

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

**Annual Congregational Meeting
February 2, 2020**

Moderator: The Reverend Mary Margaret Flannagan

Agenda

Opening Prayer

Call to Order

Appointment of Secretary

Clerk of Session, Lynn Burke

Communication

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Motion to dissolve the Congregational Nominating Committee

Reading and approval of the minutes of the meeting

Closing Prayer

Adjourn

Pastoral Annual Report

We began last year with significant questions about Sweet Hollow's future: can we afford a full-time pastor? can we afford our property? what changes can we make to better sustain ourselves? We hosted the Presbyterian Foundation's Project Regeneration with the hopes of finding some answers. During these lunch conversations we, along with a dozen neighboring Presbyterian congregations, analyzed our resources and received some recommendations for our future. One thing was clear from this program: we are not alone in our struggles (almost ½ of congregations in our Presbytery are asking these same questions).

Two challenges signal our tenuous (and potentially unsustainable) existence. For years we have had difficulty nominating people to serve as church officers. We downsized our structure to fewer officers and committees, yet still couldn't find the necessary volunteers. Relatedly, there were several months when no one offered to prepare or serve Communion. Our regular volunteers are utterly exhausted, often voicing a sense of carrying the church alone. Although we have a larger membership who could be more involved, our regular volunteer pool remains small. The programs and task list for this small group is larger than they can manage. We must scale back church administration and programs to best care for our willing workers.

What does this mean? If you are one of our daily worker bees, hear our loud, "THANK YOU!" Thank you for caring for Sweet Hollow. Thank you for praying and tending and weeding and cleaning and fixing and teaching and decorating and hosting and cooking and singing and all the things that you do! But if you have not shared in the work of being Sweet Hollow, please help your friends. Consider the time and energy and abilities that you have. Call the church office to find the perfect task to fit your interests. Sweet Hollow needs you.

Pastorally, several church members had serious health issues last year. Their collective absence (and ceased activities) left us with both physical and spiritual gaps. The death of Ed Tate left an empty chair at the back of the Sanctuary. We continue to grieve the loss of his humor and twinkling eyes.

All is not lost. "Even though [we] walk through the darkest valley, [we] fear no evil; for [God] is with us; his rod and staff comfort us." (Psalm 23:4) Indeed, God prepared a table for us, feeding us, protecting us, and miraculously sustaining us through the year. We had increased pledging, regular (and increased) worship attendance, regular Sunday School attendance, a joyful Children's Choir, spontaneous (and successful) fundraisers, new church members, and more. God was good to us. Thanks be to God!

On a personal note, I am grateful for the maternity leave granted after the birth of our son, Finch. This provided much-needed time to focus on all three of my boys.

Now the question is, “where will we go from here?” What is God doing with us now? There will be changes in the year ahead. Beyond the in-office changes of a new administrator and a new pastoral contract, some people will come, some people will go, ideas will be presented, opportunities will await. And what shall we do? “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:15) All members are called to share the joyful task of ministry at Sweet Hollow. We need *you* in order to be us, part of the body of Christ.

See you in church!

Rev. Mary Margaret Flannagan

**CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS
for 2019**

Membership as of December 31, 2018	99
<u>LOSSES:</u>	
Removal by certificate of transfer	0
Deaths	1
Other Session Removals	<u>0</u>
	-1
 <u>ADDITIONS:</u>	
Joined - confirmation class	0
Certificate of Transfer	0
Affirmation of Faith	3
Other Session Additions	<u>0</u>
	+3
 Membership as of December 31, 2019	 100

BAPTISMS:

Children	3
Adults	<u>0</u>
Total	3

Entered the Church Triumphant:

Caroline Martin

Ed Tate

“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.”

- Revelation 14:13

Treasurer's Report

Sweet Hollow January-December 2019

1/14/2020

Income/Expense by Category - Last year
1/1/2019 through 12/31/2019

Page 1

Category	1/1/2019- 12/31/2019	OVERALL TOTAL
INCOME		
.01 Pledge	82,346.44	82,346.44
.01a Pledge	12,900.00	12,900.00
.02 Plate	2,869.52	2,869.52
.03 Sunday School	158.00	158.00
.07 OGHS	1,096.29	1,096.29
.08 Per Capita	1,564.02	1,564.02
.09 Donations	65,640.56	65,640.56
.10 Building Use	61,385.00	61,385.00
.11 Other	1,704.00	1,704.00
.12 Fundraising	6,065.15	6,065.15
Interest Inc	2,135.73	2,135.73
other income	5,256.54	5,256.54
Refugee Distribution Grant	5,000.00	5,000.00
Roof Fund 12745	10.00	10.00
FROM Mission Exchange	12,574.84	12,574.84
FROM Money Market	42,000.00	42,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	302,706.09	302,706.09
EXPENSES		
Uncategorized	0.64	0.64
0.1 PASTOR FLANAGAN \$48724	34,124.30	34,124.30
0.1A REV MEG 403B \$3400	10,399.96	10,399.96
01.1 PENSION MEDICAL 30216	30,484.61	30,484.61
1.1 MEDICAL REIMBURSE \$250.	200.00	200.00
1.2 MANSE UTILITY \$3300.	2,620.01	2,620.01
1.2A MANSE PROPERTY MAINT \$2000	1,675.00	1,675.00
1.3 AUTO EXPENSES \$2000.	460.30	460.30
1.9 Continue Ed \$3116.	704.95	704.95
1.C PASTOR EXPENSE REIMBURSE \$800	557.39	557.39
2.2 OFFICE STAFF \$13326.	13,034.49	13,034.49
2.3 TREASURER \$4000	2,974.00	2,974.00
2.4 MUSIC DIRECTOR \$18360.	11,651.52	11,651.52
2.5 CLEANING SVC \$10000	11,290.00	11,290.00
2.6 GUEST MINISTER \$1000.	300.00	300.00
2.6A GUEST ORGANIST& SOLISTS \$750.	725.00	725.00
2.7 NURSERY ASSIST \$500.	425.00	425.00
2.91 FEDERAL TAX DEPOSITS & SS \$26000	23,478.87	23,478.87
2.92 SWT NYS Dept Tax	3,869.39	3,869.39
3.1 CHURCH FUEL \$8000.	10,962.35	10,962.35
3.2 ELECTRIC \$4800.	4,516.33	4,516.33
3.3 WATER \$175.	70.40	70.40
3.4 CABLE (INTERNET) & PHONE \$1807.	1,834.60	1,834.60
4.1 MASTER PLAN INSURANCE \$11,852.	12,207.50	12,207.50
4.2 WORK COMP & DIS INS \$1875	1,330.00	1,330.00
5.1 PER CAPITA \$4527.95.	4,527.95	4,527.95
5.3 MISSION FUND \$0.	458.00	458.00
5.4 OGHS	1,092.29	1,092.29
6.0 MAINTENANCE CHURCH & CEB \$2000.	20,588.61	20,588.61
6.1 REFUSE&SNOW REMOVAL \$5200.	5,416.03	5,416.03
7.1 POSTAGE \$800.00	345.00	345.00

Sweet Hollow January-December 2019

Income/Expense by Category - Last year 1/1/2019 through 12/31/2019

Category	1/1/2019- 12/31/2019	OVERALL TOTAL
7.3 OFFICE & PRINTING \$2000.	2,037.36	2,037.36
8.1A REIMBURSED EXP	500.00	500.00
9.3 WORSHIP MUSIC PIANO ORGAN \$800.	639.22	639.22
9.6 FLOWER FUND \$300	517.95	517.95
9.6A REIMBURSED FLOWER EXP	779.45	779.45
Fees & Charges	332.27	332.27
NYS Unemployment	2,420.46	2,420.46
SECURITY DEPOSIT (HALL) REFUND	1,270.00	1,270.00
TO Checking	54,574.84	54,574.84
TOTAL EXPENSES	275,396.04	275,396.04
OVERALL TOTAL	27,310.05	27,310.05

Account Balances - As of 12/31/2019 As of 12/31/2019

Account	12/31/2019 Balance
Bank Accounts	
Checking	918.93
Mission Exchange	1,125.00
Money Market	108,113.19
Presbyterian USA	0.00
Savings	14.62
TOTAL Bank Accounts	110,171.74
OVERALL TOTAL	110,171.74

Just a brief recap of 2019...

- Pledge and plate collections were up \$9800 from last year
- Building use was down @ \$19000 (we had lost a few rentals)
- We were very blessed with \$65640 in very generous donations in 2019
- To date, \$17500 was spent on some much-needed repairs (ac/heat, electrical, floors, paint, chimney)
- Money Market acct was reduced by \$24000 for cash flow in 2019
- The balance of the MM is overstated by \$4500 which is for the refugee fund to be disbursed as requested
- Worth mention, we rec'd \$5200 in reimbursement from family leave act, towards Rev Meg's salary
- Fundraising was down @ \$2500 without pumpkin patch this year

2020 will be a challenging year, filled with important decisions to try to reduce Sweet Hollow's continued operating deficit in order to help secure a growing future for Sweet Hollow.

Budget and Stewardship Committee

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 \$6065.15 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 during last year of over \$140,000.00 compared with 90,000.00 during 2018! Praise the Lord! A legacy gift of \$50,000.00 and an 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)

PCSH Budget 2020

	Item	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	Budget 2020
Name:		Subtotal:	Subtotal:	Subtotal:
Pastor		94158	79551	94158
	Salary	48724	34124	48724
	Medical Account	0	200	0
	403B	0	10400	0
	SECA	5999	0	5999
	Pension/Medical/Dental	29219	30485	29219
	Tax Deferred Investment	1000	0	1000
	Expenses	800	557	800
	Study Leave	3116	705	3116
	Manse Utility	3300	2620	3300
	Auto	2000	460	2000
Staff		51290	71498	57190
	Music Minister	18000	11652	18000
	Secretary	13065	13034	21065
	Treasurer	4000	2974	0
	Guest Minister	1000	300	1000
	Nursery Assistant	0	425	1300
	Guest Organist & Soloists	750	725	750
	Custodial Service	10000	11290	10000
	Social Security & Federal Taxes	2600	23479	2600
	SWT NYS Dept Tax	0	3869	0
	Worker's Compensation	1875	1330	1875
	NYS Unemployment Insurance	0	2420	600
Property Maintenance		6500	22264	6500
	Manse	2000	1675	2000

	Sanctuary, Christian Education and Offices	2000	20589	2000
	Capital Improvement	2500		2500
Utilities		31382	35007	31382
	Fuel	8000	10962	8000
	Cable / Internet	1807	1835	1807
	Water	175	70	175
	Electric	4800	4516	4800
	Manse Refuse & MTA Tax	400	0	400
	Insurance	11000	12208	11000
	Refuse & Snow Removal	5200	5416	5200
Mission		7385	6078	7385
	Local Mission	0	0	0
	Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	0	0	0
	Presbytery Emergency Fund	0	0	0
	Per Capita	4685	4528	4685
	United Mission	1000	0	1000
	Mission Team	1000	458	1000
	Stewardship, Events	0	0	0
	Christian Education	700	0	700
	OGHS	0	1092	0
Office Expenses		2800	2382	4300

	Supplies, Printing & Postage	2800	2382	2800
	Printer Lease & Maintenance	0	0	1500
Expenses		800	4158	800
	Bank Charges & Fees	0	332	0
	Worship/Music/Piano/Organ	800	639	800
	Reimbursement - Flowers	0	779	0
	Reimbursement - Christian Education	0	0	0
	Reimbursed Expenses	0	500	0
	Reimbursed Party Cleanup	0	120	0
	Security Deposit Refund	0	1270	0
	Flower Fund	0	518	0
	Total	194315	220938	201715

PCSH January 2020 - Financial Summary

2018	End of Year Balance	\$ 82,661.69
2019	Budget	\$194,315.00
2019	38 pledges for \$88,895.00 (Pledge Donations \$92,000.00)	
2019	Total Income	\$250,000.00
	Donations	\$156,000.00
	Building Use	\$ 61,000.00
	Fund Raising	\$ 6,000.00
	Refugee Grant	\$ 5,000.00 (To be distributed to families)
	FMLA refund	\$ 5,000.00
2019	Total Expenses	\$207,842.00
2019	Excess	\$ 25,000.00
	Fuel	+ \$3,000.00
	Per Capita	+ \$3,000.00 (Member Shortfall)
	Major Maint	+\$18,000.00 (Session approved)
	NYS Unemp	+ \$2,000.00
2019	Current Balance	\$ 108,113.19 (Including Refugee Grant)
2020	32 pledges for \$81,000.00	
2020	Projected Income	\$171,000.00
	Donations	\$ 90,000.00
	Building Use	\$ 75,000.00 (\$14,000.00 new tenant)
	Fund Raising	\$ 6,000.00
2020	New - Nursery Asst	\$ 1,300.00
	New - Printer Lease	\$ 1,500.00
	New - NYS Unemp	\$. 600.00
2020	Projected Budget	\$201,715.00
2020	Projected Shortfall	\$ 33,000.00

Christian Education Committee

Teaching the Bible in word and in deed.

Nursery: Nursery care is offered each week for the youngest members of our church family. We are grateful to those who provided Nursery care in a volunteer capacity this past year, led by Sukey Walter and Mike Engel. Special thanks to Kristen Conroy who served as Nursery supervisor during her summer break from Oneonta. We are especially grateful to Francine James for providing consistent Nursery care this current school year.

Pre-Kindergarten – Grade 5: Weekly Sunday School lessons are provided in a “one room schoolhouse” type setting. We continue to use the Workshop Rotation Method to present each Bible story over a 4-5week period with activities that range from cooking, music, arts and crafts and physical games to bring the stories to life. On the 2nd Sunday each month Frank Sansone leads the children in making of sandwiches and packing of a bag lunch to be distributed to the homeless through *Family Service League*. We are grateful to Pastor Meg for initiating *Children’s Choir* to enrich to our Easter and Christmas celebrations.

Adult Bible Study: Each Wednesday morning Pastor Meg Flannagan leads the *Prayer Circle* gathering in the study of a Bible passage using the *Lectio Divina* method in which a passage is read aloud several times while those present seek to find a particular word or phrase that “speaks” to them. Pastor Meg led two *Dinner and Discussion* sessions this past year at the Sweet Hollow Diner. Meeting in this informal setting provides a relaxed atmosphere in which to tackle some “meaty” subjects.

Fundraising and Events: The Christian Ed Team sponsored events this year included the Pancake Breakfast (proceeds from the free-will offering were donated to Presbyterian Disaster Relief) the Easter Egg Hunt, Strawberry Shortcake Social, Welcome Home BBQ and the Birthday Party for Jesus. A May Plant Sale fundraiser was held at Otto Keil Florists.

We offer grateful thanks to all who have seen the need and stepped forward to serve in support of Sweet Hollow Sunday School this year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Keil

Fellowship and Outreach & Mission Committee

During 2019, Sweet Hollow enjoyed a variety of enriching Fellowship and Outreach events, including our fundraisers. We were blessed to participate in a number of Mission activities, which as “the Little Church with the Big Heart”, is a gift to be cherished and shared with others.

Fellowship and Outreach

The **Book Discussion Group** met throughout 2019, sharing lively discussion after reading a selection of thought-provoking books. Thank you to Sukey Walter for leading this group.

Sweet Hollow was blessed to host the **Abington Presbyterian Church (metro Philly) Youth Choirs** the weekend of May 3-5. Old First Presbyterian Church co-hosted a Saturday evening (May 4) concert, and on Sunday (May 5), their Chapel Choir and Festive Ringers took part in Sweet Hollow’s worship service. Following worship, everyone enjoyed a special brunch and fellowship time.

A Thank You Luncheon for Pastor Joan was held in early November, to show our maternity leave pastor our gratitude and appreciation for her guidance during the three months she guided our church family.

Women For Women (W4W), which is open to all women age 18 and older, and provides a wonderful opportunity for bonding through Christian fellowship, participated in an array of exciting small group activities, such as the Scavenger Hunt, the Ladies High Tea and our Christmas Decorating event.

Fundraising

Many thanks to Mickey Rogers-our “Ad Hoc” Fundraiser, as well as the members of the Fundraising Committee. Here are some of their ideas that were implemented:

A St. Patrick’s Day Offering Jar was placed at the back of the Sanctuary after Sunday worship and in the Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour during the month of March.

Sweet Hollow’s California Pizza Kitchen “Pizza with A Purpose” Fundraiser was held all day on Sunday, March 31. Much gratitude to all our church members and their friends and families who participated.

The “Newly Renovated” Sunday School Plant Sale & Social was held at Otto Keil Florist on Sunday, May 19. In addition to perusing the multitude of beautiful plants, flowers, herbs, etc., attendees were treated to baked goodies, finger foods, sangria and soda. Many thanks to Joan Sommermeyer for coordinating and leading this event, and to Carol & Otto Keil for opening their bountiful nursery to Sweet Hollow members, their friends and their families.

Additional thanks to all those members who prepared and donated refreshments, and to those who handled sales at this event.

Sweet Hollow held our second **Open Mic Concert Fundraiser** on Saturday, August 3. Very special thanks to Lynn and Rich Burke for spearheading, coordinating, organizing and entirely running this event. Thank you to all the talented performers, and to church members who graciously volunteered their time and talents, by donating gift baskets and baked goods, and any assistance.

A St. Jude Concert Fundraiser was held on August 13 in our Sanctuary. Alexandra Calabro, a former student of choir director Rachel Fogel, a guest musician who has graced Sweet Hollow with her musical talents during our holiday season, and now a music leader herself, invited her students, their families and Sweet Hollow members to a concert in our Sanctuary to benefit St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Our Fall Chili Cookoff and Line Dancing Event was held on Saturday, November 9. Attendees enjoyed a night filled with six chili entries, all delicious in their unique ways, as well as rousing music and energetic line dancing, with a bit of square dancing added to the fun-filled mix. Additionally, there was a wide array of gift baskets, a 50/50 raffle and a door prize. Special thanks to Mickey Rogers for all his efforts in this endeavor, to the Fundraising Committee, and to all those who contributed in a variety of areas.

A combined total of approximately \$6,000 was raised in 2019 from our fundraisers. Thank you again to all those who planned, coordinated, assisted, donated and participated in any or all of these events.

Mission

Souper Bowl of Caring- Beginning on Super Bowl Sunday and continuing up through the end of February, 533 cans of food were donated. All proceeds were delivered to the Huntington Community Food Council. Special thanks to all those who donated, and to Eastern Athletic Club in Huntington Station, which collected over 100 cans of food.

Soles for Souls- The Mission Committee, supported by the Christian Ed. Committee, held a shoe drive during the month of March, to benefit those who are in need in the community.

On June 9, members of Sweet Hollow co-hosted **Project H.O.P.E.'s Sunday Supper at St. Hugh of Lincoln R.C.Church in Huntington Station**, as well as providing a vast assortment of desserts, as we ministered to those whose bodies are nourished by the meal, and whose souls are warmed by the social bonds which are forged. Many thanks to all who assisted.

Sharing Bags for Tri-CYA were put up in September for healthy snacks and school supplies. Thanks to everyone who donated.

Our Annual Clothing Drive to benefit the United Veterans Beacon House was held in May to coincide with Memorial Day, and in November, for Veterans Day. They were blessed before being passed on to military families in need.

Adopt A Family- Sweet Hollow adopted 12 children, ranging in age from 14 months to 4½ years. Many thanks to all those who graciously participated in brightening the lives of these children, and thanks to Sukey Walter for leading this mission which benefits so many mothers and young children.

Family Service League Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwiches- Continuing this children's ministry which began in November of 2018, Sweet Hollow's Sunday School has been making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the Family Service League on the second Sunday of each month. Approximately 40 sandwiches are prepared, and then lunch bags are assembled with bottled water, fruit and a salty snack. Thank you to all those who have donated either monetarily or specific items, or have assisted in making sandwiches for this worthy cause and of course, thank you to all of Sweet Hollow's Sunday School children who have lovingly prepared the sandwiches.

Helping Hand Rescue Mission reached out to Sweet Hollow to assist them with their **Thanksgiving Food Drive**, which had previously been held at the now-closed Best Market in Huntington Station. Sincere gratitude to all those who donated.

Project H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Eat) & HiHi (Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative)- Sweet Hollow received many generous donations from our church members, for items for the **HiHi Storm Supply Box**, which provides vital supplies for the men who HiHi attend to during the cold weather months. Your kindness is most gratefully appreciated.

Our "**Box of Giving**", located in the breezeway, received a thankfully steady stream of donations over 2019, which were brought to the Huntington Community Food Council. Thanks to all who donated and to our deliverer, Jane Beller.

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 2019.

Multiple projects occurred in the year 2019

- Sanctuary floor was refinished by Centro Missionero

- A spring clean-up of the labyrinth gardens and other areas of the grounds
- Steam heat at the farmhouse has been replaced by combination A/C-Heat pumps, which provide the ability to heat and cool rooms separately.
- Hall floors, hall vestibule, & kitchen floors were stripped and waxed.
- The hall has been fully repainted with great thanks to the Ed & Jill Conroy for their donation of material and time (a lot of time)
- WIFI has been installed throughout the buildings
- The manse chimney was replaced due to ongoing deterioration.
- The garage is being cleaned and cleaned with the tireless efforts of Joe Moder
- The front beds were kept maintained with the help of Jean Cavanagh and Joe Moder. And the front flowers pots by Carol Keil and her family. (if others assisted and were not mentioned, I apologize)

The year ahead is bright and current plans in the works are refinishing of the hall vestibule, painting of the front office, replacing the tables and chairs in the hall, and upgrading some of the lighting to LEDs and installing occupancy sensors.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Von Brook, Chairperson

Congregational Nominating Committee

Nominee for Elder

3 Year Term

Frank Sansone

Nominee for Treasurer

Jill Conroy

Nominee for Clerk of Session

Monica Van Houten

Nominees for 2020 Congregational Nominating Committee

Nominee for the Pastoral Nominating Committee:

Joan Sommermeyer

Submitted by the 2020 Congregational Nominating Committee,

Lynn Burke (Session)

Barbara Martin (Diaconate)

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee meets and reviews Sweet Hollow's paid employees: Pastor, Secretary, Music Director, & Treasurer.

In March, the Session was informed by Presbytery that it would no longer recognize our Pastor's position at Sweet Hollow as "Designed Pastor". The Committee on Ministry recommended to the Session to change the title to "Full Time Temporary Supply Pastor" with a contract period of one year. The compensation remained the same. Our contract with Pastor Flannagan started June 1st and will end on May 30th, 2020. This contract is renewable for another one-year period. In April, Personnel Committee members Frank Sansone and Lynn Burke spoke at a meeting of the Presbytery Committee on Ministry to get their approval of the title change.

In the spring, the Personnel Committee was given the good news by the Pastor that she was pregnant. With Session's approval, Pastor Flannagan was given a 12-week maternity leave.

At the end of June, long-time Secretary Barbara Zimmerman moved on to a full-time position.

We sincerely thank Barbara for all her years of dedicated service to Sweet Hollow. The Session approved the Personnel Committee's selection of Maureen Sansone as Interim Secretary.

Maureen started in July and remained in that position until Dec 31st.

In September, our Church Treasurer Tracy Dein informed Session that she would not continue to be the Treasurer past her current term.

The Personnel Committee proposed to the Session a change in the Secretary's position for 2020. The working hours would be increased by 2 hours a day and would incorporate the bookkeeping responsibilities currently done by the Treasurer with the Secretary's office & property manager roles. Session approved this request. In early December, the Personnel Committee interviewed several candidates. Lori Kevelos was selected. She started in that position on January 2nd with Maureen remaining in the Church Office for the month of January, to assist Lori and the Pastor.

The new Church Treasurer will be elected by Session in early 2020. This position will be unpaid; reviews and meetings would be held with the Session or Pastor only.

Thank you, Rachel Fogel (Music Director), for your musical gifts on piano and organ, as well as your leadership and voice with the Choir.

Thank you to Maureen Sansone, for accepting the Secretary's role, especially with Pastor Flannagan's pending leave. Her leadership at that time was indispensable.

Thank you to Tracy Dein for her diligent work as Treasurer for the past three years. An example of Tracy's advocacy for Sweet Hollow was when Tracy applied to N.Y.S. and we were given N.Y.S. Workman's Compensation payments while Pastor Flannagan was on maternity leave.

Thank you to Pastor Flannagan as our Spiritual and Administrative leader. Pastor initiated a survey review of her work to the Church Officers. The Personnel Committee got back more than half that were sent. As expected, all the survey's graded questions scores were the top score of 5 with many positive written reviews.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Sansone (Chairperson-), Lynn Burke, and Jim Sommermeyer

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. Services this year followed the same pattern as recent years. Holy Week included a shared Good Friday service at the Bethany Church, and two services on Easter Sunday (sunrise and 10am.) In May Sweet Hollow hosted the youth Choir from Philadelphia. Two worship services were held on Christmas Eve: 5pm and 9pm. While it would be nice to have one large service on holidays, increased attendance necessitates multiple services.

It has been a blessing to see increasing numbers of children in worship. Pastor Meg provides interactive, relevant and age appropriate children's sermons before dismissal to Sunday school. In August, the Sweet Hollow family celebrated the birth of Pastor Meg and Pastor Adam's second child Finch. During Pastor Meg's maternity leave, we are happy to report that church attendance remained steady.

Rachel Fogel continues to bring creativity and excellence to the music ministry. Rachel and the Sweet Hollow Choir brightens the sanctuary each week with glorious music. Guest musicians

during special Holy days of worship further enhance the worship experience with great blessings of joy.

We would like to recognize and thank:

- Pastor Meg for her spiritual leadership
- Rachel Fogel our Music Director and the members of the Sweet Hollow Choir for their music each week and the many hours they spend rehearsing
- Guest musicians
- Carol and Gail Keil for decorating the pulpit and piano throughout the year, as well as the Women for Women who decorated for Christmas
- The many people in our congregation who have assisted as liturgist
- Our Elders and Deacons for their faithfully ushering
- Our Elders and Deacons who set up and serve communion
- Those who assist in Communion home visits
- Frank Sansone for his technical expertise in recording weekly worship services
- Rev. Joan Finck, our guest leader

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Sommermeyer