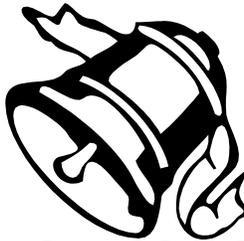


# The Bell Ringer



## Of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

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

**FEBRUARY 2018**



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### Pastoral Column

by Pastor Meg Flannagan

In one of my January sermons, I broached the topic of silence. Keeping silence is a predictably churchy thing to do, and an especially church thing to talk about. Where else in the world does anything guide you into silence – not just quiet and calm, but true silence? Once we stop and listen (instead of talking and thinking and doing and running), we can often hear God speaking clearly in our hearts and painting vividly in our mind's eye. There – tucked away in the silence – is the person who needs our prayers. There is the answer to yesterday's question. There is the hesitation we needed to feel. There is the raw heartbreak. There is the sacred center of love.

Keeping silence is an admission of our need for God's presence. While our lives are (hopefully) so entwined with Christ that we cannot separate our own thoughts and words from God's, we cannot pretend to know the will of God without first asking ... and waiting for the answer. Soren Kierkegaard wrote that "To pray does not mean to listen to oneself speaking. Prayer involves becoming silent, and being silent, and waiting until God is heard."

It takes work to get to silence. Perhaps this is why it is considered a spiritual discipline. Just as we work on and nurture our own relationships – through phone calls and date nights and play dates and such – God deserves the opportunity for uninterrupted and intentional time with us.

Lent begins on February 14. This year, I recommend that we individually and collectively pursue the practice of silence. Let's spend a few minutes each day in silence with the expectation of listening to God's voice. Set an egg timer or phone alarm so that you don't waste time watching the clock. Say a quick prayer, read a scripture verse, or tell God your intention (a specific question or thought) before beginning the silence. Then be still and listen for what God has to say. When we are together, let's continue intentional times of silence, as well as find moments to reflect on these moments.

## Prayer Corner

by Carol Keil

We offer prayers of joy for the Wagner and Martin families as Emily and Jason celebrate the birth of their son Wyatt.

We offer prayers of healing for Kathy Mira-Young, mother of Marc Young as she recuperates from knee replacement surgery.

We offer prayers of healing for Kathy Reiser.

We offer prayers of peace and comfort:

For Jean Cavanagh celebrating the life and mourning the loss of her brother Matthew Schlott.

For the Walter family celebrating the life and mourning the loss of Bill's brother John W. Walter.

We lift up prayers for newly elected Church officers:

Elder Ed Conroy to serve a 3-year term

Youth Elder Rebecca Van Houten to serve a 1-year term.

For those who will soon be serving as members of the Pastoral Nominating Committee:

Lord, give them vision, compassion and humility in their service to your church.

As we prepare for the season of Lent this month, we pray this period of reflection will bring us closer to God and to a deeper understanding of His will for our work in this world.

## Church Office Hours

The church office will be closed on Monday, February 19 in observance of Presidents' Day.

### Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

Rev. Mary Margaret Flannagan, Pastor

Rachel Fogel, Choir Director

Barbara Zimmerman, Secretary

Tracy Dein, Treasurer

#### 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

#### Other Groups & Activities:

Book Discussion	Sukey Walter
Christian Education	Lynn Burke
Church Brunch	Bill Walter
Fellowship & Outreach	Maureen Sansone
House & Property	Brian Schiffmacher
Mission	Charlotte DeSanti
Personnel	Charlotte DeSanti
Prayer Circle	Carol Keil
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Sukey Walter
Stewardship	Jim Sommermeyer
Women For Women	Maureen Sansone
Worship	Melissa Beyer
Youth Group	Pastor Meg Flannagan
Bell Ringer Editor	Bill Chamberlain
Church Historian	Bill Walter

## Welcome Wyatt Wagner



Thanks be to God for the birth of Wyatt Wagner! He was born January 22, at 9:20 pm to Jason and Emily Wagner (the grandson of Ross and Barbara Martin).

Wyatt weighed 4 pounds 12.5 ounces. Emily and Wyatt expect to return home on Friday or Saturday, January 26 or 27.

Please keep their family in your prayers.

Here are pictures of baby Wyatt with grandmother Barbara Martin and with father Jason Wagner..

Blessings abound!



## Stewardship — Budget News

by Jim Sommermeyer

To all that have pledged and donated this year, thank you for your continued generosity! We wouldn't be the "Little Church with the Big Heart" without you and your time, talents and treasures supporting all the good work that we do!

During this year's Stewardship campaign, we asked our members to reflect on the many ways we have been blessed. Your committee selected "Sown in Love, Growing in Faith" as our theme. We made a bold statement that seeds we sow now will grow and flourish in time. We must have faith. For too many years we have felt that as a congregation we are struggling to survive. We believe that we can thrive; we are beginning to see that happen.

As of January 15, 2018, we have received a total of 34 pledges for \$76,115, compared with 33 pledges for \$75,766 last year. We received building use income of \$62,592.05. We received donations from 58 families last year of over \$100,000! Our raise the roof fundraiser now stands at \$27,906.50 of \$35,000 targeted. Please consider required minimum distributions (RMD), endowments and other estate financial planning vehicles for Sweet Hollow.

We've made some changes. We've combined the Stewardship and Budget Committees. We have two new renters: Centro Misionero and Pro Soccer Kids. We developed a standard fee structure for rentals. We moved CODA (Tuesday) from the fellowship hall to the Youth Group room. We now publish a weekly facility schedule. We're meeting with all renters on a regular basis.

During 2017, we heard moving Testimonies of Faith by many members. Please follow their example, be bold and spread the good news about Jesus; engage your family and friends in discussion about the joy of membership at Sweet Hollow. We are a small church with loyal members who have an opportunity to make a difference.

Your Stewardship – Budget Committee: Jim Sommermeyer (Chair), Lynn Burke, Tracy Dein, Bob Earthy, Laura Fallon, Rev. Mary Margaret Flannagan, Dan Layer, Tim Mason, Emily Wagner, Jason Wagner and 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](http://www.sweethollowpresby.org) and click "Education & Fellowship" to access the lesson each week. The lessons for February will be on Jesus' Temptation in the Wilderness. 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.

Our Annual Pancake Breakfast will be on Sunday, February 11 after Worship. I hope you will join us for a delicious breakfast prepared by our children.

## Mission Team

by Charlotte DeSanti



February is Souper Bowl Challenge Month!!! Mission and Christian Ed are teaming up against nine other Presbyterian Churches to see who can collect the most non-perishable food items for their local food pantries. Sweet Hollow is collecting for the Huntington Community Food Council and TriCYA. We start February 4 and run through the 25th. Collectively, the churches hope to surpass last year's total of 21,946 items. Cans of soup, all non-perishable food items, one dollar bills, supermarket gift cards, and diapers can be left in the breezeway or in the office. Look to your place of employment (if permissible), teams, clubs, your neighborhood, etc. to help collect for this great cause.

I would like to end this article by saying thank you to each and every one of you. My term as Elder is up and I will be stepping down from my committees. You have been so very, very generous. I know we were always asking for something on top of all the other requests you get in your everyday lives. For all the wonderful gifts you have given to those not as fortunate as we are, thank you again, "Sweet Hollow Mission Team," for all your good works.

## Women 4 Women

by Sukey Walter

Women4women will meet Monday evening, February 5, at 7 pm in the craft room.

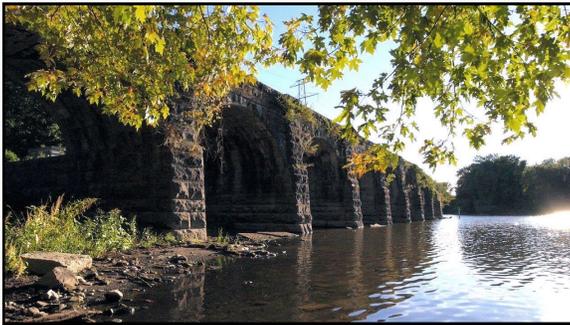
We will be creating cards to be sent to members who are ill or have moved away. So bring your creativity and any embellishments you have. Open to all women 18 and above.

For further information see Sukey Walter or e-mail <sukey1@me.com>.

## Erie: The Canal That Made America Is Our Church Brunch Topic On Tuesday, February 13

by Bill Walter

We are expecting the weather on February 13 to be greatly improved over the early year snow storms which caused a cancellation of our January Church Brunch. It's been rescheduled for February. Join us on Tuesday, February 13th for an interesting program on a project making New York the important state it is today.



Did you know New York was competing with Virginia to build a canal through the Appalachians into the interior of our country? Washington, Jefferson, and Madison were pushing for using the Potomac River while Hamilton and Clinton favored the Mohawk River. You know who won; however, the story of digging a 4 foot deep, 40 foot long, 363 mile long canal is quite a tale. What was known as “Clinton’s Ditch” opened a route to the interior and the

establishment of new cities — Cleveland, Chicago, etc.

Begun in 1817, the canal was a route to immense social change. Slaves fleeing the south found safe paths to freedom in Canada along the canal, and African Americans settled in canal towns. The ideas of the women’s rights movement and the tenets of new and renewed religions were transported along the canal.

We will have some scrumptious goodies to go along with our usual freshly brewed coffee to provide an assortment of refreshments and fellowship. The Brunch starts at 10:00 am and will run ‘til 12:30 pm. Come join us. You’ll find a most needed warm break during this cold and snowy wintry season we’ve been having..



## Do you know what to do if a friend or loved one is having a stroke?

A stroke occurs when blood flow is blocked in the brain. It could be caused by high blood pressure or for several other reasons. Stroke is a leading cause of death in the U.S. and it can also result in permanent disability. People sometimes have a stroke for hours or even days before it is discovered.

It is important to know the signs of a stroke: Seizures, headache, drooling, vision or speech problems, confusion, paralysis, and difficulty in breathing or swallowing are all common signs. One pupil may become larger than the other and the person may lose consciousness.

You could use some simple tests to help determine if a person is having a stroke:

1. Have the person smile.
2. Have the person speak a simple sentence.
3. Have the person raise his/her arms.
4. Have the person stick out his/her tongue. If the tongue appears crooked (it goes to one side), it could be a sign of a stroke.

If the person has difficulty with any of these tasks, he or she may be having a stroke. Here are some steps to follow.

First of all: Remain calm. You won't do your loved one any good if you panic.

Second: Call for help. Yell loudly or use a phone if there is one handy. Call 911 or have someone else call 911.

Third: Stay with the person. Be reassuring. Make sure he/she is seated or is lying down comfortably. If he/she is lying down but conscious, try to raise the head and shoulders slightly so he/she is comfortable.

Fourth: If person loses consciousness, help him/her to the floor: Stand behind the person and gently guide him/her down one of your legs. Lay the person on his/her back and tilt his/her head back to make sure the airway is open. Stretch the person's legs out so he/she is comfortable.

Fifth: If you know CPR, use it if necessary. If you don't know CPR, do not attempt it. You could do the person more harm than good.

Sixth: Cover the person so his/her body temperature remains normal.

Seventh: If the person has any paralyzed limbs, protect them. Prop them with pillows or blankets.

Eighth: Do not give the person any food or drink, to prevent choking. If there is a chance he/she may choke, roll him/her to one side.

By following these steps, you will go a long way to helping a stroke victim survive. Keep this list nearby and review them regularly.

# February

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>4</b> 10 am Worship	<b>5</b> 7 pm Women's Women	<b>6</b> 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 10 am Prayer Circle Adelyn Layer's Birthday	<b>8</b> Marc Young's Birthday	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 10 am Worship 11:15 Officers' Training 11:15 Pancake Breakfast	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10 am Church Brunch 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 10 am Prayer Circle 7 pm Ash Wednesday Worship at FPC Baldwin	<b>15</b> Nikesha Phipps' Birthday	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Rev. Adam Fischer's Birthday
<b>18</b> 10 am Worship Lynn Burke's and Bea Reiser's Birthdays	<b>19</b> Church Office Closed	<b>20</b> 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 10 am Prayer Circle Natasha Bacchus' and Audra Schmitt's Birthdays	<b>22</b> Scott Manning's Birthday	<b>23</b> Kira Sansone's Birthday	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 10 am Worship	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 10 am Prayer Circle	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF SWEET HOLLOW**

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Melville, NY 11747

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We're on the Web!

[www.sweethollowpresby.org](http://www.sweethollowpresby.org)

**BELL RINGER DEADLINE  
For March Issue  
February 18**

**Annual Pancake Breakfast  
Sunday, February 11**

Our Annual Pancake Breakfast will be on Sunday, February 11 after Worship. I hope you will join us for a delicious breakfast prepared by our children.

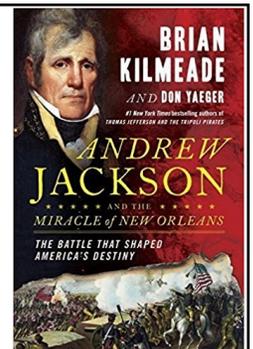


**Book Discussion**

by Sukey Walter

Our next book will be *Andrew Jackson and the Miracle of New Orleans: The Battle That Shaped America's Destiny* by Brian Kilmeade and Don Yaeger.

We will meet March 22 in the parlor at 1:30 pm.



**Would you like your Bellringer to go in color electronically thus saving us time and postage?  
Please contact the church office.**