



The Bridge

APRIL 2023



From the Pastor

Rev. Julie Sterling

Learning From What We Know By Heart

The final steps in our journey are upon us. Holy week is almost here. Each Spring we take these steps together, longing to be closer to God and hoping to be better Christians. Throughout the Lenten season, pastors and teachers look for new ways to tell the story of Jesus' final days. As we reread the same scripture from years before and hold on to familiar hymns, we hope that this time we will experience something new. If you look online you will find various ways to journey to the empty cross. Book stores are overflowing with resources, many of which I have in my library. In my years of ministry I've tried them all: journaling, fasting, feasting, praying with prayer beads, exercising, taking part in studies, giving things up and giving more of myself. No matter which road I take, the story remains the same. This road to the empty cross ends in good news.

So, considering each year we tell the same story, how do we make Jesus' story transformative to us? Maybe the real lesson is that the story does remain the same. Each year, after 40 days of sacrifice, self reflection, and prayer, we celebrate the love of God found in the empty cross and the empty tomb. More importantly, each moment of this story must be listened to, felt, experienced, and shared. The other day I came across an article that expressed the importance of being present and not glossing over Christ's story, especially the uncomfortable

moments of Holy Week. It is easy enough to start the week with shouts of hosanna and then return the following Sunday to sing hallelujah.

How can we really meet Jesus at the empty tomb if we were not with him through the Passover meal and arrest of Maundy Thursday and the trial and crucifixion of the passion observed on Good Friday? We must be willing to feel and acknowledge the pain and suffering Jesus went through to give us the gift of grace. I know it is not pleasant to relive the passion. I remember sitting with a congregation earlier in my ministry and watching their faces and their expressions as we watched Mel Gibson's movie "The Passion". The sound of the whip, the shouts of the crowd, the pounding of nails, and the crying of Jesus' followers is difficult to endure. It makes it real. When Jesus cries out to God "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" we hear his human fear and understand how alone he must have felt. We can not celebrate Easter without this moment and know that it was endured out of love for the world.

There is a comfort in knowing that each year our journey ends up at the empty tomb and the empty cross. There is no alternate ending to this story. Yet, it is important that we don't make this time dull or commonplace. As we walk a common, well known path, we can choose to use this time to find the best of ourselves 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!



4/5 Curtis MacKenzie
 4/7 Susie Stoughton
 4/12 Erik Wood
 4/12 Lilith Wood
 4/15 Faye Sobel
 4/19 Chris Johnson
 4/25 Sherry Matthews

† Betsy Butler
 † Ron Sobel
 † Clifford Stewart
 † Gary Williams
 † Sandy Acton
 † Ann Felton
 † Nancy Forrester
 † Richard Alan Goforth, Sr.
 † Jimmy Hope
 † Lisa Lindsey
 † Diane Stewart MacKenzie
 † Roy Malonson
 † Joyce Milteer
 † Roger Piland
 † Shirley Ries
 † Peggy Sharp
 † Jeff Snow
 † John
 † Living Waters for the World
 partners in Guatemala

Happy Anniversary

4/1 Calvin & Susie Piland
 4/5 Stewart & Ann Doughtie
 4/13 Danny & Cheryl Morrow

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

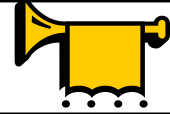
MILITARY

*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!



The Triduum: The Last Three Days of Holy Week

All of Holy Week points toward the passion — the death and resurrection of Christ. The week's final three days (from sunset Thursday to sunset on Easter) complete the commemoration of Christ's passion. These three days are called the Triduum.

The Triduum engages us from Thursday until Sunday in a unified act. What happens on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil forms a continuous dramatic story. These days are to be seen together rather than separately. The services for the three final days of Holy Week connect with one another and, together, comprise the oneness of the Triduum.

Because of this interrelationship of the three days, each service of the Triduum needs the others to tell the whole story. For example, resurrection is incomprehensible without Christ's self-giving in crucifixion and at the Lord's Supper. Therefore, Easter needs Good Friday and Maundy Thursday to be fully understood. The way to the triumph of Easter is through the Triduum.

All of Holy Week, and particularly its three concluding days (the Triduum), provides an opportunity to undertake a pilgrimage of renewed commitment and joy; to travel Christ's path of servanthood, through the Lord's Supper and the suffering of the cross, as we move toward Easter. Our joy during the great festival of resurrection will be enhanced by faithful participation in worship during the preceding week, especially during the whole of the Triduum.

Maundy Thursday

On Passion/Palm Sunday we celebrated the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem ... and then turned with him to face the cross, where he gave his life for us and our salvation. Tonight we keep the feast that Jesus shared with his disciples on the night of his arrest, and we remember his new commandment to love one another even as he has loved us.

Good Friday

On Maundy Thursday we kept the feast that Jesus shared with his disciples on the night of his arrest, and we remembered his new commandment: to love one another even as he has loved us. This afternoon we turn to the cross, where Jesus gave his life for us and our salvation.

Easter Sunday / Easter Vigil

On Good Friday we witnessed the tragedy of Jesus' suffering and death on the cross, where he gave his life for us and our salvation. Today, on the first day of the week, [or Tonight at the Easter Vigil] we gather at the tomb ... only to discover that the stone is rolled away, and the grave is empty. Today [Tonight] we celebrate the good news of the gospel: Jesus Christ is risen!

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/three-days-or-triduum/>

Holy Week Calendar



April 2 Palm/ Passion Sunday 11 am

April 6 Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm (*West End Baptist Church*)

April 7 Good Friday Service 7 pm

April 8 Easter Egg Hunt 10 am

April 9 Easter Sunrise Service 7:30 am (*Coffee and Donuts following*)

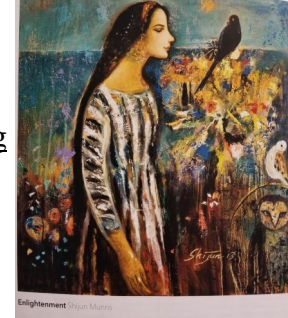
April 9 Easter Service 11 am

**The One Great Hour of Sharing special offering will be collected throughout the month of April.*

Presbyterian Women

Sabbath and Self-Care

Are you looking for a way to relax and reflect following Holy Week? Come join us for lesson seven on “Sabbath and Self-Care ”from our study Celebrating Sabbath by Carol M. Bechtel. The evening will include a DVD led discussion by author Carl M. Bechtel followed by a business meeting at the end of the study. The scripture lesson for this chapter focuses on Luke 13:10-20 and the theme of our discussion will include the following key ideas:



Even though self-care is a crucial part of the Christian journey, it's important to remember that Sabbath is not primarily about caring for ourselves. Sabbath is first about honoring God.

Everyone is invited to join in our discussion on Monday, April 10 at 7 pm. You do not need to read the chapter to take part in our monthly studies.

Gracie Fish Mission Project

Each year our congregation supports our Children's Ministry by collecting money for our children to donate. This year our children will be invited during Sunday School to pick a couple of mission gifts they would like to support from the PCUSA Giving Catalog. In the past our congregation has helped support people in different parts of the world through donating towards a new well for a community and purchasing chickens for a family in need. Donations will be collected through the month of April. Please see the link below to the PCUSA Giving Catalog and how your small gift can make a difference in the lives of people a world away as well as in our own community.

<https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org/>





SPECIAL OFFERINGS

One Great Hour of Sharing

WE ARE THERE

In this Season of Lent, we follow Jesus' example; walking alongside the most vulnerable to partner in repairing harms inflicted upon them. We are the Church, Together; and we are there with those who need us. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing helps improve the lives of the suffering and the vulnerable through three life-saving programs.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Restore Streets to Live In

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM

Share Bread with the Hungry

SELF DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE

Loose the Bonds of Injustice

WAYS TO GIVE —

- Through your congregation
- Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/give-oghs
- Text OGHS to 91999 to give
- You can help sustain the important ministries and programs that are supported by One Great Hour of Sharing Offering by making an online gift at any time throughout the year. Checks may be sent Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); P.O. Box 643700; Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

TURKEY-SYRIA EARTHQUAKE

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake near the Turkey-Syria border struck in the early hours of February 6, 2023. This earthquake is estimated to affect more than 23 million people.

Solidarity grants to meet immediate needs, such as hygiene kits, psychosocial support, shelter, medicines, winterization items, food packages and more have been processed. PDA will be present for the long-term recovery.

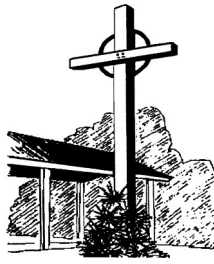
Financial support for relief efforts can be designated to DR999999-ST earthquake. Gifts can be made online by clicking [here](#), by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with "DR999999-ST Earthquake" written on the memo line and mailed to: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



April 2023

Suffolk Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i>
<p>2 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir 11 AM Worship</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 7 PM Maundy Thursday Ser- vice (West End Baptist)</p>	<p>7 7 PM Good Fri- day Service (SPC)</p>	<p>8 10 AM Easter Egg Hunt </p>
<p>9 <i>Easter/ Communion Sunday</i> 7:30 AM Sunrise Service 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir 11 AM Worship</p>	<p>10 7 PM Presbyteri- an Women</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 7 pm Diaconate Meeting</p>	<p>13 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 3 pm Session Meeting</p>	<p>20 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir Practice NewsLetter DEADLINE</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 <i>5th Sunday Of- fering</i> 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship</p>						



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:

April 2—Palm Sunday
April 6—Maundy Thursday (West End Baptist)
April 7—Good Friday
April 8—Easter Egg Hunt
April 9—Sunrise Service & Easter Sunday Worship
April 10—Presbyterian Women
April 12—Diaconate Meeting
April 19—Session Meeting

Thursdays—Spiritual Fellowship & Choir Practice



Find us on Facebook
Search for *Suffolk Presbyterian
Church*