



# Garden City Community Church Connections February 2026

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

## Our Sunday Volunteers

Whether you have been coming for a number of years, or if you are a first-time visitor you probably see that much goes on here at the Garden City Community Church. Have you ever thought about all that goes into making Sundays happen?

Besides our weekly ministers, our minister of music Frank Crosio, our professional singers, choir members, musicians, and custodial help, there is a large list of devoted volunteers and staff working behind the scenes each week.

On Sundays, we have our weekly greeter. She welcomes you and visitors alike, gives directions, makes the coffee for fellowship and answers questions. We also have volunteers that are involved with bringing 'goodies' for our fellowship hour.

Presently we have 4 usher teams consisting of 21 ushers in total. Anyone of them will meet you on Sunday and hand you one of our church bulletins. Later in the service, our ushers will collect the offering and present it to the minister.

As you settle into your seat, you will be able to take a moment to view our Sanctuary surroundings. You will see that we have a tech team on the balcony. They will be setting up the microphones for our service as well as the cameras for our live-streamed service.

We have volunteers that decorate the Sanctuary for special holiday seasons and people that sign up to be liturgists. Some set up communion for us each month. Liturgists take part in the Sunday service by leading prayers and reading the scriptures. We have volunteers that proofread and collate our order of worship each week.

Music is an important part of our ministry here at the Garden City Community Church. We have our adult choir, handbell choir, youth band and youth/church school choir. Each group shares their musical talents with us. They participate in our services at different times of the year.



## Our Sunday Volunteers (continued)

Our Christian Education staff guide our children through their faith formation. This includes our Confirmation class, our third-grade Bible class, and our youth group events. In addition, our high school students have the chance to participate in our yearly Mission Trip where they go to a part of the country where they can help those less fortunate than ourselves.

In addition to the groups mentioned above, we also have volunteers that give of their time to help the running of the church go smoothly. Have a number of volunteers that are involved in service projects that benefit groups like the Mary Brennan INN and the LICC Emergency Food Pantry. Our annual Americana Fair is a welcomed community event. People look forward to it each year – both volunteering to help as well as to come and see all the treasures we have to offer. We also have volunteers that are part of our Council of Trustees, our Finance & Administration Committee, our Stewardship Committee, our Ministry Team, and our Programming Committee. Each committee plays a vital part of our church.

So as you can see – a lot goes into making Sunday happen. As we start a new year and approach our annual meeting – maybe you would like to get involved with our church. Don't know where to start? You can reach out to the church office and they can answer any questions you might have. They can also refer you to people involved with each group/event. "Many hands make light work." We'd love to have you join us.





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## Worship Schedule

### Sundays

10:30 AM

Livestream & In-person

### Tuesdays

Intercessory

Prayer Service

9:30 AM In-person

**Ash Wednesday Community Led Prayer Service - Wednesday, February 18th noon In-person Soup & Bread Luncheon to follow the service.**

## Pulpit Supply for February

February 1st—Rev. Rayford Howell

February 8th—Rev. Noel Vanek

February 15th—Rev. Linda Tarry-Chard



### **Emergent Pastoral Needs after August 24th**

In the event of a Pastoral Emergency please contact the Church Office for Assistance – 516-746-1700.

**PLEASE  
PRAY**

### **Men's Breakfast**

All men of the church and their visitors are welcome; it is an opportunity to enjoy relaxed fellowship and conversation over a shared meal.

**Next meetings are on February 7th and March 7th at 8:00 am: Carle Place Diner 151 Old Country Road in Carle Place. Reservations are not needed.**



### **LICC Emergency Food Pantry Bi-weekly Food Collections**

Our next scheduled donation dates are **February 4th and 18th**. Please drop off your non-perishable food items on this dates before noon on the Whitehall Blvd. porch.

- They are in need of: dry cereal (cold), Hot cereal (grits, oatmeal),
- canned vegetables,
- plastic bottles of jelly,
- any kind of soup, **\*\*\*especially needed at this time\*\*\***
- pasta, pasta sauce,
- 1 or 2 pound bags of rice,
- shelf stable milk,
- canned meats (chicken, spam, Vienna sausage)
- toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, feminine products, razors, shampoo, Conditioner)
- all sizes of baby diapers.



If you want to sign up to be a driver to deliver our donations, please sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-60986164-2026>

**See our flyer in this Newsletter about our 'Souper' Bowl Soup Drive**

## Annual Corporate Meeting

In accordance with the Religious Corporation Laws of the State of New York, and the by-laws of the Garden City Community Church, notice is hereby given of the Annual Corporate Meeting to be held on Sunday, February 8, 2026 at noon following the 10:30 am Worship Service.

The purpose of the meeting will be:

- to elect successors to the trustees;
- to act on the church budget for 2026;
- to elect a slate of officers for 2026;
- to conduct any other business that may properly be presented at that time.



The meeting will be in person and via Zoom if you are unable to be there in person. To register to attend the Zoom meeting go to: <https://gcc.breezechms.com/form/61c92f14811974483644>

## Informal Q&A 2026 Budget Information Meeting

On Sunday, February 1st at 9am in the Parlor representatives from our Finance committee will be available to answer any questions about this year's budget. All are invited to stop by.



## Tuesday Prayer Service

The Prayer Service welcomes anyone who wishes to join us. We are meeting in the chapel Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am. Please email the office if you have a prayer request. **All requests are kept confidential.**



## Members at Home List

If you or a loved one would like to be included on our 'Members at Home' list or if you have moved to a residential facility, please make the church office aware by emailing us at:

[churchoffice@thegccc.org](mailto:churchoffice@thegccc.org) or calling us at (516) 746-1700 prompt 2. We want to make sure we can reach out to you! Do you know a church member that we should add to this list? If so, please let us know.

## Weekly Intercessory Prayer Service

This year saw a transition in leadership of the Intercessory Prayer Service from George Bashian to Kitt Von Braunsberg. Our community of pray-ers extends a heartfelt thanks to George for his many years of dedicated service and welcomes Kitt who brings with her a repertoire of sacred meditative choral verses.

Initially, as we gather for communal prayer, we heed the directive of St. James:

“...pray for one another that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.” (St. James 13:16)

We lift-up the hundreds of petitions entrusted to our care annually. Prayer requests can be made by completing the cards found in the pew racks and placing them in the offering plate, by speaking to one of the ministers, or by notifying the office. All requests are kept strictly confidential.

Next, we reflect upon the weekly lectionary Scripture reading or some other inspirational message. The experience of Holy Spirit moving among us through our sharing is palpable. Lastly, we enter into centering prayer and quiet meditation, followed by The Lord’s Prayer and a final communal blessing. Members have commented that they have observed spiritual growth over time as they have incorporated these practices into their daily routines.

Beloved of Christ, do you long for a more intimate, meaningful relationship with God? Do you feel called to pray on behalf of others and for your own needs? Do you wish to feel more centered, at peace, and joy-filled? Do you desire to be in continual conversation with God and experience Jesus in others? If so, consider spending one hour a week with us on Tuesdays at 9:30am in the chapel. I guarantee that it will be time well spent, as you realize the charge of something greater than yourself. As we progress from petition to praise, we begin to internalize the words of St. Paul:

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstance, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Come, join us in this most important ministry!

In Love, our Source  
Kitt Von Braunsberg



**Community Led Ash Wednesday Prayers—February 18th in the Chapel at noon  
All are welcome to join us**

**Join us after the service for a soup and bread luncheon in the Parlor**

The Chapel will remain open for individuals to pray until 1:30 pm



**Sunday Forums**

**February 22nd Forum:** All are invited to the Sunday Forum on February 22nd at 11:45 a.m. after the 10:30 worship service.

**The presentation will be: 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's Disease.** This educational program helps individuals and caregivers recognize the common warning signs of Alzheimer's disease in themselves and others. Participants will learn how these signs differ from typical age-related changes and explore practical next steps to take if concerns arise, including how to start a conversation with a healthcare provider. The program also highlights supportive resources available to individuals and families affected by Alzheimer's and other dementias.

Our speaker will be Hermancina Celisca. She is a Program Manager with the Long Island Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. In this role, she oversees community education and support to individuals, caregivers, and families impacted by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and works closely with community organizations, faith-based institutions, and healthcare partners across Nassau County.

**On Forum days - Fellowship hour will start in the Parlor at 11:30 am. The forum will start at 11:45 am. If people want to continue with the fellowship hour they can move to the Kensington Room. The fellowship items will remain in the Parlor.**



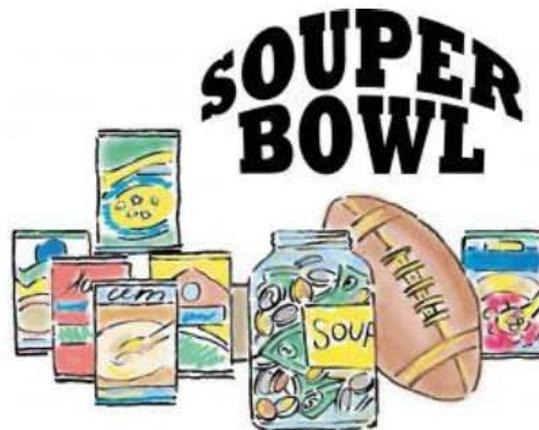


## “SOUPER BOWL” SUNDAY



We are looking to collect 500 cans of soup (or other canned goods)

We will donate them to the  
Long Island Council of Churches Emergency Food Pantry



If you can - please donate canned soup (or other canned goods)  
now through Sunday February 8, 2026 (Super Bowl Sunday)

We will have a 'football field' board in the hallway showing our progress.

★ **GO** ★  
**TEAM!**

★ **GO** ★  
**TEAM!**

★ **GO** ★  
**TEAM!**

Please help us reach our 'goal' and score a TOUCHDOWN

Thank you!

## Community Led Ash Wednesday Prayers

February 18, 2026  
noon in the Chapel



After the service  
you are welcome to join us  
for a soup and bread luncheon



**Food insecurity is growing on Long Island. According to LI Cares there are 313,800 food insecure Long Islanders, including an estimated 71,500 children. That means 1 in 9 Long Island residents, and 1 in 6 children, face hunger every day.**

Food pantries now try to give the recipients a choice in the food they receive. Imagine the anxiety a mother may experience if she goes to a food pantry to get food and half the items she is given cannot be eaten by her child due to a peanut allergy. When people are given a choice to select their food, they can feel less anxiety as they know they are picking food their families can and want to eat.

During Lent, we are asked to give up something or to help someone. We can do both by donating food during this Lenten Season. We are asking that each week during this Lenten season you donate non-perishable food items for the pantry if you are able.

**Any donation is welcome and appreciated but during each week of Lent we have suggested items.**

**February 22<sup>nd</sup> - plastic bottles of nut butter (peanut butter, almond butter, etc.) and jelly**

**March 1<sup>st</sup> – any kind of pasta and pasta sauce, 1-2 pound bags/boxes of rice**

**March 8<sup>th</sup> – canned items (fruit, soup, vegetables), shelf stable milk**

**March 15<sup>th</sup> – toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, feminine products, razors, shampoo, conditioner)**

**March 22<sup>nd</sup> – canned meats/fish (chicken, spam, Vienna sausage, tuna, salmon)**

**March 29<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday – all sizes of diapers, baby supplies (wipes, lotions), formula, baby food**

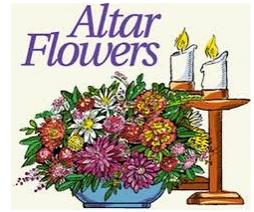
**April 5<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday – dry cereal (cold), hot cereal (grits, oatmeal)**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT. IT IS MUCH APPRECIATED.**

**Please leave your donated items in any of our food donation boxes located throughout the building on the first floor.**

## MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

### Worship Altar Flower Donations



A \$50.00 dollar donation provides a gift of love! Use this link: <https://www.gardencitycommunitychurch.org/give> and go to the online giving 'quick give' and choose the dropdown line: 'Give to 2026 Flowers' - or - hand deliver or mail to The Garden City Community Church.

Sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-60985577-2026>

Include the wording you wish us to include in the Order of Worship.

### 2026 Fellowship Hour Sign Up



#### Hosting Refreshment and Friendship after worship conversation

Perhaps hospitality and hosting are your passion. Schedule two ways: notebook in the Parlor or: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-60985864-2026>

Questions? Call the office at (516) 746-1700 or email [churchoffice@thegccc.org](mailto:churchoffice@thegccc.org)

#### Fund a Refreshment and Friendship conversation time:

<https://www.gardencitycommunitychurch.org/give> and go to the online giving 'quick give' and choose the dropdown line: 'Give to 2026 Fellowship'.

### Worship Ushers or Liturgists Opportunity

Perhaps you would love to serve as an usher or liturgist on Sunday morning?

Please call the church office at (516) 746-1700 or email us at [churchoffice@thegccc.org](mailto:churchoffice@thegccc.org).

Here is the link to sign up to be a liturgist:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-60985875-2026>



## Intergenerational Game Night—Friday February 27th at 5:00 pm

We are having an intergenerational Game Night! Come down and join us for a night of games and laughter. Feel free to bring your favorite boardgame to share! Friday, Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm in the community room!



### Help Us Beat the Jets to Tackle Hunger

Thanks to everyone that donated non-perishable food items for this event. The Jets final yards rushed was 2,096. We collected 2,053 items. We were only 43 items short to tie their rushed yards. Great job!!!



### NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

HAVE YOU CHANGED ANY OF YOUR CORRESPONDENCE INFORMATION LATELY?

Moving or preparing to move?



Do you have a new address, a new phone number or a new e-mail address?

Do you want to receive our weekly e-blasts about all the activities going on in the church?

Are you getting the mailings from the church?

Please let the church office know if any of your information has changed so that we can stay in touch with you! We are updating our files and want to make sure we have the correct information.

### GC Community Church Tech Team

We are looking for youth (and the otherwise young-at-heart) to contribute to bringing our weekly services, special services, and other content to our homebound and our away-from-home members. This is also our chance to reach out to those seeking a new church home. But we cannot do this alone, we need your help, or your children's help in making this happen. Absolutely no experience required, and while we will guide newcomers, we will also gladly take advice from the old sages.

Contact Steve Short, Tim Martens, or William Stone

Or Just join us some Sunday, in the balcony



## **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 2, 2026.

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 beginning in July.

Each session meets Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:15 - 12:15 - July 7 through July 30.

Tuition: \$180.00 per session - 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.GCCCNURSERY SCHOOL.com](http://www.GCCCNURSERY SCHOOL.com) or call the school office – 516-746-1756.



## Musical Ensembles September through June

**Adult Choir** – Open to H.S. students through adults. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm. The choir sings from Welcome Day in September through Church School Sunday in June.



**Youth/Church School Choir** – Open to grades 3-5. Rehearses during Church School. Performs at the 10:30 am service before Church School dismissal.



**Handbell Choir** – Open to H.S. students through adults. Rehearsals are planned in modules before each performance. Performs 4 times a year.



**Youth Band** – Open to grades 8-12 and college students. Performs on special occasions.



For more information contact Frank Crosio, Minister of Music at [music@thegccc.org](mailto:music@thegccc.org)



## FEBRUARY 2026

WITH SECURE, VIRTUAL COUNSELING SESSIONS  
AVAILABLE FOR ANY NEW YORK RESIDENT  
Prepared especially for LCC Congregations & Schools

### Primal Beliefs

by Rev. David Elseroad, D.Min., LMFT

**We** counselors are seeing in our work what many are observing in our society: an epidemic of anxiety and depression, most critically among our young people. This presents a mental health crisis of alarming proportions. A 2021 CDC study found 40% of high-school students reporting feeling persistently anxious, sad or hopeless, up from 28% a decade earlier. One in five considered suicide. Among girls, it's one in three; and 60% feeling disquiet or despondent. What's going on? Why the sad and anxious kids?

Psychologist Jeremy Clifton's research on "primal world beliefs" offers some insight into this mental health crisis. Primal world beliefs (also known as primals) are our most basic beliefs about the world as a whole. Clifton's research has identified 26 primal world beliefs. Most of which cluster around two basic beliefs – whether the world is, basically, good (e.g., safe, enticing, and alive) or dangerous (e.g., unsafe, dull, or mechanistic).

These primal beliefs can predict, according to Clifton, personality and wellness indicators such as depression, optimism, spirituality, extraversion, curiosity, and so forth. A belief that the world is dangerous can foster despair, hopelessness and a lack of personal agency. In short, the very anxiety and depression too many of our youth experience. However, underlying primal beliefs that the world is

Underlying primal beliefs that the world is (mostly) good fosters important qualities like resiliency and agency.

good, i.e., the world is mostly safe, enticing, and alive, correlates with optimism, extroversion, and curiosity. This world view fosters important qualities like resiliency and agency, engendering a sense of possibility, beauty, and progress.

In our healing journey, as faith-based counselors and as Christians, we together, both counselor and client, know that the world is both good and dangerous (and in-between), and, as such, in tension between contrasting primal beliefs. Our faith and experience teach us that the world is indeed broken and marred by sin. And yet, that brokenness is not the final word. God promises, through Christ, to heal the world and our brokenness. Thus, enabling us to recognize the good, the true, and the beautiful. God is working through us to bring this healing and hope to each other and the world.

If you or a young person you know is grappling with anxiety or depression, an LCC counselor can be of help, including through exploration and reconsideration of underlying primal outlooks that can deaden or enliven life.

Rev. David Elseroad, D.Min., LMFT,  
LCC Counselor

To learn more about Dr. [David Elseroad, LMFT](https://www.lccny.org/meetourcounselors) and all LCC's Counselors, go to <https://www.lccny.org/meetourcounselors>.  
Call the Lutheran Counseling Center at 516-741-0994 or 1-800-317-1173 or e-mail us at [Center@lccny.org](mailto:Center@lccny.org) to set an appointment.

### PRIMAL WORLD BELIEFS

Primal World Beliefs are our most basic beliefs about the world as a whole.

By mining many sources of data over five years, researchers have identified 26 distinct primal world beliefs – including three that have outsized influence:

# February



# 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Informal 2026 Budget Q&A Meeting 9:00 am Sunday Service/Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30 am Youth Group 6:00pm	2 Council of Trustees (COT) Meeting via Teams 7:00pm	3 Prayer Service 9:30 am	4 Food Donation drop off - noon Confirmation Class 6:45pm	5 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7pm	6	7 Men's Breakfast Cattle Place Diner 8:00 am
8 Sunday Service/Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30 am Annual Church meeting 12:00pm	9	10 Prayer Service 9:30 am	11	12 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7pm	13	14
15 Sunday Service 10:30 am Sunday School Not scheduled Fellowship Hour 11:30 am Ministry Meeting 12:00pm	16 Church office closed President's Day	17 Prayer Service 9:30 am Council of Trustees (COT) Meeting 7pm	18 Ash Wed, Ash Wed Service noon Soup & Bread Lunch after service Food Donation drop off - noon	19 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7pm	20	21
22 Sunday Service/Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30 am Sunday Forum 11:45 am Youth Group 6:00pm	23	24 Prayer Service 9:30 am	25 Confirmation Class 6:45pm	26 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7pm	27 Intergenerational Game Night 5pm	28