

The Bell Ringer

Of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

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

NOVEMBER 2021

Sunday worship services at 10:00 am

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

From the Pastor's Nook

10 (or 11) Truths Behind Noah's Ark

What's the difference between Noah's Ark and the Titanic? An amateur built the Ark. The Titanic was built by professionals. This joke passes before my eyes at least a dozen times a year and each time I let a little giggle or smile escape because it is funny and there is so much truth behind it!

The truth being spoken behind Noah's Ark is even greater than acknowledging the difference in construction. Let me give you a list of ten important truths imbedded in the story of Noah's Ark!

1. God is still speaking, be sure to LISTEN!
2. Things are going to change, sometimes small; sometimes BIG.
3. Don't miss the boat.
4. Remember that we are all in the SAME boat.
5. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really B-I-G!
6. Don't listen to critics, just get on with the job that needs to be done.
7. Build your future on high ground.
8. Don't go it alone. Travel in pairs (or more).
9. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on the same boat as the cheetahs.
10. No matter how bad the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

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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

BELL RINGER

DEADLINE

for December 2021 Issue:
Sunday, November 27, 2021
Subject to change



November 2021

3..... Lorine Kevalos
 6..... Niaja Mowatt
 7..... James Sommermeyer
 9..... Donald Krams
 9..... Malachy O'Connor
 16..... Christine Remo
 18..... Joanna Hoban
 26..... Rob Schmitt Jr.
 28..... Carol Keil

No Anniversaries

in

November 2021

Office Closed Thursday and Friday, November 25 and 26, 2021

Mission Commitment \ Stewardship Sunday

Mission Commitment Sunday will be Sunday, December 5th. Formerly known as stewardship Sunday, look for more information coming from your finance team! MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Prayer Corner

November 2021

By Carol Keil

"Prayer changes the world because it first changes us." Laurence Freeman

We pray with hope for this world

We pray with hope that this Thanksgiving we may gather safely

We pray with hope for signs of healing and recovery

We pray with hope for joyous occasions celebrated in the weeks ahead

We pray with hope for the Advent season fast approaching

We pray with hope bolstered by the support found in the sharing of our mutual cares and concerns

WE PRAY WITH HOPE:

For Jamie Wallace and the Wallace family as Jamie battles infection and awaits organ transplant

For Erik and Anna Howard and the Schiffmacher family as Erik undergoes stem cell transplant

For Jack Anthony and the Schmitt family as Jack continues treatment of leukemia

We remember the saints of this community of faith and give thanks for the lives of Edna Aldrich and Jutta Christen

All your works praise you, O Lord, and show forth your heavenly love. May the beauty of this season remind us of the beauty of your love, and may we always be willing to share this love with the world around us. AMEN

Weekly Prayer Circle via Zoom

All are welcome to join in our weekly Prayer Circle Zoom gathering, Wednesday mornings at 10am. You'll find the Zoom meeting address in the weekly reminder email sent by Lori Kevelos.



Choir Rehearsal



6:30 pm Every Thursday Night

From the Pastor's Nook

10 (or 11) Truths behind Noah's Ark

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There is a little bit of irony in the fact that I am writing this newsletter on the Tuesday that we are destined to get anywhere from 2-5 inches of rain with flash flood alerts, gale warnings and wind advisories in abundance. However, there is a lot of wisdom embedded in this top ten list.

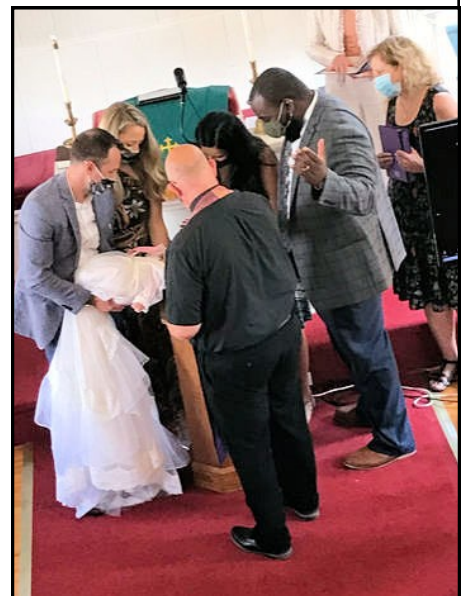
As a church, there are a lot of truths that have been navigated well during CoVid-19. There are also some things that need an upgrade.

In the coming months, building up to the new year, things are going to need to change for us to navigate the rough waters ahead. The question that we must be willing to answer honestly is, "Which boat would you rather be on?"

And you were wondering why all the trees on the front of the property were being trimmed ☺)



Baptism of Lynn Burke's Granddaughter Camille



Letter From Rachel

The letter below is printed here with Rachel Fogel's permission.

October 24 ,2021

To the members of our church and Pastor Wade:

Dear Friends,

It is with sadness that I have decided to give up my position as the music director of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow. I would like to assure you that this is due only to a number of changing circumstances which require me to take care of myself and my family in new and different ways. As life and its demands take their course, I find it harder and harder to live without that eighth day of the week I keep wishing for.

12 years ago, When Charlotte DeSanti called and said that the Church was looking for a music director, I did not anticipate the deep and meaningful relationships that would soon develop and enrich my life.

On my first day at the piano, I didn't realize that the Gloria Patri and the Doxology were sung in the service and not spoken. Twice I awkwardly searched for these things in the hymnal while Rebecca tried to help, and the congregation waited. I was nervous about this and so grateful when I received nothing but smiles and forgiving words from all of you. My entire career at Sweet Hollow has been an ongoing extension of that support and kindness. This is true not only of the members of the congregation but also of Rebecca, Meg and now Pastor Wade...who have held me up with their friendship, guidance, and collaborative spirit, each in their unique and beautiful way.

I am very sad to be leaving just as Pastor Wade arrives. It is a rare person who emotes such positivity, openness and love and I was so excited to work with him long term. I am beyond happy for Sweet Hollow and I can't imagine a soul better suited to feed the spirit and the future of this Church. I am in awe, as well, of Jessica and all of their children. May we all learn from the strength and love of this family.

I don't know what to say about the choir. They have become family to me. You never saw them walking into rehearsals at 7:30 in awful weather, straight from work, before dinner, juggling busy, sometimes trying situations, yet finding (from some unknown resource) the energy to sing, smile, share stories and laugh together. Many evenings I arrived for rehearsal feeling tired and down after a tough day and walked out feeling that my day had turned around into something good after being in their company. They have been a constant source of comfort and joy (pun intended) in my life. There are no words for them.

Thank you, Carol, Maureen, Lynn, Jim, Bill, John, Tim, Niaja, Leroy, Mickey, Barbara, April, Emily, Wade, Jessica, and all of those who are somewhere else...for everything. Thank you, Frank, for being an ever-present advocate and friend and thanks to all of you for sharing my Sunday mornings.

With Love,

Rachel

*** FALL CLOTHING DRIVE ***

To Benefit United Veterans Beacon House



Many thanks to all who have thus far donated your gently used and clean clothing, shoes, accessories and linens for Sweet Hollow's Clothing Drive to assist local veterans ;and their families. If you haven't done so already, donations will be accepted up through November 7; items will be blessed during worship that day, and will then be passed on to military families in need via the United Veterans Beacon House.

The donation collection area is in the sanctuary vestibule when you enter the church to your right each Sunday. If you need to bring donations to church during office hours: Monday – Friday between 8am and noon, please call Lori in advance at 631-367-9249.



Thank you Sweet Hollow Congregation
The Little Church With a Big Heart's
Mission Team



**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF SWEET HOLLOW**

*95 Old Country Road
Melville, NY 11747*

Phone: 631-367-9249

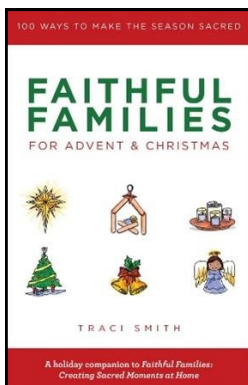


We're on the Web!

www.sweethollowpresby.org

*****November 14, 2021, will be Rachel Fogel's last day as the church's choir director. There will be a light reception following worship in the hall.*****

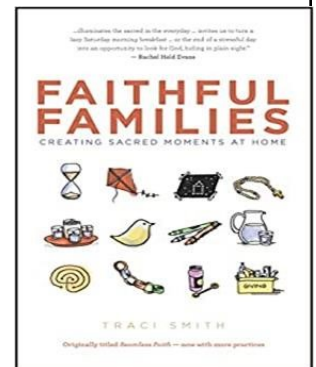
Faith Formation



Deuteronomy 6:6-7

“Keep these words that I am commanding you in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.”

As we prepare for Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas in the weeks ahead we draw your attention to two great Faith Formation resources written by Presbyterian Pastor Traci



Smith to help families develop spiritual practices, establish traditions and partake in ceremonies that honor the milestones in family life. ***Faithful Families-Creating Sacred Moments at Home*** and ***Faithful Families- For Advent and Christmas*** are chock full of ideas that invite family members of all ages to actively participate in finding meaningful connections while living out their faith together.