



The Bridge

JULY 2024



From the Pastor

Rev. Julie Sterling



There is a chalk drawing near the side entrance to the sanctuary of our church which has rested there for years. It has brought joy to me throughout my time here at SPC. I love sitting on the steps next to it drinking my morning coffee. It's a good place to think through my sermon for Sunday. During COVID, it was a place for prayer. A makeshift chapel when we weren't able to go into the sanctuary. It was drawn during a family fellowship event and has found a place and presence with us over the years. It wasn't a planned activity. I like to think it was a gift of the Spirit.

It's funny how long it has endured. Being made of chalk, I assumed that it would fade away eventually, but its location under the canopy of our front entrance has protected it from the rain, wind, and yes, sometimes snow. This picture has often found its place as a banner on our Facebook page. It is colorful and it has a simple, beautiful message: faith, hope, believe, love.

As we have started steps towards a new move, I've thought a lot about this chalk drawing. I will miss seeing it when I'm walking on the church grounds. In many ways, it tells a story of our congregation. As we transition to a new place of worship, there is hard work being done to make our new building feel like home. We have worked hard together to prepare for the move, but still there are questions that will be answered over time. What will worship be like? Where and how will we do fellowship? Will people be able to find us? Most importantly, with all the changes, will we still be 'us'?

One of the changes over the next few months will be a new church website. PEVA has graciously provided grants for churches to update their presence online. While attending a visioning meeting with members of our congregation a website developer asked us to describe our congregation. Our goal was to think of a new church logo to identify and market our church. As we shared our thoughts over Zoom, words from this chalk drawing were woven in our discussion, describing our rich history as a church family and our passion for ministry.

Through challenges and blessings we have held strong and have a wonderful story to tell. Like this chalk drawing, we are the little church that keeps going, no matter what. For as we are told in Luke 1:37 "For nothing will be impossible with God." As we pack away our treasures and prepare for the big move we do so

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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



- 7/13 Laura Farmer
- 7/15 Betty Chapman
- 7/16 Jean Butcher
- 7/24 Jack Stoughton
- 7/29 Taylor Doughtie
- 7/29 Maryanne Persons

- † Curtis McKenzie
- † Cheryl Morrow
- † Eric Sterling
- † Jeffery Birkey
- † The family of Ellen Godwin
- † Richard Alan Goforth, Sr.
- † Anton Johnston
- † Pat Jones
- † Shelby Owen
- † Charlie Powell
- † Cindy Robinson
- † Whitney Saunders
- † Randy Stoughton's family
- † Charlie Thomas
- † Caroline

Happy Anniversary

- 7/1 Bruce & Nancy Sharp

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@suffolkpresbyterian.org
- mail to the church address
- Laura Farmer's office mailbox

Editor: Laura Farmer,
Administrative Assistant

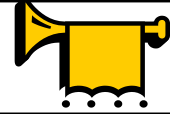


Thank you for your service!

- † Ashlyn Dawson
- † Laura Dawson
- † Sidney Dawson
- † Nick Meadors
- † Glenn Smith
- † Hayden Spalding
- † Greg Vernon



News Briefs



Youth Group Update: The youth are collecting items for Suffolk Little FoodPantry. Granola bars, individual cracker packets, fruit cups, rice crispy treats, and other non-perishable snack items can be placed in the Narthex collection box.



*Left: Donations for the Little Food Pantry
Right: Elisabeth Writtenberry at camp*

PEVA Seeks Campus House Caretaker/ Facility Manager for ODU House on 47th Street Norfolk

1099 Contracted Position; 5-10 hours per week. Major responsibilities include coordinating contractors for major maintenance tasks, lawn upkeep (mowing, leaves, snow), responding to tenant maintenance requests, overseeing move-out cleans and move-in inspections, and general handy tasks as needed.

Contact - Jessica Fitzgerald jessica@pcusa-peva.org

Food Pantry Donations: The greatest needs are canned veggies/fruits/tuna/chicken, cold cereal, peanut butter, and jelly. Financial donations accepted via church website. Donations delivered to Suffolk Christian Fellowship Center.

Gift Card Ministry: The deacons are collecting \$25 restaurant gift cards during the offering to help congregation members in times of need. These will be used to assist with meals.

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@suffolkpresbyterian.org or call 757-539-3213.

Directory Updates

If you have a new address, phone number, or email, please contact **Laura Farmer**, Administrative Assistant, at office@suffolkpresbyterian.org or 539-3213. If you are not in the directory, and would like to be added, please email your information. Thank you!

“Live into Hope” : 226 General Assembly
June 25-July 4—Salt Lake City, Utah



What is the General Assembly?

The General Assembly consists of commissioners elected by presbyteries. Half of the commissioners will be ruling elders, half will be teaching elders. Few will ever have been commissioners to the General Assembly before, but most will have served in one of the other governing bodies of our church: the session, which provides care and oversight of a local congregation; the presbytery, which provides care and oversight of a group of congregations; or the synod which provides care and oversight of several presbyteries.

It reviews the work of synods, resolves controversies in the church, is responsible for matters of common concern for the whole church, and serves as a symbol of unity for the church. The General Assembly has several specific responsibilities outlined in Chapter 3 of the Book of Order. The assembly seeks to protect our church from errors in faith and practice, is responsible for assuring that the expression of our theology remains true to the biblical standards in our historic confessions. The General Assembly presents a witness for truth and justice in our community and in the world community. It sets priorities for the church and establishes relationships with other churches or ecumenical bodies.

Check out the GA web page <https://ga-pcusa.org> for more information or to watch the process live.

Open House and Ribbon Cutting

Ceremony celebrating the opening of
Edmarc's Williamsburg office

TUESDAY, JULY 9 2024
12:00 TO 2:00

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will take place at
1:00

5220 Monticello Avenue, Suite 201
Williamsburg, VA 23188
RSVP to kuzemkaa@edmarc.org or 757-967-9251
by July 1

A Church on the Move: Relocation Committee Update

- Church property has officially been sold to TowneBank
- SPC Congregation will be able to remain at 410 N. Broad street through September 28
- The Shared Space Agreement with West End Baptist Church has been signed
- Session is hard at work with contractors to prepare our ‘home base’ at West End Baptist Church
- The congregations has started packing and downsizing in preparation for the move
- Continue to check your emails for future fellowship events
- If there are items of special meaning that you would like to have, please contact the church office



*Left: Maryanne Persons signing the shared space agreement
Right: Susie Stoughton packing books*

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with hope. Through prayer, scripture, and faith we have been given a path forward. This is just the beginning of something new. I am excited to see what this next chapter has in store for us. No matter the elements, we endure...and we do so with joy and love.

I want to end by thanking each and every one of you for your hard work throughout this transition. It is because of you that we are able to move forward in a sustaining ministry. Your faith, hope, belief, and love is why we are a success story.

Enjoy these last moments in our church home. Share your stories and laughter, knowing that the next chapter is just around the corner. In closing, I wish to leave you with these words from Romans 15:13:

May the God of hope fill you with all the joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

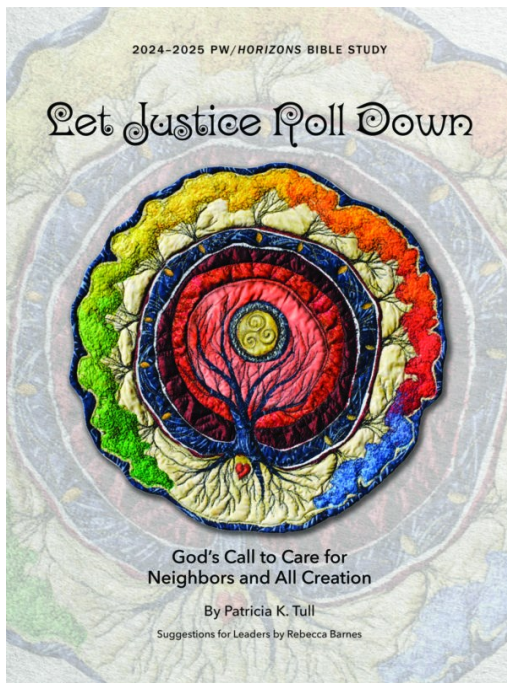
Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation

The 2024–2025 PW/Horizons Bible study

Patricia Tull, author of the 2024–2025 PW/Horizons Bible study *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*, describes her call for creation justice in this way: "When I first learned of the climate crisis, I wondered how a biblical scholar with few practical skills could help and found my purpose in learning about ecology and teaching people of faith what I could. Such is not everyone's skillset or desire, but each of us has something to do with all our hearts."

We are called to care for neighbors and God's creation with all our hearts, with particular care for society's least powerful members who are disproportionately impacted by unjust systems. In God's first instructions to the nation of Israel we hear "you shall not pervert the justice due to the poor" (Exodus 23:6); in Moses' final speech at the promised land's border, he reiterated, "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue" (Deuteronomy 16:20); and from Amos, the earliest recorded prophet, "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream" (Amos 5:24). Scripture reminds us that we are called to speak out to urge our society to act for just transitions in this fast-changing world.

The Rev. Dr. Patricia K. Tull is A. B. Rhodes Professor Emerita of Hebrew Bible at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Among other publications, she is author of the 2001–2002 Presbyterian Women/Horizons Bible study *Esther's Feast* and of *Inhabiting Eden: Christians, the Bible, and the Ecological Crisis* (Westminster John Knox, 2013). A Climate Reality presenter, GreenFaith Fellow, and former program director of Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light, Trisha lives on fifty acres outside of Henryville, Indiana, with her spouse, the Rev. Don Summerfield. They have six children and seven grandchildren.



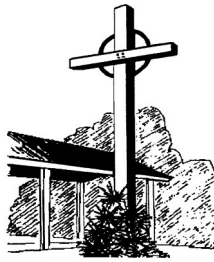
<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/bible-study/justice/>



July 2024

Suffolk Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5	6
7 <i>Communion</i> 10 AM Choir 11 AM Worship	8	9	10 7 pm Diaconate Meeting	11 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship	12	13
14 10 AM Choir 11 AM Worship	15	16	17 3 pm Session Meeting	18 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship	19	20 <i>NewsLetter DEADLINE</i>
21 10 AM Choir 11 AM Worship	22	23	24	25 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship	26	27
28 10 AM Choir 11 AM Worship	29	30	31			



Suffolk Presbyterian Church
410 North Broad Street
Suffolk, Virginia 23434



Visit our website!
suffolkpresbyterian.org

Suffolk Presbyterian Church

**Reverend Julie Sterling
Pastor**

**Church Office:
757.539.3213**

**Office E-mail:
office@suffolkpresbyterian.org
Pastor E-Mail:
pastor@suffolkpresbyterian.org**

**CHOIR PRACTICE
10:00 AM
WORSHIP
11 AM**

Upcoming Events:

July 10—Diaconate Meeting
July 17—Session Meeting

Thursdays—Spiritual Fellowship



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Search for *Suffolk Presbyterian
Church*