

# The Bell Ringer

Of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

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

**MARCH 2022**

**Sunday worship services at 10:00 am**

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

## From the Pastor’s Nook . . . . .

### Taking peace for granted....

Here in the United States I think we can fall into the trap of taking peace for granted. While we have our squabbles as a country (and yes they are ever-present), 21<sup>st</sup> century Americans have enjoyed a peaceful existence. When was the last time you worried about our country being invaded by a massive military force? For many of us, it may have been 21 years ago, but even then, that component of our history was more terrorist-driven than outright invasion.

The scenes from Ukraine in recent days are distressing and frightening. They remind us how fragile peace in the world is. To think that only days ago the people of that country were getting on with their lives, making plans for their families, their businesses, their education, and now suddenly their lives, homes and futures are under threat. One of the awful things about war is the way that it suddenly destroys everything in its path. It disrupts normal life and overnight introduces death, destruction, violence, fear, sorrow and grief.

Watching our screens from our living rooms or work places, we live and work in comfort while feeling powerless to help. Our hearts and our prayers go out to the people of Ukraine who didn't ask for this war, and who simply wanted to be left to get on with their lives, their jobs and with bringing up their families. Now they must hide, shelter, and even run for safety to protect themselves and their children.

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# Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

(631) 367 - 9249

www.sweethollowpresby.org

Rev. Wade Pond, Pastor

Jason Black, Director of Music Ministries

Lori Kevelos, Church Administrator

Jill Conroy, Treasurer

Monica Van Houten, Clerk of Session

**Elders:**

Ed Conroy

Melissa D'Angelo

Niaja Mowatt

Frank Sansone

Bill Von Brook

**Deacons:**

Jean Cavanaugh

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 April 2022 Issue:

Sunday, March 27, 2022

*Subject to change*



### March 2022

- 4..... Emily Moder
- 4..... Jessica Pond
- 4..... Joan Sommermeyer.
- 4..... Hillary Zucker
- 5..... Alison Paalz
- 6..... Fred DeSanti
- 8..... Frank Sansone
- 8..... Monica VanHouten
- 10..... Liz VonBrook
- 22..... Denise Moder



## Happy Anniversary

March 2022

No anniversaries this month

 **Choir Rehearsal** 

**7:00 pm Every Thursday Night**

**Daylight Saving Time**

**Begins**

**Sunday, March 13, 2022**

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We can never take peace for granted. We must always work for peace, pray for peace and make sacrifices for peace. All of us have the capacity to build peace by our words, our actions and our attitudes to others. We choose to sow peace or conflict, love or hate, to build up, or to tear down, to heal or to hurt, to forgive or to resent, to soothe or to inflame.

The current situation in Ukraine appears to be motivated, at least in part, by abuse of power and by the desire to control and dominate. It is alarming to think that despite the lessons learned last century in Europe about the horrors of war, that the European continent could so easily be plunged back into chaos and uncertainty.

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The current situation in Ukraine appears to be motivated, at least in part, by abuse of power and by the desire to control and dominate. It is alarming to think that despite the lessons learned last century in Europe about the horrors of war, that our continent could so easily be plunged back into chaos and uncertainty.

Jesus said to His disciples, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives."

Our obligation as Christians is to offer each other the peace of Christ that never goes away. This Lenten season, there will be a sharing of peace every Sunday with the shared phrasing, "The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you."

I invite you all to reflect on those words every day during the season of Lent and in doing so to pledge that we will never take peace for granted - but instead we will pray for peace, work for peace and make sacrifices for peace. I suggest that after these words are prayed Sunday morning during Lent, we might pause for a brief moment to pray that the peace of the Lord will be with the people of Ukraine and guide the efforts of all those who are working to restore peace there, and in other countries across the world where war and violence are raging.

And if you find it in your hearts to do so, share the following prayer with all you can...

***Loving God, we pray for the people of Ukraine, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them. We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices. We pray for the world that in this moment of crisis, we may reach out in solidarity to our fellow human beings in need. May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice become a reality for the people of Ukraine and for all the world.***

***Amen.***

## Prayer Corner - March 2022

By Carol Keil

Lord, we thank you for the gift of this Lenten season. We thank you for hearing the prayers kept in the silence of our hearts and for knowing our need for rhythms in our lives that anchor us and draw us together in the renewal of our faith. Help us to listen and truly hear. Help us to hear and be spurred into bold action. We pray in the name of your beloved Son, Jesus.

We *Pray for PEACE!* These words are echoed in the hymn written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette found at this link <https://pres-outlook.org/2022/02/we-pray-for-peace/>

We pray for strength and comfort as we join in prayer for all who grieve the loss of loved ones.

We pray for strength and patience as we join in prayer with all who seek healing.

We pray with thanksgiving for signs of healing.

We pray with HOPE.

Amen

## DONATION ENVELOPES FOR 2023



In order for me to properly order the correct number of donation boxes for 2023 (yes I am jumping 7 months ahead but they sent me a renewal), I would like to know who would **NOT** want to get a box of envelopes of those people who took boxes this year. If you never picked them up at church, let me know and I can mail them



out to you. If you are in possession of a box and want to remain getting a box, do nothing. If on the other hand you **WANT TO STOP** using the boxes and just donate online or use the numerous envelopes available in each pew (I will give you a batch with your new number in 2023), please let me know via my email ([looneychick36@yahoo.com](mailto:looneychick36@yahoo.com)).

Here's hoping 2022 turns out better than last year for everyone—Stay Healthy. Donation letters (6 months/EOY) will also be going via email to save the trees and postage unless I am told otherwise based on what I just sent out for the EOY 2021 letters. If you change your mind anytime, just give me a call at 631-271-3099.

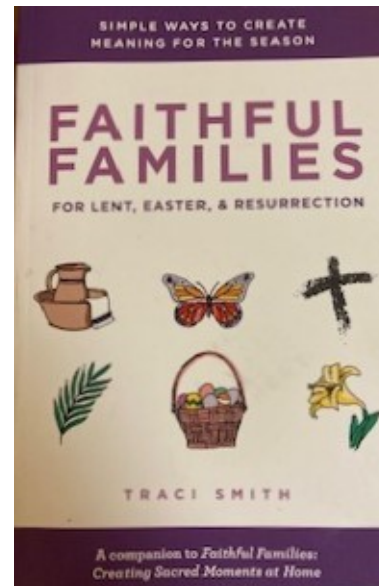
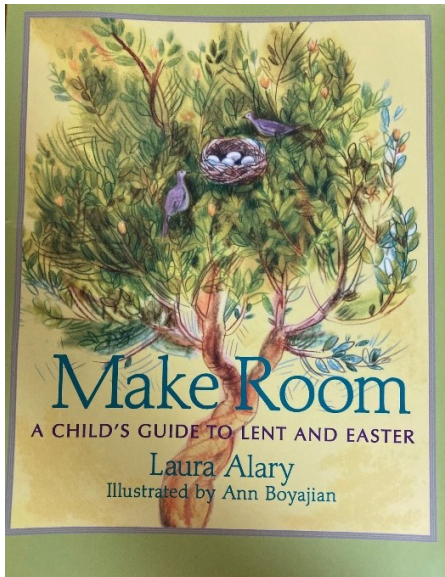
Jane Beller

# Faith Formation

March 2022

Our thanks to Pastor Wade for providing the resource *Taking Faith Home* to enrich our faith throughout the week.

Each week during Lent families with children will receive emailed resources from *Illustrated Ministry*. *Make Room, A Child's Guide to Lent and Easter* by Laura Alary<sup>1</sup> and *Faithful Families, For Lent, Easter and Resurrection* by Traci Smith<sup>2</sup> are books worth adding to your at-home library.



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<sup>1</sup>*Make Room: A Child's Guide to Lent and Easter*, Laura Alary, 2016 Paraclete Press, Brewster, MA

<sup>2</sup>*Faithful Families For Lent, Easter, and Resurrection*, Traci Smith, 2021 Chalice Press, Saint Louis, MO

# How We Can Provide Aid To Ukraine

By the Mission Team

As we witness the unsettling events unfolding in Ukraine, many of us are looking for ways to help. The Mission Team has compiled the following list of organizations that are providing aid to Ukraine:

***Global Giving Ukraine Crisis Relief Fund***-The Ukraine Crisis Relief Fund by Global Giving sprang into action once Russia declared war on Ukraine last week. Their website states, "Your donation will help affected communities in Ukraine, with a focus on the most vulnerable, including children, who need access to food, medical services, and psychosocial support."

***Save The Children***-According to Save The Children, 7.5 million kids are in danger of physical harm, emotional distress, and displacement due to the invasion in Ukraine. Even before the conflict escalated last week, there were already 400,000 children there who needed humanitarian aid. On their official website, Save the Children states they "will use donations made to their Ukraine Crisis Relief Fund to help families meet their basic needs such as food, medicine and shelter."

***The International Committee of The Red Cross***-As per their website, "Recent work includes visits to places of detention to help improve hygiene and nutrition. The security situation permitting, our teams now in Ukraine will continue their work to repair vital infrastructure, support health facilities with medicines and equipment, and support families with food and hygiene items."

***Razom For Ukraine***-According to its official website, the organization is named Razom for Ukraine because Razom "means 'together' in Ukrainian and serves as a constant reminder of the community that it takes to create, build and do, to stay the path towards a more prosperous and democratic Ukraine." This organization has been helping Ukrainians since it was first established in 2014.

Thank you all for your generosity of spirit.



## “Marching into Building Healthier Communities”

Our successful food drive for our “Souper Bowl of Caring” is now followed by focusing on “Building A Healthy Community One Individual at a Time”. Collection of personal care items and Healthy Snacks has begun. Benefitting from this drive are the Helping Hand Rescue Mission, through Project H.O.P.E. and Tri-CYA. Personal care items most requested are: bar soap, body wash, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hand sanitizer, deodorant, paper towels, tissues, diapers and baby wipes.

Desired healthy snacks to benefit the children of Tri-CYA (Tri Community Youth Agency) are: Individual packaged snacks, crackers, pudding cups, pretzels, applesauce cups, Cup-A-Soup and juice boxes. Donations can be left in the Sanctuary Bin. If you come by during office hours (8 am to 12 pm), please call the Church Office at 631-367-9249, to ensure that someone will be there. Checks earmarked for Mission Work can be made out to PCSH, and our team will purchase supplies. Pickups are available if you call Jane at 631-271-3099.

Thank you as always Sweet Hollow.

The Little Church with a Big Heart’s Mission Team



The bounty of nutritious food was blessed on February 13 and subsequently delivered to Helping Hand Rescue Mission. Many thanks to all who so generously donated.

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

## **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.

**February 2012**

