



The Bridge

AUGUST 2023



From the Pastor

Rev. Julie Sterling

Blockbusters and Life Lessons

This summer excitement has emerged over two new movies that hit the theaters recently. The Barbie movie and Oppenheimer have brought excitement back to the box office. Because both movies opened on the same weekend, the phrase “Barbenheimer” has been coined to mark this event. Both movies have been praised for the quality of acting and the themes they present. They come from two different cinematic genres. Barbie is a comedy that playfully highlights the struggles of feminism reflected in today’s world. Oppenheimer is a dramatic historic movie, telling the story of theoretical physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer’s work with the Manhattan Project and the development of the first nuclear weapon.

There is an excitement beyond the movies themselves. Since COVID, I haven’t been to many movies at the cinema. Also, with the convenience of streaming services, we are able to watch many of these movies online in our homes as soon as they hit the theater. Saying that, I do hope to have a chance to go see these two movies while enjoying a large popcorn and overpriced Diet Coke.

I look forward to laughing through a “feel good” comedy such as the Barbie movie. Considering all that is going on in the world, it is comforting to have moments of joy and pure

lighthearted entertainment. Still, there is something about Oppenheimer that really pulls at my curiosity. Besides being a history buff, there is a personal tie. My great uncle helped research for the Manhattan project while studying as a chemist at university. He was working on his bachelor’s degree at the University of Iowa at the beginning of WWII when Iowa State University transferred him to be part of a team that was researching the development of a “new form of energy”. During his time at Iowa State, he felt that he wasn’t doing enough for the war effort and enlisted in the Navy. The Navy told him the best way he could serve was to go back to the University of Iowa and finish his degree. Later he served in the Navy before returning to the University of Iowa for his Master’s degree in chemistry. It was later while in the Navy that he finally realized what he was really working on. Apparently, it was only after he read about the bombing of Hiroshima that it all sunk in. He put down his newspaper and turned to his wife and said “I was part of this” and then didn’t speak of it again.

Today I think about how my great uncle Lawrence felt the moment he realized what he had been a part of. Would he have continued to help research if he knew the future outcome of his work? We as Christians are called to live our faith in a world filled with heartache and injustice; a world that often doesn’t match up to

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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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



8/1 Nancy Sharp
 8/8 Ann Doughtie
 8/23 Betsy Butler
 8/26 Chris Irby
 8/26 Susie Piland
 8/29 Nancy Bird
 8/30 Nancy Cisco

† The family of Clifford Stewart
 † Gary Williams
 † Jeffery Birkey
 † Richard Alan Goforth, Sr.
 † Anton Johnston
 † Jimmy Hope
 † The family of Diane Stewart
 MacKenzie
 † Joyce Milteer
 † Shirley Ries
 † Ron Rimasse
 † Sue Rimasse
 † Jeff Snow

Happy Anniversary

8/15 Jeff & Maryanne Persons
 8/15 Don & Nancy White
 8/17 Eric & Julie Sterling
 8/22 Alison & Jeff Super

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

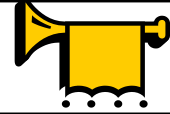
MILITARY

*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



School may be over, but **Edmarc's School Supply Drive** is just beginning! Help Edmarc send kids back to school with everything they need to be successful. Check out the [Amazon Wish List](#) to send items directly or **bring items to church by Sunday, August 6**. A few of the items from the list can be viewed in the August newsletter.

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_Z4uTfQGcBRvlrjM6bHu71IeFE/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.

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!

The Stewart and MacKenzie families thank the women and congregation of Suffolk Presbyterian Church for their kind support and ministering during the past month with the passing of our father/father-in-law, Clifford Stewart, and sister/wife, Diane Stewart-MacKenzie. Although we anticipated both for some months, losing them both so close together has been hard. Your demonstration of Christ-like love and compassion has been a great comfort. From providing food for David and Linda when they visited right after Cliff's last day and the week before Diane left us, to planning and staging photographs and the reception for Cliff's and Diane's memorial service, we are indebted to you, one we will pay forward. We certainly could not have arranged and executed the farewell events of July 14th and 15th without your active support. Please accept my thanks on behalf of the three of us. We rest in the assurance that Cliff and Diane have reunited with Goldie in Heaven, rejoicing in God's and Christ's radiant light.

Sincerely, *Curtis MacKenzie*

Pottery Pictures from July Lunch and Learn



(Continued from page 1)

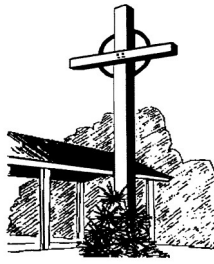
our values as people of faith. The atomic bomb was built to be the weapon to end all wars, but its result killed thousands of people and left long lasting effects on survivors that are still seen today. Many times the challenges we face as Christians are not black and white. We are told to consider what Jesus would do, yet people have different opinions on that as well. The hope is that we can learn from the tragedies of the past and grow to be a better society. It seems we have a long way to go to be the people of peace and grace God wants for us. We are guided by the words of Psalm 139. *“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”* All we can really do is pray and believe that God will lead us in the right direction. In the meantime, maybe a visit to the cinema this summer can help us better understand some important issues faced by our world today and what we can do to change them.



August 2023

Suffolk Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>NewsLetter DEADLINE</p> <p><i>The deadline for the September edition of The Bridge is Sunday, August 20.</i></p>		1	2	3 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship	4	5
6 <i>Communion Sunday</i> 10 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship	7	8	9 7 pm Diaconate Meeting	10 Leadership Retreat	11	12
13 10 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship	14	15	16 3 pm Session Meeting	17 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship	18	19
20 10 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship	21	22	23	24 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship	25	26
27 10 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship	28	29	30	31 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship		



Suffolk Presbyterian Church
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Visit our website!
suffolkpresbyterian.org

Suffolk Presbyterian Church

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pastor@suffolkpresbyterian.org

CHOIR PRACTICE
10 AM
WORSHIP
11 AM

Upcoming Events:

August 9—Diaconate Meeting
August 10—Leadership Retreat
August 16—Session Meeting

Thursdays—Spiritual Fellowship



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Church*