

# *The Bell Ringer*

## *Of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow*

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

**We Are Open . . . Come And Praise God!!!**

**AUGUST 2021**

**Sunday worship at 10 am**



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**From the Pastor's Nook . . . . .**

### **DIGITAL REFORMATION**

Have you ever heard of the Reformation? It was the period of time in the 1500s when a revolution swept through Europe that challenged the status quo on how people engaged their faith and how they worshipped God. It was a relationship changer. One of the big tools that punctuated this sweeping change was the creation of the printing press. Bible became much more accessible for people of all education levels, all socio-economic classes and in a variety of languages.

Now, due to the pandemic, we are in the midst of a **Digital Reformation** of faith!

In my first article for the Bellringer, I wrote quite a bit about the journey we were walking together being marked by the relationships that we form. God created human beings for relationship. It is in our natural divine DNA to crave relationships; relationships with God and with one another.

CoVid-19 has brought a deep challenge to how we have managed those relationships and to how things have changed during the pandemic. First we suffered through isolation as we quarantined against spreading the virus because the affects were unknown. Then we suffered with a lack of communication because our ability to speak was hampered by wearing masks that helped keep everyone safe. As we strive towards safeguarding our communities through vaccination, we remain aware that this virus is lethal (especially to the unvaccinated) and its impact could come with lifelong consequence. We remain cautiously optimistic about finding some new normal in light of the Delta variant that has created a new surge of cases.

**. . . . . Continued on Page 3**

## Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

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Rev. Wade Pond, Pastor  
 Rachel Fogel, Choir Director  
 Lori Kevelos, Church Administrator  
 Jill Conroy, Treasurer  
 Monica Van Houten, Clerk of Session

### Elders:

Ed Conroy  
 Jim Sommermeyer  
 Frank Sansone  
 Bill Von Brook

### Deacons:

Jean Cavanaugh  
 Niaja Mowatt  
 Maureen Sansone

### Other Groups & Activities:

Book Discussion .....	Sukey Walter
Christian Education.....	Carol Keil
Fellowship, Outreach & Mission.....	Maureen Sansone
House & Property.....	Bill Von Brook
Nominating .....	Barbara Martin & Niaja Mowatt
Personnel.....	Frank Sansone
Prayer Circle .....	Carol Keil
Prayer Shawl Ministry.....	Sukey Walter
Budget & Stewardship .....	
Women For Women .....	Maureen Sansone & Sukey Walter
Worship .....	Joan Sommermeyer
Youth Group .....	
Church Historian .....	
Bell Ringer Editor .....	Bill Chamberlain



Looking to get fast delivery of the Bellringer in color? All you need to do is EMAIL the church and tell us you want email delivery that will help save money, time and resources.

## BELL RINGER DEADLINE

**for September 2021 Issue:**  
**Monday, August 23, 2021**  
*Subject to change*



### August 2021

2 ..... Teddy Tanksley  
 7 ..... Carol Schiffmacher  
 15 ..... Ray Moder  
 18 ..... Willow Engel  
 22 ..... Tim Mason  
 22 ..... Mildred Schmitt  
 25 ..... Robbie Reiser  
 25 ..... Mickey Rogers



### August 2021

7 ..... Emily & Jason Wagner  
 8 ..... Sharon & Donald Krams  
 14 ..... Tim & Carol Mason  
 26 ..... Denise & Ray Moder

## **From the Pastor's Nook . . . . . *Continued from Page 1***

### **Digital Reformation (continued)**

In addition to these challenges, experts tell us about how our faith has changed. Thom Rainer, a church growth expert, acknowledges that attendance to church in a post-CoVid world is expected to be only 80% of pre-CoVid attendance. We will see fewer people in person. While the reality of that statement may bring us a sobering response, what this pandemic also shows us is that those who have remained faithful and engaged in the church has increased. The Pew Research Group has indicated that there is an increase in the percentages of participants volunteering their time and resources to the church (and other non-profits) to ensure that our relationships continue onward. Are you one of those individuals? In other words, the act of living out our faith has increased due to the pandemic!

One way in which that spirit of engagement and volunteerism has evolved in the church is through the use of technology that keeps us connected in a digital format. The church has embraced technology as a means of worshipping and praising God together and bringing more sheep into the fold.

I have a friend from Iowa that was overjoyed to hear that our church will be utilizing Facebook Live to stream our worship services alongside of our Zoom worship opportunity. Her exact phrase was, "I'm so excited that I will be able to worship with you in this way!" She is not alone. CoVid-19 has created the largest revolution in faith since the printing press was invented. More people are finding or re-finding their faith relationships because of the stressors of a pandemic that is stretching near the 18 month anniversary of shutdowns.

Session continues to meet via Zoom because it is convenient. Deacons will be meeting in August via Zoom as we plan relationship building. We have an AMAZING prayer group that meets every Wednesday morning via Zoom. I do mean amazing because this group of prayer warriors has embraced loving others through the medium of technology.

The point of this article for you is to share this piece of wisdom...God moves in mysterious ways. God moves through the bits and bytes and Gigabytes of technology that we share. God is alive and vibrant and God is willing to meet us wherever we are; in person or online. The true question for us is are we ready to meet people outside of the church where THEY are? We are reformed and constantly reforming. Let us continue to find our voice in the midst of our digital reformation!

# Prayer Corner

August 2021

By Carol Keil

"If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough."

-- *Meister Eckhart*

As the calendar turns to August, we joyfully and thankfully acknowledge the blessings of family and friendships that sustain this community of faith:

For seasons bringing rhythm to our days.

For summer days spent in the company of family and friends.

For rest from labors and time to reflect.

For the promise of new beginnings: in educational opportunities, in employment possibilities, in renewed energies in this community of faith.

For memories of loved ones.

For strength, hope and consolation found in shared concerns.

For the calling of the Holy Spirit that leads us and lights our path, whatever the journey.

For our caregivers: healing the sick, fighting the fires, feeding the hungry, consoling the bereaved, responding wherever and whenever needed.

For our country and our legislators, that they may govern with justice and with love.

Amen

"Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your spirit in this place."

## Weekly Prayer Circle via Zoom

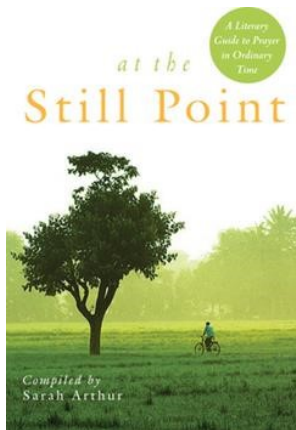
All are welcome to join in our weekly Prayer Circle Zoom gathering, Wednesday mornings at 10am. You'll find the Zoom meeting address in the weekly reminder email sent by Lori Kevelos.

# Christian Education

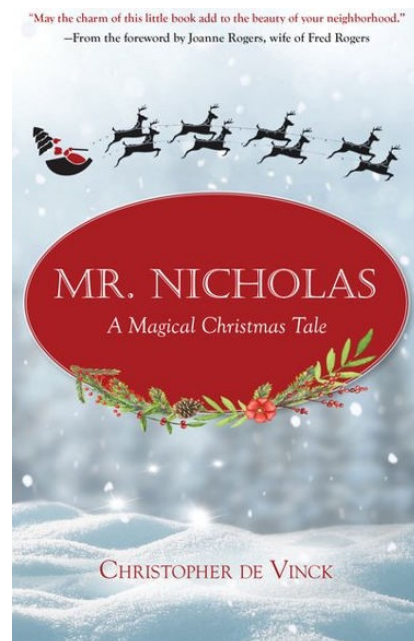
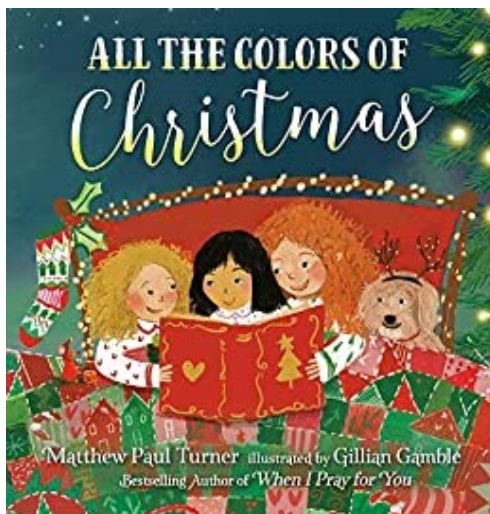
By Carol Keil

August 2021

## Books to Consider this month



Sarah Arthur's book *At the Still Point: A Literary Guide to Prayer in Ordinary Time*<sup>1</sup> compiles selections from Scripture and 20<sup>th</sup> century writers, liturgically arranged to enrich and inspire our Ordinary Time meditations. "It is a journey of imagination guided by poets and authors...who have known the things of God but speak in metaphor".



Having just celebrated *Christmas in July*, two books with a Christmas theme caught my attention.

For young children: *All the Colors of Christmas*<sup>2</sup> by Paul Matthew Turner celebrates the Christmas season. Rich illustrations by Gillian Gumble weave Turner's verse into a colorful tapestry of the sounds and scenes of Christmas.

For Adults and families to enjoy together: *Mr. Nicholas: A Magical Christmas Tale*<sup>3</sup> will be published in early September 2021. Christopher DeVinck brings us a heartwarming story of love, heartache and redemption involving Mr. Nicholas, the eccentric owner of a hardware store and JB an inquisitive ten-year-old boy with Down syndrome.

Enjoy!

<sup>1</sup> Arthur, Sarah, ed *At the Still Point: A Literary Guide to Prayer in Ordinary Time*, Brewster, Paraclete 2011

<sup>2</sup> Turner, Paul Matthew; Gumble, Gillian A, *All the colors of Christmas*, Convergent Books 2020

<sup>3</sup> DeVinck, Christopher, *Mr. Nicholas: A Magical Christmas Tale*, Brewster, Paraclete 2021.

## “Mission: On the Hunt for Bargains of School Supplies”

"Our annual mission to assist in preparing the children at the Tri-CYA (Tri Community and Youth Agency) for school continues. In mid-July many stores started to gear up with supplies. With sales at Target and Staples



showing up in news ads, we thought it may be the time to start collecting. A box will be left outside the office for you to drop off supplies in August and September. Hopefully kids will all be going back for in-class learning. The Tri-County Youth appreciate the school supplies for their programs. You may also support this mission opportunity by donating your check to PCSH, earmarked “school supplies”, to help purchase needed calculators.



**Starter Supplies: No. 2 Pencils -- Blue or Black Pens -- Pocket Tissues  
Composition Notebooks -- Spiral Notebooks -- Loose Leaf Paper  
Hard case Loose Leaf Binders -- Index Cards -- Highlighters -- Washable Markers  
Colored Pencils -- Subject Dividers—Elmer's Glue -- Rulers**



Thank you, Sweet Hollow Congregation

The Little Church With a Big Heart's  
Mission Team

## Alert to all online Amazon shoppers!



**Our AmazonSmile charity listing has arrived!** Seems the process took longer than I thought it would. Since we are in the system now, please try and select our charity (Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow) each time you go shopping.

In a time where every dime will count, this will make it easier for online shoppers who use AmazonSmile (we will get that next super Amazon Super Saver day we missed in June next time) to help the church while getting what you need...think of it like a two-for-one offer. This is the message I got when I selected our church: **Yes, I understand that I must always start at smile.amazon.com to support Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow.** So go to smile + select our church under the tab charitable organization and shop to your heart's content. Happy Shopping – Jane Beller



Amazon donates to your charity 0.5%  
of the price of your eligible purchases.



**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF SWEET HOLLOW**

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*We're on the Web!*

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**Photos from  
July 4 and  
July 11  
Services**

