

The Bell Ringer

Of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

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

OCTOBER 2019



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Pastoral Column

by Rev. Joan Finck

Friends –

In the first chapter of Genesis God creates all the creatures of the earth. He then creates humankind in his own image and gives people dominion over the earth and all its creatures. How are we taking responsibility for the animals, plants, earth that has been entrusted to our care?

When I was in London last October, a group of scientists from different countries issued an alert that global warming was critical. They said we have twelve years to turn our planet around before it reaches a point of no return. I believe that, unfortunately, most people don't seem to see this as a serious threat against our earthly home.

Global warming, deforestation of treed areas and the horrible treatment so often imposed on helpless animals make it clear that a lot needs to be changed in order to obey God's mandate to care for the earth.

We need to take some steps – individually and as a church community. We can at least start to protect the environment by:

1. Cutting down on the use of cars by car-pooling and using public transportation.
2. Conserving resources: recycling and reusing.
3. Planting trees – they cut down the carbon in the atmosphere.
4. Rejecting products that are harmful to the environment – such as Styrofoam.
5. Bringing reusable bags when shopping for groceries and other products.

As Christians, we should be compelled to protect the gifts God has given us. As followers of Christ, we also need to care about the health and safety of a world we are leaving to coming generations. Help us God to follow through.

Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

(631) 367 - 9249

www.sweethollowpresby.org

Rev. Mary Margaret Flannagan, Pastor

Rachel Fogel, Choir Director

Barbara Zimmerman, 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

Please join us in prayer with Christians around the globe as we celebrate our unity in Christ in the observance of World Communion Sunday October 6.

Please join us as we lift up prayers for the Martin and Wagner families as they celebrate the life and mourn the death of Caroline Martin.

We lift our prayers for Finch Fischer, and for Pastor Meg, Pastor Adam and Huck

We lift our continuing prayers for healing and in support of loved ones for:

William and Sukey Walter

Tracy Dein

Bill Von Brook

We lift our prayers of thanksgiving for their gracious gift of service in the maintenance of our church buildings and grounds to:

Jean Cavanaugh

Joe Moder

Fred Chacalos, Jr.

Joey Moder

Jill and Ed Conroy

Frank Sansone

Jenni and Mike Engel

Bill Von Brook

If we've left anyone out, please know that your efforts are so gratefully appreciated.

We lift our prayers of gratitude for all volunteers who serve each week as ushers, pulpit assistants, Nursery assistants, Sunday School leaders, Room Shepherds and Coffee Hour hosts.

We pray for the refugee families being relocated in communities within our Presbytery, with gratitude that our church is able to participate in providing for their welcome among us.

We pray for the success of the Fall Fund Raiser now being planned. May God continue to guide our efforts as we seek to engage both our members and the community at large in ways that will sustain our mission and outreach efforts.

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 scheduling a meeting in October. The date will be announced soon. Please let me know if you would like to join the committee. I continue to believe that a 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 July

We have income of \$165,588.21 and expenses of \$142,486.58 for a YTD total of \$23,101.63. Please keep in mind that this includes a legacy gift of \$50,000.00. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Per Capita

We have received \$1,485.97 towards our 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

Over the past several months we've worked with consultants from the Presbyterian Foundation to help us discern a path forward for Sweet Hollow. While we will continue to work with the consultants, the initial analysis is not good. 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 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.

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

Thank you all for your generous donations to the **Sharing Bags for the children at Tri CYA**. A bountiful abundance of healthy snacks and school supplies was collected and brought to Tri CYA for the children to enjoy. Special thanks to Jane Beller, for loading up her car with the Sharing Bags and taking them over to Tri CYA. As this wonderful organization provides a variety of services throughout the year, anyone who feels so called may write out a check payable to Tri CYA and give it to Maureen Sansone to forward to their facility.

Hurricane Dorian and the Texas Floods-Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (P.D.A.) is working 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.

Sunday School is making Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwiches for Family Service League on **Sunday, October 13**, 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. Please see Frank Sansone if you're able to assist or 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!

Gift Baskets Needed For Fall Fundraiser

By Maureen Sansone

The Fundraising Committee is requesting donations of gift baskets, which will be raffled off for our Fall Fundraiser, a Chili Cookoff With Line Dancing, to be held on Saturday, November 9th. The gift baskets are a popular part of our fundraisers and have proven very fruitful in the past.

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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chili Cook-Off and Line Dancing Party

Submitted by: Mickey Rogers

The Fundraising Committee would like to announce our Fall Fundraising initiative, a **Chili Cook-Off and Line Dancing Party** to take place on Saturday, November 9 from 5:30 pm – 9pm. Our event will include favorite chili recipes from our members and line dancing instruction as entertainment.

Include your favorite family chili recipe for a chance to win a small gift and the honor of being our 2019 Chili Cook-Off Champion while showing off your Line Dancing skills! Professional Line Dance instructors will provide full instruction and dancing from 7pm – 9pm! No experience is required!

Much talent and help will be needed to make this event a success. In lieu of funds generated from our annual Pumpkin Patch, we have set a goal to raise at least \$2500 in one evening. Membership participation will be vital to making this event a success!! We are hopeful to see many members participating in the planning process and interacting with our visitors on the evening of our event!!

Please get involved by attending our next committee meeting on October 13, 2019 after Worship Service. We'd also like to extend an invitation to any current visitors who wish to attend our committee meeting, participate in our event and/or the overall planning process. Additional details will be forthcoming in weekly announcements for opportunities to help out. Please look for additional inserts in upcoming bulletins so you can sign-up for various volunteer opportunities.

Many hands make light work and your commitment and contribution will make our event a rousing success while opening our doors to welcome our surrounding community!! Due to the logistics involved with planning and implementing an event of this scope, the committee is prepared to cancel this event if there is lack of interest.

We look forward to seeing you all there! Thank you for all you do to support our fundraising efforts at Sweet Hollow!

You can also email Mickey Rogers at: mickeyrogers74@gmail.com or Maureen Sansone at msansone@optonline.net with any questions or if you are willing to volunteer.

All are welcome!!

Thank you again,
Mickey Rogers

A very special Thank You

to Jill and Ed Conroy, for all their hard work, dedication and efforts in painting the Fellowship Hall. Many, many hours were spent in this endeavor. As you will all see, it looks absolutely beautiful!

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

Women For Women’s (W4W) First “Potluck and Fun” Meeting to Be Held on Monday, October 7th

By Maureen Sansone & Sukey Walter

Women For Women, (W4W), which meets on the first Monday of each month (unless otherwise noted) and is open to all women at Sweet Hollow, will be holding its first meeting of the season, “*Potluck and Fun*”, on Monday, October 7th, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

Carol Keil has graciously agreed to hold the meeting at her home at 285 Sweet Hollow Road, Huntington. We would welcome a couple of volunteers to assist with co-hosting this event.

Each attendee is asked to bring a potluck dish to share, as we make a fall themed craft and discuss our plans for the upcoming year.

We’ll once again invite the Women’s Group from Old First Presbyterian to join us, as we look forward to spending quality time together in Christian fellowship.

Please let Maureen Sansone know if you’ll be attending, or if you’ll be able to assist, by contacting her at 631-385-1855 or msansone@optonline.net.

Hope to see you there!

Homecoming Sunday September 8, 2019



October 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Alexandra D'Angelo's Birthday	2 10 am Prayer Circle	3 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	4 Kristen Sommermeier's Birthday	5
6 World Communion Sunday 10 am Worship 10 am Sunday School	7 7:00 pm Women For Women Diana Fogel's Birthday	8	9 10 am Prayer Circle Nijala & Leroy Mowatt's Anniversary	10 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal Carol & Otto Keil's and Hillary & Justin Zucker's Anniversaries Sukey Walter's Birthday	11 Mike Engel's Birthday	12
13 10 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11:15 am Fundraising Committee Meeting	14	15 Nick Pereira's Birthday	16 10 am Prayer Circle Zaria Howard's Birthday	17 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	18 Michelle & Bill VonBrook's Anniversary	19
20 10 am Worship 10 am Sunday School Melissa D'Angelo's Birthday	21 7:30 Session	22	23 10 am Prayer Circle	24 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal Brittney Morder's Birthday	25 Daniel Layer's Birthday	26 Bake Sale 9 am Presbytery Meeting at Elmont
27 10 am Worship 10 am Sunday School	28 Matilda Bauser's Birthday	29	30 10 am Prayer Circle	31 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal		

**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 November Issue
Friday, October 25, 2019**

Christian Education

By Carol Keil

On Sunday October 6 the children are invited to remain in worship with their families for the observance of World Communion Sunday.

On Sunday October 13 Sunday School will be making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and packing bag lunches for the Family Service League initiative to feed the homeless in our community. Your donation of supplies and your monetary support for this ongoing monthly service project is greatly appreciated. Please refer to the notice in the weekly bulletin for details of specific supplies needed.

The story of *Jonah and the Great Fish* as told in Jonah 1:1-4:11 will be the focus of Sunday school lessons in October and November.

Volunteers are needed to serve as Room Shepherds and Nursery Care assistants in the weeks ahead. Please add your name to the sign-up board located at rear of the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings or call the church office at 631-367-9249 to volunteer.

**A BAKE SALE WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER
26, WITH A RAIN DATE OF SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27.**

Anyone interested in baking or assisting with the sale, please see Joan Sommermeyer.