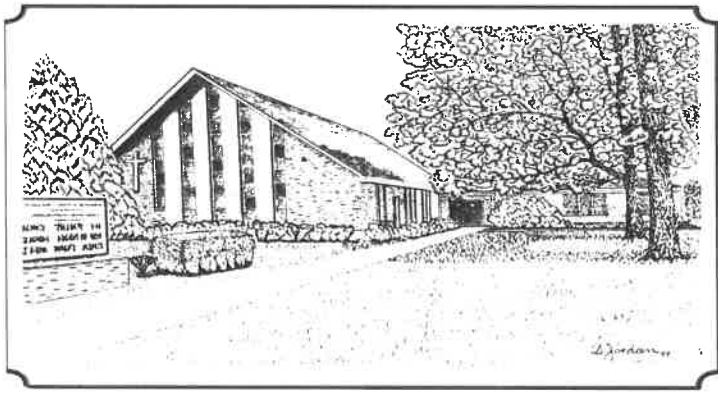


# MESSENGER

Published by the Wantagh Memorial Congregational Church  
1845 Wantagh Avenue, Wantagh, New York 11793-3909



Rev. Ronald Garner, Pastor                      Lori Sobey, Editor  
Hsia-Jung Chang, Choir Director/Organist

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To remove your name from our mailing list,  
check here  and return.

## Contains Time Sensitive Material

*E-mail us at [WMCC1845@Verizon.net](mailto:WMCC1845@Verizon.net)  
or check out our web site at  
[www.wmcc1845.com](http://www.wmcc1845.com)*

## **Sleepless Nights** **John Edgerton**

*You kept my eyes from closing; I was too troubled to speak. I thought about the former days, the years of long ago; I remembered my songs in the night. My heart meditated and my spirit asked: "Will the Lord reject forever? Will God never show favor again? Has God's unfailing love vanished forever? Has that promise failed for all time? Has God forgotten to be merciful? Has God in anger withheld compassion?" - Psalm 77:4-9 (NIV)*

Sleepless nights are a part of this pandemic for me. I can float through the day exhausted by the simultaneous demands of full-time work and full-time parenting. And then when I lay my head down at night my mind is a swirl of worries over the future. What will happen to the church? What if my parents get sick? What if my daughter gets sick? What if men carrying guns show up to the next Black Lives Matter march I attend?

The things that keep me up at night are beyond my power to control. But the things that keep me up at night very much have the power to impact my life. It is reasonable to be afraid of this virus. It is reasonable to be afraid of extremists carrying guns. What is a Christian to do?

Lamenting to God over the state of the world is a part of the Christian faith. Crying out and feeling God has abandoned the world is a part of the Christian faith. Sleepless nights spent shouting at God to get off God's shekinah and help us out down here is a part of the Christian faith.

These are hard days we are living in. You don't need to put on a brave face. Not with God, anyway. Tonight, be as honest as you need to be with God in your prayers. God has heard worse.

### **Prayer**

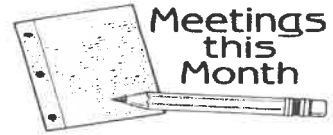
God! Where are you?

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

John Edgerton is Lead Pastor at First United Church of Oak Park, Illinois.

**Please keep in your prayers this week:**

- Gavin Taylor
  - Arthur Singer
  - Mateo Cardoza
  - Karen Jackson
  - Beverly Perlow
  - Lois Klappert
  - Mr. & Mrs. Tiso
  - Flo Clausen
  - John Moriarity
  - Charlie Jackson
  - Tom Jackson
  - Taylor Kenney
  - Michelle Rosenberg
  - Peter Sobey
- All who have been affected by COVID 19



Oct

- Thurs. Oct. 8th Deacons 7:30 (Zoom)
- Sun. Oct. 25th Council 11:30 (Sanctuary)
- Mon. Oct. 26th Trustees 7:30 (Parish Hall)

**We pray all will be well soon.**

We would appreciate your keeping us updated and letting us know of any changes. If you have any changes, or if you would like to add someone to the list, who is in need of prayers, call the church at 785-1829.



*God didn't promise days without pain,  
laughter without sorrow or sun without rain.  
But He did promise strength for the day,  
comfort for the pain and light for the way.*



October

Sat. Oct 31 Trick or Treat  
(On the back lawn)

**Mark Your Calendars!!**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

This past Sunday, September 27th our Sunday school met for the first time, to start a new church school year. This was the first in person meeting since the pandemic began. For now as long as the weather holds, they will continue to meet outside. If you are a family with Sunday school age children and would like to join, please give the church a call at 516-785-1829 for more information. If you already are a part of our Sunday school, please look for e-mails from the Sunday school teachers, with updates as to events and Sunday school.



**DEADLINE FOR MESSENGER**

If you have an item to be printed in the Messenger, you **MUST** get it to the Church Office no later than **MONDAY NOON**, or place it in the Messenger mail box prior to Monday noon.

**IN PERSON WORSHIP**

We have begun having Sunday morning worship back in the sanctuary. Please make sure to wear your mask when entering the church. There will be ushers there to help seat you, if you need, so that everyone is socially distant. We are very happy to be worshipping in person again.

The biggest differences will be that everyone will be masked, we will not be singing hymns, our time of passing the peace will just be a wave from your seat, and there will be no coffee hour. Hopefully as the guidelines change, and our world gets slowly back to normal we will be able to resume our normal Sunday morning rituals.



OFFERING ENVELOPES AND DONATIONS

Hi all. Its that time of year when we order offering envelopes for next year. If you did not receive envelopes this past year, and would like to receive them for 2021, please contact Janet Seitz, and she will see that you receive them. Also if you would prefer not to have envelopes, please let Janet Seitz know as well. If you are unable to attend church, we would really appreciate it if you could continue to mail your donations to the church at, 1845 Wantagh Ave. Wantagh, NY 11793. Because of the pandemic, donations have been light. Any donation would be greatly appreciated. If you have already sent in your donation, we would like to say, **Thank You.**

*There are openings in the schedule for flowers on the Chancel table if anyone would like to place an order in memory or honor of family/friends. To order, call the church office at 785-1829.*

**Sunday October 4, 2020**

**Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost**

**WORSHIP: 10:00 A.M.**  
**Andrea Ash Chancel Deacon**  
**Kim Walker Usher**  
**TBA Usher**

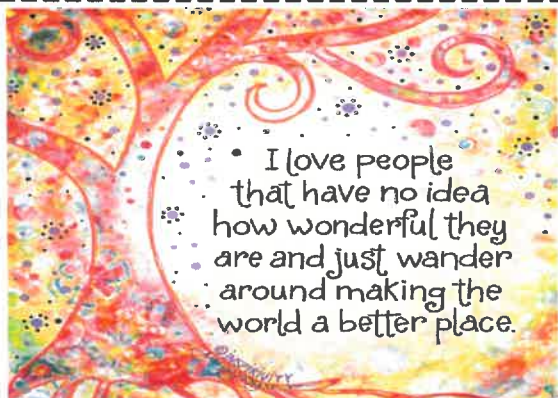


At a recent Deacon's meeting I again spoke of how I would like to guide our congregation through the process of becoming a "Just Peace" Church. I see this as an extension of our being and "Open and Affirming" congregation. To facilitate this process, I am conducting a series of Saturday evening Zoom meetings in which I will lead a discussion about the process and how we can move toward. This is a ten step process. We have a core of people who are participating and if you would like to join us, just let me know.

**NEIGHBORS IN NEED**  
**UCC SPECIAL OFFERING**

The UCC Neighbors in Need special mission offering has begun. Below is a description of what the UCC uses this offering for. If you would like to make a donation, please use any envelope and mail to 1845 Wantagh Ave, Wantagh NY 11793 or drop in the offering box on Sunday mornings. Please make sure to write NIN in the memo area of your check.

**Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.**



**Food Pantry Needs**

The food pantry is always in need of non-perishable food items. Please remember the food pantry when you go food shopping. Here is a list of suggested items.

- \*Canned Vegetables/Soups/Fruit/Beans
- \*100% Fruit Juice (not fruit drink)
- \*Dry Milk/Parmalat
- \*Pasta, Rice
- \*Tomato/Spaghetti Sauce
- \*Complete Pancake Mix/Syrup
- \*Hot/Cold Cereals
- \*Canned Tuna/Chicken/Salmon (in water), Stew
- \*Peanut Butter & Jelly
- \*Infant formula—Enfamil w/Lipil/Simalac Advance
- \*Shampoo, Soap
- \*Toothpaste/Brushes—Toiletries
- \*Diapers, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper
- \*Low sodium items are needed as well

**Mini Food Drives**



Because of the continued shortage of food at the Freeport Emergency Food Pantry, we will have a drive up food drive in the church parking lot **EVERY Monday**. Ron will be there from **10AM to 11AM** to collect donations of food or financial contributions. You can also drop food at the church during the week. Please call 516-785-1829 with questions.

**USHERS NEEDED**



The church is looking for people to help with greeting/ushering on Sunday mornings. Anyone who would like to be an Usher or Greeter on Sunday mornings, please give Lori a call at the church, and she will add your name to the list. Being an usher is a good way to get involved with the Sunday morning worship service, without incurring a big commitment. It is a good way to get to know other members of our church.

The *Messenger* is published weekly by the **Wantagh Memorial Congregational Church**, 1845 Wantagh Avenue, Wantagh, NY 11793, a member congregation of the **United Church of Christ**.  
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 Lori Sobey, Editor  
 Office Phone (516) 785-1829  
 Fax phone (516) 785-1351  
 e-mail: WMCC1845@Verizon.net

### Upcoming Usher Schedule

**Week Of: Oct. 11th**  
Louise Radzicki (Chancel Deacon)  
Lori Sobey (Usher)  
Joan Holdsworth (Usher)

**Week of: Oct 18th**  
Manny Marino (Chancel Deacon)  
Linda Cortes (Usher)  
Sharon Cozzoli (Usher)

If you know that you will be unable to serve, please switch with someone from the Usher List and notify the church office of the switch at 785-1829. Thank you.

### CROCHET GROUP

Our crochet group has been having zoom meetings weekly, at 8 pm on Tuesdays, to chat, and share work, patterns, projects and ideas. If you would like to join this virtual meeting, send an email to [wmcc.deacons@gmail.com](mailto:wmcc.deacons@gmail.com)



## COME ON AND ZOOM

As you have read in this and past Messengers, we have been having worship services (although we are moving back into the sanctuary for Sunday morning worship), bible studies, crocheting and meditation all through zoom!! If you have taken part in any of these, you have been receiving invites for these zoom events. If you know of someone who has not been able to take part in Sunday morning worship or you think they would like one of our bible studies or meditation you can forward the link to their email and they would be able to join, or they can contact the church or Rev. Ron and give us, or him their email and we can send them the link directly.

### HARVEST DINNER



It is with great sadness that I need to inform you that our annual Harvest Dinner, which usually takes place on the first Saturday of November, will be canceled this year because of COVID19. Our first priority is the safety of our congregation and our friends. The Harvest dinner has been an annual fundraiser for our church for many, many, many years and it is very sad that we will have to cancel this year. It is always a delicious meal and a good time for all. It is our hope and prayer that we will be able to have it again next year.

### FUNDRAISING PROJECTS PREPAID GIFT CARDS

Remember this is an ongoing fundraiser. There are many holidays throughout the year that we give gift cards. We would really appreciate it if you would buy your gift cards from us. Also, if you purchase an Amazon Gift Card from us, and use it on Amazon Smile, the church will benefit twice. Thank you in advance for purchasing your Gift Cards from us. If you need an order form please give Karen Jackson a call or send an e-mail to the church and I will e-mail one to you. Please mail your order forms and checks to Karen Jackson, 64 Swan Lane, Levittown, NY 11756.

There is never any additional fees or any expiration date. If you have any questions, please call Karen Jackson at 516-731-6248 or send an email to [casey0704@aol.com](mailto:casey0704@aol.com).

### ATTENTION: AMAZON SHOPPERS

With the holiday's right around the corner, I know a lot of us will be shopping on Amazon. I just wanted to remind you, while shopping on Amazon, remember to log into [smile@smile.amazon.com](mailto:smile@smile.amazon.com). When there, please choose us (Wantagh Memorial Congregational Church) as the charitable organization you wish to support. If you need information, please contact Karen Jackson at 516-731-6248 or [casey0704@aol.com](mailto:casey0704@aol.com)

### WEEKLY MEDITATION CLASS JOIN THROUGH A ZOOM INVITE

Our meditation class meets on Thursday evening, at 7:00 p.m.. There is no charge, it is free! All are welcome. No reservations required. We are having our meditation meetings by zoom. If you are interested in joining, please call Rev. Ron and he will add your email address to his zoom invitations to this event



### Messenger Articles

If anyone has an item, whether it be something spiritual, funny, informative, news about the family, etc., for the Messenger, please feel free to submit it to me. Thank you! Lori

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**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!!!**  
[wmcc1845.com](http://wmcc1845.com)  
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## October 2020

THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED
1 7:00 Virtual Meditation	2	3 8:00 Just Peace Zoom Meeting	4 10:00 Worship	5 10:00 Food Drive Behind the Church in the Parking lot	6 7:00 Cyber Fellowship 8:00 Virtual Crochet	7