

The Bell Ringer

Of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

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

DECEMBER 2017



Inside This Issue:

Pastor Meg's Column	1
Prayer Corner.....	2
Church Office	2
Pastor's Phone.....	2
Church Officers	2
Christian Education News..	3
Youth Group	3
Stewardship-Budget News...	3
Officer Nomination Process	3
Mission Team	4, 5
Pumpkin Patch.....	5
Women 4 Women.....	5
Prayer Shawl Ministry.....	5
Church Brunch.....	6
Book Discussion	6
Delivery Option.....	6
Fall Harvest Dinner	7, 8
Recipe	7
December Calendar.....	9
Children in Worship.....	10
Worship in December.....	10
Bell Ringer Deadline	10

Pastoral Column:

by Pastor Meg Flannagan

The season for waiting is upon us. We wait for God to break into the world. We wait for Christ's return to earth. We wait for justice and peace to prevail. We wait for love to conquer all. Do not let the commercial Christmas overtake our spiritual practice of waiting. Do not let the stores fool us into thinking that the perfect present will solve our problems. The best gift has already been given to us; we are simply waiting for its fulfillment. So cling to God's gift of salvation which cannot be bought or sold. Treasure God's gifts of kindness, compassion, and generosity which can be shared. Hold fast to what is good. Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the suffering. Honor all people. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Have a holy Advent and a wonderful Christmas celebration!

"First Coming" by Madeleine L'Engle

*God did not wait till the world was ready,
till... nations were at peace.
God came when the Heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.*

*God did not wait for the perfect time.
God came when the need was deep and great.
God dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine. God did not wait*

*till hearts were pure. In joy God came
to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame
God came, and God's Light would not go out.*

*God came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.*

*We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
God came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!*

Prayer Corner

by Carol Keil

As we light the candles of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy this Advent season: *Let every heart prepare him room!*

A daily devotional for Advent from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is found at
< http://www.pts.edu/devotional_1 > then scroll down to 2017 Advent Devotionals.

Thanks to Martin E. Marty for the following:

- Pray for opportunities to learn something new regularly.
- Pray for the grace to be able to rest, become aware of God's presence, and enjoy it.
- Pray for strong relationships with other people in the bond of loving community.
- Pray for peace in all situations, no matter what the circumstances.
- Pray for an enlivened imagination that helps you contribute to the world in creative ways.
- Pray for joy and a sense of humor.
- Pray for a clear mind and the ability to clearly communicate what you value to others.
- Pray for openness to the Holy Spirit's guidance.
- Pray for a genuine awareness of God's grace in your life and the humility to extend grace to others.

Merry Christmas!

Church Office: The church office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 25-26; Friday, December 29; and Monday, January 1. Please call Pastor Meg on her cell phone if an emergency arises.

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

Christian Education News

by Lynn Burke

We are continuing our At-Home Sunday School series for pre-school and elementary age children. There will be short lessons posted on our church website for the families to do each week. A lesson will be taught on the third Sunday of each month at Church when the children will leave worship for their Sunday School class. Please visit www.sweethollowpresby.org and click "Education & Fellowship" to access the lesson each week. The lessons for December will be on Mary's Song as told in Luke 1:26-55.

The entire congregation will take part in Las Posadas (The Inns) during worship on December 17. I hope all our families and children will join us in worship that day. As a reminder, we have set up the small room at the back of the sanctuary as a child-friendly space stocked with simple crafts and activities.

The Nursery is open every week, with Sukey Walter caring for our youngest members. Many thanks to all our volunteers who help with Sunday School and in the Nursery.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Youth Group: Youth will meet after worship on Sunday, December 10.

Stewardship – Budget News

by Jim Sommermeyer

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart! As we celebrate Thanksgiving we thank God for everything good in our lives and we thank the faithful flock of Sweet Hollow for their ongoing commitment to our church. We thank our wonderful group of renters who bring life and joy to our facilities. We thank our army of volunteers who take care of our grounds and facilities without a single complaint. 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.

It is a full time job to practice Stewardship. We are responsible to take care of our church, our community, our country and our planet. We are accountable to God to do our best to make things better, to help one another, to actively practice forgiveness and to recognize opportunities to say "yes" to do more. We have received 27 pledges thus far of over \$63,000. This accounts for a little less than half of our membership. Imagine the possibilities if we were able to double this amount. If you have not yet returned your pledge, please engage in thoughtful prayer and return it as soon as possible. We would like to develop a budget this year that is based on our actual pledges.

Our Roof Repair Fundraising campaign now stands at \$27,800, more than two-thirds of the way to our target of \$35,000. If we reach \$30,000 before the end of the year, the third and final \$1,000 match will be triggered.

Amazing things are happening at Sweet Hollow! We now prepare for the joyous Christmas season when the entire world celebrates the birth of our Savior! Live into Joy!

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.

Officer Nomination Process

by Pastor Meg Flannagan

The congregational Nominating Committee is calling individuals to serve as church officers, on our next Pastoral Nominating Committee, and on next year's congregational Nominating Committee. Please contact co-chairs, Barbara Blanthorn (bjb728@aol.com or 516-508-6381) or Barbara Martin (nnowwhat4@juno.com or 631-758-6475), if you have any comments or questions about the process.

Mission Team

by Charlotte DeSanti

This year, our Adopt A Family from Madonna Heights includes nine moms and twelve children. Below is their Christmas Wish List. Some folks have already chosen a mom or a child to gift. To prevent duplication of gifts, please let Sukey Walter (sukey@pb.net) or myself (lopus71@aol.com) know **before** making a purchase. Monetary donations are accepted, but if you can do the shopping, it would be a great help and very much appreciated.

The Christmas Boutique Fundraiser and Bake Sale will be on December 10 (the cookies are delicious 🍪🍪!! All gifts are due in church on Sunday, December 17. We will wrap the gifts on Tuesday, the 19th, in the Fellowship Hall and then deliver to Madonna Heights. Gift wrappers welcome! 🎁.

Thank you everyone for the many, many donations of clothing, shoes and linens for our Veterans. The bags and boxes filled one whole side of the breezeway!!!

During this Christmas Season, please remember our Basket of Giving for those less fortunate. All canned and dry goods, baby necessities, health and beauty aids and holiday goodies are needed. If you would like to make a holiday donation, checks can be made out to The Huntington Community Food Council.

Thank you, Sweet Hollow Family, for all the donations we request year round: Sharing Bags for the Food Council and for the children at Tri CYA, Souper Bowl of Caring, clothing for our Veterans, Adopt A Family, Presbyterian Disaster Relief and Project Hope. This is our mission, where all that you give goes directly to those in need.

Our Sweet Hollow motto "the little church with the big heart" stands strong. You are a very generous congregation and we thank you for being the "team" that makes our mission. For your gifts to others that can make even the smallest difference in someone's life or day, Thank you!

We wish you and all your loved ones a Very Merry and Blessed Christmas.

Listed below are the gift lists available as of this writing.

Adult gift card requests:

Marjorie - Target
Nina - Target
Amy - Target
Tara - Target
Kim - VISA/Tartet
Kally - VISA/Target

Children:

Trayrone (male – 8 months, 12-24 months, shoes – 5c)

Sneakers (5c) any color
Onesies (12-24 months) white
Tops (12-24 months) any colors
Pants (12-24 months) any colors
Diapers (size 6)
Age appropriate toy for 8 months

Matthew (male – 4 years, 5T, Shoe 11)

Sneakers (size 11) – black/white
Cars, trucks, trains (age appropriate)
Matching game
DVD's – Alvin and the Chipmunks movies
Sweat shirts/pants – (5T) black/grey/blue
Slippers (size 11) – Cars, Paw Patrol, Nemo

Hailey (female – 4 years, 4-5T, Shoe 9-10)

Honestly Cute Deluxe Nursery Set (or something similar)
Baby Alive – Baby Go Bye Bye (Blonde)
Anna & Elsa's Frozen Playground Legos
Tops/Pants/Sweatshirts/Pants – 4T-5T (any girl colors)
Sneakers – size 9 – any girly colors
Underwear – 4T – any girly (Frozen)

Layla (female – 2 years, 2T-24 months, 7 shoe)

Peppa Pig Princess Peppa's Castle Playset
Girls pink princess castle play tent
Minnie's happy helpers bag set
Diapers – Size 4
Tops/Pants/Sweatshirts/Pants – 2T (any girl colors)
Sneakers – size 7 – pink/purple/any

— Continued on next page

Adopt a Family Gift List Requests continued:

Lilyanna (female – 10 months, 18months, 3c shoe)

Age appropriate learning toy

Coat – 18 months, pink

Diapers – size 3

Tops/Pants/Sweatshirts/Pants – 18 months

Onesies – 18 months (long sleeves)

Sneakers – size 3c

Gavin (male – 2 months, 3-6 months)

Age appropriate musical toy

Onesies – 3-6 months (long sleeve, animals, blue/green)

Tops/Pants – 3-6 months (long sleeve, dark blue, grey, green)

Sweat Shirts/Pants - 3-6 months (animals, dark blue, grey)

PJ's – 3-6 months (blue, green, cute characters, long sleeve and pants)

Diapers – Size 1

Kryzstofer (male – 3 months – 6 months)

Diapers – Size 2

Chicco Blue Goodnight stars projector

Fischer Price on the go gift set

Sophia La Girafe Teether

Vtech Sit to stand learning walker

Outfits – 6 months

Pumpkin Patch

The Pumpkin Patch Final Tally: The Grand Total sold was \$11,556.15, of which \$3,848.20 goes directly to the mission and ministry of Sweet Hollow. Another \$1,186.75 was given as donations to the church or on the sale of baked goods, plants, corn stalks and hay for a total profit of **\$5,034.95**. Simply amazing! Great job, everyone!

Women 4 Women

by Pastor Meg Flannagan

All women are invited to attend Old First's Women's Christmas luncheon on Wednesday, December 6, at 11:30 am. Those interested in carpooling should meet at our church office at 11 am.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer shawl ministry is on hiatus until January, when we will meet again from 1:00 to 2:30 pm in the Parlor for fellowship, conversation, knitting, and the blessing of completed shawls. However, for the next few weeks we will be knitting on our own for the scarf, hat and mitten tree. 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 either Sukey Walter at <sukey1@me.com> or Pastor Meg.

Katherine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy Join Us for Our Christmas Brunch On Tuesday, December 12

by Bill Walter

On Tuesday, December 12 we'll enjoy Spencer Tracy's arrival to the research department of a TV network headed up by Katherine Hepburn to introduce computers. It's 1957 and the movie is entitled "Desk Set." It is their first color movie and their first in CinemaScope. Gig Young and Joan Blondell join them as we journey back to the days when there was no Wikipedia.



At the Federal Broadcasting Network in Midtown Manhattan, Bunny Watson (Katharine Hepburn) is in charge of its reference library, which is responsible for researching facts and answering questions on all manner of topics, great and small. Watson has been involved for seven years with rising network executive Mike Cutler (Gig Young), with no marriage in sight.

The network is negotiating a merger with another company, but is keeping it secret. To help the employees cope with the extra work that will result, the network head has ordered two computers, or "electronic brains." Methods Engineer and efficiency expert Richard Sumner (Spencer Tracy), the inventor of EMERAC ("Electromagnetic MEory and Research Arithmetical Calculator"), is brought in to see how the library functions to figure out how to ease the transition.

When they find out the computers are coming, the employees jump to the conclusion they are being replaced.

There is a final Christmas scene so this wonderful movie does meet our high standards for Christmas Brunch movies.

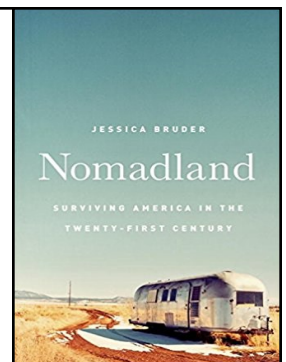
We will have some scrumptious Christmas goodies to go along with our usual freshly brewed coffee providing an assortment of refreshments and fellowship. The Brunch starts at 10:00 am and will run until 12:30 pm.

Come join us. You'll find a most needed warm break during this cold and snowy wintry season.

Book Discussion

by Sukey Walter

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, January 25 at 1:30 pm in the parlor. The book will be *Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-first Century* by Jessica Bruder.



Bell Ringer Delivery Option

Would you like your Bell Ringer to go in color electronically thus saving us time and postage? Please contact the church office at 631-367-9249 or pcshsecretary@hotmail.com.

Fall Harvest Dinner

by Maureen Sansone

Sweet Hollow's Annual Fall Harvest Dinner was held on Sunday, November 12.

Attendees enjoyed a fun-filled evening of fellowship, food, raffle baskets and square dancing. Our "Pot Luck" theme brought a wide variety of mouth-watering chicken dishes, manicotti, macaroni cheese, meatloaf and many other scrumptious choices. Delicious desserts topped off the meal.

There was a wonderful array of Gift Baskets raffled off — 22 in total! Many lucky winners went home with beautiful prizes consisting of chocolate delights, Irish delicacies, craft beer, gift cards to Umberto's, Emilia's Bakehouse, Michael's, Whole Foods, Victor's Pizza & Pasta House, AMC Movies and Stop and Shop. This assortment of baskets resulted in \$437 worth of tickets sold, the proceeds from which will be donated to The Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund.

Mickey Rogers provided the entertainment portion of the evening, as he led participants in Square Dancing.

Many thanks to all who donated canned goods to be donated to the Huntington Community Food Council, and to all those who donated raffle baskets, provided entertainment, assisted with the planning, set up, decorating and clean up.

We all look forward to our Fall Harvest Dinner 2018!

Hamburger Pie

Submitted by Sukey Walter

I had a number of requests for the hamburger pie recipe that I served at the Harvest Dinner.

I got the recipe off the internet.

1lb ground beef

1 cup spaghetti sauce

1/2 cup sour cream

1 1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese,

1 can Pillsbury or other brand crescent rolls

2 TBS melted butter

Optional 1 can chopped mushrooms

Preheat oven to 375° F.

In a large skillet, brown ground beef and drain.

Stir in spaghetti sauce and heat over medium heat until heated through.

In a separate bowl mix mozzarella and sour cream until well blended.

Put the hamburger/sauce mix in your oven proof serving dish, top with cheese mix.

Cover with separated crescent rolls laid flat, brush with melted butter.

Bake for 15 to 20 minutes.

Enjoy!

Fall Harvest Dinner



December

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1	2
3 10 am Worship Jutta Christen's Birthday	4	5 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	6 10 am Prayer Circle 11:30 am Women's Luncheon at Old First Monica & Paul van Houten's Anniversary	7 Dorothy Landkammer's & Rebecca van Houten's Birthdays	8	9
10 10 am Worship 11:15 Adopt-A-Family Bake Sale Fred & Janet Chacalos' Anniversary	11 7:30 pm Session	12 10 am Church Brunch 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	13 10 am Prayer Circle Caroline Keil's Birthday	14	15	16
17 10 am Worship with Christmas Pageant 11:15 am Birthday Party for Jesus Adopt-A-Family Gifts Due Brian Schiffmacher's Birthday	18	19 Adopt-A-Family Gift Wrapping 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	20 10 am Prayer Circle Nicole Schiffmacher's Birthday	21 Mary Ellen Moyse's Birthday	22 Brianna Conroy's Birthday	23
24 10 am Worship CHRISTMAS EVE 5 pm Family Service 9 pm Candlelight Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY Church Office Closed	26 Laura Fallon's & Barbara Martin's Birthdays Church Office Closed	27	28 Bill Walter's Birthday	29 Church Office Closed	30
31 10 am Worship Theresa DeSanti Kovary's Birthday						

**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 January Issue
December 16**

Children in Worship

Families with children are always welcome in worship at Sweet Hollow! For those who need to wiggle and explore, organized activities are available in the back of the Sanctuary. Volunteers lead children in Sunday School lessons depending on students' ages and abilities.

On **December 17**, everyone is invited to wear a nativity-related costume: animal, shepherd, king, or other. Bring one from home, or come early to borrow one from our church closet. Worship will include a journey from the Sanctuary to Bethlehem's Inn. All are needed to shout praises and ask questions! We will conclude with a birthday party for Jesus in the Fellowship Hall.

The **5 pm Christmas Eve service** (Sunday, December 24) is particularly geared towards families with young children. A story will be read in place of a sermon. Please join us for worship in these holy days.

Worship in December

Advent begins on December 3. Worship each week of the month will include Advent candle lighting, as well as an early carol. On December 17, the Spanish-speaking congregation (Centro Misionero) who rents space from us will worship with us. All will be invited to share in a Mexican Christmas tradition: *Las Posadas*. We will conclude worship in the Fellowship Hall with a special coffee hour.

We will have three services on Sunday, December 24: 10 am (Advent lessons and carols), 5 pm (family-friendly Christmas Eve), and 9 pm (candlelight Christmas Eve). Please join us for worship!

Worship on Sunday, December 31, will be held at 10 am.