

The Bell Ringer

Of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

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

NOVEMBER 2018



Inside This Issue:

Pastor Meg's Column	1,2
Memory Verse	1
Church Officers	2
Stewardship-Budget News..	2
Prayer Corner.....	3
Prayer Shawl Ministry.....	3
Seeking Leaders of Church .	4
World Communion Sunday .	4
Mission Team	5
Pumpkin Patch.....	6
Women 4 Women.....	7
Book Discussion	8
Gift Baskets Needed for Open Mic Night Fundraiser....	8
November Calendar	9
Open Mic Concert.....	10
Stewardship Dedication.....	10
Christian Education.....	10
Next Bell Ringer Deadline	10

Pastoral Column

by Pastor Meg Flanagan

A few weeks ago Elder Jim Sommermeyer and I attended an event led by Brian McLaren, esteemed author and church consultant. McLaren is a sought-after leader helping churches through common challenges of membership loss and changing theology. He asked this gut-wrenching question at the beginning of our day together: What if God is concerned with saving Long Island, and saving individual congregations gets in the way of this mission? He spent the rest of the day building the case that our job as Christ's disciples is to work for God's kingdom, not our preferred congregation or tradition.

Like most congregations, we spend much of our time (too much!) thinking about how to care for ourselves instead of using our time and energy to be Christ's servants on Long Island. We must remember that Sweet Hollow is not our church to do with as we please, but the church of Jesus Christ. We are stewards in God's vineyard, sent to this particular place at a particular time for a particular reason. There are many neighbors and issues nearby that need our attention, including opioid addicts, refugees and immigrants, and the working poor.

Our congregation has enthusiastically supported hunger ministries through food collections and recent lunch making. Refugee resettlement needs brought immediate responses for our members. Sweet Hollow's energy is also growing around our ecumenical relationships. The American Old Catholic and Pentecostal congregations worshipping here are interested in regular

-- continued on page 2

Memory Verse

October 21 – November 25 — Psalm 19:14

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Pastoral Column — *Continued from page 1*

opportunities for shared worship and mission. The worship service on World Communion Sunday was a vibrant gift to us all (and, we hope, to God!).

If you are ready to help Sweet Hollow serve God's purpose on Long Island, NOW is the time to do something. Now is the time to call your friends and neighbors and bring them to church. Now is the time for you to come to church – every week! Now is the time to submit your pledge for a full tithe (10% of your income) in 2019. Now is the time to help with our Open Mic Night (November 10), our veterans' clothing drive, our adopt-a-family Christmas gift drive, and our Advent mitten tree.

Please pray with us and for us. Please join us in work and worship. Give thanks for all that God has done at Sweet Hollow, and look for what new opportunities God is calling us to pursue now.

See you at church!

Stewardship — Budget News

by Jim Sommermeyer

It's November and that means Stewardship season (along with Thanksgiving!). We give thanks for the many blessings in our lives, our wonderful, diverse, complicated world that we try our best to care for as we seek love and peace. Our committee continues to work on obtaining estimates for a potential grant application. Please keep your eyes open for the next meeting of the team. All are welcome to join.

Stewardship Sunday is scheduled for November 18. Please keep your eye on your mailboxes in early November and return your 2019 pledges during worship on Stewardship Sunday.

Upcoming we have our exciting Open Mic night on Saturday, November 10. Bring a friend (or ten), maybe even a relative.

Thanks to God for the abundance he has given us. Joyful things are happening at Sweet Hollow!

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.

Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

Rev. Mary Margaret Flannagan, Pastor

Rachel Fogel, Choir Director

Barbara Zimmerman, Secretary

Tracy Dein, Treasurer

Elders:

Lynn Burke

Ed Conroy

Tim Mason

Brian Schiffmacher

Jim Sommermeyer

Emily Wagner

Youth Elder:

Rebecca VanHouten

Deacons:

Jean Cavanaugh

Bill Chamberlain

Barbara Martin

Frank Sansone

Dan Schiffmacher

Jason Wagner

Marc Young

Other Groups & Activities:

Book Discussion

Christian Education

Church Brunch

Fellowship & Outreach
& Mission

House & Property

Nominating Committee

Personnel

Prayer Circle

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Stewardship

Women For Women

Worship

Youth Group

Church Historian

Bell Ringer Editor

Sukey Walter

Lynn Burke

Bill Walter

Barbara Martin &
Maureen Sansone

Bill Von Brook

Jim Sommermeyer

Frank Sansone

Carol Keil

Sukey Walter

Jim Sommermeyer

Maureen Sansone &
Sukey Walter

Marc Young

Pastor Meg Flannagan

Bill Walter

Bill Chamberlain

Prayer Corner

by Carol Keil

As November calls us to remember the saints of the church who have gone before us, we lift up prayers remembering the life of Winifred Stagl. Winnie's faithful attendance at Sweet Hollow while she lived on Long Island was a testimony of her faith.

We lift up prayers of thanksgiving and continued healing for Christine Cavanagh, daughter of Jean Cavanagh, as she recovers from a heart attack.

Please join us in prayers for Michael Zimmerman, son of our Church Secretary Barbara Zimmerman. Michael is currently in Basic Training at the U. S. Naval Training Station in Great Lakes, Illinois.

We lift up prayers for Pastor Meg, all Church Officers and members of the Church Officers Nominating Committee as they continue working to discern God's plan for our church.

We lift up prayers of thanksgiving for all the volunteers and the loyal customers who helped make 2018 another great year in the Pumpkin Patch!

The following is an excerpt from *A Prayer for Autumn Days* by Sr. Joyce Rupp.

God of the seasons,
there is a time for everything;
there is a time for dying and a time for rising.
We need courage to enter into the transformation process.

God of autumn,
the trees are saying goodbye to their green, letting go of what has been.
We, too, have our moments of surrender, with all their insecurity and risk.
Help us to let go when we need to do so.

God of fallen leaves,
lying in colored patterns on the ground, our lives have their own patterns.
As we see the patterns of our own growth, may we learn from them.

God of harvest wagons and fields of ripened grain,
many gifts of growth lie within the season of our surrender.

We must wait for harvest in faith and hope.
Grant us patience when we do not see the blessings.

God of geese going south for another season,
your wisdom enables us to know what needs to be left behind and what needs to be carried into the future.
We yearn for insight and vision.

Amen.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl Ministry will be meeting on Thursday, November 15 in the Parlor at 1 pm.

If you knit, crochet or want to learn to knit, join.us. If you know someone who needs a shawl, please contact either Sukey Walter at sukey1@me.com or Pastor Meg.

Seeking Leaders of the Church

The Congregational Nominating Committee is seeking suggestions for members to serve as Elder and Deacon. Descriptions of the positions are included below. We welcome nominations of those you see as particularly gifted for serving as officers of the church. We are especially glad to hear if God has called YOU for service at Sweet Hollow! This year we will nominate 3 Elders and 3 Deacons for service from February 2019 – January 2022. Please contact Pastor Meg or Barbara Martin for more information.

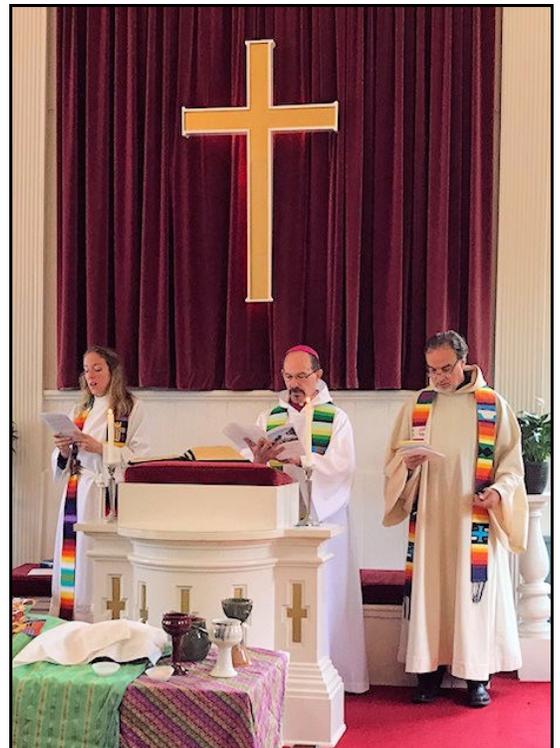
The Duties of Elders

The Book of Order, G-2.0301, states: "Congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they 'lord it over' the congregation (Matt. 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Ruling elders, together with teaching elders, exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships. When elected by the congregation, they shall serve faithfully as members of the session."

The Duties of Deacons

The Book of Order, G-2.0201, states: "The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love,

World Communion Sunday



Mission Team News

by Maureen Sansone

Our Clothing Drive to benefit the United Veterans Beacon House is underway. We're accepting new and gently used clothing, shoes, accessories and linens through Sunday, November 11, when they'll be blessed in worship before being passed on to military families in need.

Fall Food Drive For the Helping Hand Rescue Mission is going on now through the end of November at Best Market, Huntington Station. Please consider purchasing a \$5 bag of pre-packaged, non-perishable food to stock the Mission's food pantry and provide Thanksgiving dinner for a local family.

Family Service League: Sunday School will be making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for

Family Service League the second Sunday of each month, beginning November 11. We'll prepare 40 lunches with sandwiches, bottled water, fruit and a salty snack. Donations of the following are needed: Arnold Brick Oven White Bread (or other white bread that doesn't fall apart), snack packs of Goldfish crackers, and apples, oranges and bananas. Please see Frank Sansone or Lynn Burke if you're able to donate for this worthy cause.



Making sandwiches after World Communion service

Project HOPE (Helping Other People Eat) is assisting HiHi (Huntington Interfaith Hunger Initiative) with supplies for the men whom they

attend to during the cold weather months and could use our help. Their goal is to make five Storm Supply Boxes. **Sweet Hollow plans to donate one box.** Items needed are: 5 razors and 5 toothbrushes, 1 regular size can shave cream, 2 full size bars of soap or 1 regular size body wash, 1 regular size toothpaste, 1 regular size shampoo, 5 cans assorted fruit, 5 cans tuna or chicken, 5 cans chili or Spam or beef stew, 5 cans assorted soup, 5 cans beans, 1 box crackers, 1 jar peanut butter, 1 jar jelly, 1 box of cereal, 5 packets Instant Oatmeal, 2 containers of Parmalat Milk, 1 or 2 large bottles of water or juice — plastic only, 1 or 2 boxes/bags of cookies or pretzels or chips, napkins, paper or plastic bowls, dinner size plates, paper or plastic cups, disposable forks, knives, spoons — enough for 5 men for 2 days. They'll also appreciate donations of 5 pairs of socks — can be previously worn — as long as they're clean. If you're able to donate, please contact Maureen Sansone at msansone@optonline.net or 631-385-1855.

Food Pantry Basket: Please continue to consider donating items for the **Food Pantry Basket** in the breezeway. This time of year, cereals, peanut butter, jelly, snacks, soups, coffee, tea, crackers, baby products and health & beauty aids are needed, and as always, very much appreciated.



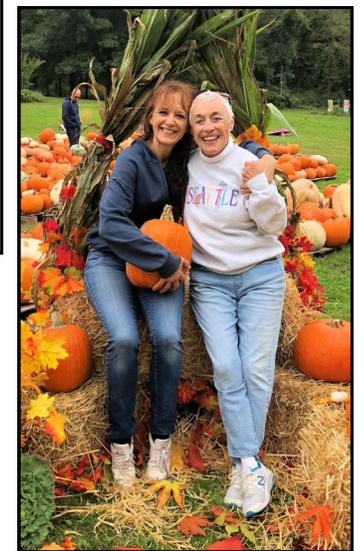
Pumpkin Patch

by Frank Sansone

Our delivery of half a trailer of pumpkins was delivered on time Saturday, September 29, and was unloaded by hand from the truck and put out on pallets on the east lawn by our congregation, their friends or family, and Half Hollow High School students in 1-½ hours. Thank you for your time and help!

This good year's sales of pumpkins have been on pace with last year. We have had substantial growth in sales of baked goods, which were made and donated mainly by Jill Conroy, Carol Keil, and Sukey Walter. Other item sales of mums, winter cabbage and hay were delivered and supplied by Otto and Carol Keil, and a new item of sale was Witch Hats made by Tracy Dein and Susan Helf. The Patch was also helped by being a key feature of our Fall Festival on Saturday, October 6.

This patch's success depended on many of you volunteering: from unloading the truck, working one or multiple shifts in the patch, or donating baked goods. The results are the patronage and appreciation from the greater Long Island community who for many is a highlight of their fall season.



Women For Women (W4W)

by Maureen Sansone

Women for Women (W4W) is going to Clay Nation! Please join us on Sunday, November 4, at 12:30 pm for an afternoon of creativity, fun and fellowship at Clay Nation Pottery Studio, 38 Forest Avenue, Gen Cove, NY 11542. You pick a piece of pottery to paint from a wide range of styles, themes and prices (Christmas will be right around the corner). Clay Nation fires the pieces in their kiln and the pieces are subsequently picked up from the studio. Those attending are asked to bring food items such as finger foods, tossed salad, deviled eggs, potato salad, rolls, etc., to church, as we'll meet in the CEB Hall after worship, at approximately 11 am, for a light lunch, before leaving for the pottery studio. We'll then proceed to the church parking lot between 11:45 am and 12 pm and will carpool to the studio from there. Attendees are also asked to bring finger foods, snacks, beverages, etc., which we'll enjoy at the pottery studio.

Women For Women (W4W) 2018-2019 Calendar of Events

Here are the events planned for the upcoming year:

Sunday, Nov. 4 — Clay Nation Pottery Studio

Monday, Nov. 26 — Christmas Decorating

Wednesday, Dec. 5 — Old First Women's Christmas Luncheon

Monday, Feb. 5 — Dinner/Possible Movie

Monday, March 5 — Game Night

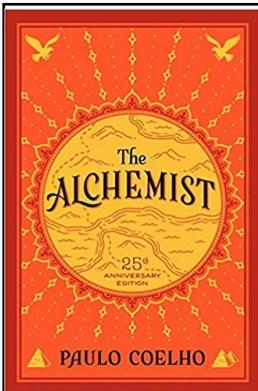
Monday, April 1 — Scavenger Hunt

Friday, May 3 through Sunday, May 5 — Smithtown Retreat-Holmes Camp

Monday, June 3 — Ladies High Tea

Please note: Planned activities are subject to cancellation/rescheduling due to inclement weather, etc.

Looking forward to another wonderful year of fun and Christian fellowship!



Book Discussion

The book for November is The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho. It was one of the books chosen for the Great American Read on PBS, about a Spanish shepherd boy named Santiago who travels toward the Pyramids of Egypt in search of treasure. Along the way, he meets several people who help him on his quest.

We will meet Thursday, November 29 in the Parlor at 1:30 pm.

Note (from Amazon website): This item has rough-cut edges (edges are cut improperly intentionally by the manufacturer).

Gift Baskets Needed For Open Mic Night Fundraiser

by Maureen Sansone

All are invited to an Open Mic Night in the CEB Hall on Saturday, November 10 from 5 to 10 pm. To help make this fundraiser a success, we're asking for donations of gift baskets, which will be raffled off the night of the event.

If you have a favorite restaurant, store, health club, hobby, etc., some theme suggestions are: Date Night, Wine and Dine, Movie Night, Family Fun, Children's Basket, Craft Beers, Beauty Basket, Men's Car Care Basket, etc.

We are requesting that the gift baskets be dropped off by Sunday, November 4, as we will be selling tickets for these theme baskets to the Senior Groups and Gathering of Light the week of November 5.

If you are able to donate a basket, please contact Maureen Sansone at msansone@optonline.net or 631-385-1855.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

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.

November

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
4 10 am Worship 12:30 pm Women's Women to Clay Nation		6 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	7 10 am Prayer Circle	8	9	10 5 pm Open Mic Night
11 10 am Worship 11:15 am Congregational Forum United Veterans Clothing Drive		13 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	14 10 am Prayer Circle	15 1 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	16	17
18 10 am Worship 11:15 am Session Meeting		20 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	21 10 am Prayer Circle	22 THANKSGIVING Office Closed	23 Office Closed	24
25 10 am Worship	26 7 pm Women's Decorate	27 12 pm Project Regeneration 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	28 10 am Prayer Circle	29 1:30 pm Book Discussion	30	

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF SWEET HOLLOW**

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We're on the Web!

www.sweethollowpresby.org

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

Open Mic Concert

by Lynn Burke

We will be hosting our first Open Mic Concert on Saturday, November 10, from 5 -10 pm in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a variety of performers singing, playing guitar, keyboards, etc. If you would like to perform, just come down and sign up that night.

Admission is \$10 per person and \$5 for performers. We will have raffle baskets and refreshments available.

Volunteers are needed to help at the door and to sell raffle tickets that night. Please contact Lynn Burke at 516-458-1320 or Maureen Sansone at 631-385-1855 if you can help.

We're looking forward to a wonderful evening of music and great turnout to support Sweet Hollow and hope to see you there.

Stewardship Dedication Sunday on November 18

Christian Education

by Lynn Burke

Sunday School will continue during the month of November. We will have the children working on a mission project making sandwiches the second week of each month.

As always, the Nursery is open with Sukey Walter as our Supervisor. The small room in the back of the Sanctuary is also available with projects and crafts.

We look forward to seeing you and your children each week!