

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.

June 2023



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From the Pastor’s Nook:

Pastors’ Top Ten List

It’s hard to believe that I have been here two years already. So in thinking about that milestone, I thought I might make a Top Ten list that pastors would most love to hear from church members.....

10. Hey, it’s MY turn to sit in the front pew!
9. I was so caught up in the sermon, I never noticed that the service went 10 minutes over!
8. Personally, I find sharing my faith with others more enjoyable than golf.
7. Pastor, I’ve decided to give our church the \$200 a month I was spending on the lottery.
6. I want to volunteer to be the permanent Sunday School teacher for our little ones.
5. In addition to what we give to the church for our Per Capita let’s give more than that to make up our budget deficit.
4. Pastor, I just love it when we sing songs and hymns that we’ve never sung before!
3. I was thinking “somebody ought to do something about that,” and then I thought, “I’m going to do something about it!”
2. Pastor, since you’ve never been there, we’d like to send you to that conference at Walt Disney World with your family.
1. Pastor, would you help me discover some ministry that God could use me in?

And for honorable mention—Pastor...I’ll preach this Sunday morning, why don’t you go play some pickleball.....

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



FAITH FORMATION

By Carol Keil



Say.... What???

On any given Sunday morning, as you listen to the reading of Bible verses, or join in the singing hymns its likely you've heard or read a word that puzzled you. For instance, what is the Ebenezer being raised in the second verse of the hymn O, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* , or the meaning of the word selah (mentioned 71 times in the reading of Psalms)?

Turn to 1 Samuel 7:12 to learn the story behind "Ebenezer". After an Israelite victory against the Philistines Samuel took a stone, naming it Ebenezer from the Hebrew words meaning "stone of help"; Samuel set it up as a monument recognizing God's help in the victory as God's answer to Samuel's prayers and sacrifices.

The precise meaning for the Hebrew word "Selah" is a bit harder to define, but comments found in Wikipedia suggest it is "either a liturgical-musical mark or an instruction in the reading of the text, with the meaning of 'stop and listen'." Wikipedia also proposes "that selah can be used to indicate that there is to be a musical interlude at that point in the Psalm" Or "as a form of underlining in preparation for the next paragraph."

*lyrics written by Rev, Robert Robinson in 1778

WORSHIP NOTES

CHRISTMAS IN JULY WORSHIP

On Sunday, July 16th, our worship service will be our third annual Christmas in July worship service!!!

It ha become a quickly beloved service as we celebrate the beauty of Christ’s birth alive for one Sunday during the warm (hot) summer months. So come and sing along with some our most beloved Christmas Carols as we celebrate Christmas in July!



JULY COMMUNION

As Pastor Wade will be on vacation on the first Sunday in July, session has authorized communion to be celebrated on the second Sunday on July 9th. Thanks be to the session and their leadership for provid- ing for our continued spiritual care through the celebration of this sacrament.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS CELEBRATION

This year, likely in the month of August, we will look to have a special worship service outdoors which will focus on the blessings of animals in our lives. As it is an outdoor worship service, please bring your lawn chairs and your pets as we celebrate animals and offer them some blessings!



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 for 2023!!!!



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

June 2023

- 2.....Donald Krams
- 4....Beth Pereira
- 13....Jessalyn Pond, Kristopher Pond
- 21.....Michael DeSanti
- 22.....Evan Pereira
- 25.....Joe Moder



June 2023

- 5...Charlotte & Fred DeSanti
- 11...Carol & Dan Schiffmacher

SESSION MEETING!

The session meets monthly, on the third Monday of each month at 8 PM. Most meetings occur via Zoom. In person meetings February/May/September/ November.

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!

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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! And once you have your electronic gift card on your phone (which happens almost instantaneously), you are ready to shop!

But this isn't just about gift cards for groceries. There are over 500 national retailers that participate in this program. Fixing something up at home and need something from Home Depot or Lowe's? Get a gift card! Happy about a night out at the movies or a restaurant? There are gift cards a plenty for those! Clothing stores? Yep, got you covered! Fast Food? Most of the big names are available! How about Best Buy for your appliances and electronics? Definitely! Even travel companies like American Airlines, Delta and Carnival Cruise Lines participate in the Raise Right program!

And naturally, these gift cards make great gifts! They are great gifts for birthdays, holidays, anniversaries or just because 'I appreciate you.' Those big retailers like Target, Amazon, Walmart...everyone of them participate in the Raise Right program!

My encouragement to you is to not let the opportunity to pass you by. The church can generate far MORE income than the Amazon Smile program generated if you take advantage of the Raise Right program! Be sure to check with Jane Beller or Pastor Wade about questions with the program! There will be a great deal of information coming your way!

STEWARDSHIP AND STUFF

New Fundraising Program ALERT = RAISE RIGHT

HOW DO I SIGN UP for RAISE RIGHT?

RaiseRight Fundraising for PCSH 2023

THE FIRST STEP

Get involved and support the church

Create an account at <https://www.raiseright.com> onto your home computer

Or *download* the app on your smartphone or tablet!

You will need **enrollment code 5J9Y6TFH7J9C**

Use your email and then create a password

Who are you fundraising for = type Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow (later this will appear near your name on the right top side of the screen) hit next

Sign in with your email and password (asked for 2x) hit next

Give a recovery (cell) phone number and it will send you a code to verify the account

Select two security questions

Enrollment complete – it should indicate Jane Beller as coordinator

THE SECOND STEP

Browse through the **list of brands** (<https://www.raiseright.com/brands>)

Suggestion to get acquainted with the brands...select your favorites (click on the heart icon near your brand and it will turn red and then be placed in your favorites, hit it again and heart clears red) this makes it easier to order.

There are over 550 brands to choose from—you will be amazed.

Under the name of each brand, it will indicate what *percentage* will be given to the church based on your purchase

Select how you *want to look at* the brands on the right side – highest earnings, most popular, name a-z or name z to a

Sometimes they run bonus increases on certain brands that only last for 3 days and then goes back to the previous percentage. ---they are highlighted in potentially pink and on the bottom of it would say BONUS (*view on bonus only group*). Also there are FLASH Bonus brands

OR You can shop by categories or card type or denomination or view on bonus only (slide the bar near the words) group when you go explore. You will have to *click on the load more items* at times to see more.

There is a search bar up top that you can spell the brand you are looking for.

THE THIRD STEP.....SHOP!!!!!!!

A comprehensive email will be sent out to you with full instructions for sign up. Also, please know that Jane is available to help walk you through your initial set up and purchases if needed. An informational meeting will be held at the church following worship on April 23rd during fellowship time for those with questions or need assistance signing up!

MISSION & MORE

The church's monthly mission project is 'Cause For Paws' benefiting The Little Shelter Animal Rescue & Adoption Center which is a no-kill, not for profit organization in Elwood.

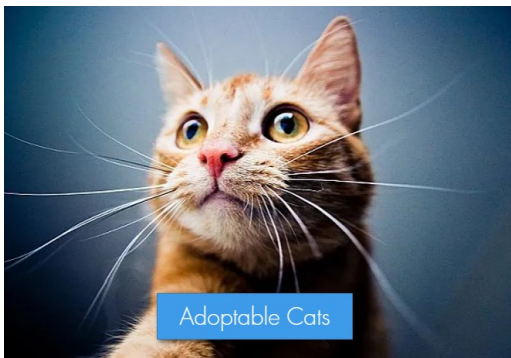
Items needed include:

towels, flat sheets, blankets, unopened

Canned and dry dog and cat food. Non clumping cat litter, peanut butter, pet waste disposal bags, paper towels, bleach, dish soap, laundry detergent, stainless steel bowls, new dog and cat toys and collapsible crates.

There will be boxes at church to receive these items which may be brought in any Sunday in June or to the church any day.

Please call ahead to make sure someone will be there.



LITTLE SHELTER
Animal Rescue & Adoption Center

Prayer Corner

by Carol Keil

“Be still and know that I am God” Psalm 46:10

May the peace of the Holy Spirit be with us as we lift our prayers of Thanksgiving, Healing and Remembrance:

We join Everton Cox and his family in prayers of Consolation and Remembrance as they mourn the passing of Everton's grandnephew Kaiden.

We join in prayers of Joy as Raegan Moder, daughter of Ambrey and Doug Moder is Baptized.

We join the Martin family in prayers of Joy for the continued healing of Rick Martin.

We lift healing prayers for Jane Beller and Alan Tanksley.

We lift prayers of Thanksgiving for the guidance of fathers and those who have served that role in our lives.

We lift prayers of Joy and Hope for graduates as they step forth into new responsibilities.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit”. Romans 15:13

Find our website and social media links!

www.sweethollowpresby.org

Facebook/YouTube/Instagram

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

<https://youtube.com/@presbyterianchurchofsweeth1401>

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



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

In the end, it may be our ability to be in touch with our grief that lets us see the beauty of the world that blooms from its despair.

The poet, David Whyte, pens it this way:

*Those who will not slip beneath the still surface on the well of grief,
turning down through its black water to the place we cannot breathe,
will never know the source from which we drink, the secret water, cold and clear,
nor find in the darkness glimmering, the small round coins,
thrown by those who wished for something else.*

PW

THE LITURGICAL COLOR OF MAY IS WHITE then **RED**

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.