

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.

August 2023



In This Issue:

Pastoral Column 1,11
 Building Relationships, , , , 2
 Faith Formation 3
 Worship Notes 4
 Birthdays/Anniversaries .5
 Stewardship/Giving 6-7
 Mission & More 8-9
 Prayer Corner 10
 Website/Social Media 11

From the Pastor's Nook:

As we approach fall, I want to share with you some thoughts on how we can cultivate healthy relationships in our church and beyond. Relationships are a vital part of our Christian life, as we are called to love God and love one another (Mark 12:30-31). However, relationships are not always easy or smooth. They require intentionality, commitment, and grace.

Here are some tips that I hope will help you build and maintain healthy relationships with God and others:

1. Spend time with God daily. The most important relationship we have is with God, who loves us unconditionally and knows us intimately. Through prayer, scripture reading/reflection and worship we can grow in faith and love.
2. Be honest and authentic with ourselves and others, without pretending or hiding. We need to share our joys and struggles, our strengths and weaknesses, our hopes and fears. We also need to listen attentively and empathetically to others, without judging or interrupting.
3. Forgive and seek forgiveness. We need to forgive others who have hurt us, as God has forgiven us (Ephesians 4:32). We also need to seek forgiveness from others whom we have hurt, as God commands us (Matthew 5:23-24). Forgiveness is not a sign of weakness, but of strength and humility.
4. Serve and support. Healthy relationships are characterized by service and support. We need to serve others with our gifts and talents, AND we need to support others with our prayers and resources, as God has blessed us (Galatians 6:2). Service and support are not a burden, but a joy and privilege.

(continued on back page)



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH ICE CREAM



When you meet someone new, have you ever wondered what interests that person had? What do they do in their spare time? What is their favorite food, music, sports teams or movies?

On Sunday August 20th, from 12 PM to 1 PM, you are all invited to have ice cream with Pastor Wade. This is an opportunity to ask Pastor Wade any questions personally or professionally! Some answers may surprise you and well...some might be BORIIIIINNNNGGGG.

Pastor Wade will head over to the recently opened Scoops and Cones II at 95 Hempstead Turnpike. It is a small locally owned ice cream shop that has a variety of flavors including dairy free and nut free options.

And best of all, for church members, Pastor Wade will pick up the tab for your ice cream! Bring your children and grandchildren as well!

However, be warned, if you ask Pastor Wade a question, he might just ask one back of you!

Come for some ice creams, laughs and smiles!!!!



FAITH FORMATION

By Carol Keil

August 2023

We thank Presbyterian minister and author Traci Smith for her Treasure Box Tuesday blog that inspired this August Faith Formation column.

Simple Spiritual Practice: Light a Candle

Sometimes the simplest things can be the most delightful: The smell of freshly baked bread, or the first Spring daffodil blossoms. Remember the joy of the cool, clear morning that greeted us the last Sunday in July following several days of oppressive heat and humidity? It was such a joy to simply step out into the fresh cool air and BREATHE. When it comes to spiritual practice, we can tend to overcomplicate things. What words should we say when we pray? What scripture should we read? There are plenty of devotional guides to help, but one of the simplest things we can do as a spiritual practice is to simply set aside a sacred space, every day to be present to the Spirit. This is also a great time to use the resources found in *Taking Faith Home*. Each day at the same time of day, light the same candle in the same spot. Say the same words each day if repetition is meaningful to you. Choose simple words to give thanks for the day as you lift your joys and your concerns. Let the candle burn as long as you need it to burn, breathing deeply as you feel the calming peace of this simple act fill you before saying your closing "Amen". Depending on your household, you might do this as a solitary act, or invite others in your family to join you. If young children will be present you might choose to adapt this candle prayer by using batter-operated candles. The beauty of this practice is in the repetition. Let your light shine. Amen.



WORSHIP NOTES

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS CELEBRATION

On August 13th , we will have a unique time of worship as we celebrate God’s creation and gift of animals in our lives. This worship service is outdoors so bring a lawn chair or a blanket for yourself and your furry friend! If the weather is not cooperative, we will worship in the sanctuary!



CALLING ALL LITURGISTS!!!!!!

One of the greatest gifts that any of us can have is the gift of helping someone else. As a pastor, there are lots of occasions where I get to experience that kind of giving, particularly on Sundays. During Sunday morning worship, I am SOOOO thankful for those individuals who have taken time to serve as a liturgist. Over the past year those individuals have included:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Frank and Maureen Sansone | Carol Keil | Niaja Mowatt | Laura Fallon |
| Joan Sommermeyer | Melissa D’Angelo | Lynn Burke | |

So I would like to say thank you to all of you and encourage any of our regular congregants to do the same!

Also, being a liturgist is not a difficult task. Pastor Wade scripts out all of the readings about 5 days in advance so you have plenty of time to look over items. If you have questions about a name to pronounce, you are always welcome to give him a call! And serving as a liturgist is something that takes just a little bit of time and the commitment is very small.

Would you please consider being a liturgist? Reach out to Pastor Wade if you may be interested or have questions!

THE LITURGICAL COLOR OF AUGUST IS GREEN

BIBLE AND A BREW

Would you be interested in joining Pastor Wade for a beer and a discussion about the intersection of our faith and some current events? Look for BIBLE AND A BREW this Fall!!!!



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

August 2023

3.....Teddy Tanksley

5.... Ray Moder

22....Tim Mason, Millie Schmitt

25.....Rob Reiser, Mickey Rogers



August 2023

7...Emily & Jason Wagner

8...Sharon & Donald Krams

14...Carol & Tim Mason

22...Lori & Bob Kevelos

26...Denise & Ray Moder

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. Our August meeting will be held on the 28th. Any member of the church is welcome to attend. Ask Pastor Wade for details.

STEWARDSHIP AND STUFF

New Fundraising Program ALERT = RAISE RIGHT

When the Amazon Smile program concluded on February 20, we were able to find another program that would benefit the church. This program is all about purchasing gift cards. They can be either electronically sent cards or physical cards. Over 500 brands participate in this program. It will be a great idea for gift giving and everyday personal use. I personally have done a test run and had a physical card sent to me – an electronic card sent to a friend and an electronic card sent to myself! Hopefully the directions on “how to” will be helpful to family and friends wishing to help the church through their purchasing.

They run specials called Raise Days and there will be one on March 2 – 3. So get onboard and venture into a new purchasing style for gift cards. Thank you for your support. Sweet Hollow’s ENROLLMENT code that you must use is **5J9Y6TFH7J9C**. Any questions or suggestions, please email me at looneychick36@yahoo.com. Jane Beller



HOW DOES RAISE RIGHT AND BUYING GIFT CARDS HELP OUR CHURCH?

Great question!!!! Raise right is a program committed to utilizing gift cards as a form of fundraising.

Instead of selling goods or planning events, gift card (aka scrip) fundraising participants can earn \$\$\$\$ for the church simply by purchasing gift cards through the church’s Raise Right affiliate program.

In buying gift cards through this program and their online or mobile phone applications, the church receives a percentage of each gift card purchased.

For instance, let’s say you were planning your grocery shopping for Stop & Shop or ShopRite. You could purchase a \$100 gift card for either of these stores and the church would receive \$4 just by you purchasing a gift card through the Raise Right program!

STEWARDSHIP AND STUFF

Stewardship of your whole life

Before you read further, stop and list the top five things you value most in life? Then rank them by importance. Go!

All done?

If you're like most people, your top-five list includes family, health, time, God, friends, job, home or community. Does money even show up? For many of us, it doesn't, and yet most of church talk about "stewardship" involves how we use our gifts of money.

Yes, we are "stewards," or caretakers of the material wealth with which God has blessed us, but we are also responsible for nourishing and cherishing all the OTHER blessings that God has put into our lives. That goes especially for the things we value most.

Now refer back to your top-five list. For each, consider these questions:

- Why is this item in the top five?
- How well am I caring for this?
- Am I treating it as one of the most valuable items in my life? Why or why not?
- How could I care even more for this item?
- How would God want me to care for this, and why?
- How would my life change if I really cherished and nourished this gift?

Being a good steward of all the blessings and opportunities God gives to us opens our lives to the full joy and potential that God intends for us. How can you be a better steward of what God has given you?

Copyright © 2022, Rev. Robert Blezard. Reprinted by permission.

MISSION & MORE

July and August we will be collecting school supplies and healthy snacks to benefit the children of Tri-CYA.

GIVING THE TOOLS TO DISCOVERY

The director at Tri-CYA let us the know the supplies they need are: Pens, pencils, markers, loose-leaf binders, notebooks, loose-leaf paper and new backpacks. For healthy snacks they'd really appreciate individual packets of Welch's Fruit Snacks, little fruit cups, Skinny Pop popcorn, granola bars and veggie sticks and veggie chips. The kids really love those!

There are bags hanging in the sanctuary that you can take to fill. There are also suggestions printed on the bags but you can fill them with whatever you want. There is also a drop box in the vestibule at the back of the sanctuary as well as one in the breezeway to deposit your donations.

The last Sunday we will be accepting donations is August 13 because Tri-CYA must receive the donations before August 15 so they can assemble all the backpacks in time for their Backpack Giveaway Event on August 18,2023.

Thank you for supporting this very special Mission project.



MISSION & MORE

There are times when we commit our time and resources to outside organizations and you respond with great generosity!

Most often, we never really hear from those organizations once we have dropped off the goods that have been donated. But once in a while, there is an organization or individual that says thank you for what you do!

We give out of a spirit of generosity and not out of seeking some kind of recognition.

As we engaged in our "Cause for Paws" program to support the Little Shelter and delivered those goods to them, we received the items below.



It is important for you to know that what you do, **ABSOLUTELY** makes a difference and to know that people do see what you do and how you share!
Thank you so very much!

Prayer Corner

by Carol Keil

August 2023

“We delight in the beauty of the butterfly but rarely consider the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty.” Unknown

“Change is the only constant in life” Heraclitus

Holy One, hear us as we pray:

For those in need of healing in body or spirit, may change come swiftly. Bring them patience and strength for the journey.

For those who seek change of employment, may they find hope and fulfillment.

For those for whom change is sudden or unwelcome. May they know your peace and consolation.

For those who eagerly await the change that comes as they enroll in college, begin new jobs, prepare for the birth of a baby, guide and sustain them on their journey.

For those who fear changes that accompany aging or health challenges, may they be sustained by friends and family to make the choice needed for comfort and safety.

Help us each of us to be the change we seek for this world.. guide us as we continue to do your work each day. 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>



From the Pastor's Nook (cont'd from page 1)

5. Have fun and celebrate. We need to have fun with others, enjoying their company and friendship. We also need to celebrate with others, rejoicing in their achievements and milestones. Fun and celebration are not a waste of time, but a gift from God.

These are some of the ways that we can cultivate healthy relationships in our church and beyond. I pray that as we practice these tips, we will experience more of God's love and grace in our lives.

Grow in love, grow in grace, with Jesus in your heart and a smile on your face!

Pastor Wade

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 <peshsecretary@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, and it will reduce the time needed to print, collate and label your copy. It will also save the cost of postage if you are not in church to pick up your copy.