

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SWEET HOLLOW
95 OLD COUNTRY ROAD, MELVILLE, NY 11747**

**Annual Congregational Meeting
January 30, 2022**

Moderator: Reverend Wade Pond

DOCKET

- Open Congregational Meeting with Prayer

- Call to Order by Moderator

- Quorum Declared by Clerk of Session

Voting: The congregation is composed of all members on the active role for the church. Such members who are present at a congregational meeting are entitled to vote.”

- Presentation of Annual Report

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- Presentation of the Adopted Budget
 - DOES NOT need to be approved by the Congregation

 - “The session shall prepare and adopt a budget and determine the distribution of the congregation’s benevolences.” (G-3.0205 in the PCUSA Book of Order)

- Presentation of Proposed Pastoral Salary Package
 - DOES need to be approved by the Congregation

Presentation/Nomination and Election of Ruling Elders and Deacons

Reading and approval of the minutes of the meeting

Adjourn meeting in Prayer

Pastoral Annual Report

A year-end report is in some ways a kind of magical thinking. It makes the assumption that we can push a cosmic pause button that gives us time to both reflect on and tie up the happenings of the previous year in a neat package that can then be filed away. But time didn't stop on December 31, 2021, and what we accomplished or failed to achieve this past year is all part of the information that we are still working with and adding to in 2022. In light of this, the most important thing I have to report with respect to the life of The Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow in 2021 is that God is faithful; God's mercies are new every morning and we can expect that to continue into 2022.

As I have only been your pastor for the last 6 months of the year, my perspective for this report is one in which hope abounds but yet we remain fatigued and leery about the impact that the Coronavirus has had on our little church with a big heart. I share in those feelings because my hope was that as Covid started to decline during the summer, I would have the opportunity to initiate some conversations about the future of the church and help to compose a vision plan for that future. However, Delta and Omicron (which you probably didn't realize you would learn so much of the Greek alphabet because of a virus) have made us push the pause button on lots of these items. Despite the pause button, we have been able to take small steps forward. It reminds me of traveling the LIE during heavy traffic; you move slowly most of the time, you pick up speed and right as you hit that 40 MPH mark you then have to get on the brakes and sit for a little while.

That traffic jam has looked like this for us. The church has gotten very active through Facebook as we have increased our number of followers by over 20%. Facebook Live has provided us with 50-70 viewers on a regular basis for online worship. We have a YouTube page now (although we haven't used it to its best potential yet)! We did all of those things as we picked up speed. Then we had to hit the brakes as Covid numbers started to grow and the departure of our beloved friend and Music Director, Rachel Fogel, left to have more time for herself and her family. However, we have started to pick up speed again as we found a wonderful replacement with Jason Black as our new Music Director, we received more mission commitment promises this year than we did last year, despite having a small window of preparation and we have had 3 baptisms since my arrival! What this activity tells me is that God is hard at work, using the Holy Spirit to nudge us forward despite our constant urge to stand on the brakes.

I can't say this with absolute certainty, but I suspect that the congregation of The Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow has been asked to go through more change this past year than it has ever been asked to endure before. I have heard it said that all change is often initially experienced as loss. Indeed, the loss of meeting together in our sanctuary is a big one. By all rights, it could have killed us. Losing the place where we expect to live our life together feels life threatening. It requires enormous adaptation. It is like asking fish to develop lungs and legs so they can live on land or asking us terrestrial mammals to grow bigger lungs and fins so that we can join our cousins in the sea. That's a tall order!

Yet what makes adaptation possible is that there are still points that do not change. One of those is God's faithfulness to us. The big, big heart of God has not stopped being the place in which we primarily dwell. My prayer for 2022 is that we can spend more time resting in this truth than being anxious about the yet unknown ways in which we will be invited to adapt. It is hard to know what is before us, but we can rest in the truth of where we are. We're fixed firmly on the rock of Jesus Christ and this foundation is one from which we can't be shaken loose.

Pastor Wade

CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS for 2021

Membership as of December 31, 2020 **99**

Losses:

Removal by certificate of transfer	0
Deaths	1
Other Session Removals	<u>0</u>
	-1

Additions:

Joined – confirmation class	0
Certificate of transfer	0
Affirmation of Faith	<u>0</u>
	+0

Membership as of December 31, 2021 **98**

Baptisms:

Children	2
Adults	<u>1</u>
Total	3

Entered the Church Triumphant

Jutta Christen (January 17, 2021)

“Happy are those who from now on die in the service of the Lord!” “Yes indeed!” answers the Spirit. “They will enjoy rest from their hard work, because the results of their service go with them.”

-Revelation

Treasurer's Report 2021

2021 has been another interesting and challenging year here at Sweet Hollow Presbyterian Church. 2022 promises to be another challenging year with the Omicron Variant and Covid-19 still raging. In the first part of 2022, we will most likely not see much of a change from the way we've been operating. We hope and pray that the latter part of the year will bring us some relief. We can only hope that six months from now we can say *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing...The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever."*

Pledge income is down 10% in 2021 and down 25% from 2019. Donations are significantly down in 2021. Building use is up in 2020, however it is still significantly down from 2019. Interest income is significantly down in both 2020 and 2019. The PPP loan helped offset a lot of expenses and although total income is up from 2020, they are still significantly down from 2019 levels.

We have managed to reduce total expenses in both 2021 and 2020 despite the challenges we face here at Sweet Hollow.

Phillippians 4:12-13

"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

Treasurer's Report Sweet Hollow Presbyterian Church Account Balances

Bank Accounts	2021	2020	2019
Checking	\$5,331.65	\$13,430.00	\$918.93
Mission Exchange			\$1,125.00
Money Market	\$81,717.03	\$91,858.30	\$108,113.19
Presbyterian USA			\$0.00
Savings	\$14.66	\$14.56	\$14.82
Total Bank Accounts	\$87,063.34	\$105,302.86	\$110,171.94

Treasurer's Report
Sweet Hollow Presbyterian Church
Income / Expenses

Code	Category	2021	2020	2019
4000	Income			
4001	Pledge Income	73,994.62	84,794.10	95,246.44
4002	Donations	100.00	2,253.00	65,640.56
4003	Loose Plate Donations	xxx	542.25	2,869.52
4004	Building Use	32,318.85	20,279.00	61,385.00
4006	Other Income	2,937.00	870.77	6,960.54
4007	Fundraising	xxx	1,388.42	6,065.15
4008	OGHS	315.00	611.00	1,096.29
4009	Per Capita	2,005.41	1,450.83	1,564.02
4010	Interest Income	398.23	778.96	2,135.73
4013	Holiday Income	1,015.00	712.00	xxx
4014	Winter/Spring Mission	675.00	xxx	xxx
4015	PPP Loan	21,370.00	xxx	xxx
---	Rachel	1,320.00	xxx	xxx
---	PNC Fundraising	16,161.10	xxx	xxx
---	Refugee Distribution Grant	675.00	xxx	5,000.00
---	Roof Fund	xxx	xxx	10.00
---	From Mission Exchange	xxx	xxx	12,574.84
---	From Money Market	xxx	xxx	42,000.00
---	Sunday School	xxx	xxx	158.00
4000	Total Income	152,610.21	113,680.33	302,706.09
	Total Income	152,610.21	113,680.33	302,706.09
	Gross Profit	152,610.21	113,680.33	302,706.09
5000	Pastor Compensation/Expenses			
5001	Pastor Compensation	14,560.46	15,809.00	34,124.30
5002	SECA	2,655.93	2,215.28	xxx
5003	Pastor Paid 403B	4,939.80	2,000.00	10,399.96
5004	Pension/Medical/Dental	10,029.47	10,667.64	30,684.61

Code	Category	2021	2020	2019
5005	Church Paid 403B	625.00	1,416.65	xxx
5006	Professional Expenses	1,048.76	572.97	1,262.98
5007	Study Leave	39.95	xxx	xxx
5008	Utility	xxx	200.00	2,620.01
5009	Auto	100.00	xxx	460.30
5010	PNC Expense	19,496.29	xxx	xxx
5000	Total Pastor Compensation/Expenses	53,495.66	32,881.54	79,552.16
5100	Staff			
5101	Music Minister	17,315.00	9,945.00	11,651.52
5102	Secretary	25,207.48	14,290.01	13,034.49
5104	Guest Minister	9,425.00	4,675.00	300.00
5106	Guest Organist & Soloists	xxx	125.00	725.00
- - -	Treasurer	xxx	xxx	2,974.00
- - -	Nursery Assistant	xxx	xxx	425.00
5107	Custodial Services	6,100.00	1,825.00	11,290.00
5108	Social Security & Federal Taxes	3,252.88	1,833.12	23,478.87
5109	Workers Compensation	588.00	1,039.00	1,330.00
- - -	SWT NYS Department Tax	xxx	xxx	3,869.39
5110	NYS Department of Taxation - Unemployment	587.26	521.39	2,420.46
5100	Total Staff	62,475.62	34,253.52	71,498.73
5200	Property Maintenance	70.14	xxx	xxx
5200	Property Maintenance	264.91	465.00	xxx
5201	Manse	1,263.41	427.18	1,675.00
5202	Sanctuary, Christian Education & Offices	10,127.57	9,332.63	20,588.61
5200	Total Property - Manse	11,655.89	10,224.81	22,263.61

Code	Category	2021	2020	2019
5300	Utilities			
5301	Fuel Oil	7,241.27	6,070.22	10,962.35
5302	Cable/Internet	2,041.90	1,870.55	1,834.60
5303	Water	211.00	167.30	70.40
5304	Electric	3,882.48	3,900.78	4,516.33
5306	Insurance	15,913.70	10,032.89	12,207.50
5307	Refuse & Snow Removal	2,005.61	1,608.48	5,416.03
5308	Manse Gas	1,372.77	1,248.59	xxx
5309	Manse Water	110.00	34.05	xxx
5310	Manse Electric	454.00	1,134.42	xxx
5300	Total Utilities	33,232.73	26,067.28	35,007.21
5400	Mission	675.00	xxx	xxx
5401	Per Capita	1,158.28	3,766.95	4,527.95
5402	Unified Mission Support	xxx	4,530.00	458.00
5403	Salary Supplement	xxx	495.00	xxx
5406	OGHS	921.00	xxx	1,092.29
5400	Total Mission	2,754.28	8,791.95	6,078.24
5000	Office			
5500	Office Expenses	1,929.41	2,364.67	1,770.00
5501	Supplies, Printing & Postage	805.67	867.09	345.00
5502	Printer Lease & Maintenance	1,082.40	989.62	2,037.36
5503	Rachel	1,320.00	xxx	xxx
5504	Office Bonus	150.00	xxx	xxx
5500	Total Office Expenses	5,287.48	4,221.38	4,152.36

Code	Category	2021	2020	2019
5600	Program Expenses	202.85	xxx	xxx
5601	Bank Charges	358.48	369.78	332.27
5602	Worship/Music/Piano/Organ	1,274.65	671.13	639.22
5603	Flowers	42.05	42.05	1,297.40
	To Checking	xxx	xxx	54,574.84
5600	Total Program Expenses	1,878.03	1,082.96	56,843.73
	Total Expenses	170,849.83	117,523.44	275,396.04
	Net Operating Income	(18,239.62)	(3,843.11)	27,310.05
	Net Income	(18,239.62)	(3,843.11)	27,310.05

Respectfully submitted by:

Jill Conroy, Treasurer

Budget and Stewardship Committee

As we move forward with the new year, we want to say *thank you* to all that have donated both time and money in 2021 and pledged for 2022. We truly appreciate your continued generosity to the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow especially during this pandemic. Our Stewardship theme for the upcoming year is “Mission Commitment” which is an expansion to our current stewardship program. Mission Commitment is about achieving our mission to be the “*Little Church with a Big Heart*” and sharing the load through not only our spiritual practices including prayer, scripture reading, giving of our financial resources, fasting and dedication to services, but time to PRAY for the church, WORSHIP at Sweet Hollow and VOLUNTEER time to make us grow. Each of these practices keep the church vibrant, sharing the good news of gospel in our community.

Only with your support in 2022 will we be able to fill our “hope” box. If you can assist with any of the requests below, we would be capable of meeting our goal to be the “*Little Church with the Big Heart*”.

- 1 new monthly gathering (dinner group or study group)
- 1 new family ministry project (family event)
- 1 fundraiser program
- 2 members to serve on session
- 1 new deacon
- 3 people to serve as liturgists on a rotating schedule
- 2 people to service as children’s message leaders during Sunday worship
- Generosity in the amount of \$180,000 to fill this year’s “hope” box

During 2021 we developed several programs including a new mobile application for giving, the “Amazon Smile” program, fundraisers at local restaurants and Mission Commitment Cards. To date, we have collected twenty (20) mission commitment cards with total pledges of approximately \$57,000. We will continue throughout 2022 to grow these programs and develop additional means of generating income. As we asked of you last year, please consider required minimum distributions (RMD), endowments and other estate financial planning vehicles for Sweet Hollow, along with the various ways we can give freely of our time, talents, and treasures to the Sweet Hollow Community. We cannot pause now, we must continue to come together and spread the word of Jesus and engage our small, yet dedicated, members to help make a difference together.

In the words of Jesus, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt 6:21). As we move forward in whatever we do, we must be sure to always point our church to Jesus Christ—the Giver.

Jill Conroy

PCSH Budget 2022

	Item	Name	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	Budget 2022
Name:			Sum:	Sum:	Sum:
Pastor			35298	54977	69060
	Salary & Pastor Paid 403B	Pastor	17809	19500	37856
	Medical Account	Pastor	0	0	0
	403B Church Paid	Pastor	1416	625	1000
	SECA	Pastor	2215	2656	5508
	Pension/Medical/Dental	Pastor	10668	10029	16520
	Tax Deferred Investment	Pastor	0	0	500
	Expenses	Pastor	573	1049	2276
	Study Leave	Pastor	0	40	2000
	Manse Utility	Pastor	2617	1482	3000
	Auto	Pastor	0	100	400
	PNC Expense	Pastor		19496	0
Staff			40553	62475	53576
	Music Minister	Staff	9945	17315	16000
	Secretary	Staff	14290	25207	25101
	Guest Minister	Staff	4675	9425	1000
	Nursery Assistant	Staff	0	0	650
	Guest Organist & Soloists	Staff	125	0	750
	Custodial Service	Staff	1825	6100	5000
	Social Security & Federal Taxes	Staff	8133	3253	2600
	SWT NYS Dept Tax	Staff	0	0	0
	Worker's Compensation	Staff	1039	588	1875
	NYS Unemployment Insurance	Staff	521	587	600

Property Maintenance			9760	11726	6500
	Manse	Property Maintenance	427	1263	2000
	Sanctuary, Christian Education and Offices	Property Maintenance	9333	10128	2000
	Capital Improvement	Property Maintenance	0	335	2500
Utilities			23650	33233	34450
	Fuel	Utilities	6070	7241	10000
	Cable / Internet	Utilities	1871	2042	2000
	Water	Utilities	167	211	250
	Electric	Utilities	3901	3882	3600
	Manse Utilities & MTA Tax	Utilities	0	1937	400
	Insurance	Utilities	10033	15914	13000
	Refuse & Snow Removal	Utilities	1608	2006	5200
Mission			8792	2754	6508
	Local Mission	Mission	0	675	0
	Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	Mission	0	0	0
	Presbytery Emergency Fund	Mission	0	0	0
	Per Capita	Mission	3767	1158	3808
	United Mission & Salary Supplement	Mission	5025	0	1000
	Mission Team	Mission	0	0	1000
	Stewardship, Events	Mission	0	0	0
	Christian Education	Mission	0	0	700
	OGHS	Mission	0	921	0

Office Expenses			1857	5287	5450
	Supplies, Printing & Postage	Office Expenses	867	806	2800
	Office Expenses	Office Expenses	0	1929	1000
	Rachel	Office Expenses	0	1320	0
	Office Bonus	Office Expenses	100	150	150
	Printer Lease & Maintenance	Office Expenses	990	1082	1500
Expenses			1083	1878	1592
	Bank Charges & Fees	Expenses	370	358	350
	Program Expenses	Expenses	0	203	0
	Worship/Music/Piano/Organ	Expenses	671	1275	1200
	Reimbursement - Flowers	Expenses	42	42	42
	Reimbursement - Christian Education	Expenses	0		0
	Reimbursed Expenses	Expenses	0	0	0
	Reimbursed Party Cleanup	Expenses	0	0	0
	Security Deposit Refund	Expenses	0	0	0
	Flower Fund	Expenses	0	0	0
	Total		120993	172330	177136

Faith Formation/Christian Education

Teaching the Bible in Word and deed

2021

Compliance to Covid-19 safety protocols meant there were no in-person Sunday School classes presented during 2021. Children were limited to attending in-person worship accompanied by family or remotely, via **Zoom** or **Facebook**.

From January thru June 2021, Lectionary based Christian Ed resources supplied by **Illustrated Ministry** were emailed each week to families who had been actively participating in Sunday School prior to the onset of Covid restrictions in March 2020.

Since the arrival of Rev. Wade Pond in July 2021 through December 2021 Sunday worship has included a weekly Children's Message, led by Reverend Pond and occasional volunteers. During the 2021 Advent/Christmas Season weekly at-home resources by **Illustrated Ministry** were emailed to each family.

Prayer Circle met via **Zoom**, each Wednesday morning at 10am, throughout the year. The fellowship of gathering to present the prayer concerns brought to us each week has been a comfort to all who participate and to those for whom we pray. We are grateful for the leadership of Pastor Wade Pond to enrich our discussion of the **Looking into the Lectionary** commentary, supplied by **Presbyterian Outlook** magazine.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol C Keil

Fellowship and Outreach & Mission Committee

Fellowship and Outreach

Sweet Hollow enjoys many enriching Fellowship and Outreach events, including fundraisers, throughout the year, which all provide an opportunity to strengthen our relationships through Christian fellowship. Fellowship and Outreach events from 2021:

Thank You Luncheon for Pastor Joan-On Wednesday, June 23rd, Carol Keil kindly hosted a Thank You Luncheon for Pastor Joan at her home, with Prayer Group members in attendance as well. Everyone enjoyed a variety of delicious fare, after which time Pastor Joan was presented with a beautiful hibiscus plant and an inspirational coffee mug, tokens of Sweet Hollow's heartfelt gratitude.

Special Fellowship Time Following Pastor Wade's First Worship Service As Our Pastor-On Sunday, July 4th, immediately following Pastor Wade's first Worship Service as our Pastor, attendees enjoyed an array of delicious finger foods, salads and desserts in the Fellowship Hall.

Pastor Wade's Installation & Fellowship Time-On Sunday, September 26, following an inspiring, emotional Installation Service for Pastor Wade, attendees were treated to a variety of delicious finger foods, quiches and desserts, including a special cake, in the Fellowship Hall.

Farewell Fellowship Time For Choir Director, Rachel Fogel-On Sunday, November 14th, following her last Worship Service with us, we said goodbye to our beloved Choir Director, Rachel Fogel, with a Farewell Fellowship Time, including a yummy assortment of finger foods, desserts, a special cake and presentation of a bounteous gift basket.

Special thanks to all those who planned, coordinated, donated food items, provided paper goods, purchased, and delivered balloons, assisted in set up and decorating, and/or assisted in any form with these celebrations during which cherished memories were recalled and new memories were forged.

Fundraising

The *Sweet Hollow Annual Plant Sale* was held at Otto Keil Nursery on Saturday, May 15th. Many thanks to Joan Sommermeyer for coordinating and leading this event, and to Carol & Otto Keil for graciously providing an array of beautiful plants, flowers, vegetables, and herbs, from their nursery. Additional thanks to all those who assisted with sales at this event. The proceeds of over \$2,000 raised from this perennial favorite were used to benefit the PNC's Fundraising Campaign.

AmazonSmile-Sweet Hollow thankfully received its charity listing on Amazon, after which time shoppers were encouraged to use AmazonSmile when making purchases on Amazon. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases.

Mission Committee

During 2021, the call to help others was as urgent as ever, as many families struggled to put food on the table during the continuing uncertainty of these times. Responding to that call to help our brothers and sisters in need, **Sweet Hollow**, "*The Little Church With The Big Heart*", graciously demonstrated God's unceasing love throughout the year:

Winter Helping Hands Mission-Traditionally in January and February, our congregation participates in the **Winter Helping Hands** through **Sharing Bags** containing food pantry items and personal care items for the local **Tri Community and Youth Agency (Tri-CYA)** and the **Souper Bowl of Caring**, which benefits our local food pantry mission. Due to the devastating impact the pandemic has had on so many families, the Mission Team instead held our **Winter Helping Hands Mission Food Drive** during January, February, and March, to benefit both the *Tri-CYA* and *Long Island Cares*. Jane Beller graciously offered to accept donations at her home, as well as to pick up donations left by church members after worship on Sundays.

Spring Helping Hands Mission-As the effects of the pandemic continued to challenge struggling families, Sweet Hollow held our **Spring Helping Hands Mission Food and Personal Care Items Drive** during April, May and early June, to benefit *Tri-CYA* and *Long Island Cares*.

Summer Helping Hands Mission-With food insecurity, health challenges and local food pantries still facing shortages, many local families continued to struggle. We held our **Summer Helping Hands Mission Food and Personal Care Items Drive** during the remainder of June and July, to benefit *Tri-CYA* and *Long Island Cares*, as well as *Island Harvest Food Bank* and *Newsday Charities Kids Campaign*.

Sharing Bags For School Supplies to benefit Tri-CYA were once again put up in the sanctuary in August, for school supplies and healthy snacks for the children, giving them a bright, nutritious start to the school year.

Fall Clothing Drive-From October 3rd through November 7th, we held our Fall Clothing Drive to benefit *United Veterans Beacon House*. Through the generosity of our congregation, a multitude of donations was blessed on November 7th during worship and was then dropped off, to be distributed to struggling veterans and their families.

Helping Hand Rescue Mission Thanksgiving Food Drive-For the first two weeks of November, we held a Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit Helping Hand Rescue Mission. We were blessed to provide an array of Thanksgiving food to help families in need celebrate together.

In response to the preponderance of natural disasters many families across the U.S. experienced, Sweet Hollow was blessed to have the opportunity to assist victims of these destructive events by donating through *P.D.A.-Presbyterian Disaster Assistance*.

For the holiday season, a **Toy Drive** was held to benefit *Helping Hand Rescue Mission*. An abundance of donations was blessed on December 19th and then delivered, bringing cheer to the children. Also in December, the **Mittens and More Tree** was placed in the sanctuary, where

donations of mittens, gloves, and hats were placed, which were also blessed on December 19th and then delivered to *Tri-CYA*, providing warmth to children and families in need.

Sincere gratitude to all those who participated in our call and our purpose of Mission and Ministry in 2021. We couldn't do any of this without your generosity. Special thanks to those who assisted in Sweet Hollow's blessed journey in Christian giving: To Jane Beller, for her hard work and dedication to our Mission and Ministry, through picking up and delivering donations, working with the Mission Team on The Bell Ringer articles, and submitting Weekly Announcements; to Carol Keil, for her passion for Mission, and for her input with The Bell Ringer articles and the Weekly Announcements; and to Frank Sansone, for picking up and delivering donations and providing support when needed.

May 2022 provide Sweet Hollow with more opportunities through which to shine God's light into the darkness, while continuing to make a difference in the lives of those who are struggling.

Respectfully Submitted:

Fellowship and Outreach & Mission Committee

House and Property Committee

On behalf of this committee, I would like to extend a very warm thanks to all who participated in working on the buildings and grounds in 2022 as well as providing the additional financial support when called upon.

Some projects occurred in the year 2021

- The Manse received a facelift with the anticipated arrival of Pastor Wade Pond and family. Rooms in the basement were erected and egress windows installed, the master bedroom was also divided into two rooms, fresh paint throughout, refacing of the rear deck and the addition of railings to the deck. The project came in under budget and much gratitude to Rob Reiser for his donation of time, carpentry skills and materials to erect the walls and installation of the new doors and to Omar of Centro Missionero for his skills and fair pricing.
- Omar of Centro Missionero was also able to install a new threshold base at the Sanctuary entrance.
- A thank you to Ed Conroy for taking the lead in ordering new tables and chairs for the CEB Hall.
- Members of Centro Missionero also pruned the tree line at the street so that the church is more visible from the street
- Centro Missionero took the time to clean the gardens throughout the Church property in both the Spring and the late Summer.
- The grounds were mulched in the spring providing a manicured look for Our church
- The front beds were kept maintained with the help of Jean Cavanaugh. And the front flowers pots by Carol Keil and her family. (If others assisted and were not mentioned, I apologize).

The past year has been a challenge for all but as the days pass our Church and Manse need continued care and attention. I assure you the upkeep cannot be handled by one or two people.

We need support in the coming year and are hopeful that our faithful family will be at the ready.

Thanks again to Frank Sansone and Bill Von Brook for weekly mowing of the Church Grounds.

Sincerest Regards,

William C. Von Brook

Committee Chair

Pastoral Nominating Committee

The journey of the pastoral nominating committee began in October 2020. The PNC met on a regular basis throughout the first half of 2021. Following scrutiny of numerous pastoral information forms and interviewing candidates one and two times, the PNC reduced the candidate pool from over twenty candidates to a single candidate. The PNC was in full agreement to invite the Reverend Wade Pond and his family to meet the PNC, visit the Sweet Hollow Church and the Sweet Hollow Community. Reverend Wade Pond, his wife Jessica and four of his children visited Sweet Hollow. Through a unanimous decision, the Committee asked Reverend Wade to continue the conversation and consider a call at Sweet Hollow.

The PNC once again appeared before Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM) on April 13, 2021. The Reverend Wade Pond was presented to the COM as our Pastoral candidate. Joan Sommermeyer presented the PNC report and each committee member reflected on their experience and feelings on how we arrived at calling Reverend Wade. COM reviewed the Sweet Hollow call, interviewed Reverend Wade and then authorized the Sweet Hollow Session to call a congregational meeting.

Session called a special congregational meeting for May 2, 2021. The PNC commended the Reverend Wade Pond as the next pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow. The Sweet Hollow congregation approved the Reverend Wade Pond by unanimous vote. Reverend Wade Pond was installed as the Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow on the afternoon of Sunday, September 26, 2021.

It has been my privilege to serve as the PNC chair. I wish to thank session for their confidence in me. I sincerely thank the PNC members: Jane Beller, Melissa D'Angelo, Jean Cavanaugh, Carol Keil, Niaja Mowatt, Carol Schiffmacher for their dedication and hard work in all aspects of achieving the goals of the Pastoral Nominating Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Sommermeyer

PNC Chair

January 10, 2022

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee is responsible for Sweet Hollow's paid employees: Temporary or Part Time Supply Pastors, Church Administrator, and Music Director.

In January, the Church, as required by the Presbytery's' Committee on Ministry, continued the contract of Pastor Joan Finck for 6 months, ending June 30, 2021.

The Presbytery encouraged congregations to apply for a Payroll Protection Loan. In March, the Session voted and authorized Frank Sansone to apply for the Church. In April, the Church was approved for a Forgivable Loan of \$21,000, to help us with our payroll expenses.

In October, our Music Director Rachel Fogel informed Pastor Wade that she would have to leave the position. Rachel's last service on November 14th was a celebration in song and praise for her 13 years as our Music Director.

During the November Session Meeting, when Frank Sansone reported on the Music Director's search, Treasurer Jill Conroy offered to list the Position Description on social media. In less than a week, a candidate came to us. Jason Black was contacted by Frank. The next day, Jason was interviewed by Pastor Wade and Frank. Jason's impressive musical talent, church experience and enthusiasm made him an ideal selection for the position. Jason's first week in service was December 5th.

In December, the Church's application to the lending bank for loan forgiveness from the Payroll Protection Loan was approved and 100% forgiven.

Thank you, Pastor Joan Finck, for participating in the Prayer Circle, and leading weekly service before our Called Pastor's arrival.

Thank you, Jason Black, for accepting the Music Director position. The Congregation has already enjoyed your contributions to Service.

The Session is grateful for Church Administer Lori Kevelos, who again has admirably fulfilled her responsibilities of overseeing our finances, contacting our tenants, coordinating their time and place in the building, providing Session Members with timely and accurate information and for assisting the Pastor in preparation for weekly service.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frank Sansone

Worship Committee

*Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.
Psalm 100:2*

The Worship Committee oversees all worship planning and review. Worship services continued to meet in the sanctuary throughout 2021 with social distancing and masks. A Zoom option was available for Sweet Hollow members and friends wishing to worship from home.

The Reverend Joan Fink led worship during the search for a new pastor while the search for a new pastor continued.

The Reverend Wade Pond began his ministry at the Sweet Hollow Church on Monday, June 28, 2021, and he led worship on the following Sunday.

Music Director Rachel Fogel resigned effective November 14, 2021. We are grateful for the gifts Rachel brought to our worship services throughout her tenure. On Sunday December 5, 2021, the congregation welcomed Jason Black as the new Music Director. He immediately began working with the choir and has enhanced worship with his music ministry.

Sweet Hollow family and friends were treated to an early Christmas on July 25, 2021, with the “Christmas in July” worship service. Christmas carols were sung, and a message of hope and faith kindled the Christmas spirit on that rainy Sunday in July. Worshipers crafted a paper garland that later hung in the church. Pastor Pond had a Christmas gift of a lovely Christmas ornament for all attendees.

A joyous Advent and Christmas closed the year with one service of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve at 9:00PM. Service ended traditionally with singing *Silent Night* by candlelight.

The Worship Committee wishes to recognize and thank:

- Pastor Wade Pond for his spiritual leadership
- Rachel Fogel, Music Director
- Jason Black, Music Director
- Members of the Sweet Hollow Choir for their music each week and the many hours they spend rehearsing
- Carol and Gail Keil for decorating the pulpit and piano throughout the year
- Volunteers who decorated for Christmas and those who did the holiday decoration cleanup
- Those who have assisted as liturgists
- Our Elders and Deacons for their faithful ushering
- Our Elders and Deacons who set up and serve communion
- Those who assist in Communion home visits
- Frank Sansone for leading worship
- William Von Brook for his technical expertise in live streaming worship service weekly
- Guest leader: Pastor Finck

Please make worship attendance a priority for you and your family. Kindly reach out to our Sweet Hollow families and friends not in attendance at worship and let them know that they are missed. Worship is the heart of our congregational life. We look forward to seeing you in church!

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Sommermeyer

Worship Chair

January 10, 2022