



The Bridge

FEBRUARY 2023



From the Pastor

Rev. Julie Sterling

PLANNING FOR THE JOURNEY

There is always an excitement that comes from anticipation of a trip to a new and exciting destination. Last year while preparing for a week at a beach house at Kill Devil Hills, I spent many hours shopping for the perfect clothes and shoes to wear. I researched the many fun activities and best restaurants to enjoy while at the Outer Banks with my family. I even went to Dicks Sporting Goods and loaded up with boogie boards, inner tubes, and shovels for the beach. By the time we made it to our destination the car was overloaded and we only used a fraction of what we brought.

It is comforting to be prepared, especially when we journey away from home. The same is true in the life of the church. This past month we have spent time together reflecting on the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany. We have shared stories of our own call to discipleship as we listened to the scripture of Christ's Baptism and the beginning of his ministry. We have witnessed Jesus as the light of the world. We have heard the call of the first believers to "follow me". We too hear the call and anticipate the journey ahead.

In the next few weeks we will make the shift from Ordinary Time to the Season of Lent. On February 22nd, we will gather as believers and share the sign of ashes to remember our humanity and our place in the relationship with

God. From that moment, a special Journey starts. 40 days preparing for Easter and the good news of the empty Cross. It is time to start planning for the journey ahead. In the office we are ordering supplies and preparing for thoughtful worship studies that will guide you this Spring. What plans do you have for our journey together? More importantly, what can you do right now to get ready?

We are excited about the quickly approaching Lenten Season and we hope you are too. May it be a blessing as you turn your eyes to Easter and may it also warm your heart to new possibilities. Who knows where you will meet Jesus along the way.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



2/8 Jennifer Wood
 2/11 Katelynn Lail Morrison
 2/19 Anya Hecht
 2/23 Homer Smith
 2/28 Sarah Butler
 2/29 Hayden Goforth

† Clifford Stewart
 † Gary Williams
 † Sandy Acton
 † Ann Felton
 † Nancy Forrester
 † Richard Alan Goforth, Sr.
 † Linwood U. Holland
 † Jimmy Hope
 † 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

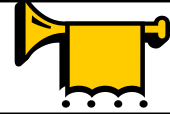
MILITARY

*Thank you for
 your service!*

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



News Briefs



Information from Breena:

Below is a link to the list of needs for the ODU English students from Congo and Tanzania. The list should be updated occasionally as the needs are met. If you are trying to downsize and would like to donate items no longer on the list, the English Language Center will send them on to Catholic Charities to be given to other refugee individuals and/or families.

Thank you so much for your love, compassion and generosity.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RZz9G6o9ungSfVmPb_Z4uTfQGcBRvIrljM6bHu71leFE/htmlview

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 have 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.

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/>

Disaster Relief-International Refugee Programs (DR000156)

<https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000156/?appeal=PDA&package=UK22-ABB>

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.**



Office Hours

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!



Souper Bowl Day of Caring 2023 to highlight food drive and luncheon

Pick your favorite team to win Super Bowl LVII and cheer for them at SPC's Souper Bowl of Caring after worship on Sun., Feb. 5.

The deacons will treat you to a luncheon of soup, sandwiches and salad that day as we declare SPC's favorite to win the NFL championship competition the following week in Glendale, Arizona.

Bring non-perishable food items and place them in your chosen team's bin. Your donations are your "votes" to choose SPC's pick to win the big game. Cheer for your team as you help your lunch mates decide which team to support.

Pompoms are optional!

Bring your knowledge of football trivia as we see who's the biggest fan of the game. But even if you don't know what NFL stands for or understand what a yard line is, you

can enjoy the fellowship with your church family as we break bread together.

And regardless of which team SPC supports or who wins the game, the real winners

will be the recipients of the cans of soup and spaghetti sauce, jars of peanut butter and

boxes of cereal that you bring. We'll deliver both team's collections to the Suffolk Christian Fellowship Center for distribution to our hungry neighbors.

So, bring your appetite! Bring your food items! Bring a friend!



Please see below a description of the celebration of Ash Wednesday from the PCUSA Mission Agency:
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/ash-wednesday/>

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent with a public act of confession and contrition. Acknowledging that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, we stand in solidarity as fellow creatures before our Creator, acutely aware of our mortality. In the face of our transience, we pledge ourselves anew to live unto God's Word in Jesus Christ, the eternal Word that remains forever.

Historically, Ash Wednesday was a time when penitents were presented for church discipline during Lent, culminating in reconciliation on Maundy Thursday. Ash Wednesday is also the occasion when would-be disciples of Christ known as catechumens were enrolled in the catechumenate, a special time of learning the basics of the faith in preparation for baptism on Easter Sunday or during the Easter Vigil. In some traditions, Ash Wednesday is a fast day, beginning the Lenten time of fasting and preparation for the Great Three Days that culminate in Easter.

This year Ash Wednesday falls on February 22nd. We will have an imposition of ashes service at the church at 7 pm.

Presbyterian Women



Reading with New Purpose

Have you considered trying something new for the New Year? How about joining us on Monday, February 13 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!

What Makes a Hero?

The Death-Defying Ministry of Jesus by Matt Rawle

Are you looking for a special way to observe the Lenten Discipline this year? Join us on Tuesday nights starting on February 21st at 7pm for our Lenten Study What Makes a Hero. This study includes a study book and DVD lesson recordings from author Matt Rawle. Books are \$5.99 and will be available soon in the Narthex for purchase.

Please see the description below to learn more about What Makes a Hero.

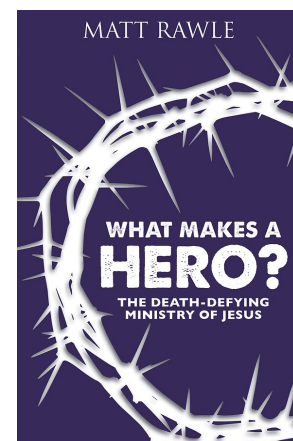
What Makes a Hero? offers us an image of what it looks like to be victorious over trials and temptations. Looking at pop culture heroes and others through the lens of faith, Matt Rawle shows how Jesus turned the concept of hero on its head. In keeping with his theme, “Pop in Culture,” the book examines how good vs. evil, right vs. wrong, and overcoming adversity are fundamental to how Christians understand salvation. Heroes help us discern the good, fight for what’s right, define identity, execute justice, spark revolution, and save lives.

Rawle enters the Gospel story to tell quite a different victory story—one obtained through humility, obedience to the cross, and an empty tomb.

How does Jesus redefine what it means to be a hero?

Chapter titles:

- 1. Good, Evil, and God*
- 2. Right, Wrong, and Holy*
- 3. Us, Them, and the Body of Christ*
- 4. Have, Have-Not, and the Kingdom of God*
- 5. Old, New, and Covenant*
- 6. Life, Death, and Resurrection*



Please see the description below for the Lenten Devotions available in the Narthex this year during Lent.

The Sanctuary for Lent 2023

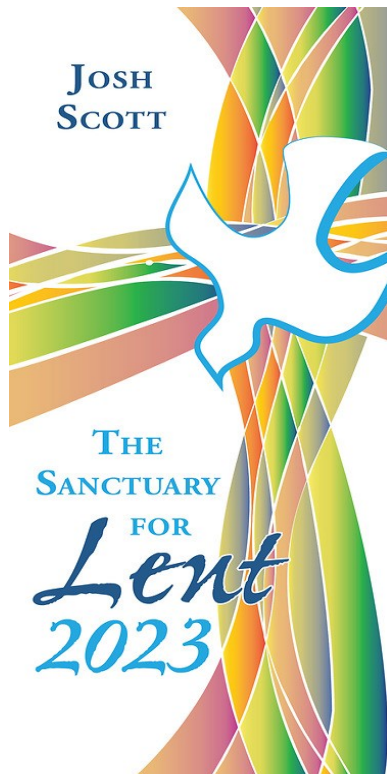
Devotions by Josh Scott for each day of Lent.

The Sanctuary for Lent 2023 contains brief readings for each day in Lent, from Ash Wednesday through Easter Day, including a suggested Scripture, a short devotion, and a short prayer—all based on the Revised Common Lectionary. This annual favorite helps readers faithfully journey through Lent as they prepare to experience the joy of the Resurrection. Along with being a great congregational resource, it is an excellent gift for family, friends, and those your congregation connects with through outreach.

This annual favorite helps readers faithfully journey through Lent as they prepare to experience the joy of the Resurrection.

- Daily Lenten devotions and uplifting prayer with 12-point type.
- Recommended Scripture reading based on the Revised Common Lectionary.
- Better understanding of the tradition and meaning of the season of Lent.
- Draw closer to God's loving gift of Jesus Christ.
- Help prepare your congregation's hearts and minds during the season of Lent.

<https://www.cokesbury.com/The-Sanctuary-for-Lent-2023>

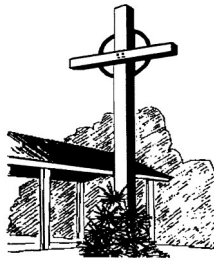




February 2023

Suffolk Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir Practice	3	4
5 <i>Communion Sunday</i> 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir 11 AM Worship 12 PM Souper Bowl Luncheon	6	7	8 7 pm Diaconate Meeting (Zoom)	9 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir Practice	10	11
12 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship	13 7 PM Presbyterian Women	14	15 3 pm Session Meeting (Zoom)	16 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir Practice	17	18
19 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship	20 Presidents' Day 	21 7 PM Lenten Study	22 7 PM Ash Wednesday Service	23 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir Practice	24	25
26 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship	27	28 7 PM Lenten Study				



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

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:45 AM

CHOIR PRACTICE

10:30 AM

WORSHIP

11 AM

Upcoming Events:

February 5—Souper Bowl of Caring Luncheon

February 8—Diaconate Meeting

February 13—Presbyterian Women

February 15—Session Meeting

February 21 & 28—Lenten Study

February 22—Ash Wednesday Service

Thursdays—Spiritual Fellowship & Choir Practice



Find us on Facebook
Search for *Suffolk Presbyterian
Church*