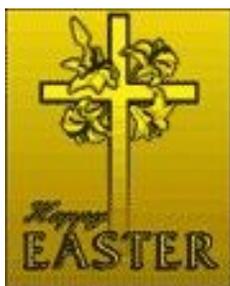


The Bell Ringer

Of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

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

APRIL 2019



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Pastoral Column

by Pastor Meg Flannagan

An inner-city homeless clinic in Washington, D.C has a powerful sculpture sitting outside its front doors. Jimilu Mason's *The Servant Christ* (images online) confronts visitors coming and going. The life-size bronze figure is of a man wearing a sweatshirt, sleeves rolled up. His face is turned upward, looking at whoever stands before him. His hands are open over a shallow basin, inviting something into that space. Viewers cannot stand idly by; the man beseechs them to come and share and touch. Inspired by Jesus washing his disciples' feet, the sculpture's placement by a public clinic begs people to ask questions: who is this man? and what does he want from me? who are these people going inside the clinic? how will I come and share and touch and love and serve these neighbors? how might I let these neighbors come and share and love and serve me?

On Maundy Thursday (April 18) we tell this same story of Jesus loving his disciples, serving them bread, and washing their feet. Jesus knew that his disciples would abandon him, ignore him, and shout "Crucify him!" yet he persisted in serving them. He came to them, deserving or not, that they may know a different kind of community. He fed them and served them despite all of their wrongdoings. Jesus loved them thoroughly despite it all.

The journey to the cross is one we take each year in Lent. We plod through these days knowing the bitter death which awaits us. We try to run past the darkness, hoping to jump straight into the light of Easter morning. But that is an impossible leap. The reason for Jesus' coming and serving was filled with as much despair as love and light. Jesus came to earth because of creation's sinfulness. Jesus went to death because that was the only way to give us life. Love was at the heart of his desperate actions. Service was at the front of his mind.

In these coming Holy days (April 14-21), take time to honor Christ's suffering and service. He loved us thoroughly. Then, make space to model this for friends and neighbors.

Join us for worship during Holy Week. Come and be served by Jesus Christ. See you in church!

Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

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www.sweethollowpresby.org

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Barbara Zimmerman, Secretary

Tracy Dein, Treasurer

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Lynn Burke

Ed Conroy

Tim Mason

Jim Sommermeyer

Bill Von Brook

Deacons:

Jean Cavanaugh

Barbara Martin

Niaja Mowatt

Maureen Sansone

Dan Schiffmacher

Jason Wagner

Marc Young

Other Groups & Activities:

Book Discussion

Sukey Walter

Christian Education

Carol Keil

Fellowship & Outreach & Mission

Laura Fallon & Maureen Sansone

House & Property

Bill Von Brook

Personnel

Frank Sansone

Prayer Circle

Carol Keil

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Sukey Walter

Budget & Stewardship

Jim Sommermeyer

Women For Women

Maureen Sansone & Sukey Walter

Worship

Joan Sommermeyer

Youth Group

Pastor Meg Flannagan

Church Historian

Bill Walter

Bell Ringer Editor

Bill Chamberlain

Prayer Corner

by Carol Keil

“I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord.”

Psalm 104:33-34

As we continue our Lenten journey, let us be mindful of God’s presence even in the most challenging moments of our days and praise His name!

We lift continuing prayers of healing and support for:

Ross Martin

Bob and Fran Templeton

We lift up prayers of thanksgiving for the baptism of Carter Burke, son of Bryan and Chrissy Burke.

We lift up prayers for energy, guidance and in thanksgiving:

As we gather for indoors and outdoors cleanup days in the weeks ahead.

As we gather for Holy Week services and rejoice on Easter morn.

As we gather with fellow Presbyterians in Project Regeneration discussions.

As we seek new rental income as Gathering of Light and St. Francis congregations have found new homes.

OUR ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT will be held after worship on Palm Sunday, April 14, and we need your support. Youth are needed to hide eggs at 9:00 am, then supervise the hunt.



Baptism of Kivrin Engel
March 3

Stewardship - Budget

by Jim Sommermeyer

To all that have pledged and donated this year, thank you for your continued generosity! We wouldn't be the "Little Church with the Big Heart" without you and your time, talents and treasures supporting all the good work that we do!

Stewardship Campaign

When we honor the Lord with all that we have, we have faith that he will provide all that we truly need. As of March 20, we are at 41 pledges for a total of \$89,665. Praise the Lord!

Charitable Estate Planning

A key to creating a sustainable model for the future is to consider Sweet Hollow in your estate planning. Richard Burke has graciously offered his assistance if you are considering this option. We are extremely grateful for those who have done so already!

Current Financial Status

As of February, we have income of \$29,038.01 and expenses of \$30,442.19 for a yearly total of \$1,404.18. We have received \$1028.42 towards **Per Capita**. Per Capita is one way Presbyterians participate in the life of the Church universal as we commit ourselves to live in fellowship with people of all nations.

Non-Budgeted Facility Priorities — please contact me if you would like to help

- Stay tuned for specific information on the eight folding tables we need.
- Heat and A/C system (servicing the Parlor, Pastor's office, office, nursery). We are acquiring estimates and will apply for a grant, but need to allocate funds initially.

Facility News

Our Gathering of Light friends will be leaving us at the end of April. We are grateful for the fellowship that we have shared with them as they strived to find their own place. Our Pro Soccer Kids friends will be joining us again beginning in April! Come watch the children play. Please keep in mind when planning your family events that one of the benefits of membership is the ability to utilize PCSH space at a deep discount.

Discipleship/Membership

We are grateful to our new members and their families as they commit to joining with us on their Faith Journey! We are called to discipleship, to be bold and spread the good news about Jesus; engage your family and friends in discussion about the joy of membership at Sweet Hollow!

For the Stewardship – Budget Committee,
Jim Sommermeyer (Chair)

Christian Education

by Carol Keil

This month the children of our Sunday School are learning about the sacrament of Communion, instituted by Jesus as he met with his disciples in celebration of the Passover. In the breaking of bread and drinking of wine, Jesus instructed, "Do this in remembrance of me." Luke 22:19

All children and teens will participate in making PB & J sandwiches as we pack lunch bags for the homeless on Palm Sunday, April 14.

The **annual Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Sunday, April 14**, following morning worship.

Youth are needed to hide eggs at 9:00 am, then supervise the hunt.

Please bring your donations of small, individually wrapped candy, children's Easter-themed tattoos or stickers, etc., on April 7. (Candy should be nut-free, please no loose jelly beans.) Egg stuffing will take place following worship. Any questions, please contact Carol Keil at c1keil@mac.com or 631-219-4558.



Children's choir will meet each Sunday now through April 21. We will practice in the Parlor from 9:30 to 9:50 am. All children and ages are welcome to join us! We will sing at the Easter Sunday (10:00 am) worship service.



Sunday School kids learn about baptism.

Mission Team News

by Maureen Sansone

“Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.” Mother Teresa

These are the ways in which Sweet Hollow has shared or will share our gifts with others, transforming the lives of those in need:

Souper Bowl of Caring — Thanks to everyone’s generosity, the Souper Bowl of Caring was a huge success! **From February 3rd through February 28th, we collected a total of 533 items,** including non-perishables, baby formula, and diapers, as well as monetary donations!! Weekly totals:

Week 1-100 items

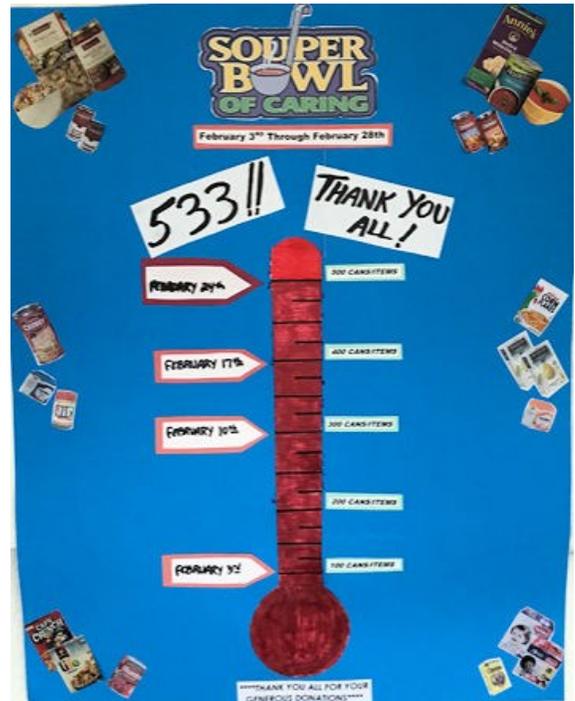
Week 2-196 items

Week 3-85 items

Week 4-152 items

All proceeds were donated to The Huntington Community

Food Council. Thank you to Eastern Athletic Club, whose members donated approximately 100 items! Additional thanks to the Senior groups — they donated quite a few items. Once again, our sincere gratitude goes out to Jane Beller, who has been counting and bringing the donations down to the Food Council.



Soles4Souls — Thanks to all who so generously contributed to our third annual Soles4Souls campaign. We packed and delivered a total of nine 33-gallon contractor bags of new and gently used shoes to the Northport/East Northport Rotary Club collection station at Westy’s in Elwood!

PB & J Sandwiches For Family Service League — On Sunday, April 14, our Sunday School continues with this vibrant mission activity, held on the second Sunday of each month. Please see separate article for more details.

“Box of Giving” — Please continue donating items for our “Box of Giving” located in the breezeway. All non-perishable items are appreciated, as well as diapers, baby formula and hygiene products. Special thanks to Jane Beller, for bringing these generous donations to the Huntington Community Food Council on a regular basis and for her unwavering dedication to this mission.

Thank you all for your generosity of spirit!

One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be received on Easter Sunday, April 21. This offering enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, food to the hungry, and development for the poor and oppressed. Fish coin banks and envelopes are available at the back of the Sanctuary. Please mark your checks "OGHS" in the memo line. Online donations are also welcome. Thank you for your generous support of this Presbyterian Mission initiative.

Women for Women (W4W)

by Maureen Sansone and Sukey Walter

Women for Women (W4W), which is open to all women over the age of 18, provides an opportunity to gather together in fun, meaningful Christian fellowship. Events are held primarily on the first Monday of each month, from October through June.

On Monday, March 4, W4W held its Games Night, which was an enjoyable evening for all.

Our next event is the Annual Scavenger Hunt, which will be held on Monday, April 1.

Following are our upcoming planned activities:

Friday, May 3 through Sunday, May 5— Smithtown Retreat-Holmes Camp. Please let Pastor Meg know if you're interested in attending this inspiring event.

Monday, June 3— Ladies' High Tea

All planned activities are subject to cancellation/rescheduling due to unforeseen circumstances, etc.

We look forward to seeing you!

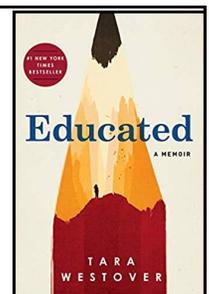
Book Discussion

By Sukey Walter

Our next book will be Educated by Tara Westover.

We will meet at 1:30 pm Thursday April 25, which is the Thursday after Easter.

This book has been on the NY Times best seller list off and on for more than 50 weeks



The Session will meet on Monday, April 15, at 7:30 pm. All church members are welcome to attend and observe the meeting.

Notes from Session

by Lynn Burke

- * The next congregational forum will be after worship on Sunday, April 28. We will review expenses and discuss content from our Project Regeneration lunches.
- * Session approved a one-year contract for Pastor Meg. While her practical work and weekly tasks will not change, the Presbytery required a title change from Designated Pastor to "Temporary Stated Supply." This one-year contract is used when a church is uncertain about its future. It allows us to delay a national search for a pastor, participate in the Project Regeneration, and reevaluate our resources.
- * We approved installation of new heating and air conditioning units by Dix Hills Air Conditioning for the church office, parlor, nursery, and youth room. This update has long been needed.
- * We ended our contract with Board of Elections. Although we regret the missed opportunity for neighbors to visit our property, the burden for hosting these civic visitors stretched beyond our bounds of hospitality.

Hearty Lunch for Family Service League of Huntington

by Frank Sansone

On the second Sunday since November our Youth and Sunday School have assembled 200 Sandwich lunches which have been delivered to the Family Service League administrative building on Park Avenue in Huntington. The League, with support from HiHi (Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative) and St. Hugh's of Lincoln Roman Catholic Church, maintains a day center. It's there that the lunches are distributed to those in need during the week.

Our Sunday School is required to make 40 lunch packages containing one peanut and butter and jelly sandwich made by the youth, and put into a sandwich bag, one Goldfish package, one fruit either orange or apple, and one water bottle, all put into a gallon clear bag which is put into a box for delivery. Each person has a job in this assembly line. The love and enthusiasm for this mission project endeavor makes its half-hour completion time both fun and quick.

Thank you, C.J., D.J., Zariah, Carlanni, Evan, Nate, Ryan, Timothy, Ellie, Thora, Willow and Brianna.

For the foreseeable future, this mission project will continue each month on the second Sunday. The cost of this mission project is \$35 a month with \$15 covered by a continuing donation and the other \$20 by our congregation. We have had donations of Goldfish from the Engel family and the need for those monthly donations will continue. Thank you, all Sunday School parents, for the children's attendance along with cleanup help. We do need one additional parent volunteer to help supervise. If you find it in your heart to donate or volunteer, please speak with or email Frank at sansfra87@gmail.com, Carol Keil or Pastor Meg.

Volunteer Help Needed

Sweet Hollow has a variety of upcoming activities wherein volunteers are needed. Please check your calendar and let the church office know if you can help.

- * **Saturday, March 30 -- Indoor clean up day** at 3 pm. Individuals and families are welcome. Bring cleaning rags, brooms, Windex, liquid cleanser, and other such supplies. We will be removing cobwebs, cleaning windows, emptying unused shelves, and generally tidying our buildings' interiors.
- * **Saturday, April 6 -- Outdoor clean up day** at 8 am. Individuals and families are welcome. Bring rakes, saws, shovels, gloves, and other such supplies. We will be hauling brush, planting the hill by the CEB Hall entrance, and generally tidying the grounds.
- * **Tuesday, April 9 -- The Presbytery of Long Island** is having its spring meeting at Sweet Hollow. We must provide 4-5 volunteers for the day (10:30 am-2:30 pm is the most critical need). Volunteers will be at the registration table, ushering in worship, and counting the offering.
- * **Sunday, April 14 --** Volunteers (**especially youth!**) are needed to **hide Easter eggs** at 9:00 am, then guide the hunters after worship.
- * **Thursday, April 18 --** Volunteers are needed to cook a pot of soup (or two) for our **Maundy Thursday supper**, set up, and clean up. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm. Soup may be prepared ahead of time and left at the church.
- * **Saturday, April 20 --** Volunteers are needed to help with **Meals on Wheels** delivery on Holy Saturday. This service project is shared with Bethany Presbyterian Church. Preparation begins at 9:30 am. Deliveries should be completed by lunchtime.
- * **Saturday, May 4 --** Volunteers are needed to prepare, set up, and host supper for a **visiting youth choir**. (**6 pm**) The choir will give a concert in our Sanctuary at 7:30 pm.

Thank you for sharing in the work of ministry at Sweet Hollow. This is the heart of the Gospel.

WANTED:

A new Clerk of Session. Our current clerk, Lynn Burke, will complete her service this year. Another volunteer is needed to train and transition **now** so that they can confidently begin work next February. A Clerk of Session must be an Elder (currently serving or past), available to attend all Session and Congregational Meetings. A great Clerk is organized and competent in basic computer programming: word processing, email, etc. According to the *Book of Order* (the Presbyterian constitution) the Clerk is the secretary for both the Session and congregation; the Clerk records transactions, maintains attendance and the rolls, preserves the records, and serves as the official contact for other councils of the church (Presbytery, other congregations' committees, etc.). Prayerfully consider if God is calling you to serve in this capacity. If you have any questions, please contact our current Clerk of Session, Lynn Burke.

April

| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i> | <i>Tue</i> | <i>Wed</i> | <i>Thu</i> | <i>Fri</i> | <i>Sat</i> |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| | 1 7 pm Women 4 Women Scavenger Hunt | 2 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal | 3 10 am Prayer Circle 6:30 pm Dinner at the Diner April Fallon's Birthday | 4 | 5 Mary Reiser's Birthday | 6 8 am Outdoor Clean Up Day |
| 7 10 am Worship | 8 Courtney Schmitt's Birthday | 9 12:30 pm Presbytery Meeting at PCSH 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal | 10 10 am Prayer Circle | 11 | 12 Tracy Keil's Birthday | 13 |
| 14 PALM SUNDAY 10 am Worship Easter Egg Hunt | 15 7:30 pm Church Officers' Meeting Easter Plant Orders Due | 16 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal | 17 10 am Prayer Circle Douglas Moder's Birthday | 18 MAUNDY THURSDAY 6 pm Supper & Worship | 19 GOOD FRIDAY 8 pm Worship at Bethany PC | 20 HOLY SATURDAY 9:30 am Meals on Wheels at Bethany PC Audrey Livingstone's Birthday |
| 21 EASTER 6:30 am Sunrise Service 10 am Worship with OGHS collection | 22 | 23 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal | 24 10 am Prayer Circle | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 10 am Worship Barbara & Joe Moder's Anniversary | 29 Gloria Sperry's Birthday | 30 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal Ryan Schifflmacher's Birthday | | | | |

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF SWEET HOLLOW**

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We're on the Web!

www.sweethollowpresby.org

**BELL RINGER DEADLINE
for May Issue
April 21**

EASTER PLANT ORDER FORMS are due in the church office by **Monday, April 15.**

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday, April 18 (6:30 pm)

This evening will mirror Jesus' last supper with his disciples. We will weave worship and dinner together, moving into the Sanctuary for a quiet end. This is a family-friendly service. Come prepared to share, tell, and serve.

Good Friday, April 19 (8:00 pm)

We are invited to Bethany PC, 425 Maplewood Road, Huntington Station. Our choir will be singing. Come and worship with our neighbors!

Easter Sunday, April 21 (6:30 am and 10:00 am)

Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! A brief Easter Sunrise service (6:30 am) will greet Jesus risen from the tomb. One traditional service (10:00 am) will conclude our Easter celebrations.

Congregational Forum

A Congregational Forum will be held after worship on Sunday, April 28, for the purpose of discussing our expenses-to-date and Project Regeneration. All church members are encouraged to attend.