

The Bridge

MAY 2019



From the Pastor

Rev. Julie Sterling

Last month we walked the final steps of our Lenten Journey and met Jesus at the cross. Over the past few weeks our worship services have guided us in a better understanding of Easter. What does the cross really mean to us? How do we use Christ's sacrifice to grow in faith with God? Above all, how do we take the Easter story and make it personal?

In the days after his death, Jesus came to his disciples to give them comfort and hope. Much of who we are as Christians comes after the "crucifixion experience". We are challenged as people of faith to believe in what comes next. For Christ not only died for our sins but also lives eternal!

As the Easter story continues, we encounter Jesus in the upper room with the disciples. In John 20:19-31, Jesus greets his friends with words of peace. This is the first time they experience the risen Lord. Verses 21-23 call us all to witness Christ's victory but also challenge us to a greater mission of faith: **"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."**

In the coming weeks we will continue to celebrate the Easter season. This is a time to

consider what it means to be witness to the empty cross and called to service to all.

We have an open communion table because we believe that all that have faith are welcome to be part of our church family. It is also a lesson of what could be if we focus on rules and doctrine and forget to notice the workings of the Spirit. If we believe the church is a living presence, then we must also believe that God is giving us new lessons each day. We must have the courage to believe when God is working in our lives. We must be prayerful when we encounter issues that make our faith waver. We must be open to just how big Christ's grace and God's love is!

Our tradition calls us to be people of grace and gratitude. We can share the fullness of Christ through our mission as a church. How will you live out your faith as "Easter People"? What is your story of resurrection and life? How can your love of God transform others? Even the smallest gifts and bring people to the faith and see just how profound Christ is. He is the Lord of all. It is our job to share this good news and live peace in all that we do!

Blessings,
Rev. Julie Sterling

Our Mission — To be a bridge to Christ through faith and service • Our Vision — When SPC is faithful in accomplishing its mission, people will know that Christ is at work in their lives and follow Him. • We Value — Being accepting, caring, outreaching, Spirit-led, and willing to serve



Birthdays This Month

- ◆ Pamela Holland (May 2)
- ◆ Cheryl Taylor (May 2)
- ◆ Matt Harrah (May 4)
- ◆ Matt King (May 11)
- ◆ Jerolene Crusenberry (May 22)
- ◆ Calvin Piland (May 25)
- ◆ Skip Irby (May 30)
- ◆ Don White (May 30)
- ◆ Jen Johnson (May 31)



- ◆ Chris & Skip Irby (May 12)
- ◆ Nancy & Wesley King (May 24)

The *Suffolk Presbyterian Bridge* is a publication of Suffolk Presbyterian Church in Suffolk, VA.

The *Bridge* is published 12 times a year under the direction of the Administration/Communication Ministry Team of the SPC Session.

News items should be submitted to the newsletter editor in one of the following ways:

- email at office.suffolkpcusa@verizon.net
- mail to the church address
- newsletter editor's mailbox in church office

Editor: Laura Farmer,

- ◆ Fran Alwood
- ◆ Jeanne Banks
- ◆ John Banks
- ◆ The family of Paul Chapman
- ◆ Nick Meadors
- ◆ Gary Williams
- ◆ Harold Anten
- ◆ Howard Bird
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- ◆ Kelly-Grier Costin
- ◆ Linda Dilday
- ◆ David Drames
- ◆ Sue Forbes
- ◆ Family of Ginger Goodman
- ◆ Sandy Hurd
- ◆ The family of Bill Jarvis
- ◆ Antonio Jefferson
- ◆ Jeremy Jennings
- ◆ Charles Johnson
- ◆ Mary Joyner
- ◆ Dolores and Cliff Lane
- ◆ The family of Lonnie Massey
- ◆ Miriam Mazariegos
- ◆ Robert Munro
- ◆ Brink Nelms and his wife Cathy
- ◆ Faye Perry
- ◆ Tony Phan
- ◆ Family of Brenda Preston
- ◆ Lucille Reddell
- ◆ Beverly Shockley
- ◆ Jeff Snow
- ◆ John and Sue Stansel
- ◆ Davy, April, Ian, & Willow Walker
- ◆ Mary Jane Willis
- ◆ Alonzo Wilson
- ◆ Shay Wood



PRAY FOR OUR

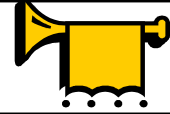
MILITARY

- ◆ **Austin Holland**
- ◆ **Nick Meadors**
- ◆ **JB Persons**
- ◆ **Glenn Smith** (Betty Chapman's grandson)
- ◆ **Greg Vernon** (Joyce Jordan's grandson)

Thank you for your service!



News Briefs



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

The next **Presbyterian Women** meeting is on Monday, May 13 at 7:30 pm.

West Liberty University Singers and Choral Scholars Concert

Mark your calendars for May 9th. You don't want to miss West Liberty University's Singers and Choral Scholars in a program of choral music at SPC. The choir will be touring through West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina, singing American Folk Songs and other choral classics. Conducted by Ryan Keeling, the performance will begin at 7pm in the sanctuary and is free, so invite as many people as you know. The concert will serve as a springboard for our own concert on May 19th at 7 pm.

Birthday Celebration

Join us for a birthday luncheon after our church service on Sunday, May 5th. We will be honoring those in our congregation who were born in March, April, and May! All are invited to celebrate with those having birthdays! We will be serving Mexican... Make your own tacos, with salad, dessert, and drinks!! Share in the fun and fellowship sponsored by the Deacons.



Administrative Office Hours



Laura Farmer's regular office hours are Wednesdays from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, Thursdays from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm, and Fridays from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. If you would like to contact her directly, please email office.suffolkpcusa@verizon.net.

Moved? New Phone Number? Not in the SPC Directory?

We're trying to make sure our newsletter and other SPC mailings get to the right address. And, we want to make sure we have the right information in our church directory.

So, if you have moved or have a new phone number, please contact **Laura Farmer**, Administrative Assistant, at office.suffolkpcusa@verizon.net or 539-3213.



2019 Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering Recipients

Disaster Response Team

Presbytery of Charlotte, Charlotte, North Carolina

The Disaster Response Team of the Presbytery of Charlotte will expand its ministry to support people affected by human-made or natural disasters. PW's grant will help provide a warehouse, parking lot and security fencing. This new space will hold household goods, food, hygiene, and school kits, and clean-up buckets, and will house mobile shower units and disaster recovery trailers.

Effingham Child Development Center

Inclusive Playground, Effingham, Illinois

In a child's early years inclusive play environments set the tone for successful future relationships. The Effingham Child Development Center serves children and families of differing abilities and is paving the way for all kids to learn and play together. The Birthday Offering will improve the center's playground by helping to provide a protective play surface and all-inclusive play equipment.

Presbyterian Homes and Services of Kentucky, Inc.

Good Shepherd Community Nursing Center, Phelps, Kentucky

Presbyterian Homes and Services of Kentucky cares for people who are sick, poor, lonely or vulnerable due to infirmities of age and poor health. This project will improve the quality of life and safety for nursing center residents in the Appalachian region of Eastern Kentucky. PW's grant will help provide new wardrobes, bedside cabinets, over-bed tables, nursing beds, mattresses and lift recliners.

Wings of Refuge

Restoration Home, Iowa Falls, Iowa

Wings of Refuge provides a safe and healing space for women victimized by human trafficking. Without safety and shelter, there is little healing. PW's Birthday Offering grant will help fund a larger long-term safe home where many more women will find restoration, identity, community, opportunity and hope, and transition into independent living.

The birthday offering will be collected in the month of May. Stay tuned for more information!

For more information on the birthday offering, visit:

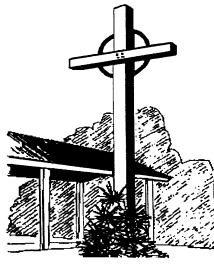
https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/support-mission/birthday-offering/



May 2019

Suffolk Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> 5 PM LWW Team Meeting Aerobics TOPS	<i>2</i> 6 PM Prayer Group 7:15 PM Choir	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> 4:30 PM Mission Garden Planting Bridge Women's AA
<i>5</i> 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship Holy Communion 12 PM Birthday Celebration	<i>6</i> Aerobics AA	<i>7</i> Bridge	<i>8</i> 7 PM Diaconate Meeting Aerobics TOPS	<i>9</i> 6 PM Prayer Group 7 PM West Liberty University Concert	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> Bridge Women's AA
<i>12</i> 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship	<i>13</i> 7:30 PM Presbyterian Women Aerobics	<i>14</i> Bridge Pilot Club	<i>15</i> 7 PM Session Meeting Aerobics TOPS	<i>16</i> 6 PM Prayer Group 7:15 PM Choir	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> Bridge Women's AA
<i>19</i> 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship 7 PM Concert	<i>20</i> Newsletter DEADLINE Aerobics Sister Cities AA	<i>21</i> Bridge	<i>22</i> Aerobics TOPS	<i>23</i> 6 PM Prayer Group 7:15 PM Choir	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> Bridge Women's AA
<i>26</i> 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship	<i>27</i> Memorial Day Aerobics AA	<i>28</i> Bridge	<i>29</i> Aerobics TOPS	<i>30</i> 6 PM Prayer Group 7:15 PM Choir	<i>31</i>	



Suffolk Presbyterian Church
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Visit our website!
suffolkpresbyterian.org

Suffolk Presbyterian Church

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Pastor

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SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:45 AM

WORSHIP

11 AM

Upcoming Events:

- May 1—LWW Team Meeting
- May 4—Mission Garden Planting
- May 5—Quarterly Birthday Celebration
- May 8—Diaconate Meeting
- May 9—West Liberty University Concert
- May 13—Presbyterian Women
- May 15—Session Meeting
- May 19—Chorus Concert



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