



Garden City Community Church Connections August 2026

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

Dear GCCC,

Something I've been thinking about a great deal lately is voice.

Not simply my own voice, though being a woman in ministry has certainly made me think about it for much of my life.

When I was a little girl, I simply assumed my voice mattered as much as anyone else's. I worked hard in school, loved to learn, and never imagined my gender might determine how seriously I would be taken.

Middle school changed that.

The innocence of childhood gave way to something much more complicated, and suddenly I became aware that the world did not always make equal room for every voice. I didn't like it one bit. But I kept speaking. I kept taking up space the best way I knew how because somewhere inside me I believed that one day it would become easier.

In many ways, it did.

By high school I was leading a Bible club each week. After receiving approval from the school board, I spent four years teaching Scripture to my peers. Looking back now, I realize I wasn't only learning the Bible. I was learning how to find my voice.

Bible college strengthened it.

Seminary complicated it.

The classroom humbled me intellectually in all the right ways, but ministry introduced a different challenge. There were moments when colleagues saw my gender before they heard my ideas, and for the first time I felt something inside me begin to crack—not break, but crack.

This isn't to say I spent my younger years overflowing with confidence. Far from it. But I generally knew who I was, even as that person continued to grow and change.

My thirties made me increasingly aware of what it meant to be a woman in ministry.

My forties have only deepened that awareness.

Again and again, I've had to strengthen my proverbial vocal cords and rediscover the confidence to speak—not because I had suddenly become someone different, but because finding one's voice is rarely something we do only once.

These days, however, I find myself thinking much less about my own voice and much more about ours.

What is the voice of Garden City Community Church?

What sort of conversation are we entering?

What are we contributing?

I think about the tone of our voice. The cadence. When we pause. When we speak. When we intentionally remain silent. When we choose softness over volume, or conviction without harshness.

Every Sunday I stand in the pulpit, but I never stand there alone.

I carry this congregation with me.

In many ways, my voice becomes an extension of ours.

That is an extraordinary privilege and an enormous responsibility.

When I preach, yes, I hope there is laughter. I hope there is joy. One has to be engaging to hold a room for twenty-five minutes. But I also hope there is confidence, thoughtfulness, curiosity, and invitation.

Because those are the qualities I hope will define us.

I hope we become a congregation whose confidence comes not from believing we have every answer, but from knowing who we are.

I hope we become a community whose intellect is continually shaped and reshaped by what we are learning—always willing to receive wisdom from the past while remaining open to what is still unfolding before us.

I hope we never lose our sense of wonder. Faith, at its best, continues to surprise us. Communities that are surprised by grace become communities people long to belong to.

And, perhaps most of all, I hope we become known for our spirit of invitation.

A church that is always inviting people further into life.

Further into faith.

Further into themselves.

So yes...voice has been on my mind.

Not simply mine anymore.

Ours.

I don't yet know exactly what the voice of Garden City Community Church will become.

But I hope people hear grace.

I hope they hear courage.

I hope they hear intelligence.

I hope they hear joy.

And above all, I hope they hear an invitation.

Perhaps we are already discovering that voice.

And what a gift it is to discover it together.

Love and blessings,

Maria



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Worship Schedule

Sundays

10:30 AM

Livestream & In-person

Tuesdays

Intercessory

Prayer Service

9:30 AM In-person

A Message from our Council of Trustees (COT) Chair

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!” **Isaiah 6:8**

I think of this verse often as I step into the church building to speak with Rev. Maria, Frank or the church staff. Spending time “doing” church business this summer has been exhausting but rewarding. Many think of the summer as a slow time for the church, but with the arrival of Rev. Maria, we have been running at full steam. The church staff is busy with new routines, schedules, tasks and ideas that support our building, serve our neighbors and strengthen our faith.

This past month, there was much to do administratively to see our youth safely off on their annual Mission Trip to Colorado Springs. Our youth epitomize the statement, “Here am I. Send me”!! This experience is a life-changing event for many and a faith-renewing event for all. Thank you to our youth and leaders for their service!

Our 2nd Annual Lobster Fest was held on July 25th. Several of the ladies in the church worked hard planning this event and we are excited to say we hosted over 90 people this year. This event is a great example of our strong church community bringing us together in different ways - sharing, singing and spending time together.

We will be hosting an evening VBS Carnival Extravaganza on July 31. Rev. Maria, Amanda Dias and Tara Noll-Socha have been working together to make this a fun and exciting event for children and parents alike. God, Jesus, faith, friends, a bouncy house, cotton candy, games, etc. – what could be more fun, all while learning the stories of our faith.

I have even started consulting with Cindy Campbell on new Americana Fair procedures and ideas. While the Fair is not until November, the planning starts almost as soon as the Fair ends. It takes a village, or a church community!

Again, these events do not happen in a vacuum, but with a lot of planning, patience, prayers and most importantly volunteers. If you like what we are doing or would like to be more involved in where we are going, please reach out to me or Rev. Maria. We cannot carry out the ministry, educational and social events that we would like to do, without your help. We need people with creativity, ingenuity, curiosity, flexibility, humility, and energy. “Here am I. Send me!”

Remember a strong church is one that worships together, serves together and volunteers together!

Lastly, be sure to look at our beautiful building and grounds. Kristian and Ruben have spent the better part of the summer maintaining the building, painting, buffing floors, trimming bushes and trees and much, much more. Please give them a huge “thank you”, if you happen to see them in the building.

Faithfully,

Karin



A note from our Nursery School Director, Cathie McCullough

This summer, our young campers had an unforgettable time at Community Adventures, filled with laughter, new friendships, and plenty of memorable moments. A special thank-you goes to our incredible middle and high school volunteers, who gave their time and energy to make camp such a warm and welcoming experience. Their leadership and enthusiasm didn't go unnoticed — they were wonderful role models to every camper, and their willingness to serve reflects the best of our community spirit. We're so grateful for everyone who made this year's Community Adventures a success, and we can't wait to see what next summer brings!



Christian Education Updates

from Amanda Dias, Youth Ministry/Outreach Coordinator



The Mission Trip was a great success! All 18 participants made it home with a few bumps along the way but nothing the leaders couldn't handle, thank you for all your thoughts and prayers. A huge thank you to the other leaders, Jessica, Doug, Nicki, and Russ, and Jill for all their hard work and dedication to the kids and the Mission Trip! The kids spent the week serving the community of Colorado Springs in various ways! From helping out at a Soup kitchen to decommissioning social hiking trails, just important work that these kids did. We worked alongside 2 other churches, one from Wisconsin and another from Texas. We made memories that will last a lifetime, and we look forward to serving alongside one another again in our community here.

In August we have our intergenerational Duck's Game. August 2nd the game starts at 5:05pm we will be meeting at the park. It is \$22 per ticket, you can sign up here:

<https://gcc.breezechms.com/form/8b108b21>. We hope that you can make it! Come spend some time with us as we cheer on Long Island's Favorite team!

We still have a few slots left in August for help with Sunday School! Please consider helping us out and spending time with our kids! All materials will be provided and there will always be 2 adults. We need help for August, 2nd, 9th, 23rd, 30th, and September 6th. You can sign up here: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-64569250-summer#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-64569250-summer#/)

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. **The next meetings are on August 1st and September 5th at 8:00 am: Carle Place Diner 151 Old Country Road in Carle Place. Reservations are not needed.**

Special Fellowship Hour

Please join the Tech Team after church on August 16th at our fellowship hour as we thank William Stone for all his hard work as part of our tech team as he goes off to college in the fall. He will be attending Five Towns College to major in Communication/Audio Engineering. Please take a moment to wish William well in his new future endeavors. His humor, and his talents, will both be seriously missed by the Tech Team.



9/11 Memorial Service

We will be holding a 25th anniversary 9/11 service on Friday evening, September 11th at 7:00 pm. All are invited to attend.

Blessing of the Animals

Join us on Sunday, September 27th at our regular 10:30 am service. This service will include a blessing of the animals. All pets are welcome to attend. We are planning to hold & livestream the service in Gardner Hall. We will be having lunch afterwards. You bring your lunch and we will supply the dessert and pet treats. All are invited to attend.

See our flyers inside this newsletter

Le Salon—A Gathering for Women

September 25th—6:00 pm

All women are welcome to join Rev. Dr. Maria Francesca French for conversation, connection, and petite refreshments.

See our flyer in this newsletter and watch our e-blasts for more info.



Registration Forms for Youth Programs

We need completed registration forms on file for all children that will be participating in our Sunday School classes, our Confirmation class, our Middle School Youth Group and/or our High School Youth Group. The links are below to fill out the forms for our upcoming school year. These forms also have an area where you let us know if we have consent to use photos. Please make sure to fill out this area as well.

Sunday School registration form: <https://gcc.breezechms.com/form/SundayS2599>

Confirmation Class registration form: <https://gcc.breezechms.com/form/25Confo178>

High School Youth Group registration form: <https://gcc.breezechms.com/form/HSYG2552>

Middle School Youth Group registration form: <https://gcc.breezechms.com/form/MSYG252>

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.**



Baskets Requested **for the Americana Fair**

Plans are in the works for our annual Americana Fair. We are in need of medium to large baskets so that we can put together our raffle baskets. Please drop them off or contact the church office at (516) 746-1700 prompt 2 for more info.



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 or Tim Martens. Or Just join us some Sunday, in the balcony



Lobster Fest Success!!

This year's annual Lobster Fest was a huge success! Almost 100 people attended. There was good food, good company, good music, good weather—who could ask for anything more.

A special thanks goes out to all the people that helped make it a success. There are too many people to name everyone, but here are a few of the major players who were very instrumental in making the event such a success. The committee members: Allyson Goodman, Jan Levine, Alice & Karin Melkonian and Vickie Stanco - they did much work behind the scenes which made the event run smoothly. The day wouldn't have happened without them!! Let's also give a shout out to Alexa Stanco Clark for her beautiful (and delicious desserts), to Jonathan Goodman & Georgia Rehbock for their Broadway musical selections, Thomas Melkonian and Kristian Rhein for their help with the setup, Russ Fincher & Steve Short for their help with the lights and equipment, and Joe Stanco, Jane & Doug Nelson for their help throughout the day.



Service Requests for help with our Giving Garden & needs for the New LIFE Center

Our vegetable garden is thriving so we are looking for volunteers in the coming weeks and months to pick the vegetables from the garden to take them over to the New LIFE Center. Their address is 145 Franklin Avenue Franklin Square, NY. Deliveries can be made from Monday-Friday 9am-1pm. Their cross street is Plane Ave. The phone number for the director, Lynn Butte is (516) 238-1035. Interested in helping with the garden—please speak to Suzanne Roche or contact the church office at (516) 746-1700.

We've been told by Lynn that the clients especially love the fresh vegetables. They immediately take the fresh produce as soon as it arrives and that the produce shelves are often bare.



To sign up to take the food donations over to the pantry go to:

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

The items for the senior kits are in high demand. The items requested are:

The items requested are:

- 2 rolls of toilet paper
- 1 roll of paper towels
- 1 small bottle of dish detergent
- 1 small bottle of laundry detergent
- 1 small bottle of concentrated cleaner (like Lysol)
- 1 sponge with scrubbing side

All non-perishable items are needed by the Lew LIFE Center Pantry but they especially need the following items at this time:

- complete pancake mix & syrup
- jelly/jam
- dried beans: red & black
- canned salmon & sardines
- spam
- ramen
- juice boxes & 64oz bottles
- Coffee-instant & ground-regular & decaf
- Ketchup, mustard, BBQ sauce, hot sauce & salad dressings
- Canned corn
- 1 or 2 lb. packages of sugar & flour
- Masa Flour (corn flour)
- Spices/seasonings: onion powder; garlic powder; crushed red pepper; Goya Adobo all-purpose seasoning; cumin, curry powder

Essential Care Products Needed:

- Toilet paper
- Laundry detergent pods
- Feminine hygiene products
- Toothpaste & toothbrushes
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Unscented bar soap
- Small bottles of dish detergent
- Shaving cream & Razors
- VO5 3 in 1 for Men (Shampoo, conditioner & body wash)

Baby Items Needed:

- Baby wipes
- Diapers-size 4, 5 & 6

Miscellaneous:

- Dry Cat & Dog food (**not grain free**)



SUMMER FACILITIES UPDATE

Summer is one of the busiest seasons for the Facilities Team at Garden City Community Church. Kristian and Ruben have been hard at work, giving the Church School Wing a fresh new look as they begin **Phase 1** of the painting project. Summer also provides an opportunity to catch up on repairs and maintenance for the Nursery School while the children are not in the building each day.

In addition to these projects, the team works daily to prepare and maintain rooms for the many community groups using our facilities throughout the summer. We are pleased to continue supporting AA-Garden City Group three evenings each week, Kennedy Test Prep, Testtakers SAT Prep, and our newest summer partner, Lindamood-Bell. Lindamood-Bell is a full-time summer tenant that provides intensive, research-based tutoring for children with reading and learning differences.

We are grateful for Kristian and Ruben's hard work and dedication in keeping our building inside and out, welcoming, well-maintained, and ready to serve both our congregation and the wider community.

If you have any suggestions, maintenance concerns, or questions regarding the building, please contact **Liz Galzerano, Business Manager**, at Controller@thegccc.org.

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.



GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH

245 STEWART AVE, GARDEN CITY

WE REMEMBER

A SERVICE FOLLOWED BY CANDLELIGHT VIGIL
AND REMEMBRANCE LIGHTS.

SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2026 - 7PM
OPEN TO ALL



FRIDAY, SEP 25TH, 6PM, 245 STEWART AVE, GARDEN CITY



a gathering for women:
conversation, connection, and petite refreshments

Free childcare will be provided

GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH



SEPTEMBER 27, 2026 | GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH | 245 STEWART AVE.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

BRING YOUR PET TO GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH FOR A PERSONAL BLESSING AND A SERVICE DEVOTED TO OUR PETS. BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH FOR AFTER.

ALL ANIMALS ARE WELCOME. PLEASE ENSURE YOUR PET IS UNDER FULL CONTROL AT ALL TIMES. PERHAPS LEAVE YOUR PET TIGER AT HOME. THIS WILL TAKE PLACE DURING OUR REGULAR SUNDAY 10:30AM SERVICE, WHICH WILL BE HELD IN GARDNER HALL FOR THIS WEEK.



November 10:00 — 3:00
7, 2026 AM PM

245 STEWART AVENUE AT
WHITEHALL BLVD., GARDEN CITY

The Garden City • Community Church
Americana



Fair
free entry

We Need YOUR Help!

Please donate any items to the fair. We will accept clean and gently used men's and women's clothing, kids' clothing, jewelry, china, crystal, silver, pictures and frames, lamps, toys, holiday items, and household items. Make sure all items are clean and in saleable condition. **NO LARGE PIECES OF FURNITURE OR ELECTRONICS, PLEASE.**

Donation Drop-Off Times:

Sat., Oct 31: 10:00 AM - 4 PM

Sun., Nov. 1: 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Mon., Nov 2: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Tue., Nov 3: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Wed., Nov. 4: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Thur. Nov. 5: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

No donations accepted after November 5th



**The Ministry Team Invites All to
Participate in the Ministry Activities at the GCCC**



Give a Gift of Love by Donation of Altar Flowers

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

Provide Refreshments for Fellowship

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-60985864-2026>

Be a Guest Liturgist

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

Become an Usher

Call the office at (516) 746-1700 or email churchoffice@thegccc.org

ON-LINE GIVING

Garden City Community Church is 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 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 in the office (516)746-1700.



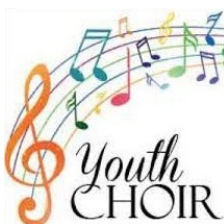
Musical Ensembles

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

August



2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Men's Breakfast 8am Carle Place Diner
2 Service 10:30am Fellowship Hour 11:30am Ducks Game 5:05pm	3	4 Prayer Service 9:30am	5 Food donations drop off before noon	6	7	8
9 Service 10:30am Fellowship Hour 11:30am	10 Prayer Service 9:30am	11	12	13	14	15
16 Service /Sunday School 10:30am Fellowship Hour 11:30am Ministry Meeting 12:00pm	17 Prayer Service 9:30am	18 Food donations drop off before noon	19	20	21	22
23 Service 10:30am Fellowship Hour 11:30am	24 Prayer Service 9:30am	25	26	27	28	29
30 Service 10:30am Fellowship Hour 11:30am	31					