

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.

October 2025



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From the Pastor's Nook:

Hope in a Weary World

Our nation feels heavy these days. We hear the constant hum of tension in the news, in our communities, and sometimes even in our homes. The uncertainty of politics, economics, and social unrest can leave us anxious and weary. Many of us feel caught in a cycle of worry—wondering what will happen next, and how the divisions around us will ever be healed.

In times like these, it can be tempting to give in to despair or to withdraw from the world. Yet as followers of Christ, we are called to be people of hope—not because the world is easy, but because God's love is steadfast. Scripture reminds us, *"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure"* (Hebrews 6:19). *Hope is not naïve optimism or a wish that things will magically improve. Rather, hope is a deep trust that God is still at work, even when we cannot see the whole picture.*

Think of an anchor holding a ship steady during a storm. The waves may be rough and the wind fierce, but the anchor secures the vessel, preventing it from being tossed away. In the same way, hope grounds us when the world feels uncertain. It doesn't remove the storm, but it gives us strength to endure it.

Recently, our community witnessed a small but powerful reminder of hope. When storms knocked out power in several neighborhoods, people who still had electricity opened their homes so neighbors could charge phones, keep medicine cool, or simply find a hot meal. Strangers became friends, sharing what they had without hesitation. It was a glimpse of God's kingdom at work—hope shining through ordinary acts of kindness.

As a church family, we are invited to live out that same hope every day. Hope becomes visible when we care for one another, when we practice kindness in our daily interactions, and when we choose compassion over anger. Every small act of love—whether it is listening to a neighbor, praying for those who disagree with us, or reaching out to someone who feels alone—becomes a testimony that God's kingdom is breaking in, even now.

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BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Fourth Annual Trunk-Or-Treat



Friday, October 17

5:00 - 6:30 PM

Rain or Shine



Contact the church office to reserve your spot to
decorate your car and be a trunker.

PCSHSECRETARY@HOTMAIL.COM



FAITH FORMATION

By Pastor Wade Pond

**Kerygma information
meeting will be held
October 12th following
worship.**

Digging Deeper: *The Bible in Depth* with the Kerygma Program

"The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever." – Isaiah 40:8

We will be embarking on a new adventure in learning and faith formation: **The Bible in Depth**, a Kerygma Program designed for those who want to take a deeper dive into God's Word.

What is *The Bible in Depth*?

Unlike a quick overview or topical study, this course takes us **through a thematic exploration** of starting with God saving the people and finishing with God's people having hope. Together, we will examine the sweep of Scripture—from creation to covenant, prophets to psalms, Gospels to letters. The goal is not simply to *read the Bible*, but to ***understand its history, context, and meaning*** and to *discover how these sacred texts continue to speak into our lives today*.

The Kerygma approach is interactive and community-centered. Sessions combine careful scholarship with engaging conversation. Each week we will wrestle with questions, share insights, and learn from one another as the Spirit guides us.

Why This Study?

In the Reformed tradition, we affirm that Scripture is "the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ" (Book of Confessions, 9.27). A study like *The Bible in Depth* helps us move beyond surface readings into a **richer, fuller understanding** of God's story and our place within it.

The apostle Paul reminds us: "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16). This course is one way we answer that call to be trained and shaped by the living Word.

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FAITH FORMATION

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What You Can Expect

- A **two-year journey** through the entire Bible (with flexible pacing).
- Study guides that provide **historical background, theological themes, and discussion questions**.
- A group setting where all questions are welcome—no prior Bible study experience required.
- Opportunities to connect ancient texts with today's challenges and joys.

Who Should Join?

Anyone who hungers for a **deeper knowledge of Scripture** and a **closer walk with God**. Whether you've been reading the Bible for decades or are just beginning, you will find this study accessible, challenging, and enriching.

Getting Started

Our *Bible in Depth* study will begin in October and meet **every other Sunday following worship**. The resource guide for the study is \$50.

Come ready to explore, question, and grow. Together we will discover how the grand story of the Bible continues to proclaim good news for us and for the world.

~PW



WORSHIP NOTES

The Meaning of Worship at the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

At the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow, worship is at the heart of who we are. Every Sunday when we gather in our sanctuary on Old Country Road, we are reminded that worship is not just about rituals or traditions, but about meeting God together as a community.

For Presbyterians, worship is a conversation between God and God’s people. We hear God’s Word in Scripture, music, and preaching, and we respond with prayer, song, and service. Worship grounds us in God’s love and calls us to live out that love in our daily lives. Whether the service includes a well-loved hymn, a quiet prayer, or the joyful sounds of children, all of it is part of giving glory to God.

Worship also strengthens us as a community of faith. We come from different places and experiences, but in worship we are united by God’s Spirit. Together, we bring our hopes, our struggles, and our gratitude, trusting that God meets us right where we are. In Melville and beyond, our worship sends us out to be Christ’s hands and feet in the world.

At Sweet Hollow, we believe worship is not confined to Sunday mornings. It shapes how we treat one another, how we serve our neighbors, and how we live as people of grace and compassion. Worship is our weekly reminder that God is faithful, and we are called to respond with joy and gratitude.

So come as you are—bring your voice, your questions, your faith, and even your doubts. In worship, God welcomes us all.

Liturgist Schedule

October	November	December
5... Maureen	2... Sheri	7... Sheri
12... Sisi	9...	14... Lynn
19... Laura	16... Niaja	21... Niaja
26... Joan	23... Lynn	28... Sisi
(Smorgasbord)	(Smorgasbord & Decorate the church)	
	30... Joan	

STEWARDSHIP AND GIVING

Last chance to order your Commemorative Bricks yet?

Brick by Brick: Creating a Walkway of Dedication



Two More Weeks.... Get your orders in.

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 are available as well as electronic ordering. Frank Sansone is 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.

STEWARDSHIP AND GIVING

Bridging the Gap Together

Dear Church Family,

As a congregation, we are blessed with a strong spirit of faith and community, even as we face financial challenges. This year, rising insurance costs and significant building maintenance have required us to draw down our reserve funds. At this time, those reserves have been fully depleted.

We give thanks that God has already provided a path forward. Plans are underway for the sale of a property that will replenish our reserves, but that process will take 6–12 months. In the meantime, we must rely on God's provision and the generosity of this church family to sustain our ministries.

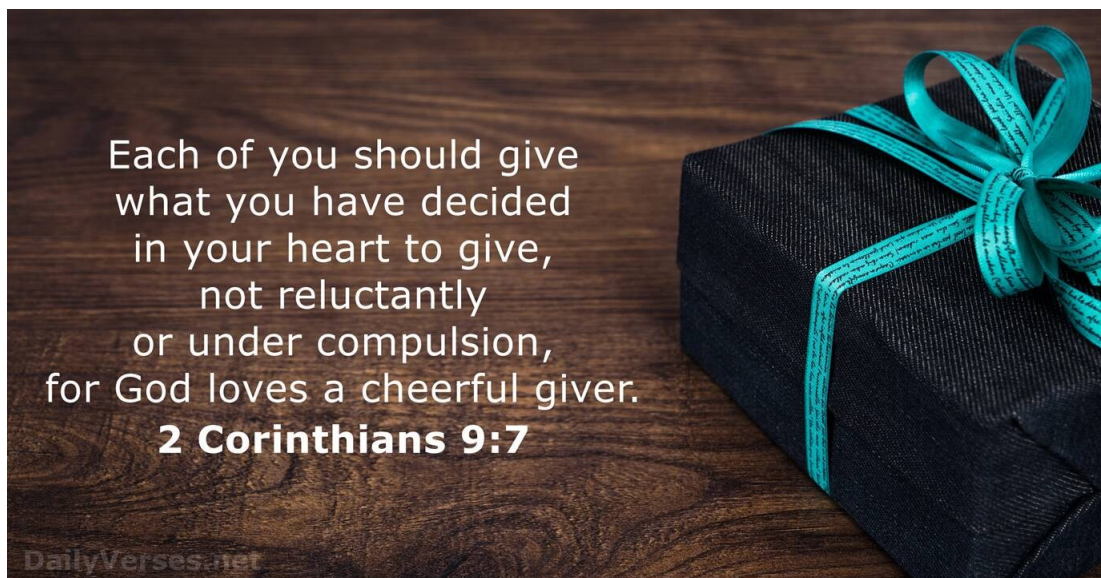
The Apostle Paul reminds us, *"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). First, if you have made a pledge for this year, we ask that you review your giving and, if possible, catch up on your commitment. These regular gifts are the foundation of our ministry.*

Second, we invite you to prayerfully consider making an **extraordinary gift, above and beyond regular giving**, to help us through this critical season. Our goal is to raise **\$20,000** in the coming months. Every contribution, large or small, will make a difference in keeping our doors open, our worship vibrant, and our ministries active.

As the psalmist declares, *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). Together, with faith and generosity, we will bridge this season until God provides through the property sale.*

Thank you for your steadfast love and support of this church.

~ Pastor Wade and the Session



STEWARDSHIP AND GIVING

Supporting God's Mission Through Special Offerings

Each year, Presbyterians across the country join together in giving to four **Special Offerings** of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). These offerings are one of the most tangible ways we participate in Christ's mission beyond our local congregation. They allow us to make a difference in our community, in our nation, and around the world.

The **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering, received during Lent, supports ministries of relief and development. Funds provide emergency assistance in times of disaster, address hunger through community programs, and empower people with tools for self-sufficiency.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

At **Pentecost**, we lift up the next generation. This offering invests in children at risk, youth initiatives, and young adult volunteer opportunities—helping to nurture faith and leadership for the future of the church.

The **Peace & Global Witness Offering**, received around World Communion Sunday in the fall, supports peacemaking efforts in congregations and presbyteries, as well as international initiatives of reconciliation. A portion of this offering remains with local congregations, encouraging us to engage in peace and justice work right here at home.



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Finally, the **Christmas Joy Offering** celebrates God's gift of Jesus Christ by supporting current and retired church workers in need, as well as providing scholarships for students at Presbyterian-related racial-ethnic schools & colleges.

Together, these four offerings remind us that we are connected to a larger body of Christ. Each gift—large or small—helps the church live out our calling to “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God” (Micah 6:8).

As we receive these offerings throughout the year, may we give joyfully and generously, knowing that our combined gifts extend God's love and hope to places we may never see but where the Spirit is already at work.

MISSION & MORE

Annual Writing of Thank You Cards For Our Melville Fire Department's First Responders



In recognition of **National First Responders Day**, October 28, the Mission Team is asking our congregation to join us in honoring and thanking our local volunteer First Responders of the Melville Fire Department. Cards will be left in the back of the sanctuary for you to sign, or you can create one yourself. Pastor Pond will deliver them to the monthly meeting he attends at the Fire House.

Please have all cards at church **by October 16**.
You may find some of these quotes and statements helpful in creating your own message:

“How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-ros!”
-Maya Angelou

“When a man becomes a fireman his greatest act of bravery has been accomplished. What he does after that is all in the line of work.”-Edward F. Croker

“Firefighting-one of the few professions left that still makes house calls.”

“Firefighters save hearts and homes.”

Also ideas from this very helpful website:

<https://thebrandboy.com/thank-you-messages-for-fire-fighters/>



MISSION & MORE

MISSION & MINISTRY-LOOKING AHEAD THROUGH DECEMBER



As Fall begins to display its beautiful colors, the Mission Team looks ahead to our upcoming Mission and Ministry initiatives:

The need of support for those with food insecurities is still great. Our local food banks are trying hard to keep up with demand. We will continue to keep the Huntington Community Food Council as a weekly mission in addition to our other missions. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Food Drive— Please keep donations of pasta, rice, sauce, hot cereal, cold cereal, canned tuna, and peanut butter to benefit the **Huntington Community Food Council** coming in.

In early November, we will begin to collect toys for **Toys For Joy**, to benefit the children of **Tri-CYA**. Last year, we were blessed to deliver a mountain of toys, for which **Tri-CYA** was so grateful. We strive to collect even more this year. We will continue to accepting toys for **Toys For Joy** to benefit the children of **Tri-CYA**, which will be delivered the second week of December.

The Mission Team thanks you all in advance, for your compassion towards those in need.



MISSION & MORE

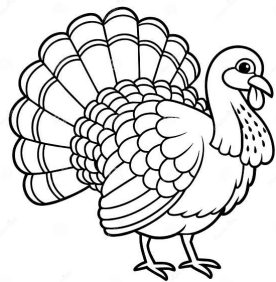
Mission Team Focus for October

HELPING HAND RESCUE MISSION

We shall once again be filling boxes to benefit our community. There will be a signup sheet in the sanctuary or you can call Jane (631-271-3099) and sign up for an item. Last year we handed in five boxes—super successful!

Helping Hand Rescue Mission's 60th Annual Thanksgiving Turkey & Food Distribution provides food for a family's full Thanksgiving meal, dessert and a special breakfast, to those in need right in our community. Yet another year in helping with the increased need locally. Although we are sad that more families in our community are going through difficult times, we are grateful that we can be of assistance with food boxes full of all the necessary treats! We feel incredibly blessed that as a community, there's always something that we can do to make life more stable and fuller of love and support for our neighbors in need.

Help us with your generous food donation as our team continually appreciates your support to Helping Hand Rescue Mission. We are blessed to be able to give families in need the gift of a wonderful Thanksgiving.



Shopping List Includes...

- ◇ 2 Boxes Stuffing
- ◇ (Gravy Can/Jar/Packets)
- ◇ Cranberry Sauce
- ◇ 2 Cans Corn
- ◇ 2 Cans Green Beans/Peas
- ◇ 2lb Dry Rice
- ◇ 1 Lg/2 Sm cans Sweet Potato
- ◇ Pancake Mix (32oz)
- ◇ Syrup (24oz)
- ◇ 2 Boxes Mac & Cheese
- ◇ Juice (64oz)
- ◇ Teabags/Coffee/Hot Chocolate
- ◇ 2 Instant Potato Bags
- ◇ Tortillas (corn or flour)
- ◇ Cake Mix
- ◇ Frosting
- ◇ Candy (sealed, Store-bought)
- ◇ Optional: Frozen Turkey, Ham or

Prayer Corner

The Purpose and Power of Prayer in Our Presbyterian Life

Prayer has always stood at the center of Christian life. In the Presbyterian tradition, we believe that prayer is both a personal conversation with God and a communal practice that strengthens the body of Christ. Through prayer, we bring our joys, our sorrows, and our deepest needs before the God who hears us with compassion and responds with grace.

Prayer is not about having the right words, nor is it a magic formula that guarantees immediate results. Rather, it is about relationship. When we pray, we open our selves to the Holy Spirit, who comforts us, challenges us, and empowers us to act as Christ's hands and feet in the world. As the Westminster Catechism reminds us, prayer is "an offering up of our desires unto God." It is an act of trust that we do not face life's burdens alone.

This trust is particularly vital in our world today. In recent weeks, communities across the United States have once again been shaken by tragic mass shootings, leaving families broken, neighbors in mourning, and many of us wondering how such violence can persist. Beyond our borders, global conflicts, the ongoing refugee crises, and the worsening effects of climate change weigh heavily on our spirits. Closer to home, many families continue to wrestle with economic insecurity, health struggles, and the stresses of daily life.

These are times when prayer becomes not just comforting, but necessary. Prayer holds us steady when the world feels unstable. It keeps us grounded in God's promises of peace, justice, and mercy. And it compels us, not only to pray with our lips but also to respond with our lives—working for the healing and wholeness that God intends for all creation.

As a church family, let us lean into prayer together. Whether spoken aloud in worship, whispered in private, or shared with a friend in need, every prayer is a thread that binds us more closely to God and to one another.

A Prayer for Our Time

God of mercy and strength, we come before you with hearts heavy for our world. We lift before you the families and communities torn apart by senseless violence, especially the victims of recent mass shootings. Surround them with your comfort and bind up their wounds. We pray for leaders and lawmakers, that they may seek wisdom, courage, and compassion in their decisions. We pray for peace in places of war, shelter for the homeless, food for the hungry, and hope for the despairing. Lord, give us the courage not only to pray but to act as peacemakers in our own communities. May your Spirit guide us, strengthen us, and remind us that your light shines even in the deepest darkness. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Prayer shapes us into a people of hope, even when the world is broken. Let us continue to be faithful in prayer, trusting that God is near and that God's love never fails.



FROM LAMENT TO HOPE:
LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS
A church-wide, community-wide call to prayer & reflection



October 2025

1... Alexandra D'Angelo
 4... Kristen Somermeyer
 10... Susan (Sukey) Walter
 14... Juliann Pond
 16... Zariah Howard
 20... Melissa D'Angelo
 24... Brittney Moder



SEP 2025

9... LeRoy & Niaja Mowatt
 10... Otto & Carol Keil
 10... Justin & Hillary Zucker



1... National Coffee with a Cop Day
 4... National Play Outside Day
 7... National Inner Beauty Day
 8... National Fluffernutter Day
 10... National Walk to the Park Day
 11... National Coming Out Day
 12... National Clergy Appreciation Day
 13... National Indigenous People Day
 15... Pregnancy & Infant Loss Remembrance Day
 18... National Sweetest Day
 19... National LGBTQIA+ Center Awareness Day
 22... National Make a Dog's Day
 24... National Food Day
 26... National Mother-In-Law Day
 27... National Black Cat Day
 28... National First Responders Day
 30... National Candy Corn Day
 31... Halloween/National Caramel Apple 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

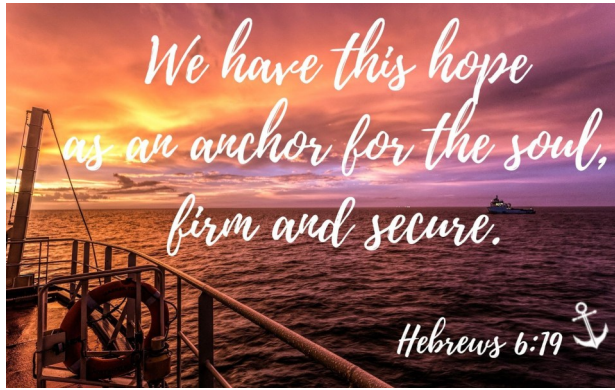
Niaja Mowatt

Frank Sansone

Bea Reiser

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 OCT 20. Any member of the church is welcome to attend.



From the Pastor's Nook:

Continued from page 1...

The early church grew not because it was powerful or wealthy, but because people saw a community where hope was alive. In a world marked by division, Christians welcomed the stranger. In a world of fear, they proclaimed peace. In a world of scarcity, they shared what they had. That same calling rests on us today.

May we be a people who carry hope like a lantern in the darkness, not ignoring the challenges around us, but shining a light that points toward the peace of Christ. Hope does not deny the reality of our struggles; rather, it insists that God's love is stronger than fear, hatred, or despair.

A Prayer for Hope

God of peace, anchor us in your steadfast love when the world feels unsteady. Calm our anxious hearts, and fill us with the hope of Christ that does not disappoint. May our lives shine with your light, so that others may see your presence even in the midst of uncertainty.

Amen.

Find our website and social media links!

www.sweethollowpresby.org

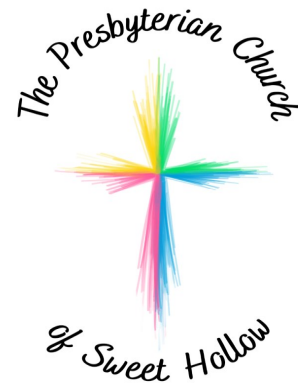
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<https://www.instagram.com/presbysweethollow>



NATIONAL MONTHS

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

National Fire Prevention Month

National Vegetarian Month

National Tackle Hunger Month

National Positive Attitude Month

National SIDS Awareness Month

National ADD/ADHD Awareness Month

World Menopause Month

National Women's Small Business Month

National Principal's Month

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.

NOV. Bell Ringer Submissions: Due by OCT 25

Email to Jessica Pond: 8kidscallmemom@gmail.com