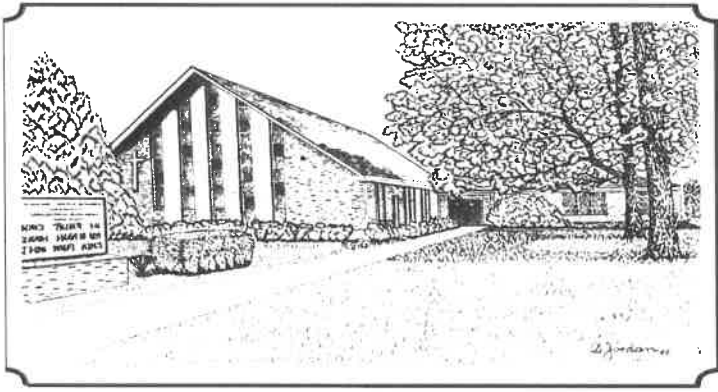


# MESSENGER

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 23, 2020

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)

### **With or From?**

**Quinn G. Caldwell**

*You brought a vine out of Egypt ... and planted it. You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.* - Psalm 80:8-9 (NRSV)

You probably know parsnip as a sweet root vegetable, good for roasting and stews. What you might not know is that it's not native; it was brought here by European colonists. Also that if you get its sap on your skin and then expose it to sunlight, it will burn and blister and discolor your body for months.

Parsnip escaped from colonial gardens pretty early, but it took a long time to spread far, because it only thrives on disturbed open ground. For the last several hundred years, however, we've been turning the whole place into disturbed open ground, and now wild parsnip is naturalized in almost every American state. I spend weeks each year pulling it up on cloudy days while wearing the gardening equivalent of a hazmat suit, and our kids still can't safely play in the field in front of our house.

God really should have known better than to take that vine across international borders. Invasive species tend to take over and cause all kinds of problems, and there's no species more invasive than humans. We've left no corner of the planet untouched—wild parsnip in my yard being the least of it. There's nothing we've left undisturbed. Nothing we can't destroy.

Nothing, by the same token, that we can't potentially fix.

Is this power we have part of God's plan for a new earth? Did Jesus come to save us so that we could save everything else? Is God planning to save the planet – make a new earth – with us?

Or is God planning to save it *from* us?

### **Prayer**

God, we know we've changed the garden you gave us so thoroughly there's no going back. So instead, show us how to create the garden you intend for our future. Amen.

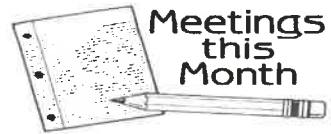
**Please keep in your prayers this week:**

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	Carolina Menendeo
The Family of Bob Lennon	

Stirling and Rita Soukup Christine Sokol  
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**

Mon. Dec. 27th Trustees 7:30 p.m.

**Please Mark Your Calendars**

**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!**



**December**

Dec 24th Christmas Eve Services  
(5 pm, 8 pm 11:30 pm)

**We will be zooming Christmas Eve due to Covid 19**

Dc. 25th **Merry Christmas**  
**Dec. 27th Worship will be via zoom**

**Mark Your Calendars!!**



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!!**

**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.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES  
PLEASE ZOOM WITH US**

Please join us for Christmas Eve. Services. We will be having three services: **All three will be via zoom. Please Rev. Ron at 516-826-0248 if you would like a zoom invite.**

- 5:00—is our Family Service**
- 8:00—we have Candles & Carols**
- 11:30—is a Midnight Worship Service**

With all the choices, we hope everyone will be able to join us for one service, or come to all three, we would love to see you.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES**

2021 Offering envelopes are on the table in the Narthex. Please call Lori at the church, if you would like to stop by and pick up your envelopes.



*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 December 27, 2020**

**First Sunday after Christmas**

**WORSHIP: 10:30 A.M.**

**Andrea Ash Chancel**

**(Church will be via zoom)**



**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](mailto:wmcc.deacons@gmail.com).

**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](mailto: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.



**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 for this event.



**January 2021 Birthdays**

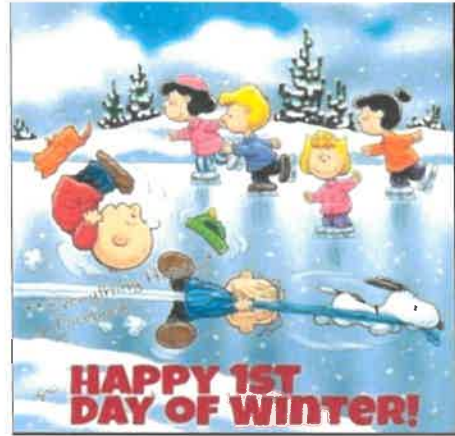
- |                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 7th-Debbie Davis   | 19th-Bob Kalberer     |
| 8th-Mark Warner    | 28th-Liberty Storm    |
| 10th-Van Bronleben | 30th-Daniel Papenella |
| 13th-Gloria Malin  | 30th-Deena Chamberlin |
| 13th-Linda Cortes  |                       |

**Anniversaries**

**I have no Anniversaries listed.**

If you would like to be added to our birthday or anniversary list, or if we have made an error, please contact the church office at 785-1829.

**DECEMBER 21, 2020**



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](mailto:wmcc1845@verizon.net), and Rev. Ron will add you to the zoom invite list.

**Food Pantry Needs**

- \*Canned Vegetables/Fruit/Soups
- \*Fresh Vegetables/Fruit (Bags or Bunches)
- \*100% Fruit Juice, Dry Milk/Parmalat
- \*Pasta, Rice, Bags of Potatoes
- \*Complete Pancake Mix, Cereal, Oatmeal Syrup, Tomato Sauce, Butter, Cooking Oil
- \*Canned Meats, Tuna, Chicken, Stew
- \*Peanut Butter & Jelly, Bread
- \*Baby Food, Baby Formula, Diapers
- \*Shampoo, Soap, Toothpaste/Tooth Brushes
- \*Low Salt, Low Fat Items, Gluten Free Dairy Free Items
- \*Toilet Paper, Paper Towels.

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  
 Office Phone (516) 785-1829  
 Fax phone (516) 785-1351  
 e-mail: [WMCC1845@Verizon.net](mailto:WMCC1845@Verizon.net)



## Upcoming Usher Schedule

**Week Of: January 3rd**  
 Manny Marino (Chancel Deacon)  
 Linda Cortes (Usher)  
 Debbie Davis (Usher)

**Week of: January 10th**  
 Margaret Silberger (Chancel Deacon)  
 Lori Sobey (Usher)  
 Joan Holdsworth (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.**

### 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.

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

## 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. 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.

### Pay-Pal



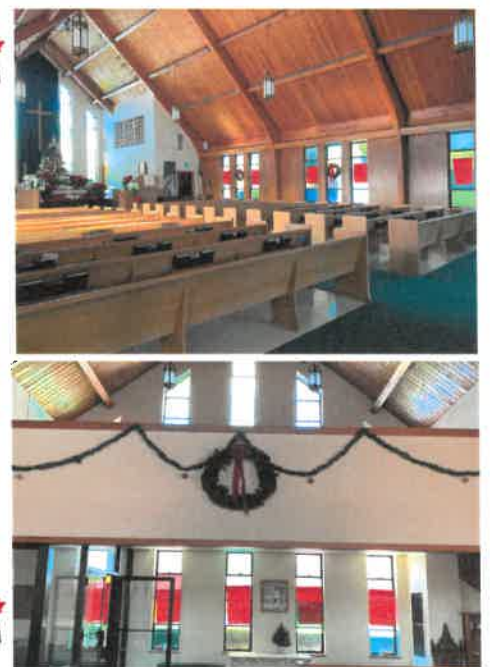
If you like what the church is doing, like our signs or just want to help out, please make a donation to our Pay Pal account. You can find it on our website at [www.wmcc1845.com](http://www.wmcc1845.com). **Please do not use this account for your offering donations or event tickets. Thank You**

### POINSETTIAS

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO ORDERED POINSETTIAS. This year has been a crazy one, and even though, as it turns out we will not be holding worship in person until after the new year, our church was ready to celebrate. Below is a picture of our beautiful church to keep in your mind as you attend our virtual Christmas Eve services. Lori will be in the church on Monday, December 28th, please give her a call and come and pick up your poinsettias. **There is a Christmas Memorial list attached to this Messenger.**



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### December 2020

THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED
24 Christmas Eve Services (5, 8, 11:30)	25 Merry Christmas	26	27 10:00 Worship	28 10:00 Food Drive Behind the Church in the Parking lot	29 7:00 Cyber Fellowship 7:30 Virtual Crochet	30