

The Bell Ringer

Of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

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

NOVEMBER 2019



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Pastoral Column

by Rev. Joan Finck

Friends,

November is the month of leaves turning color; Veterans Day; taking out the warmer blankets and coats and in the church it is the month of World Communion Sunday, All Saints Day and Thanksgiving.

Two years ago I went to a church in Rockaway Park to help prepare Thanksgiving dinner for homeless and hungry people. Although my son had volunteered to carve turkeys for a bunch of years prior, this was my first time. If there was ever medicine for the complaints about the selfishness and bigotry in the world, this was it.

First of all I couldn't wrap my brain around how many young people were present – and most were volunteers from other years. I was sent to a table to join two college students who were opening cans of peaches and distributing them to dessert dishes. Other enthusiastic young people were setting the tables, peeling and cooking vegetables, unloading donated food from cars, lining up drinks and mashing potatoes. I mention the young people – but the hall and church were also filled with middle age people, seniors and some children. My ten-year-old granddaughter went with her father last year and helped with seeing that each place setting had utensils.

Volunteers were from all ethnicities, abilities and religions. In such a violent, nasty world, I am sure that looking over this humungous outreach brought warmth to God's heart. It sure did to mine.

So – as we snuggle into warm clothes and bedding, I would hope that we all have hearts of thankfulness and take the time to enjoy the foliage, remember to salute our veterans and saints, and share some of our blessings and bounty with those who are in need. Jesus reminds us in Matthew 25 that when we do good deeds to others, we are doing it to Him.

Blessings for November and for Thanksgiving.

Joan

Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

(631) 367 - 9249

www.sweethollowpresby.org

Rev. Mary Margaret Flannagan, Pastor

Rachel Fogel, Choir Director

Secretary

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

Nursery Help Still 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 to sign up.

Prayer Corner

By Carol Keil

As we celebrate All Saints Day on November 3, please join us in prayers of thanksgiving for the saints of this congregation throughout the years since the founding of this church in 1829!

We especially remember in prayer all those whose health does not allow them to join us in worship each week.

We continue to lift healing prayers:

For Tracy Dein

For Sukey and William Walter

We continue to pray for Pastor Meg and all the Fischer-Flannagan family.

We lift prayers of gratitude and thanksgiving:

For the presence of Pastor Joan Finck with us during Pastor Meg's maternity leave.

To Bill Chamberlain for his faithfulness in editing the Bell Ringer each month.

To Joan Sommermeyer for chairing our church bake sale.

To Mickey Rogers for chairing the Chili Cook-off / Line Dancing Fund Raiser.

For the "Yard and Garden Angels":

To Jean Cavanagh for faithfully tending our gardens.

For our lawn mowing team: Joe Moder, Frank Sansone and Bill Von Brook.

To Joe Moder for cleaning garage.

To all who help in any way big or small and come to worship with us faithfully we lift our prayers of thanksgiving!

Amen

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 - our path to sustainability

We'll begin our 2020 campaign by meeting to focus on Stewardship November 3 after coffee hour. We will try to finish by noon. Please let me know if you would like to join the committee. I continue to believe that an increase of 10% in active members, building use and donations are all that we need to turn the tide and have momentum in our favor.

Estate / Legacy Planning

Have you named the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow as a beneficiary in your will? A properly executed will enables you to sustain your support of Sweet Hollow. Your bequest may be a specific amount, a percentage of your estate or a residual amount (after expenses and other bequests have been fulfilled). If you need assistance, Rich Burke has graciously offered his help with planning. We are extremely grateful for those who have done so already!

Current Financial Status - End of September

We have income of \$183,166.28 and expenses of \$165,645.79 for a YTD total of \$17,520.49. Please keep in mind that this includes a legacy gift of \$50,000.00. Thank you for your continued generosity! Our donations are up from last year, while our Building Use is down \$20,000.00 and our Fundraising is down \$4,000.00.

Per Capita

We have received \$1,485.97 towards our 2019 responsibility of \$4527.95. Per Capita continues to be an area of that creates a large shortfall for Sweet Hollow on a yearly basis, even though it is approved as a budget expense and approved as a budget item.

Project Regeneration

We are continuing to work with consultants from the Presbyterian Foundation to help us discern a path forward for Sweet Hollow. Currently we are not on a path to continue the long term sustainability of Sweet Hollow. While we are grateful for the many good things that have happened for Sweet Hollow over the past couple of years, our membership has continued to decline. We may have to make a difficult decision in the near future. A congregational forum will be scheduled in to discuss options. The time to make a difficult decision is drawing nearer.

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)

Mission Team

By Maureen Sansone

Hurricane Dorian and the Texas Floods-Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (P.D.A.) continues to work with partners in the Bahamas and in Texas to respond to immediate needs as a result of these natural disasters. If you'd like to donate, please go to their website at www.pda.pcusa.org.

Our Clothing Drive to benefit the United Veterans Beacon House is underway. We're accepting donations of new and gently used clothing, shoes, accessories and linens through **Sunday, November 10**, when they'll be blessed in worship before being passed on to military families in need. You may drop off your donations to the Church Office Monday through Friday, 9 am to 12 pm, or for the next couple of Sunday mornings.

Sunday School is making Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwiches for Family Service League on **Sunday, November 10** with sandwiches, bottled water, fruit, and a salty snack. Donations of the following are needed on a regular basis: Arnold Brick Oven White Bread, bottled water, snack packs, crackers, and apples, oranges, and bananas. Monetary donations are also welcomed and appreciated. Funds are currently running low. Please see Frank Sansone if you're able to donate.

"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, baby formula and hygiene products. Special thanks to Jane Beller, for bringing these donations to the Huntington Community Food Council on a regular basis.

Thank you all for your generosity of spirit!

Christian Education

By Carol Keil

All Saints Day will be celebrated on Sunday November 3. The children of our Sunday School are invited to remain in worship to participate in the celebration and to partake in Communion with their families.

Sunday School lessons this month continue the study of the great Old Testament story of Jonah and the Great Fish.

We give thanks for the volunteers who have stepped forward to lead the Sunday School lessons each week! We are still in need of a Nursery assistant and a Room Shepherd to assist in the classroom each week. Please consider joining in this gift of service to our church and for our children! The Nursery and Sunday School sign up board is in the Sanctuary each Sunday or call Carol Keil 631-219-4558 or 631-421-1181.



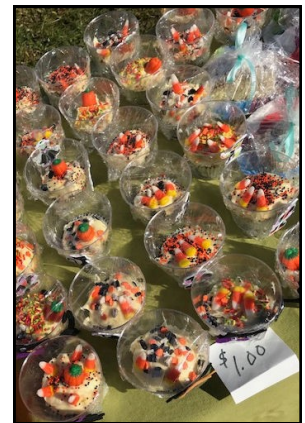
BAKE SALE

Our Bake Sale, held on Saturday, October 26, was a HUGE success!

Sincere gratitude to all those who donated baked goods, those who handled sales, and to those who assisted with packaging, signs and distributing flyers. Thanks also to everyone who supported our Bake Sale, either on the day of the sale or the day after, during Coffee Hour.

A very special thank you goes out to Joan Sommermeyer, for coordinating and leading this event.

With everyone's support and assistance, we raised a total of \$800.13!!



Chili Cook-Off and Line Dancing Party

Submitted by: Mickey Rogers

Bring your taste buds and your dancing shoes for a **Chili Cook-Off and Line Dancing Party** on **Saturday, November 9 from 5:30 pm – 9pm**. Our event will include favorite chili recipes from our members and professional line dancing instruction as entertainment. No line dancing experience is necessary! Entrance donation fee is: \$15 per adult or \$35 per family. Entrance will include chili tastings, a bottle of water and corn bread as well as line dancing!

All are welcome!!

Many hands make light work and several weeks of planning have already gone into this effort although your talent and volunteer assistance is still needed! In lieu of funds generated from our annual Pumpkin Patch, we hope to raise at least \$2500 in one evening. We are looking forward to seeing many members volunteering and participating in various capacities and interacting with our visitors on the evening of our event! Membership participation is vital to making our event a rousing success.

Much help is still needed in obtaining donations of bottled water, soda (regular and diet), dry snacks and baked goods. Volunteer help is needed on the night of the event to serve chili, sell snacks and baked goods. Additional volunteer assistance is requested to set-up and clean-up the CEB hall before and after the event on November 9th! If you'd like to sell raffle tickets for gift baskets and our 50/50 raffle, please let us know.

We will be decorating the CEB hall on Sunday, November 3, 2019 immediately following Worship Service.

Please see additional bulletin inserts on November 3, 2019 for other ways to contribute!

Please contact Mickey Rogers at: mickeyrogers74@gmail.com or Maureen Sansone at msansone@optonline.net to let us know how you would like to contribute to and volunteer for this event!

We look forward to seeing you all on November 9th!

Thank you for all you do to support our fundraising and community involvement initiatives at Sweet Hollow!

Women For Women

by Maureen Sansone & Sukey Walter

Women for Women (W4W), which usually meets on the first Monday of each month from October through June (subject to change), and is open to all women at Sweet Hollow, held our first meeting on Monday, October 7th, at the home of Carol Keil. We enjoyed a wide array of delicious dishes and desserts, and then crafted beautiful fall arrangements which we plan to use as decorations at the Chili Cook-Off/Line Dancing Fundraiser on November 9th. Special thanks to Carol, and to her daughter, Gail, for their generous hospitality.



Here's what W4W has planned for our program year:

Monday, November 25 - Christmas Decorating-Get in the Christmas spirit as we beautify the sanctuary, breezeway and Fellowship Hall with traditional decorations, all while enjoying Christmas treats and listening to favorite holiday tunes. *Please contact Maureen Sansone or Sukey Walter if you're interested in attending & assisting.*

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!

Gift Baskets Needed For Fall Fundraiser

By Maureen Sansone

The Fundraising Committee is still accepting donations of gift baskets for our Chili Cookoff/Line Dancing Fundraiser, to be held on Saturday, November 9th.

Do you have a favorite restaurant, store, health club, salon, hobby, etc.? Some theme suggestions are: Date Night, Wine and Dine, Family Fun, Children's toys/Crafts, Craft Beers, Men's Car Care Basket, Beauty Basket, etc.

Monetary donations are also welcomed.

If you're able to donate a gift basket, if you'd like to assist with the gift baskets, or if you'd like to make a monetary donation, please contact Maureen Sansone at msansone@optonline.net or 631-385-1855.

*****All those donating Gift Baskets are asked to bring them in to church by Sunday, November 3, after which time raffle ticket sales will take place, during Coffee Hour.*****

Thank you for your consideration.

Chili Cook Off/Line Dancing Fall Fundraiser**VOLUNTEER SIGN UP SHEET**

There are many ways to assist with this event. How do you feel called to help? Family & friends are welcome to help also.

Please check off all areas to volunteer for, complete the bottom and either place it in the Offering Plate, hand it to Mickey Rogers or Maureen Sansone, or contact either of them. Thanks for your help in our Church community!

- ☐ Signage (Helping to create or placement)
- ☐ Marketing and Advertising
- ☐ Help with Church Information Table
- ☐ Pre-sales of Admission Tickets or Gift Basket Tickets or 50/50 Raffle Tickets
During Coffee Hour
- ☐ Selling Gift Basket Tickets & 50/50 Raffle Tickets to Senior Groups on Thurs.,
11/7 or Fri. 11/8
- ☐ Baby Sitting, 7-8:30 pm night of event (1/2 hour shifts)
- ☐ Help w/concessions/refreshments sales
- ☐ Help w/Admissions table & ticket sales
- ☐ Donating Baked Goods or Treats
- ☐ Donating Bottled Water, Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite or Ginger Ale
- ☐ Donating a Gift Basket/Gift Cards/Monetary
- ☐ Decorating Fellowship Hall/Vestibule on Sunday, November 3
- ☐ Decorating Fellowship Hall/Vestibule/Breezeway day of event
- ☐ Setting up Inside/Outside areas day of event
- ☐ Cleaning up Inside/Outside areas after the event

Name: _____

Phone/E-Mail: _____

WITH YOUR HELP, WE CAN ALL MAKE THIS FUNDRAISER AS SUCCESSFUL AS POSSIBLE!!



and
LINE DANCE PARTY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2019
5:30pm - 9pm

Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow
95 Old Country Road
Melville, NY 11746
631-367-9249
sweethollowpresby.org

\$15 suggested (adult) donation , \$35 per family

Entrance will include: Chili tasting, corn bread and a bottle of water

50/50 and Gift Basket Raffles, baked goods and refreshments!

TO BENEFIT OUR CHURCH MINISTRY AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

November 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 All Saints Day	2 Daylight Saving Time ends tonight
3 All Saints Day Celebrated 10 am Worship 11:15 Stewardship Committee Meeting	4	5	6 10 am Prayer Circle Niaja Mowatt's Birthday	7 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal James Sommermeyer's Birthday	8	9 5:30 - 9:00 pm Chili Cook-off & Line Dancing Fundraiser Donald Krams' & Malachy O'Connor's Birthday
10 10 am Worship 10 am Sunday School	11 Veteran's Day	12	13 10 am Prayer Circle	14 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	15	16 Huck Fischer's & Christine Remo's Birthday
17 10 am Worship 10 am Sunday School	18 7:30 Session Joanna Hoban's Birthday	19	20 10 am Prayer Circle	21 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 10 am Worship 10 am Sunday School	25 7:00 pm Women4Women	26 Rob Schmitt Jr.'s Birthday	27 10 am Prayer Circle	28 THANKSGIVING Office Closed Carol Keil's Birthday	29 Office Closed	30

**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

**BELL RINGER DEADLINE
For December Issue
Friday, November 22, 2019**

Calling all angels!

All children (all ages) are invited to sing in a seasonal children's choir. We will begin weekly rehearsals on Sunday, December 1, at 9:30am. We will sing in worship on Sunday, December 22, and Christmas Eve (Tuesday, December 24, at 5pm) as attendance permits.

Prefer to play an instrument instead of sing? Talk to Pastor Meg!



Bottled Water & Soda Needed For Chili Cook-Off/Line Dance

by Maureen Sansone

The Fundraising Committee is seeking donations of bottled water and Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite and Ginger Ale for the Chili Cook-Off/Line Dancing Fundraiser to be held on November 9, 2019.

You may drop off your donations to the Church Office Monday through Friday, 9 am to 12 pm.

Thank you.

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