



Christian Education Mission Statement

The Christian Education program at the Garden City Community Church teaches Christian scriptures, practices, and traditions to our entire community.

The Garden City Community Church provides formal and informal ways for members of our congregation, no matter their age, to grow in their Christian faith. We are committed to developing and maintaining programs that help all of us nurture our spiritual lives, experience the joy of the GCCC family and inspire faithfulness.

Come See What GOD Is Doing!



OUR PROGRAMS ON SUNDAYS

CHURCH SCHOOL - The Church School academic year runs from Welcome Day in September through Church School Sunday in June. Classes are available for Toddlers through 5th grade and are taught by a team of 2-3 teachers with parent and youth volunteer assistance.

We are embarking on a new adventure this year with a brand new Church School program called "ABS (Adventure Bible School): Strength with God". This is a rotational model where we will spend several weeks learning about one topic through all kinds of fun hands on activities: bible study and games, science, crafts, music and more!

CLASSROOMS & GUIDELINES

1. **Registration Form** - In compliance with the Church's Safe Church Policy a complete registration "form" is required for each student. You may fill this in online or pick up a paper copy if needed. Parents of visiting students must sign their child in with the head teacher indicating any special dietary or other needs.
2. **Drop Off/Pick Up** - All parents/caregivers MUST drop off AND pick up their children unless organized ahead of time. NO children will be released upstairs without a parent or other parent approved adult.
3. **The Crib Room** - for infants & one year olds is located downstairs in the Church School wing. Parents are encouraged to sign in and leave their cell phone information at drop off in case they need to be contacted during Worship. Parents may leave a bottle or sippy cup but MUST supply their own diaper supplies. This year they may be combined with the Toddler/PreK group depending upon attendance. There is also a small play area in the Kensington Room (left exit at front of sanctuary) where parents can stay with their child/children and watch the service on the TV.

4. **Grades Toddler to Grade 5** - All classrooms are downstairs in the Church School wing. All students begin the morning in the Sanctuary with their parents and leave for class following the children's message or where indicated. A safe, nut free special snack and water MAY be provided on occasion. It is the parent's responsibility to make sure all allergies are notated and known to the teaching staff.

5. **Middle School Group** - Students in Grades 6-8 will meet at least once a month in the Middle School Lounge downstairs in the Church School wing during service to discuss how biblical themes connect with issues they are facing in their lives. On occasion, they will have the opportunity to volunteer and earn community service hours by helping with the Church School. **If there is no class or volunteer opportunity, they WILL be sent back upstairs and MUST remain in the sanctuary. Absolutely no hanging out or running around the halls.**

6. **Consolidated Classes & Service Projects** - We will be having several "Service Sundays" this year following unit segments (mostly scheduled around holiday weekends). While we won't have regular classes, this is a great opportunity for your children to learn about the special project we have going on at the moment and become directly involved.

7. **Parent Participation** - The Church School, with its special programs and activities, succeeds because of the strength and commitment of our volunteers. All parents are encouraged to support the programming by volunteering in some capacity throughout the school year. There are many ways to serve! We invite you to become involved in our growing community of faith by helping us nurture the faith of our children! Please sign up when registering or e-mail Jennifer at jennifer@thegccc.org.

8. **Offerings** - "a contribution given to the church in devotion to God." Students are asked to bring a weekly offering to church which supports our church's programs as well as the local, national and international mission projects supported by the church. It is never too early for children to learn this type of personal responsibility. Children are encouraged to place their offerings in the collection plate as they process from the sanctuary to church school.
9. **Fire/Emergency Safety Info** - Everyone will receive copies of the Sunday School Safety plan and guidelines and must sign off and return the bottom of the form. While each plan is slightly different, the main idea is that, in an emergency situation, please be assured that we are doing everything to keep your children safe and do NOT try to come downstairs to retrieve your child. That only causes more confusion and adds to the dangerous situation.

Our SPECIAL or WEEKDAY Programs

Our Whole Life (OWL) - We offer an opportunity for our high school youth to gather and discuss different topics every other year. The next class will be in Fall 2019.

Confirmation - Confirmation is a two-year program that takes our youth deep into their faith life and strengthens their sense of the grace of God. Following the two-year program students will have the opportunity to join the Church as an adult member. Traditionally the program begins in 8th grade. This year Confirmation I (8th grade) will meet on Monday evenings and Confirmation II (9th grade) will meet on Tuesday evenings. Confirmation Sunday will be May 5, 2019. Any questions, please contact Chris Dieguez or Rev. Lynn Sullivan.

Youth Group - For our middle school & high school youth there are opportunities for them to gather on some Sunday afternoons for a special activity following service as well as to be involved with bigger church wide activities. We also encourage our youth to get involved in the broader ministry. Be proactive if they have an idea for a program (the Chess Club and Girl's Night Out are two recent examples), serve or intern on a board, help with Church School or the Crib Room, help with the AV equipment, serve as ushers, etc. Any questions, please contact Chris Dieguez.

Special Activities - The Programming Committee, consisting of Love (Fellowship), Service (Outreach) and Spiritual Renewal (Christian Ed) and the Church School Team are striving to create a unique, fun and personal ministry for Church School students and their families. There are a variety of worship, service and social events offered throughout the year including the Americana Fair, Christmas Program, Christmas Caroling, Service Projects, Family Fellowship events, Gardening, The Family Good Friday Service, the Advent Dinner, church BBQs/Picnics, Family Retreat/Camp and more! Please watch weekly e-blasts and monthly newsletters for updated information. Information is also always placed on the Church School News Bulletin Board downstairs so always be sure to take a peek.

3rd Grade Bibles - In early spring our 3rd graders will begin to take a more in-depth look at the Bible in preparation for the reception of their Bibles on Church School Sunday. More information will follow in early spring. Any questions, please contact Margie Price.

Communion Class Grades 4-7 - We offer a Communion Class for Grades 4-7 every other year. Classes are held in January and February before church led by the Rev. Lynn Sullivan. The children who take the class are invited to participate in the Children's Communion Service in the Spring. Students who have taken the class are welcome to retake it for review if they wish. Classes are 9:15am-10:00am in the Community Room on January 6, 13 and 27 with a review on March 31. Communion Service will be April 7, 2019.

Summer Fundays - Summer Church School classes are combined age classes for children ages 4-9. Mostly a time to play outside together or do a fun craft. Church begins at 9:30am from Church School Sunday to Welcome Day.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) - Students from Pre-K through grade 4 come together for four days of an exciting faith based, fun-filled Vacation Bible School. Traditionally held the first week after school ends, children learn key Bible stories through drama, music, crafts, science and recreation. Every year the students also help with a service project to learn about giving back to their community or to others in need. Registration for church families usually begins in April.

Scout Religion Review & Scout Sunday - Any Boy Scout or Girl Scout needing to meet with a minister to complete a religion award/badge, please call the church office. Awards can be given out on a combined Scout Sunday on January 27th, 2019 where the Scouts also get a chance to participate directly in the service.

Mission Trip - "Go Ye Into All The World" is a motto over our altar and one we take seriously. Students, who have completed a year of Confirmation, are actively involved in the Youth Group or their family is in the process of joining and becoming members of the Church are welcomed to participate in our Mission Trips. Besides local ongoing service projects we are involved in all year long, our youth and leaders go on a week long trip discovering their faith at a deeper level. The trip is announced in the fall and our youth spend the following months preparing and fundraising for the trip.

Winter & Summer Retreats/Camp - Our church has a very long tradition of holding these Intergenerational Family Gatherings. In recent years, attendance has dwindled resulting in cancellation of these once thriving programs. Just this past summer, however, about 50 members gathered together for a one day/one night event at Camp DeWolfe right here on Long Island in Wading River. Everyone had a lot of fun and it is our hope that these events will be revived as it is a terrific way to bond with your church family. Please watch church correspondences for updated information.

Children's Choirs

Alleluia Choir: Open to girls and boys age 4 through Grade 1. They will sing at the 10:30 service for several special occasions during the year and will rehearse in little mini "choir camps" on Sundays at 11:45 to be scheduled on several consecutive weeks throughout the year.

Carol Choir: For students in Grade 2 through 8. They will sing at the 10:30 service on occasion and will rehearse on Sundays at 12pm.

Any questions, contact Frank Crosio at music@thegccc.org



The Christian Education Ministry

The Congregation

Lynn A. Sullivan

George Bashian

Chris Dieguez

Margie Price

Frank Crosio

Kirsten Bahlke

Katie Masters

Jennifer Schicchi

Karin Melkonian

Peter McDonnell

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Licensed Minister

Licensed Minister

Licensed Minister

Minister of Music

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