

The Bell Ringer

Of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

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

April 2017

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Pastoral Column:

by Pastor Meg Flannagan

For Christians, Holy Week is the culminating celebration of our faith journey. It is THE WEEK to claim our identity as children of God. We remember the stories of God's saving love within Christ's community of disciples, hanging on the cross, and risen from the tomb. Palm Sunday brings parades. Thursday holds service and suppers. Friday marches us to the cross. Easter Sunday opens the tomb... but what about Saturday?

Holy Saturday (the day between Good Friday and Easter Sunday) is a day for mystery. It is a time of waiting and suffering. It is the liminal space – the in-between, yes-and-no, black-and-white, dead-and-alive time of the week. It is a liturgical embodiment of our human experience. For, in our own lives, we constantly balance love and loss, beginnings and endings, suffering and celebration. So what does the church do with this strange and oft-overlooked day?

Historically, an Easter Vigil is held on Saturday evening at sundown. The service retells the biblical history of our salvation. It begins with the creation story and moves through the great flood, Jacob's wrestling with God, Moses leading the Israelites out of slavery, and up to the Gospel's stories of Jesus' resurrection. It is the first time when we shout the Easter proclamation: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

The Easter Vigil is distinct in that the service includes both baptism and Communion – the one-stop shopping experience for worshippers. In the early Christian church, catechumens (now confirmation students) spent the preceding year learning and preparing to join the church. Dressed in white, they were led into church around midnight. Finally, on the night when Christ rose to new life, they, too, were raised to new life in their baptism. As new members of the church, they received Communion for the first time immediately after their baptism. It was a momentous occasion in the life of a congregation.

Holy Week

Holy Week is an opportunity to immerse yourself in Christ's journey from his life on earth, to his death on the cross, to his resurrection on Easter morning. Join us for worship as we hear the stories and sing God's praise anew!

Maundy Thursday, April 13 (6:00 p.m.)

This evening will mirror Jesus' last supper with his disciples. Beginning in the Fellowship Hall and moving to the Sanctuary, we will weave worship and dinner together. This is a family-friendly service. Come prepared to share, tell, and serve.

Holy Saturday, April 15 (6:30 p.m.)

The Easter Vigil illuminates the story of our salvation; it journeys from death and darkness to light and life. Participants will begin by an outdoor fire, light their own candles from the Christ light, then travel into the Sanctuary past the baptismal font, and up to the Communion table. The end of the service will bring us to Christ's Resurrection, shouting "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" The Vigil is an intergenerational, family-friendly, moving, creative worship experience. The Presbytery of Long Island will join us for our Easter Vigil. Please bring a snack to share at the end of worship.

Easter Sunday, April 16 (6:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.)

Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! A brief Easter Sunrise service (6:30 a.m.) will greet Jesus risen from the tomb. One single traditional service (10:00 a.m.) will conclude our Easter celebrations. A congregational photo will be taken immediately after the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

Rev. Mary Margaret Flannagan, Pastor

Rachel Fogel, Choir Director

Barbara Zimmerman, Secretary

Tracy Dein, Treasurer

Deacons:

Elders:

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

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	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!

We held our first session meeting with our newly installed elders on March 20 and I want to personally say thank you to Barbara Blanthorn and Emily Wagner for stepping up and contributing greatly to the meeting with their thoughts, enthusiasm and unencumbered love for this church. They also volunteered repeatedly. Do they know not what they do? I think they are being positive and going forth boldly.

Please keep in mind that our Roof Repair Fundraising campaign will not stop until we have reached our stated goal. Let's continue our positive momentum with this highly successful fundraiser and replenish our reserve fund before the end of 2017. We are currently a few thousand dollars away from the twenty thousand dollar level, at which point another one thousand dollar match will kick in. After we replenish the reserve fund we can't rest, we need to keep working to fund critical major maintenance and create an endowment fund.

On the budget front, we received good news from our new Treasurer, Tracy Dein. So far 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 new tenants. Exciting events are happening soon also. Bill Walter is coordinating another fundraiser in April at the California Pizza Kitchen. April also brings us the spiritually moving Easter Vigil and joyful Easter Sunday. Mickey Rogers is coordinating another Square Dance in May. May also brings us the Confirmation of our four wonderful and amazing young people. We've had two baptisms in the past two weeks with a vibrant, full church. We've had wonderful discussions the last few weeks at the diner. 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.

Mission Team

by Charlotte DeSanti

Just a reminder: We are collecting gently used or new clothing, shoes, and linens for our Veterans and their families. Please bring your items to church by May 28, Memorial Day Weekend, when they will be blessed. The United Veterans Beacon House will pick up your donations after the holiday weekend.

Notes From Session

by Lynn Burke

The Session voted to extend Pastor Meg's contract as Designated Pastor for two years. Once the Visioning Task Force completes their report and submits it to the Presbytery of Long Island, we will be authorized to start forming the Pastor Nominating Committee. This committee will perform the search for our Installed Pastor.

We have a new congregation, Centro Missionero, who have started to use our facilities. They have been approved by the Presbytery of Long Island to hold their worship services in our sanctuary on Sunday evening and Friday evening. We are happy to welcome them!

Visioning Task Force

by Charlotte DeSanti

The Sweet Hollow Mission Study will finally be ready for presentation to the Session at its next meeting on April 17. The Study will then be given to the Commission on Ministry. Members of the VTF will meet with the Commission on Ministry at their May meeting. The congregation will receive both a paper and electronic copy of the Study. A Congregational meeting will take place after church in the near future. We hope that everyone makes every effort to attend, thank you.

Prayer Corner

by Carol Keil

We lift up prayers of peace and comfort for Linda Ulrich and her family as they celebrate the life and mourn the death of Linda's mother Ruth Ulrich.

Good and gracious God,

In the closing days of this Lenten period, we long for the Risen Christ to enter our hearts.

Give us the humility and patience to look harder, listen closer, and sit still long enough not to miss your presence when it is staring us right in the face. Give us the faith to see you in the smile of a stranger. To taste you in the warmth of a meal. To hear you in the melodies of a hymn. To feel you in the change of seasons. To know you in the stillness of our souls.

Lord, we ask that you give us such faith. Faith mighty enough to move mountains, yet weak enough that we would never dare try to go it alone without you or without each other.

Alleluia! Amen.

With thanks to Associate Pastor Charlene Han Powell of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church whose Prayers of the People on Sunday, March 26, 2017, inspired this Prayer Corner.

Christian Education News

by Lynn Burke

The children will be starting our next unit "Saul on the Road to Damascus" on April 23.

We are looking for all the children to participate in our Palm Sunday service on April 9 which will be followed by our annual Easter Egg Hunt. We look forward to seeing you. There will be an Easter Vigil service on Saturday, April 15 at 6:30 p.m. All families are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The Confirmation Class is continuing each week and our confirmands are working on their faith statements. Confirmation will be held on Sunday, May 7.

As always, we are in need of volunteers to teach Sunday School, lead in the Nursery and room shepherds for both. If you can help from time to time, please sign up on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary. It would be greatly appreciated.

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."

Fundraising help is available.

Bell Ringer Delivery

Would you like your Bell Ringer to go in color electronically thus saving us time and postage?

Please contact the church office at pchsecretary@hotmail.com or 631-367-9249.

Gift Baskets Needed For Spring Square Dance

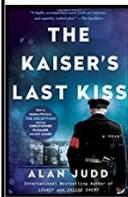
The Spring Square Dance Committee is looking for donations of items for gift baskets, or donations of themed gift baskets, which will be auctioned off at the Spring Square Dance to be held on Saturday, May 13, from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

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> or 631-385-1855 if you're interested in donating, or if you'd like to assist in the collection and assembly of the Gift Baskets. Thank you in advance.

Book Discussion

by Sukey Walter



Our next book is The Kaiser's Last Kiss by Alan Judd. This is a story of the exiled monarch Kaiser Wilhelm, who is living in the Netherlands when World War II breaks out.

We will meet on Thursday, April 20 in the parlor at 1:30 p.m.

Next Church Brunch Will Be Held On Tuesday, May 9

by Bill Walter

We are skipping an April Church Brunch this year because the second Tuesday falls in Holy Week, a week already filled with church events. Our next Church Brunch will be on May 9, the second Tuesday in May, with our program called "The Fall of the Pagans and the Origins of Medieval Christianity."



Women4Women

W4W went to the movies Monday evening, March 6, and enjoyed watching *Hidden Figures*. Afterwards, we left the Farmingdale Multiplex to have a snack and discussion at the Sweet Hollow Diner.

Our scavenger hunt for women 18 and older is scheduled for Monday, April 3. Hope to see you there!

Free NYS Disaster Preparedness Kit

by Bill Walter

On Wednesday, April 12, a New York State Citizen Preparedness Corps Training Program will be held at the Huntington Town Hall from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. A free NYS Disaster Preparedness Kit (a knapsack filled with flashlight, batteries, first aid kit, tools, emergency food & water, etc.) will be distributed to any person per family who comes to the presentation. For information call 631-351-3317. You must register in advance at www.prepare.ny.gov.

Lynne Stewart

by Bill Walter

John & Irene Feltham were elementary school teachers in Queens. Irene was a principal when they moved to Dix Hills in 1958 and joined Sweet Hollow. Their younger two children, Donald and Laurel Ann, attended our Sunday School and were confirmed in our church. Their oldest daughter, Lynne, was attending Wagner College when the family moved and so never became a member of our church. Lynne graduated from Wagner College on Staten Island in 1961 where she majored in political science. Lynne was very moved by and participated in the Civil Rights activities during the 1960s. Following up, she attended law school and was admitted to the NY State Bar in 1977. For much of her career as an attorney, Lynne has represented a number of economically-disadvantaged clients as well as several high profile cases.

In 1994 former Attorney General Ramsey Clark asked Lynne to take the blind cleric Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman on as a client after his other lawyers were taken off the case for conflict of interest. Lynne was reluctant at first, but Clark convinced her to take the case, arguing that Arabs would feel betrayed if she didn't. During Rahman's trial, she argued to the jury that Rahman had been framed for his political and religious teachings and not, as the prosecution alleged, for conspiring in any violent acts against the United States. Rahman was convicted of seditious conspiracy and in 1996 he was sentenced to life in prison.

After 9/11 took place, there was change in climate in our country which affected the way Lynne was viewed. As part of Stewart's defense of Rahman, and her service for several years on post-conviction issues, she was subject to administrative measures governing communications between suspects and their legal counsel. She was accused of passing a message from the blind cleric to his followers. In 2005 she was convicted on charges of obstruction of justice and conspiracy to provide material support to terrorism and sentenced to 28 months in prison. Judge Koeltl stated that while over her long career in representing the poor, disadvantaged and unpopular had "performed a public service, not only to her clients, but to the nation," however, her conduct was "extraordinarily severe" and "criminal" in this case. Lynne appealed and received adjournments to receive treatments for breast cancer. In November 2009, the higher court affirmed her conviction, revoked bail, remanded the case for re-sentencing and Lynne surrendered to begin serving a 28-month sentence. In July 2010, Lynne was re-sentenced by Judge Koeltl to 10 years in prison, taking into consideration what he concluded were false statements she made under oath at her trial and other factors as directed by the appellate court.

Lynne's imprisonment prevented the surgery she had scheduled in a major New York hospital. Given her age (74) and precarious health, the ten-year sentence was a virtual death sentence. On December 31, 2013, Judge Koeltl ordered a "compassionate release" after Lynne had served more than four years in jail to live with her son, a lawyer, in Brooklyn. Lynne's daughter, a physician, worked to get Lynne to Sloan Kettering. Lynne died on March 7 less than a month after the so-called "Blind Sheik" Abdel-Rahman died.

Welcome One, Welcome All —

To Sweet Hollow Presbyterian Church's

Spring Square Dance!

Grab your boots, “grab yer pardner” and come on out
for a fun night of dancing, food and fellowship!

No square dancing experience necessary. All types of music will be played.

When: Saturday, May 13, 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm
Where: The Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow
95 Old Country Road
Melville, NY 11747

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, beverages, 50/50 Raffle and Gift Basket Raffle Tickets will be sold at the event!
Raffle Tickets will also be sold in advance during Coffee Hours.
Childcare available for babies and toddlers.
Square Dance Caller: Mickey Rogers

******As help is needed in many areas, if you'd like to take part in helping to make this event a success, please contact Mickey Rogers at mickeyrogers74@gmail.com or 917-536-5787 or Maureen Sansone at msansone@optonline.net or 631-385-1855.******

April 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 10:00 Worship	3 April Fallon's Birthday	4 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	5 10:00 Prayer Circle Mary Reiser's Birthday	6	7 Betty Perkins' Birthday	8 Courtney Schmitt's Birthday
9 PALM SUNDAY 10:00 Worship Easter Egg Hunt	10 T'an Phipps' Birthday	11 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	12 10:00 Prayer Circle James Beyer's Birthday	13 MAUNDY THURSDAY 6:00 pm Supper & Worship	14 GOOD FRIDAY	15 HOLY SATURDAY 6:30 pm Easter Vigil
16 EASTER 6:30 am Sunrise Service 10:00 am Worship	17 7:30 pm Session Douglas Moder's & Brian Sansone's Birthday	18 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	19 10:00 Prayer Circle	20 1:30 Book Discussion Audrey Livingstone's Birthday	21	22
23 10:00 Worship Pizza With a Purpose Fundraiser	24	25 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	26 10:00 Prayer Circle	27	28 Barbara & Joe Moder's Anniversary	29 Gloria Sperry's Birthday
30 10:00 Worship Ryan Schiffmacher's Birthday						

**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 May Issue
April 24**

Holy Week Schedule

We will worship at the following times during this year's Holy Week:

Maundy Thursday, April 13 (6 p.m.)

Holy Saturday, April 15 (6:30 p.m.)

Easter Sunday, April 16 (6:30 a.m. and 10 a.m.)

Congregational Photograph

A congregational photograph will be taken after the 10 a.m. Easter Sunday worship service. We will proceed out the front doors of the church for a brief congregational photograph. This photograph will adorn the front cover of our future church bulletins.

Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Pizza With a Purpose Fundraiser on April 23



California Pizza Kitchen will donate to Sweet Hollow 20% of all food & drink items on the bill of anyone who eats in or uses take-out on Sunday, April 23 and presents the flyer or mentions the name of The Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow to the server. California Pizza Kitchen (CPK) is located at the northern end, at the Macy's entrance, to the Walt Whitman Shops (formerly Mall). Taxes & gratuities are excluded but all food & drink items are included in CPK's 20% donation. Dine as a family or take friends. We will try to arrange for groups dining together for lunch at 12:30 p.m. following church and a second group for dinner at 6 p.m. CPK is open 11 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. Call Bill & Sukey at 631-423-4905 or email at lcinc@pb.net if you are interested. CPK has soups, salads, pastas, tacos, sandwiches, specialties & gluten-free items. Their menu is available at www.cpk.com.