



The Bell Ringer

Of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

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

May 2026



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From the Pastor's Nook:

Seeing Forward Together: A Vision for Sweet Hollow

The Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow has always been a place of faith, warmth, and deep connection. It is a community where people know one another, care for one another, and seek to follow Christ together in meaningful ways.

And yet, even in a church with such strong roots, there comes a time to look ahead.

Scripture reminds us that vision is not about predicting the future—it is about listening for God's call in the present. Throughout the Bible, God's people are continually invited to move forward in faith, trusting that God is already at work ahead of them.

That is why we are beginning a visioning process as a congregation.

For a church like ours, it might be tempting to think that visioning is something meant for larger congregations or rapidly growing ministries. But the truth is just the opposite. A church like Sweet Hollow is uniquely positioned to engage deeply in this kind of discernment. We are small enough to listen closely, to hear every voice, and to move faithfully when clarity comes.

This process is not about changing who we are.

It is about discovering more fully who God is calling us to be in this season.

As we look ahead, we will be asking questions that matter:

- Where is God already at work in and around Sweet Hollow?
- What needs exist in our surrounding community that we are called to meet?
- What gifts and passions has God placed within our congregation?
- How can we faithfully carry our ministry into the future?

From the Pastor's Nook:

These are not just practical questions—they are spiritual ones. They invite us into prayer, reflection, and honest conversation.

In the weeks ahead, there will be opportunities for small group discussions, shared reflection, and congregational input. This will not be a top-down process. Instead, it will be something we build together—listening for God's Spirit through one another.

And this is important: this process is not about crafting a perfect statement to put on paper.

It is about purpose.

When a church has a clear sense of vision, something begins to shift. Energy grows. Decisions become clearer. Ministries feel more connected. And people begin to see how their own gifts and presence matter in the life of the church.

The writer of Proverbs tells us, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Another way to hear that is this: without direction, people lose heart. But with vision, even a small congregation can be filled with renewed hope and purpose.

That is our prayer for the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow.

This is an invitation—to listen for God's voice, to imagine what could be, and to trust that God is still guiding us forward.

The future of Sweet Hollow is not something we simply wait for. It is something we will prayerfully step into—together.

Building Relationships

Let's Get Together!



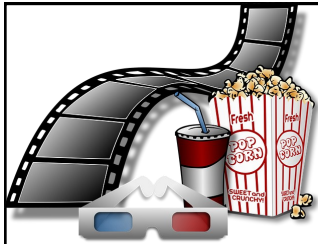
The Huntington Hilton has live music (acoustic) Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm. Let's meet up at the entrance under the Atrium for a light bite, conversation and music this coming Tuesday, April 28th and/or Tuesday, May 5.

Please RSVP to Laura Fallon via text 631-838-8490. See you there!

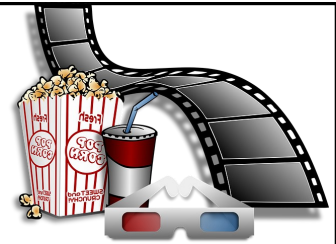
The Devil Wears Prada 2 is a highly anticipated movie coming out on May 1. Let's plan to meet up later in the month of May at the UA theater in Farmingdale. Date and time TBD. Please let Laura Fallon know if you are interested in attending in advance. I am hoping for a matinee or early evening so that we can plan a lunch or dinner before or after the movie. Laura looks forward to hearing from you.



FAITH FORMATION



Faith In Film Movie Night



May 2nd at 6:00 PM

What does the movie

THE LION KING

**have to do with faith in film?
Come and see how God can
speak, even through
Hollywood.**



**Movie style
snacks;**

fun movie;

**Good
conversation.**

Film: The Lion King

Where: PCSH, CEB Hall

When: May 2nd at 6:00 PM

Who: COME ONE! COME ALL!

This movie is rated PG

Parental Guidance Suggested

<small>PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED</small>	CHECK THIS BOX FOR SPECIFIC CONTENT INFORMATION
PG	
<small>Some Material May Not Be Suitable for Children</small>	



FAITH FORMATION

Laying the Groundwork: Confirmation This Fall

This coming fall, the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow will begin a new Confirmation journey for our young people—an important step in their growth in faith and their life in the church.



Confirmation is more than a class. It is a season of discovery.

It is a time when youth are invited to ask big questions about God, Scripture, and what it means to follow Jesus in today's world. It is also a time to explore what it means to be part of the church—not just in name, but in purpose, belonging, and commitment.

This year, our Confirmation experience will be shaped by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s **"Changing the World"** curriculum, developed by Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). At its heart, this curriculum invites young people to see faith not as something passive, but as something active—something that makes a real difference in the world around them.

Together, confirmands will explore:

- The foundations of Christian faith and Scripture
- What it means to be Presbyterian
- How Jesus calls us to love, serve, and seek justice
- The ways faith can shape our everyday lives

But just as importantly, they will be encouraged to wrestle, to wonder, and to claim faith for themselves.

Confirmation is not about having all the answers.
It is about beginning to take ownership of the journey.

In many ways, Confirmation is not just about preparing youth for membership—it is about preparing the whole church to renew its sense of purpose. Their questions challenge us. Their energy inspires us. Their faith helps shape our future.

We look forward to sharing more details in the months ahead, including meeting times and ways the congregation can support this meaningful journey.

For now, we invite you to begin praying—for the youth who will take part, for those who will lead, and for the ways God will continue to shape the life of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow through this important season.

Because when faith is formed, lives are changed. And through those lives, the world just might be too.

WORSHIP NOTES

From Fire to Faithfulness: Worship After Pentecost



At the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow, the season of Pentecost marks a powerful turning point in the life of the Church. On Pentecost Sunday, which happens May 24th this year, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit—the moment when God’s presence moved among the disciples with energy, courage, and new life. You’ll often notice red in the sanctuary that day, symbolizing the fire of the Spirit, and our worship is filled with joy, movement, and a sense of renewal.

But Pentecost is not just a single day—it leads us into what is called “Ordinary Time” (or the season after Pentecost). Despite the name, there is nothing ordinary about it.

This is the season where we live out our faith.

In worship during these weeks, the colors shift to green—symbolizing growth. Our focus turns to the teachings of Jesus, the rhythms of discipleship, and the ways we follow Christ in everyday life. Week by week, through Scripture, prayer, and song, we are shaped and strengthened for the work of being the Church in the world.

If Pentecost is the spark, this season is the steady flame.

Together, in this time, we listen, learn, and grow—trusting that the same Spirit who came at Pentecost is still at work among us, guiding the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow forward in faith.

WEAR RED FOR
Pentecost

WORSHIP NOTES



Liturgist Schedule

May

3 - Laura Fallon
 10 - Niaja Mowatt
 17 - Maureen Sansone
 24 - Lynn Burke (Smorgasbord)
 31 - Jessica Pond

June

7 - Niaja Mowatt
 14 - Joan Sommermyer
 21 - Jessica Pond
 28 - Laura Fallon (Smorgasbord)



Deacon Schedule

May

3 - Barbara Martin
 10 - Sisi Weaver
 17 - Tracy Dein
 24 - Barbara Martin (Smorgasbord)
 31 - Jessica Pond

June

7 - Tracy Dein
 14 - Sue Manning
 21 - Laura Fallon
 28 - Sisi Weaver (Smorgasbord)

Stewardship & Giving



Looking Ahead with Faith—and Commitment

At the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow, we are entering a season of visioning—taking time to listen for where God is calling us next. Vision is not about becoming something different; it is about becoming more fully who God is calling us to be as a community of faith.

Even as a small church, this work matters deeply. When we have a clear sense of purpose, our ministries become more focused, our connections grow stronger, and our impact reaches further into the lives of others.

But vision is not only something we imagine—it is something we sustain.

The ministry we share together today, and the future we are discerning together for tomorrow, are both made possible through the faithful giving of this congregation. Every act of generosity—large or small—helps ensure that our church remains a place of worship, care, outreach, and hope.

As we look ahead, we are invited not only to pray and participate, but also to continue supporting the life of the church through our giving. In doing so, we become active partners in the vision God is unfolding among us.

The future of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow is something we will step into together—with faith, with purpose, and with generosity.

MISSION and MORE

Continuing Our Mission: Supporting the Huntington Food Pantry



Our commitment to serving our neighbors continues as we renew our support for the Huntington Food Pantry. Through this ongoing mission, we have the chance to share Christ's love in tangible and practical ways with families right here in our own community.

The pantry remains in need of **nonperishable food items** such as canned vegetables, soup, pasta, rice, cereal, peanut butter, and other shelf-stable staples that help stock their shelves and provide meals for those facing food insecurity. Every donation, no matter the size, helps ease the burden for local families and individuals.

In addition to food donations, there is also a continuing and urgent need for **diapers and baby wipes**. These essential items are not covered by food assistance programs and can be a significant hardship for families with infants and toddlers. A package of diapers or wipes can make an immediate and meaningful difference to parents who are struggling to make ends meet.

As followers of Christ, we are reminded that caring for our neighbors is one of the clearest ways we live out our faith. When we give generously, we offer more than groceries or supplies—we offer dignity, compassion, encouragement, and hope.

Please bring donations to the designated collection area at church during the coming weeks. Together, through many small acts of kindness, we can continue to be a blessing to our community and faithful partners in this important ministry.

Thank you for your generosity, your compassion, and your continued support of this mission.

Thank you

Prayer Corner

“Won’t You Be My Neighbor?” — Living the Love of Christ



As we move into May, we continue to live in the light of the Resurrection. Easter joy is not meant to stay inside the sanctuary. It spills into streets, neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and kitchens. The Risen Christ sends us outward — not simply to believe the good news, but to embody it.

Throughout this season, the Gospel readings from Gospel of John remind us of Jesus’ tender yet powerful command: *“Love one another as I have loved you.”* This is not sentimental love. It is sacrificial, attentive, neighborly love. It is the love of the Good Shepherd who knows his sheep by name. It is the love that washes feet. It is the love that lays down its life.

In a world marked by division, violence, loneliness, and uncertainty, that kind of love feels both urgent and radical.

As Presbyterians, we affirm that faith is never private. We are called to participate in God’s mission in the world. Our confessions remind us that the church exists not for itself, but to witness to God’s reign — a reign marked by justice, compassion, reconciliation, and peace. Resurrection people become repairers of what is broken.

This May, perhaps we might hear Jesus asking us anew: *Who is your neighbor?*

The question stretches beyond geography. Neighbor is the family down the street. Neighbor is the child who feels invisible at school. Neighbor is the coworker carrying quiet grief. Neighbor is the stranger seeking refuge. Neighbor is even the one with whom we disagree.

To love as Jesus loves means:

- **Seeing others clearly** — not as labels or issues, but as beloved children of God.
- **Listening deeply** — especially to voices that are often unheard.
- **Serving humbly** — in ways large and small, public and unseen.
- **Advocating courageously** — when dignity and justice are at stake.

Neighbor-love may look ordinary: a meal delivered, a handwritten note, an invitation extended. But the Gospel tells us that such small acts carry eternal weight.

In our fractured world, loving as Jesus loved is not weakness. It is resurrection strength. It refuses to give fear the final word. It insists that compassion is stronger than indifference. It trusts that God is at work even when headlines overwhelm us.

Prayer Corner

May is also a month of growth. Gardens bloom. Days lengthen. We are reminded that the Spirit continues to cultivate new life in us. What seeds of kindness might God be planting in your heart? Where might Christ be nudging you to step across a boundary and say, in word or action, "Won't you be my neighbor?" As we pray this month, consider holding these intentions before God:



◇ **Pray for Softened Hearts**

Ask God to remove cynicism and replace it with holy curiosity and compassion.

◇ **Pray for the Courage to Engage**

Where it feels easier to withdraw, pray for boldness to reach out.

◇ **Pray for Our Community**

Lift up schools, caregivers, first responders, the lonely, and those struggling financially or emotionally.

◇ **Pray for the Global Church**

Remember sisters and brothers around the world working for peace and justice in Christ's name.

Let us close with prayer:

*Loving Shepherd,
You call us by name and gather us into one flock.
Teach us to love not only in word, but in action and truth.
Open our eyes to the neighbors you place before us each day.
Give us courage to cross boundaries,
patience to listen well,
and joy in serving others.
May your Spirit grow in us a love that reflects your own —
steady, merciful, and brave.
Make us instruments of your peace in a divided world.
In Christ's risen name, Amen.*

This May, may we walk gently, love boldly, and live as neighbors shaped by grace.



Special Days



May 2026

- 20... Ambryel Moder
- 24... Jordyn Pond
- 25... LeRoy Mowatt
- 29... Ellie Schiffmacher
- 30... Carol Keil
- 30... Kevin Manning



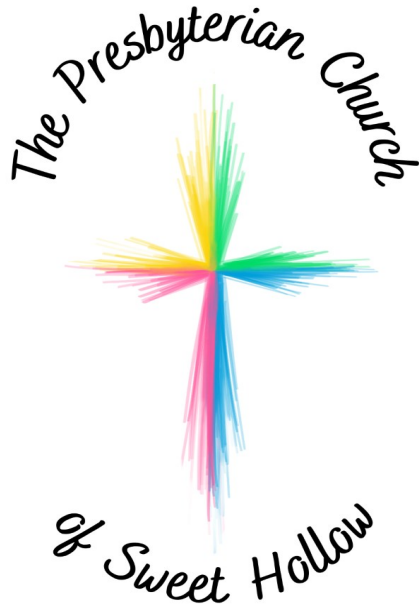
May 2026

- 4... Anthony & Melissa D'Angelo
- 8... Wade & Jessica Pond
- 16... Ross & Barbara Martin
- 19... Frank & Maureen Sansone

- 1... May Day
- 2... Truffle Day
- 3... Garden Meditation Day
- 4... Star Wars Day (May The 4th Be With You.)
- 5... Astronaut Day
- 6... Foster Care Day
- 7... Tourism Day
- 8... Have A Coke Day
- 9... Lost Sock Memorial Day
- 10... Clean Up Your Room Day
- 11... Eat What You Want Day
- 12... Fibromyalgia Awareness Day
- 13... Frog Jumping Day
- 14... Dance Like A Chicken Day
- 15... Peace Officers Memorial Day
- 16... Classic Movie Day
- 17... Graduation Tassel Day
- 18... Visit Your Relatives Day
- 19... Devil's Food Cake Day
- 20... Pick Strawberries Day
- 21... American Red Cross Founder's Day
- 22... Solitaire Day
- 23... Lucky Penny Day
- 24... Brothers Day
- 25... Missing Children's Day
- 26... Paper Airplane Day
- 27... Grape Popsicle Day
- 28... Hamburger Day
- 29... Paperclip Day
- 30... Creativity Day
- 31... Smile Day



Website/Social Media



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: Melissa D'Angelo

Niaja Mowatt

Maureen Sansone

Joan Sommermyer

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 meeting is virtual, MAY 18.

Any member of the church is welcome to attend.

Ask Pastor Wade for details.

Find our website and social media links!

www.sweethollowpresby.org

Facebook/YouTube/Instagram

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

<https://youtube.com/>

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

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

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please call the office at (631)367-9249 or

e-mail the office: pcshsecretary@hotmail.com or

e-mail Pastor Wade: revwadepond@outlook.com.

JUN Bell Ringer Submissions: Due by MAY 25

Email to Jessica Pond: 8kidscallmemom@gmail.com