

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.

October 2024



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From the Pastor's Nook:

1 Corinthians 12: 4-11

4 Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, 5 and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Happy Fall! Yes, it's that magical time when the leaves change, we pull out our cozy sweaters and sweatshirts, pumpkins decorate porches, and our favorite aspect of fall: STEWARDSHIP TIME! Now, before you stop reading, I think stewardship's gotten a bad rap and like most things as humans, we've misunderstood why as followers of Jesus we have a regular cycle of discussing stewardship. Stewardship isn't just about money, yes, it is a little, but really stewardship is time when as the people of God we get to openly discuss, ponder and pray regarding what gifts do we have? How are we best utilizing those gifts? And most importantly, ensuring all gifts are seen as valuable for the vision, mission and ministry of our congregation, in our particular time and place.

This year, alongside our regular financial budget planning, PCSH leadership is putting together a Mission Commitment plan as well. We know that the most valuable asset God has given us is...US! As Paul highlights in his letter to the people of Corinth, everyone, yes, everyone, has a gift, has something that God IS and WILL use to bring the good news of God's love, grace and mercy.

One of our many strengths at PCSH is that we are a community that seeks to serve, love and embrace all who cross our path in the love of God. This season, I invite you to consider how you will budget your tangible resources, AND your innate resource for connection with God and our neighbors. Even if it's not through PCSH, (and that's ok!) devise a plan for your gifts in order to usher in the kingdom of God in your life and in the lives of the people you encounter.

Blessings on your discernment and planning.
PW

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS...SMORGASBORD SUNDAYS

Have you ever been to a smorgasbord? A smorgasbord has Swedish origins and is a buffet style of meal that became popular following the 1939 World's Fair in New York!

Wikipedia informs us that a smorgasbord is typically a celebratory meal and guests can help themselves from a range of dishes laid out for their choice.

Through conversations with the session and the church growth team, we have decided to evolve the Fourth Sunday Fellowship into Smorgasbord Sundays! **But we need your help!!!!!!**

We want to make Smorgasbord Sundays about you!!!!

The evolution of this time of fellowship moves away from a model where one or two people bear the responsibility of providing refreshments for anyone attending. Instead, we are moving to a model where the community of faith comes together to provide refreshments!!!!

We would like to have you bring one dish, JUST ONE, to share with any of our worshipping neighbors on that Sunday!!!!

Why are we looking to change this model???

1. To encourage more people to participate in an event that is about food, fun and fellowship!
2. To have a consistent event on our calendar that we wish to share with others and to invite our neighbors, friends and family!!!!
3. To lessen the burden by sharing something together, communal. Many hands make light work.
4. Jesus gathered with many people, friends and strangers, around a meal.
5. To show off the favorite dishes that we would like to make and share with our church family!

A substantial part of growing the church is about growing in relationship with one another. Food is one of the items that brings families of faith together and it is also something that brings guests into our collective presence.

Let us share a meal with one another in the fashion that Jesus would have shared a meal with friends and strangers!

Looking forward to our next Smorgasbord Sunday following worship on October 27th!!!!!!

FAITH FORMATION

By Carol Keil

Days shorten and nights are cooler, signaling the arrival of Fall and hopefully, the opportunity to reset the rhythm of our days, to begin a new hobby, or to set new goals.

Among the inspirational resources that crossed my desk or lit up my cell phone screen this summer:

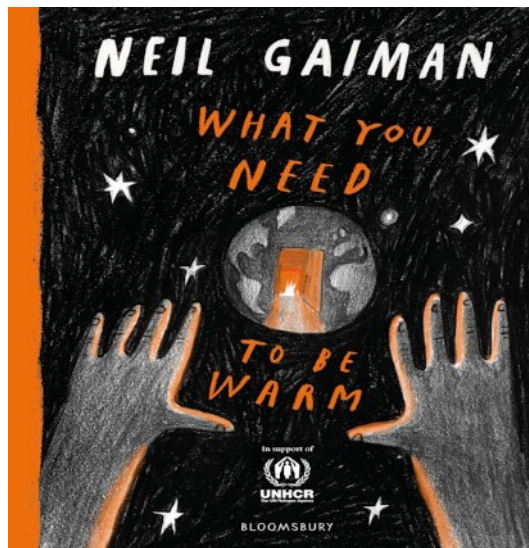
This blog: pullupachair.org, “where wisdom gathers, poetry unfolds and divine light is sparked...” is a treasure trove, exactly as it is described! Logging on to this site leads to many additional, inspiring resources.

This link: <http://2010yeagleyenglishpbworks.com/f/How+Flowers+Changed+the+World.pdf> leads to “HOW FLOWERS CHANGED THE WORLD”. The details found in an 8-page essay by 20th-century naturalist Loren Eiseley add perspective to the world we know today within the greater arc of the history of creation.

What You Need To Be Warm*, by New York Times best-selling, Award-winning poet and UN Goodwill Ambassador, Neil Gaiman, is written for families with children ages 3-8 years. Gaiman has partnered with 13 artists to vividly illustrate his narrative of being safe and warm in a difficult world.

Funds raised through the sale of this book will help support UNHCR work, across the world.

*Gaiman, Neil (2023) ***What You Need to Be Warm***, Quill Tree Books, an imprint of Harper Collins Publishers, USA



FAITH FORMATION

The Kerygma Program

Starting in September, Pastor Wade will be leading a dedicated bible study through the Kerygma Program. The first part of the study will be an introduction entitled “Your Bible: The Study Begins”. This introductory session typically takes about 7-8 weeks and provides the foundation for the more in depth programs that Kerygma offers.

Kerygma describes the introductory course this way: **“An introduction to the library of books which are the foundation of our faith and provides a refreshing orientation to the Book and opens a door of understanding to all other Bible study. In seven, one-hour sessions, participants will explore basic issues.”**

What Is the Bible?

How Did the Bible Come to Be?

What Is the Old Testament About?

What Is the New Testament About?

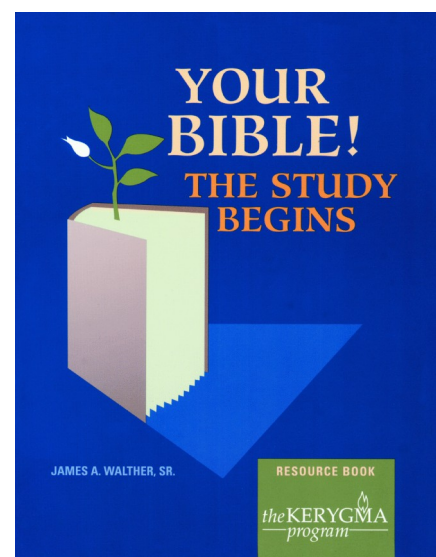
How Has the Bible Been Preserved and Handed On?

How Shall We Study the Bible? What Is the Place of the Bible in Our Lives?

Join Pastor Wade in the Parlor following worship on September 8th for information and registration for this faith formation opportunity!

If you have any questions, please ask Pastor Wade. He would love to hear your questions about the program!

<https://kerygma.com>



new

WORSHIP NOTES

WHAT IS WORSHIP AND WHY DO WE DO IT?

There are many parts that compose what pastors call “The Order of Worship” (also known as the ordo). Over the next several months, I will highlight the various parts of worship as a part of our growth in faith and the celebratory act we call worship.

Responding to God’s Word

In our order of worship, the section known as **RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD** is the calling for us to action after engaging God’s Word. Our response happens in various ways. The first way we respond is in a time of prayer. Prayer is our opportunity to connect directly with God. Prayer can be framed in joys and concerns; things we are thankful for as well as things that worry us. Sometimes we name those joys and concerns and sometimes we don’t. Either way, God knows what is on our hearts. Another part of our prayer response is the LORD’S PRAYER. The Lord’s Prayer is a communal prayer, something that we do together. It binds us to one another and to Jesus followers throughout all of time, history and geography. The Lord’s Prayer is a communal expression of some of the most common types of prayer: Adoration (we love & praise God), Confession (we admit we haven’t been our best selves), Hope (we are looking forward to something better) and Supplication (providing things we need for ourselves or others).

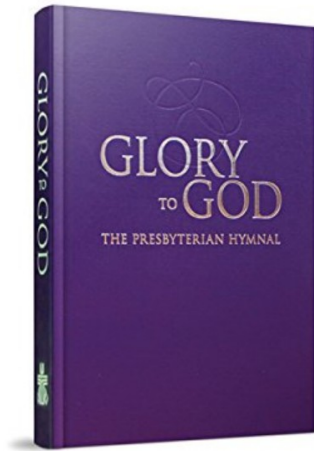
Following the time of prayer is our time of generosity. Often called an offering, this response of generosity is an encouragement for us to connect to the world as we offer our support to God’s mission through the church. Most commonly, this takes on the shape of financial contributions, but it also encourages giving to mission projects and time to help around the church (cleaning, gardening, visiting/calling others). We respond to God providing us with what we have by giving some of it back to help out other parts of God’s creation.

What have been some ways that you have responded to God’s Word in worship? How has it made a difference in your life?

THE LITURGICAL COLOR OF OCTOBER IS GREEN IN OBSERVANCE OF THE TIME OF THE YEAR THAT WE CALL COMMON TIME. WE WILL BE IN COMMON TIME UNTIL NOVEMBER, JUST BEFORE THE SEASON OF ADVENT.

WORSHIP NOTES cont'd

GLORY TO GOD HYMNALS



A foundation for the Presbyterian Church is that music of any kind played in Service is prayer. The Session, as well as Worship Chair Joan Sommermeyer would like the congregation to contribute for the purchase of 60 **Glory to God** pew hymnals to replace the blue covered 1990 "Presbyterian Hymnal". The cost is \$40.00 per hymnal. If you contribute to purchasing a book, you have the option for a personal inscription similar to those in our current blue hymnal. There are three options to purchase hymnals: 1-

Electronic print returned to pcshsecretary@hotmail.com, with electronic payment to our Venmo account, 2-Paper form, which will be by the collection basket and can be returned with payment into the collection basket during Sunday worship, or 3-Print out the electronic form and mail with payment to church. You are welcome to purchase as many hymnals as you wish. We would like to have the new hymnals in the pews by October.

This **Glory to God** hymnal was first published in 2014 and there are no Denominational plans to replace it. The hymnal has 800+ hymns, psalms and spiritual hymns, many of which we have sung in service as an insert. More than 50% of the included hymns will be from the 1990 blue hymnal. The new songs come from 6 different continents and cover all historical and contemporary sacred genres. Replacing the hymnal will expand our music offerings while lowering the overall church operations costs.

Once the new hymnals have been placed in the pews, those individuals who had a blue hymnal(s) inscribed by them or for them in 2004 will have an opportunity to take it (them).

Express your love in memory or honor of family or friends through an order of a **Glory to God** hymnal.

UPDATE: We have received over \$2200 on a goal of \$2400 to upgrade our hymnals! Great job! Let's get that remainder!!!!

WORSHIP NOTES cont'd

Liturgist Schedule

We give thanks for all of those individuals who help to lead worship on any given Sunday. It is a gift to the congregation and to Pastor Wade to see the willingness of others to serve God's people.

October 6th—Niaja Mowatt
October 13—Lynn Burke
October 20th—Laura Fallon
October 27th—Carol Keil
November 3rd—Niaja Mowatt
November 10th—Lynn Burke
November 17th—Maureen Sansone
November 24th—Laura Fallon
December 1st—Niaja Mowatt
December 8th—Sheri Myers
December 15th—Sheri Myers
December 22nd—Lynn Burke
December 29th—Carol Keil

Serving as a liturgist is a gift to the church. You don't have to be a bible expert, a linguist, or have a seminary degree to serve as a liturgist. A liturgist has a heart to help and lead others. Remember that Moses was called to lead and speak in front of people despite his difficulties speaking: "How then should Pharaoh heed me—who gets tongue-tied!" ([Exod. 6:12](#)). Moses has already pointed this issue out a few chapters earlier, protesting that he has "never been a man of words" and is "slow of speech and slow of tongue." Scholars believe that Moses was afflicted with the challenge of stuttering. Look how he turned out with God's help!

If you have questions about serving as liturgist, talk to Pastor Wade. It is a joy to those explore the calling to serve.

BIBLE AND A BREW

There will be no Bible and a Brew for September as it would come on the heels of Labor Day!



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

October 2024

1...Alexandra D'Angelo

4... Kristen Sommermeyer

10...Sukey Walter

16...Zariah Walter

20...Melissa D'Angelo

ANNIVERSARIES

9...Niaja & Leroy Mowatt

10...Carol & Otto Keil

10...Hillary & Justin Zucker

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 October 21st. 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>

STEWARDSHIP AND STUFF

Thank you to those that have thus far paid their 2024 per capita. It helps Sweet Hollow pay the required \$38.90 for every member on our rolls. Families of 3 would pay \$116.70.

When you submit your payment if NOT in the blue envelope, please earmark the money with the words per capita (some blue envelopes are in the back of the sanctuary). Online donations have a note section to let us know. If members do not earmark their per capita portion, we must take money from our budget to fulfill our responsibility towards the Presbyterian Church (USA). This payment ensures that we can easily use resources, borrow from the Presbytery office, and receive advice and support from the General Assembly.

Thank you for helping us meet OUR church's obligation!

Please remember each member should pay a Per Capita Apportionment of \$38.90 this year.



STEWARDSHIP AND STUFF

Make-A-Will Month is Upon Us!

Did you know August is Make-A-Will Month? It serves as an annual reminder that your will is the key to your legacy, protecting your family's future, and supporting the organizations about which you care the most. Establishing a will or reviewing the status of your current estate plan are great steps to take during this month.

A will is your opportunity to indicate who receives what from your estate. Surprisingly, the majority of people do not have a current estate plan. Without a documented estate plan, state law will determine how your estate is distributed—even if it is not what you intend.

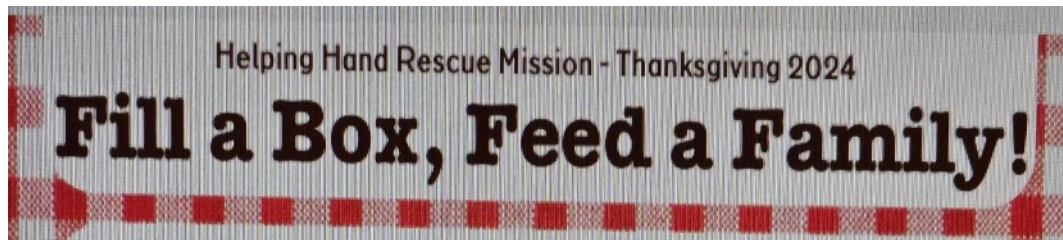
A charitable gift in your will—a charitable bequest—is an easy and flexible way to support the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow and secure an inspiring future for generations to come. Two easy ways of accomplishing this involve:

1. Including the church as a beneficiary in your will or updating your will to reflect the church as a beneficiary, and
2. Including the church as a beneficiary of your retirement account and/or life insurance policy.

For each, you can give a dollar amount, specific items, or designate a percentage of your estate.

If you would like more information about how you can make a charitable bequest gift to the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow, please contact Pastor Wade or Jill Conoy (treasurer).

MISSION & MORE



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

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Oct. 7 - Helping hours:

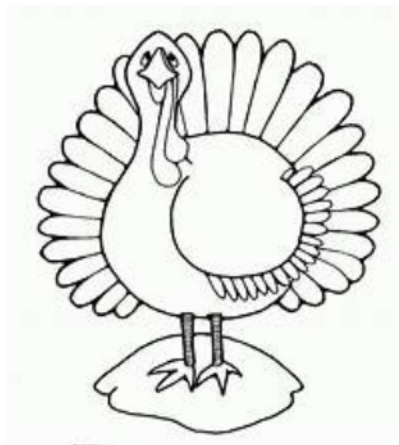
Nov. 20 Hunting off hour social r

MISSION & MORE

We shall once again be filling two boxes to benefit our community. There will be a sign-up sheet in the sanctuary or you can call Jane (631-271-3099) and sign up for an item.

Helping Hand Rescue Mission's 59th 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. This year we'll be meeting another increased need in our community. Although we are sad that more families in our community are going through difficult times economically due reduced hours, health issues etc., 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 in helping our local community. We are blessed to be able to give families in need the gift of a wonderful Thanksgiving.



MISSION & MORE

TRUNK OR TREAT 2024!!!!

Friday, October 18th from 6 PM to 8 PM is our third annual Trunk or Treat community event. This is a free family fun event that is meant to be inclusive for all people and fun for kids in particular!

We are in need of individuals who are willing to be a **TRUNKER!!!!**

To be a trunker, all you need to do is provide some light decorations to decorate your car in the parking lot (or a table in the hall in the case of rain).

Be sure to let Lori know if you plan on being a TRUNKER!

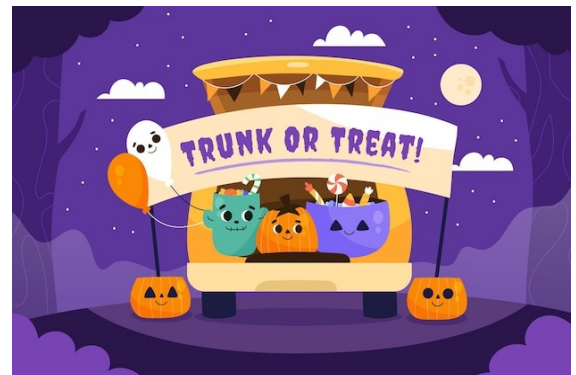
Being a trunker, you may need a little extra time to decorate your car. Please feel free to arrive as early as 5:00 to set up.

When you arrive, please park in the spots along the sidewalk of the church. Please have your trunk pointed towards the driveway entrance of the church so that our guests will be able to see everything safely.

We would like to be sensitive to nut allergies, so if you brought your own candy that contains nuts, please ask each family if they can have nuts before giving them candy containing nuts. We will have plenty on hand to give out :-)

Please sign up and make our guests feel welcome with the spirit of hospitality and joy that comes with such an event. Have fun!!!

Be sure to invite your family, friends, neighbors and local businesses or workplaces to stop by from 6 PM to 8 PM!



Prayer Corner

by Carol Keil

“One discovers the light in darkness; that is what darkness is for; but everything in our lives depends on how we bear the light. It is necessary while in darkness, to know that there is a light somewhere, to know that in oneself waiting to be found there is light”

James Baldwin

“Darkness cannot drive our darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive our hate: only love can do that.” Martin Luther King, Jr.

“ Lord the light of Your Love is shining. In the midst of the darkness, shining. Jesus , light of the world, shine upon us. Set us free by the truth You now bring us. Shine on me.”

Graham Kendrick

Lord, we pray for our world:

In the wake of Hurricane Helene’s destruction.

News reports of increasing military action in the Middle East and the Ukraine.

Political tensions both here and abroad.

Guide us to bear your light with compassion and wisdom, as we seek to ease pain and sorrow where there is suffering from warfare, famine, and natural disasters.

Hear our prayers for those who seek healing. Bring them comfort and strength.

We pray, with thanksgiving, for the opportunity to study your word and serve you.

We pray with those who mourn the passing of loved ones.

Our prayers ascend for this family of faith and our Pastor and his family.

We give thanks for the inspiration and energy of volunteers planning church community-wide events in the weeks ahead.

Lord, hear our prayers, Amen.

Find our website and social media links!

www.sweethollowpresby.org

Facebook/YouTube/Instagram

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

<https://youtube.com/@presbyterianchurchofsweet1401>

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



CHURCH PROPERTY SALE UPDATE

In July, it was shared that the Suffolk County legislature had approved to do appraisals on our property for the Open Space preserve program. Those appraisals are likely to be completed during the month of August and then submitted back to the legislature.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CHURCH?

The process is moving forward as expected. Once appraisals are completed, they will be sent to the legislature for their consideration.

It means the process is going just as the session has hoped to this point. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to Pastor Wade.

STAY TUNED FOR MORE UPDATES

Bell Ringer Delivery: To have your copy of the Bell Ringer delivered by e-mail instead of on paper, please call the office, e-mail <pcshsecretary@hotmail.com> or Pastor Wade. You will receive your copy faster, the pictures will be in color, it will save the cost of paper and toner,