

The Bell Ringer

Of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

A Friendly Church; So When You Come — Bring a Friend

We Are Open . . . Come And Praise God!!!

JULY 2021



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From the Pastor's Nook

A WORD OF THANKS FROM A NEW NEIGHBOR

I sit here this day with a smile on my face knowing that we are beginning our journey together. This journey is akin to walking a road in our neighborhood built on relationships. Relationships are what mark our lives; relationships with God, with one another and with those we are called to serve. Relationships are the core of our experiences, of the memories that fill our lives. I, as your new pastor, am looking forward to developing those experiences, creating memories with you and for you that will mark our journey together for such a time as this. My fervent prayer is to do this for many years with you; to be your neighbor.

The relationships that we develop in our lives are points of gratitude. I have already developed relationships with the members of the Pastor Nominating Committee. I am so grateful for the manner in which these individuals have welcomed me and my family. During my search, I was conversing with three other congregations besides Sweet Hollow. The relationships that I built with Joan, Jean, Jane, Melissa, Carol Kiel, Carol Schiffmacher and Niaja made it easy for me to discern my path to Sweet Hollow. To you all, thank you for seeing me, hearing me and welcoming me (as well as my family).

To the session and members of the property committee, please receive my thanks for listening to the needs of my family and preparing the manse to receive them. It is not always easy to accommodate a family of our size, and your willingness to find a way certainly has warmed the hearts of all in my family in providing us a lovely place to live and grow on Long Island. Our gratitude cannot be measured.

-- Continued on Page 4

Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

(631) 367 - 9249

www.sweethollowpresby.org

Rev. Wade Pond, Pastor
 Rachel Fogel, Choir Director
 Lori Kevelos, Church Administrator
 Jill Conroy, Treasurer
 Monica Van Houten, Clerk of Session

Elders:

Ed Conroy
 Jim Sommermeyer
 Frank Sansone
 Bill Von Brook

Deacons:

Jean Cavanaugh
 Niaja Mowatt
 Maureen Sansone

Other Groups & Activities:

Book Discussion	Sukey Walter
Christian Education	Carol Keil
Fellowship, Outreach & Mission	Maureen Sansone
House & Property	Bill Von Brook
Nominating	Barbara Martin & Niaja Mowatt
Personnel	Frank Sansone
Prayer Circle	Carol Keil
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Sukey Walter
Budget & Stewardship	
Women For Women	Maureen Sansone & Sukey Walter
Worship	Joan Sommermeyer
Youth Group	
Church Historian	
Bell Ringer Editor	Bill Chamberlain



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BELL RINGER DEADLINE

for August 2021 Issue:
Monday, July 26, 2021
Subject to change



July 2021

2 Anthony D'Angelo IV
 4 Fred Chacalos
 5 Emily Wagner
 6 Andrew Fogel
 9 Rose O'Connor
 16 Lloyd Phipps
 18 Maureen Sansone
 21 Amanda Moder
 22 Ross Martin
 24 Charlottel DeSanti
 25 Dan Schiffmacher
 27 Lexie Zucker
 29 Silas Miller

Happy Anniversary

July 2021

No Anniversaries this month !!!



Prayer Corner

June 2021

By Carol Keil

The Season of Promise

“Listen to the long stillness:

New life is stirring

New dreams are on the wing.

New hopes are being readied:

Humankind is fashioning a new heart

Humankind is forging a new mind.

GOD is at work.

This is the season of Promise.”

This is the “Season of Promise”! The season of hope and renewal as we welcome Rev. Wade Pond and his family to our community of faith at Sweet Hollow. It is in this spirit that we lift our prayers of thanksgiving and dedicate ourselves to the work that lies ahead. We pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we seek new ways to serve within this community of faith and the world beyond.

May all who mourn find peace in the solace of memories shared.

May all who seek healing find renewed courage and strength in the support of our prayers.

We pray with thanksgiving for the gifts of time and talents so generously shared by the members of this congregation.

Amen

“Howard Thurman” AZQuotes.com Word and Fly LTD 2021

From the Pastor's Nook *Continued from Page 1*

To all of those individuals who came to the meet and greet on May 1st and our worship May 2nd (both in person and virtual), it was a joy and an honor to be with you during those times. CoVid-19 has presented a challenge to being the gathering people of Christ (*ecclesia* in Greek). On the other hand, CoVid-19 has also given us an opportunity! To meet virtually has provided a lifeline to congregations to find new ways to be *ecclesia* and to continue to develop those relationships that identify our memories. Be sure to thank Bill Von Brook (and any of his unnamed helpers) for his efforts to get your worship online! I look forward to being with you both in person and virtually as we learn to be reformed and always reforming our faith.

Most importantly, I want to share one final word of thanks. Mr. Rogers, yes THAT Mr. Rogers, an ordained presbyterian minister, started every episode of his iconic TV shows with a simple song that he composed. "Would you be mine? Could you be mine? Won't you be my neighbor?" In the search process, this is essentially what a pastor and a congregation are asking one another.

My answer is yes, yes and yes. Soooooo, thank you for this gift from each and every one of you. You may never know how much your saying "YES" on May 2nd means to me. It goes beyond my feeble words. Again, thank you. I look forward to being your neighbor.

With humble thanks

Christian Education

By Carol Keil

Ordinary Time

We are currently observing the time in the church liturgical year known as **Ordinary Time**. This is not to imply that any time in our Christian faith is ordinary in the sense of being dull or uninteresting. In this usage the word "ordinary" is derived from the word *ordinal*, an adjective denoting a numerical position of an object. Ordinary Time is basically "counted time", noting the time from the Monday after Pentecost till Advent and then from January 7 till the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday when the Lenten season begins. These Ordinary Time periods are marked using green altar vestments. Holy days in the Christmas and Easter seasons are marked by vestments in the colors purple or white and gold, Pentecost Sunday by vestments in red or in the case of Good Friday, by a bare altar.

The Scripture passages assigned to Ordinary Time focus on stories that tell us the day-to-day life of Jesus, what it means to follow Jesus as he broke bread with ordinary people, healed the sick and challenged religious leaders as he steadily gained a community of believers who would carry on in his Name.

Ordinary Time is a time for us to be renewed by the knowledge that in Christ, our lives are filled with grace, forgiveness and hope...we are people living in faith as "new creations in Christ", not just on Christmas and Easter, but also during the times in between where most of life takes place.

Let's use the green of Ordinary Time to inspire a real opportunity to *Go Green*, to renew our efforts to preserve natural resources and reduce useless waste in our homes and our church.

Let's use these ordinary days to establish routines that bring a sense of peace and balance to our days. It might be the time we will finally begin a regular exercise, keep a journal, take time for prayer throughout each day or simply take a walk.

Make Ordinary Time an extra-ordinary opportunity to grow in faith!

Prayer Group Holds Thank You Luncheon For Pastor Joan

Prayer Group held a Thank You Luncheon for Pastor Joan on Wednesday, June 23rd. Graciously hosted by Carol Keil, after a time of prayer, reflection and sharing, attendees enjoyed a variety of delicious fare, including quiche, garden salad, walnut and raisin rolls, vegetable platter, fruit salad and a cannoli cake. Pastor Joan was presented with a beautiful hibiscus plant, as well as an inspirational coffee mug. Sweet Hollow has been so blessed to be guided and nurtured by Pastor Joan, especially during such difficult and uncertain times. She will be greatly missed, and we wish her all the best.



Maureen Sansone, Teddy Tanksley, Carol Keil, Pastor Joan Finck, Carol Schiffmacher, Sukey Walter, Jean Cavanagh and Agnes Kalemari.

June 24, 2021

To the Little Church with the Big Heart:

As I prepare for my last sermon at your church this Sunday, I feel so blessed for the gift I have Received - the gift of being at Sweet Hollow Church for ten months. I have considered it an honor and a privilege to be the interim while you searched for a settled pastor to lead you. I believe the future of Sweet Hollow Presbyterian Church looks very bright and hopeful. The combination of the Holy Spirit, Pastor Wade and the congregation working together can only bring great things.

I am simply writing to say thank you. You are such an amazing and welcoming congregation. I am continually blown away by your compassion, generosity and willingness to serve. I can only hope that I have inspired all of you as much as you have inspired me.

With love and prayers

Joan

“The Search to Fill a Void”

by PNC Secretary Jane

Working on the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) was an eye-opening experience. Within our teamwork structure, we compromised, listened, questioned, zoomed and spiritually searched to find our match. We believe the Holy Spirit led Pastor Pond to Sweet Hollow and we made the right choice based on numerous criteria. As we look back at this process that seemed to take forever, we know we did a thorough job. Each meeting started and ended in prayer that our committee would succeed.

The beauty of this process is that all women came to the table with different backgrounds, views and desires to move our church forward into 2021. After more than a year together I believe we created a stronger bond with each other. It was an eclectic group of ages, life experiences, church work, and families but we all *shared the love* for Sweet Hollow. We knew we were the voices of our Congregation and took this search with “guns a blazing” to find our perfect match. We started with creating a truthful and enticing history of our church and what specific talents and spiritual guidance we were seeking (trust me this was NOT a ten-minute process). Individually we looked over 20+ resumes (all were discussed on zoom conferences) and came together to identify our top candidates. Life was one big zoom after zoom, a plus for me was I learned how to change my background on technology I was so unfamiliar with. We had A LOT of homework but as conscientious students we did it and came to zooms with opinions and questions to discuss. We broke our creations of interviewing questions into five categories. Sharing being the “interviewer of the moment” (pictured above: Carol Keil, Jean Cavanagh, Niaja Mowatt, Chairwoman Joan Sommermeyer, Melissa D’Angelo, Jane Beller, Carol Schiffmacher) with candidates shared the wealth of responsibilities. After the interviewee departed the zoom, Joan would guide us after we stayed on to discuss what we heard and coordinated for our next zoom. We adapted questions as we went along and many interviewees said “wow what a great question!”

We unanimously agreed Pastor Pond was the right fit for Sweet Hollow. Session was advised on our progress frequently and knew we had invited the Ponds to “scope out” Long Island and Sweet Hollow from their home in Lancaster, PA. There are many levels of getting permission to get our minister and it ended with the meeting with Presbytery. Now we relaxed after this last door was opened and all were in agreement of our choice. I look forward to seeing the manse fitted for all the Ponds and the beginning of our new chapter at Sweet Hollow. We know it will take the ENTIRE congregation to help expand the church in many ways and we are counting on every member to step up when asked to lead us into a health, spiritually uplifting and successful second half of 2021.

Stay safe and see you in church featuring Pastor Wade Pond at the pulpit and his wife Jessica close by with their children.





Summer Helping Hands Missions for Sweet Hollow

Many thanks for all the food/personal care items and monetary donations you have given towards helping our brothers and sisters in the local community. Many are still experiencing job losses, food insecurity and health challenges. Local food pantries are still facing severe shortages due to a high demand for food and personal care items.

Summer has now arrived, and as life continues to return to a sense of "new normalcy" as we enjoy barbeques, parks, beaches and longer days of sunshine, ***may our hearts remain open as we prayerfully consider giving to those who are still in need of assistance.***

There are various ways in which you can help:

- ⇒ By sending in a check payable to PCSH with the memo section clearly marked Summer Mission;
- ⇒ By bringing your food and/or personal care items to church on Sundays and placing them in the Giving Box located in the Sanctuary vestibule;
- ⇒ By donating to Island Harvest Food Bank - every \$1 provides 2 meals to neighbors in need on Long Island. To donate, go to: <http://www.islandharvest.org>; click on **Ways to Give**, then click on **Give Funds**; you may also mail in your donation to: Island Harvest, 15 Grumman Road West, Suite 1450, Bethpage, NY 11714, or donate by phone at 631-873-4775;
- ⇒ By giving to Newsday Charities - To give, visit newsdaycharities.org, call 631-843-3056 or mail in your check payable to Newsday Charities to: Newsday Charities, P.O. Box 21538, New York, NY 10087-1538. Your gift to Newsday Charities Kids Campaign supports programs that provide healthy meals, stable housing, safe havens from abuse and educational opportunities.



Thanks again Sweet Hollow...

The Little Church with a Big Heart's
Mission Team

Alert to all online Amazon shoppers!



In a time where every dime will count, this will make it easier for online shoppers who use Amazon to help the church while getting what you need...think of it like a two-for-one offer. You can select our church under the tab charitable organization (Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow) in order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile. Happy Shopping – Jane Beller

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**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF SWEET HOLLOW**

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We're on the Web!

www.sweethollowpresby.org

Here ye Here ye, the Manse is Complete!!!

I am happy and very grateful to announce that the work within the Manse is complete. This was made possible with Gifts of Giving from the Congregation, the hard work of Rob Reiser and of Omar Guerrero of Centro Missionero Congregation. I cannot thank God enough for guiding my steps and placing the right people in my path to accomplish this task with Grace and ease. I appreciate the Faith that the Congregation had in me to get this ever so important project completed in the time allotted.

Pastor Wade Pond and his family have moved in and we look forward to the new Day and breath of fresh air the Pastor Pond will bring to Our Little Church with the Big Heart. I am hopeful to see so many faces on July 4th for Pastor's first service.

Bill Von Brook

