



## *Swift Memorial Ministry Highlights April - June 2023*

Swift Memorial Church, Sagamore Beach, MA 02562

### **Farewell to Pastor Joe & Christine**

On June 11<sup>th</sup> we worshipped with Pastor Joe and Christine for the last time and held a retirement celebration for them after the service. During the morning worship we presented them with a check to help with their moving expenses and some gifts to remember us by: a cowboy hat for pastor, a necklace for Christine, and a portrait of the church painted by our own Katherine Holmes. The luncheon that followed was well attended and drew in several people who have seldom been seen on Sundays. Everyone agreed that Pastor Joe and Christine contributed mightily to the success of our church during the seven years they were here. Many people testified that they joined our church as a result of a visit from this lovely couple.

We will greatly miss this dynamic duo and wish them the greatest joy and success in the next stage of their lives as they move to Texas to be close to their grandson.



### **Welcome Pastor Hyuk Seonwoo & Family**



Reverend Hyuk Seonwoo, an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, and his wife, Younglang Seonwoo became part of our church on July 1<sup>st</sup>. He comes to us from the Trinity Methodist Church in Oak Bluffs, MV. Prior to that he had 18 years' experience at Zion Korean United Methodist Church in Warwick, RI. Reverend Seonwoo earned doctorates and masters degrees from Drew University, Harvard Divinity School, and Boston University School of Theology. His journey began at Methodist Theological Seminary in Seoul, Korea.

Besides his impressive educational background he boasts extensive Tai-Chi training! We welcome Pastor Hyuk, his wife, and their two grown sons to Sagamore Beach and look forward to this next chapter in the life of our church.

## New Members

Betty Shippee, John and Virginia Machado, and Paula Jesse, joined Swift Memorial Church on May 21, 2023. All three transferred their membership from Faith Community Church in Plymouth and are making a difference at Swift. Betty is already becoming an active member of the Swift Church choir and is also a member of the United Methodist Women. Virginia has already signed up for the VBS team.

We are delighted they have all chosen to join our church family here in Sagamore Beach.



## Wednesday Bible Study



The Swift Bible Warriors continued their study of the Old Testament book of 1 Samuel, following the lives of the prophet Samuel, King Saul, and David. After 23 weeks following their lives and adventures, we can more clearly see how important it is to follow God's counsel as you go through life. We marvel at David's faith, fortitude, and reliance on God. David's turns to God with his fears, his confusion and his anger, yet praises God even in the midst of his difficulties. As we read, we delight in God's protection of his anointed one in the face of Saul's relentless persecution. Saul's pride and self-deception contrast sharply to David's humility, like a foreshadowing of Jesus vs. the leaders of his world. This study has been showing us how foolish it is to trust in our own wisdom, and how critical it is to build a strong relationship with our almighty creator. (Susan Scott)

## Music Ministry

After a very successful Easter Cantata, the Swift Choir has continued to provide powerful music of varying styles to our weekly services. Throughout the summer the choir will be performing contemporary Christian anthems. These songs are adapted by the choir weekly to best reach our congregation. We were blessed with the voices of our Sunday School kids who sang A House United as a farewell to Pastor Joe and Christine. With the retirement of Pastor Joe, we lost one of our wonderful sopranos in Christine. However God is good and within a week of Christine's departure, Betty Shippee, who also happens to be a soprano, joined the choir. Welcome Betty! The Lord works in mysterious ways! Believe it or not, the choir will begin rehearsals for our Christmas cantata in the next month. If you are interested in joining the choir please reach out to Ben or any choir member. The time commitment is moderate and we have a great time. (Ben Healy)

# Strawberry Festival



Our 2023 Swift Church Strawberry Festival was another successful event. We welcomed the community into our church. We were blessed with 15 talented vendors. Kim Akeke & Jen Healy organized a delicious Swift bake sale table. Julia Chick's Sunday School class' plant sale table raised \$140 to benefit Bloom. We sold 168 scrumptious strawberry shortcakes. Thank you Susan Scott & Susan Mullaney for serving up the delights again this year. We raised over \$2000 to benefit our Church's many



programs. Thank you to all the volunteers; the set up & take down group, Nancy Whitmore for whipping all the whipped cream, Christine Cody for slicing thousands of strawberries, the knitting group who create items for our handcraft table, Jeff Downs who created wood turned items, the bakers who baked the biscuits & all the Church members who came out to support our church through their presence and donations. We have a lot of fun & get to eat delicious strawberry shortcake. (Mary Hunt- Cifrino & Deb Linehan, Co-Chairs Event Planning)

## Sunday School Ministry

This past quarter was really busy for the Sunday school children. After learning about the last week of Jesus' life during the Lenten season, they were ready to celebrate Easter. Jonathan, Wynnie, Katherine, Nicki, Taya and Charlotte did a wonderful job reading for the Easter cantata. The children also joined the choir for a song. The following Sunday, Holy Humor Sunday, we wore funny hats, played the kazoos, and told funny Christian jokes. Laughter is good for the soul. The children also made flower pots to sell at the Strawberry Festival. So very pretty with petunias.



In the 'Discovering Jesus' class we learned about the prophets in the Old Testament. It was amazing to learn how they prophesied the coming of Jesus so many years before his arrival. A sincere Thank you to parents who continue to bring their children to church. God is good. (Julia Chick)

## Holy Humor Sunday



We celebrated our second year of Holy Humor Sunday, the Sunday after Easter that exhibits our joy at the resurrection of Jesus and his victory over Satan and death. We laugh, share jokes and wear headwear designed to provoke amusement. This year's creations were truly fabulous.





## Mission Commission Update

We continue to support our ongoing missions: The backpack ministry (during school year), Teen Challenge (for addictions) and Watoto (supporting orphans in Uganda).

Our Sunday school students raised \$130 for missions at the Strawberry Festival, which was donated to Bloom, a program of the world-renowned Adult & Teen Challenge organization that provides time-proven, Christian faith-based, residential programs for groups of youth, teens, and adults in crisis. (Bloom Girls Home is a live-in center for teen girls in crisis.) In May we participated in the Walk for Hope on the Cape Cod Canal, which benefits affordable housing for the homeless and several other programs focused on families in need. Several parishioners joined the walk on the canal and as a church we raised \$500.00

We continue to support the Bourne Food Pantry and fill the Blessing Box. If you have ideas for new mission efforts or how we can do more for current missions, please join us on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM. We are now meeting in person at the church!

(Chip and Mary Raymond)

## Lay Minister Update

Life is all about change! Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens...". We knew change was coming and it came in June. In April we had a beautiful Easter service and the joy of having our children participate with their readings followed by a fun Holy Humor Sunday



service, then May brought Pastor Joe's 72nd birthday, which meant mandatory retirement and Pastor Joe and Christine began working feverishly to be sure all the things they did in the background (and the foreground) were passed on to several folks in the congregation. Training and passing of the baton for live streaming, taking photos for Facebook, keeping the website updated, passing along passwords and log in credentials for many sites, creating the PowerPoint for church service and showing the PowerPoint in the sanctuary ..... I could go on and on. Yes, we had a few blips, but due to their thoughtful diligence, things have been kept up. Thanks are due to Erin Wilcox, Jeff Downs, Eric Cody, Bill Fortier, Amanda Stennett, and many others who took on a task that Pastor or Christine used to do. Now comes one of Pastor Joe's favorite tasks: The quarterly newsletter. We are a bit late, but it is getting done!

June was full of celebration and emotion as we held a special service that found the pews full of people wanting to wish Pastor Joe and Christine well, followed by a luncheon in their honor. They will both be missed but they have left all of us in good hands with a wonderful new pastor, Rev. Dr. Hyuk Seonwoo and his family. We look forward to working alongside Pastor Hyuk and seeing what new ideas and changes he has for us. (Ann Burnham, CLM)

## Trustees' Notes



As always the Trustees had a busy spring. Chip posted the lawn mowing sign-up sheet and we quickly had many volunteers. Bill C. did the initial yard cleanup, lawn fertilization and mowing. Dave Stockbridge took care of the shrubbery clipping and Vicki Heckman weeded the front garden area and planted the annuals that are now blooming so beautifully. We thought we were going to have to purchase a new hand mower as the old one just didn't run with sufficient power. To the rescue came Claude

Daigle! He tore apart the carburetor and reassembled it and now the mower runs great.

Another major project completed this quarter was the replacement of the old oil tanks in the boiler room. For several years the oil company and our insurance company have recommended their replacement. We put the project out to bid with three local companies and received an excellent quote from Dunlap Oil. The job was completed in early June; installation went quickly and smoothly so now we have two modern double wall tanks and one less worry.

Prior to Pastor Hyuk's family moving into the parsonage, the Trustees worked on getting their new home ready for their arrival. Stained and cracked ceilings were repaired and painted, the rugs were professionally cleaned, a broken bath faucet was replaced, the walls in the master bedroom were painted, and new smoke/CO detectors were installed throughout the building. Dave Stockbridge and Ted Burnham built a nice fence to screen the trash barrels from view and Bill C. put in an automatic sprinkler to keep the front lawn green. Erin Wilcox arranged for a professional cleaning of the house and Mary Hunt-Cifrino followed up the next day with some finishing touches.



In order to save our Church the expense of a professional mover, the Trustees arranged to move the Hyuk family from the parsonage on Martha's Vineyard with volunteers. Bill C., Derek Strohschneider and Tim McMahon took a U-Haul truck over on the ferry and loaded it up with all the furniture and the many boxes containing the Hyuk family belongings and brought it all to our parsonage. We were met by a large contingent of our Church family who helped unload and place everything into the correct room of the house. Even Liam Stennett

joined the "bucket brigade" carrying boxes into the house. At the end of the day nearly all the costs for preparing the building were defrayed by the money saved by not hiring a professional mover. (Bill Cifrino)

## Finance Update

We continue to be in awe of and grateful for the blessings the Lord is providing to Swift Memorial UMC. In addition to remaining financially sound, we truly have a congregation of servants whose time and talents provide for many needs in our budget. As stated in our last quarterly report, we do not have excess, but remain close to our budget and are paying our bills on time.

We had long been planning the transition from Pastor Joe to Pastor Hyuk and in June saw the fruits of our labors. The move went smoothly, thanks to the help of so many people, most especially the efforts of Bill Cifrino, Tim McMahon and Derek Strohschneider. Pastor Hyuk was also gracious in agreeing to let these men move him off the Vineyard to save the church thousands of dollars. We are so thankful for your generosity as a congregation, allowing us to continue with a full time pastor.

Our fundraising efforts continue to help us support our missions and meet our budgeted expenses. On May 13th we added a new fundraiser. This “Block Party”, organized by Deb Linehan and Deb Fortier, with free snacks and games. It was a beautiful testimony to the community of how much our church family cares about them and each other. Thanks to all who helped us, as we raised over \$700. Additionally the Strawberry Festival, organized by Mary Hunt-Cifrino and Deb Linehan, had a great turnout and raised about \$2,000 for our church. (Amy Strohschneider & Deb Linehan)



## Men ' s Breakfast



The Men’s Breakfast was held on the Saturday June third with good attendance at the church.

By tradition, our Men’s Breakfast is held the first Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. You don’t have to be a member to attend. At our last breakfast we met our new Pastor and had an enjoyable discussion about our church history and about Sagamore Beach. We shared each individual’s connection to the church and its people.

Please join us at our next breakfast on the first Saturday of the month at 8:00 a.m. Come enjoy the prayer, discussions, and coffee and donuts!

## A Word from Pastor Hyuk

Grace and Peace to you from God and our Lord Jesus Christ!

Thank you, thank you, thank you all for your welcoming words, hugs, and prayers! Since arriving to Sagamore Beach, my family and I have been greatly appreciative to the hospitality and helping hands of the Swift Memorial church family.

On June 22, my family (Younglang, Eunki, and Hyunki) and I were waiting for three good, faithful men from the Swift Memorial Church who crossed the sea by ferry. They brought not only a U-Haul van but also warm hearts and big smiles to the parsonage on Martha's Vineyard, and moved things like professional movers. We were so grateful for their committed work, speedy hands, and hospitable minds. They saved a lot of moving cost for the church, too. Thank you, Bill, Derek, and Tim.

Next day, when the U-Haul arrived at the Sagamore Beach parsonage, many Swift church family members showed up to help with the move. I was very grateful and impressed to see them forming a human chain and moving heavy book boxes. Thank you all not only for your efficient works but also for your welcoming hearts and words. Since then, many leaders, trustee members, and church members continued to help us settle down in various ways.

Since July 2nd, which was my first Sunday with the Swift Memorial Church family, I have been practicing and will continue to practice 3Ls, which are Listening, Learning, and Loving. I will continue to try to remember your names and match them with your faces. Emails from the Prayer Chain have been very helpful to understand who you are and where you are now. I believe God hears my prayers even when praying without matching the names and faces. I was also glad to see all the committed and gifted VBS teachers and volunteers becoming blessings to the children.

I hope we are connected with prayers and God's unfailing love. May God hold us in His loving, sustaining, and strengthening embrace. Thank you all for your welcoming smiles and ongoing prayers!!!

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Hyuk