

The Bell Ringer



Of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

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

MARCH 2020



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Pastoral Column

by Pastor Meg Flannagan

The season of Lent is a time of penitence and preparation for Easter. Its whole purpose is to get us looking and living our best (spiritually) for the celebration outside Christ's empty tomb on Easter morning. To begin our journey, we gathered on Ash Wednesday (February 29) for a public act of confession and contrition. Acknowledging that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, we stood together in solidarity before God, acutely aware of our mortality. And, in the face of our transience, we promised to live by God alone, the One eternal being. The Lenten journey thus began in death's ashes and carries us to resurrected life.

In this profound spiritual turn, the season of Lent also calls us to a deep understanding and practice of humility. We are not who we wish we were; we are sinful and broken, not perfect or as God desires us to be. And not just we, ourselves – the world is yearning for healing and wholeness. Many Christians add a daily practice of service (random acts of kindness) as a way to live into Jesus' "greatest" commandments: love God and love others. A list of daily suggestions is provided in this newsletter (see pages 3 & 4). As you prepare your heart to sing, "Alleluia!" at Christ's empty tomb, acknowledge the reality of your sinfulness, how that is different from what God intends, and what you can do as you stand in the gap between those two things. Humble your heart, roll up your sleeves, and get your boots dirty as you serve all those whom God loves.

See you in church!

Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

(631) 367 - 9249

www.sweethollowpresby.org

Rev. Mary Margaret Flannagan, Pastor

Rachel Fogel, Choir Director

Lori Kevelos, Church Administrator

Jill Conroy, Treasurer

Monica Van Houten, Clerk of Session

Elders:

Ed Conroy

Jim Sommermeyer

Frank Sansone

Bill Von Brook

Deacons:

Jean Cavanaugh

Niaja Mowatt

Maureen Sansone

Other Groups & Activities:

Book Discussion

Christian Education

Fellowship, Outreach & Mission

House & Property

Nominating

Personnel

Prayer Circle

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Budget & Stewardship

Women For Women

Worship

Youth Group

Church Historian

Bell Ringer Editor

Bill Chamberlain

Sukey Walter

Carol Keil

Maureen Sansone

Bill Von Brook

Barbara Martin & Niaja Mowatt

Frank Sansone

Carol Keil

Sukey Walter

Maureen Sansone & Sukey Walter

Joan Sommermeyer

Pastor Meg Flannagan

Bill Walter

Prayer Corner

By Carol Keil

Dear Lord, may this Lenten season bring new hope and healing. As we join in the journey to the cross may we find the path that brings peace, humility and purpose to our lives amid the noise and distractions that would keep us from you. Amen

We lift prayers of comfort for the Wallace family and join them in celebrating the life and mourning the death of Pastor Emeritus John L Wallace.

We pray for continued healing for Jamie Wallace and comfort for his family as Jamie continues his journey of recovery from multiple organ transplant.

We join Carol and Dan Schiffmacher in healing prayers for Erik Howard, fiancé of their granddaughter Anna Schiffmacher, as Erik begins treatment for cancer.

We continue to lift our prayers of hope and thanksgiving for these in need of God's healing presence:

Tracy Dein

Kathy and Rob Reiser

William Walter



Ordination & Installation of Church Officers February 23, 2020



In Memorium
John Lounsbery Wallace
Pastor Emeritus
February 22, 1929 - February 11, 2020

Our family has been a part of the Sweet Hollow Church since the early 1960's. I, as well as my sisters Emily and Vicky, and my brother Warren attended "Sunday School" in the old "Christian Education Building," (The CEB). We enjoyed countless Sundays, and Holidays with the congregation. Christmas Pageants, Easter Service and family dinners. I fondly remember sitting in the pews, looking out the windows and watching the pine trees on the hill behind the church sway in the breeze.

Our mother Jeanette, taught Sunday school there, and our father Martin often played Santa at Christmas time.

What wonderful memories we have, growing up in the faith community of Sweet Hollow.

The Cherry trees near the entrance to the parking area were planted in memory of our mother. Her final wish was to remain a part of the faith community she so loved.

Our fondest memories though revolve around Pastor John Wallace. He had a profound influence on our upbringing. He was such a gentle soul and an absolute gentleman. Both he and his loving wife Judy helped to form the foundation upon which so many of us built our faith.

Thank you,

Martin Miller Jr.

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.

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

Practicing Discipleship through Lent

Instead of giving up chocolate or something mundane, many people add a practice of daily service or Christian discipleship through Lent. On February 29, David LaMotte invited us to join him in doing whatever we can to move the world to healing and goodness. His invitation is a wonderful one to follow through Lent. Consider these specific ways to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God during the next forty days. Switch specific tasks and days to match your lifestyle.

March 1: Invite someone to come to church with you. Stay for the pancake breakfast and make a donation to mission.

March 2: Pick up litter on your street, in a nearby park, or at Sweet Hollow.

March 3: Email or write a letter to an elected official about a cause important to you. Use this website to find their address.

March 4: Tell a family member, friend, or co-worker one reason you are thankful for them.

March 5: Carpool, ride your bike, or consolidate errands to minimize fuel usage.

March 6: Invite someone to church.

March 7: Leave a note or small surprise (cookie, candy, etc.) for your mail carrier.

March 8: Clean up a mess you made.

March 9: Write a positive review or recommendation for your favorite restaurant or store. Post online (Yelp, Google, etc.).

March 10: Prepare a meal from fresh ingredients. Avoid pre-packaged food for one day.

March 11: Smile and greet people who pass you.

March 12: Use reusable bags at the store. Make sure you have some in your car.

March 13: Offer to help a stranger today.

March 14: Set a timer for 5 minutes. Take a shorter shower to minimize water waste.

March 15: Substitute water for your preferred beverage at least once today.

March 16: Leave a generous tip for your restaurant server.

March 17: Don't complain about anything today.

March 18: Write or draw a positive note to leave anonymously in a public place for a stranger to find.

March 19: Donate a penny or a dollar to a charitable organization (or Sweet Hollow).

March 20: Let someone else go first.

March 21: Reorganize your shoe closet. Bring rarely worn and new shoes to Sweet Hollow for Soles 4 Souls.

March 22: Unplug non-essential appliances and devices when you go to sleep.

March 23: Truly listen while someone talks to you.

March 24: Don't buy or throw away any plastic today.

March 25: Invite someone to come to church with you.

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Christian Ed News

By Carol Keil

We are grateful to all who have served as Sunday School Leaders and Room Shepherds this past month and welcome any interested in joining our team of volunteers! Please see the sign-up board at the back of the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings or contact Lori in our church office at 631-367-9249 or Carol Keil at 631-421-1181.

Sunday School kicks off this month by hosting a Pan Cake Breakfast following morning worship on Sunday March 1. All are welcome to enjoy fellowship along with pancakes, bacon, sausage, orange juice, coffee and tea. A free-will offering will be collected for the benefit of a charity to be determined.



Our Sunday School lesson series on Jesus' Lost and Found parables continues this month as we learn the story to the Prodigal Son as told in Luke 15:11-32.

Our next Sandwich Making Sunday is March 8. This ongoing monthly service project led by Frank Sansone to benefit the Family Service League outreach to the homeless in our community. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are prepared and packed along with bottled water, fruit and chips. We welcome your donations of supplies or monetary donations. Please contact Frank at 516-637-6778 for further details.

Practicing Discipleship through Lent - continued from previous page

March 26: Borrow something instead of buying it.

March 27: Exercise or stretch today.

March 28: Create a spring decoration. Give it to a neighbor.

March 29: Care for someone who is sick – call them, share warm soup, or write a card.

March 30: Change a lightbulb to something more energy efficient.

March 31: Ask a church officer or committee leader if you can help with a project at church.

April 1: Tell someone a joke. Bring a smile to someone's face.

April 2: Make your favorite recipe for someone.

April 3: Adjust the thermostat. Wear layers instead of turning up the heat.

April 4: Help a neighbor with spring yardwork or chores.

April 5: Ask someone for forgiveness.

April 6: Tell someone about your faith – a story about Jesus, why you are Christian, or something you love about church.

April 7: Spend time with someone you love.

April 8: Pray at every stop light.

Mission Team News

by Maureen Sansone



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, continues **up through February 29th**. Please bring in non-perishable food items, baby formula, and diapers, as well as monetary donations. Monetary donations are to be placed in an envelope marked *Souper Bowl of Caring*, and then placed in the offering plate, or to be handed directly to Maureen Sansone. **All proceeds will go to The Huntington Community Food Council.** Receptacles can be found just inside the breezeway door, in the back of the sanctuary, and just inside the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you to all those who donated Sharing Bags For the Children at Tri CYA. Through your generosity of spirit, we collected a wonderful assortment of healthy snacks, which were delivered to the Tri CYA, a private, not-for-profit community based agency dedicated to supporting the growth and development of youth and their families. Special gratitude goes out to Jane Beller for bringing the Sharing Bags over to the Tri CYA facility.

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, March 8th**, we'll prepare approximately 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.

Soles 4 Souls, our annual shoe mission project, runs **from March 1 through March 29**. Founded in 2006, **Soles 4 Souls** turns unwanted shoes into opportunity, by keeping them from going to waste and putting them to good use-providing relief, creating jobs and empowering people to break the cycle of poverty. Please donate your unwanted shoes **(in good condition-no holes, tears, stains, etc.)** by placing them in one of the conveniently located receptacles throughout our facility. Please see separate article for more details.

“Box of Giving” -Please continue to consider donating items for our “Box of Giving” located in the breezeway. All non-perishable items are appreciated, as well as diapers, formula and health and beauty items.

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

SOLES 4 SOULS

SOLES 4 SOULS

by Carol Keil & Maureen Sansone

Sweet Hollow is pleased, and blessed, to once again participate in **Soles4Souls**. Please donate your new and gently used shoes *from March 1 through March 29th*, by placing them in any of the three conveniently located receptacles throughout our facility.

What is Soles4Souls? Founded in 2006, **Soles4Souls** disrupts the cycle of poverty by creating sustainable jobs and providing relief through distribution of shoes and clothing around the world.

Since 2006, supporters and partners of Nashville, Tennessee based **Soles4Souls** have kept over 35 million pairs of shoes from going to waste, have kept more than 51 million pounds of shoes and clothing out of landfills and have distributed these items in 127 countries and all 50 U.S. states. This has generated over \$250 million in economic impact.

Soles4Souls works directly with over 1,200 domestic and international non-profits to distribute free shoes and clothing to people in need and in times of disaster.

It's estimated that 736 million people live on less than \$1.90 per day, 385 million of whom are children. Many don't have access to a sustainable job or resources to provide for themselves and simply can't afford adequate shoes and clothing, and are left vulnerable to disease. Children often don't meet uniform requirements in order to attend school and are at risk of falling behind and being unable to receive an education.

In many developing countries, walking is the primary mode of transportation. Each day, millions face the dangers of cuts, fungus, contaminated soil and insect bites that can lead to serious illness, even death.

You can play a key part in turning this around, by participating in Soles4Souls during the month of March.

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 ages 18 or older. This gathering time provides an excellent opportunity for strengthening the bonds of Christian fellowship.

W4W didn't meet in February, given that historically, attendance is very light.

Please join us on **Monday, March 2**, for our next scheduled event-**Movie/Dinner Night**. Please let Sukey Walter (sukey1@me.com) or Maureen Sansone (msansone@optonline.net) know if you'd like to come.

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

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!

Public Safety Awareness

The Suffolk County Police Department holds community meetings for local faith leaders in cooperation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Security, the New York State Police, the Port Authority, and other law enforcement organizations. They are working to ensure that all citizens learn better public safety practices. Officials asked churches to share some of the fundamental public safety strategies with members. Here are a few tips that every person should know:

- You are more likely to have a medical crisis (heart attack or other) or be struck by lightning than you are to be involved in a mass casualty or active shooter event.
- Most incidents occur in business/commerce settings (NOT schools or churches). Most end within 5-15 minutes which is usually prior to arrival of law enforcement.
- Wherever you work, shop, play, or spend time – know where the exits are. Pay attention to side and back doors, or windows that could be opened.
- If you see something, say something. Trust your gut.
- Lights and locked doors/windows are the best deterrent for crime. Expensive security systems may not be a good use of your time and money.
- If you are caught in a violent situation, put **TIME** and **DISTANCE** between yourself and the attacker. Put obstacles between yourself and them that require time to work through. Move away from an attacker. Do not freeze or cower. **Never do nothing!**
- **Run, Hide, and Fight.** (in that order) Run away as far and as fast as you can. Hide if you can't run any further. Fight as a last resort. Never do nothing!

God does not want us to live in fear. Do not let the world's bad news limit your activities. Remember instead that we are children of God, born in Christ's light. The world needs us to shine brightly. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5) So as we live and hope for Christ's fullness to be made known, let us also pray for victims and violent offenders, that all may know God's peace.

March 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Pancake Breakfast	2 Justin Zucker's Birthday	3	4 10 am Prayer Circle Emily Moder's, Joan Sommermeyer's & Hillary Zucker's Birthday	5 Alison Paalz's Birthday	6 Fred DeSanti's Birthday	7
8 Daylight Savings Time Begins 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Frank Sansone's Birthday	9	10 Liz VonBrook's Birthday	11 10 am Prayer Circle	12 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	13	14
15 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	16	17 Douglas Moder's Birthday	18 10 am Prayer Circle	19 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	20	21 Alice Wansor's Birthday
22	23	24	25 10 am Prayer Circle	26 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	27	28
29 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Denise Moder's Birthday	30	31				

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF SWEET HOLLOW**

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Melville, NY 11747*

Phone: 631-367-9249



We're on the Web!

www.sweethollowpresby.org

BELL RINGER DEADLINE

**For April 2020 Issue
Sunday, March 22, 2020**

pancake Annual Pancake Breakfast



Sunday March 1 following worship.

The menu includes pancakes, bacon, sausage and orange juice prepared by the children, youth and Sunday School leaders. A free-will offering will be collected with proceeds donated to a cause to be chosen by the children.

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 for more information about his Nobel Peace Prize work, children’s books, and sound bytes.