

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

**Annual Congregational Meeting  
January 29, 2023**

**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

Adjourn meeting in Prayer

## Pastoral Annual Report

Every year, I am asked to present a report of the year for Long Island Presbytery as a review of the last year. It's really sort of a "what I did last summer" kind of report that asks, "What did your church **do** for the last year?" Long ago I decided that my answers should not be seen as any kind of a secret, and so I share with them much like I share in the newsletter or pastor's report at our monthly session meetings. I'm excited about the future of The Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow and its people, and I hope that by talking more about it, others might learn about it and join us in our mission to care for the people around us, and around the world, the way that Jesus cares for us.

The question traditionally goes something like this:

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Review the current year and how you plan to meet your congregational goals for the upcoming years. What specific goals relate to your mission field.

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And my answer is as follows:

PCSH has continued to move forward into a new post-Covid world in which many people remain unsure of attending social gatherings and events with large groups, and church attendance seems too sometimes be among these. In addition, some of those who were regular in attendance prior to the pandemic simply fell out of the habit. But, for whatever reason, we continue do everything at PCSH with excitement and energy so that we are encouraged to invite our neighbors, coworkers, and friends, and as those who previously attended test the waters and find their way back, they will all find a community of faith, love, and support that is filled with hope for the future and for an eternity with Jesus.

Sweet Hollow is also considering ways in which we can be more intentional about attracting and inviting others into fellowship and inclusion in our community of faith. To do that we are exploring opportunities that might exist for connecting our church to our community. These new opportunities and ideas lean into potential ways to reach out to our neighbors, friends, and coworkers. We have already launched a successful first annual Trunk or Treat program oriented for all families and planning one for the future. The Christmas Tea was a rousing success bringing more people in the building for one event than has been seen here in YEARS!!!! This is GROWTH!!!!

In a post-CoVid world, we have also discovered some new and interesting ways to bring income into the church. Amazon Smile and the Christmas Tea have provided extra income that we have never experienced before. Of course, as you have heard frequently, pickleball, as a brand-new phenomenon, has ignited the idea of placing a court in the CEB hall. As of this report, pickleball is on a trial basis but it would be hard to ignore the fact that we have gathered more 'rental' income from pickleball than any one of our tenants provides us on a monthly basis. This is called GROWTH!

Our mission, to be the little church with a big heart, continues to be lived out through the inspiration and imagination of our mission committee. The mission committee has been a lively and engaged part of our church community! Just look at their report about all of the work we

have done as a faith community! Add this to the fact that the mission committee has more members than any other church committee and we have to proclaim...this is GROWTH!

And if you want to talk about engaged, the prayer group is probably the most vital element of our spiritual lives. The way that these people share and check in with people in distress tells us (and them), "You matter. You are important. And you are loved." The manner in which this group connects with people is the heart of faith. Being prayer-filled is a gift and a sign of GROWTH!!!!

Friends, there is more work to be done, more growth is needed. I am excited about what is happening, and I hope you are too as God is blessing us in new ways!

My prayer is that if you haven't already, you would join us at the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow in-person, or online. Because I have no doubt that together we're going to change the world.

Pastor Wade

## CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS for 2022

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

### Losses:

Removal by certificate of transfer	0
Deaths	4
Other Session Removals	<u>0</u>
	-4

### Additions:

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

**Membership as of December 31, 2021** **94**

### Baptisms:

Children	1
Adults	<u>0</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>

### Entered the Church Triumphant

Paul Manning – August 21, 2022  
Eleanor Waters – August 26, 2022  
Kathleen Reiser – October 5, 2022  
Robert Templeton – October 31, 2022

*“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 2022

A lot of exciting changes have taken place between 2021 and 2022. Our Pastor has been here a full year and has brought a much-needed feeling of faith and community to the church. Our church struggled without a minister, using guest ministers and elders for quite some time. A sense of community is a feeling that members have of belonging, a feeling that members matter to one another and to the group, and a shared faith that members' needs will be met through commitment to be together. Our Music Minister has also been with us for one year and brought back the sense of awe and wonder in the presence of God. Through his music, which evokes powerful emotions, he assists us in our expression and response to God and to the church. We are lucky to have them both.

Financially, our church still struggles. Total income for the church in 2022 was \$158,945.43. Total expenses for the church in 2022 were \$197,274.23. We are hoping 2023 will bring us better financial news based on some of the new rental agreements we have initiated and some of the new revenue streams we have developed. We hope through Pastor Wade's new membership generation plan we even have growth in our membership.

Pledge income is up 9.55% in 2022 from 2021. Donations are up remarkably in 2022. Building use was up in 2022. Interest income is up 29.69%. Any specific questions regarding the finances, please feel free to contact me directly.

*Money is a neutral commodity, a means of exchange. It is neither inherently good nor evil. "But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33).*

### Treasurer's Report Sweet Hollow Presbyterian Church Account Balances

<b>Bank Accounts</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Checking	\$10,538.17	\$5,331.65	\$13,430.00	\$918.93
Mission Exchange				\$1,125.00
Money Market	\$38,181.71	\$81,717.03	\$91,858.30	\$108,113.19
Savings	\$14.66	\$14.66	\$14.56	\$14.82
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$48,734.54</b>	<b>\$87,063.34</b>	<b>\$105,302.86</b>	<b>\$110,171.94</b>

Treasurer's Report  
Sweet Hollow Presbyterian Church  
Income / Expenses

Code	Category	2022	2021	2020	2019
4000	Income				
4001	Pledge Income	81,065.72	73,994.62	84,794.10	95,246.44
4002	Donations	12,820.28	100.00	2,253.00	65,640.56
4003	Loose Plate Donations	xxx	xxx	542.25	2,869.52
4004	Building Use	49,932.02	32,318.85	20,279.00	61,385.00
4006	Other Income	400.00	2,937.00	870.77	6,960.54
4007	Fundraising	4,189.50	xxx	1,388.42	6,065.15
4008	OGHS	205.00	315.00	611.00	1,096.29
4009	Per Capita	1,393.87	2,005.41	1,450.83	1,564.02
4010	Interest Income	516.47	398.23	778.96	2,135.73
4013	Holiday Income	2,055.00	1,015.00	712.00	xxx
4014	Winter/Spring Mission	xxx	675.00	xxx	xxx
4015	PPP Loan	xxx	21,370.00	xxx	xxx
- - -	Rachel	xxx	1,320.00	xxx	xxx
- - -	PNC Fundraising	xxx	16,161.10	xxx	xxx
- - -	Refugee Distribution Grant	xxx	675.00	xxx	5,000.00
- - -	Roof Fund	xxx	xxx	xxx	10.00
- - -	From Mission Exchange	xxx	xxx	xxx	12,574.84
- - -	From Money Market	xxx	xxx	xxx	42,000.00
- - -	Sunday School	xxx	xxx	xxx	158.00
4017	Amazon Smile	334.57			
4018	Christmas Tea	4,203.00			
4019	Pickleball	1,830.00			
<b>4000</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>158,945.43</b>	<b>152,610.21</b>	<b>113,680.33</b>	<b>302,706.09</b>
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>158,945.43</b>	<b>152,610.21</b>	<b>113,680.33</b>	<b>302,706.09</b>
	<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>158,945.43</b>	<b>152,610.21</b>	<b>113,680.33</b>	<b>302,706.09</b>
5000	Pastor Compensation/Expenses				
5001	Pastor Compensation	29,846.16	4,560.46	15,809.00	34,124.30
5002	SECA	5,115.12	655.93	2,215.28	xxx
5003	Pastor Paid 403B	9,183.84	939.80	2,000.00	10,399.96
5004	Pension/Medical/Dental	25,345.30	10,029.47	10,667.64	30,684.61
5005	Church Paid 403B	1,500.00	625.00	1,416.65	xxx
5006	Professional Expenses	751.61	1,048.76	572.97	1,262.98
5007	Study Leave	518.45	39.95	xxx	xxx
5008	Utility	xxx	xxx	200.00	2,620.01
5009	Auto	406.16	100.00	xxx	460.30
5010	PNC Expense	xxx	19,496.29	xxx	xxx

<b>Total Pastor</b>					
<b>5000</b>	<b>Compensation/Expenses</b>	<b>72,666.64</b>	<b>53,495.66</b>	<b>32,881.54</b>	<b>79,552.16</b>
<b>Code</b>	<b>Category</b>		<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
5100	Staff				
5101	Music Minister	15,000.00	17,315.00	9,945.00	11,651.52
5102	Secretary	25,146.00	25,207.48	14,290.01	13,034.49
5104	Guest Minster	450.00	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	11,532.00	6,100.00	1,825.00	11,290.00
5108	Social Security & Federal Taxes	3,071.04	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
	NYS Department of Taxation -	900.85			
5110	Unemployment		587.26	521.39	2,420.46
<b>5100</b>	<b>Total Staff</b>	<b>56,099.89</b>	<b>62,475.62</b>	<b>34,253.52</b>	<b>71,498.73</b>
5200	Property Maintenance		70.14	xxx	xxx
5200	Property Maintenance	33.00	264.91	465.00	xxx
5201	Manse	2,130.33	1,263.41	427.18	1,675.00
	Sanctuary, Christian Education &	3,449.33			
5202	Offices		10,127.57	9,332.63	20,588.61
<b>5200</b>	<b>Total Property - Manse</b>	<b>5,612.66</b>	<b>11,655.89</b>	<b>10,224.81</b>	<b>22,263.61</b>
5300	Utilities				
5301	Fuel Oil	12,509.46	7,241.27	6,070.22	10,962.35
5302	Cable/Internet	2,056.77	2,041.90	1,870.55	1,834.60
5303	Water	530.44	211.00	167.30	70.40
5304	Electric	5,873.30	3,882.48	3,900.78	4,516.33
5306	Insurance	22,539.77	15,913.70	10,032.89	12,207.50
5307	Refuse & Snow Removal	4,260.19	2,005.61	1,608.48	5,416.03
5308	Manse Gas	1,719.80	1,372.77	1,248.59	xxx
5309	Manse Water	197.80	110.00	34.05	xxx
5310	Manse Electric	4,187.00	454.00	1,134.42	xxx
<b>5300</b>	<b>Total Utilities</b>	<b>53,874.53</b>	<b>3,232.73</b>	<b>26,067.28</b>	<b>35,007.21</b>
5400	Mission	94.47	675.00	xxx	xxx
5401	Per Capita	xxx	1,158.28	3,766.95	4,527.95
5402	Unified Mission Support	xxx	xxx	4,530.00	458.00
5403	Salary Supplement	xxx	xxx	495.00	xxx
5406	OGHS	Xxx	921.00	xxx	1,092.29
5407	Christmas Tea	1,216.91			
<b>5400</b>	<b>Total Mission</b>	<b>1,311.38</b>	<b>2,754.28</b>	<b>8,791.95</b>	<b>6,078.24</b>

5000	Office				
5500	Office Expenses	3,191.55	1,929.41	2,364.67	1,770.00
5501	Supplies, Printing & Postage	375.71	805.67	867.09	345.00
5502	Printer Lease & Maintenance	1,082.40	1,082.40	989.62	2,037.36
5503	Rachel	xxx	1,320.00	xxx	xxx
5504	Office Bonus	150.00	150.00	xxx	xxx
<b>5500</b>	<b>Total Office Expenses</b>		<b>5,287.48</b>	<b>4,221.38</b>	<b>4,152.36</b>
5600	Program Expenses	112.08	202.85	xxx	xxx
5601	Bank Charges	456.66	358.48	369.78	332.27
5602	Worship/Music/Piano/Organ	1,683.03	1,274.65	671.13	639.22
5603	Flowers	46.20	42.05	42.05	1,297.40
	To Checking	xxx	xxx	xxx	54,574.84
<b>5600</b>	<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>2,297.97</b>	<b>1,878.03</b>	<b>1,082.96</b>	<b>56,843.73</b>
5700	<b>Pickleball</b>				
5700	Pickleball Rentals	611.50			
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>197,274.23</b>	<b>170,849.83</b>	<b>117,523.44</b>	<b>275,396.04</b>
	<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>(38,328.90)</b>	<b>(18,239.62)</b>	<b>(3,843.11)</b>	<b>27,310.05</b>
	<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(38,328.80)</b>	<b>(18,239.62)</b>	<b>(3,843.11)</b>	<b>27,310.05</b>

Respectfully submitted by:

*Jill Conroy, Treasurer*



## Budget and Stewardship Committee

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Many people think faith is some kind of imaginary hope or wishful thinking, but biblical faith is the complete opposite. As believers, we see evidence of how God has provided for us in the past, and that gives us hope for what He will do in the future, even when we do not see what's coming next.

This past year has been a great example of biblical faith. We had some difficult challenges: staff transitions, COVID, and crazy economic times to name a few. But God continues to bless our church. As displayed in the Treasurers' Report, more people engaged in Sunday worship and service, we continued to pay down debt, and we have begun to initiate new rental agreements and new revenue streams are being developed. Even in the midst of several trials, our church faith has remained strong and healthy, and we believe we are better *because* of these trials.

I pray God's faithfulness gives everyone faith to step out and try something new this next year. Where will you serve? Who will you disciple? Who will you tell about Jesus? Who will you invite to church? Let us celebrate what God has done at Faith Bible and let that give us courage to take a giant leap of faith this year.

In 2023, we need to look at opportunities that exist with generosity. We need to reimagine the future of our church with generosity at the core. We know that people want to make a difference. They just do not know how. Being generous obviously starts with money but it is about so much more. Learning to be generous is fundamental to discipleship. It's important because it unites people, congregations, and communities. I believe it provides an opportunity for church members to see the impact that they make which is joyful.

What I am saying is that it is important to be generous in all aspects of your life; giving to the church is essential to both life-changing ministry impact and our own spiritual growth. Giving generously is part of your discipleship and part of our church's mission.

It is extremely important to Sweet Hollow that we be generous with our time and talents since we do not have a large membership; however, it is also imperative that we have a consistent connection to the church with our personal financial generosity. With the monies given to the church and with God's intercession, we can do great things for the church. God is constantly doing great things through our church and with this we prayerfully ask that you consider increasing your financial contribution. We urge you to calculate the percentage of income your household is giving to the church and consider increasing it by one or more percent or sign up for recurring giving so that your financial support is present even if you are unable.

Be mindful of the fact that the survival of Sweet Hollow may depend on your generosity.

Jill Conroy

PCSH Budget 2023

	Item	Name	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
<b>Name:</b>			<b>Sum:</b>	<b>Sum:</b>	<b>Sum:</b>	<b>Sum:</b>
<b>Pastor</b>			<b>35298</b>	<b>54977</b>	<b>75235</b>	<b>78879</b>
	<b>Salary</b>	Pastor	17809	19500	39030	41006
	<b>Medical Account</b>	Pastor	0	0	0	0
	<b>403B Church Paid</b>	Pastor	1416	625	1500.00	1500.00
	<b>SECA</b>	Pastor	2215	2656	5115	5030
	<b>Pension/Medical/Dental</b>	Pastor	10668	10029	25341	25645
	<b>Tax Deferred Investment</b>	Pastor	0	0	0	0
	<b>Expenses</b>	Pastor	573	1049	707	789
	<b>Study Leave</b>	Pastor	0	40	865	3115
	<b>Manse Utility</b>	Pastor	2617	1482	3844	3844
	<b>Auto</b>	Pastor	0	100	333	500
	<b>PNC Expense</b>	Pastor	0	19496	0	0
<b>6100Staff</b>			<b>40553</b>	<b>62475</b>	<b>55829</b>	<b>57600</b>
	<b>Music Minister</b>	Staff	9945	17315	15000	15300
	<b>Secretary</b>	Staff	14290	25207	25146	26000

PCSH Budget 2023

	Item	Name	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
	<b>Treasurer</b>	Staff	0	0	0	0
	<b>Guest Minister</b>	Staff	4675	9425	450	1000
	<b>Nursery Assistant</b>	Staff	0	0	0	0
	<b>Guest Organist &amp; Soloists</b>	Staff	125	0	0	0
	<b>Custodial Service</b>	Staff	1825	6100	11532	11500
	<b>Social Security &amp; Federal Taxes</b>	Staff	8133	3253	3701	3800
	<b>SWT NYS Dept Tax</b>	Staff	0	0	0	0
	<b>Worker's Compensation</b>	Staff	1039	588	0	0
	<b>NYS Unemployment Insurance</b>	Staff	521	587	0	0
<b>Property Maintenance</b>			<b>9760</b>	<b>11726</b>	<b>6181</b>	<b>8500</b>
	<b>Manse</b>	Property Maintenance	427	1263	3049	5000
	<b>Sanctuary, Christian Education and Offices</b>	Property Maintenance	9333	10128	3132	3500
	<b>Capital Improvement</b>	Property Maintenance	0	335	0	0

**PCSH Budget 2023**

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>2020 Actual</b>	<b>2021 Actual</b>	<b>2022 Actual</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>
<b>Utilities</b>			<b>23650</b>	<b>33233</b>	<b>50344</b>	<b>57908</b>
	<b>Fuel</b>	Utilities	6070	7241	13323	14500
	<b>Cable / Internet</b>	Utilities	1871	2042	2053	2075
	<b>Water</b>	Utilities	167	211	387	400
	<b>Electric</b>	Utilities	3901	3882	4746	5000
	<b>Manse Utilities &amp; MTA Tax</b>	Utilities	0	1937	4896	5000
	<b>Insurance</b>	Utilities	10033	15914	22041	28433
	<b>Refuse &amp; Snow Removal</b>	Utilities	1608	2006	2400	2500
<b>Mission</b>			<b>8792</b>	<b>2754</b>	<b>1314</b>	<b>3800</b>
	<b>Local Mission</b>	Mission	0	675	0	0
	<b>Presbyterian Disaster Assistance</b>	Mission	0	0	0	0
	<b>Presbytery Emergency Fund</b>	Mission	0	0	0	0
	<b>Per Capita</b>	Mission	3767	1158	1314	3800
	<b>United Mission &amp; Salary Supplement</b>	Mission	5025	0	0	0

PCSH Budget 2023

	Item	Name	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
	<b>Mission Team</b>	Mission	0	0	0	0
	<b>Stewardship, Events</b>	Mission	0	0	0	0
	<b>Christian Education</b>	Mission	0	0	0	0
	<b>OGHS</b>	Mission	0	921	0	0
<b>Office Expenses</b>			<b>1857</b>	<b>5287</b>	<b>3932</b>	<b>3982</b>
	<b>Supplies, Printing &amp; Postage</b>	Office Expenses	867	806	248	300
	<b>Office Expenses</b>	Office Expenses	0	1929	2452	2450
	<b>Rachel</b>	Office Expenses	0	1320	0	0
	<b>Office Bonus</b>	Office Expenses	100	150	150	150
	<b>Printer Lease &amp; Maintenance</b>	Office Expenses	990	1082	1082	1082
<b>Expenses</b>			<b>1083</b>	<b>1878</b>	<b>1504</b>	<b>1850</b>
	<b>Bank Charges &amp; Fees</b>	Expenses	370	358	328	350
	<b>Program Expenses</b>	Expenses	0	203	112	150

PCSH Budget 2023

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>2020 Actual</b>	<b>2021 Actual</b>	<b>2022 Actual</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>
	<b>Worship/Music/Piano/Organ</b>	Expenses	671	1275	936	1200
	<b>Reimbursement - Flowers</b>	Expenses	42	42	128	150
	<b>Reimbursement - Christian Education</b>	Expenses	0		0	0
	<b>Reimbursed Expenses</b>	Expenses	0	0	0	0
	<b>Reimbursed Party Cleanup</b>	Expenses	0	0	0	0
	<b>Security Deposit Refund</b>	Expenses	0	0	0	0
	<b>Flower Fund</b>	Expenses	0	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>		<b>120993</b>	<b>172330</b>	<b>186405</b>	<b>205329</b>

## **Faith Formation/Christian Education**

### *Teaching the Bible in Word and deed*

2022

As compliance with CoVid-19 precautions continued January- August of 2022 we were unable to hold in-person Faith Formation classes for the children of our congregation during that period.

From January thru June 2022, we continued to provide at-home resources sent via email to families who had been participating in Sunday School prior to the onset of CoVid-19 restrictions in March 2020. The resources included weekly Lectionary based materials from *Illustrated Ministry, LLC*.

We are grateful to Reverend Pond for presenting a faith-based Children's Message during worship each Sunday.

Prayer Circle met via Zoom, each Wednesday morning at 10am throughout the year, to pray on behalf of those individuals and situations for whom our prayers have been requested. We are grateful for the leadership of Reverend Pond for enriching our gathering with his Lectionary based comments and prayer, and to *Presbyterian Outlook* for providing the *Looking into the Lectionary* weekly commentary.

Respectively submitted,

Carol C Keil

## **Fellowship and Outreach & Mission Committee**

Following please find Sweet Hollow's 2022 Fellowship and Outreach events:

**Sweet Hollow Annual Plant Sale**-Saturday 5/14/22. The Keil family once again generously provided a variety of beautiful plants and flowers, as well as vegetables and herbs. Many of our Sweet Hollow family came and enjoyed time together as they shopped to grow their gardens.

**Trunk or Treat**-Friday 10/14/22. During this exciting new event, it was wonderful to see so many new faces and to connect with the community. Groups of children and adults delighted in seeing cars creatively decorated as they received a bounty of treats. The Melville Fire Department was part of the fun.

**Pastor Joan's 20<sup>th</sup> Ordiversary**-Sunday 11/20/22. Pastor Joan Finck chose Sweet Hollow with which to commemorate her 20<sup>th</sup> year of ordained ministry. Pastor Joan led us in worship, followed by a special Fellowship Time, with delicious food, cake, conversation, and presentation of a beautiful orchid.

**Sweet Hollow's First Annual Christmas Tea**-Saturday 12/17/22-This wonderful event saw many members of our church family and the greater community come together in our festively decorated Fellowship Hall as everyone enjoyed delicious food, fellowship, and entertainment.

### **Mission Committee 2022 Events**

The Mission Team's Yearly/Monthly Giving Focus was updated in the Sanctuary. Reminders were announced each week by different members during the worship service. Weekly reminders were created for the Announcements and monthly Bell Ringer articles were created and submitted.

In partnership with Pastor Wade, the Mission Team was blessed to reactivate membership of our committee, as we resumed holding periodic meetings on Zoom to discuss our Yearly and Monthly Giving Focus and to set our calendar. Our monthly Mission Goals were achieved thanks to the generosity of our congregation, as well as the Town of Huntington Senior Groups: 1/1 through 2/13-**Souper Bowl of Caring** to benefit **Helping Hand Rescue Mission (H.H.R.M.)**; 2/14 through 2/28-**Personal Care Items & Non-Perishables** to benefit **H.H.R.M.**; March-**Healthy Snacks** to benefit **Tri-CYA**; April & May-**Personal Care Items Drive** to benefit **H.H.R.M.**; June-**"Cause for Paws"**-a new mission project to benefit **Little Shelter Pet Rescue**; July & August-**School Supplies & Healthy Snacks** to benefit **the children of Tri-CYA**; September, October & through November 11-**Fall Clothing Drive** to benefit **United Veterans Beacon House**; October-For **National First Responders Day**-a new mission project-A **Thank You Letter Writing Campaign**; also in November-**Thanksgiving Food Boxes** to benefit **H.H.R.M.**; December-**Mittens & More Tree** to benefit **Tri-CYA** and **Toys of Hope's Toy Drive**, up through 1/1/23. Our **Boxes of Giving** in each vestibule have yielded a bounty of food donations, to benefit the **Huntington Community Food Council**.



Sincere gratitude to everyone who coordinated, assisted and/or donated to/in any of the Fellowship and Outreach and Mission Committee events and ministries throughout this past year.

Respectfully Submitted:

Fellowship and Outreach & Mission Committee: Maureen Sansone and Jane Beller, Co-Chairs  
Committee Members: Lynn Burke, Melissa D'Angelo, Carol Keil, Frank Sansone, Sukey Walter  
and Pastor Wade Pond.

## 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 2022

- RF Style battery operated smoke detectors and CO detectors were installed last January to provide coverage in case of a fire or smoke condition. They are designed to speak to one another so that if one goes off, they all go off.
- The CEB lower hallway light fixtures were upgraded with energy efficient ballasts, LED style lamps and new lenses.
- The Thermostats in the CEB hall Upper & Lower as well as the Sanctuary have been replaced with WIFI connected versions so that the heat can be monitored and controlled remotely.
- The Manse received a clean-out of the front and rear gardens clearing out the old and overgrown shrubs as well as having the tree overhanging the house pruned. Thank you to Eddie and his team which are a Friend of Centro's
- 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. Thanks Ed and Frank for your help with that task
- The front beds were 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).
- Late fall plantings were provided by The Reiser Family in Memory of Kathy.
- Centro's Omar and others provided fresh paint of the CEB hall entrance area
- The CEB Hall's floors were stripped and waxed as a donation from Don Renalds as gift to the Church in Memory of his Dad Donald Renalds Sr. who passed this fall.

Going into 2023 I have requested to step-down from the roll as Chairman for the Property & Grounds Committee. It has been an honor to serve you in the roll and I have the utmost gratitude for the trust and faith you had in my capabilities.

As the days pass the Church and Manse need continued care and attention. I assure you the upkeep cannot be managed by one or two people.

Additional support will be needed in the coming year.

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

Warmest Regards,

William C. Von Brook

## **Personnel Committee**

The Personnel Committee works closely with the Pastor, who is “Head of Staff” for all salaried Sweet Hollow staff.

In 2022 there were no changes in Staff.

The Music Director for weekly service is Jason Black who as of December has been leading us in Worship Service musically for a year. Thank you, Jason, for sharing your exceptional melodic skills during this past year’s Worship Services.

The Church Administrator functions as a secretary to the Pastor, is the church’s main contact for in person, phone, mail, and email communications, supervises the use of the facility, and oversees our finances. We are blessed to have Lori Kevelos, who has been with us for 3 years. Lori, thank you for your conscientious commitment to the many responsibilities that your position requires for the operation of this Church.

Submitted by 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 2022. Sweet Hollow family and friends also joined worship service via Facebook and Zoom. Pastor Wade led worship with thought provoking bible-based messages- embracing creativity as well as his love and expertise in his serving small church congregations. He expanded the number of liturgists providing a greater variety of voices assisting in the pulpit each week. Children's sermons were provided weekly and always involved an interactive activity for children to learn and experience God's message. Communion continued the first Sunday monthly and all believers were welcome at the Communion Table.

Jason Black, our gifted and talented Music Director, provides weekly music for hymns in addition to musical selections that enhance thoughtful reflection on the sermon's message. Jason is always ready to provide impromptu musical selections in response to a topic raised during the service. This may be anything from happy birthday to a popular song or a tune from a television program. His creativity and music ministry are a true blessing to Sweet Hollow. Jason's one year anniversary at Sweet Hollow was on December 5, 2022.

Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> was declared "Holy Humor Sunday." Worshipers wore silly hats, participated in a kazoo rendition of *Gloria Patri* and the *Doxology*, and were invited to an open mike to tell a joke. It was an exuberant service celebrating God's love for joy and laughter in our lives. The joyful day was also marked with the return of coffee hour following worship.

The spring brought the revision of the Sweet Hollow logo. Member Rebecca VanHouten designed the new logo which is featured on the weekly bulletin and other church material. The new logo depicts a cross radiating a rainbow of rays emanating from its center. The design embraces the inclusive culture of the Sweet Hollow Church.

On June 27<sup>th</sup> prayers of thanksgiving were offered in recognition of Pastor Wade's one year anniversary at Sweet Hollow. We are certainly blessed by his leadership at Sweet Hollow and in the community.

July 24<sup>th</sup> was a reflection on the footsteps of God. It was an examination of where we see God in our life and how we pray. July 31<sup>st</sup> was the Christmas in July celebration. It included decorations, fresh holly in the church and plenty of Christmas Carols sung on that warm summer day. All Saints Day observed on October 30<sup>th</sup> recognized and celebrated the lives of Kathy Reiser, Paul Manning, and Eleanor Waters.

The final quarter of the year included a special worship service honoring Reverend Joan Fink's ordination anniversary. Pastor Joan is a long-time friend of the Sweet Hollow Church and has filled the pulpit during our pastoral search in 2020 and part of 2021. She also fills the pulpit when our Pastor Wade takes a well-deserved vacation with his family.

2022 worship year ended with the restoration of the Christmas Eve Family Service at 7:30 PM with a family-oriented message geared to the children. The early service was followed by an opportunity to gather and enjoy some hot cocoa and Christmas cookies before going home. The 9:00 PM service was the traditional Lessons and Carols ending with Silent Night sung by candlelight. The customary worship on Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> was suspended, and Pastor Wade provided a joyous message of Christmas which was made available to Sweet Hollow family and friends on YouTube and Facebook.

Respectfully submitted,

*Joan Sommermeyer*

Worship Chair  
January 5, 2023