of the World Church Room, indoor stairwell from the Nursery School to the Church School;

Indoor stripping and waxing of the World Church Room floors; and

Outdoor projects included pruning shrubs, painting outdoor steps, power washing walkways and sidewalks, and painting rails around the building.

Technology Initiatives:

QuickBooks conversion to Online version is 90% completed;

Church Website redesigned;

Go-Net, providing us with Technology Support, helped us to retrieve lost files from our network after the recent storm and they have helped with the pre-recording and editing of our livestreaming;

Converted online Giving to Breeze platform, ending our relationship with an outside agency this month and resulting in a cost savings; and

Purchase of sound equipment and cameras for improved livestreaming.

Outside Legal Counsel:

Retained outside legal counsel for advice regarding our re-opening and compliance with COVID-19 guidelines.

Programming:

Conducting almost daily virtual Church meetings, including various age groups;

Collecting weekly donations for food pantries;

Addressing issues of race and inequality with a shared book and movie discussions and worship service of lights to support Erase Racism on LI; and

Maintaining our garden, thanks to volunteers.

Ongoing Business of our Church:

Council of Trustees meets regularly for coordination and review of Church business;

Finance and Administration meets quarterly to review Church's asset portfolio and other business;

Worship Liturgists volunteer weekly;

Tech team of volunteers livestream every Sunday;

Wednesday service includes ministers and music;

Confirmation leaders are gearing up for another year; and

Comprehensive Newsletter provided to the Congregation mid-summer.

Our stewardship campaign will begin in October and the theme this year is "Beloved." Your contributions help GCCC show so many in our community that they are truly beloved.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7-8

Stay safe and healthy.

Blessings,

Robin B. Laisure, Finance & Administration Chair

Kirsten Bahlke, Stewardship Chair

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://gccc.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.

COMMUNION SCHEDULED

FIRST OF THE MONTH

The Worship Committee had decided to include Communion the first of the month until further notice at the 10:30 am Live-Stream Service. Make sure you have your bread and cup ready before the service. If you come from a tradition that wants the elements blessed in advance, please contact the office, and we will have the sanitized separate, disposable cups and wafers ready for you outside the Whitehall Porch either Wednesday or Friday the week before. We will only put them out if you contact the office. For people in the building, we will continue to use the disposable cups and wafers.



Please remember our friends at
the INN & LI Cares

<https://the-inn.org/>

<https://www.licares.org/>



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. We are collecting slightly used clothing items for a fundraiser with Savers. See inside for more info.

RE-OPENING WORSHIP SERVICE

October 18th 10:30AM

We will 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.

Youth Group News

Happy fall parents and students! The summer has been harrowing for all of us, especially in light of the cancellation of our beloved mission trip. In this past season, youth group has met biweekly, and at the end of the summer, Margie hosted a series of wonderful discussions on popular movies and timely topics. Outside of church, we have found our own ways to enjoy our conventional summer breaks, stay connected with friends, and, for our graduating seniors, prepare for an uncertain fall as they take the next step of life's journey and go off to college.

Yet, the summer is over and with the fall comes the hope of new things. Student activities will resume this fall, including Middle School group, Confirmation, and Youth Group. Currently, these will all be hosted on Zoom, but these are not your average Zoom calls! We continue to think outside the box about how to engage Zoomed-out youth with activities.

Keep an eye out for games, volunteer opportunities, hangouts, and more! Of course, there is no substitute for physical presence, and as the reopening unfolds, we will explore our options for returning to in-person meetings. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you as get deeper in the fall, the school year, and everything else we will have to reimagine in the coming months.

Peace of Christ,
Chris and the youth leaders

Ministry Committee

Greetings from the Garden City Community Church Ministry Committee.

The Congregation and the Ministry Committee want to hear from you!

One of the most meaningful ways to connect with your faith and your church family is to serve as a liturgist.

Liturgists read prayers, scripture and sometimes, write and read the prayers of the people.

We have heard from previous Liturgists that once you try it you'll like it!

We are grateful for anyone who is volunteers for this ministry!

As Worship returns to the Sanctuary on Oct.18th, we remind you of the CDC and state guidelines about being symptomatic, wearing masks while in the building, social distancing, and staying home if you, or anyone in your family is exposed or at risk.

If you are interested in serving as a liturgist in the next few months, please reach out Janet Martens at jmartens48@gmail.com or the church office at churchoffice@thegccc.org. If you have been a liturgist before, and want to serve again – you can sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-liturgists>

Faithfully, The Ministry Team

GCCC Launches New Film Discussion Series on Racism & Committee for Social Justice

By Marilyn Yasus

Our Garden City Community Church has begun a series of Film Studies that dive into the origins of the racial divide in America. Starting with 13th and True Justice, we are exploring how this all came to pass. Whites have stood by, often silently, as the societal disparities continued across our country for centuries. We have experienced months of unrest across our nation. With Black Lives Matter protests after the deaths of African Americans at the hands of police who made questionable and often brutal decisions, plus agitators who turn peaceful protests into violence, America stands at the crossroads as to where our society will find direction for the future.

The movie, 13th looks back at the cycle of the blacks' experiences from their capture in Africa and arrival in America to be sold on auction blocks into lives of slavery, then to endure cruel emotional and brutal physical treatment, with no control when family members were sold never to be seen again. In time, the Thirteenth Amendment was passed, which freed the slaves. But racism continued to create fear and disparity between whites and blacks.

Black men were often arrested, deemed criminals on scant accusations, found guilty and sent into jails, often for life, or on death row. Images of black men have been used politically to stoke fears that blacks are "to be feared". We all remember George H. W. Bush's use of Willie Horton politically. During Clinton's tenure, the "Three Strikes, You're Out" with mandatory sentences was passed. New York's "Stop and Frisk" policy targeted blacks and migrants. Today, more blacks are imprisoned than the number of slaves in 1880.

13th clearly shows the horrific rise over many decades of the prison populations across our country, which has led to for-profit jails in today's American society. The incarcerated numbers are shocking, in 1985: 760k; in 1990 1179k; in 1995: 2015k; in 2000: 2038k; and 2015: 2306k. Today's America has 5% of the world's population and 25% of the world's prison population.

The film True Justice was created by Bryan Stevenson, an attorney whose ancestors toiled the cotton fields in the deep South. He grew up in Delaware in the Prospect AME Church, the son of sharecroppers. He completed his law degree with one goal: to single-mindedly represent prisoners on death row in Alabama. One in ten death row inmates are innocent. He has taken four cases all the way to the Supreme Court to get justice. True Justice follows Anthony Hinton's case. He was wrongly convicted and languished on death row for 30 years, when a new ballistics study was ordered. All nine judges on the Supreme Court found him innocent.

Bryan Stevenson created the Legacy Museum in Montgomery for Peace and Justice, which brings to the fore the routine horror of lynchings in the Deep South, sometimes publicly in town squares. Often members of the Ku Klux Klan, wrapped in their white robes and hoods, were well known to their communities. The Museum memorializes those victims who were hung, often for no proven offense. The museum brings young teens to the locations of lynchings, to fill glass jars with soil from beneath the hanging trees. The jars are displayed in the museum on shelves labeled with the names of lynched victims. Another important memorial is the hanging of coffin-sized blocks engraved with each Alabama County and the names of those lynched in that area. By watching documentaries like 13th and True Justice, we learned about the history of black America and the injustices of racism from the perspective of black filmmakers and victims of racism in America.

Following our productive Zoom discussions of these films, our goal is to form an Ad Hoc Social Justice Committee. This year's topic, Racial Justice, continues to build momentum. As we move forward, we plan to explore other challenges we face in our society and nation. With structure and focus, we envision the development of educational programs and activities surrounding each topic.

We're excited with where we are on this journey and we're hopeful that you'll want to join with us in this endeavor. We welcome more members to participate. Please email us to get involved at marilyn.yasus@gmail.com. This committee is open to people of all ages. We welcome each of you to watch for our groups' next film selection and join our Zoom meeting to discuss and learn from one another in faith for justice.

Marilyn Yasus, Dorothy Gist, Paula Tusiani-Eng, Kathy Yoo, Katie Masters

**THE GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH
FALL CLOTHING DRIVE
FUNDRAISER**



WE WILL BE HAVING A FUNDRAISER SPONSORED BY SAVERS IN WEST HEMPSTEAD. THIS WILL BE INSTEAD OF OUR SHABBY/CHIC ROOM AT THE AMERICANA FAIR.

OUR GOAL IS TO COLLECT 220 LARGE PLASTIC TRASH BAGS TO MAKE A PROFIT OF \$1,000.

PLEASE BRING YOUR BAGGED ITEMS TO THE WHITEHALL PORCH ON THE FOLLOWING MONDAYS BEFORE NOON:

HERE ARE THE DATES:

SEPTEMBER 14, 21, 28 OCTOBER 5, 12, 19 & 26

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED:

SLIGHTLY USED CLOTHING (NO UNDERWEAR, BATHING SUITS OR LOCAL TEAM LOGO ITEMS) – SHOES, HATS, BELTS, ACCESSORIES, SHEETS, BLANKETS

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT CINDY CAMPBELL AT CINDALA86@GMAIL.COM OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE.

Summer Youth Activities

What a Summer!

This was definitely a summer for the history books. So many of the activities we were used to didn't happen (usual vacations, the mission trip, summer sports) but new things did happen this year.

Compassion Camp

We tried something a little new for VBS this year. We had Compassion Camp sessions over 6 weeks in July and August. We learned how God created us all with God's blessing and how we could have the compassion God has for us for our neighbors, the world, and ourselves. We had time for crafts, coloring together, lots of interesting discussion time around Bible stories, and Mrs. McCoy led us in yoga during some of our sessions. It was definitely a fun, spirit-filled time for those who participated.

Youth Movie Series

This was another new event this year. Themed around the issue of racial injustice, we chose 3 movies for the youth to watch and then we got together to discuss the themes in those movies and how they could or could not relate to them and what they felt the impact those issues how on their lives. The movie series included, Black Panther, Hidden Figures, and Just Mercy. As always with our youth, we had great discussions, found some new insights, and I probably learned as much from them as they may have from me! I look forward to a time when we can do this again.

While I very much miss our in-person interactions, it was fun to explore some new possibilities. I look forward to integrating both the in-person and online opportunities in the future.

Blessings,
Margie

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.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Our Stewardship Campaign kickoff is November 8—22 and this year's theme is 'Beloved.' Please be on the lookout for letters in the mail and by email. You can now choose to respond by email. You will be able to make future campaigns more efficient by committing to a renewable pledge. "Beloved, let us love one another, for the love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. "1 John 4:7-8.

Men's Breakfast Group

In an effort to keep Church members among us who might be feeling the crush of the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and have unmet needs, the men's breakfast group is offering to be a source of man power to help those who feel they may need assistance in meeting their essential needs. The group may be able to assist in providing help with the following types of chores:

Gardening

- General clean up

- Planting

- Bush and hedge trimming

- Minor storm or weather damage

- Leader and gutter cleaning or minor repair

- Setting up summer or patio chairs, lounges, tables, umbrellas and related items

Home maintenance (Note: Our ability to enter homes may be severely limited at this time)

- Small home repairs

- Window cleaning and change of curtains or drapes

- Minor woodworking or painting repairs needing attention

- Installation of window air conditioners

Other

- Shopping for household cleaning, maintenance and other similar items

- Picking up orders from hardware or similar stores

- Minor automobile issues

- Other reasonable requests within the talents and of the men's group.

If members of the Church have any requests for assistance, please send a detailed description of your request, together with your name, address and the best way to reach you (e-mail, phone or other) to the following:

Dan McCarthy:(516)488-0955 danjohngalt@gmail.com

Joe Rivera:(516)328-0799 jrmixman1@gmail.com

The men's group will endeavor to respond to you promptly and inform you of what assistance it may be able to provide. Although requests may be made to the Church Office, office hours have been severely reduced and the workload for the staff is very high. We recommend that you contact the men's group directly for best response. The men's group is undertaking this ministry out of love and Christian fellowship. Although our hearts are open, please be mindful that our competencies, time and abilities are limited.

Milestone Anniversaries

Janice and George Salem celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on May 9th. Thanks to the quarantine they celebrated their special day by having a party just by themselves. Best wishes to you both!

Greetings from Home

Our Church has done an amazing job of staying in contact with our friends and members during these trying times. One of the most innovative ways has been through our "Greetings from Home." Videos from our members, friends, youth have been sent in for use to keep in touch with our Church family.

When submitted, the greetings have been played after the livestreamed postlude. Previous 'Greetings' are linked to the Service Livestream replay.

We would like to continue these videos so if you haven't sent in a message yet, or want to send a new one—please do so. To participate you can arrange for a videographer to come to your home (at a safe distance) by emailing the church at churchoffice@thegccc.org or by creating a video from your phone or tablet at <http://tiny.cc/GCCCgreetings/>

If you have any questions please contact Andrew Ellis at aellis06@gmail.com.

GCCC supports the INN

Over the summer we requested people to donate \$10 to help purchase lunches for the INN. It costs \$1,000 to donate a 'day of lunches.' At this time we are close to the amount needed for the GCCC to donate a 'day of lunches.' Thank you to everyone who donated. The INN is very appreciative of our ongoing support!

Reader's Circle

After 20 years and nearly 100 books the decision at today's Reader's Circle book discussion is to take a pause. It seems fitting that we began with the fictional biblical narrative, Red Tent by Anita Diamant; we end with The Book of Longing by Sue Monk Kidd. This fictional biblical narrative is an unforgettable account of one woman's bold struggle to realize the passion and potential inside her, while living in a time and place, and culture devised to silence her. This book ends with this scene:

The sun slips from the sky and the dark gold lights rises up.

I gaze into the far distance and sing, "I am Ana."

I was the wife of Jesus of Nazareth. "I am a Voice."

I want to thank the many women and men who joined us throughout the years of this Reader's Circle. I will cherish the relationships and hold the memories of many who have passed away, moved away, drifted away, and stayed to the end. When the time comes, we will return with another amazing book to read. Until then, God Bless, and keep reading. *Lynn*

People who wonder if the glass is half empty or half full miss the point.

The glass is refillable.

Volunteers Needed to Help Close the Church Giving Garden for the season



If anyone is interested in community service or to help close out the garden please email Kimberly Pauley at kfpauley3@gmail.com. All help would be appreciated. At this time only 1 individual or a sibling group will be in the garden at a time with Kimberly.

Masks, gloves required.

ABS WILL RESUME!

Sunday, October 18th, 2020

Something that will look a little different:

We will NOT be doing in person ABS because we won't be able to have everyone in one place at one time and I want to be able to gather with all of our kids. We know our youth are getting tired of Zoom meetings all the time, instead of getting the chance to meet in-person so we are re-imagining our whole program to make it interactive and fun for our kids. We will still be meeting by Zoom, but when we meet we will break out into 2 classes, just like we would during in-person ABS.

Stay tuned to the Friday E-Blasts for more details on times and registration information. There will be an Information Session for families on Sunday, October 4th at 12:30PM by Zoom so that we can catch up with each other after the summer and discuss our fall schedule.

I'm looking forward to our new adventures together. It certainly is a difficult time but it will be fun to see what kind of a space we can create with each other, celebrating the God who created us all, learning from the Son who taught us how to live with each other, knowing that no matter what happens, we are all bound together by the Holy Spirit.

Blessings,

Margie

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

We will be conducting our parent/youth **Orientation Meeting** via Zoom. If you are not on the communication list for this, please contact Gloria in the office.

Confirmation 1 – Monday, October 19, 2020 at 7:30 pm

Confirmation 2 – Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 7:30 pm

Support for Returning to School

For those in school this fall, it seems like that's all we've talked about this summer. What is it going to look like? How is it going to work? How will the teachers teach? How will the students learn? Am I going to be able to help my child? What about social interactions? It's all so new and different and totally unexplored before now.

KNOW that you are **NOT ALONE** on this journey. Some are having to begin their journey online while some are ending their journey online. Some are missing the excitements and milestones they were looking forward to, and some are excelling in the different atmosphere.

The one thing we know about this year is it is going to take an **ENTIRE COMMUNITY** to get us through the year. This is not something that can or will be done in isolation. So please, reach out! Share your joys and accomplishments (big or small). Share your fears and concerns. Reach out to friends, to family and/or to someone on the Garden City Community Church Ministry Team for help when you need it or just when you want it. We are all here for you and are sharing this journey with you.

We are praying with you and for you and wishing you blessings on this new journey we've all found ourselves on.

Blessings,
Margie

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Submitted by Peg Mainusch

At a time when it seems that the world is burning up, flooding out, or battling a deadly virus, don't forget Christ's reminder: "Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me." Matthew 25:40 (The Message).

To that end, Neighbors in Need is a special mission offering that provides grants to for local UCC projects of justice and compassion. This collection will be taken on October 4, World-Wide Communion Sunday.

This year, the UCC will divert a portion of NIN funds to **COVID 19 Relief**.

Other recent NIN-supported projects:

Advocacy. One grant to Just Love Church supported teens in an economically-challenged Houston neighborhood who ran a campaign for a \$15 minimum-wage law.

Reverse-Sanctuary. Shadow Rock UCC on the Arizona-Mexico border is establishing Hope Station Nogales in Sonora, Mexico as a place of safety and transition for recent deportees with no place to go.

LGBTQ safety. Peace Congregational UCC near Clemson University in South Carolina is building a mobile tiny house for the use of any LGBTQ individual who is no longer welcome at home.

During this period of on-line worship, your donation may be made by mail or through our NIN online giving:

https://gcc.breezechms.com/give/online?fund_id=1097830

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: October 7, October 21, November 4, 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>

DRIVERS NEEDED FOR OUR FALL CLOTHING DRIVE FUNDRAISER

We are holding a used clothing fundraiser which will be held this year instead of the Shabby/Chic room at the Americana Fair. We will be collecting gently used clothes (no underwear, bathing suits or local team logo items), shoes, hats, belts accessories, sheets and blankets from now until October 26th. Our goal is to collect 220 large (30 gallon) black plastic trash bags of items to make a profit of \$1,000. You can also use the smaller white kitchen size bags if those are easier to manage.

We ask that these items be donated to the church. We will be collecting them on Mondays and they will be taken to a local church member's garage. The items should be placed on the Whitehall Blvd. Porch before 12:00 noon on our designated collection dates.

The weeks we will need drivers to take these items to a local home for storage are September 14, September 21, September 28, October 5, October 12, October 19 and October 26. We will give you the drop off address prior to your delivery. Please sign up below if you can drive on any of our available dates. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084bacad2eaa8-clothing>

Drivers must be able to lift and load the items into their vehicle. As per NYS guidelines, please wear masks and gloves during the delivery. The church will not be open, and bathrooms cannot be accessed.

Clergy Renewal Grant through the Lily Endowment Foundation

You may recall at the June town hall meeting that our church submitted a Clergy Renewal Grant application for Rev. Lynn Sullivan's Sabbatical that has been postponed. We learned that Lynn's application made it to the final round. We will learn late October if the grant is approved. Lynn is scheduled to take her sabbatical May 2021 and this grant will provide opportunities for both her and the church. Keep your fingers crossed.

Search Committee Questionnaire

The search committee is mailing out a questionnaire with this newsletter. They are looking to hire a full time associate minister for the church and would like your input. They are asking you to fill out the form and return it to Mico Faella.

If you need a copy of the questionnaire sent to you—please contact the church at churchoffice@thegccc.org.

BAPTISMS

Amaris Serah McGann - August 16, 2020
Ryan James Everson - September 13, 2020



Wash your hands and say your prayers

Because

Jesus and Germs are everywhere

Deaths

Ivy Pappas June 6, 2020 (Danielle Lemieux's mother)
Elizabeth Schrafel McHale July 14, 2020 (Richard Schrafel's sister)
Mary Wigent Hornberger March, 8, 2020 (previous church organist)
Chris Brown August 15, 2020 (son of Alice Brown)
Louise Manigault September 4, 2020 (UCC Metro Exec. Administrator)
Dr. Ron Bashian September 7, 2020 (George Bashian's brother)
Rev. Avery Post September 7, 2020 (GCCC Sr. Pastor 1957-1963)