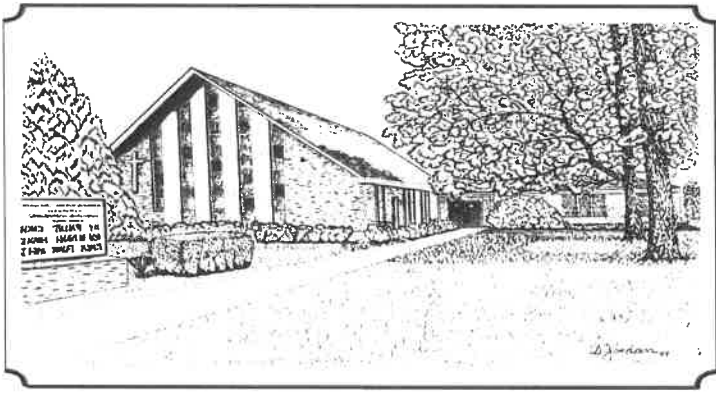


MESSENGER

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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October 14, 2020

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check here and return.

Contains Time Sensitive Material

*E-mail us at WMCC1845@Verizon.net
or check out our web site at
www.wmcc1845.com*

Caught Matthew Laney

As Jesus was walking along, he saw Matthew sitting at the tax booth and said to him, "Follow me." And Matthew got up and followed him. - Matthew 9:9 (NRSV)

Tax collectors of biblical times were more despised than drug dealers are today. At least some people actually want to do business with drug dealers.

Tax collectors were local Hebrews hired to extract money from other Hebrews to fund the brutally oppressive activities of their Roman overlords. They collected hard-earned money to support people no one wanted around.

Worse, tax collectors demanded payments in excess of what Rome required, making themselves stinking rich. Next to a tax collector, most anyone could feel better about themselves.

And yet, Jesus hung out with them, ate with them, invited one of them to be his disciple. When Jesus called Matthew to follow him, Matthew was sitting in the tax booth, caught in the act of his dastardly dealings, with no time to "get right with God" first.

Likewise, Jesus won't wait for you to be perfect before calling you to follow him. Not even Jesus has that much time. In fact, it would be just like Jesus to call when you are caught red-handed, when you are doing your worst, when you don't have time to clean up your act, when you feel totally unfit and undeserving. That's when grace prefers to make her move.

Prayer

Gracious God, thank you for a gospel designed especially for screw-ups, scumbags, and sell-outs – for people just like me. Thank you that Jesus did not call the righteous, but sinners. Otherwise, I would never make it.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Matt Laney is the Senior Pastor of Virginia Highland Church UCC in Atlanta, GA and the author of *Pride Wars*, a fantasy series published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for Young Readers

Please keep in your prayers this week:

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

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

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Thurs. Oct 15th | Bible Before Bed 7:30 pm |
| Tues. Oct. 20th | Fellowship Time 7:00 pm |
| Sat. Oct 31 | Happy Halloween |
| | Trick or Treat |
- (On the back lawn)

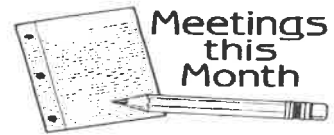
Mark Your Calendars!!

**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.**

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.



Oct

- | | | |
|----------------|----------|--------------------|
| Sun. Oct. 25th | Council | 11:30 (Sanctuary) |
| Mon. Oct. 26th | Trustees | 7:30 (Parish Hall) |

Nov.

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------|-----------|
| Thurs. Nov 12th | Deacons | 7:30 p.m. |
|-----------------|---------|-----------|

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.



**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH
RAFFLE**

BOCO is having a raffle to raise money to support the mission work of our church.

Here's how it works:

- | | |
|--------|------------------------------------|
| Cost | \$25.00 Per Ticket |
| Prizes | 1st ticket drawn will win \$50.00 |
| | 25th ticket drawn will win \$50.00 |
| | 50th ticket drawn will win \$50.00 |
| | 75th ticket drawn will win \$50.00 |
| | 99th ticket drawn will win \$50.00 |

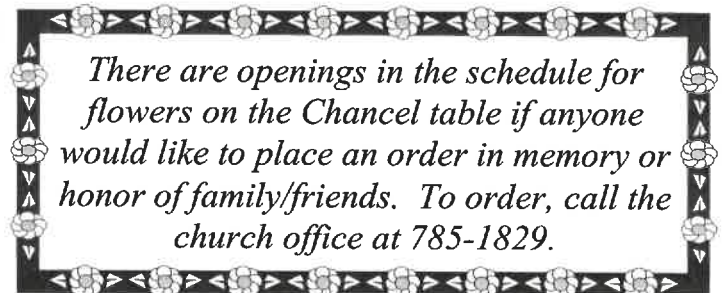
**The 100th ticket drawn will win \$1,000.00
There are only 100 tickets sold!!**

Details on the date of the drawing will follow in future Messengers.

**You can buy tickets after church on Sunday.
See Lori Sobey or Andrea Ash.**

Or

**Give Lori a call in the church office
at 516-785-1829.**



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 18, 2020

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

WORSHIP: 10:00 A.M.
Manny Marino Chancel Deacon
Linda Cortes Usher
Sharon Cozzoli Usher



Pentecost



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.

WE ARE LIVE STREAMING ON FACEBOOK

We are now live streaming every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. on Facebook. You can also watch anytime, by going to our Facebook page.



BIBLE BEFORE BED

I WILL LIE DOWN AND SLEEP IN PEACE, FOR YOU ALONE, O LORD, MAKE ME DWELL IN SAFETY. PSALM 4:8

The next Bible Before Bed bible study will be held on Thursday, October 15th, at 7:30 p.m.. If you would like a zoom invite for this bible study, send an email to the church at

WMCC1845@verizon.net, and we will add your e-mail to the invite list.



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 dona-

tions of food or financial contributions. You can also drop food at the church during the week. Please call 516-785-1829 with questions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Our Sunday School has begun meeting, on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. They will be meeting outside, weather permitting. If you have Sunday school age children and would like to join, please give our church a call. If you already have children in our Sunday school, look for emails from Stacey and Nicole.

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**.
 Rev. Ronald Garner, Pastor
 Lori Sobey, Editor
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 Fax phone (516) 785-1351
 e-mail: WMCC1845@Verizon.net

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

100 TICKET RAFFLE



The date of the drawing is to be determined.
You have to be in it to win it!!!

HOW IT WORKS

ONLY 100 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD

\$25 PER TICKET

WINNERS:



1ST TICKET DRAWN WINS \$50
25TH TICKET DRAWN WINS \$50
50TH TICKET DRAWN WINS \$50
75TH TICKET DRAWN WINS \$50
99TH TICKET DRAWN WINS \$50



**THE 100TH TICKET DRAWN WINS
\$1,000**

The proceeds from this raffle will go to the
Mission Work of our church

You can buy your tickets on Sundays after church
Or give the church a call at 516-785-1829 and Lori will
gladly sell you a ticket.