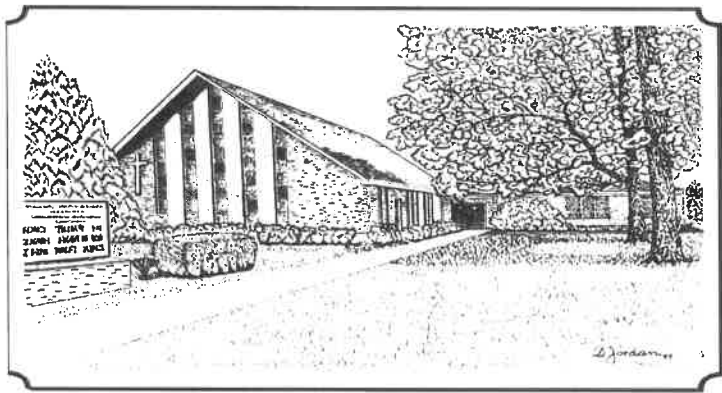


MESSENGER

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

VOLUME 64, NUMBER 2
January 13, 2021

To remove your name from our mailing list,
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*

Prayer at the Pit

When Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe... and they took him and threw him into a pit. – Genesis 37:23-24 (NRSV)

What Joseph's brothers did to him was unspeakably cruel, but if you know the backstory, you might be tempted to think he deserved it. He was an insufferable kid, preening and vainglorious.

Still, it's appalling that they left him for dead down there. No matter his personal flaws or his family's dysfunction, he didn't deserve the pit. Nobody does.

If you read your Bible, you know that Joseph's story ends well. He becomes an Egyptian potentate, forgives his brothers, and lives happily ever after. What you may not know, because it's not in the Bible, is that in his old age, Joseph returns to the pit.

According to an ancient Jewish commentary, Joseph stands quietly at the edge, peering down, remembering. Then he lifts his voice and prays: "Blessed is God, who made a miracle for me in this place!"

What does he remember most from the worst moment of his life? Not the damage and loss, but God's creative love. Not the cruelty and hate, but the life God brought out of it, right there.

No one deserves the pit. But if you're in one, Joseph wants you to know God's there, too. And because that's true, its awfulness may become the stuff of better days. You probably won't become an Egyptian potentate, but you'll have your own miracle. You'll breathe again, love again, forgive and be forgiven.

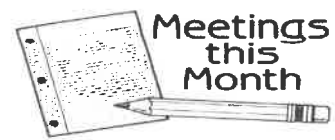
You might not believe it now. But some day, when you revisit your pit, you will. Without forgetting the grief, you'll remember the Presence. Without ignoring the pain, you'll discern the love. Without denying the grief, you'll declare the gift. You'll lift your voice and pray:

Prayer

"Blessed is God, who made a miracle for me in this place!" Amen.

About the Author

Mary Luti is a long time seminary educator and pastor, author of *Teresa of Avila's Way* and numerous articles, and founding member of The Daughters of Abraham, a national network of interfaith women's book groups.



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	Mr. & Mrs. Tiso
Carolina Menendeo	
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.**



January 2021

Mon. Jan. 18th	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Mon. Jan. 18th	Food Drive
	10 am—11 am

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!!

 ☆ **CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!!!** ☆
 ☆ wmcc1845.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.

January

Thur. Jan. 14th	Deacons	7:30 p.m.
Sun. Jan. 24th	Council	11:15 a.m.
Mon. Jan. 25th	Trustees	7:30 p.m.

Please Mark Your Calendars

Messenger Appreciation

It's that time of year again, when we humbly ask our readers to consider making a donation to help support the printing of the Messenger. The cost of publishing and mailing the Messenger each week is about \$25 per year, per subscription. This is an optional donation and any amount would be a great help. Please make checks payable to "WMCC" and in the memo area of your check mark it for "Messenger Appreciation".

Thank you to the following for your donation:
Mary Crabbs
Judith Adams



IN PERSON SERVICE



We will resume our in person services **THIS SUNDAY, January 17th**. Rev. Ron needs to quarantine until January 12th.

Keeping everyone safe is our #1 priority, during this crazy time. Remember your mask.

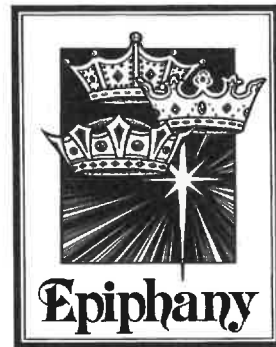
OFFERING ENVELOPES



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 January 17, 2020
Second Sunday after Epiphany
WORSHIP: 10:00 A.M.
Andrea Ash Chancel
Laura Mauer Usher
Sharon Cozzoli Usher

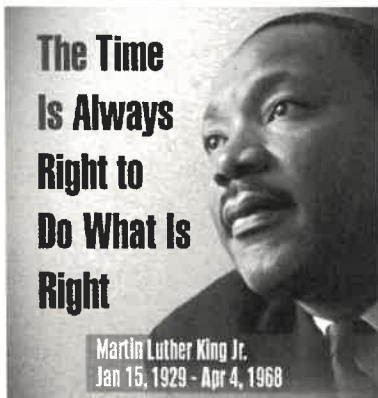


We will continue to have our Just Peace zoom meetings on Saturday evenings, at 8:00 p.m. If you would like to be part of this group, please send an e-mail to the church at wmcc1845@verizon.net, and Rev. Ron will add you to the zoom invite list.

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.



WE ARE LIVE STREAMING ON FACEBOOK



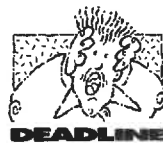
We are back in the sanctuary this Sunday, January 17th and will be streaming live again, live streaming every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. on FaceBook. You can also watch anytime, by going to our Facebook page. Andrea Ash is doing an awesome job with this, but we need back up. If anyone is willing to help with this, please let Andrea know.

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. Please do not use this account for your offering donations or event tickets. Thank You

ANNUAL REPORTS



All annual reports are due no later than January 31, 2021. Please try to get these reports in by that date. It takes time to prepare the annual report, for our Annual Meeting. If your report is not handed in in time, you will need to type it, and present it at the Annual Meeting. Please call me at the church and let me know if you are having a problem getting your report to me and I will try and work with you. Thank You, Lori



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.

Unused Greeting Cards



For many years now BOCO has been collecting unused unwanted greeting cards for the women in the Bedford Hills Correction Facility. There is a "shoebox" on the table in the narthex as you enter through the back door, where you can deposit your unused greeting cards. Greeting cards of all types are wanted from birthday cards to Christmas cards and everything in between. Blank cards and stationary are also accepted. Thank you!

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

Upcoming Usher Schedule

Week Of: January 24th
 Louise Radzicki (Chancel Deacon)
 Lori Sobey (Usher)
 Joan Holdsworth (Usher)

Week of: January 31st
 Andrea Ash (Chancel Deacon)
 Debbie Davis (Usher)
 Kim Walker (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.

Food Pantry Needs

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. We would like to thank all of you who have been donating each week. It is amazing how generous everyone has been, and the amount of food that we collect each week is awesome. Please call 516-785-1829 with questions.

FUNDRAISING PROJECTS PREPAID GIFT CARDS



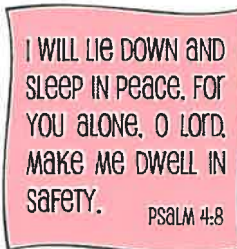
Remember this is an ongoing fundraiser. There are many holidays throughout the year that we give gift cards. We would really appreciate it if you would buy your gift cards from us. Also, if you purchase an Amazon Gift Card from us, and use it on Amazon Smile, the church will benefit twice. **Thank you 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.

ATTENTION: AMAZON SHOPPERS

Even though the holidays are over, I know a lot of us will still be shopping on Amazon. It seems to have become a way of life, during this pandemic. 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.

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.

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. **It can also be a story about the history or traditions of our awesome church. Thank you! Lori**

January 2021

THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED
14 7:00 Meditation 7:30 Deacons	15	16 9:00 Meroke 8:00 Justice Zoom	17 10:00 Worship	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 10:00 Food Drive	19 7:00 Cyber Fellowship 7:30 Virtual Crochet	20