



The Bridge

NOVEMBER 2023



From the Pastor

Rev. Julie Sterling

Actively Living Joy

This past week I have struggled to put pen to paper. Stewardship is always hard to talk about. It is personal, and each individual has his or her own views and approaches to giving. As pastors and leaders, we try to make the stewardship discussion creative, exciting, and new each year. In truth, you hear variations of the same spiel each year. Stewardship is a gift to God. Through our time and talents we are able to express our love of God by helping others. We know what needs to be done. The gift of stewardship is the life force in our ministry; a return to God of his blessing. It is where discipleship grows and where faith is nurtured. Gifts of the heart make the church what it is today. So why is it still so hard to talk about? More importantly, how do we change the perception of stewardship from a task to an expression of joy?

As mentioned before, the subject of stewardship always presents me with a brief time of writer's block. I spent a great deal of time recently looking through my library for inspiration. As you can imagine, I have many valuable resources on "giving". I also googled "exciting ways to approach stewardship" in hopes of finding something new to share with you. Unfortunately, all I found was the same ideas in new packaging. Then I thought to myself, what better way to be inspired than to go to the very things that move us in our daily lives with God. With the "Glory to God" hymn book in tow, I ventured to find some words of wisdom on the matter of stewardship.

As I perused through the topical index of

our GTG hymn book, I stumbled upon a section titled "dedication and stewardship" and many of the hymns listed are personal favorites. Songs such as "Come Thou Font of Every Blessing", "God is Here", "Here I Am, Lord", "When I Surveyed the Wondrous Cross", and of course "Let us Talents and Tongues Employ" not only reflect the importance of giving, but also tell the story of our life with God and with each other. Many of these songs I know by heart and their words are dear to me. There was one song in particular that made me rethink my message to you today; "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" otherwise known as the prayer of St. Francis. The words of this hymn express a life with God where giving is a way of loving and an essential part of building the Kingdom God wants for us:

*Make me a channel of your peace:
Where there is hatred, let me bring your
love;
where there is injury, your healing
power,
and where there's doubt, true faith in
you.
Make me a channel of your peace:
where there's despair in life let me bring
hope;
Where there is darkness, only light,
and where there's sadness, ever joy.
O, Spirit, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.*

(Continued on page 6)

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!



11/1 Sarah Super
 11/5 Jeff Persons
 11/5 Jeffery Super
 11/9 Abram Wandell
 11/11 Maxann Morrison
 11/13 Pat Lynn
 11/14 Alison Super
 11/17 Cheryl Morrow

† Susie Piland
 † Faye Sobel
 † Ron Sobel
 † Jeffery Birkey
 † Richard Alan Goforth, Sr.
 † Anton Johnston
 † Jimmy Hope
 † Joyce Milteer
 † Charlie Powell
 † The Sergio Ramirez family
 † Shirley Ries
 † Ron Rimasse
 † Sue Rimasse
 † Jeff Snow
 † Zachary

Happy Anniversary

11/1 Nancy Bird & Randy Morrison
 11/24 Randy & Breena Branham

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

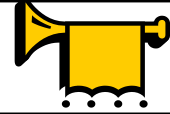
MILITARY

*Thank you for
 your service!*

† Ashlyn Dawson
 † Laura Dawson
 † Sidney Dawson
 † Nick Meadors
 † Glenn Smith
 † Hayden Spalding
 † Greg Vernon



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_Z4uTfQGcBRvIrljM6bHu71IeFE/htmlview

Support humanitarian assistance in Israel/Palestine

The needs for the response will be great. God's people are called on to stand in the "GAP" — Give. Act. Pray.

Gifts can be made [online](#), by calling (800) 872-3283, by texting PDAIP to 41444, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with "DR000081-Israel/Palestine" on the memo line. Mail to: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

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.

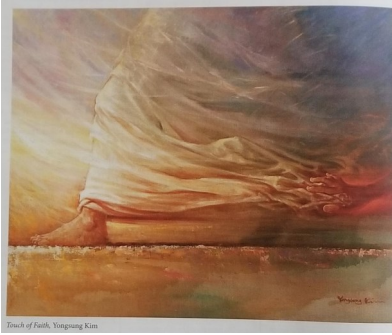
Administrative Office Hours



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!



Presbyterian Women

Come join us on Monday, Nov. 13 at 7pm for our PW discussion on Chapter Three, “A Bleeding Woman Encounters Christ” from our PW Horizons Bible Study *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*. This chapter will focus on the scripture lesson from Luke 8:43-48 and will discuss the following main idea:

Jesus calls us out of the shadows and claims us as his own.

Our evening will include a DVD led discussion from author Rev. Dr. Olive Mahabir followed by our monthly business meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend. You do not need to read the lesson to take part in the discussion. Horizons bible studies can be purchased for \$10. Please contact Rev. Julie or Lisa Morrison with any questions.

Edmarc Families Thanksgiving/Holiday Baskets

A sign up sheet for needed items is available in the Narthex. Please have items available for delivery on Sunday, November 12.



Upcoming Events

November 29—Chrismon Tree Decorating Party, 6:30 pm

December 3—Christmas Wreath/Centerpiece Decorating Party, 3 pm

December 10—Christmas Cantata and Reception, 11 am

December 17—Caroling and Pizza Party, 5:30 pm

December 24—Christmas Eve Service, 7 pm

Hybrid Advent Study

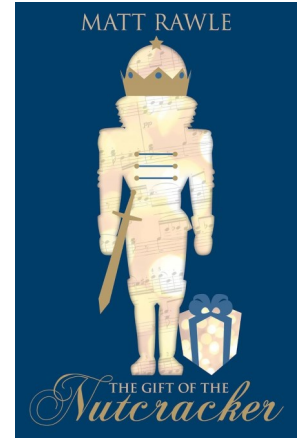
“The Gift of the Nutcracker” by Matt Rawle

Tuesday Nights: November 28 to December 19, 7 pm

Advent Study

Join us on Tuesday evenings at 7pm starting November 28th for our hybrid Advent Study, *The Gift of the Nutcracker* by Matt Rawle. Each session includes a video discussion led by the author followed by group activities. The four week study focuses on the following themes:

Clara: Waiting for Christmas
 Drosselmeir: A godfather's Love
 The Mouse King: Changing Perspective
 The Nutcracker: The Greatest Gift.



“The Nutcracker was first performed in 1892, and quickly became a holiday tradition, one that continues for many families to this day. In The Gift of The Nutcracker, Matt Rawle takes a look at this Christmas classic in a new way—through the lens of faith. In this four-week Advent study, Rawle uses the iconic tale to help us understand God’s greatest gift of the Christ child and of the kingdom Christ came to build.”

<https://mattrawle.com/publications/the-gift-of-the-nutcracker/>

Study books are available in the Narthex for \$9 but are not necessary to take part in the study. Please see **Rev. Julie Sterling** with any questions.

Thank you for donating!



Trunk or Treat Candy



Newborns in Need Items

(Continued from page 1)

***Make me a channel of your peace:
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.***

I think it is important to search for joy in all that we do, especially in our giving. The act of giving is sharing not only what we have but who we are. Maybe our focus this year should be less about how much we give and more about the meaning. Joy is found in doing. It is active. As we give of ourselves we allow others to witness our faith and love which helps them see their life with God with a new perspective.

Humanitarian response in Israel/Palestine



We have witnessed the millions of people caught in the middle of the devastating conflict between the government of Israel and Hamas. This is a dire humanitarian crisis and the loss of human life is unimaginable. Through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is providing assistance to those most vulnerable, and supporting partners in Palestine and Israel who are responding to the needs of their neighbors. Our biggest concern is the safety and care for those caught in the middle of this conflict and in need of humanitarian aid, no matter their religious beliefs, politics or nationality. Years of recovery lie ahead. Will you stand in the “GAP” for all affected by this conflict? — Give. Act. Pray.

GIVE: Gifts can be made online at pcusa.org/GIVE-IP, by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with “DR000081-Israel/Palestine” written on the memo line and mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



ACT: Urge the U.S. government to advocate for an immediate cease-fire and the end of the blockade on Gaza to ensure urgent access to humanitarian aid, and call for engaging a diplomatic solution to the conflict.

PRAY: *Dear God, We come before you with heavy hearts, burdened by the ongoing conflict in the land of Israel and Palestine. As we listen to the stories, and see the news of what is unfolding, we pray for all the people affected by this strife, for the innocent civilians, the children, and the families who endure the pain of violence and unrest. In times of darkness, help us remember that we are all your children, and that love and compassion can transcend the divisions and hate that lead to war. Grant us the strength to work tirelessly for a world where conflicts are resolved through dialogue, justice and respect for one another.*



November 2023

Suffolk Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir	3	4
5 <i>Daylight Saving Time</i> Communion Sunday 10 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship	6	7 Election Day	8 7 pm Diaconate Meeting	9 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir	10	11 Veterans Day
12 <i>Stewardship Sun.</i> 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir 11 AM Worship 12 PM Reception 5 PM Youth Grp at St. Paul's	13 7 pm Presbyterian Women	14	15 3 pm Session Meeting	16 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir	17 	18
19 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving 	24	25
26 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship	27	28 7 pm Hybrid Advent Study	29 6:30 pm Christmas Tree Decorating	30 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir		



Suffolk Presbyterian Church
410 North Broad Street
Suffolk, Virginia 23434



Visit our website!
suffolkpresbyterian.org

Suffolk Presbyterian Church

**Reverend Julie Sterling
Pastor**

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Pastor E-Mail:
pastor@suffolkpresbyterian.org**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:45 AM
CHOIR PRACTICE
10:30 AM
WORSHIP
11 AM**

Upcoming Events:

November 8—Diaconate Meeting
November 12—Youth Group (St. Paul's) &
Stewardship Sunday
November 13—Presbyterian Women
November 15—Session Meeting
November 28—Hybrid Advent Study
November 29—Chrismon Tree Decorating

Thursdays—Spiritual Fellowship & Choir



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Church*