

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.

May 2023



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From the Pastor’s Nook:

EASTER AFTERMATH

It’s the month after Easter. Jesus is risen. All of the palms and lilies are out of the Sanctuary. We successfully navigated holy week services as our church welcomed the most number of worshippers since I arrived in June of 2021. And we had a delightful time of worship during Holy Humor Sunday followed by Happy Hour hosted by Melissa D’Angelo and Jane Beller.

And so, after all of this busyness, I am taking a vacation (or two) this month. I have to admit to being tired and maybe I share that with some of the disciples prior to Christ’s incarceration, crucifixion and resurrection.

The way Matthew and Mark tell it, the disciples have simply fallen asleep at the wheel. The two first gospels don’t give us a reason why they were snoozing. But in Luke 22 it says they were sleeping “because of grief.”

The more I think of it, grief makes a lot of sense. The disciples were absolutely exhausted because they had spent the last several weeks listening to Jesus hint at something horrible and inexplicable. They knew something heartbreaking was happening, or about to happen. They couldn’t begin to truly understand that what happened at Golgotha would not be the end. But even if they did, it doesn’t take away from the grief they would know from experiencing it.

I am a joyful proclaimer of Christ’s resurrection, and celebrate that death will never have the last word. But sometimes it’s good to remember that even those closest to Jesus were overcome by the sorrows of their day, and needed to rest their minds and bodies to heal from it. With the brokenness of the world unfolding around us like it does, sometimes, even in Eastertide, we need to do that too.

(cont’d on page 13)



FAITH FORMATION

By Carol Keil

The Lord is My Shepherd



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Did you know that the Fourth Sunday of Easter, each year, is always *Good Shepherd Sunday*?

We thank the **Devotions** section of the April 30, 2023 issue of **Taking Faith Home*** for inspiring our Faith Formation comments this month and encourage you to read the full message found there.

This year the Fourth Sunday of Easter fell on Sunday April 30. Lectionary readings for that day included Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23, 1 Peter 2:19-25 and John 10:1-10. (Year A of the 3-year (A,B,C lectionary cycle) Readings for Year B include Acts 4, Psalm 23, 1John 16-24 and John 10:11-18. Readings for Year C: Acts 9:36-43, Psalm 23, Revelation 7:9-17 and John 10:22-30.

You've probably noticed that Psalm 23 is included in the readings each year. You might imagine Psalm 23 as the "hub message" with the other scriptures serving as "spokes" radiating outward into the community of Believers as we are simultaneously bound together in Christ's name.

Open your Bible; read each of these selections; note how the image of Christ as our Shepherd gradually draws us forth to serve each other as we become part of the body of Christ!

*www.milestonesministry.org

WORSHIP NOTES

HYMN SING WORSHIP

On Sunday, May 7th, our worship service will focus on celebrating and glorifying God through the beauty of music and song! Instead of a sermon, we will hear the word of God through the lyrics of treasured hymns. As Pastor Wade is on vacation this Sunday, we give thanks to our worship leadership, Frank Sansone, Joan Sommermeyer, Carol Keil and Jason Black.

MAY COMMUNION

As Pastor Wade will be on vacation on the first week of May, session has authorized communion to be celebrated on the second Sunday of May, May 14th. Thanks be to the session and their leadership for providing for our continued spiritual care through the celebration of this sacrament.

PENTECOST CELEBRATION

Every year, Pentecost celebrates the birth of the church and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the followers of Jesus. This year Pentecost will be celebrated on Sunday, May 28th. We look forward to welcoming Reverend Jim Crawford to Sweet Hollow on this Sunday as Pastor Wade will be out on vacation.

HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY NOTE (thanks to Carol Keil)

Thanks to Rev Ed Meyers of Centerville/Taylor UMC in Brownsville PA who wrote this call to worship for Holy Humor Sunday:

Smiling is Infectious!

Smiling is infectious,

You catch it like the flu.

When someone smiled at me today,

I started smiling, too.

I passed around a corner and someone saw my grin.

When he smiled, I realized I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about that smile,

Then I realized its worth.

A single smile, just like mine

Could travel the whole earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin

Don't leave it undetected.

Lets start an epidemic, Quick

And get the world infected.

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

May 2023

- 20.....Ambryel Moder
- 24....Jordyn Pond
- 25....Leroy Mowatt
- 30.....Carol Keil, Keith Manning

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.



May 2023

- 2...Millie & Rob Schmitt
- 4...Melissa & Anthony D'Angelo
- 8...Jessica and Wade Pond
- 16...Barb & Ross Martin
- 19...Maureen & Frank Sansone



Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow Plant Sale



Saturday, May 20, 2023

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM



**NEW LOCATION:
EMMA'S GARDEN
42 HALF HOLLOW ROAD
MELVILLE**

1. Plant sale visitors/shoppers may choose to wear a mask. **If you choose to wear a mask, please bring your own mask.** The Church does not have masks to provide to visitors/shoppers.
2. Shoppers must maintain a six-foot distance between other shoppers, volunteers and Emma's Garden employees.
3. Cash, Check or VENMO payment only. The VENMO app is available for smart phones. *It takes a few days to verify your account with your bank before transfers can be made. Please establish in advance if you plan to use this method of payment.*
4. Church volunteers are working with Emma's Garden employees who are operating a business, please be patient. Thank you.

Questions? Call Joan Sommermeyer @ 516-857-0556

STEWARDSHIP AND STUFF

2023 Sweet Hollow Plant Sale

SAVE the DATE: Saturday, May 20, 2023

NEW LOCATION: 42 Half Hollow Road, Melville

By Joan Sommermeyer

The annual plant sale at Sweet Hollow is a long-standing tradition in our church. It has been taking place each spring for at least twenty-five years. The pandemic did not interrupt the tradition. The Church parking lot served as the shopping site early in the pandemic when the virus was rapidly spreading. This year, the plant sale will take place in a new location. The sale will take place at Emma's Garden's newest location- 42 Half Hollow Road in Melville.

On May 20th Sweet Hollow family and friends will have the opportunity to visit and shop at the Keil family business, Emma's Garden, for the 2023 Annual Sweet Hollow Plant Sale. Traditional plant favorites and unusual oddities will be available to shoppers. Hanging baskets, annuals, perennials, trees, bushes, cacti, succulents, flowers, and countless other varieties provided an abundant array for shoppers to choose from. Many first timers were overwhelmed by the beauty and vast selection of plants. Sweet Hollow Family and friends always love the Emma's Garden experience and return year after year. Hope that you will be a part of this year's sale!

Shopping and the experience of taking in the beauty of the greenhouses and plants is not the only joy of the annual plant sale. The sale also provides an opportunity and a space for reunion and fellowship. Many friends of Sweet Hollow return to the plant sale yearly to support the Church. Members and friends always take time to catch up with one another to share joys and concerns. Old friends re-introduce themselves and provide reminders on how the relationship began. The plant sale is truly a celebration of friendship and fellowship. How grateful we are for this annual blessing!

Our deepest gratitude to Carol and Otto Keil, their children, and grandchildren for opening up their business to Sweet Hollow family and friends! The Keil family provide endless support to plant sale volunteers and shoppers. Their patience, knowledge and kindness are surely appreciated.

"Don't just count your blessings. Be the blessing other people count on."

-Anonymous

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

May Mission Focus: "Taking A Bite Out of Hunger"

As hunger continues to present challenges for many in our community, Sweet Hollow's Mission Team is striving to meet that need head on, with our May Mission Focus: **"Taking A Bite Out of Hunger"**, to benefit Huntington Community Food Council.

During the month of May, the Mission Team will gratefully be accepting donations of the items the Huntington Community Food Council has requested: ***Canned Soup, Canned Vegetables, Pasta, Hot Cereal, Cold Cereal, Pasta Sauce and Macaroni & Cheese dinner kits.***

You may bring your donations in on any Sunday in May; there's a receptacle in the Sanctuary vestibule, as well as in the CEB Hall vestibule. If you'd like to bring your donations in on any weekday, during Church Office hours, please call ahead of time, to be sure someone will be there.

Each and every donation you make will have a positive impact on the lives of those who rely on Huntington Community Food Council to aid in feeding their families.

The Mission Team thanks you all in advance for your generosity of spirit.

. [Community Food Council \(comfoodcouncil.org\)](http://comfoodcouncil.org)

MISSION & MORE

The Mission Team's appeal for the month of April were hygiene items in support of Helping Hand Rescue Mission. We thank you for all of the goods that have been donated through our congregation and through the friends of Sweet Hollow.

These items were blessed during our worship service on April 30th.



Prayer Corner

by Carol Keil



“Thursday May 4, 2023

The following is an excerpt from the National Day of Prayer website at <https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/about>

“As the Church we commit to pray and love our neighbor and nation as You loved us, that our reputation in this world would be rooted in Your love. Holy Spirit work and overflow through us in every prayer, thought, word, and deed. May our character, conversations, and conduct reflect the righteousness in which You clothed us and command us to live.”

“Education is not just about memorizing a series of facts-it is growing in knowledge about the world, learning beneficial interactions with others and applying these things to live in the calling of Christ:”

“Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men.” Ephesians 6:7

Holy One, hear our prayers:

Of **Consolation** for those who mourn, as we join the Garland family in prayers of remembrance for **Everett Garland**.

We pray **with deep thanksgiving** for those who have found hope and healing.

Of **Comfort and strength** for all whose lives are in transition: for those seeking employment, for those who seek healing of body, mind or spirit, for those seeking to heal relationships... may they, may we, know your constant presence, Lord. Amen.

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**

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