



Garden City Community Church Connections August 2025

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

Rev. John Livingston & Rev. Bonnie McDougall-Olson



For Everything!

Advising the Search & Call Committee

Attending meetings

Conducting 3rd grade Bible study

Guiding Confirmation Students and Leaders

Leading Inquirer's classes

Navigating all the behind-the-scenes work

Pastoral Care

Providing a steady presence during transition

Shepherding the Ministry Committee

Supporting and advocating for Vacation Bible School

Teaching the Communion Class

Visiting homebound and sick members

Preparing profound and inspiring Sunday and Special Services

Enlightening our membership through your words both written and preached!

All the members, staff and friends of GCCC are forever grateful for your time with us!

Blessings Bonnie & John to you and your families!

A Message from Pastor Bonnie McDougall Olson

Thank you for inviting me to share in your journey as a church—not just once but three times! Now that it is time for me to leave for the third time, I have learned a good many more names and faces and gained a sense of who is who on what committees and which programs. I also remember the pages that were taped on the walls outside the sanctuary in which you wrote out your individual hopes and dreams for GCCC. Big dreams and little dreams. Some new ideas and some reflecting back on successes of the past. While those papers are no longer in the hallways, they are alive in each of you. Dreams for the building up of the church are the work of the Holy Spirit, inspiring and challenging and urging the church forward.

In the parable of the mustard seed, Matthew 13:31-32, Jesus tells the story of a man who “took and planted” a mustard seed in his garden. Despite the size of the seed, it grew to be the largest plant in the garden, becoming a tree that the birds could come and perch in its branches.

Had the man kept those seeds in his pocket they would have never grown into a tree that could shade others from the sun nor provide a home for the birds to nest in. Had he waited for another to come along to plant the seeds, he would’ve lost a season of growth and harvest.

Dear church you are born to be that mustard tree- - to provide God’s refuge and shade (Psalm 121) to the spiritually weary—To provide a place of Christ’s love and forgiveness in your branches.

Dear church, empty your pockets! Shake out every last seed of faith and dreams you have, every God given gift you have, share them and plant them and nurture them and see what a tiny mustard seed of love and faith will wrought.

In faith and thanks for inviting me on your journey,

Pastor Bonnie

A Message from Pastor John Livingston

I love the story about a missionary in Africa who received a beautiful seashell as a gift from one of her students. The student had walked a long way to the coast of Africa to get the special shell for his teacher.

"You've traveled so far to bring me such a wonderful, beautiful gift," she said. "Oh, teacher," the boy replied, "Long walk, part of gift!"

When I was asked to preach here last summer, providing pulpit supply for Sunday August 11th, I never thought it would turn into such a wonderful journey! That Sunday, as Judi and I caught up with long-time friendships begun 40 years ago, one conversation led to another and before I knew it I was being asked if I would consider helping the church's Search and Call Team on their journey to find a new settled pastor. By the end of September, my journey had begun and a month later Pastor Bonnie and I had our various roles and responsibilities established and we were on our way serving the Garden City Community Church.

For me, the journey has been a blessing. I co-officiated for a very special wedding; officiated at five meaningful funeral services, performed eight precious baptisms, assisted with this year's amazing confirmation class; taught the First Communion class and the Third Grade Bible class; led twenty-six Sunday worship services; and worked with the dedicated Search and Call Team.

Since this is my last newsletter article, I wanted to remind you of my mantra, something I discovered when I was an associate pastor here from 1982 to 1986. I first shared this with the confirmation classes which Judi and I led together and ever since I have tried my best to live by these words written by S.H. Payer. I share this gift with you, members, friends and staff of the Garden City Community Church!

*Live each day to the fullest.
Get the most from each hour, each day,
and each age of your life.
Then you can look forward with confidence,
and back without regrets.
Be yourself...but be your best self.
Dare to be different and follow your own star.
Don't be afraid to be happy...enjoy what is beautiful.
Love with all your heart and soul.
Believe that those you love, love you.
When you are faced with a decision,
make that decision as wisely as possible, then forget it.
The moment of absolute certainty never arrives
And above all, remember that God helps those who help themselves.
Act as if everything depended on you.
And pray as if everything depended on God.
(S.H. Payer)*

Peace,

Pastor John



Inside This Issue

Page 1	Special thanks to Rev. Bonnie McDougall Olson & Rev. John Livingston
Pages 2-3	Pastor's Message (Rev. Bonnie McDougall Olson & Rev. John Livingston)
Page 5	Cradle of Aviation IMAX Movie Event, Tuesday prayer service, Men's Breakfast & LICC Emergency Food Pantry Collections
Page 6	Sunday School and Group Activities Info (Leaders needed & group registrations)
Page 7	Sunday Forums & Special Fellowship for our Ministers Last Day with us
Page 8	Usher & Liturgist opportunities, Fellowship & Altar Flower donations
Page 9	News from the Office, Americana Fair Updates and Requests, & Tech Team Request
Page 10	Musical Ensembles (Adult Choir, Youth Choir, Handbell Choir, Youth Band)
Page 11	August Calendar

Worship Schedule

Sundays

10:30 AM

Livestream & In-person

Tuesdays

Intercessory

Prayer Service

9:30 AM In-person

IMAX Movie at the Cradle of Aviation



The Christian Ed team is planning to have a family outing to the IMAX theater at the Cradle of Aviation. We will be heading to the museum after church on August 3rd to catch the 12:00pm showing of Ocean Paradise. Tickets are \$12 per adult, \$11 per child. **This event is open to the whole church, the more the merrier!**

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.



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 August 2nd and September 6th at 8:00 am at the Carle Place Diner—151 Old Country Road in Carle Place. Reservations are not needed.**



There will be a special guest at our August 2nd breakfast so please make an effort to attend!

LICC Emergency Food Pantry Bi-weekly Food Collections

Our next scheduled donation dates are **August 6th and 20th**. Please drop off your non-perishable food items on this dates before noon on the Whitehall Blvd. porch. **School is out and breakfast items for kids are especially needed as they aren't getting breakfast at school.**

- They are in need of: dry cereal (cold), Hot cereal (grits, oatmeal),
- canned vegetables,
- plastic bottles of jelly,
- any kind of soup, 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/904084BACAD2EAA8-54023518-2025#/>

MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

News from our Sunday School & Group Activities



Middle School Youth Group Leader Needed! We are looking for a leader to help with the Middle School Youth Group, they are an awesome group of kids. Join us as we read bible stories, learn about amazing historical figures, and play fun games. Meetings every other week, 2 times a month starting in October. For more information, please reach out to Amanda, adidas@thegccc.org.

High School Youth Group Leader Needed! We are looking for a leader to help with the high school youth group. We do fun activities, learn about the bible, and play games. We meet once a month starting in October. If you are interested, please contact Amanda, adidas@thegccc.org.

Sunday School Teachers Needed! Welcome Day is coming quick and we are looking for volunteers to help teach Sunday School so that we can make sure that our teachers are able to attend church services as well. We had an amazing team this past year, but many hands make light work. Please consider sharing your time with our youngest church members! If you are interested please contact Amanda, adidas@thegccc.org.

Confirmation Leaders Needed! This year a whole new cohort will be starting! We need 3 leaders to help with guiding the next generation of the church. The experience is very rewarding. They meet once a week starting in October, and it is a two-year program. For more information, please contact Amanda, adidas@thegccc.org.

We are looking to bring back the OWL, Our Whole Lives, program. The program geared toward our teens teaching them about healthy relationships, social media, etc... In order to run this, we are in need of volunteers to run the program. If you are interested, please reach out to Amanda, adidas@thegccc.org

Registration for Sunday School is now open. We are taking children aged 3 years old to children entering into the 5th grade in September. Every week we learn about a different Bible story and have some activity that is fun and engaging for the kids. Sunday School starts on Sept 14th. We are using the SparkHouse Curriculum. If you have any questions, you can contact Amanda, adidas@thegccc.org. You can register here: <https://gccc.breezechms.com/form/SundayS25>

Registration for Middle School Youth Group is now open. We are taking young adults in 6th to 8th grade. We meet every other week starting in October, about 2 times a month. We learn about different Bible stories, learn about amazing people, play games, and go on fun adventures. If you have any questions email Amanda, adidas@thegccc.org. Register here: <https://gccc.breezechms.com/form/MSYG25>

Registration for High School Youth Group is now open. We are taking youths in 9th to 12th grade. We meet once a month starting in October. We learn about different bible stories, play games, and go on fun adventures. If you have any questions, you can contact Amanda, adidas@thegccc.org. You can register here: <https://gccc.breezechms.com/form/HSYG25>

Sunday Forums for Fall of 2025

October 5th Forum: "Planned Giving" Elder Care Attorney Donna Furey will lead the forum focusing on elder law, wills, trusts, estate and Medicaid planning, probate and administration of estates, and planning for people with special needs.

Date to be announced: Book Discussion

"Taken No More: Protecting Your Children Against Traffickers and Cults"

The new book by Robin Boyle-Laisure, JD

Release date on November 13, Pre-order available



Early Spring Forum: European Trip in search of Pagan Roman Temples going back to 300 AD in the emergence of Christianity

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.

We still plan to have forums on the last Sunday of the month unless the speakers are only available on certain dates. We will take into consideration the church's schedule on certain events.

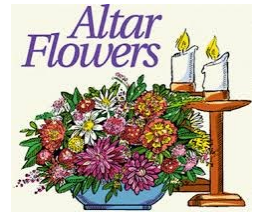
If you are interested in leading a forum, please email churchoffice@thegccc.org

Circle the Date
Please Join us on August 24th for
Sunday Service and a Special
Fellowship Hour.

We would like everyone to come and
share their appreciation to
Rev. John Livingston and
Rev. Bonnie McDougall-Olson for
their service and leadership
this past year.

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 2025 Flowers' - or - hand deliver or mail to The Garden City Community Church.

Sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-54023564-2025>

2025 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/904084BACAD2EAA8-54023569-2025>

Questions? Call the office at (516) 746-1700 or email 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 2025 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.

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

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-54020501-2025>



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.

Americana Fair Updates & Requests

We are now collecting items for our Americana Fair so please remember to bring your items to church when you are doing your summer/fall clean up.

The committee decided to move the gift baskets area to the Kensington Room. We will be having a mini gourmet area in this room as well as in Gardner Hall. Vendors will be in the hallway.



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

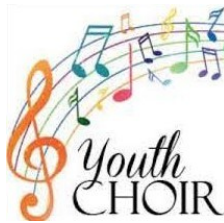


Musical Ensembles September through June

Adult Choir – Open to H.S. students through adults. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm.



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

August



2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Men's Breakfast 8am Carle Place Diner
3 Service 10:30am Sunday School 10:30 am NOT SCHEDULED Fellowship Hour 11:30am Cradle of Aviation IMAX Movie 12pm	4 Prayer Service 9:30am	5 Prayer Service 9:30am	6 Food donations drop off before noon	7	8	9
10 Service 10:30am Sunday School 10:30 am NOT SCHEDULED Fellowship Hour 11:30am	11 Council of Trustees (COT) Meeting 7pm	12 Prayer Service 9:30am	13	14	15	16
17 Service 10:30am Sunday School 10:30 am NOT SCHEDULED Fellowship Hour 11:30am Ministry Meeting 12pm	18 Prayer Service 9:30am	19 Prayer Service 9:30am	20 Food donations drop off before noon	21	22	23
24 Revs. McDougall Olson & Livingston last day Service 10:30am Sunday School 10:30 am NOT SCHEDULED Fellowship Hour 11:30am	25 Prayer Service 9:30am	26	27	28	29	30
31 Service 10:30am Sunday School 10:30 am NOT SCHEDULED Fellowship Hour 11:30am						