



Garden City Community Church Connections March 2026

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

A Message from our Council of Trustees (COT) Chair

What a wild winter this has been - record cold temperatures and snow that forced the COT to cancel a Sunday service. As we move into March, we anxiously await the warmer weather and beauty of God's creation that will soon begin to bud and grow around us.

"It's not the one who plants or the one who waters who is at the center of this process but God, who makes things grow." 1 Corinthians 3:7.

Growth doesn't only pertain to flowers and trees, but to our church as well. If you haven't yet heard, the Search and Call Committee has unanimously recommended a candidate for Senior Pastor to the congregation. They feel that under the candidate's pastoral leadership and guidance our congregation will bloom and grow not only in faith but in numbers. I see God's hands helping to cultivate our church through the prayerful selection of this candidate. I look forward to working with a new Senior Pastor to bring forth a new and exciting chapter in our church.

Please mark your calendars and "save the date" to meet our candidate, hear her preach and vote on her Call, as Senior Pastor of the Garden City Community Church, on the weekend of March 21 and 22. The COT is working on details for this exciting Candidate weekend and will share all plans when they are finalized.

As the newly elected Chair of the Council of Trustees, I would like to thank Kirsten Bahlke for her commitment to and support of our church over her past tenure as Chair. She has led our church through many difficult times without the guidance of a Pastor and we are stronger for her steady presence. Thank you, Kirsten for all your hard work!!

I look forward to working in covenant with our congregants and committees to continue the progress we have made to keep our church active, engaged and growing in faith and fellowship in the absence of a Senior Pastor. Through your time, talents, generosity and prayers, we have created a place where all are welcomed, strengthened and blessed. Let's work together to continue God's mission both within and outside our church building. Our faith and commitment to God's grace does not end when we step outside the doors. Let's continue our journey with Jesus spreading his word, work and love to all.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Candidate Weekend, March 21 and 22.

Remember, a strong church is a church that worships together, serves together and calls a Pastor together.

Faithfully yours,

Karin Melkonian—Chair, Council of Trustees





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Worship Schedule

Sundays

10:30 AM

Livestream & In-person

Tuesdays

Intercessory

Prayer Service

9:30 AM In-person

Pulpit Supply for March

March 1st—Rev. Noel Vanek

March 8th — Rev. Bonnie McDougall Olson

March 15th — Rev. Linda Tarry-Chard

March 22nd — Pastoral Candidate

March 29th —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 March 7th and April 4th 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 **March 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,
- 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>



Palm Sunday, March 29th at 10:30 am—Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd at 7:00 pm—Sanctuary

Good Friday, April 3rd at 12:00 pm—3:00 pm—Chapel open for prayers & Meditation

Easter Sunrise Service, April 5th at 6:30 am—Church lawn

Easter Sunday, April 5th at 10:30 am—Sanctuary

Easter Egg Hunt, April 5th at 11:30 am—Playscape

Stripping the Palms for Palm Sunday



We will be stripping the Palms for Palm Sunday on Friday, March 27th from 3-5 pm. If you are interested in helping please let the office know. You will need to bring gloves and clippers.

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 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.

Call to a Special Congregational 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 a Special Congregational Meeting.

- **Date:** 03/22/2025 (Sunday)
- **Time:** 12:00 Noon, Immediately following the worship service
- **Location:** Sanctuary
- **Purpose:** To hear the recommendation of the Search and Call Team, and to formally elect a Senior Pastor.
- **Voting:** An election will be conducted according to the Church bylaws, only members of the age of 16 years and older, in good standing and present in the Sanctuary are eligible to vote. A Pastor shall be called by a vote of majority of the members present at this duly called Church meeting.

Warm Regards,

Russ Fincher, Search and Call Team



Sunday Forums

March 8th Forum: All are invited to the Sunday Forum on March 8th at 11:45 a.m. after the 10:30 am worship service. Robin Boyle-Laisure, JD will be discussing her recently published book, ***Taken No More: Protect Your Children Against Traffickers and Cults (Bloomsbury 2025)***. Signed copies of books will be available for purchase. The book is a culmination of nearly three decades of researching, writing, and presenting on laws pertaining to cults and human trafficking, which are timely topics these days!

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.





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 22nd - plastic bottles of nut butter (peanut butter, almond butter, etc.) and jelly

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

March 8th – canned items (fruit, soup, vegetables), shelf stable milk

March 15th – toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, feminine products, razors, shampoo, conditioner)

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

March 29th – Palm Sunday – all sizes of diapers, baby supplies (wipes, lotions), formula, baby food

April 5th – 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.



Upcoming Events



Game Night

Join us for another intergenerational game night! There will be some snacks provided but bring your favorite game to share!



Family Movie

Join us for the movie, King of Kings! It is an interesting animated retelling of Jesus's story to get us in the mood for Easter! We will also be having pizza so please RSVP!



245 Stewart Ave., Garden City

for more information contact Amanda, adias@thegccc.org



Easter Music

If you would like to enhance the Music Program of our Church in memory of or in honor of loved ones, you are invited to contribute to the Music Fund. Please fill out the form below and return it to the church office no later than **Sunday, March 22nd**

In memory of: _____

OR

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____



Easter Plants

We invite you to have Easter plants placed in the sanctuary in memory of or in honor of loved ones. Please fill out the form below and return it to the church office no later than **Sunday, March 22nd**

In memory of: _____

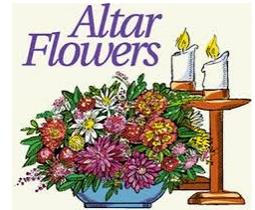
OR

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____

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

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.

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

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



The King of Kings Movie—Sunday, March 15th at 12:30 pm

Join us in Gardner Hall to watch the animated faith-based movie the King of Kings. The PG rated movie is told as a bedtime story by Charles Dickens to his son, Walter. It is about the life of Jesus Christ from his birth and miracles to his crucifixion and resurrection. All are invited to attend.



A note of thanks from Marie Yellen's family

Sincere thanks for all the prayers and love we have received from our GCCC family. Your support has been a tremendous help to us as we try to come to terms with the passing of our beloved mother, Marie Yellen.

Regards: Jerry Yellen, Christine O'Neill, Laura Catlan and family

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



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

MARCH 2026

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Transitions

by Rev. Thomas S. Taylor, PhD., LCSWR

There is one constant in life – change.

In his classic book, *Transitions*, William Bridges describes three stages of transition that accompany all sorts of life changes – marriage, divorce, a job change, a birth of a child, a loss of someone you love, moving, or even an inner change like a spiritual awakening or adjustment in self-image. In each instance, Bridges identifies a process that needs to happen. “First, there is an ending, then a beginning, and an important empty or fallow time in between [AKA a neutral zone]”.*

Before a new beginning, there is, according to William Bridges of *Transitions*, “a neutral zone”.

Every transition begins with an ending. For example, the career teacher who changes careers or retires contends with many endings – ending of their work community, of their identity, financial support, daily routine, and more. An ending is also a chance to begin anew. However, before beginning anew there is, what Bridges calls, “a neutral zone” – an “in-between nowhere space” that can be a time of reorientation, anxiety, and discomfort.

Marci Alboher, author of the *Encore Career Handbook*, advises the importance of “getting comfortable with the uncomfortable”, that is, with feelings of uncertainty. The more we can tolerate sitting with uncomfortable feelings, the more this neutral zone can be a space in which we can better understand our external signs and inner signals – signs and signals that point the way for a new phase of life.



Marci Alboher, *Encore Career Handbook*.
William Bridges, *Transitions: Making Sense of Life's Changes*

Tuning in to external signs that you are drawn to – trees, flowers, or a painting – can provide for you internal positive signals such as a sense of calm, excitement, joy, a release of muscle tension. Tuning in to these external signs and internal signals can be a guide in our decision-making towards new beginnings. Being open to transitioning to something new is important. It’s helpful to remember the decisions we made in our 20’s, 30’s and 40’s may not be the best decisions for our 50’s, 60’s and 70’s.

Bridges suggests the better able we are to understand and embrace transitions, the more we create meaning for our lives leading to a hopeful future.

There is one constant in life – *transitions*.

Plan on it. Embrace it.

Happy transitions!

The Rev. Tom Taylor, PhD., LCSWR
Assistant Executive Director, LCC

*P.71, Alboher, Marci, *Encore Career Handbook*. (2013). Workman Publishing. Bridges, William, *Transitions: Making Sense of Life's Changes*. (2019). Hachette.

To learn more about [Dr. Tom Taylor, PhD., LCSWR](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 to set an appointment.

March



2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday Service/Sunday School 10:30 am Sunday School Teacher Information Meeting 11:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30 am High School Youth Group 6:00 pm	2	3 Prayer Service 9:30 am	4 Food Donation drop off - noon	5 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7pm	6	7 Men's Breakfast Carle Place Diner 8:00 am
8 Daylight Saving Time starts Sunday Service/Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30 am Sunday Forum 11:45 am Middle School Youth Group 6:00 pm	9	10 Prayer Service 9:30 am	11 Confirmation Class 6:45pm	12 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7pm	13	14
15 Sunday Service/Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30 am Ministry Meeting - 12:00 pm Movie - the King of Kings 12:30 pm Youth Group 6:00pm	16	17 Prayer Service 9:30 am	18 Food Donation drop off - noon	19 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7pm	20	21 Meet & Greet the Ministerial Candidate Time (TBD)
22 Ministerial Candidate is preaching Sunday Service/Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30 am Search & Call Ministerial Candidate Presentation & Vote 12:00 pm Middle School Youth Group 6:00 pm	23	24 Prayer Service 9:30 am	25 Confirmation Class 6:45pm	26 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7pm	27 Stripping of the Palms 3 pm	28
29 Palm Sunday Sunday Service/Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30am Sunday Forum 11:45am	30	31 Prayer Service 9:30 am				