

# The Bell Ringer

## Of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

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

### SEPTEMBER 2019

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### Pastoral Column

by Pastor Meg Flannagan

Sunday, September 8, is our annual Homecoming worship service and picnic (AND the first fall Sunday School lesson). Please join us, share summer adventure stories, and reinvest in Sweet Hollow's mission and ministry.

Among the changes at Sweet Hollow this fall is the resignation of our former church secretary, Barbara Zimmerman. The Personnel Committee and Session agreed that this is a good opportunity to reevaluate the secretary's job description and skills required. Some time is needed to consult both church officers and the larger church membership; thus, an intentional interim period is in effect through December 31, 2019. We hope to post a public job description in mid-late fall, then interview candidates. We hope to approve a final candidate to begin work in January 2020.

In the interim, the Session is delighted to have Maureen Sansone as church secretary. Maureen is a longtime church member, familiar with our Sweet Hollow family and our regular church activities. She brings welcome love for and knowledge of our church. This is especially important while Pastor Meg is out of the office this fall. Maureen maintains our 9am-noon office hours, checking church email, answering phones, and overseeing the use of church property (membership, tenants, and maintenance). Please stop and say, "thank you!" for all that she is doing for us!

While Pastor Meg is out of the office on maternity leave, Rev. Joan Finck returns to Sweet Hollow as our supply pastor. She is ordained in the United Church of Christ with years of experience in the Episcopal Church. Most recently, Pastor Joan has been serving the Glen Cove Presbyterian Church during their pastoral interim period. She also happens to be a licensed CPA. Pastor Joan knows our congregation from previously leading our worship services and serving as supply for Pastor Meg's maternity leave in 2016. Welcome back, Joan! We are grateful for your time and talents invested at Sweet Hollow.

Last fall began an exciting season of growth and renewal for Sweet Hollow. Let's continue moving in that same direction. It is critical that each member and family invest in our congregation, attending weekly worship services, helping with committee work, and serving the larger community. See you in church!

**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

<b>Elders:</b>	<b>Deacons:</b>
Lynn Burke	Jean Cavanaugh
Ed Conroy	Barbara Martin
Tim Mason	Niaja Mowatt
Jim Sommermeyer	Maureen Sansone
Bill Von Brook	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

**Jackie Finch Fischer ("Finch")**

was born on Tuesday, August 20, at 3:32 pm.

He weighs 8 lbs. 4 oz.

**Prayer Corner**

by Carol Keil

We lift up prayers of joy and congratulations to the Flannagan-Fischer family as they welcome their infant son Jackie Finch Fischer, born on Tuesday August 20.

We lift up prayers of healing for William Walter and support and strength for Sukey and their family as William continues to recuperate from complications due to injuries sustained in a fall in his home in June.

We lift up healing prayers for Joan Sommermeyer.

We lift up prayers of thanksgiving for the presence of Rev. Joan Finck as she rejoins the Sweet Hollow family while Pastor Meg is on maternity leave.

We lift up healing prayers for Eleanor Waters as she copes with vision issues and moves to her new home with her son Richard and his wife Christa in Queensbury, NY.

We lift up prayers for a successful and rewarding year ahead as students and teachers head back to school this month. Teachers in our church family include Mike and Jenni Engel, Bea Reiser, Brie Rodriguez, Brian and Nicole Schiffmacher.

We lift up prayers of thanksgiving for all the volunteers who have stepped forward to help lead our Sunday School program and to offer care in the church Nursery.

We lift up prayers for the recent victims of gun violence. We pray for safety in our schools, houses of worship and all public gatherings. We pray an answer can be swiftly found to end the bloodshed.

**Nursery Help Still Needed**

Although a new Nursery Supervisor, Francine James, will be joining us, the church nursery still needs an additional volunteer each week to care 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. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

## 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 September. The date will be announced soon. Please let me know if you would like to join the committee.

### **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. 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.

### **Facility Improvements**

Work is in progress painting the Fellowship Hall. The congregation voted on the color scheme over the summer.

### **Facility News**

We're sad to report that our daycare tenant "Jessy Bee's Busy Bee Child Care" has closed up shop as of the end of August as her enrollment declined dramatically. We hope she will return one day.

### **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.

### **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

Welcome back, all. Here's hoping you're enjoying the waning bright, sunny days of summer.



The **Sharing Bags for the children at Tri CYA** are up in the Sanctuary. We're collecting healthy snacks and school supplies. Please take a bag or two and return them to church by either **Sunday, September 1** (in time for the start of school) or **Sunday, September 8** (Homecoming Sunday), when they will be blessed. Please remember, the bags are also a guide in helping out with items. You may add to or bring in supplies or other snacks that you may have already purchased or feel are needed as well. We've even added pasta and sauce as a healthy snack, because Tri CYA has a full kitchen, so foods can be prepared for the children. We all know how hungry kids get after school.

Tri CYA has so many different areas for the children: in addition to a kitchen, there's a play area, game area, computers, and a quiet study/library area. There are all sorts of ways in which the needs of these children can be met. If shopping is too much and you'd like to donate a monetary amount instead, it will go towards milk, bread, etc. **Checks can be made payable to Tri CYA.**

**"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 generous donations to the Huntington Community Food Council on a regular basis.

Thank you all for your generosity of spirit!

## Book Discussion

The September book discussion is cancelled.

**A BIG thank you to Freddy Chacalos** for weeding and tidying the parking lot. He also removed gravel washed down from the road during recent storms.

Thank you, Freddy, for your helping hands!

## **Fundraising Committee Meeting To Be Held On Sunday, September 15**

by Mickey Rogers and Maureen Sansone

The Fundraising Committee will hold it's first meeting of the season on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> immediately after worship.

We will be discussing the Chili Cookoff Fall Fundraiser, entertainment and other details of this event.

All are welcome.

In lieu of the Pumpkin Patch, this will be our main fundraiser. Much help will be needed to make this fundraiser as successful as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

## **Chili Cookoff Fall Fundraiser**

by Maureen Sansone & Mickey Rogers

We're in the planning stages to present a Chili Cookoff Fall Fundraiser with entertainment. The tentative date is Saturday, November 9.

This will be our main fall fundraiser, in lieu of the Pumpkin Patch. Our goal is to raise at least \$2,500. This will take a substantial amount of support to make this a success.

Please consider the ways in which you can assist with this event.

More details will follow.

## **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, to be held tentatively on Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.

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](mailto:msansone@optonline.net) or 631-385-1855.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

## Christian Education

by Carol Keil

The Christian Ed Team is proud to announce our program plans for this Fall and invite you to set sail with us as we present a series of three *watery* Old Testament tales for our children, beginning with Noah's Ark on Sunday, September 8. In October, we'll learn about Jonah and "the Big Fish". In November, we'll learn the story of infant Moses placed in a basket afloat in the Nile.

We are deeply in need of additional volunteers to serve as Sunday School Leaders and Room Shepherds and especially in need of Nursery volunteers. Please contact the church office at 631-367-9249 or Carol Keil at 631-421-1181 for further information on how you can assist us.

## Women For Women's (W4W) First "Potluck and Fun" Meeting to Be Held on Monday, October 7

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 7 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](mailto:msansone@optonline.net). Hope to see you there!

## Prayer Circle

Meetings are at 10:00 am every Wednesday.



## Rev. Joan Finck Will Be Our Supply Pastor While Rev. Meg Flannagan Is On Maternity Leave

The Session has asked that one church member assist Rev. Joan leading weekly worship by making announcements, and reading scripture and other parts of the liturgy. Children, youth, and adults are all welcome to share this role. Are you willing to help? Please speak with Joan Sommermeyer, Worship Committee chair, or sign up at the back of the Sanctuary.

# September

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>1</b> 10 am Worship	<b>2</b> Office Closed	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10 am Prayer Circle Joanna Hoban & Daniel Layer's Anniversary	<b>5</b> Jill Conroy's and Carol Mason's Birthdays 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 10 am Worship 11:15 Homecoming Barbeque	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Rev. Meg Flammagan's Birthday	<b>11</b> 10 am Prayer Circle Caroline Martin's Birthday	<b>12</b> Rob Schmitt's and Michelle Von Brook's Birthdays 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Tracy Dein's Birthday Presbytery Day
<b>15</b> 10 am Worship 11:15 am Fundraising Meeting	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10 am Prayer Circle	<b>19</b> Kristen Conroy's Birthday 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b> Ayanna Williams' Birthday	<b>21</b> Barbara Moder's Birthday
<b>22</b> 10 am Worship 2:30 pm Bike Ride & Picnic w/Baldwin Church @ Bethpage State Park	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Beth & Nick Pereira's And Sukey & Bill Walter's Anniversaries	<b>25</b> 10 am Prayer Circle Bob Earthy's Birthday	<b>26</b> 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10 am Worship	<b>30</b> Sharon Krams' Birthday					

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF SWEET HOLLOW**

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Melville, NY 11747*

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*We're on the Web!*

[www.sweethollowpresby.org](http://www.sweethollowpresby.org)

**BELL RINGER DEADLINE  
For October Issue  
September 23, 2019**

**Homecoming Sunday and Picnic on September 8!**

Our Annual Homecoming Picnic will be *Sunday, September 8* immediately after worship. The church will provide beverages and hamburgers and hotdogs. Please bring a potluck dish to share. Volunteers are needed for setup before church (moving tables, chairs, and grills), cooking, and cleanup. Please contact Lynn Burke at 516-458-1320 or [lynburke@optonline.net](mailto:lynburke@optonline.net) if you are able to help.

**Annual Presbytery Day will be Saturday, September 14**

The Annual Presbytery Day will be *Saturday, September 14* at First Presbyterian Church (Babylon). This year's objective is to help congregations assess their resources, then choose local mission/service partners accordingly. This event will dovetail with the other discernment work Sweet Hollow has done.

Fliers are available on the Presbytery website and in the Church Office. All members are welcome. Please let Maureen Sansone (interim church secretary) know if you can attend: "[Your Church as an Asset to the Community](#)", 9 am – 3 pm (registration and breakfast begin at 8:30 am); four workshops and lunch, \$10 for preregistration.

**Bike Ride & Picnic September 22**

First Presbyterian Church (Baldwin) invites Sweet Hollow to its annual bike ride and picnic at Bethpage State Park. Sunday, September 22, they will leave the picnic area and bike south at 2:30 pm. Cyclists go at their own pace, with various groups traveling at different speeds. Some will stay in the picnic area, hosting supper at 4pm. Bring a chair and join us for any or all of the fun!