

# The Bell Ringer

## Of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

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

SEPTEMBER 2022

Sunday worship services at 10:00 am

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



We are excited once again to announce that **our Church Choir will be starting once again very soon!** The first Sunday for choir is September 11<sup>th</sup>. The first rehearsal is Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.



For those who have sung in the choir in the past, of course, you are welcome to join us and in fact, are encouraged to join us as soon as we begin.



There may be those who have never been in the choir and have been interested in possibly becoming a choir member. Please feel free to reach out to Jason or Pastor Wade if you have questions so that we can share with you what is involved!

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### From the Pastor's Nook

In last month's Bell Ringer article, I wrote about the major problem that the church has in today's culture and society. The word that I used was **RELEVANCE!** For far too long, the church has become increasingly irrelevant in the lives of its parishioners and its neighbors.

As part of that article, I also noted four things that can be done to change the tide. This month, I wanted to talk about the first opportunity.

#### Do Something Different

Einstein once said insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. So why would we continue down that path if what we were doing wasn't working?

The collective church has been behind the curve with innovation and creation for far too long. God created us to be creators in this world. As the world is rapidly changing, we must adapt as well. While things like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and so on will never go out of style, the methods we extend this fruit into the world can and should change.

-----Continued on Page 3

# 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

Monica Van Houten, Clerk of Session

**Elders:**

Ed Conroy

Melissa D'Angelo

Niaja Mowatt

Frank Sansone

Bill Von Brook

**Deacons:**

Jean Cavanaugh

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

## BELL RINGER

### DEADLINE

**for October 2022 Issue:  
Monday, September 26, 2022**

*\*\*\* Subject to change \*\*\**



### September 2022

- 5 .....Jill Conroy
- 5 .....Carol Mason
- 9 .....Sue Manning
- 12 .....Michelle Von Brook
- 12 .....Peter Kevelos
- 12 .....Stavros Kevelos
- 14 .....Tracy Dein
- 19 .....Kristen Conroy
- 20 .....Ayanna Williams
- 21 .....Barbara Moder
- 25 .....Bob Earthy
- 30 .....Sharon Krams



### September 26, 2022

1st Anniversary of Pastor Wades' Installation

### Happy Anniversary

#### September 2022

- 4 .....Joanna Hoban & Daniel Layer
- 24 .....Beth & Nick Pereira

**Office Closed Monday, September 5**

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

If we continue to operate like Blockbuster Video in a Netflix world, our decline to death will be sooner than you think. Gross negligence of being online really caught up with the church. It was truly inspirational to see so many churches pivot and get out of their comfort zone to jump online at the pandemic's start. But, the question remains, "Why were so many churches not already online?" How many more clues did the church need that being online in a visible way was important?

I'm not saying the church will die. Far be it. It is God's church, and it will prevail.

But a pastor that continues to stay married to old methods that weren't working could very soon be divorced from having a church.

Right now, virtual and augmented reality, Web3, and the metaverse are all knocking on our doorstep. Sometime in the next 5-20 years, these realities will be another significant disruption to our lives. I hope we've learned that it's a foolish strategy not to be where the people are. What does all of this mean? We are still figuring it out. But, entering into these conversations on the front end rather than 20 years later seems like a wise strategy.

Let's be proactive, not reactive.

What could our little church with a big heart do differently for the upcoming year?

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, following worship, the session is hosting a Town Hall meeting called, ***Ideas and Appetites*** (thanks Niaja!). It is a time for the session to share what is going on in the church, what is being planned and for us to talk about what is needed in the future.

Please put this on your calendar and plan on attending. Following the meeting, we will be gathering for a BBQ meal and a small mission project for the Melville Fire Department!

See you on Sunday(s)

~PW

## **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.

In the past month, families and friends of our small church with a big heart have experience the loss of loved ones. We give thanks for the way they touched our lives.

We remember and lift in prayer the families of:

**Fran Templeton**

**Paul Manning**

**Eleanor Waters**

Gracious God, while these people are gone now from this earthly dwelling, we ask that in the midst of our collective grief that you help us to hold their memory close to our hearts and live into the hope of eternal life where you will bring us together again. Amen.

## Prayer Corner

By Carol Keil

We thank *The Presbyterian Outlook* for the following prayer excerpts:

### **Back-to-school blessing for the 2022-23 school year**

“Gather us, O God, around our children, parents, teachers and school staff as this new school year begins. Anoint us with your grace, fill us with your love, inspire us for our service. Bless us as a community, guided by your Spirit, called to care for and nurture the young, for the sake of their future and ours. Amen”

By Teri McDowell Ott

### **A prayer for milestones**

“Gracious God,

Help us to navigate the fullness of both our joys and our sorrows for the many transitions we undergo in our lives, especially when the emotional weight of it all feels too overwhelming to name and too heavy to carry.... For the many milestones in this lifetime, help us to walk onward through them.... Give us the strength to step boldly into the unknown and the faith to trust you in the process. Amen”

By Katy Shevel

We join in consoling prayer for all who mourn and remember loved ones:

For Anna Schiffmacher Howard, the Schiffmacher and Howard families as they remember and celebrate the life of Erik Howard.

For the Templeton family as they remember and celebrate the life of Fran Templeton.

For the Manning family as they remember and celebrate the life of Paul Manning.

We pray for comfort and continued healing for Chris Boken as she recuperates from surgery.

We lift healing prayers for Carol Schiffmacher as she prepares for knee surgery on September 7.

Lord, Hear our prayers, Amen

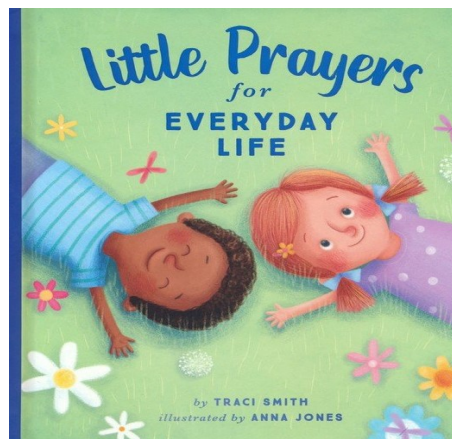
# Faith Formation

By Carol Keil

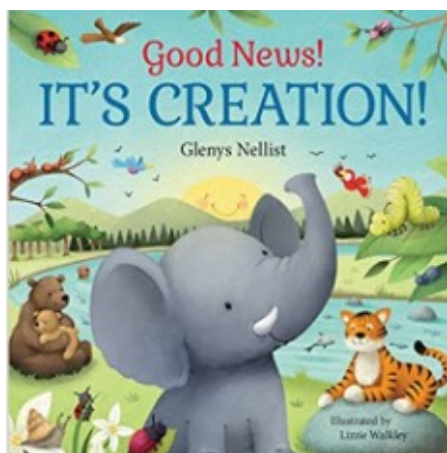


We'll be sharing weekly Lectionary-based at-home Faith Formation resources from the Illustrated Ministry Mini Revolutions series beginning the first Sunday of September.

Traci Smith's new book *Little Prayers for Everyday Life* will be released later this month.



Go to [glenysnellist.com](http://glenysnellist.com) to sign up for author Glynis Nellist's monthly newsletter **Links to Lovely Things**. Lovely Things links this month includes: *When Your Child Walks Into The Room... Back-To-School Resources*, *What Children Need to Hear From Us*, and *What You Can Do With a Watermelon* (think Pirate Ship!) Glynis has two new books for young children out this month: **Good News! It's Creation** and **Good News! God Loves You!**



# Ministry Giving

By Jill Conroy, Treasurer

Our Church, The Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow, has been serving our community for more than 193 years and 45 charter members. During that time, we have stood strong in the face of recessions, national disasters, 40 presidents and several pastors. The year ahead should be no different as we continue ministry to all who come our way.

Mission is a matter of Christlikeness: “As the Father has sent Me, I also send you” (John 20:21). Therefore, in one sense, the mission committee is a Christlikeness committee. Your time must not be wasted and God will not be disappointed. Our Mission Team invites our congregation members and their friends to participate in whatever capacity they can to help others in need. In the spirit of Matthew (Matthew 25:35) – “for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

Our Mission Committee is hard at work. Their purpose – to serve the congregation and pastor by encouraging, resourcing and facilitating involvement in local, national and international missions, particularly focusing on missionaries and missionary organizations that have been approved by the church is headed by Maureen Sansone and Jane Beller. Every month our Mission Committee is hard at work by raising money for organizations such as “Souper Bowl of Caring” which benefits the Huntington Community Food Council, “Healthy Snacks” which benefits the Tri-County kids, Project Hope, Helping Hands Rescue Mission and so many more.

Right now we need your help. Our operating budget is experiencing quite a strain. For the year we are down about 50-60%. Much of this due to unexpected hurdles and a few of our families that have been hit hard by the economic crisis.

If this continues by 2025 some of our important ministries will suffer as well as the survival of the church. This church has never failed to live up to our responsibilities and obligations. We still have time to finish strong but we will need the help of our faithful members.

If you have been giving regularly would you see if the years end offers you any chance for an extra gift? If you are behind on your pledge would you try to catch up? If you have not begun to give, could you remember us this week with a generous offering? Together we can come through this crisis and be stronger than ever.

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers” (Galatians 6:9-10).

God bless you for your continued love of our church.



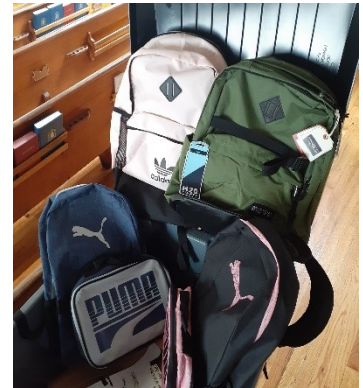
# Late Summer MISSION School Supplies



Another season of generous giving of school supplies to help the local Tri-CYA was underway in August this year. All supplies were blessed by Pastor Pond and then delivered August 17 to very happy workers.

Taking advantage of sales was a key component in the quantity received. Kudos out to those sale shoppers!

September's push will be for healthy snacks for their after-school program. You still can give school supplies as they are needed year-round. A child is definitely more relaxed at the start of the school year knowing they have what is needed to accomplish their job at school.



Your generosity will change lives.

Thank you Sweet Hollow Congregation

The Little Church with a Big Heart's

Mission Team



## Annual Clothing Drive

The next project for the Mission Team is our Annual Clothing Drive for Veterans to benefit Beacon House. We ask you to bring in used/gently used clothing such as shirts, pants, jackets, coats etc that we will donate in October. Collection will take place during September and October.

## Trunk or Treat!

We still need to hear from you regarding our idea of Trunk or Treat! In order to move forward with this project we need at least 10 people to volunteer to decorate their car in a unique theme:

**Imagine decorating your car with a theme like Dr. Seuss, or football, or a giant spiderweb and handing out goodies to a horde of kiddos dressed up in their best Halloween theme.**

**The mission committee wants you to decorate one car (or more if you wish) as an outreach to families in our community, providing them a safe space to TRUNK or TREAT on Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 PM.**

**Do you have that Halloween spirit? Do you like your ghosts and superheroes and princesses to come to our little church with a big heart?**

**Decorate a car for TRUNK or TREAT! Contact Lori or Pastor Wade for information or to sign up!**

**Also, if you have a family member or friend or small business that might be interested, have them contact the church as well!**

The Mission Team looks forward to hearing from you!

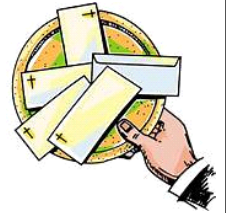


## Donation Envelopes For 2023



Last call to tell me you **DO NOT WANT** an *entire box* of donation envelopes for 2023. We have a tremendous amount of extra blank envelopes in the sanctuary closet if you prefer to grab a handful (or we mail them to you) and utilize them that way. You can contact me at 631-271-3099 or my email at looneychick36@yahoo.com. Here's hoping your 2022 is going

better than last year—Stay Healthy. Early September I will be sending out updated donations collected thus far via emails that I have on file. Donation letters will now also be going via email to save the trees and postage *unless I am told otherwise* based on what I just sent out for the EOY 2021 letters. If you change your mind anytime, just call me--Jane Beller



## THANK YOU SHOPPERS of amazon smile

This past month Amazon gave us over \$54. It is because our members and their family and friends near and far have earmarked our church as their charity of choice on AMAZONSMILE. A wonderful and easy way to generate money for Sweet Hollow since every dime counts for those of you that buy online. The payouts are quarterly and we are hoping that the numbers are bigger next time that would cover those Amazon Prime Days. For those wanting to join the giving party...go to AmazonSmile and search/type in and select the charity: Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow in Melville. Thanks again for helping out.

Happy Shopping

**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*

**Sunday September 11, 2022**

**10:00 am: Worship Service**

**Town Hall Meeting, "Ideas and Appetites", in the sanctuary  
following the Worship Service**

**BBQ after the Meeting**



**Christmas**

**IN July**

**July 31, 2022**

