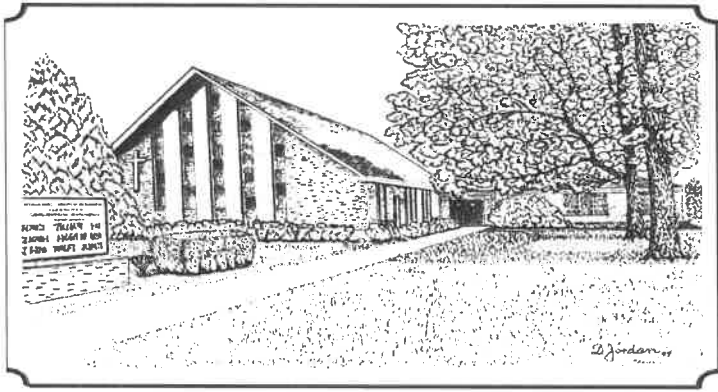


MESSENGER

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Rev. Ronald Garner, Pastor Lori Sobey, Editor
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*E-mail us at WMCC1845@Verizon.net
or check out our web site at
www.wmcc1845.com*

Shackles of Defeat **Kaji Douša**

I am in chains for Christ. And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear. - Philippians 1: 13b-14 (NIV)

The apostle Paul spent a good portion of his Christian life in prison thanks to a state that had no idea what to do with him.

Many would have interpreted his imprisonment as a sign of defeat. Certainly the state would have preferred this. Why else do we lock people away but to get them under control?

Today, one of the greatest issues we face with mass incarceration is the way that we structure imprisonment with defeat. In so many cases, you pay your debt to society, then get released with nothing but the skills and contacts with which you entered. You exit a jail and, in so many circumstances, you have no right to vote. Defeat is written into our policies around incarceration that codify disempowerment.

But some of Paul's most powerful words were written in jail cells.

Paul took the chains of the state and preached fearless liberation. The state may have had him in shackles but, as far as he was concerned, he would be bound to nothing but the love of God.

Shackles can come off but God's love clings forever. But are we taking off the shackles, here in America? Or do they just shift form?

Prayer

May we always know that we are never defeated, O God.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kaji Douša is the Senior Pastor of The Park Avenue Christian Church, a congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, in New York City.

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

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Tues. Oct. 27th | Fellowship Time 7:00 pm |
| Sat. Oct 31 | Happy Halloween |
| | Trick or Treat |
- (On the back lawn)

Mark Your Calendars!!

COUNCIL MEETING

Upcoming Council Meeting

The next Council meeting is this coming Sunday, October 25th, immediately following the morning worship service, in the sanctuary. Your input is valuable, so please send a representative to report..

CHANCEL FLOWERS

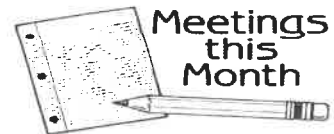


Chancel Flowers

The flowers on the chancel this past Sunday, October 18th, were placed by Brenda and Gary McCue, with gratitude for such a welcoming church.

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 25, 2020

Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost

WORSHIP: 10:00 A.M.

Margaret Silberger Chancel Deacon

Lori Sobey Usher

Joan Holdsworth 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.

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.**

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.

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**.
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Lori Sobey, Editor
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