



Garden City Community Church Connections

June 2025

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

A Message from Pastor John Livingston

The 20th Century Unitarian minister and historian, Emil Gudmundson wrote these profound words: *"May we have faith in life to do wise planting that the generations to come may reap even more abundantly than we. May we be bold in bringing to fruition the golden dreams of human kinship and justice. This we ask that the fields of promise become the fields of reality."*

I believe we all learn throughout life. We all should be learning something new every day. One of my favorite authors, Robert Fulghum wrote, "Live a balanced life, learn some, and think some and draw some and paint some and sing and dance and play and work every day some."

I also love this list simply called **Things I've Learned** by the well-known author, Anonymous:

Age 6 -I've learned that I like my choir director because she cries when we sing "Silent Night".

Age 9 -I've learned that our dog doesn't want to eat my broccoli either.

Age 12 -I've learned that just when I get my room the way I like it, mom makes me clean it up again.

Age 14 -I've learned that if you want to cheer yourself up, you should try cheering someone else up.

Age 15 -I've learned that although it's hard to admit it, I'm secretly glad my parents are strict with me.

Age 18 - I've learned that silent company sometimes offers more healing than words of advice.

Age 25 -I've learned that wherever I go, the world's worst drivers have followed me there.

Age 32 -I've learned that if someone says something unkind about me, I must live so that no one will believe it.

Age 40 -I've learned that there are people who love you dearly but just don't know how to show it.

Age 45 -I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.

Age 48 I've learned that singing "Amazing Grace" can lift my spirits for hours.

Age 52 -I've learned that you can tell a lot about a man by the way he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights.

Age 55 -I've learned that children and grandparents are natural allies.

Age 58 -I've learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life.

Age 62 -I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance.

A Message from Pastor John Livingston (continued)

Age 65 - I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catchers mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back.

Age 70 -I've learned that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you. But if you focus on your family, the needs of others, your work, meeting new people, and doing the very best you can, happiness will find you.

Age 75 -I've learned that everyone can use a prayer.

Age 82 -I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one

Age 85 -I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love that human touch; holding hands, a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back.

Age 92-I've learned that I still have a lot to learn!

Keep learning! Keep growing! Keep loving!

Peace, Pastor John

A Message from Pastor Bonnie McDougall Olson

Dear Friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you all thinking about summer vacation of some sort or another. Even if you cannot go away, it is very important to put aside some time to purposefully “get away.” That can be as simple as going for a walk in the local park. Our minds, bodies and spirits need it in these often-frenzied times. Every experience we have is filled with the presence of God with us but often our attention is drawn in so many directions and consumed by our to do lists. Taking a few minutes to sit outside and simply take in God’s beautiful creation can be renewing for our minds and souls. One caveat: leave you phone at home!

Pastor Bonnie



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Worship Schedule

Sundays

10:30 AM

Livestream & In-person

Tuesdays

Intercessory

Prayer Service

9:30 AM In-person



Update from the Seach & Call Chair, Russ Fincher

The Search and Call Team has published the church profile in several places. To date we have received five responses and have met and conducted our first read of applications. We requested additional information from the applicants. We will continue to receive and review profile applications as they become available.



A Message from our COT and Personnel Chairs

To the congregation-

It is exciting to see our progress towards finding our new senior pastor and that we may have candidates in the building for interviews before the end of Summer! Our journey has been blessed by the presence of two outstanding ministers, Rev. Bonnie and Rev. John. But like all good things, this too must come to an end. As much as they would like to stay, both Rev. John and Rev. Bonnie have other important commitments coming up so they will be leaving us at the end of August. They each have graciously agreed to fill in when they can, while we search for our new pastor. Our ministry team is already reaching out to our favorite ministers who have stepped in before to help fill in the remaining Sundays.

Join us for a special fellowship hour on August 24th after the 10:30 service to celebrate and thank Rev. Bonnie and Rev. John!

As we continue as a congregation towards a new beginning let's remind ourselves of the beautiful words of Proverbs 3:5-6,

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.

In faith- Kirsten Bahlke, Chair, COT & Karin Melkonian, Chair, Personnel



Save the Date

Saturday: July 26th

Lobster Dinner with live entertainment

Rain or Shine!

Details to follow along with contact information



Cornhole Tournament

Sunday, June 1st - 12 pm (after the church service)

We will be hosting a cornhole tournament on the front lawn (Gardner Hall if it rains.) Fees of \$25 for teams of 2-4 people and \$10 for individuals (will get paired with a teammate.) Advance registration was requested by May 23rd but you can speak to Alicia Meehan to see if there is still time to sign up. Her email address is aliciabmeehan@gmail.com

Light lunch will be provided to the participants. Prizes to the winning teams! Funds raised support the church garden—the harvest goes to the INN.

Not entered?—you can still come out to watch the fun!



Vacation Bible School

We will be hosting Vacation Bible School (VBS) from Monday, June 30th through Thursday, July 3rd from 9am—noon for Pre-k to 5th grade students. Registration is going on now. If you are interested in helping out, we are looking for high school aged students through adults. If you want to register your children or need more info, please email Amanda Dias adias@thegccc.org



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 June 7th and July 5th at 8:00 am at the Carle Place Diner—151 Old Country Road in Carle Place. Reservations are not needed.**



Juneteenth Remembrance

Vanessa Pugh, with the South Hempstead UCC is planning a Juneteenth Commemoration based on a book by April Hampton, "The Telling: A Gathering of Remembrance". The book is inspired by the Jewish Passover experience and is a guide for telling the story of Juneteenth. This is accomplished through a series of readings and the sharing of representative foods. It is similar to a Passover Seder. The author will provide a condensed version of the book to be used. Vanessa has reached out to our church and others to participate in a multicultural, multi-generational, interfaith Juneteenth remembrance.

If you are interested in finding out more on this event contact jmartens48@gmail.com and she will put you in touch with Vanessa and others that are interested. Event will take place on Thursday, June 19th, 2025. Time and location to be announced.



MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

News from our Sunday School & Group Activities



Children's Day- Come celebrate the children of our church on June 8th at our 10:30 am church service. Then join us after the service for our luncheon. We will be honoring and celebrating everyone from our smallest Sunday Schooler to our oldest graduating senior!



VBS- Summer is coming up really quickly, school will be out before you know it. Consider enrolling your kids in Vacation Bible School here at the GCCC. We have tons of fun activities planned for the kids. Spread the word to your friends and family! June 30th-July 3rd from 9:00am-12:00pm. The fee for the first camper is \$50 or \$100 for two or more campers in the same family. Please register at: <https://gccc.breezechms.com/form/HotlineHero25>. For more information email Amanda Dias at adias@thegccc.org

Adult and High School youth volunteers are needed to help out during Vacation Bible School. If you are able to help or need more info, please email Amanda at adias@thegccc.org. High school youth can also register at: <https://gccc.breezechms.com/form/VBSvol25>



DUCKS GAME- We are looking to go to the JULY 12th Duck's Game as a congregation! Fireworks will be included with the price of the ticket (\$22 per person.) This event is open to the entire church. Please email Amanda, adias@thegccc.org if you are interested in attending. The registration form will go out later in June to sign-up and pay for tickets.

Americana Fair Information

The Americana Fair, scheduled for Saturday, November 8, 2025, seems far in the future, but it takes a lot of planning. We would like to start earlier this year knowing who we have as volunteers. Cindy has set up a large easel in the parlor to show the uncommitted stations. Our identified current needs:

ROOM CHAIRS: We need 5 individuals to supervise the following rooms: Raffle Baskets, Shabby/Chic, Attic Treasures, Gourmet, Toys and Gift Boutique.

YOUTH RECRUITMENT: Over the years, Robin has recruited excellent youth volunteers from the Garden City High School's Key Club, Grace Church, and scouting organizations. If there are other schools or youth groups that could potentially send volunteers, please let her know.

SORTING HELP: We need adults to either help sort or supervise youth during sorting week, starting November 1st.

Please keep abreast of future fair announcements in our weekly e-blasts, newsletters and our Sunday Service Order of Worship announcement pages. The Americana Fair has been highly successful thanks to the full participation from the congregation and the surrounding community. Let's make the 2025 Americana Fair another great event.

In community,

Cindy Campbell, email: cindala86@gmail.com

Robin Laisure, email: rblaisure421@gmail.com



As a reminder—the church has a space dedicated to storing your treasures until November 8th. You may call the Church office to arrange a drop off day and time .

Please walk through the hallway, which leads to the Chapel, and look at the many pictures from previous fairs. We have provided volunteer sign up sheets. We need your help.

LICC Emergency Food Pantry Bi-weekly Food Collections

Our next scheduled donation dates are **June 11th** and **June 25th**. 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.

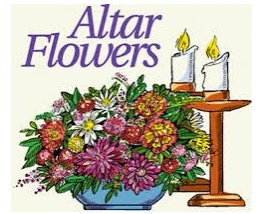


If you want to sign up to be a driver to deliver our donations, please sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-54023518-2025#/>

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.

News About the Building

Kristian and Joe have painted the hallway outside the counselors offices as well as the men and women bathrooms in the choir wing. They replaced 25 new lights throughout the building and put in all the air conditioners. They also built a new car wash/plant sale sign holder.



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



JUNE 2025

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Prepared especially for LCC Congregations & Schools

A Father's Sacrifice

By The Rev. Thomas S. Taylor, LCSWR, Ph.D, LCC Assistant Executive Director

It's a cliché to say parenting requires sacrifice. Especially in today's world in which sacrificing for others - especially if they are a stranger – has become unpopular.

There was a father who was a talented minor league baseball player and played til his body gave out. Back then, minor league baseball didn't pay much so he supported his family by working on the railroad. Although his baseball career ended his love of the sport did not and he – as parents are want to do – transferred that love-onto his oldest son. Fortunately, his son was also quite talented. So talented that he was identified as a child prodigy by age 12. The only disappointment, however, for his father, was that his son was sought out to play, not as a baseball player, but as a violinist at the regional orchestra. Playing classical violin in an orchestra dressed in a tux was a far cry from this father's wish for his son to wear pinstripes and swing a baseball bat.

Logistically, this also meant driving his son twice weekly after work to rehearsal – an hour away each way. Yet, he did it without complaint. Three years later, he took his son on a much longer drive – this time to enroll in a famous conservatory far enough away that it guaranteed his family would be separated except for the holidays.

When I heard about this dad, and his willingness to sacrifice for his son, the words of John 15 sprung to mind: "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down one's life for one's friends." This father laid down – not his life – but his own aspirations and free time so that his son could fulfill his. What is commendable, however, is not just his sacrifice but that it was for something quite different than his own life's pursuit, something he did not understand nor particularly like. He was far more comfortable in blue jeans listening to country music on *Hee Haw* than in a suit in an orchestra hall. And yet, there he was twice a week sitting in an orchestra seat listening to his 12-year old son rehearse Vivaldi and Beethoven.

Only when this son grew up and become a dad himself did he have a deeper sense of his dad's sacrificial love for him – of what it means to support your child but especially when they choose to leave home and pursue their own dreams – dreams very different from one's own.

Happy Father's Day.

The Rev. Thomas S. Taylor, LCSWR, Ph.D, is Assistant Executive Director for the counseling center, a clinical supervisor and psychotherapist and psychoanalyst who works remotely and relates to LCC's Advent Lutheran Church and Village Lutheran Church sites.

LCC Counselors are available for secure, virtual and, at some locations, in person counseling. For an appointment or for more information, call the Lutheran Counseling Center at 516-741-0994 or 1-800-317-1173 or e-mail us at Center@lccny.org.

June



2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday Service/Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30 am Cornhole Tournament 12pm Middle School Youth Group 6pm	2	3 Prayer Service 9:30 am	4 The Chosen – series 3 viewing/discussion 7 pm	5	6 Men's Breakfast Carle Place Diner 8:00 am	7
8 Sunday Service/Children's Day 10:30 am Children's Day Luncheon 11:30 am	9 F&A Meeting 6pm	10 Prayer Service 9:30 am	11 Food Donation drop off - noon The Chosen – series 3 viewing/discussion 7 pm	12	13	14
15 Sunday Service/Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30 am Ministry Meeting – 12pm	16 Prayer Service 9:30 am	17 The Chosen – series 3 viewing/discussion 7 pm	18 Juneteenth Office closed	19	20	21
22 Sunday Service/Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30 am	23 Prayer Service 9:30 am	24 Food Donation drop off - noon The Chosen – series 3 viewing/discussion 7 pm	25	26	27	28
29 Sunday Service/Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30am	30 Vacation Bible School 9am					