

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 2024



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From the Pastor's Nook:

Tired Thoughts....

Psalm 123 verses 3-4: *Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. Our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud. "For we have had more than enough of contempt."*

Psalm 123 was our text in worship on July 7, and these words have been rattling around in my head and my heart ever since. There is certainly much contempt to go around these days and I don't know about you, but I indeed have had more than enough. It's comforting in a "misery loves company" sort of way that this feeling is as old as humanity and our ancestors also wrestled with a society where contempt flowed more easily than milk and honey. I wish that I could just say "I'm done with contempt, and I won't contempt anymore!" but you and I both know it doesn't work that way. Contempt is a slow boil, and sometimes comes from legitimate and righteous anger.

The psalmist names that the Israelites are being viewed with contempt from the rich, the comfortable, the social "in" crowd. And to be clear, our Jewish siblings indeed have suffered more than their fair share of contempt over the millennia and continue to do so today. Antisemitism is up nearly 400% in some parts of the US, and it is an ugly sin, as is Islamophobia, and any other demographic of people who some decide are only worthy of contempt and not grace, mercy and inclusion. AND I notice that the psalmist hints at having contempt for those who are showing them contempt...hmmmm....so maybe contempt breeds contempt?

How could it not actually? It's a vicious cycle that humanity loves, what you do to me, I'll do to you. Except harmful, violent cycles are only broken when someone steps out and refuses to keep playing the game.

This is why God sent Jesus, to show us how to break the cycles of contempt, hate, fear, division. Jesus is the cycle breaker, the one whom no matter how much contempt is slid his way, refuses to reciprocate. Jesus steps out of the pettiness of the human heart and offers his hand to us to pull us out too. Jesus invites us to have mercy on those who can only see people through a filter of contempt, as God has mercy on God's people. We can have mercy on ourselves for the contempt we've had of other and extend that mercy to follow Jesus in being cycle breakers, repairers of the breach and bringers of God's merciful kingdom. *Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy. Amen.*



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 August 25th!!!!!!

FAITH FORMATION

By Carol Keil

Thoughts on KINDNESS, Mark 4:26-34 and Micah 6:8

“**Kindness** is more important than wisdom, the recognition of this is the beginning of wisdom.” ~Theodore Isaac Rubin

“Gratitude is the inward feeling of **kindness** received. Thankfulness is the natural impulse to express that feeling. Thanksgiving is the following of that impulse.” ~Henry Van Dyke

“**Kindness** means building bridges instead of walls.” unknown

On Sunday, June 16, Rev Pond closed his sermon on Jesus’ “parable of the mustard seed”, (Mark 4: 26-34) by directing the congregation to “plant **kindness**, patience, hope, and peace.”

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love **kindness**, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8b NRSV

“But God’s already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in humankind. It’s quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, and don’t take yourself too seriously- take God seriously.

Micah 6:8 adapted from The Message

You may recognize the 2nd Micah translation as the “*signature quote*” used by Pastor Wade at the close of each email message.

Suggestions for your summer reading :

In Defense of KINDNESS: Why it Matters, How It Changes Our Lives, and How It Can Save the World by Bruce Reyes-Chow

Be Kind by Rosie Nixon

For the young readers in your life:

Each Kindness by Jacqueline Woodson (ages 6-10)

Growing Up with a Bucket Full of Happiness: Three Rules for a Happier Life by Carol McCloud (ages 4-11)

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?

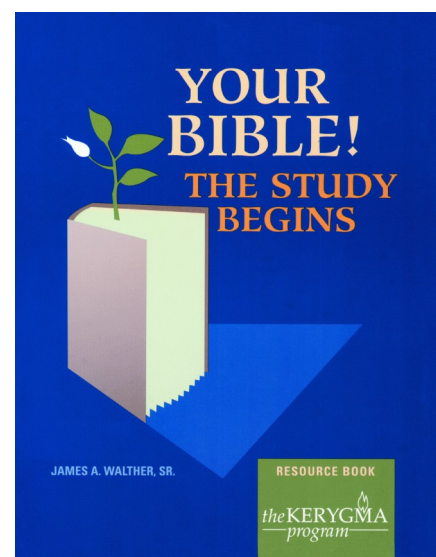
How Has the Bible Been Preserved and Handed On?

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

A survey was sent out on August 1st, to inquire about gathering times and options. Please fill out the brief survey!

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

<https://kerygma.com>



WORSHIP NOTES

The month of August is a time that embraces what we call common time in the church calendar. The color of this season is green and green is the color of growth! So as we go through worship through this month (and several months to come), think about how you can grow in your faith and how that be a gift to the church as well!

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.

The Gathering—(Cont’d)

In our order of worship, we continue our gathering process as a time of preparation to receive God’s word. As part of that preparation, we will share in prayers of confession/brokenness as well as hearing the glorious promise of grace that we receive. That grace is an integral part of who we are as presbyterians. We recognize that we have sin as part of our lives and we need to ask for grace for the sins we commit. God is the only person that can absolve us of our sins and God has done that through the death of Jesus on the cross. Jesus has paid a debt that we could never pay. With that grace in our lives, it becomes easier for us to receive one another and to receive God’s word in worship.

From the proclamation of Grace, we give Glory to God in song when we sing the Gloria Patri (it literally means Glory be to the father)

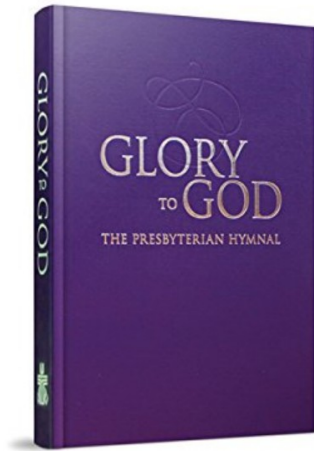
That leads into the passing of the peace. In our small congregation, we greet one another by sharing peace and love with everyone. It is a joyful proclamation of grace!

This is but a few ways in which we gather and prepare ourselves for worship. What way works best for you?

THE LITURGICAL COLOR OF AUGUST 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. We currently have twelve hymnals which were in-

troduced to the congregation by Pastor Flannagan in 2016 and generously donated by friends and family of Marion Beller.

There are three options to purchase hymnals: 1-Electronic print returned to pchsecretary@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.

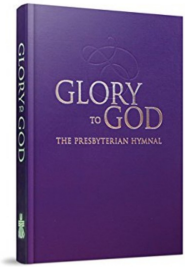
This **Glory to God** hymnal was first published in 2014 and there are no Denominational plans to replace it. The hymnal has 800 hymns, psalms and spiritual hymns, many of which we have sung in service as an insert. Approximately 50% of the included hymns will be from the 1990 blue hymnal. The new songs 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.

WORSHIP NOTES cont'd

GLORY TO GOD HYMNAL ORDER FORM



Express your love in memory or honor of family or friends through an order of a **Glory to God** hymnal. Your dedication will be reflected in the plate placed in the front of the hymnals. Each **Glory to God** hymnal will cost \$40.00.

Please Circle One:

In Memory of

In Honor of

Name:

Given By:

Please use one of the following three methods to place your order:

1-Electronically, by e-mailing the completed order form to Lori Kevelos at pcshsecretary@hotmail.com & paying through Venmo;

2-By placing the completed order form (they're on the back table by the collection plate) and your check payable to Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow, with Glory To God Hymnal written in the memo section, in the collection plate.

3-By mailing in to the church the completed order form and your check payable to Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow, with Glory To God Hymnal written in the memo section.

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? Tuesday, August 6 at 7 PM at the Farmingdale Applebees!



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 2024

3... Teddy Tanksley

7... Carol Schiffmacher

15... Ray Moder

22...Tim Mason, Millie Schmitt

25...Rob Reiser, Mickey Rogers

ANNIVERSARIES

7...Emily & Jason Wagner

8...Sharon & Donald Krams

14...Tim & Carol 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. There will be no meeting in August. 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 the 19 families 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).

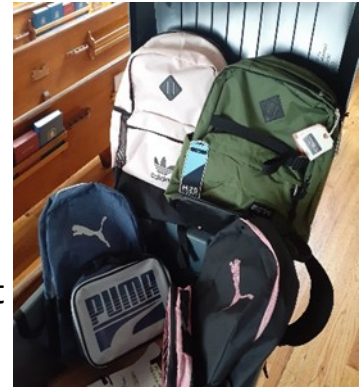
MISSION & MORE

YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IS ALWAYS WELCOME

Summer MISSION School Supplies



Another season of generous giving of school supplies to help the local Tri-CYA is underway this July. It is so crazy that the Dollar Store already has school supplies out and the school year is just ending! We normally get the supplies to the Tri CYA by mid-August so they can sort before kids come in and pick up needed supplies. The first round of supplies will be blessed by Pastor Pond early in August. Taking advantage of sales was a key component in the quantity received. Kudos out to those sale shoppers! A child is definitely more relaxed at the start of a school year knowing they have what is needed to accomplish their job at school.



Thanks again Sweet Hollow Community

The Little Church With a Big Heart's

Mission Team

Prayer Corner

by Carol Keil

Blessings to all at PCSH. Otto and I continue to bask in the joy of family and time spent here in Mattituck for at least the next few weeks.

“ How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because, someday in life, you will have been all of these.’

George Washington Carver

“What can you do to promote world peace?

Go home and love your family.”

Mother Teresa

Holy Three in One,

We pray with great thanksgiving for the gift of FAMILY! In all the many definitions of the word.

We pray for families gathered to celebrate marriages, baptisms, graduations, birthdays, and family reunions.

We pray for families gathered at the bedside of those nearing the end of their earthly journey.

We pray for families preparing to send a child off to their first year of college.

We pray for this Family of Faith, The Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow.

We pray for families mourning the sudden death of loved ones gone far too soon.

We pray for teachers and students preparing for the school year ahead while cherishing these last weeks of Summer Vacation!

We pray for families broken and suffering from the conflicts of war.

We pray for our WORLD. 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

Last month 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,