

# *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 2024**



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### ***From the Pastor's Nook:***

It's hard to argue against the statement that we live in one of the most divisive times perhaps since the Civil War, which is why I've been pondering what it means to be unified. Maybe you have too. Particularly as people who strive to follow Jesus, what does it mean to live in unity? We know that it's desired, "how very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!" (Psalm 133) and we know that Jesus in John 17 prays for us to be one as he and God are one.

But I know that I can miss the mark on unity, as it's easier for me to be in unity with people who agree with me, who make me feel comfortable and don't push me to see other viewpoints. Jesus never says that unity is easy, and as a matter of fact, prepares his disciples proclaiming the good news of God that everyone has value, that some will reject them. Jesus isn't talking about the kind of unity that demands we compromise our values, our hearts, souls and minds to the voices and allows harm to occur to our neighbor.

Jesus is clear that unity, is liberation for all-no group of people scapegoated, marginalized and controlled for the comfort of another group. The litmus test for unity as God's people is simply this: loving for our neighbor as ourselves. Not "do I like my neighbor?" Not "do I agree with them?" Not "should they have the same access to clean air, water, healthy food, housing, thriving wages, healthcare, as me?" Our neighbor's value is not ours to decide, as God already did: with a resounding "you are my beloved."

This is unity in God's kingdom: unity of every human having bodily autonomy, agency, freedom, inclusion, care, community, no matter what. Every human: Gay humans, Trans humans, Black humans, Brown humans, immigrant humans, undocumented humans, pregnant humans, unhoused humans, unemployed humans, incarcerated humans, poor humans, women/femme humans. You see, the unity comes in our shared humanity of being created in the image of God. Each human.

Jesus was also as human as divine, a human who came to unify humans back to a divine God, to reveal that in God, we aren't divided, we can't be. But that was too scary, too radical, too controversial, too much for people with all the worldly power and authority. It still is. "Divide and conquer," the saying goes. Jesus says, "be one and live."

There can be no "us or them," Jesus says. There is only "we." We who know that being "one" isn't conformity, but living boldly different in a world that celebrates status quo, sameness, comfort, ease, and agreeability.

(Cont'd on back page)



# **BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS**

## **TRUNK OR TREAT 2024!!!!**

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

We had 10 trunkers participate by decorating cars, handing out goodies and being awesome neighbors to our community!

We were joined by the Melville Volunteer Fire Department as they had a truck and an EMS vehicle and multiple volunteers participate in our event!

And this year's event was the best one so far!

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!!!





# TRUNK OR TREAT 2024!!!





# TRUNK OR TREAT 2024!!!



This is just a sample of the many pictures from this wonderful evening. You can find more on the church Facebook or Instagram pages. We would especially like to thank Joan Sommermeyer, Sukey Walter, Jean Cavanagh, Sheri Myers, Laura Fallon, Tracy Dein, Lori Kevelos, Carol Keil, Melissa D'Angelo, Jessica Pond, Bea Reiser and their families that helped to make this such a special event!

## FAITH FORMATION

By Carol Keil

Gospels, Apostles, Epistles, and Saints!

In this age of nearly instant, *global communication*, it's challenging to imagine how “news” traveled anywhere in “Bible times”.

As we celebrate All Saints Day, we are humbled to honor and remember those faithful **apostles** and the message in their **epistles** to Christian communities of faith, echoing across millennia, continuing to inspire us today with the *Good News*, **Gospel** message.

We thank the Latin, Greek, and Old English languages for the origins of these words.

**Epistle** comes from the Greek noun *epistole*, meaning *letter* or *message*. It was first used in the 13<sup>th</sup> century to describe the letters sent to instruct and support the early Christians. Of the 27 New Testament (NT) books of the Bible, 21 are *Epistles* written by the **Apostles**. *Apostles*, the early Christian teachers (disciples of Jesus) inspired by the *Holy Spirit* to record the story of Jesus’ life and teachings and to teach others how to lead Christian lives.

**Apostle** is an Old English noun that comes to us via Latin and Greek words *apostolos* or *apostellein* meaning *sent forth*.

The noun **Gospel** comes from the Old English word *godspel* meaning *glad tidings/good news*.

The Middle English noun **saint** appeared in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It comes from the Anglo-French word *seinte/saint* via the Latin word *sanctus* or *sacred*.

**All Saint’s Day** has been celebrated on November 1 since the year 835. As members of the Reformed tradition, “Presbyterians give glory to God for the ordinary, holy lives of the believers in this and every age. This is an appropriate time to give thanks to members of the community of faith who have died in the past year.”

## WORSHIP NOTES

**As we look forward to the end of our calendar year, please be sure to remember some of the upcoming items in worship.**

1. Mission Commitment Sunday—November 17th—During worship you are encouraged to make your commitment towards the church's budget and ministry for the 2025 year. Those commitments will be the foundation of the operation of the church.
2. Decorate the church—Sunday November 24th—Stick around following worship to help decorate the church for the upcoming holiday season! We will celebrate Smorgasbord Sunday that day as well!!!!
3. December 1st—The first Sunday of Advent which last for four Sundays leading up to Christmas Eve.
4. December 24th—Christmas Eve worship—There will be two Christmas Eve services. 7 PM Family Service with fun for all & 9 PM traditional Lessons & Carols with candlelight.





## **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.



## Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

(631) 367 - 9249

[www.sweethollowpresby.org](http://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

## November 2024

3...Lori Kevelos

6... Niaja Mowatt

9...Donald Krams

9... Malachy O'Connor

## **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 November 18th. Any member of the church is welcome to attend. Ask Pastor Wade for details.

*Find our website and social media links!*

[www.sweethollowpresby.org](http://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**

### **Mission Commitment Sunday – November 17**

So what in the world is Mission Commitment Sunday? Mission Commitment Sunday (MCS for short), is an expansion of our stewardship commitment. Mission Commitment is all about ensuring that we lean into our mission to be the Little Church with a BIG HEART. MCS is about sharing the load of our mission through our spiritual practices.

Our spiritual practices include (but are not limited to) things like prayer, scripture reading, giving of our financial resources, fasting and dedication to service. These are the practices that keep the church vibrant, sharing the good news of the gospel with our neighbors.

MCS allows us to provide a space for the about 200 members of the Huntington Seniors group to gather each week. MCS allows us to provide a safe space for Alcoholics Anonymous to meet regularly as these individuals continue to heal and lift up one another in their struggles. MCS helps us to ensure that we have a place to collect an abundance of clothing for veterans or to provide food for the hungry.

Mission Commitment Sunday is about all of those things and MORE! MCS is the day that we COMMIT, PROMISE, PLEDGE and ENGAGE in the practice of **HOPE**. The act of giving regularly and intentionally through our spiritual practices helps us grow in faith and become more mature spiritually. It serves as a continual reminder of God's claim on our lives. It requires us to put our own needs and wants into proper perspective, to set aside our own interests for the sake of God and others. Generosity is a tool God uses to shape our hearts. It is the active engagement of HOPE.

As the leadership of the church, we are responsible for envisioning our prayer-filled HOPE requests. Our finance team is currently working on assessing the needs for 2025.

What is in your HOPE box for the church? What is in your HOPE box for your lives? What is in your HOPE box for others? That is what your spiritual commitment is all about! We have lots of HOPE in our hearts and dreams in our heads for the church. In November, we will gather together, with HOPE in our hearts, as we share in our Mission Commitment Sunday.

Thank you,



Your Finance Team – Jill Conroy (Treasurer) Melissa D'Angelo & Pastor Wade.

## **STEWARDSHIP AND STUFF**

***2 Corinthians 9:7 says: "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."***

Greetings friends and family of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow,

It has been a pleasure serving the needs of our church members and the surrounding community. However, continuing our ongoing ministry efforts comes at a great expense to the church. As the leadership of the church has assessed its year end needs, we are projecting an annual budget deficit of approximately \$22,500. Most of this expense is due to increasing costs, especially insurance.

Without this money, the church's remaining reserves will be depleted, and some bills may go unpaid. That is why we are turning to you for support. Your extra financial gifts to the church will help us keep the spirit of service alive, as Christ has called us to do. It will also help us bridge the gap until the time when the sale of the back portion of the property is complete (expected mid-2025) and our reserves will be restored to a comfortable level.

To make a donation, visit our online portal at <https://sweethollowpresby.org> or make a check out to the church (PCSH) or give via Venmo. Any amount is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Wade, the session or Lori, our church administrator.

May God Bless You Always.

The Session of PCSH

Bea Reiser, Clerk

Frank Sansone

Ed Conroy

Niaja Mowatt

Melissa D'Angelo

Jill Conroy, Treasurer

Rev. Wade Pond, Pastor



## MISSION & MORE



### \*\*\* NOV CLOTHING DRIVE \*\*\*

#### To Benefit United Veterans Beacon House

Fall has arrived and many of us will be switching clothes for the colder weather. This is a wonderful opportunity to help local veterans with your gently used and clean clothing, shoes, accessories and linens.

Our Annual Clothing Collection Drive has started early in September to catch those clearing their closets. It will go till Veterans Day (November 11) when we shall bless the clothing that Sunday and then deliver them. Passing these items to military families in need via the United Veterans Beacon House is a wonderful idea.

Donations can be left in the sanctuary collection bin each Sunday. If you need to bring donations to church during office hours: Monday – Friday between 8am and noon, please call Lori in advance at 631-367-9249.

Thank you Sweet Hollow Congregation  
The Little Church With a Big Heart's  
Mission Team

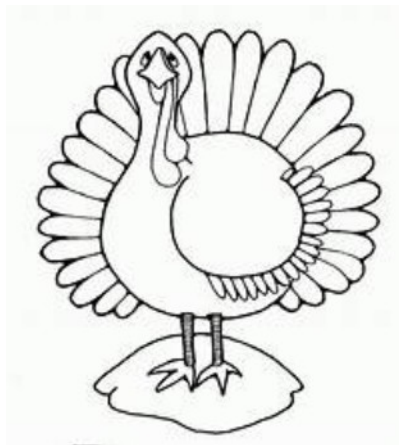


## **MISSION & MORE**

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.





## Prayer Corner

by Carol Keil

“Holy One,

Help us to celebrate each day in thanksgiving for the blessings and challenges that bring us closer to you.

We thank Arianne Braithwaite Lehn for the inspiring message of her prayer,

**“When I need perspective at the start of the day”**

*“In this day, O God*

*May I be alert,*

*May I be kind,*

*May I be compassionate,*

*May I be authentic,*

*May I be generous,*

*May I be forgiving,*

*May I be honest,*

*May I be brave,*

*May I be open,*

*May I be creative,*

*May I be strong, May I live from my intentions, not simply my habits.*

*May I hold closely in prayer, the people you bring to my heart and mind right now.*

*May I focus, may I trust, and, above all, may I be yours.”*

Lord, Hear our prayers, Amen.

Ash & Starlight, prayer for the chaos and grace of daily life, copyright 2019 by Arianne Braithwaite Lehn. Chalice Press, St Louis, MO

*Find our website and social media links!*

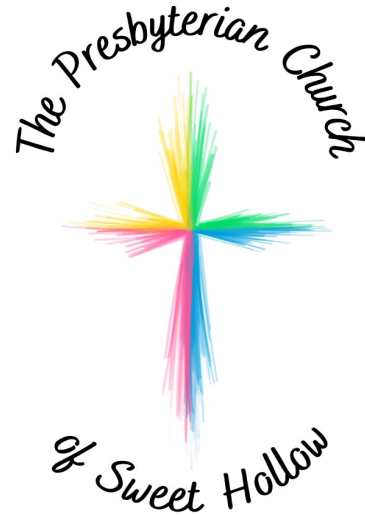
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<https://www.instagram.com/presbysweethollow>



## CHURCH PROPERTY SALE UPDATE

*In October, the appraisals on our property for the Open Space preserve program have been completed and assessed. The appraisal is being sent to various subcommittees of Suffolk County Legislature throughout the month of November.*

### **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CHURCH?**

*The process is moving forward as expected. 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.*

### ***From the Pastor's Nook:***

We pray as the people of God to value this unity of human and creation flourishing, being one in God's economy, where no one is left out, scapegoated or abused. We pray to be one as God the Creator, Jesus the Redeemer and the Holy Spirit our Sustainer are ONE. Amen.

One with You in Christ,  
PW

**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,