



The Bridge

JUNE 2023



From the Pastor

Rev. Julie Sterling

Building a Legacy

I'd like to share with you an exciting new ministry opportunity our congregation has been invited to take part in. Over the past couple of months, Haden, one of our SPC youth, and I have taken part in an ecumenical youth group with Main Street UMC, Suffolk Christian Church, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Kids from around the city have joined together to make possible that which would be impossible on our own. It has been fun making new friends, taking part in pizza parties, and participating in interesting new games and activities. During each gathering, the group leaders have challenged the youth to consider what their mission will be.

Last month the focus of our meeting involved food insecurity in our community. They were invited to participate in a computer program that had them pick a profession and then support a spouse and children for a month. Many were surprised how fast their pay check was spent on everyday needs. They also learned about the cost of living in Suffolk and what it takes to pay for rent, utilities, and food in their community. They were completely shocked to see just how much someone needs to earn each month to rent an apartment and make ends meet. At the end of the evening they listened to the story of the feeding of the 5000 from Matthew 15:29-39 and then talked about Jesus' message concerning sharing resources and caring for those in need. After a great deal of discussion they decided they wanted to start a mission to help the people of Suffolk access healthy food.

I am so excited about this opportunity for Haden and all the children participating in our new joint youth program. This group experience has already allowed our youth to not only have fun and find a place in the life of the church but has also begun to help them better understand how their love and hard work can form a lasting legacy to the community.

Here at SPC we are excited to support this new ministry and are looking for ways to help out the best we can. At our last 5th Sunday service in the narthex, we discussed what it means to be like Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and what we can do to care for Jesus' flock. We talked about all the ways we have supported our neighbors through mission and outreach projects. It is clear that our congregation has a heart for mission and an openness to share God's love in unique ways. During one of our worship activities we talked about ways we can extend our blessing to our friends and neighbors in Suffolk. One idea that was discussed was starting an outdoor, mini food pantry on our church property. Similar to the little sharing libraries you see around town, these "blessing boxes" would allow members of our community to share what they have and take what they need. The beauty of this program is that we can partner with other congregations to make "blessing boxes" available around the city of Suffolk as well as support a mission that is near and dear to the hearts of our youth. Hopefully, this gift of love will create a legacy that we all can be proud of.

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!



6/11 Mary Ann Saunders
6/29 Betty Ann Campbell

- † Clifford Stewart
- † Gary Williams
- † Jeffery Birkey
- † Rita Drier
- † Nancy Forrester
- † Richard Alan Goforth, Sr.
- † Corey Graves
- † Jimmy Hope
- † Diane Stewart MacKenzie
- † Roy Malonson
- † Joyce Milteer
- † Roger Piland
- † Shirley Ries
- † Jeff Snow

Happy Anniversary

6/26 Faye & Ron Sobel

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

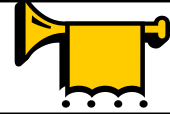
PRAY FOR OUR
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
MILITARY

*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.**

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.

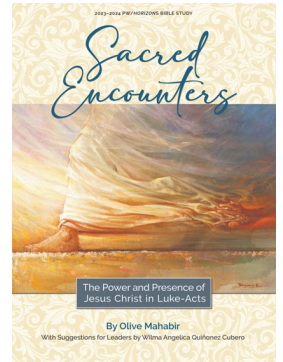
Directory Updates

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!

Please check out the advance flier for the PW Horizons Bible Study for Fall 2023

The 2023–2024 PW/Horizons Bible study by author Olive Mahabir invites readers to consider Jesus, “the good shepherd” (Luke 10:15), who shared the Good News through sacred encounters with everyday people. The Gospel According to Luke and the book of the Acts of the Apostles, or Luke-Acts “one story in two parts,” demonstrate the unfolding of God’s redemptive purposes in human history and present a distinctive perspective on the person and work of Jesus Christ. Written by Luke, a physician and traveling companion of Paul, the message to the early Christian community (and to us) is radical, inclusive, and hope-filled.

Olive Mahabir is Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Adult Spiritual Growth at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Roswell, Georgia. She was born in Trinidad and Tobago and served in the Diaconal Ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Trinidad. In church ministry for more than 20 years she has pastored churches in Michigan, Atlanta, and Jonesboro, Georgia. She’s a graduate of St. Andrew’s Theological College in Trinidad, the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Drew University in Madison, New Jersey, and Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. Olive enjoys visits to the beach, watching historical documentaries, and spending time with family.



Lunch & Learn to feature overview of Ukraine



Flag of Ukraine

Mark your calendars for lunch and a presentation by **Chris Johnson**, our multi-talented music director, as he relates first-hand accounts of life in Ukraine.

Bring a dish to share for the “Lunch & Learn” after worship on Sunday, June 11. A sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex to indicate what type of dish you will be bringing. Members of West End Baptist Church have been invited to join us for the covered-dish luncheon and program.

Chris Johnson, who teaches high school English at Windsor High School, will share highlights of his experiences in Ukraine as a teacher and administrator at the British International School in Kyiv, or Kiev, from 2014 to 2017.

The apartment where Chris lived in the Ukrainian capital has since been destroyed by the war Russia is waging against the country. He has been in contact with friends in the city, who have shared “war stories” with him.

In addition to playing the organ and piano for worship and directing the choir, Chris has also shared his floral and culinary skills with us - conducting a wreath making workshop, contributing fresh and permanent floral arrangements and making delicious dishes, including peanut butter cookies that melt in your mouth!

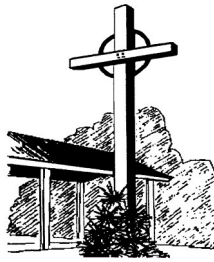
Come hear what Chris has to say about this war-torn country that many of us knew little about, including how to pronounce the name of the capital city, before Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. Come learn about life in Ukraine before the attack and get a glimpse of what it is like today.



June 2023

Suffolk Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i> 6:30 PM Choir Practice	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i> Communion Sunday 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship 5:30 PM Comm. Youth Group (Main St. UMC)	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>11</i> 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship 12 PM Lunch and Learn	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> 7 pm Diaconate Meeting	<i>15</i> 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>18</i> 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> NewsLetter DEADLINE	<i>21</i> 3 pm Session Meeting	<i>22</i> 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>25</i> 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship	<i>30</i>	



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

10:30 AM

WORSHIP

11 AM

Upcoming Events:

June 4—Community Youth Group,
Main St. UMC

June 11—Lunch and Learn

June 14—Diaconate Meeting

June 21—Session Meeting

Thursdays—Spiritual Fellowship



Find us on Facebook
Search for *Suffolk Presbyterian
Church*