



Garden City Community Church Connections May 2025

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

A Message from Pastor John Livingston

*When in our music God is glorified,
And adoration leaves no room for pride,
It is as though the whole creation cried:
Alleluia!*

*How often, making music, we have found
A new dimension in the world of sound,
As worship moved us to a more profound
Alleluia!*

*So has the Church, in liturgy and song,
In faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
Borne witness to the truth in every tongue:
Alleluia!*

(Words by Fred Pratt)

"Music is the language of the spirit. It opens the secret of life bringing peace, abolishing strife."

(Kahlil Gibran)

On Sunday May 18th, during our worship service, Frank Crosio and the choir will glorify God as they present *Vivaldi's Gloria*. It is believed by many to be Antonio Vivaldi's most famous choral piece.

I encourage you to join us and celebrate the power of music to touch the soul!

"Music is an agreeable harmony for the honor of God and the permissible delights of the soul."

(Johann Sebastian Bach)

Glorify God, find peace and delight your soul with the gift of music on Sunday May 18th.

Come and worship!

Peace, Pastor John

A Message from Pastor Bonnie McDougall Olson



We have a small backyard with an oversized Norway Maple. Now if you know anything about Norway Maples, you know most people don't plant them in small backyards. I am sure you can guess why. They are huge. You can't change the mind of a Norway Maple. Tenacious. Sucks every drop of water in a 20 foot radius.

My grandfather had a huge Norway in his backyard. When he died, my aunt took a slip - a small branch - of it and gave it to me as a remembrance of him. In my ignorance, I thought, "How wonderful! I will plant it right on the corner of the grass, next to the corner of the garage. I will keep it small. An ornamental like a different version of dwarf cherry!" Well, the Norway had a better idea. It was going to grow and nothing my pruning shears attempted was going to stop it. The fact that it abutted the corner of the garage wasn't going to stop it. Nothing and no one were going to stop that Norway from living into the full height and breadth God had created it to be. Not my shears. Not the poor planting space. Not a black fungus that crept on the trunk. Not even the Spiderman tree trimmers who raised its canopy twice. The Norway even defied the tree man's prophecy that within a year, the tree was destined to fall into my house. That was ten years ago.

The Norway's insistence on being itself in all its glory also meant that another one of my great ideas for my little backyard was defunct. How lovely to have an emerald green carpet of grass and some flowering bushes. Daffodils and tulips, hydrangeas...can you picture it? Lovely. But the Norway's business was to provide a shady refuge and home to the birds and squirrels and nothing was going to get in the way of that. Sounds a little bit like church to me—the church is noble, strong and tenacious, grounded in strong roots and providing a refuge and home of faith for all. Sometimes our branches do get pruned back but only to help us see where new growth needs to happen. It can face all kinds of challenges and yet God keeps nourishing it, creating new buds on branches, that we don't always see at first, though God does.

Carry on GCCC! Keep growing into the fullness of the height and breadth God has called you to be. No small ornamental are you! You are a tenacious noble Norway!

Yours in faith,

Pastor Bonnie



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Worship Schedule

Sundays

10:30 AM

Livestream & In-person

Tuesdays

Intercessory

Prayer Service

9:30 AM In-person



Save the Date

Saturday: July 26th

Lobster Dinner with live entertainment

Rain or Shine!

Details to follow along with contact information



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 May 3rd and June 7th at 8:00 am at the Carle Place Diner—151 Old Country Road in Carle Place. Reservations are not needed.**



Service of Music

Please join us on Sunday, May 18th at our 10:30 am service for our annual Service of Music performed by the Adult Choir, soloists, and Chamber Orchestra. This year the featured work is the Gloria by Antonio Vivaldi.



LICC Emergency Food Pantry Bi-weekly Food Collections

Our next scheduled donation dates are May 14th and 28th. Please drop off your non-perishable food items on this dates before noon on the Whitehall Blvd. porch. 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#/>

A special thanks to everyone that made our Lenten food drive such a success!!



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.



Congratulations to this year's Confirmation Class

Our confirmation class will be confirmed as new members on Sunday, May 4th.

Olivia Mason Forelli
Margot Frances Hearon
Meghan Symone McGann
Emma Mary O'Neill
Allison Deanna Roach
Darrius Winston Roach
Patrick Christopher Sceles
Samantha Rose Tusiani-Eng
Cassidy Stella Wilde



Juneteenth Remembrance

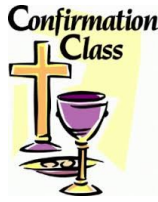
Vanessa Pugh, with the South Hempstead UCC is planning a Juneteenth Commemoration based on a book by April Hampton, "The Telling: A Gathering of Remembrance". The book is inspired by the Jewish Passover experience and is a guide for telling the story of Juneteenth. This is accomplished through a series 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, Confirmation Class & Youth Groups



We want to congratulate the Confirmation 2 Class on their upcoming Confirmation! Thank you to the leaders who have worked for the past 2 years to help these amazing young people on their faith journey. Our leaders were: Amber Henriquez, Amy McCoy, and Doug Yasso. Please join us on Sunday, May 4th at our 10:30 am service to watch this class get confirmed.



Vacation Bible School is right around the corner! How exciting! Come join our Heros June 30th-July 3rd, from 9am to noon as we learn about how God calls us to service.

The fee for the first camper is \$50 or \$100 for two or more campers in the same family. Please register at: <https://gcc.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://gcc.breezechms.com/form/VBSvol25>



May 16th will be our next family outing! We are planning on going to a paint your own ceramic store. Time and location will be coming shortly, mark your calendars!



Come one, come all! The Christian Ed team is planning on going to another Ducks Game this year! We are looking to go on July 12th, fireworks are included in ticket prices! This invitation is open to the whole congregation. We had a good turn out last year and we would love to have that again this year! Link coming soon 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 will be setting 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 .



Thank you for Stepping Up to the Lectern

The Ministry Committee and the whole church thanks all those who have volunteered to be a Liturgist this year! We appreciate your time and service to the Ministry of GCCC!

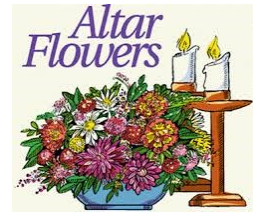
If your name has been omitted by accident, our apologies, please let us know.

Robin Boyle-Laisure, Cindy Campbell, Maria Campese, Jill Emmer, Max Hill, Marilyn Hult, Jan Levine, Amy McCoy, Matt McCoy, Christine O'Neill, Viki Rehkugler.



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 finished painting the Narthex, the back of the Sanctuary and the Kensington Room. They painted the light poles outside and repainted the safety steps. They replaced 30 fluorescent lights and light covers, cleaned out the window wells, speed buffed the floors, trimmed the trees and got the circulator pump fixed so that the heat is now operating at full capacity.



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

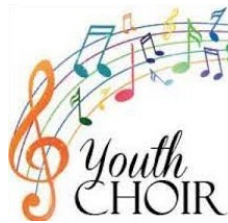


Musical Ensembles September through June

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

Garden City Community Church

2025 Plant Sale & Car Wash

Saturday, May 10th

8am – 12pm

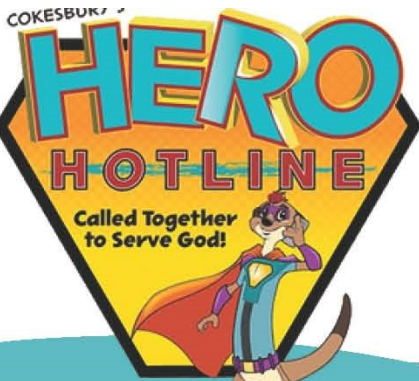


Please come support our Mission Trip to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma this summer by getting your car washed, and purchasing beautiful plants

All proceeds of the Plant Sale and Car Wash goes toward the 2025 Mission Trip to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Rain or Shine

245 Stewart Ave, Garden City, NY 11530



JUN 30TH- JULY 3RD

GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH'S

Vacation Bible School

BIBLE STORIES, GAMES, CRAFTS, AND MORE!

245 STEWART AVE, GARDEN CITY

9:00AM-12:00PM

FEE: \$50 (FIRST CAMPER) OR \$100 (2 OR MORE CAMPERS)

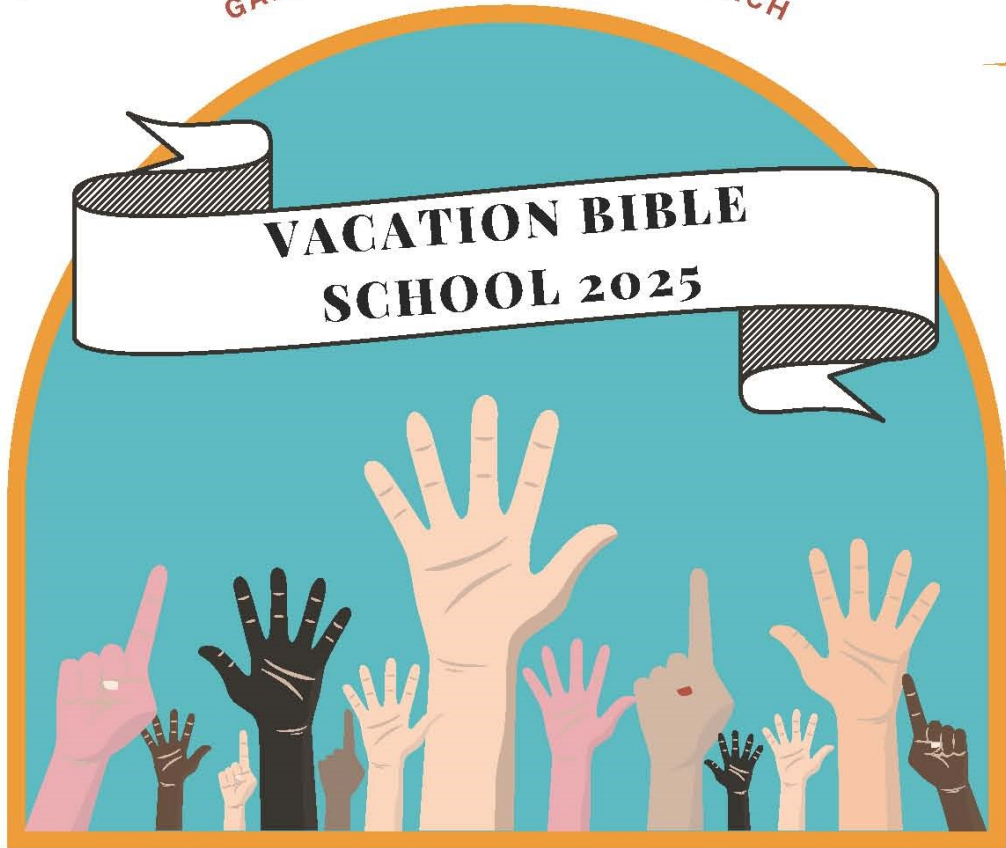
FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT AMANDA (ADIAS@THEGCC.ORG)

REGISTER HERE:



GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2025



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

DATES: JUN 30 - JUL 3

VOLUNTEERS WILL BE NEEDED FROM 8:00AM-1:00PM

We are looking for volunteers to aid with lessons, crafts, and lawn games. Volunteers will earn service credit hours.

We will be having a planning meeting, date TBD.



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE EMAIL AMANDA DIAS (ADIAS@THEGCC.ORG)

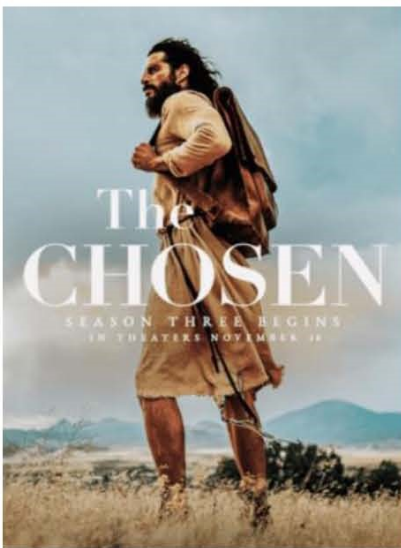
GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH 245 STEWART AVE, GARDEN CITY 516-746-1700

Season 3: The Chosen

Wednesdays at 7pm

Please join our dedicated and faithful “Chosen” discussion group to journey with Jesus exploring your faith and enjoying fellowship with church and community members.

All are Welcome!!



Season 1: Jesus met his Disciples

Season 2: Disciples learn to work as a community and follow Jesus focusing on the struggles they encounter working together

Season 3: This season focuses on faith, doubt and forgiveness as Jesus' disciples spread his teachings.

You don't want to miss this season!!

If you cannot join us at 7:00 pm, we encourage you to watch the series at home (free on Prime Video or <https://watch.thechosen.tv/page/seasons%201-3>) and join us at 7:45 pm for a group discussion. Questions: contact Karin Melkonian (karinmelkonian@gmail.com)



MAY 2025

WITH SECURE, VIRTUAL COUNSELING SESSIONS
AVAILABLE FOR ANY NEW YORK RESIDENT

Prepared especially for LCC Congregations & Schools

Elders in the Kitchen

Conversations that bridge the sacred

By The Rev. Forrest Parkinson, LCC Staff Psychotherapist

In so many of our churches, the church kitchen can serve so well as a sacred space where nourishment is prepared — not just for the body, but for the souls and psyches of our church families. The kitchen is where fellowship flourishes, bonds strengthen, and conversations happen that can either build up or tear down. As elders and leaders in the church, you hold a unique responsibility to lead by example in fostering healthy communication. The discipline of your words can create an atmosphere of love and support or sow seeds of negativity through gossip.

Let's reflect on the Last Supper, where Jesus, knowing the weight of His coming sacrifice, chose to share a meal with His disciples. This beautiful moment wasn't just about the bread and wine; it was a profound act of connection. Jesus offered words of comfort and encouragement, fostering a spirit beyond togetherness to sacred purpose—something we are called to replicate in our own lives and church communities. Ephesians 4:29 reminds us: "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up." This scripture challenges us to engage in conversations that are wholesome and constructive.

The kitchen, in many ways, mirrors this sacramental moment. When we work together to prepare meals — from shopping to stove to setting the table and washing the dishes! — we have a chance to engage in meaningful conversations that deepen our connections and spiritual life together.

However, when gossip creeps in, it fosters an atmosphere of mistrust and division. Words that should bring people together can instead fracture relationships and create social anxiety. Whispering about someone behind their back can discourage and disconnect, undermining what our gatherings should embody.

Psychologically, we know that environments marked by unwholesome talk can perpetuate cycles of exclusion. Toxic conversations breed negativity, and this is a trap we must avoid. As church leaders, your example holds tremendous weight. By choosing to speak life-giving words that uplift and encourage, you cultivate a holy environment where all feel welcome. Just as Jesus modeled at the Last Supper, let your words reflect a commitment to sharing love, compassion, and understanding.

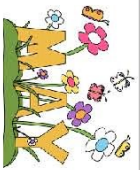
Both common sense and cutting-edge psychotherapy techniques bring us around to the importance of focusing on the present. In the overstretched habits of daily life, we can easily get distracted by harmful gossip. Let your conversations be rooted in the here and now, engaging deeply with those around you, just as Jesus did. As you live out your roles in this way, you reinforce by your example what it means to mirror the sacred connections found in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

In your roles as elders and church leaders, remember that the words you share—whether in the kitchen or in the wider congregation—can either build bridges or create barriers. Commit to being the voice of encouragement and grace within your church community and you will be promoting spiritual and mental health. Let the Holy Kitchen be a haven for uplifting conversations, where love is served as generously as the meals you prepare. Together, through word and deed, we can strengthen our sacred bonds and reflect on the transformative love of Christ.

"Commit to being the voice of encouragement and grace within your church community and you will be promoting spiritual and mental health."

Forrest T. Parkinson, LMSW, LP, is pastor of The Community Church of Syosset, NY and a Licensed Psychoanalyst. 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.

May



2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Adult Choir 7 pm Confirmation II Dinner 7pm	2	3 Men's Breakfast Carle Place Diner 8:00 am Confirmation Practice 10am
4 Sunday Service/Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30 am Middle School Youth Group 6pm	5 Council of Trustees (COT) Meeting 7pm	6 Prayer Service 9:30 am	7 The Chosen – series 3 viewing/discussion 7 pm	8 Adult Choir 7 pm	9	10 Mission Trip Car Wash/Plant Sale 8 am - noon
11 Sunday Service/Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30 am	12 Prayer Service 9:30 am	13 Food Donation drop off - noon	14 The Chosen – series 3 viewing/discussion 7 pm	15 Adult Choir 7 pm	16 Dress Rehearsal Service of Music 10 am	17
18 Sun. Service of Music/Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30 am Ministry Meeting – 12pm Middle School Youth Group – 6pm	19 Prayer Service 9:30 am	20 The Chosen – series 3 viewing/discussion 7 pm	21 Adult Choir 7 pm	22	23	24
25 Sunday Service/Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30am	26 Memorial Day office closed	27 Prayer Service 9:30 am	28 Food Donation drop off - noon The Chosen – series 3 viewing/discussion 7 pm	29 Adult Choir 7 pm	30	31