

# The Bell Ringer

## Of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

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

**FEBRUARY 2020**



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### Pastoral Column

by Pastor Meg Flannagan

Several weeks ago we had a congregational forum during which we discussed our ongoing need for volunteers. We are reliant upon one another's time and energy to be the church. Sweet Hollow is a small congregation with a big footprint – nine acres of property, weekly Sunday School and nursery and worship responsibilities, monthly donation drives, quarterly programs and fundraising initiatives, and MORE! The sum of the whole is more than one or two or even ten people can manage alone. Everyone must be involved at some level beyond worship attendance in order for Sweet Hollow to survive. Whatever your time and ability, there is work for you to do: praying, calling church members, updating the website, hosting coffee hour, preparing Communion, or delivering monthly donations.

Former President Jimmy Carter said, "I have one life and one chance to make it count for something... my faith demands that I do whatever I can wherever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference." Through Sweet Hollow, we join our efforts to collectively make a difference. It is a privilege of faith – an act of joyful obedience – to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God together.

Here are some specific things with which we need help:

- Committee members for every committee
- Budget & Stewardship Committee Chair
- Cleaning out a church closet or shelf
- Updating the bulletin boards outside the CEB Hall
- Maintaining the church website and Facebook page
- Hosting coffee hour, ushering/greeting, Sunday School
- shepherding
- Painting the church office
- Delivering monthly donations
- Counting weekly offering, going to the bank mid-week

Whether an ongoing assignment or specific stand-alone tasks, we need your help in making a difference. Call the church office to volunteer your time and abilities.

See you in church!

## Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

(631) 367 - 9249

www.sweethollowpresby.org

Rev. Mary Margaret Flannagan, Pastor

Rachel Fogel, Choir Director

Lorine Kevelos, Church Administrator

Tracy Dein, Treasurer

### Elders:

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

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

“There is a winter in all our lives, a chill and darkness that makes us yearn for days that have gone or put our hope in days yet to be. Father, God, you created seasons for a purpose....We need a winter in our lives. A time to rest, a time to stand still, a time to reacquaint ourselves with the faith in which we live. Take time to grow and rise through the darkness to blossom and flourish. Bring color and vitality into this world, your garden. Thank you, Father, for the seasons of our lives.”<sup>1</sup>

Please join us as we continue to raise up healing prayers for these members of our church family:

Tracy Dein

John Nolan

Kathy and Rob Reiser

Pastor Emeritus John Wallace

Bill Walter

We pray for those elected as church officers, that they may serve with dedication and humility.

We pray that others may answer God’s call to serve in support of His work here at Sweet Hollow.

Amen

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.faithandworship.com/Prayers\\_Winter.htm](https://www.faithandworship.com/Prayers_Winter.htm)

## Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 2 (snow date February 9). This later date is to allow more time for the 2019 financial books to be settled. The annual report will be emailed to the congregation beforehand. Please read it and come to our February meeting to celebrate the past year’s work.

## Officers’ Training

Officers’ training will be held after worship on Sunday, February 9. This meeting will incorporate our monthly business. Officers’ installation will be held in worship on Sunday, February 23.

## 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!

During this year's Stewardship campaign, we asked our members to reflect on the many ways we can be generous. Your committee selected; "Together, we may with **one voice** glorify the Triune God." (Romans 15:6) as our theme. It is a time of big decisions for Sweet Hollow. To ensure a sustainable future for our church, we must pray together, work together and give all that we have, together. We must glorify the Lord with one voice in unity having faith that he will provide to us all that we truly need. When times are tough we all must dig deeper and be more generous of our time, talents and treasures.

As of January 20, 2020, we have received a total of 32 pledges for a total of \$81,285.00, compared with 38 pledges for a total of \$88,895.00 received last year. Praise the Lord! We received building use income of \$61,385.00 during 2019 compared with \$80,260.25 in 2018. Praise the Lord! Together we raised \$6,065.15 during 2019 compared with \$8,716.87 in 2018 via our fundraising events. Praise the Lord! During 2019 we received donations from over 50 families of over \$140,000.00 compared with 90,000.00 during 2018! Praise the Lord! A legacy gift of \$50,000.00 and a RMD donation over \$14,000.00 provided a cushion against the downturn in other income categories. Those monies were also quickly put to use towards overdue major maintenance projects including the fantastic new A/C - Heating units in our "Little House" which replaces an ancient boiler system. Please continue to consider required minimum distributions (RMD), endowments and other estate financial planning vehicles for Sweet Hollow. This is true Stewardship of our beautiful Sweet Hollow church buildings!

We cannot begin to rest now, we must continue 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. We are a small church with loyal members who have an opportunity to make a big difference if we do it together. Each one of us matters greatly here.

Your Stewardship – Budget Committee

Jim Sommermeyer (Chair)

## Nursery Help Is Needed

The nursery needs an additional volunteer each week to assist Nursery Supervisor Francine James in caring for our youngest members. We have young children every Sunday, ranging from infants to toddlers.

Please contact the Church Office or Lynn Burke at 516-458-1320 or at [lynburke@optonline.net](mailto:lynburke@optonline.net) to sign up.

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**Would you like your Bellringer to go in color electronically thus saving us time and postage? Please contact the church office.**

## Christian Education News

By Carol Keil

Thank you to all who have volunteered to serve as Lesson Leader or Room Shepherd this month. Our focus on Jesus' *Lost and Found Parables* told in the New Testament book of Luke continues this month with the story of *The Lost Coin*: Luke 15:8-10.

Thanks to all who have contributed funds or supplies in support of our monthly commitment to provide bag lunches contributed to the Family Service League program to support the homeless in our community.

February 2020 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of *Souper Bowl of Caring*! Sweet Hollow is proud that we have supported the *Souper Bowl of Caring* for so many of those 30 years. The best part of this nationwide initiative is that all the food and money collected each February remains right here to feed the hungry in Huntington Township. Please give generously!

Reminder: Join us on Sunday March 1, 2020 as our Sunday School children and leaders host our Annual Pancake Breakfast Coffee Hour!



## Souper Bowl of Caring

By Maureen Sansone

Are you looking for a way to help those who are hungry and hurting in our community, but aren't sure how?

More than 30 years ago, the *Souper Bowl of Caring* began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

***"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, please help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat."***

Since that day, more than \$153 million has been raised for local charities across the country through the *Souper Bowl of Caring*.

Each February for the last 14 years, Sweet Hollow Church has joined with other churches and youth groups in our community in the *Souper Bowl of Caring*, by collecting monetary donations, non-perishable foods, baby diapers and baby formula.

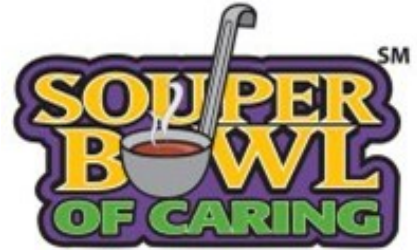
Be part of this movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. Please give generously ***from February 2 through February 29***. Receptacles will be placed in our church facility in three areas: at the back of the Sanctuary, in the Breezeway, and in the Fellowship Hall. Those giving monetary donations are asked to either place it in an envelope marked "Souper Bowl of Caring", and place it in the offering plate, or to hand it in directly to Maureen Sansone, Mission Committee Chairperson. All food donations and monetary proceeds will go to **The Huntington Community Food Council**.

We are proud to carry on the *Souper Bowl of Caring* tradition here at Sweet Hollow, and we thank you in advance for your generosity of spirit!

## Mission Team News

by Maureen Sansone

**Souper Bowl of Caring** - We are excited to once again participate in the “*Souper Bowl of Caring*”, a national movement started over 30 years ago to fight hunger and poverty in communities around the time of the Super Bowl championship football game. According to the Long Island Cares website, over 89,000 children face hunger on Long Island each day. Please bring in non-perishable food items, baby formula, and diapers starting on ***February 2<sup>nd</sup> and up through February 29<sup>th</sup>***.



Monetary donations are also appreciated. Those giving a monetary donation are asked to place it in an envelope marked Souper Bowl of Caring, and to place in in the offering plate, or to hand it directly to Maureen Sansone, Mission Committee chairperson. ***All proceeds will go to The Huntington Community Food Council.*** Receptacles will be placed in convenient locations around our facility.

**Relief Efforts For Australian Wildfires and Puerto Rico Earthquakes** - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (P.D.A.) is working with partners in Australia and in Puerto Rico to respond to immediate and long term needs. If you'd like to donate, please go to their website at [www.pda.pcusa.org](http://www.pda.pcusa.org).

**PB & J Sandwiches For Family Service League** - Sunday School will continue to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the Family Service League the second Sunday of each month. ***On Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>***, we'll prepare 40 lunches, with sandwiches, bottled water, fruit and a salty snack. If you'd like to make a monetary donation so that supplies may be purchased for this worthy mission, please see Frank Sansone or Lynn Burke.

**Sharing Bags For the Children at Tri CYA** are up in the Sanctuary. We're collecting healthy snacks. Please take a bag or two and return it (them) to church by ***Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>***, when they'll be blessed, and subsequently delivered. Tri CYA is a private, not-for-profit community based agency dedicated to supporting the growth and development of youth and their families.

**“Box of Giving”** - Please continue to consider donating items for our “Box of Giving” located in the breezeway. All non-perishable items are appreciated.

Thank you all for sharing God's love with those in need.

**Finch Fischer meets the congregation.**

Finch is the son of Rev. Meg Flanagan and Rev. Adam Fischer, and the brother of Huck Fischer.

## WOMEN FOR WOMEN

by Maureen Sansone & Sukey Walter

Women for Women (W4W) meets on the first Monday of various months from October through June (subject to change), and is open to all women at Sweet Hollow. This gathering time provides an excellent opportunity for strengthening the bonds of Christian fellowship.

W4W historically has found that attendance is very light in February, so we won't meet this month.

You won't want to miss our exciting upcoming W4W events:

**Monday, March 2-Movie Night/Dinner Night**

**Monday, April 6-Scavenger Hunt**

**Monday, May 4-Ladies Tea**

All planned activities are subject to cancellation/rescheduling due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances, etc.

We look forward to seeing you at one, a few or all of our events!





# February 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Annual Meeting Jean Cavanagh's Birthday	3 Jason Wagner's Birthday	4	5 10 am Prayer Circle	6 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	7 Adalyn Layer's Birthday	8 Maarc Young's Birthday
9 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:15 Officer's Training & Session Meeting Annual Meeting Snow Date	10	11	12 10 am Prayer Circle	13 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	14	15 Nikeshia Phipps' Birthday
16	17	18	19 10 am Prayer Circle	20 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	21 Audra Schmitt's Birthday	22 Scott Manning's Birthday
10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	Church Office Closed Rev. Adam Fischer's Birthday	Lynn Burke's & Bea Reiser's Birthday				
23 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Kira Sansone's Birthday	24	25	26 Ash Wednesday 10 am Prayer Circle	27 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	28	29 7:30 pm David LaMotte concert at Deer Park

**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)*

**BELL RINGER DEADLINE**

**For March 2020 Issue**

**Monday, February 17, 2020**

**Special Event!**

Singer, songwriter, author and peacemaker, **David LaMotte**, will present a workshop to the Presbytery on Saturday morning, **February 29**, about Christian discipleship and social change. “**What is *not* mine to do?**” : We know that we are called to work for justice. In a time of constant exposure to the bottomless injustice in the world, how do we determine which part of the work before us is ours to do? And, given that it is impossible to engage every worthy issue, how do we determine what is *not* ours to do?”

David will be in concert later that evening at 7:30pm at Deer Park Community Presbyterian Church. Our church will attend as a group fellowship event – with an ice cream stop on the way home.

Then, he will lead worship here on Sunday, March 1.

Please plan to attend one or more of these events. Visit [www.davidlamotte.com](http://www.davidlamotte.com) for more information about his Nobel Peace Prize work, children's books, and sound bytes.

**Coming up**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month Frank Sansone will continue to lead the children in sandwich making to bag along with water, a fruit snack and chips for Family Service League distribution to the homeless.

***Souper Bowl of Caring Food Drive:*** The month of February

***Soles for Souls Shoe Drive:*** The month of March

**Pancake Breakfast:** Sunday March 1, 2020