



The Bridge

JANUARY 2023



From the Pastor

Rev. Julie Sterling

We have reached the end of our journey
It is time to begin again
The rush of the season is lessening and the calm
of Christmas is in our midst
It is time to begin again
As we pack away the lights and decorations of
the season
Something new awaits
As the new year approaches
It is time to begin again.

Friends, as we begin a new year together I am excited of what lies ahead. The excitement of Advent and Christmas remind us of the promise of God and the good news of Christ Jesus. The lessons of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love are a guide post as we take a new course, a journey together. Though the words and lessons of the coming church year may be familiar, we know that there are new tests and challenges before us and God is calling us to listen and learn. As we ring in the new year we are renewed by the journey before and the trust and love found in a life with God.

So how can we use what we have learned from past journeys to steer our course ahead? What new experiences can we embrace as we grow in our faith in the coming weeks? What changes can we make in our daily lives to live the life God wants for us? Most importantly, how can we express to the world how thankful we are for the gift of Jesus at this moment of newness? As I

write this message I think fondly on one of my favorite Christmas Carols. Written by English Poet Christian Rossetti, the final verse of "In the Bleak Midwinter" asks:

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man
I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him,
Give my heart.

I think the key to new beginnings lies in how we choose to love.

In the coming weeks we will walk with Jesus through the Epiphany Story, Jesus' baptism, and his trial in the desert. Once again we will hear the story of Jesus and remember our own walk of faith. Once again we will be asked to remember where our heart lies and who we belong to. Friends, it is time to begin again. Although there will be a comfort and familiarity to it all, I ask you to walk this journey together with new eyes and an open heart.

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



1/3 Lennon Super
 1/4 Doc Crusenberry
 1/5 Jane Sommers
 1/7 Gary Williams
 1/11 Eric Sterling
 1/24 Lisa Morrison
 1/29 Nancy White

† Evelyn Archer's family
 † Calvin Piland
 † Clifford Stewart
 † Sandy Acton
 † Ann Felton
 † Nancy Forrester
 † Richard Alan Goforth, Sr.
 † Linwood U. Holland
 † Jimmy Hope
 † Lorene Johnson
 † Jon King
 † Diane Stewart MacKenzie
 † Roy Malonson
 † Joyce Milteer
 † Roger Piland
 † Shirley Ries
 † Jeff Snow
 † Doug Stoughton
 † John
 † SPC's Living Waters for the World
 and World Vision partners in
 Guatemala dealing with COVID-
 19

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

PRAY FOR OUR

MILITARY

*Thank you for
 your service!*

† Laura Dawson (relative of Maryanne Persons)
 † Jarrett Hagwood
 † Derek Kershner
 † Nick Meadors (US Navy deployment)
 † JB Persons (Reserves)
 † Glenn Smith (Betty Chapman's grandson)
 † Hayden Spalding
 † Greg Vernon (Joyce Jordan's grandson)



News Briefs



SPC is collecting food pantry donations for the **Suffolk Christian Fellowship Center**. The greatest needs are canned veggies/fruits/tuna/chicken, cold cereal, peanut butter, and jelly. Donations accepted via church website.

The Deacons started a **Gift Card Ministry**. \$25 restaurant gift cards will be collected during the offering to help congregation members in times of need. These will be used to assist with meals.

Because of the uncertain climate, activities may be adjusted as we go. Be sure to read the weekly church announcements for any changes. If you attend an in-person event and later develop COVID-19 symptoms or test positive, please contact **Nancy Cisco** so that she can notify attendees in a confidential manner. **In response to the new CDC guidelines, mask use at SPC is optional for all activities.**

PDA'S SUSAN KREHBIEL DISCUSSES PARTNERSHIPS THE PC(USA) IS EMPLOYING DURING THE EARLY DAYS OF THE UKRAINE CRISIS

[HTTPS://WWW.PRESBYTERIANMISSION.ORG/STORY/REFUGEES-JUST-WANT-TO-GO-HOME/](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/refugees-just-want-to-go-home/)

DISASTER RELIEF-INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE PROGRAMS (DR000156)

[HTTPS://PMA.PCUSA.ORG/DONATE/MAKE-A-GIFT/GIFT-INFO/DR000156/?APPEAL=PDA&PACKAGE=UK22-ABB](https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000156/?APPEAL=PDA&PACKAGE=UK22-ABB)



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.

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!



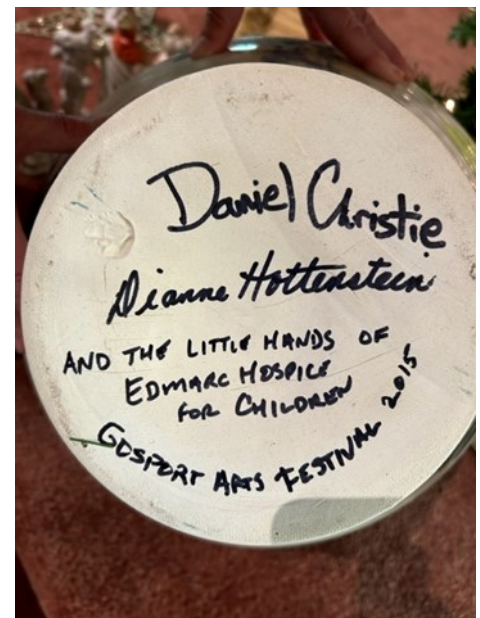
A Vase Comes Full Circle

If you've walked through the Narthex recently, you might have seen a large urn-shaped vase sitting on the sideboard. Its rounded, ivory-colored surface is covered with handprints in joyful primary colors. Surely, there is a story about this new piece of art?

Indeed there is! The vase was donated by Charles Dawson, brother of Maryanne Persons. Mr. Dawson visits Suffolk Presbyterian occasionally and had learned about the church's connection with Edmarc Hospice for Children. As a resident of Old Towne Portsmouth, he would pass the Edmarc building on daily walks and runs. While attending the Gosport Festival one spring, he saw the vase and felt a connection. His sentimental purchase was displayed in his home on Court Street and has now come home to SPC.

An inquiry to Deborah Sitzer-Brame, Executive Director of Edmarc, brought the following reply: "Oh, this brings back so many wonderful memories! The names (on the bottom) are of the two artists that pulled it all together - pottery, glazing and firing it. The little hands are from some of the Edmarc children from the Easter Party that year."

Next time you walk by the vase, take a moment to appreciate the impact Edmarc and the congregation of Suffolk Presbyterian Church have had on the broader community. From a kernel of an idea to fill a need in Suffolk, the organization has grown into a broader medical initiative to serve children and families throughout Hampton Roads and the Peninsula. Those little handprints represent the many who have had their journey eased through compassionate at-home care, improved medical treatment, and supportive bereavement programs. God is at work in the world, and we are his hands. Those handprints remind us that we can continue to touch the lives of others.

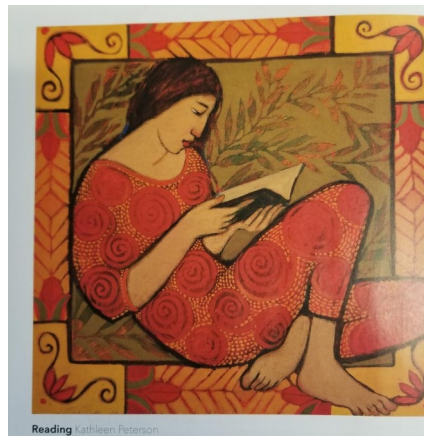


Presbyterian Women

Have you considered trying something new for the New Year? How about joining us on Monday, January 9th at 7pm in the Church Library for our PW discussion on “Sabbath and Servitude”. Our lesson will focus on Genesis 2:15 and 3:17-19; Exodus 31:12-18, 35:1-29, and 36:1-7. We will also discuss the following key idea:

Work without Sabbath is Servitude.

Our meeting will include DVD presentation of the chapter by the author followed by group discussion. Everyone is invited to attend. You do not need to read the study to take part in the evening's discussion. Hope to see you there!



Covered dish luncheon planned for Jan. 15 Bring a dish; play some games



Are the winter doldrums getting you down? Feeling deflated after the flurry of activities during Advent and Christmas?

Join us for some mid-January fun and fellowship on Sunday, Jan. 15. We'll enjoy a pot luck luncheon and game time just after worship.

Bring your favorite dish to share. If it's a cold entree, we'll stash it in the refrigerator during the service. If it needs to stay hot, we'll have the oven warming.

The deacons will provide drinks and table settings for our first “covered dish” meal to share since before COVID-19 when the pandemic forced us into isolation nearly two years ago. After eating, enjoy some fellowship with your church family and choose one or more of the activities offered - Bingo, Corn Hole, board games and more. Play whichever one suits you or try them all.

The deacons are planning other fellowship activities in the coming months - a soup and sandwich luncheon for a “Souper Bowl of Caring” on Feb. 5 and a “Lunch and Learn” featuring an update from the Living Waters for the World travel team in March.

Mark your calendars now for Jan. 15 for our first fun, food and fellowship event of 2023!

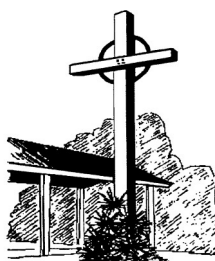


*Wreath and Centerpiece
Decorating, Handbell
Choir, Caroling, and
Chrismon Tree Decorating
Pictures*

January 2023

Suffolk Presbyterian Church

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|-----------|
| 1 New Year's Day <i>Communion</i> <i>Sunday</i> 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir 11 AM Worship | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir Practice | 6 | 7 |
| 8 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship | 9 7 PM Presbyteri- an Women | 10 | 11 7 pm Diaconate Meeting (Zoom) | 12 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir Practice | 13 | 14 |
| 15 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship 12 PM Potluck & Game Day | 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day | 17 <i>Reports Due for Annual Meeting</i> | 18 3 pm Session Meeting (Zoom) | 19 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir Practice | 20  | 21 |
| 22 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir Practice | 27 | 28 |
| 29 <i>5th Sunday Off.</i> 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship 12 PM Annual Meeting | 30 | 31 | | | | |



Suffolk Presbyterian Church
410 North Broad Street
Suffolk, Virginia 23434



Visit our website!
suffolkpresbyterian.org

Suffolk Presbyterian Church

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Pastor**

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Pastor E-Mail:
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ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:45 AM

CHOIR PRACTICE

10:30 AM

WORSHIP

11 AM

Upcoming Events:

January 9—Presbyterian Women
January 11—Diaconate Meeting
January 15—Potluck and Game Day
January 18—Session Meeting
January 29 Annual Meeting

Thursdays—Spiritual Fellowship & Choir Practice



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Church*