

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.

September 2024



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From the Pastor's Nook:

Excitement Brews!!!!

I am truly excited to share the news of the upcoming Kerygma Bible Foundations class that I will be leading. The Kerygma study programs provide biblical study content that allows people to be open, to discover, and be willing to learn something new about their faith.

In our faith tradition, the WORD is central to all that we do as a church and as individuals. This falls right in line with the way that the Kerygma program encourages us to study the bible. Kerygma also helps us to understand that context matters in scripture and that using isolated passages without any information as to why and how it was written creates an unhealthy view of scripture. For example, did you know that in scripture it says that women should have long hair and men shall have short hair?

If you have heard of this topic, then my encouragement to you is to ask the question, "WHY?" "WHY," is the most powerful three-letter word in our entire language. The Kerygma program is rooted in the invitation to ask that question. Ask that very question of every single scripture passage that we hear or read. The Kerygma program implores us to use this discernment process as we read scripture and to use the best tools of critical scholarship to accompany our study. The best tools that Kerygma recommends are study bibles and commentaries that help us "to discern God's word for the contemporary community of faith."

As some of you may know, I didn't discover my faith until I was an 18 year-old high school graduate. I was not raised in the church and I didn't have the biblical knowledge that many of my contemporaries already had. However, I participated in a Kerygma study in my home church and I am so thankful that I did! It truly led me to understanding the bible in new ways.

My hope and prayer is that many of you will join me in this new journey for our church. The first step is biblical foundations. You can read a little more about that in the faith formation section of this month's Bell Ringer. And then beginning in (I hope) February 2025 will be a much more comprehensive program entitled, "Kerygma: The Bible in Depth," which looks at 10 themes in scripture and explores those themes in both the Old and New Testaments.

This is an exciting time here at PCSH. I hope you will join me in the journey!

PW

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 September 22nd!!!!!!

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?

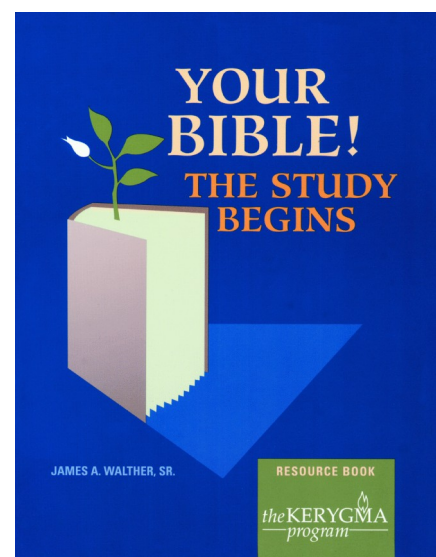
How Has the Bible Been Preserved and Handed On?

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

Join Pastor Wade in the Parlor following worship on September 8th for information and registration for this faith formation opportunity!

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

<https://kerygma.com>



new

WORSHIP NOTES

The month of September 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.

The Word of God

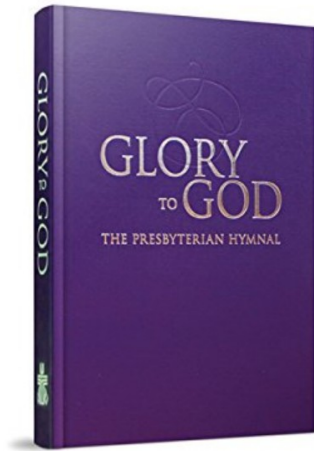
In our order of worship, the section known as **THE WORD OF GOD** is central to the entire purpose of worship. In our Book of Order (W-1.0106) we read, “Wherever the Scriptures are read and proclaimed and the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper are celebrated, the Church bears witness to Jesus Christ, the living Word.” The reading of scripture, the message for the Young at Heart (Children’s message), the prayer of illumination (which invites us to ask the Holy Spirit to clear our minds to receive a message), the sermon (or other methods of illuminating the scripture), the musical time of reflection are all elements of having us to listen and receive the word of God. The Word of God, whether it is the printed words on a page, or the Word incarnate in the actions and words of Jesus, are the blue print of our faith. When we receive the Word in worship, it is the opportunity put that blueprint into action.

What have been some ways that you have received and remembered the Word in worship? How has it made a difference in your life?

THE LITURGICAL COLOR OF SEPTEMBER 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. There are three options to purchase hymnals: 1-

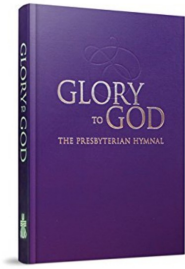
Electronic print returned to pcshsecretary@hotmail.com, with electronic payment to our Venmo account, 2-Paper form, which will be by the collection basket and can be returned with payment into the collection basket during Sunday worship, or 3-Print out the electronic form and mail with payment to church. 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. More than 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.

UPDATE: We have received \$1440 on a goal of \$2400 to upgrade our hymnals! Great job! Let's get that remainder!!!!

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

There will be no Bible and a Brew for September as it would come on the heels of Labor Day!



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

September 2024

5... Jill Conroy, Carol Mason

9... Susan Manning

12...Peter & Stavros Kevelos

14...Tracy Dein

19...Kristen Conroy

21...Barbara Moder

30...Sharon Krams

ANNIVERSARIES

24...Beth & Nick Pereira

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. The next meeting is September 16th. Any member of the church is welcome to attend. Ask Pastor Wade for

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 those 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

“Baby Blessings”

Mission Team Drive for September

To get in the fall rush of giving, The Mission Team would like to embark on a drive to benefit Helping Hand Rescue Mission that focuses on the needs of babies and young toddlers. Baby Blessings provides over 150 families with **children under 3 with diapers, baby clothes, baby wipes and other baby supplies**. Normally, it is hosted by Helping Hand Rescue Mission at the Huntington Assembly of God every third Tuesday of the month.



This outreach of giving means so much to the families and little babies in our community, as 1 in 3 families struggle with diaper needs. Clearly this is a significant cause of stress for both children and parents. Lack of proper diaper supply can lead to unwanted health conditions and anxiety. Babies need about eight changes per day, and having a sufficient number of diapers for a child quickly becomes a major financial pressure on families that are barely getting by. Helping Hand Rescue Mission is CHANGING LITTLE LIVES and now it is time for Sweet Hollow to help in changing the little lives too and relieving stress from the families. Think Baby...and buy, buy, buy-- diapers, wipes, baby food and formula with a healthy shelf life (not expired), Newborn to 5T baby clothes and of course fun and stimulating baby toys. Remember you can always earmark a donation for the Baby Mission and supplies will be purchased to give.

“Babies are bits of stardust, blown from the hand of God.”

Larry Barretto

Thanks again Sweet Hollow Community
The Little Church With a Big Heart's
Mission Team

Prayer Corner

by Carol Keil

“Christianity did not begin with a confession. It began with an invitation into friendship, into creating a new community, into forming relationships on love and service.”

~Diane Butler Bass

Holy One,

Help us to know and share the message of your gospel.

Help us to prioritize our time and talents, so that we might give generously now of the gifts we have been given.

Help us to live with gratitude for the miracle of every blessing; encouraging others and acknowledging that success is not a pie divided between a select few.

We pray for new beginnings:

For educators and students as they begin a new school year.

For all who seek employment.

For families awaiting the birth of a child.

For families celebrating marriage.

We pray for healing where there is suffering and pain.

We lift prayers of consolation for all who mourn.

Lord, hear our prayers, 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

In July, 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,