

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.

July 2024



In This Issue:

- Pastor's Nook 1
- Building Relationship..... 2
- Faith Formation.....3-5
- Worship Notes.....6-8
- Special Days.....9
- Stewardship/Giving.....10
- Mission & More.....11
- Prayer Corner 12
- Property Update.....13
- Website/Social Media 13

From the Pastor's Nook:

Summer Thoughts

Blessings on your summer! As we officially slide into the warm, vacation, relaxation, and all-around good vibes season, it's a time when we often miss a Sunday or two, including me! Now, don't worry, this isn't a "Pastor finger wagging, "better go to church during the summer and while on vacation," post. Nope, it's a reminder that our faith is lived out wherever we are. Yes, gathering in worship matters for our faith journey, it's how we keep learning, growing, and serving God and neighbor, AND like anything else in life, our faith journeys rarely (if never!) happen in only one place.

I could be wrong, but I'm fairly certain that God didn't intend for us to not enjoy as much of God's creation as possible, even if it means skipping worship from time to time.

So, what am I trying to say? I want you to be free of any guilt as you enjoy time in nature, with family, friends, or even strangers!

I want to offer you this summertime, vacation time, relaxation time prayer, faith time prayer:

May you savor each moment as a gift and keep your heart, mind and soul open to what God is showing you wherever you are. May each sunrise and sunset remind you of the presence of God in the light and thin spaces in your life. May the vibrant colors of wildflowers, the shrieks of joy from toddlers in the pool, the smell of fresh mown grass, the content chirping of crickets and a refreshing breeze feed your soul. May you wander and wonder in God's creation, grounded in the mystery and gift of God's grace. May you rest and trust in the promises of God's presence wherever you are, whenever you are and whoever you are. May summer bring you joy in the love of God in Jesus. 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 July 28th!!!!!!

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

Tending to our 'Mary' side

Original article by Rob Blezard 6/12/2024

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.' -Luke 10:38-42

Read the passage above once again. And ponder: In your faith walk are you more of a Martha or a Mary? That is, someone who expresses faith primarily by doing (like Martha) or primarily by learning and devotion (like Mary)? As stewards of our spiritual lives (with the guidance of God, of course), it's worth taking a look.

Both women present honorable models for following Jesus. And if truth be told, each of us needs a balance of "Martha" and "Mary" in our faith walk. They go together very well.

In the Bible passage above, the problem arises because Martha is totally overwhelmed by her to-do list. All of her doing has left her no time or energy for devotion and learning — exactly what is occupying Mary.

And I totally get that. In my experience, it's much easier for me to be a "Martha" than a "Mary." Why? Because doing feels good. Doing is concrete and provides me an immediate emotional reward. I feel productive and worthy. My ego can proclaim, "I am certainly doing the Lord's work, and I am proud and happy to do it." Have you felt that way?

FAITH FORMATION

Tending to our ‘Mary’ side (cont’d)

By contrast, being a “Mary” rarely provides the same kind of boost. When I spend 30 minutes in devotion – say, reading my Bible, listening to a Tim Keller podcast or reading a book by Richard Rohr – it’s often not as immediately gratifying as doing something in the name of the Lord. Study is laborious, often boring, and generally slower to bring insights. But it’s necessary for healthy discipleship.

When Martha complains to Jesus that she is overwhelmed with all she is doing, Jesus gently points out the truth: As worthwhile as the things on her to-do list may be, they are counter-productive to her spiritual growth. They are a source of worry and are distracting Martha from “the better part” of following Jesus – through devotion and learning.

How is the balance between your “Martha” side and your “Mary” side? Does your inner Mary need more attention and intentionality? Here are some ways I try to pay attention to my balance:

Devotions: I read and meditate on the daily devotions from Fr. Richard Rohr’s Center for Action and Contemplation. They’re free, and I get them delivered to my email inbox every day (sign up at cac.org). My sister recommends the daily devotions from Max Lucado. There are many others out there.

Daily Bible reading: On my smartphone I downloaded the free BibleGateway app. It has a feature that makes it easy for me to read the Bible in one year, and there are lots of other options and plans to choose from.

Listening to others: When I have some extra time I love to listen to “The Confessional” podcasts by Lutheran pastor Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber and Repairers of the Breach with Rev. Dr. William Barber II.

Reading good books and articles: Yes, for fun I love to read Stephen King but I also love to balance it with articles of insight that speak to ways of sharing God’s love, justice in the current cultural climate especially those from John Pavlovitz and anything related to Mr. Rogers!

The original article can be found here:

<https://thestewardshipguy.com/2024/06/12/tending-to-our-mary-side>

Recommendations courtesy of Pastor Wade

WORSHIP NOTES

The month of 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 grown 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.

Gathering

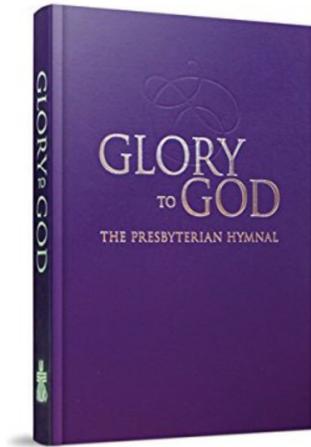
In our order of worship, we follow the ringing of the church bell and announcements. This transition is meant to encourage us to become fully present to our current space. It is at that point we sing our song of preparation. This song of preparation is meant to help us begin to focus on the purpose of worship...to praise the Lord our God. Look at the lyrics of the song before worship and look to see how they support that praise of God. We follow up that musical preparation in word and prayer. That is what w commonly name as the “Call to Worship” and the “Prayer of the Day”. People prepare themselves in many different ways. For us, we do it physically (through song/music), cognitively (responsive texts) and spiritually (prayer).

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 JULY 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 gifted to the congregation by Pastor Flannagan in 2016.

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. 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.

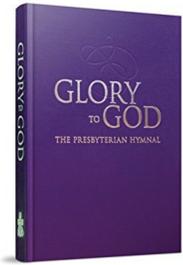
The reasoning behind replacing the hymnal is to expose our congregation to new hymns without having to print them out as an insert in the weekly bulletin.

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, July 9 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

July 2024

2... Anthony D'Angelo

4... Kevin Pond

5... Emily Wagner

9... Rose O'Connor

18...Maureen Sansone

22...Ross Martin

25...Dan Schiffmacher

27...Lexie Zucker

ANNIVERSARIES

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 July meeting will be held on the 15th. 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.



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

We are privileged to join the Wallace family in prayer as we remember and honor the life of James Andrew (Jamie) Wallace. 5/22/1970-6/15/2024.

“Even though you’re on the right track, you’ll get run over if you just sit there!”

Words of wisdom from a teenage Jamie Wallace, who participated in worship at a family gathering; remembered and shared by a cousin at Jamie’s memorial service on June 25, 2024.

We join in prayers of comfort, patience, and, strength for all who seek healing.

We join in prayers of joy as we celebrate the 3rd anniversary of Rev. Wade Pond’s installation as Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow and the welcome of the Pond family to Melville.

We join prayers of thanksgiving:

For the many ways in which the work of our Church Administrator, Lori Kevelos, supports the day-to-day mission and ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow.

For the generous acts of service provided by Pastor David Vito and the members of Centro Misionero congregation.

For the inspiring and uplifting talent of Music Minister, Jason Black.

For the dedicated service of our Elders, Treasurer, and Clerk of Session

Find our website and social media links!

www.sweethollowpresby.org

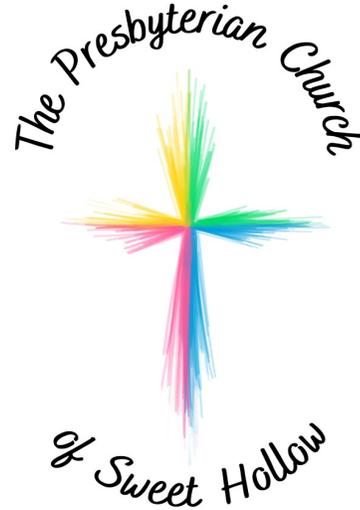
Facebook/YouTube/Instagram

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

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

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

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



CHURCH PROPERTY SALE UPDATE

On June 25th, the Suffolk County Legislature met and on the agenda was an item related to our property sale. The legislature voted and approved to get appraisals done for the value of the property that we are considering to sell to the county under the Open Space Preserve program.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CHURCH?

Very simply, that means that the county believes that the sale of the back portion of the church property (the portion behind the building which includes county park trails) is worthy of consideration and they will now do an assessment and receive at least two appraisals for that back portion of the church property. This process will take a couple of months before it goes back to the legislature for a recommendation concerning an offer to the church.

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.

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,