



Garden City Community Church Connections September 2025

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



Welcome Back, Church Community!

As we begin a new Church year, we're excited to reconnect and worship together. Mark your calendars for Welcome Day on Sunday, September 14th—a joyful kickoff to the season ahead!

Fall Worship Plans

The Ministry Committee has been actively preparing for a meaningful season of worship. This Fall, we'll be joined by a variety of guest ministers—some familiar faces who've served with us before, and others who are new to our congregation. Each brings unique ministerial experiences and

spiritual gifts.

Let's extend a heartfelt welcome to all who come to serve!

In addition to pulpit supply ministers, some services may be organized and presented by a team of church members. This practice is becoming more common in churches and offers an opportunity for shared leadership and spiritual growth.

We're also exploring ways to support those in our community who are homebound or living in care facilities. Ensuring everyone feels spiritually connected is a priority for the Ministry Committee.

A New Church Year: Get Ready to Worship!

Communal worship is our shared experience—one that fosters spiritual growth and deepens our relationships as we Go Ye into All the World.

As a partner in our Worship Community expect to:

Be Forgiven. Hear the Good News. Renew your soul.

Listen deeply. Belt out a beloved hymn.

Reintroduce yourself.

Tap your foot to amazing music.

Converse with a guest minister. See Joy in those around you.

Know that you are being prayed for.

Shake the hand of a stranger. Clap as a child is introduced at Baptism.

Accept a shoulder to lean on. Connect with God's Grace.

Participate in responsive readings. Expose yourself to new ideas.

Invite someone to join you in Fellowship.

Receive a hug. Laugh freely. Help Others.

Observe the love of God through a child's spirit.

Be moved.

Hear Scripture interpreted in a fresh way.

Feel the power as The Lord's Prayer is read in unison.

We look forward to worshipping with you, growing together, and embracing the joy of community.

With Blessings, Janet Martens for the Ministry Committee



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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 August/September

August 31st - Rev. Noel Vanek

Sept. 7th - Rev. Rayford Howell

Sept. 14th Welcome Day - Rev. Rayford Howell

Sept. 21st - Rev. Rayford Howell

Sept. 28th - Paula Tusiani-Eng, LMSW, M.Div.



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 September 6th and October 4th at 8:00 am at the 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 **September 3rd and 17th**. 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#/>

Sunday Forums

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.

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**



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.**



Mission Trip Reveal



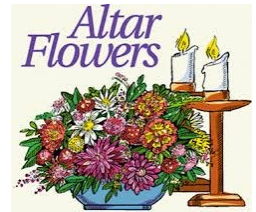
*Back from Oklahoma, a trip with a mission,
Already planning our next expedition
Mark your calendars for a brand-new quest,
On September 14th at 6 PM,
We'll give details to the next.*



*For all students from 8th grade to senior year,
Potential leaders, Jr and Senior
Join us to learn where our next trip will be,
And discover a new adventure for you and for me!*

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>



Lobster Fest

On July 26th we had a very successful Lobster Fest. About 75 people attended this event and a wonderful time was had by all. Thanks to everyone that helped with the planning, set-up, baking, clean-up as well as our extraordinary musical ensemble.



Americana Fair

The fair will be here before we know it (November 8th) and we can still use volunteers to make the day a success! For more information on how you can help email Cindy Campbell at cindala86@gmail.com

Have items to donate for the fair?
You can drop them off at the church.



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

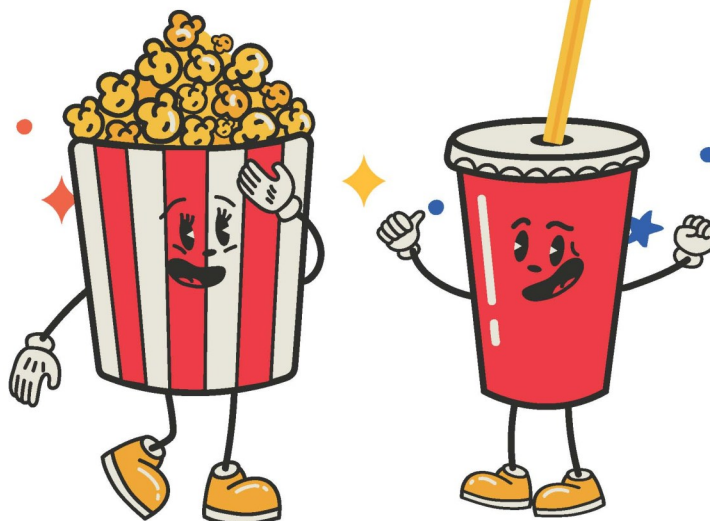




UNDER THE STARS MOVIE NIGHT

7 -9 PM, 13 SEPTEMBER 2025
GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH
PLAYGROUND
245 STEWART AVE, GARDEN CITY
516-746-1700

ANGELS IN THE OUTFIELD



SNACKS

FUN

COME CELEBRATE THE BEGINNING OF THE
SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR!
WELCOME DAY
SEPT. 14, 2025

RSVP HERE:



FREE
ENTRY

GLOW
STICKS



Sept, 13th, 2025

**JOIN US ON THE 13TH FOR AN OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT WE
WILL BE WATCHING ANGELS IN THE OUTFIELD!**

Sunday School
Registration:



During Sunday School the youth meet weekly to learn about the Bible and grow their faith through stories, songs, games, & crafts. They also participate in seasonal service projects!

Garden City Community Church

Welcome Day
Sign-Up:



516-746-1700

245 Stewart AVE, Garden City, NY

adidas@thegccc.org

AMERICANA FAIR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

245 STEWART AVENUE, GARDEN CITY (516-746-1700)

10AM-3PM: FREE ADMISSION
WE WELCOME YOUR DONATIONS TO THE FAIR
AND WILL ACCEPT CLEAN, GENTLY USED:

Silent Auction - gently-used furs, special treasures and collectibles will go to the Silent Auction (please wrap and label these separately). Jewelry, china, crystal, silver, pictures and frames, lamps, new, unloved items for the Boutique, toys, holiday items, and household items for Attic Treasures.

Make sure all items are clean and in saleable condition.

There will be a Shabby/Chic Clothing and Accessories Room for adults and children's items.

NO LARGE PIECES OF FURNITURE OR ELECTRONICS, PLEASE.

Items may be delivered beginning:

Sat., Nov. 1 - 10:00 AM - 4 PM

Sun., Nov. 2 - 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM

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

Tues., Nov 4 - (ELECTION DAY) - 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Wed., Nov. 5 - 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Thurs., Nov. 6 - 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

OPEN THURSDAY NIGHT NOVEMBER 6 FOR PRICING 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

NO DONATIONS ACCEPTED AFTER FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7 AT NOON

Please bring all donations down one flight to GARDNER HALL.



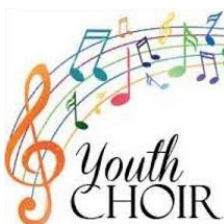
PLUS A VARIETY OF BOUTIQUE VENDORS

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

Emotional Fog

By Rev. Dr. Ronald W. Lehenbauer

Can you imagine two friends having a disagreement? Jack finds himself low on funds and asks his friend Jill for some help. “Will you loan me \$1,000 so I can take that vacation trip I’m planning? I know you will since we’re such good friends. Trust me. I’ll pay you back as soon as I can.” Jill tries to draw a friendship-boundary and replies, “I’m not sure I can, or if that’s really a good idea. You know the old saying, ‘The golden rule of lending money to friends is never to lend money to friends.’” Then Jack gets a little emotional and says, “I thought you were a better friend than that. If you don’t help me, my vacation will be ruined.” So now Jill is feeling a little guilty about not fulfilling a friendship obligation. She fears losing Jack as a friend. So she agrees, a little reluctantly, and writes out a check for him.

Have you ever woken up some morning with a dense fog outside? Or have you ever had to drive in a dense fog? In a fog it’s hard to see clearly, and obviously it can be dangerous.

Sometimes it can happen that a mental fog descends upon one’s brain. Jack was causing that in Jill, trying to manipulate her into complying with his wishes. The FOG he was pressuring Jill with consisted of Fear, Obligation and Guilt. Emotional FOG leaves the victim unable to see things clearly or do what’s in their best interest.

An emotional manipulator can make it very difficult at first to see what’s happening, because they lay down a thick FOG that obscures their actions. What they’re asking or demanding may be unreasonable or even unacceptable. But in a FOG, wanting to avoid an argument, the victim may comply just to keep the peace.

If you’ve ever experienced this kind of emotional coercion, it’s helpful to understand the FOG that you’re in. You are probably experiencing FEAR – perhaps fear of losing something: love, money, approval, a relationship, etc. Or you may be afraid of losing control of your emotions. You are also experiencing OBLIGATION. If our sense of obligation is stronger than our sense of self-respect and self-care, others can take advantage of that. You might also be experiencing GUILT – perhaps a fear that you are not being the kind of person you ought to be, that you’re falling short in some way.

This kind of emotional manipulation can become even more serious. It can become what some call “emotional blackmail,” as the blackmailer threatens to punish us if we don’t do what they want. Or it can become what is called “gaslighting,” as the manipulator causes the victim to doubt their feelings, beliefs, experiences, and even their sanity.

What to do if you find yourself a victim of emotional manipulation? First, be mindful and recognize unreasonable requests and emotional coercion involving fear, obligation, and guilt. Second, remember that you have a choice as to how you will respond to the person who is triggering FOG in you. Think about the other options you have; drawing a boundary may be called for. If you want to learn more about ways to deal with an emotional manipulator, I encourage you to look up and read my sources for this article. (See my endnote.) Talking with a counselor can also be helpful in a troubling situation.

We want to avoid being the victim, but also we certainly want to avoid being the manipulator. How can I recognize if I might unintentionally use emotional blackmail in my relationships? If we put our own needs before others and totally ignore their needs, we may be relying on emotional manipulation. In all our relationships it is always best to recognize and respect each other’s needs, and respond to each other with understanding, empathy, and compassion.

The love described in 1 Corinthians 13 is meant to be steered in both directions in a friendship, partnership, marriage, and family. “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

ENDNOTE: My sources for this article: 1) Positive Psychology website: “What Is Emotional Blackmail? Examples & How to Deal With It,” <https://positivepsychology.com/emotional-blackmail/>; 2) Paul T. Mason & Randy Kreger, *Stop Walking on Eggshells: Taking Your Life Back When Someone You Care About Has Borderline Personality Disorder* (Oakland, CA: New Harbinger Publications, Inc., 1998) pp. 116-117. 3) S. Forward & D. Frazier, *Emotional Blackmail: When the People in Your Life Use Fear, Obligation, and Guilt to Manipulate You* (New York: HarperCollins, 1997).

This month’s contributor and LCC Counselor Ronald Lehenbauer, DMin, MDiv, LMFT. He is a NY state licensed Marriage & Family Therapist, providing counseling for adults and couples. 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.



September



2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day office closed	2 Prayer Service 9:30 am	3 Food Donation drop off - noon	4	5	6 Men's Breakfast Carle Place Diner 8:00 am
7 Sunday Service 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30 am	8 Prayer Service 9:30 am	9	10	11	12	13 Outdoor Movie Night 7pm
14 Welcome Day / Sunday Service 10:30 am Welcome Day Luncheon 11:30 am Mission Trip Reveal 6pm	15 Council of Trustees (COT) Meeting 7pm	16 Prayer Service 9:30 am	17 Food Donation drop off - noon	18 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7pm	19	20
21 Sunday Service 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30 am Ministry Meeting - 12pm	22 Prayer Service 9:30 am	23	24 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7pm	25	26	27
28 Sunday Service 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30am	29 Prayer Service 9:30 am	30				