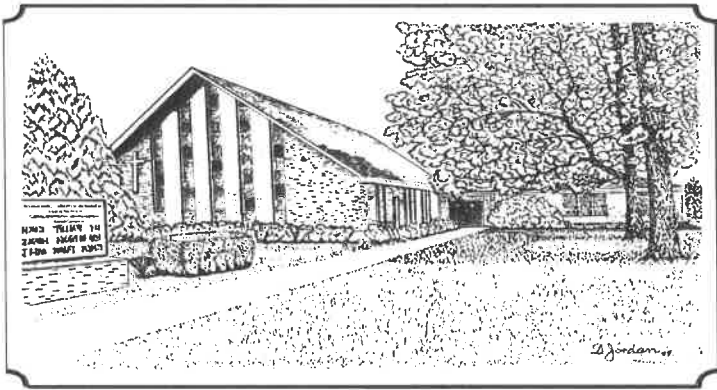


MESSENGER

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 5
February 3, 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

Irreplaceable

John Edgerton

When Jesus arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. Jesus said to the demons, "Go!" So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water. Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region. – Matthew 8:28-34, excerpts (NIV)

Wait, that can't be right. The whole town pleads with Jesus to leave? Isn't that supposed to say, "They praised his works, and word spread far and wide, and there was much rejoicing?" Jesus saves the lives of two vulnerable people and the town tells Jesus to take a hike, makes sense?

Sure, two people's lives were saved. But did Jesus stop to think of the economic impact of the loss of a large herd of pigs? Think of the swineherds, and the farmers who would sell them slop, and the merchants who would sell the meat at market. Don't their livelihoods matter more than two people living on the outskirts of town? The Gedarene townspeople sure thought so.

Some things never change.

This pandemic has put the values of our country under a microscope. Human life has been weighed against economic disruption. And just as it did for the Gedarene townspeople, economic disruption has too often seemed more important than loss of life. As Christians we should know better. The stock market can bounce back, jobs can be filled, restaurants reopened.

But life, once lost, cannot be replaced.

Prayer

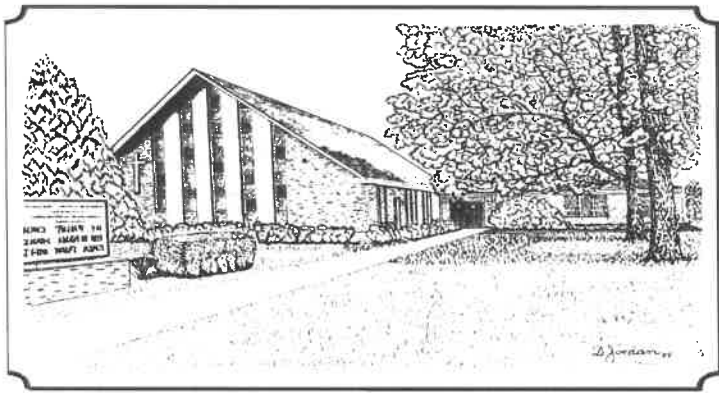
God, help us to count the cost of what we do, and place life at the heart of our decisions.

About the Author

John Edgerton is Lead Pastor at First United Church of Oak Park, Illinois

MESSENGER

Published by the Wantagh Memorial Congregational Church
1845 Wantagh Avenue, Wantagh, New York 11793-3909



Rev. Ronald Garner, Pastor
Hsia-Jung Chang, Choir Director/Organist

Lori Sobey, Editor

VOLUME 64, NUMBER 5
February 3, 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

Irreplaceable

John Edgerton

When Jesus arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. Jesus said to the demons, "Go!" So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water. Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region. – Matthew 8:28-34, excerpts (NIV)

Wait, that can't be right. The whole town pleads with Jesus to leave? Isn't that supposed to say, "They praised his works, and word spread far and wide, and there was much rejoicing?" Jesus saves the lives of two vulnerable people and the town tells Jesus to take a hike, makes sense?

Sure, two people's lives were saved. But did Jesus stop to think of the economic impact of the loss of a large herd of pigs? Think of the swineherds, and the farmers who would sell them slop, and the merchants who would sell the meat at market. Don't their livelihoods matter more than two people living on the outskirts of town? The Gedarene townspeople sure thought so.

Some things never change.

This pandemic has put the values of our country under a microscope. Human life has been weighed against economic disruption. And just as it did for the Gedarene townspeople, economic disruption has too often seemed more important than loss of life. As Christians we should know better. The stock market can bounce back, jobs can be filled, restaurants reopened.

But life, once lost, cannot be replaced.

Prayer

God, help us to count the cost of what we do, and place life at the heart of our decisions.

About the Author

John Edgerton is Lead Pastor at First United Church of Oak Park, Illinois

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.



February 2021

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mon. Feb 8th | Food Drive 10 am—11 am |
| Sat. Feb. 13th | 2nd Sat. Bible Study |
| Mon. Feb. 15th | Food Drive 10 am—11 am |
| Tues Feb. 16th | Shrove Tues
(still in the talks) |
| Wed. Feb. 17th | Ash Wed. Service 7:30 pm |

Mark Your Calendars!!

PASTOR'S TEA-LESS TEA

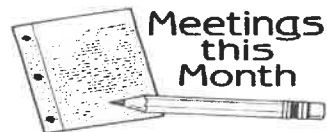
Traditionally, we gather in Seaman Hall and have a pastor's tea, where Ron goes over what has been happening around our church, and what he would like to see happening in our church for the new year. Because of the pandemic we were not able to have this lovely time of fellowship. Instead, on January 31st, we met after morning worship, and had a tea-less tea. Ron gave a synopsis of the events that transpired this past year, and what he would like to happen within our church this coming year. At the end everyone went home with a goodie bag loaded with everything needed for all of us to go, and have a lovely tea in our own homes. We would like to thank Laura Mauer, Andrea and Fiona Ash, Janet Seitz and Rev. Ron, for putting these lovely goodie bags together.



Thank you to Sharon Cozzoli for the picture of her tea.

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.



February

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------|------------|
| Thur. Feb. 11th | Deacons | 7:30 p.m. |
| Sun. Feb. 21st | Council | 11:15 a.m. |
| Mon. Feb. 22nd | 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
Lee Fraser



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!!

OFFERING ENVELOPES

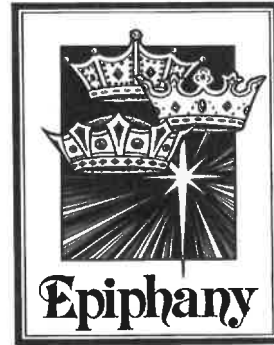
2021 Offering envelopes are on the table in the Narthex. Please call Lori at the church, if you would like to stop by and pick up your envelopes.



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 February 7, 2021
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

WORSHIP: 10:00 A.M.
Margaret Silberger Chancel
Linda Cortes Usher
Sharon Cozzoli Usher



THE SNOW STORM OF 2021

This past Monday and Tuesday we had one of heck of a snow storm. The storm dumped up to a foot and an half of snow in our neighborhood. Most of us were homebound for the duration of the storm. More togetherness. As if we haven't had enough togetherness, with the pandemic. The end result was very pretty. Here are a couple of picture of our church grounds.



Pictures were taken Wednesday morning, after the storm ended. I have a feeling the snow will be around for awhile!!

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!!!
wmcc1845.com

ANNUAL REPORTS



The Annual reports are now officially past due. Please reach out to me if you haven't sent me your report. 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



Board/Committee Openings

With the Annual Meeting about a month away, there are board and committee openings for anyone who might be interested. Some of our boards and committees are.

- The Board of Deacons**
(Which has three sub-committees within it; Worship & Spirituality, Christian Education, and Mission & Outreach)
- Board of Trustees**
- Memorial Fund Committee**
- Flower Committee**
- Fundraising Committee**

Please call the church office and let us know if you would like to be considered to fill an opening. Your church needs you. Get involved. Many hands makes light work.



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: February 14th**
 Luke Benedetto (Chancel Deacon)
 Lori Sobey (Usher)
 Joan Holdsworth (Usher)
- Week of: February 21st**
 Sharon Cozzoli (Chancel Deacon)
 Linda Cortes (Usher)
 Andrea Ash (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.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Our Ash Wednesday service will take place on Wednesday February 17th at 7:30 p.m. The February calendar, that was sent out in the last Messenger, had 7:00 as the time. Rev. Ron has changed the time to 7:30 p.m.



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.

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. Monetary donations should be either cash or checks made payable to **The Long Island Council of Churches, with Food Pantry in the memo**. 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.**

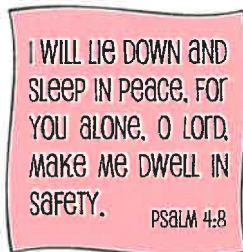
There is never any additional fees or any expiration date. If you have any questions, please call Karen Jackson at 516-731-6248 or send an email to casey0704@aol.com.

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.



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**

February 2021

THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED
4 7:00 Meditation 7:30 Bible Before Bed	5 7:00 Troop 689	6 9:00 Meroke 8:00 Justice Zoom	7 10:00 Worship	8 10:00 Food Drive	9 7:00 Cyber Fellowship 7:30 Virtual Crochet	10