

The Bell Ringer

Of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

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

NOVEMBER 2017



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Pastoral Column:

Pastor Meg Flannagan

As we celebrated the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation through the month of October, we remembered many people and ideas for which we give thanks. We have traveled through our personal history at Sweet Hollow, down the trail to Old First (Huntington), through John Knox's church (Edinburgh, Scotland), and into the halls of John Calvin (Geneva, Switzerland) and Martin Luther (Wittenberg, Germany). We reclaimed their prayers and songs and orders of worship. We considered the theology that pushed and shaped them. We did not do this to glorify the past or our predecessors, but to remind ourselves the people and places from which we've come. These are the footsteps which led to our own faith and fellowship. These are the authors of words which we still say and sing today – *"a mighty fortress is our God!"* These are the midwives of change in the church, paving the way for us to question what we believe and embrace theological diversity.

The Reformation is, thus, not simply a historical movement, but a way of being. Our Reformation is an insistence that God did not create a stagnant world, but a living, breathing, vibrant creation. Our Reformation is a recognition of the ways that God's self and Spirit change us. Our Reformation is a celebration of the way differences can still be held in community and in relationship. Our Reformation is an invitation to draw closer to God to watch how we will be re-formed next.

In one of his prayers, John Calvin wrote that "beginning well means little unless one perseveres." What he and Martin Luther began 500 years ago, is continued through our own perseverance. Each and every day we persevere with our personal and communal, social and theological reformation. Each and every day Sweet Hollow perseveres to fulfill God's mission. We feel the burden of what was begun well, praying that we might be good caretakers of what was given to us, and humbly building on that beautiful foundation. This shapes our interactions with the church budget, Sunday School, staffing, mission and property. What we hope and dream, what we do or do not is part of our reformation. As we move beyond our anniversary celebration, and toward the Advent and Christmas seasons, may our prayers echo that of Calvin's (fully printed below).

Heavenly Father, I know that beginning well means little unless one perseveres. So, I ask you to be my guide, not only today but for all my life. Increase your grace in me each day, until you have brought me into full union with your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who is the true Sun of our souls, shining day and night forever. Amen.

Prayer Corner

by Carol Keil

Thanks for Pastor Meg for contributing this quote by Abraham Maslow:

“The great lesson from the true mystics is that the sacred is in the ordinary, that it is to be found in one’s daily life, in one’s neighbors, friends, and family, in one’s backyard.”

Please join us in prayer this All Saints Day for members and relatives of our church family who died this past year:

Galda Gallagher

Noelle Skidmore, mother of Nicole Schiffmacher

Mary Squires, sister of Janet Chacalos

Ruth Ulrich

In this month of Thanksgiving celebration, we lift up prayers for guidance and in gratitude to the members of our Nominating and Stewardship Committees and prayers of gratitude and thanksgiving for the many volunteers who organized the October Square Dance and staffed the Pumpkin Patch throughout October.

May our eyes and hearts be open to the sacredness surrounding us each day, Amen.

Pastor Meg’s Telephone

The landline phone number at the Manse has been disconnected.

To reach Pastor Meg, please call or text her cell phone: 931-472-8367.

Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

Rev. Mary Margaret Flannagan, Pastor

Rachel Fogel, Choir Director

Barbara Zimmerman, Secretary

Tracy Dein, Treasurer

Other Groups & Activities:

Elders:

Melissa Beyer
Barbara Blanthorn
Lynn Burke
Charlotte DeSanti
Tim Mason
Maureen Sansone
Brian Schiffmacher
Jim Sommermeyer
Emily Wagner

Deacons:

Jim Beyer
Jean Cavanaugh
Bill Chamberlain
Laura Fallon
Daniel Layer
Susan Manning
Barbara Martin
Frank Sansone
Dan Schiffmacher
Jason Wagner
Marc Young

Book Discussion

Christian Education
Church Brunch
Fellowship & Outreach
House & Property
Mission
Personnel
Prayer Circle
Prayer Shawl Ministry
Stewardship
Women For Women
Worship
Youth Group
Bell Ringer Editor
Church Historian

Sukey Walter

Lynn Burke
Bill Walter
Maureen Sansone
Brian Schiffmacher
Charlotte DeSanti
Charlotte DeSanti
Carol Keil
Sukey Walter
Jim Sommermeyer
Maureen Sansone
Melissa Beyer
Pastor Meg Flannagan
Bill Chamberlain
Bill Walter

Stewardship – Budget News

by Jim Sommermeyer

A Mighty Fortress is our God! Thank you all! We had an amazing amount of support for our Pumpkin Patch truck unloading and our Square Dance. Our positive momentum is growing stronger. Our Roof Repair Fundraising campaign is approaching \$27,000, more than two-thirds of the way to our target of \$35,000.

We have just concluded Stewardship Season, the time of year when we renew our commitment to God and our church. We celebrated Stewardship Dedication Sunday on Sunday October 29, which was also Reformation Sunday, the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. If you have not yet returned your pledges, please engage in thoughtful prayer and return them as soon as possible. We would like to develop a budget this year that is based on our pledges.

Please let me know if you would like to grace us with your faith testimony. We wouldn't be the "Little Church with the Big Heart" without you and your time, talents, and treasures supporting all the good work we do.

Do you have your own business? If you are interested in listing it in a Sweet Hollow friends and family directory, please send me your information.

Amazing things are happening at Sweet Hollow! In October we enjoyed our Pumpkin Patch, Harvest Square Dance, Book Discussion, Prayer Circle, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Women 4 Women, Church Brunch, Committee workshops and Diner Dinner & Discussion, amongst other activities. Coming up in November we have our Fall Harvest Dinner!

We have much to do and I know we can do it together if we trust in our faith and pray to God to show us the way."

Personnel Committee

by Charlotte DeSanti

I would like to again thank Sukey Walter for stepping up to care for our little ones in the nursery each Sunday.

This has been a difficult position to fill for one hour each Sunday from outside of the church and from within our church family. We thank all of you who have helped out each Sunday before Sukey became our permanent volunteer. Sukey will not be available on the following Sundays: November 25, February 18 and February 26.

I have left a sign-up sheet on the nursery wall for volunteers. Please help out if you are available.

Thank you.

Nominating Committee

by Pastor Meg Flannagan

The congregational Nominating Committee is hard at work seeking individuals with the time and talent to serve as church officers, on our next Pastoral Nominating Committee, or on next year's congregational Nominating Committee.

Please contact co-chairs, Barbara Blanthorn at bjb728@aol.com or 516-508-6381 or Barbara Martin at [nnowhat4@juno.com](mailto:nnowwhat4@juno.com) or 631-758-6474, if you would like to nominate yourself or another church member.

Christian Education News

by Lynn Burke

Our new Sunday School program is underway with the children meeting in church on the third Sunday of each month with at home lessons the other weeks. The lessons can be found each week at www.sweethollowpreby.org and click "Education & Fellowship." We have set up the small room at the back of the Sanctuary with simple crafts and activities for the children each week. We would really like to hear your thoughts on how this new program is working.

Plans are in the works for the Advent season and a special pageant on Sunday, December 17. Look for more information in the weeks ahead.

As always, we are in need of volunteers to teach Sunday School, and room shepherd in the Nursery and Sunday School. Look for the sign-up sheets in the back of the sanctuary. It would be greatly appreciated.

Visioning Task Force

by Charlotte DeSanti

Our Mission Study for Sweet Hollow has been accepted and approved by The Committee on Ministry at their October 3 meeting. Copies will be available shortly for the congregation.

I want to thank the Committee (Melissa D'Angelo, Carol Keil, Maureen Sansone, and William Walter) and Pastor Meg for all their hard work, their time and their knowledge that has given Sweet Hollow a look into its past, where we are now, and our hopes and plans for the future.

Women 4 Women (W4W) Is Going To The Movies

by Maureen Sansone

Women 4 Women (W4W) is holding its next event on Monday, November 6. Please join us as we go to the movies and then go out to eat afterwards for fellowship and lively conversation. The movie and the restaurant are to be determined as we get closer to the event.

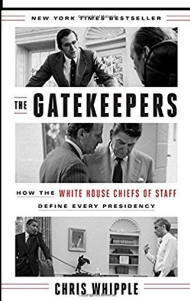
If you'd like to attend, please contact Maureen Sansone at 631-385-1855 or at msansone@optonline.net as soon as possible. Looking forward to seeing you there!

All women are invited to attend Old First's Women's Church Fair on Saturday, November 11.

W4W hosts their annual Christmas decorating gathering on Monday, November 27 at 7 pm. We'll decorate the fellowship hall, breezeway and Sanctuary while we share holiday goodies and listen to favorite Christmas music.

Book Discussion

by Sukey Walter



Our next book discussion will take place on Thursday, November 30 at 1:30 pm in the Parlor. That is the Thursday after Thanksgiving.

The book will be *The Gatekeepers* by Chris Whipple, *How the White House Chiefs of Staff Define Every Presidency* and how different presidents responded to having a chief of staff.

Mission Team

by Charlotte DeSanti



November 11 is Veterans Day, honoring all the men and women who are and have served our country. We are collecting clothing, shoes, linens and blankets for our Veterans and their families. Please bring your donations to church by Sunday, November 12. They will be blessed that Sunday and United Veterans Beacon House will pick them up during the week. If you will not be in church, please leave your items at the church office between now and then. Thank you.

Donations are ongoing for ALL who have been affected terribly by the hurricanes these past few months. Monetary donations are the best and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is everywhere helping out. You can donate directly online at www.pda.pcusa or make a check out to Sweet Hollow (putting PDA in the memo section) and it will be forwarded.



Thank you for your contributions.

We will not be putting out Sharing Bags this month. Mission Team asks that you please place an item or two each week in the breezeway basket. Health and beauty aids and baby necessities are always needed (toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoos, diapers, baby wipes, baby food and formula). It is also nice to be mindful of special food items needed for the holidays celebrated at this time of the year (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Chanukah). It helps to make the holidays a little more joyful and easier for those on very fixed incomes. Canned vegetables, beans, rice, pasta, gravies, cereal, tea, coffee, dry milk, condiments, flour, sugar, spices, etc....are staples always needed. Anything you like to feed your family! You may also make a monetary donation. Milk, eggs, and meat are purchased with the monetary donations (100% goes strictly to the purchase of these perishable food items). Checks can be made out to The Huntington Community Food Council. If you are involved in any type of fundraising or community work outside of the church, you can always contact the Food Council for special needs at 631-351-1060. They are located at 90 E. Fifth Street, Huntington Station (near Manor Field).



We will be collecting gifts for our Annual **Adopt A Family** for the moms and their babies of Madonna Heights. Please look for the list in our weekly bulletins this month. The bake sale supporting this will be on December 10. Thank you for all the support for our Christmas Families you have given through the years.

Thank you, all, and A Happy, Blessed Thanksgiving to you and your families.

Pies For the Homeless

On Tuesday, November 21, Rev. JoAnn and Gathering of Light will be using the kitchen to bake pies for the homeless. Any members of Sweet Hollow who would like to join in are welcome. We will meet at 6:30 pm in the kitchen. Please see the weekly Sunday bulletins for any additional information.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

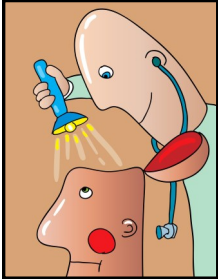
by Sukey Walter

The next prayer shawl meeting will be November 16 at 1 pm in the Parlor. If you knit or crochet or would like to learn how to knit, join us as we create prayer shawls to be given to celebrate a joy or to provide comfort.

We have some lovely new shawls available so if you need one contact Sukey Walter at sukey1@me.com or Pastor Meg.

The Aging Brain Is Our Topic For The Church Brunch On Tuesday, November 14

by Bill Walter



If you've wondered why you can't remember where you left your car keys, we'll have an answer for you at our Church Brunch on the second Tuesday in November, November 14 starting at 10:00 am. The topic will be The Aging Brain. Although aging is associated with subtle declines in some cognitive abilities, at the same time there are other aspects which improve with age. We will look at approaches to keeping our minds and brains healthy as we get older. Thad A. Polk will be our guide. He is a Professor at the University of Michigan. Some of his major projects have investigated changes in neural representations as we age. He was named to the *Princeton Review's* list of the best 300 Professors in the United States.

Is aging a disease? Normal aging is associated with detrimental disease-like effects.

Understanding the mechanisms behind these effects could potentially lead to treatments that address the many health problems associated with aging. We will discuss three mechanisms that seem to play an important role: energy consumption, free radicals and damage to DNA.

We'll have freshly-brewed decaf coffee to accompany some delicious goodies. Join us at 10:00 am or whenever your schedule permits. We'll be in the Church Parlor until 12:30 pm.

Gift Baskets Needed For Fall Harvest Dinner

by Maureen Sansone

The Fellowship & Outreach Committee seeks donations of items for gift baskets, or donations of themed gift baskets, which will be auctioned off on Sunday, November 12, at the Fall Harvest Dinner, occurring from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm.



The Fall Harvest Dinner Gift Basket proceeds will benefit the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund, providing aid to those who have been devastated by the onslaught of natural disasters.

Do you have a favorite hobby, activity, store or restaurant? We welcome any and all donations as we look forward to offering a beautiful array of Gift Baskets at this event, which we've been so blessed to do in the past.

Anyone who would like to avail themselves of these Gift Basket offerings before the event will have an opportunity to purchase raffle tickets during Coffee Hour on Sunday, November 12.

Please contact Maureen Sansone at msansone@optonline.net or 631-385-1855 if you are interested in donating or if you'd like to assist in the collection and assembly of the gift baskets. Thank you in advance.

**Pictures From
Harvest
Square Dance
Article on Page 8**



Annual Fall Harvest Dinner

by Maureen Sansone

Join us for this perennial favorite: A fun-filled evening of fellowship, food, raffle baskets and a special entertainment surprise at the Annual Fall Harvest Dinner, which takes place on Sunday, November 12 at 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Please bring your favorite “Potluck” main dish, side dish, veggies, desserts, etc. to share. Attendees are also asked to bring non-perishable food items for the Huntington Food Pantry.

There will be a wonderful selection of gift baskets which will be raffled off, the proceeds from which will be donated to the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund, to provide aid to those who have been devastated by recent natural disasters. Anyone who would like to donate items or themed baskets, please contact Maureen Sansone at 631-385-1855 or msansone@optonline.net.

Assistance will be needed with setting up, cleaning up, etc. Please contact Maureen Sansone if you are able to lend a much needed hand in that regard. Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Long-Term Active Members

by Bill Walter

Some 500 years ago the Reformation began with Martin Luther nailing 95 theses to the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. Pastor Meg has been including items from the Reformation in our worship this fall as well as items from the early days of the Sweet Hollow church. Diminishing attendance caused our church to close in 1930. Following the end of the Second World War, Sweet Hollow was reorganized by families finding our lovely church in 1948. Attached below is a table of Sweet Hollow’s Long-Term Active Members. All joined Sweet Hollow 50 or more years ago (Tim Mason has a couple of years to go). These are all of the active members whose roll number is below 1000, that is, the first thousand who joined Sweet Hollow following its rebirth in 1948.

Long-Term Active Members		
NAME	ROLL NUMBER	DATE JOINED
Martin, Caroline	85	Apr 3, 1955
Bauser, Matilda White	255	June 1, 1958
Waters, Eleanor H.	621	Sept 30, 1962
Moder, Barbara A.	678	April 9, 1963
Moder, Joseph L.	679	April 9, 1963
Krams, Sharon Chacalos	706	Dec 10, 1963
Paalz, Alison Kerr	715	Dec 10, 1963
Martin, Conrad Richard	788	Jun 16, 1964
Tanksley, Teddy R.	808	Dec 1, 1964
Walter, William T.	875	Dec 1, 1966
Walter, Susan T.	876	Dec 1, 1966
Martin, Ross	897	May 14, 1967
Mason, Timothy	991	May 22, 1969

Pumpkin Patch

by Frank Sansone

After an 8-hour delay in delivery, our shipment of pumpkins was unloaded by hand from the truck, and put out on pallets on the East Lawn by our congregation and friends. Thanks for your patience and for your hard manual labor on September 30. The unloading would not have been possible without Michelle Von Brook's leadership, Ray Moder's quad tractor and trailer, and Carol Keil and Otto Keil Florist's pallets, hay, cornstalks and plants.

Even without optimal weather, the pumpkins sold steadily, as well as the baked goods generously supplied by Carol Keil and Sukey Walter. It has also been gratifying to once again see many of the people in the area who annually come to our patch for their pumpkins.

Thank you to all those who worked selling the pumpkins.



Harvest Square Dance

by Maureen Sansone

Our Harvest Square Dance Fundraiser, held on Saturday, October 14, was a rousing success! What a blessing it was to witness our Fellowship Hall filled to the brim with revelers enjoying music, laughter and joy, all while raising approximately \$1,600 for our roof project! Additionally, the 50/50 raffle proceeds of approximately \$125 will be donated to Hurricane Disaster Relief.

Special thanks to Mickey Rogers and the Harvest Square Dance Committee, who planned and organized this wonderful event. Mickey's talents as a Caller enabled attendees of all skill levels and abilities to participate in and enjoy a wide range of dance sets.

Thanks to the many church members and their family and friends who were involved in the myriad facets of planning, organizing, pre-sales of tickets, ticket sales the night of the event, 50/50 Raffle ticket sales, setting up lights and working in the outdoor food area, decorating, setting up for the event, making and bringing in baked goods, picking up food donations and prizes, babysitting and cleaning up. Each and every one of you played such a vital role in the success of this fundraiser... a true testament to your hard work!

Pictures on Page 6

November

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
5 10 am Worship	6 7 pm Women4Women Movie Night Nijala Mowatt's Birthday	7 James Sommermeyer's Birthday	8 10 am Prayer Circle	9 Donald Krams' and Malachy O'Connor's Birthdays	10 Office Closed	11 Veterans Day
12 10 am Worship 5 pm Harvest Dinner United Veterans Clothing Drive	13	14 10 am Church Brunch	15 10 am Prayer Circle	16 1 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry Huck Fischer's and Christine Remo's Birthdays	17	18 Joanna Hoban's Birthday
19 10 am Worship	20 7:30 pm Session	21 6:30 pm Pie Baking	22 10 am Prayer Circle	23 Happy Thanksgiving! Office Closed	24 Office Closed	25
26 10 am Worship Rob Schmitt, Jr.'s Birthday	27 7 pm Women4Women Decorate	28 Colin Keil's Birthday	29 10 am Prayer Circle	30 1:30 pm Book Discussion		

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF SWEET HOLLOW**

*95 Old Country Road
Melville, NY 11747*

Phone: 631-367-9249



We're on the Web!

www.sweethollowpresby.org

**BELL RINGER DEADLINE
For December Issue
November 21, 2017**



Community Thanksgiving Service

All are invited to attend the Huntington Area Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 19 at 7:30 pm at the Greenlawn Presbyterian Church, 497 Pulaski Road, Greenlawn.

Youth Group News

The youth group will meet immediately after worship on Sunday, November 12. We will be done by 12:30 pm.

Youth are also invited to go out for a quick pizza dinner before the Thanksgiving Service at Greenlawn Presbyterian on Sunday evening, November 19. Meet at Sweet Hollow at 5:30 pm. Chauffeurs are welcome!

Would you like your Bellringer to go in color electronically thus saving us time and postage?

Please contact the church office at 631-367-9249 or pchsecretary@hotmail.com.