

The Bell Ringer



Of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

No matter who you are or where you are on your life journey, you are welcome here.

November 2025



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From the Pastor's Nook:

Protesting as a Form of Following Jesus

When we think of following Jesus, we often imagine acts of kindness, compassion, prayer, and service. But what if we also recognized that following Jesus sometimes means standing up — publicly and courageously — against systems of injustice? What if protesting is not only a political act, but also a spiritual one?

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus' ministry was filled with moments of protest. He challenged corrupt leaders, broke social barriers, and disrupted the status quo in the name of God's love and justice. When he overturned the tables of the money changers in the temple (Matthew 21:12–13), he was protesting economic exploitation. When he healed on the Sabbath (Luke 13:10–17), he was challenging rigid systems that valued rules over people. When he proclaimed, "Blessed are the peacemakers," (Matthew 5:9) he invited his followers to pursue peace not through silence, but through active engagement in the work of reconciliation.

Protesting, in its truest sense, is about bearing witness — shining light on what is wrong so that healing and justice can begin. For people of faith, it's a way to live out the prayer we say each week: "*Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*" When we march, speak, write letters, or stand beside those who are oppressed, we are helping to make that prayer tangible in the world.



Continued on page 16

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Let's Get Together!

Would you like to get together with our wonderful church family and friends on a more social level outside of church events? Let's plan on some gatherings! We can start with designating dates for a twice a month to start. Let's start by meeting in the parlor after church service on November 9 to brainstorm some ideas. Contact Laura Fallon at 631-838-8490

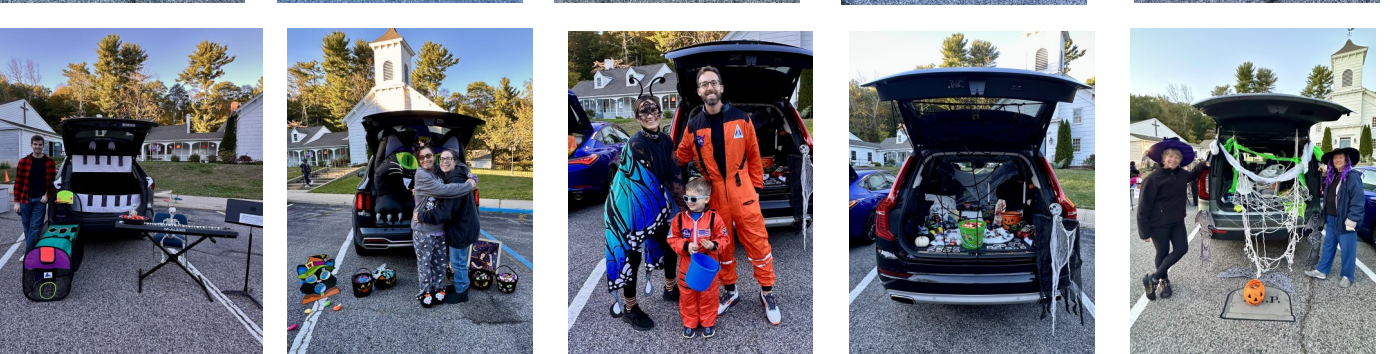
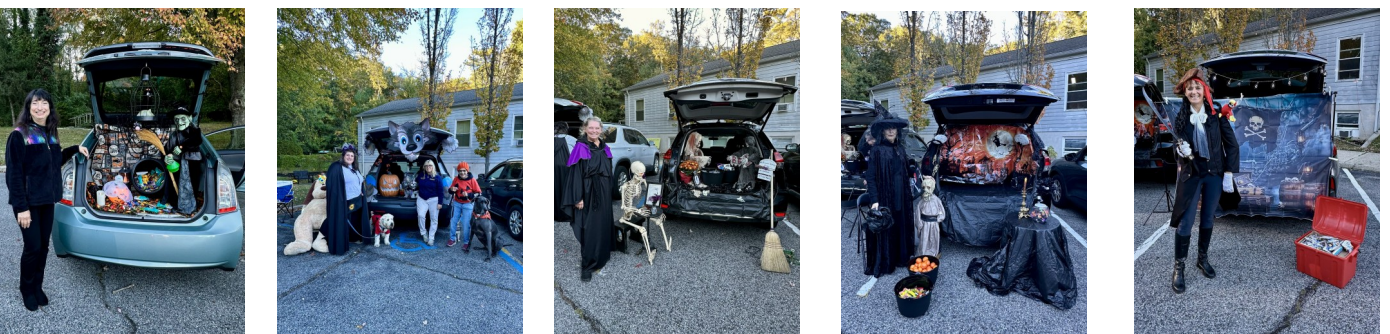
Fourth Annual Trunk-Or-Treat Recap...

Our 4th Trunk or Treat was a wonderful night. Each year this event gets bigger & better. Here are pictures from our fun filled night. A thank you also goes out to the Melville volunteer fire department and Dogability for supporting our event every year.



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

More Trunk or Treat Fun...





FAITH FORMATION

WHAT DOES SUPERMAN HAVE TO DO WITH FAITH IN FILM?
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, IT OFFERS A WINDOW INTO THE DEEP QUESTIONS
OF LIFE, PURPOSE, AND FAITH.
LET'S DISCOVER HOW GOD CAN SPEAK,
EVEN THROUGH HOLLYWOOD.



FILM: SUPERMAN (2025)

WHERE: PCSH CEB HALL

WHEN: NOVEMBER 22, 6:00 PM

WHO: EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Snacks

DRINKS



FAITH FORMATION

Have you noticed the increased presence of children in the church?

At The Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow, we believe our children are not just the future of the church — they are a vital part of its life right now. As we seek to nurture faith in creative and sustainable ways, we're inviting the entire congregation to a **Town Hall Conversation** following worship on **November 2nd**.

This will be an open time to **brainstorm, dream, and plan** how we can strengthen our ministry with children and families — even with limited numbers and resources. Every idea and every voice matters!

[YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!](#)

What We'll Talk About

- How can we offer meaningful faith experiences for our children on Sunday mornings?
- What new approaches might fit our small but vibrant congregation?
- How can we make volunteering fun, flexible, and shared among many hands?
- Creative scheduling because we know that everyone's time is precious

Here are a couple of examples on how we might be able to create a vibrant children's/family ministry at PCSH:

"One Room" Church School: Children of different ages gather together for one story, with older kids helping younger ones.

Rotation Model: Volunteers rotate through roles like storyteller, craft leader, or music helper — no one carries the whole load.

Monthly Family Sunday: Once a month, worship includes interactive storytelling or a children's message that engages everyone.

Intergenerational Events: Service projects, movie nights, or art workshops where all ages learn and grow together.

[Why Your Voice Matters](#)

Even if you're not sure you're "a kids person," your ideas and presence can help us shape a ministry that reflects who we are as a church — caring, creative, and deeply committed to sharing God's love.

Join us after worship on November 2nd in Fellowship Hall.

Come ready to share your ideas, your hopes, and your heart for the next generation of Sweet Hollow's faith family.

"We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord." — *Psalm 78:4*

WORSHIP NOTES

Why We Practice Open Communion at the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

At The Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow, we joyfully practice *open communion*—meaning that all who seek to follow Jesus Christ are welcome at the Lord’s Table. You don’t have to be a member of our church, or even Presbyterian, to share in this sacred meal. The invitation comes not from us, but from Christ himself.

In the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we understand the Lord’s Supper as a gift of grace, not a reward for perfect faith. It is a reminder that God’s love precedes our belief, our doubts, and our divisions. When Jesus gathered his disciples around the table on the night before his death, that circle included those who would soon deny, doubt, and even betray him. Still, he took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them—saying, “Do this in remembrance of me” (Luke 22:19).

That invitation echoes through time. Each time we gather at the table, we remember that we come not because we are worthy, but because we are invited. The communion table is a place of belonging, forgiveness, and unity—a foretaste of God’s kingdom where all are fed.

By practicing open communion, Sweet Hollow bears witness to a faith that is hospitable and hopeful. It reflects our Reformed belief that God’s grace cannot be confined by human boundaries. It also reminds us that Christ meets us right where we are—with our questions, our struggles, and our joys—and still says, “Come, eat, and be nourished.”

So when we share in the bread and the cup, we do so as one body, trusting that Christ is present among us and that love is what truly binds us together. Whether you are here every week or visiting for the first time, you are welcome at Christ’s table.

Come, taste and see that the Lord is good.

Please sign up in any open dates.

Deacon Sanctuary Prep Schedule		Liturgist Schedule	
<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
2... Jessica	7...	2... Sheri	7... Sheri
9...	14...	9...	14... Lynn
16...	21... Jessica	16... Niaja	21... Niaja
23...	28...	23... Lynn	28... Sisi
30...		(Smorgasbord & Decorate the church)	(Smorgasbord)
		30... Joan	

STEWARDSHIP AND GIVING

End-of-Year Giving at the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

As the year draws to a close, we take time to reflect on the blessings we have received and the ways our church community has been a blessing to others. The Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow continues to be a place of welcome, worship, and witness—thanks to your generosity and faithfulness throughout the year.

Meeting Your 2025 Pledge

If you made a financial pledge for this year, now is a wonderful time to check in on your giving. Many members find it helpful to review their year-to-date contributions and make sure their pledged gifts are up to date before December 31. Every dollar you contribute helps sustain the ministries, worship, and outreach of our congregation.

Opportunities for Extra Giving

As we look toward the new year, the church faces ongoing financial needs—from maintaining our historic building to funding mission and community programs that make a difference. If you are able, please consider an **extra year-end gift** to help strengthen our ministry for the months ahead. Whether it's a one-time donation, a designated gift toward a particular ministry, or a contribution in honor or memory of someone you love, your generosity will have a lasting impact.

Giving Tuesday – November 25

This November, we invite you to join the global movement known as **Giving Tuesday**—a day dedicated to generosity and gratitude. After the rush of Thanksgiving weekend and the excitement of holiday shopping, Giving Tuesday offers a moment to give back. A special “Giving Tuesday” offering for the church will be received both online and in person. Your gift—no matter the size—helps us continue sharing God's love with our community in meaningful ways.

As the year ends, may we give with thankful hearts, remembering that every act of generosity is a reflection of God's grace. Together, we are building hope, nurturing faith, and making a difference—one gift at a time.

“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” — 2 Corinthians 9:7

STEWARDSHIP AND GIVING

Supporting God's Mission Through Special Offerings



Each year, Presbyterians across the country join together in giving to four **Special Offerings** of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). These offerings are one of the most tangible ways we participate in Christ's mission beyond our local congregation. They allow us to make a difference in our community, in our nation, and around the world.

The **Christmas Joy Offering** celebrates God's gift of Jesus Christ by supporting current and retired church workers in need, as well as providing scholarships for students at Presbyterian-related racial-ethnic schools & colleges.

Together, these four offerings remind us that we are connected to a larger body of Christ. Each gift—large or small—helps the church live out our calling to “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God” (Micah 6:8).

As we receive these offerings throughout the year, may we give joyfully and generously, knowing that our combined gifts extend God's love and hope to places we may never see but where the Spirit is already at work.



The Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow
cordially invites you to our

4th Annual Christmas Tea

December 13, 2025
3:00pm – 6:00pm

95 Old Country Road
Melville, New York 11747

\$35 per person

Please R.S.V.P by December 6, 2025 to
Call: 631-367-9249
Email: pcshsecretary@hotmail.com
Venmo ID: @pcshsecretary95

Pre-Registration & Pre-Payment Required

4th Annual Christmas Basket Raffle

**Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow
95 Old Country Road
Melville, New York 11747**

Contact the church office for tickets.

Call: (631) 367-9249

Email: pcshsecretary95@hotmail.com

Venmo ID: @pcshsecretary95



Ticket prices:

25 Tickets - \$25

12 Tickets - \$15

6 Tickets - \$8

3 Tickets - \$5



**All proceeds support the ministry and
mission of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow
including: veterans, children, animals
and first responders**

MISSION & MORE

Mission Team Focus for NOVEMBER

HELPING HAND RESCUE MISSION

Shopping List Includes...

- ◇ 2 Boxes Stuffing
- ◇ (Gravy Can/Jar/Packets)
- ◇ Cranberry Sauce
- ◇ 2 Cans Corn
- ◇ 2 Cans Green Beans/Peas
- ◇ 2lb Dry Rice
- ◇ 1 Lg/2 Sm cans Sweet Potato
- ◇ Pancake Mix (32oz)
- ◇ Syrup (24oz)
- ◇ 2 Boxes Mac & Cheese
- ◇ Juice (64oz)
- ◇ Teabags/Coffee/Hot Chocolate
- ◇ 2 Instant Potato Bags
- ◇ Tortillas (corn or flour)
- ◇ Cake Mix
- ◇ Frosting
- ◇ Candy (sealed, Store-bought)
- ◇ Optional: Frozen Turkey, Ham or \$20 Grocery Store Gift Card



We shall once again be filling boxes to benefit our community. There will be a signup sheet in the sanctuary or you can call Jane (631-271-3099) and sign up for an item. Last year we handed in five boxes—super successful!

Helping Hand Rescue Mission's 60th Annual Thanksgiving Turkey & Food Distribution provides food for a family's full Thanksgiving meal, dessert and a special breakfast, to those in need right in our community. Yet another year in helping with the increased need locally. Although we are sad that more families in our community are going through difficult times, we are grateful that we can be of assistance with food boxes full of all the necessary treats! We feel incredibly blessed that as a community, there's always something that we can do to make life more stable and fuller of love and support for our neighbors in need.

Help us with your generous food donation as our team continually appreciates your support to Helping Hand Rescue Mission. We are blessed to be able to give families in need the gift of a wonderful Thanksgiving.

MISSION & MORE

MISSION & MINISTRY-NOW THROUGH DECEMBER



Be on the look out for those deals at the grocery store to help The Huntington Community Food Council keep up with the increasing demand for our brothers and sisters in need of support due to food insecurities. The need is still great. Our local food banks are in great need of our help. We will continue to keep the Huntington Community Food Council as a weekly mission in addition to our other missions. We greatly appreciate any and all you are able to give.

Food Drive— Please keep donations of pasta, rice, sauce, hot cereal, cold cereal, canned tuna, and peanut butter to benefit the **Huntington Community Food Council** coming in.



The Mission Team thanks you ALL for your compassion towards those in need.

MISSION & MORE



This November, we will be collecting toys for **Toys For Joy**, to benefit the children of **Tri-CYA**. Last year, we were blessed to deliver a mountain of toys, for which **Tri-CYA** was so grateful. We strive to collect even more this year. We will continue to accepting toys for **Toys For Joy** to benefit the children of **Tri-CYA**, which will be delivered the second week of December. Bring in toys over the next 5 weeks to give **JOY** to a child this Christmas. We need all toy donations by **Sunday, December 14** to have them delivered to the children on time.

TOYS FOR JOY TOY DRIVE

****Make a Child's Holiday*

*One They'll Always Remember****

Please bring in new, unwrapped toys starting 11/15/25 up through Sunday, 12/14/25, to benefit Tri-Community Youth Association, a Huntington Station based organization providing joy to children in the community through their toy ministry.

Toys will be blessed on that date & then delivered. Thank You.



Prayer Corner

A Prayer for Peace in a Troubled World

God of mercy,
Our world aches with conflict, division, and fear.
Where violence reigns, sow your peace.
Where hatred festers, plant seeds of compassion.
Guide leaders to act with justice and humility,
and help us to be makers of peace in our homes and communities.
Amen.

A Prayer for Creation and the Changing Climate

Creator God,
The earth groans under heat and flood, drought and fire.
Forgive our careless consumption and short-sighted choices. Renew the land, the air, the waters, and our will to protect them. Inspire us to live gently, love boldly, and act faithfully for the healing of your good creation.
Amen.

A Prayer for Those Affected by War and Violence

Holy One,
We hold before you the people of places torn by war—in Ukraine, in Gaza, in Sudan, and in lands we do not name enough.
Protect the innocent, comfort the bereaved, and turn the hearts of those who wield power and weapons.
May your peace, which passes understanding, prevail.
Amen.

A Prayer for the Nation

God of justice and truth,
Our nation struggles to find unity in the midst of division.
Inspire wisdom in our leaders, integrity in our discourse, and courage in all who seek the common good.
Help us to remember that we belong to one another, and that love of neighbor is the highest calling of freedom.
Amen.

A Prayer for the Sick and the Caregivers

Healing God,
Be near to those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.
Grant them courage for the facing of their pain and hope for the coming of each new day.
Bless doctors, nurses, and all who care with tenderness and skill.
May your healing love surround them like light.
Amen.

A Prayer for Those Who Grieve

God of comfort,
We lift to you those whose hearts are heavy with loss.
Hold them close in the shadow of your wings.
Give them rest when they are weary,
tears when they need release,
and companions who will walk with them in love.
Amen.

A Prayer for Those in Economic Hardship

God who provides,
For all who struggle to make ends meet,
for those facing layoffs, rising costs, or uncertainty—
grant strength, dignity, and daily bread.
Open our eyes and hearts to share what we have so that none may go hungry or be forgotten.
Amen.

A Prayer for the Church

Faithful God,
Keep your church steadfast in love and bold in service.
When we grow weary, renew our strength;
when we are afraid, remind us of your promise.
Make us instruments of your grace
in a world longing for light and hope.
Amen.



November 2025

3... Lori Kevelos
 6... Niaja Mowatt
 9... Donald Krams
 9... Malachy O'Conner
 28... Colin Keil

Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

(631) 367 - 9249

www.sweethollowpresby.org

Rev. Wade Pond, Pastor

Jason Black, Director of Music Ministries

Lori Kevelos, Church Administrator

Jill Conroy, Treasurer

Beatrice Reiser, Clerk of Session

Elders: Ed Conroy

Melissa D'Angelo

Niaja Mowatt

Frank Sansone

Bea Reiser

SESSION MEETING!

The session meets monthly, typically on the third Monday of each month at 8 PM. Most meetings occur via Zoom. In person meetings occur February/May/September/November. The next in person meeting is NOV 17. Any member of the church is welcome to attend.



1st Sat. of every month... Play Outside Day

1... National Cinnamon Day
 2... Daylight Saving Time Ends
 3... National Housewife's Day
 6... National Nacho Day
 9... National Sprapple Day
 11... National Sundae Day
 11... Veterans Day
 14... National Pickle Day/Family PJ Day
 18... National Princess Day
 18... Mickey Mouse Birthday
 20... National Peanut Butter Fudge Day
 21... National Stuffing Day
 22... National Cranberry Relish Day
 22... National Adoption Day
 25... National Play Day with Dad
 26... National Jukebox Day
 27... THANKSGIVING DAY
 28... Buy Nothing Day/Black Friday
 29... Small Business Saturday
 30... Stay Home Because You're Well Day

National Gratitude Month



National Gratitude Month

Military Family Month

National Peanut Butter Lovers Month

National Home Care & Hospice Month

National Family Caregivers Month

National Adoption Month

National Alzheimer's Month



From the Pastor's Nook:

Continued from page 1...

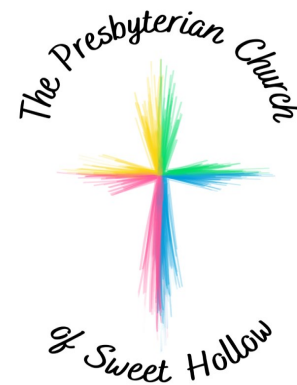
The Reformed tradition reminds us that the Church is “reformed and always being reformed according to the Word of God.” That means we are called not only to personal faithfulness, but also to prophetic action. Whether it’s advocating for peace, racial equity, environmental care, or the protection of human dignity, protest can be one of the ways we walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

Protesting is not about anger for its own sake — it’s about love that refuses to stay silent in the face of injustice. It’s about joining Jesus on the road where healing, truth, and justice meet.

May we be a people who not only believe in justice but embody it — courageously, compassionately, and faithfully — for the sake of Christ and the world He loves.

**Jesus entered into
the temple of God,
and drove out all of those
who sold and bought
in the temple.**

Matthew 21:12



Find our website and social media links!

www.sweethollowpresby.org

Facebook/YouTube/Instagram

<https://www.facebook.com/sweethollowpresby>

<https://youtube.com/>

[@presbyterianchurchofsweeth1401](https://www.instagram.com/presbysweethollow)

<https://www.instagram.com/presbysweethollow>

Bell Ringer Delivery: To have your copy of the Bell Ringer delivered by paper rather than email, please call the office, e-mail <pcshsecretary@hotmail.com> or Pastor Wade.

Dec. Bell Ringer Submissions: Due by Nov 25

Email to Jessica Pond: 8kidscallmemom@gmail.com