

The Bell Ringer

Of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

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

May 2017



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Pastoral Column:

Pastor Meg Flannagan

Four students participated in the Confirmation Class this year: Brianna Conroy, Courtney Schmitt, Rebecca van Houten, and Jake Von Brook. They spent the past seven months learning about our Christian faith, the Presbyterian nuts and bolts, and how we follow Jesus Christ in our own congregation. They reflected on what we collectively believe and how we express our faith. They worshipped with other congregations in our presbytery. They participated in mission and service projects. All year they were challenged to consider what they believe – not just what **we** believe. Their thoughts were collected into individual faith statements. This month the students will share their faith statements with one another, their families, Elder Sponsors, and the Session. On Sunday, May 7, our Confirmation Class will lead worship and be recognized as full members of our congregation.

The Confirmands' task of crafting a faith statement – writing/painting/drawing/singing what it is that they believe – is no small feat. The Apostles' Creed and other big-church faith statements are intimidating examples. Writing a personal faith statement is an exercise that generally brings more questions than it does answers. When did you last consider what it is you actually believe? Not just a general statement of, "I believe in God," but specifically, "I believe in Jesus Christ *because...*" Or, "I believe in *this...* and it matters *because...*" Let the Confirmands' homework be your own spiritual exercise this month. Take time to reflect on the what, why, and how of your own belief. Try to put it into words on paper, a drawing, dance, or other expression.

Each of the Confirmands is a wonderful gift for Sweet Hollow! They are kind, brave, silly, insightful, and so much more. My time with them has given me energy and ideas for ministry within the larger congregation. Thank you to the students for your time and creativity and patience with the process. Many thanks to Frank Sansone, Lynn Burke, Laura Fallon, Carol Keil, and Jim Sommermeyer who also guided the students through this year!

Prayer Corner

by Carol Keil

Please join us in prayers of joyous welcome this month for the young people to be Confirmed on Sunday May 7 and in prayers of gratitude for their elder sponsors:

Brianna Conroy and sponsor Carol Keil

Courtney Schmitt and sponsor Lynn Burke

Rebecca Van Houton and sponsor Laura Fallon

Jake Von Brook and sponsor Jim Sommermeyer

Spirit of God, grant us:

The gift of wisdom

To see the world through your eyes.

The gift of counsel

To make difficult decisions.

The gifts of knowledge and understanding

To use our minds to know you and to love you.

The gift of fortitude

To have the courage to live in the faith

Despite the difficulties and disappointments.

The gift of piety

To be able to express our special love

And commitment to you.

And the right kind of awesome fear

That makes us pause to wonder and revere God's

Love.

Amen.

(As adapted from connectusfund.org/9bestprayersforconfirmation)

Large print copies of the Sunday morning worship service program are now available. If you would like a copy, please speak to one of the ushers.

Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

Rev. Mary Margaret Flannagan, Pastor

Rachel Fogel, Choir Director

Barbara Zimmerman, Secretary

Tracy Dein, Treasurer

Elders:

Melissa Beyer
Barbara Blanthorn
Lynn Burke
Charlotte DeSanti
Tim Mason
Maureen Sansone
Brian Schiffmacher
Jim Sommermeyer
Emily Wagner

Deacons:

Jim Beyer
Jean Cavanaugh
Bill Chamberlain
Laura Fallon
Daniel Layer
Susan Manning
Barbara Martin
Frank Sansone
Dan Schiffmacher
Jason Wagner
Marc Young

Other Groups & Activities:

Book Discussion	Sukey Walter
Christian Education	Lynn Burke
Church Brunch	Bill Walter
Fellowship & Outreach	Maureen Sansone
House & Property	Brian Schiffmacher
Mission	Charlotte DeSanti
Personnel	Charlotte DeSanti
Prayer Circle	Carol Keil
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Sukey Walter
Stewardship	Jim Sommermeyer
Women For Women	Maureen Sansone
Worship	Melissa Beyer
Youth Group	Pastor Meg Flannagan
Bell Ringer Editor	Bill Chamberlain

Stewardship - Budget News

by Jim Sommermeyer

With God all things are possible is our Stewardship theme this year. We must be positive and go forth boldly. Amazing things are happening at Sweet Hollow!

We will continue with faith testimonies throughout 2017. Please let me know if you would like to be the next one to explore your faith journey with our congregation. We wouldn't be the "Little Church with the Big Heart" without you and your time, talents and treasures supporting all the good work we do!

Our Roof Repair Fundraising campaign will not stop until we have reached our stated goal. We have now reached \$17,971, roaring past the halfway mark on our way to \$35,000. Let's continue our positive momentum and replenish our reserve fund before the end of 2017. When we reach the twenty thousand dollar level, another one thousand dollar match will kick in.

Please keep in mind that each member on our rolls should pay a Per Capita Apportionment of \$34.45. If you have 3 family members your total will be \$103.35. This money supports the work and mission of the Presbytery of Long Island, along with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Sweet Hollow must make up the difference if a member does not contribute their share. Let's all take care of this obligation early in the year.

We continue to see positive momentum on the budget front. Our income is above average and our expenses are on track. Our members are contributing generously and our rental income is up with the addition of our new tenants.

April enthralled us with a spiritually moving Easter Vigil (and the wonder of yet another Baptism!) and a joyful Easter Sunday. Both services were vibrant and very well attended. The beautiful Sunrise Service in our Gazebo was standing room only. May brings our second exciting Square Dance fundraiser and Confirmation of our four wonderful and amazing young people. Wondrous things are happening at Sweet Hollow.

We have much to do and I know we can do it together if we trust in our faith and pray to God to show us the way.

What's An Ebenezer?

by Carol Keil

Perhaps you've sung the hymn "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" and wondered as you sang in verse two "Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I've come..." and wondered, "What is an Ebenezer?"

While a humorous image, an Ebenezer is not a grizzled old fellow who keeps his office cold and doesn't pay Bob Crachet a living wage.

The term Ebenezer comes from Scripture: 1 Samuel 7:12-14 "Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, 'Thus far has the Lord helped us.' So the Philistines were subdued and did not invade Israelite territory again."

The word "Ebenezer" comes from Hebrew and is actually two words pronounced together: *Even Haazer*. *Even* meaning "stone" and *Eezer* meaning "help" thus Ebenezer is, literally, a "Stone of Help."

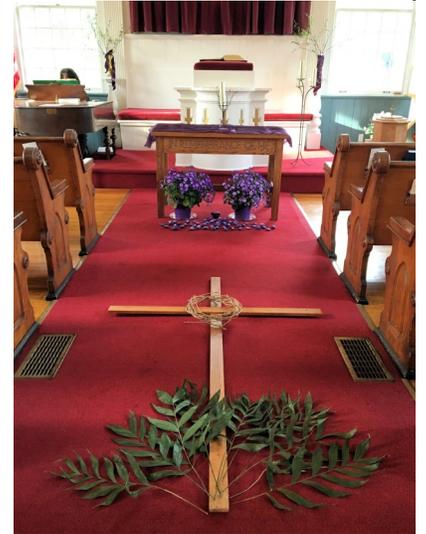
Holy Week Pictures



Palm Procession



Sanctuary on Palm Sunday (left) and during Holy Week



Easter Vigil began outside on the great lawn.

Baptism of Wallace Huckleberry Fischer

“Huck,” the son of Rev. Adam & Rev. Meg Flannagan Fischer, was presented for baptism during the Easter Vigil. He was baptized by Rev. Kally Elliott of the Presbyterian Church in Oceanside. Also shown in the picture is Elder Lynn Burke, Clerk of Session.



Mission Team

by Charlotte DeSanti

Clothing Drive: Our annual Clothing Drive supporting our Veterans and their families is underway. Gently used/new clothing, shoes, curtains, blankets, comforters and all other linens are needed. These items will be blessed on Memorial Day weekend (Sunday, May 28). If you will be away, please bring your donations to church on any prior Sunday.

Project Hope: Sweet Hollow is scheduled to participate in Project Hope's Sunday Supper on June 11. This takes place at St. Hugh's Roman Catholic Church on New York Avenue and Pulaski Road, Huntington Station at 3:00 p.m. Maureen Sansone does a great job organizing Sweet Hollow's participation in Project Hope. We need you to come out and help support this event. There will be a table with mission team members at coffee hour starting in mid-May with sign up sheets. Volunteers are needed to: welcome folks in, for security, to prepare desserts or side dishes, setup, cleanup, plate the meals and for our youth to serve. Please put June 11 on your calendar. It's only for a few hours but the interaction with the community you are serving is really what it's all about.

Tri CYA: Thank you for your donations of healthy snacks that were delivered to the children at Tri CYA. Your donations were very generous. Happy Spring everyone!

Dinner Discussions At Sweet Hollow Diner

by Maureen Sansone

The dinner discussions were held at Sweet Hollow Diner on March 8, 15, and 22, and on April 5, from 6:30 p.m. until approximately 8:15 p.m.

The topics for this cycle were drawn from the book and movie, The Shack. Those topics included The Trinity, Forgiveness, The Nature of God and The Nature of Humanity. These thought-provoking, inspiring conversations, moderated by Pastor Meg, were enjoyed and appreciated by all.

Thank you to Pastor Meg for all the preparation and insights, and we all look forward to the next cycle of Dinner Discussions at Sweet Hollow Diner.

Christian Education News

by Lynn Burke

The children will be working on the lesson “Saul on the Road to Damascus” through the month of May. We look forward to seeing the children in class.



Our confirmation students, (left to right) Rebecca Van Houten, Courtney Schmitt, Brianna Conroy, and Jake Von Brook, will be confirmed on Sunday, May 7 during worship. They have worked very hard all year and we are so proud of all of them.

The annual plant sale will be held on Sunday, May 21 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Otto Keil Florist. For additional information, see the back page of this Bell Ringer.

As always, volunteers are needed for teaching Sunday School and in the Nursery. Room Shepherds are needed for the Nursery as well as Sunday School. Please look for the sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary.

Family Picnic

Families with young children are invited to a picnic on Sunday, May 21, at 4:00 p.m. Bring your own picnic. The church will provide drinks and dessert, as well as games and entertainment.

Holmes Summer Camp Registration Now Open

Residential and Day Camp programs for children and youth entering first grade through those who have graduated from high school are available. To learn more, visit <www.holmescamp.org/summer-camp> or contact Natasha Taylor, Camp & Youth Programs Director at (845)878-6383.

Summer Mission Trip

Sweet Hollow youth are invited to join other presbytery youth on a summer mission trip to the Broad Street Ministry in Philadelphia. High Schoolers will go from July 30 to August 5. Middle Schoolers will go from August 6 to August 10.

For specific information, visit <www.broadstreetministry.org> and click on “Youth Initiative.”

The Fall of the Pagans & the Origins of Medieval Christianity Will Be Our Next Church Brunch On Tuesday, May 9

by Bill Walter

To the Romans, the Christians presented a unique threat by their proselytizing to deny worship of ancestral gods. In contrast, Jews were perceived by Romans as practicing a legitimate religion that posed no such threat. Christians had to come to terms with both the Roman state and the pagan cults. Christians see God

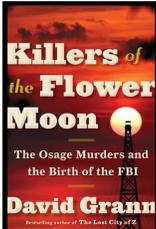


as a transcendent being, beyond this world, whereas the pagans see the divine and the human as intermingled in the material world. Pagan worship in the Roman world served not only a religious function but social, economic and political functions as well. The extraordinary expense of processions and festivals were shouldered by the Roman elite, who were rewarded for their outlay with power and prestige. Temples in the pagan world were homes of the gods, not places for congregational worship. All a sanctuary needed was a wall to block out the mundane world and an altar on which to sacrifice. The temple

is an addition to a sanctuary where the god's possessions were stored.

Our DVD program will give us a better understanding of the Roman world with its ancestral pagan gods and the transition under Constantine to Christianity.

Join us on Tuesday, May 9. We'll have freshly-brewed decaf coffee to accompany some delicious goodies. We will start at 10:00 a.m. and invite you to join in whenever your schedule permits. We'll be in the Church Parlor until 12:30 p.m.



Book Discussion

by Sukey Walter

We have picked our book for May. It is "Killers of the Flower Moon" by David Grann, about the killing of the Osage Indians to get their oil rights and the birth of the FBI. We will be meeting Thursday, May 25 at 1:30 p.m. in the parlor.

Women4Women

Women 4 Women will meet on Monday, May 1 for their annual tea party. All women over 18 are invited and quests are welcome. RSVP to Lynn Burke at 516-458-1320 or <lynburke@optonline.net>.

Cycling Saturdays

Now that Spring has arrived and the weather is welcoming, here is a new outdoor activity for anyone seeking sunshine with family and friends in fellowship. Beginning Saturday, May 20 at 10:00 a.m., we will meet at Caumsett State Park to cycle. The paths are relatively easy, wide and paved. Please bring water bottles and a picnic lunch. We will meet in the parking lot. At 12:00 noon, let's meet back up for a picnic lunch in the lovely gardens adjacent to the parking lot where we will plan future rides and locations. Please rsvp to Laura Fallon @ lfallon@optonline.net or 631-470-0462.

See you there! Live healthy, Laura Fallon

Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow
Presents:

Spring Swing
SQUARE DANCE
Benefit

Round up 'yer Boots, "grab 'yer Pardner" and come out for a fun night of dancing, food, raffles and fellowship!!

No square dancing experience necessary. All are welcome.

Saturday, May 13, 2017
7:00pm — 9:30 pm

Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

95 Old Country Road (Melville)

www.sweethollowpresby.org 631-367-9249

Tickets will be sold in advance and at the door:

\$10/adult; children under age 10 are free

\$25 per family of 3; \$35 per family of 4

Snacks, **RAFFLE TICKETS** (50/50 and Gift Baskets) sold at event!

Proceeds benefit our Roof Repair Fund

Childcare available for babies and toddlers

Square Dance Caller: Mickey Rogers



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!!

May 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Women4Women Betty & Maurice Perkins' Anniversary	2 7:30 Choir Rehearsal Mildred & Robert Schmitt's Anniversary	3 10:00 Prayer Circle	4 Melissa & Anthony D'Angelo's Anniversary	5	6
7 10:00 Worship 10:00 Confirmation Jimmy Reiser's Birthday	8	9 7:30 Choir Rehearsal Ellhoff Laver's Birthday	10 10:00 Prayer Circle Pastors Meg & Adam Fischer's Anniversary	11	12 Medeline Bacchus' Birthday	13 7:00-9:30 Square Dance Tracy Keil's Birthday
14 10:00 Worship	15 7:30 Session Nate Miller's Birthday	16 7:30 Choir Rehearsal Barbara & Ross Martin's Anniversary	17 10:00 Prayer Circle	18	19 Maureen & Frank Sansone's Anniversary Sarah Greller's Birthday	20 Ambryel Amira's Birthday
21 10:00 Worship 1:00-4:00 Plant Sale 4:00 Family Picnic	22	23 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	24 10:00 Prayer Circle	25 1:30 Book Discussion Leroy Mowatt's Birthday	26	27
28 10:00 Worship	29 Ellie Schiffmacher's Birthday	30 7:30 Choir Rehearsal Carol Keil's & Kevin Manning's Birthday	31 10:00 Prayer Circle			

**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 June Issue
May 28, 2017**

Sunday School Plant Sale May 21

by Jane Beller



The Sunday School Plant Sale will be held on Sunday, May 21, at Otto Keil Florists located at 30 East Gate Drive in Huntington between 1-4 p.m. This is your opportunity to select from a wide assortment of annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, hanging baskets and tropical flowering plants directly from the grower. Can't make it, then request plants for pickup at church on



99031111 www.gograb.com

Sunday, May 21. The table at the back of the sanctuary has order forms. If questions, please contact Carol Keil at 631-421-1181, or c1keil@aol.com.

Gift Baskets Needed For Spring Square Dance

The Spring Square Dance Committee is looking for donations of items for gift baskets, or donations of themed gift baskets, which will be auctioned off at the Spring Square Dance, to be held on Saturday, May 13, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

Do you have a favorite restaurant, store, hobby or activity? We welcome any and all donations, as we look forward to offering a beautiful array of Gift Baskets the night of the event.

Please contact Maureen Sansone at [<msansone@optonline.net>](mailto:msansone@optonline.net) or 631-385-1855 if you're interested in donating, or if you would like to assist in the collection and assembly of the Gift Baskets. Thank you in advance.