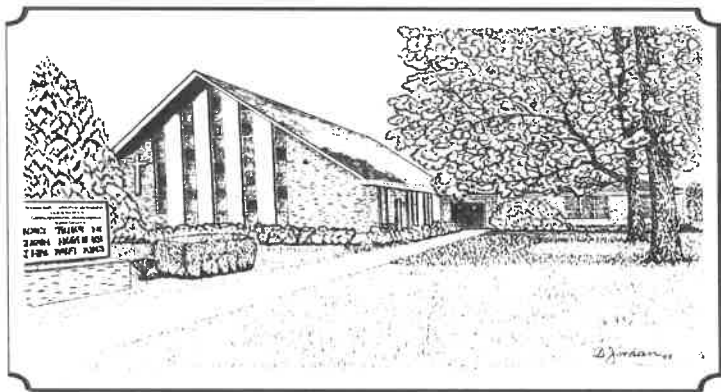


MESSENGER

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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December 2, 2020

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

Rock Bottom Rachel Hackenberg

*O God, the nations have defiled your holy temple; they have laid Jerusalem in ruins.
They have given the bodies of your servants to the birds of the air for food. -
Psalm 79:1-2 (NRSV)*

The bleakness of early Advent – these first few days when the lectionary readings are all doom and gloom – is kinda my favorite part of the season. The psalmist moans, “The city is ruined. The holy places are wrecked.” The prophet warns, “The sun bleeds red. The moon hides its light.”

That’s the good stuff!

It’s not that I love a grim worldview. It’s not that I enjoy the torment of chaos. It’s that I’m relieved when we name them aloud in church, in that beloved community where we sometimes have the habit of proclaiming good news so loudly that pain and despair are shamed into silence. But *oh!* the alleviation and comfort that come when the church intentionally tunes its heart to the groaning, the anger, the fear, the devastation that wrack our daily lives.

Look, God!” we shout together with the psalmist. “See how there is too much blood in the streets – too much blood and not enough justice!”

Wake up, church!” we exhort one another. “We have studied war to make a name for ourselves, instead of studying peace to praise the name of God!”

Do not ignore the pain,” we pray, “of homes leveled and walls built! Of creation poisoned and compassion mocked! Of bodies extorted and healing withheld for ransom!”

The start of Advent lays bare the world’s pain ... without which there would be no reason for God’s coming. No reason for angels singing. No reason for prophets preaching. No reason for magi seeking.

No reason for hoping and imagining and living toward a new world.

Thank God for these dire days of Advent when we observe the world’s depravity so that – in our confession of pain and horror – a whisper of assurance might be known, a single candle lit to keep us company through the long night.

Prayer

God almighty, the world has hit rock bottom today – and I’m pretty sure we’ll reach a new low tomorrow. Receive our pain. Notice our tears. Honor the shouts lifted up in prayer, and come swiftly to be with us

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rachel Hackenberg serves on the national staff for the United Church of Christ.

Contains Time Sensitive Material

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

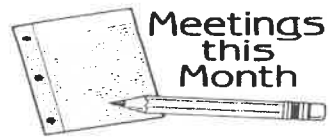
Please keep in your prayers this week:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 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 | |
| The Family of Bob Lennon | |

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. **Thank You.**



December

Thur. Dec. 10th	Deacons	7:30 p.m.
Sun. Dec. 13th	Council	11:15 a.m.
Mon. Dec. 27th	Trustees	7:30 p.m.

Please Mark Your Calendars

CHANCEL FLOWERS



The flowers on the chancel this past Sunday, November 29th, were placed by Brenda and Gary McCue, in loving memory of Brenda's mom.



December

- | | | |
|----------------|--|------|
| Fri. Dec. 4th | Decorate Trees for VA Hospital | 7 pm |
| Sun. Dec 13th | Community Caroling Around a Fire Pit | 2 pm |
| Sun. Dec. 13th | BOCO Fundraiser drawing | |
| Sun. Dec. 20th | Pageant (During Church) | |
| Dec 24th | Christmas Eve Services (5 pm, 8 pm 11:30 pm) | |
| Dc. 25th | Merry Christmas | |

Mark Your Calendars!!

WEEKLY MEDITATION CLASS



Our meditation class meets on Thursday evenings, 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.

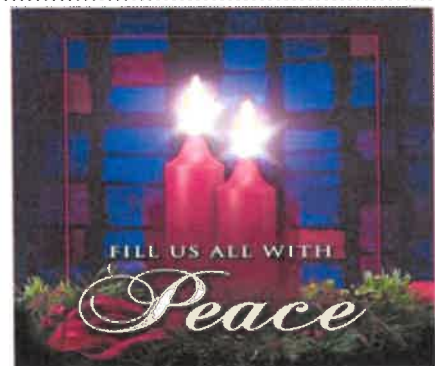
CROCHET GROUP



Our crochet group has been having zoom meetings weekly, at 7:30 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.

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.



BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH
RAFFLE

LAST CALL TO BUY A TICKET!!!
DRAWING DECEMBER 13TH

Here's how it works:

YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!

- | | |
|--------|------------------------------------|
| 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!!

Please support BOCO and the mission work of our church!!

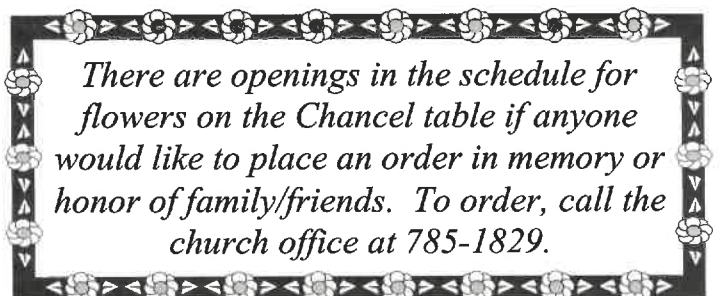
Please help us, help others!

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.



Sunday December 6, 2020

Second Sunday of Advent

WORSHIP: 10:00 A.M.
Luke Benedetto Chancel
Lori Sobey Usher
Joan Holdsworth Usher



2020 COOKIE WALK

Just one more thing that is going to be different this year. Since we can't have an in-person Cookie Walk, we're asking anyone who wants to share their favorite cookie recipe to send an email to the Deacons at wmcc.deacons@gmail.com Please type or PRINT neatly so the recipe fits on half of an 8-1/2" x 11" paper (8-1/2" x 5-1/2") Please submit the recipes by Dec. 13.

When we get them, we will let you know how to retrieve them.

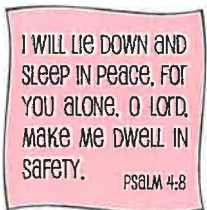


BOCO Christmas Card "Tree"



Now that the holiday season is here, BOCO will once again have their Christmas Card "Tree.", which in one form or another has decorated the church during Christmas, for many years. The idea is, instead of sending individual Christmas cards to all your church friends, send just one to be placed on BOCO'S Christmas card Tree for all your church friends to see. It is hoped that the money you save in postage stamps, cards, etc. will be donated to BOCO. BOCO will then donate all monies received to the Christmas Fund to supplement the current UCC special offering. Please make your checks payable to WMCC . Put BOCO Card Tree in the memo. **Thank You!**

BIBLE BEFORE BED



Bible Before Bed will be held every Thursday evening via zoom, at 7:30 p.m. The only exception to this will be the second Thursday of each month, because this is when the Deacons meet. This Bible Study is getting glowing reviews from all who attend. You will want to see what all the hype is about, so give it a try. All are welcome, 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.



We will continue to have our Just Peace zoom meetings on Saturday evenings, at 8:00 p.m. If you would like to be part of this group, please send an e-mail to the church at wmcc1845@verizon.net, and Rev. Ron will add you to the zoom invite list.

WMCC 2020 ONLINE FALL FUNDRAISER

Our online fall fundraiser is starting today, and will end on December 15th. In order to maintain social distancing, your order will be placed online and delivered to your home. Attached to this Messenger is a flyer with everything you need to know to start shopping today!! There is a variety of beautiful gift wraps, gifts, frozen cookie dough and much, much more. Go to misschocolate.com, use our Church seller ID#, which, is 340042 and start shopping. It's that easy.



It's more than just chocolate!!!

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.

USHER LIST

The usher/chancel deacon list has been e-mailed to those people that volunteer. Please check your emails. **Thank you**

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

Upcoming Usher Schedule

- Week Of: December 13th**
 Andrea Ash (Chancel Deacon)
 Linda Cortes (Usher)
 Lori Sobey (Usher)
- Week of: December 20th**
 Louise Radzicki (Chancel Deacon)
 Kim Walker (Usher)
 Debbie Davis (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.

Christmas Carols
Sunday, December 13th
2:00 p.m.



Sing-a-long with your favorite Christmas Carols, in a relaxed, informal setting, around a fire pit and enjoy some holiday treats!



RADA CUTLERY is more than just cutlery. They have a variety of kitchen utensils, seasonings, soup & sauce mixes, party dips, cookbooks and baking pans. This fundraiser is year round. Orders can be placed anytime, but **allow a minimum of NINE days** to receive your order before you need it.

THANK YOU for supporting our fundraiser through Rada Cutlery – well known for quality Made in the USA products. Every purchase you make using our unique shopping link **helps support our group!** Use the link below to shop. You can copy and paste. I tried it and it works.

<https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=4889540.5206f3>

Thank you for supporting our church!!

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. An order form is attached to this Messenger. 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.

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. 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

Family Holiday Event

Christmas Trees For the VA Hospital

We are planning to have a family holiday event this **Friday, December 4th, at 7 pm.** We will decorate miniature Christmas trees, and fill out Christmas cards, to donate to a VA hospital. The patients in the hospital always appreciate the generosity of our church. We have been doing this for several years. Because of the pandemic, it won't be as fun of an activity for us, but the patients in the hospital will still appreciate our efforts. Please let Lori in the office know if you are able to help. We can also send trees home with families, if they don't feel comfortable coming out, and they can decorate them at home and bring them back. **Decorated trees would need to be brought back to the church by Friday December 4th. Give the church if you would like to pick up a tree to decorate.**

December 2020

THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED
3	4 7:00 Decorating Christmas Trees	5 9:00 Meroke	6 10:00 Worship	7 10:00 Food Drive Behind the Church in the Parking lot	8 7:00 Cyber Fellowship 7:30 Virtual Crochet	9