

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 2025



In This Issue:

Pastor's Nook	1 & 11
Building Relationship	2
Faith Formation	3
Worship Notes	4
Stewardship/Giving	5-7
Mission & More	8
Prayer Corner	9
Special Days	10
Website/Social Media	11

From the Pastor's Nook:

Pastor's Nook – On Being Grateful and Giving Thanks

As July rolls around and we prepare to celebrate Independence Day—with fireworks, barbecues, and parades—we're invited to remember our nation's founding ideals: liberty, justice, and equality. These values resonate deeply with many of us, and they echo some of the values we find in our Christian faith. And yet, as followers of Jesus, we are called to go even deeper.

Jesus reminds us in Matthew 6:33, "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." The kingdom of God is not confined by national borders or defined by political parties. It is a realm of radical love, neighborly compassion, and justice for the marginalized. This means that while we may wave flags and sing anthems on the Fourth of July, our first and ultimate loyalty is to the gospel.

In our current moment, we see how essential this distinction is. As debates rage over immigration policy, voting rights, reproductive freedom, and racial justice, we must ask ourselves: are we being guided more by patriotic sentiment or by the teachings of Jesus?

When the Prophet Micah posed the question, "What does the Lord require of you?" (Micah 6:8), the answer was not "Wave your flag" or "Pledge allegiance." The answer was: "to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."

Continued on page 11

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS



Creating a Welcoming Church Family: The Welcoming Team

At PCSH, we believe that every person who walks through our doors should feel the love of Christ—not only in the message we preach, but in the way we welcome one another.

That's why we're excited to have introduced our newly formed Welcoming Team! This mission of this group is to create a warm, friendly, and inviting environment each Sunday. Whether it's a smile at the door, help finding a seat, sharing some church information, or an invitation to Smorgasbord Sunday (or other events) this team will help turn our church into a true home.

With a modest membership count, every friendly face makes a difference. The Welcoming Team isn't about perfection—it's about presence.

Let's work together to be a church where no one stands alone, and everyone feels like they belong.

Thank you for joining and learning more. Reach out to Pastor Wade if you have additional questions.

FAITH FORMATION

By Pastor Wade Pond



Faith & Film: Finding God in Unexpected Places: July 19, 6:00 PM



What do Star Wars, The Pursuit of Happyness, and The Lion King have in common? Believe it or not, each one offers a window into the deep questions of life, purpose, and faith.

This summer, we're launching a new class called Faith & Film—a relaxed, discussion-based gathering where we'll watch a popular mainstream movie together and explore the spiritual and moral themes woven into the story. From redemption and sacrifice to justice, hope, and grace, we'll ask: What does this film reflect about the human condition—and how might it point us back to God?

Each session will include:

- A short intro to the film's background
- A full screening (with popcorn, of course!)
- A guided group discussion on the religious and ethical themes we noticed

You don't need to be a film buff or a theologian—just come with curiosity and an open mind. This is a great opportunity to engage culture thoughtfully and grow in your faith in a fresh, creative way.

Check in with Pastor Wade if you are curious about this opportunity!!!!



First Film: The Greatest Showman



Where: PCSH CEB Hall



When: July 19th 6:00 PM



Who: Everyone is welcome!

Let's discover how God can speak—even through Hollywood.





A Heart of Worship

WORSHIP NOTES

July and August and September are months where we celebrate the Common time or the season of growth. It is the time of the year where things may slow down at the church but also point us toward our own personal time of growth.

In Ordinary or Common time, our parament colors will move to the color green. Green is the color of growth and life and runs for an extended part of the liturgical calendar.

For us at PCSH, these times of worship and the upcoming Ordinary season should help us to continue our focus on the current growth trajectory that the church has continued to see.

See you all on Sunday!

Liturgist Schedule

July 6th - Sisi Weaver

July 20th - Laura Fallon

July 13th - Joan Sommermeyer

July 27th - Lynn Burke (Smorgasbord)



Come
WORSHIP
With Us

STEWARDSHIP AND GIVING



ANNUAL PER CAPITA DUES UPDATE

Thank you for helping us almost reach OUR church's obligation!

Sweet Hollow is required to pay the **\$42.09** for ***every member*** on our rolls. *Please consider paying your family's Per Capita dues this month. 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.*

Please remember each member should pay \$42.09 this year.

STEWARDSHIP AND GIVING

PROPERTY SALE UPDATE

Our work is complete related to the property sale.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CHURCH?

The county will then complete their process in navigating the completion of the property acquisition. We are thankful to have Jim Reiser as our attorney helping us to navigate this complex process.

WHAT'S NEXT

At this point, most of the remaining process now is a waiting period until we receive the funds for the sale.



STEWARDSHIP AND GIVING

Brick by Brick: Creating a Walkway of Dedication



Build your legacy by purchasing a commemorative 4" x 8" laser engraved brick that will be permanently placed as a border on both sides of a new sidewalk in front of the church's breezeway. Bricks can honor family members, friends, pets—whatever you can imagine. We are partnering with Fundraising Brick, a not-for-profit company with an extensive portfolio of fundraising marketing support, as well as durable laser engraved brick. The proceeds from this fundraiser will be used for the cost of the replacement of the sidewalk, and the installation of the laser engraved brick.

You can have up to 3 lines of text, each line has 20 spaces for text, punctuation and blank spaces, all in CAPITAL letters, the type will be lucida sans: This article is written in that type face. You also have over 25 artwork choices approximately 1 ½" in height engraved on upper left side of text.

The costs are **1 Brick \$125.00 Each** **2 Bricks \$115.00 Each** **3 Bricks \$100.00 Each**
Additional clipart \$5.00 Each

Additionally, you can purchase to keep at your home or others.
Electronic Doner Certificate, 7.00 Each
4x8 Display Brick in Case \$35.00 Each
Printed Donor Certificate \$12.00 Each.

There is only enough space available for 150 bricks.

Printed order flyers will be soon available as well as electronic ordering. Frank Sansone will be leading the campaign and will be able to assist you. This is a transformative opportunity to replace what is worn into a lasting Walkway of Dedication.

MISSION & MORE



Food Drive

The “climate” surrounding 2025 shows us there is more food insecurity than ever. The need is increasing exponentially. Many of our Church Members and friends have contributed a lot over the years. Upon delivery, we are always greeted with HUGE smiles and many words of thanks. It is very moving to see and hear these expressions of gratitude from the volunteer workers and organizers.

Long Island Business Newsletter reported the following: THE BLUEPRINT:

- [Food insecurity](#) affects over 313,000 Long Islanders in 2025
- [Long Island](#) Cares reports a 30% rise in pantry visits in 18 months
- Federal food aid cuts and [inflation](#) worsen local [hunger crisis](#)
- [Island Harvest](#) aims to distribute 20 million pounds of food in 2025

Headlines such as: Long Island food banks struggle amid USDA program cuts—Long Island’s two largest food banks, Long Island Cares and Island Harvest, are facing significant setbacks as the U.S. Department of Agriculture cuts food assistance programs and freezes funding, leaving thousands of food-insecure residents at risk are beyond scary.

On a happier note, over the years many of our Food Drives were successful. These drives included: Sharing Bags for Healthy Snacks for school children at Tri-CYA; Souper Bowl of Caring to benefit Huntington Community Food Council; and Thanksgiving Food Boxes for Helping Hand Rescue Mission.

Your efforts no matter how big or small are ALWAYS welcomed. You can count on the Mission Team to deliver the goods. Thank you for continuing to give to food pantries and families in need—Co-chairs Jane Beller and Maureen Sansone.



PRAYER

Prayer Corner

The focus for the prayer corner will shift from month to month as we offer a prayer to be shared and for some particulars that we may pray for in the midst of this time of prayer.

Please join me in prayer.

Eternal God, we give you thanks, for you are good and your steadfast God of this gathered people and God of faraway places, be among us now. You exercise power over all the world, on the shoreline, in the tombs, along the clifftops, and in our lives. Help us to see your power at work in a world as troubled as ours.

Cast out the demons that torment us. Heal what ails us. Answer the groans of your creation and our sighs too deep for words. Empower your church and us, your people, to be faithful. Give us the courage to do your work. Comfort us in our mourning. Reunite us where we are separated.

God of earthquakes, winds, and fires, we look at the world and fear you have gone silent. Remind us that you reveal yourself in the hidden places of your creation. Give us the faith to know that in this silence, you have a word for us. We make this prayer in the name of your word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The other SERENITY PRAYER

God, grant me the serenity to let go of perfection,
The courage to offer myself grace as I grow,
And the wisdom to remember-
You love me just as I am, even as I become more. Amen.

Some items that we might pray for this month:

Traveling mercies for ourselves and others as we engage in family and summer travel.

Peace and comfort for those who serve as a caretaker for loved ones, especially aging parents, sick children, loved ones dealing with mental health and cognitive issues.

Reduction to gun violence in our country to the point where it is no longer accepted as an everyday occurrence.

A prayer where the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few.

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 2025

2... Anthony D'Angelo
 4... Kevin Pond
 5... Emily Wagner
 6... Andrew Fogel
 9... Rose O'Conner
 18... Maureen Sansone
 21... Amanda Moder
 22... Ross Martin
 25... Dan Schiffmacher
 27... Lexie Zucker
 29... Silas Miller

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 July 21. Any member of the church is welcome to attend.

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>



4... Independence Day
 7... Father Daughter Take A Walk Day
 11... All American Pet Photo Day
 13... Barbershop Music Appreciation Day
 17... Hot Dog Day
 23... Gorgeous Grandma Day
 26... Aunt & Uncle's Day
 27... Love Is Kind Day
 30... Father-In-Law Day



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>

From the Pastor's Nook:

Continued from page 1...

As the church, our calling is to speak with clarity and compassion in times of national dissonance. When Supreme Court decisions affect the lives of LGBTQ+ individuals, women, or communities of color, we must remember that our liberation is bound together. Galatians 5:13 says, "You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another."

So let us celebrate the good in our country—the courage of whistleblowers, the perseverance of organizers, the protection offered by first responders and civil servants. But let us never confuse the kingdom of God with any human-made empire. Jesus' vision transcends nationalism and demands that we live not just as good citizens, but as faithful disciples.

This July, enjoy your celebration. Thank God for the freedoms we do have. But then go deeper. Ask: What does freedom mean in the gospel? Who is still not free? And how can we live in a way that helps bring God's kingdom a little closer—on earth, as it is in heaven?

Bell Ringer Delivery: To have your copy of the Bell Ringer delivered by paper rather than email, please call the office, e-mail <pcshsecretary@hotmail.com> or Pastor Wade.

Aug. Bell Ringer Submissions: Due by Jul 25

Email to Jessica Pond: 8kidscallmemom@gmail.com