



The Bridge

DECEMBER 2023

Edmarc Leadership Wins Award

Deborah Stitzer-Brame, Executive Director of Edmarc, was recently recognized as Outstanding Nonprofit Leader by the Hampton Roads chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. A crowd of nearly 400 attendees gave Debbie a standing ovation at the National Philanthropy Day luncheon and awards ceremony, indicative of the respect and admiration she has earned for her dedication to serving children with life-threatening illnesses. For 24 years, Debbie has been faithfully leading Edmarc with heart and compassion. The organization has assisted hundreds of children and will soon expand its programming to other parts of the state. Debbie continues to inspire Edmarc staff, volunteers, and donors. SPC members involved with the founding of Edmarc may recognize Alan and Joan Hogg, parents of Marcus Hogg, in the front row (left) of the picture below.



Additionally, the Edmarc Social Workers and Bereavement Director were recently honored with the Everyday Hero Award from WTKR. These staff members work tirelessly to advocate for each family's end-of-life wishes and help them address the emotional aspects of late-stage illnesses and death. They play an important role in helping Edmarc to bring "Hope for the Journey".



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



12/7 Courtney Super
12/30 Adelaide Wandell

- † Jean Butcher
- † Lisa Lindsey
- † Faye Sobel
- † Ron Sobel
- † Don White
- † Jeffery Birkey
- † Richard Alan Goforth, Sr.
- † Anton Johnston
- † Kathy Jones
- † Jimmy Hope
- † Joyce Milteer
- † Charlie Powell
- † Ron Rimasse
- † Sue Rimasse
- † Jeff Snow
- † Zachary

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

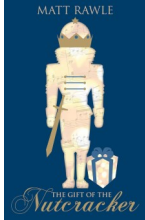
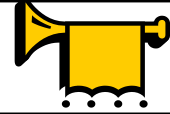
MILITARY

*Thank you for
your service!*

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



News Briefs



Advent Study Zoom Link:

Topic: The Gift of the Nutcracker Advent Study

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86238126319?pwd=QktGSTc1VHZHeGRoenpsZ013TGJ4UT09>

Join us on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm through December 19 for our hybrid Advent Study, The Gift of the Nutcracker by Matt Rawle.

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

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.

Food Pantry Donations: The greatest needs are canned veggies/fruits/tuna/chicken, cold cereal, peanut butter, and jelly. Donations accepted via church website. Donations delivered to Suffolk Christian Fellowship Center.

Gift Card Ministry: The deacons are collecting \$25 restaurant gift cards 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

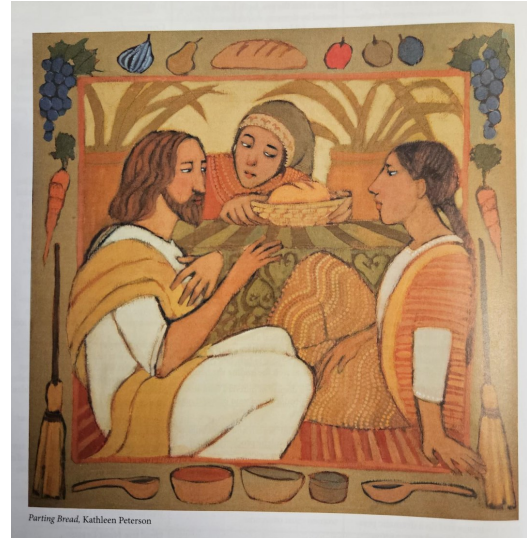
If you have a new address, phone number, or email, please contact **Laura Farmer**, Administrative Assistant, at office@suffolkpresbyterian.org or 539-3213. If you are not in the directory, and would like to be added, please email your information. Thank you!

Presbyterian Women

What are your plans for Advent? Why not join the PW for their December 11th meeting at 7pm. This month's meeting will focus on Chapter 3, "Mary and Martha Encounter Jesus" from the Horizon's Bible Study Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts. The evening's study will include a DVD discussion led by author Olive Mahabir on Luke 10:38-42 and the following main idea:

Jesus calls us to value the role of each person in the community of faith.

The monthly business meeting will follow our study and discussion time. Everyone is invited to attend. Please contact **Rev. Julie** or **Lisa Morrison** with any questions.



DO WHAT YOU CAN THIS HOLIDAY SEASON SUPPORT SUFFOLK LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

Are you looking for ways to give back this holiday season? Please consider donating non perishable canned goods to the Suffolk Little Food Pantry Youth ministry. Our SPC Youth are working with kids from local congregations to respond to food insecurity in our community. The first Little Food Pantry will be located near the sidewalk on the south side of St. Paul's Episcopal Church with the hope of more to follow. This will be an ongoing ministry. Any help is much appreciated. A donation basket will be located in the Narthex for donations.

Christmas Cantata

The choir will present the Christmas cantata, "O Holy Light" during Sunday morning worship on December 10th. The cantata seamlessly blends both music and narration to convey the events leading up to Christ's birth. The songs are woven together; songs that are familiar mixed in with additional tunes you hear throughout the year. These are all arranged in new and fresh ways to convey the message Isaiah proclaims, "Arise, Shine, for Your Light Has Come!"

"O Holy Light" is more than the celebration of Christ's birth. It is a time to celebrate Advent in order for us to prepare our hearts and minds for this time of year. It helps us reflect on both who Christ is and why He came to us, while the candles of Advent represent hope, peace, joy, love, and ultimately Christ, Himself. The story, told through narration, explores God's light contrasted with the world's darkness, and how the Holy Light of Jesus will never be extinguished.

Edmarc Family

Christmas is quickly approaching! As we are pondering what gifts to give, let us remember those in need of support. Once again, we are sponsoring an Edmarc family. This year we have a family of three African-American sisters. Their wish list and signup sheet is located in the Narthex for your consideration. After you select an item to purchase, add a gift tag to the Christmas Tree with your name and item selected. Let's fill the tree! All gifts are to be delivered to Edmarc on Monday, December 4. Yes! It's a quick turn around but we can do it!

"SPC Carolers" to serenade shut-ins

Lend your voice and help spread some Christmas cheer to those who are unable to join us in person on Sunday, Dec. 17.

The "SPC Carolers" will gather at the church by 5:30 p.m. to carpool to various homes and Lake Prince Woods to sing some favorite, well-known carols. All ages and singing abilities are welcome!

Battery-powered candles will be distributed at the church. Elf hats, antlers or lighted necklaces are welcome.

After caroling, we'll return to the church for a pizza party hosted by the Deacons.





Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.

When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we are there with the leaders of our Church — past, present and future.

50% of your gifts assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs. The other 50% of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be collected as part of our Christmas Eve Morning Service. You are welcome to donate any time during the month of December.

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/christmasjoy

Text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999

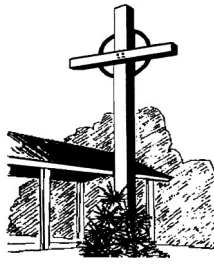
<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/christmas-joy/>



December 2023

Suffolk Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<p>3</p> <p><i>Communion Sun.</i> 9:45 AM Sunday School 10 AM Choir 11 AM Worship 3 PM Wreath/Centerpiece Decorating Party</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7 pm Hybrid Advent Study</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir 11 AM Christmas Cantata Worship/Reception</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7 pm Presbyterian Women</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7 pm Hybrid Advent Study</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7 pm Diaconate Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>NewsLetter DEADLINE</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir 11 AM Worship 5:30 PM Caroling & Pizza</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7 pm Hybrid Advent Study</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3 pm Session Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir 11 AM Worship 7 PM Christmas Eve Worship</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Christmas Day</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">26</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30</p>
<p>31</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Non-Traditional Worship</p>						



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:

December 3—Wreath/Centerpiece Decorating
December 10— Christmas Cantata/Reception
December 11—Presbyterian Women
December 13—Diaconate Meeting
December 17—Caroling & Pizza Party
December 20—Session Meeting
December 24—Christmas Eve Worship

Tuesdays (through 12/19)—Advent Study
Thursdays—Spiritual Fellowship & Choir



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Church*