



The Bridge

FEBRUARY 2024



From the Pastor

Rev. Julie Sterling

The season of Lent is one of my favorite times of year. Even though it is traditionally thought of as a time of restraint and discipline, I look forward to the time we spend together as a congregation during our 40 day journey to Easter. We use this season as a time of reflection; to grow in faith and improve ourselves for God. Lent is a shift in perspective, from the awareness of who Jesus is during Epiphany to the reality of his sacrifice on the cross. The ashes at the beginning of Lent illuminate our human brokenness and our need for salvation through Jesus. Through study, prayer, various activities, and mission projects we are able to take time out of our busy schedules for God.

Each year our Lenten discipline has reflected our needs as a community of faith. Through study, prayer, and various activities and mission projects we have come together as a family. I am reminded of an African Proverb, “If you want to go fast go alone. If you want to go far, go together”. Each one of these experiences have allowed us to share time with each other and strengthen our bonds as a church family.

This year I thought long and hard about how we would best use this time of preparation. Is there something special that our congregation needs right now? After much thought, I realized how Lent could be a perfect time to reflect on what we have learned from Project Regeneration and use that to pave a way forward as a church. I

stumbled upon the study “Jesus Revealed: the I Am Statements of Jesus” and thought, what better way to be led through challenge than through Jesus’ own words. Hopefully this time of study and fellowship will help us to see our future path more clearly and do so with faith and confidence in what lies ahead.

I invite you to enjoy the journey. To quote Arthur Ashe “Success is a journey, not a destination. The doing is often more important than the outcome.” Know that this experience is a gift. Not only does it allow our hearts to be ready for the good news of Easter, but it also gives us a rare opportunity to consider what it means to be Easter people. I leave you now with this simple prayer to bless these next steps together.

Prayer for Travelers

May the road rise up to meet you.
 May the wind be always at your back.
 May the sun shine warm upon your face;
 The rains fall soft upon your fields.
 And until we meet again,
 May God hold you in the palm of His hands.

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!



1/3 Lennon Super
 1/4 Doc Crusenberry
 1/5 Jane Sommers
 1/7 Gary Williams
 1/11 Eric Sterling
 1/24 Lisa Morrison
 1/29 Nancy White

† The family of Betty Ann Campbell
 † Jeffery Birkey
 † Richard Alan Goforth, Sr.
 † Anton Johnston
 † Jimmy Hope
 † Charlie Powell
 † Jeff Snow
 † Randy Stoughton
 † Courtney 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

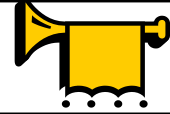
PRAY FOR OUR
 ★★★★★
MILITARY

*Thank you for
 your service!*

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



News Briefs



Suffolk Little Pantry: The youth are collecting items for their project. Granola bars, individual cracker packets, fruit cups, rice crispy treats, and other non-perishable snack items can be placed in the Narthex collection box.

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. Financial 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.

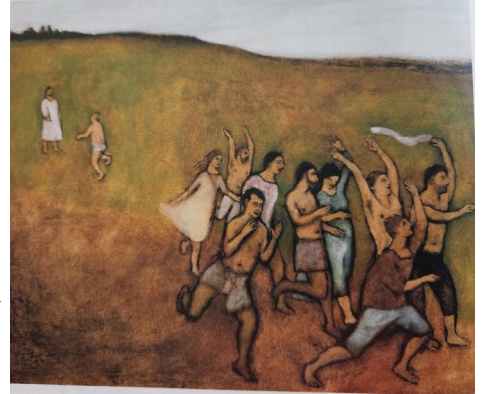
Directory Updates

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

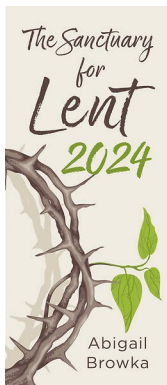
A Person With Leprosy Encounters Jesus

Looking for ways to prepare for Lent? Come join PW! Our February meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 12th at 7pm in the church library. We will be discussing Lesson Five in our study “Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts”. This lesson will include a DVD discussion led by author Olive Mahbir followed by group discussion centers on Luke 17:11-21 and focuses on the following main idea:



Jesus challenges us to overcome our prejudices, embraces others, and invite them into the community of faith.

All are welcome to participate. Each study is followed with an organizational meeting. Contact Rev. Jule Sterling or President Lisa Morrison with any questions. We hope to see you there!



The Sanctuary for Lent 2024

The Sanctuary for Lent 2024 contains brief readings for each day in Lent, from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday, including a suggested Scripture, a short devotion, and a short prayer or practice—all based on the Revised Common Lectionary. This annual favorite helps readers faithfully journey through Lent as they prepare to experience the joy of the Resurrection. Along with being a great congregational resource, it is an excellent gift for family, friends, and those your congregation connects with through outreach.

Dear Suffolk Presbyterian Church,

On behalf of the Ecumenical Youth Group and everyone involved, we would personally like to thank everyone for all your support and donations to Suffolk’s Little Free Pantry. This project has been a whirlwind of planning, effort, and dedication, and it wouldn’t be possible without the amazing people within our church.

Matthew 25:35-36 says “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” While doing this project of the Little Free Pantry, we are truly fulfilling the mission of this verse by being the hands and feet of Jesus. By working together and continuing to help others, we are not only striving to make this world a better place, but in the process, we are also sharing God’s love.

Again, thank you so much for the continued support, donations, and prayers for the box. We truly appreciate it and look forward to seeing how this project will continue to grow and help those in our community.

Sincerely,

The Ecumenical Youth Group

Jesus Revealed: The I Am Statements in the Gospel of John

Have you decided how you are going to live out your Lenten journey this spring?

Why not consider taking part in Matt Rawle's study "Jesus Revealed: The I AM Statements in the Gospel of John"! Our weekly hybrid study are scheduled for Tuesdays at 7pm starting February 13th and will continue through March 19th. Participants will be able to attend at the church or by Zoom. Each week we will discuss one of the "I Am" statements of Jesus:

I am the light of the world

I am the Bread of Life

I am the Good Shepherd

I am the Vine

I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life

I am the Resurrection and the Life

We will be extending each of these themes as part of a six part sermon series on the "I Am Statements of Jesus". The Sunday following Easter we will gather in a non traditional service in the narthex to discuss how we can use these statements to help us navigate our changing church and what is next for SPC. Hopefully this study will not only help us prepare for Easter but guide us as we move forward in the mission and ministry of Jesus.

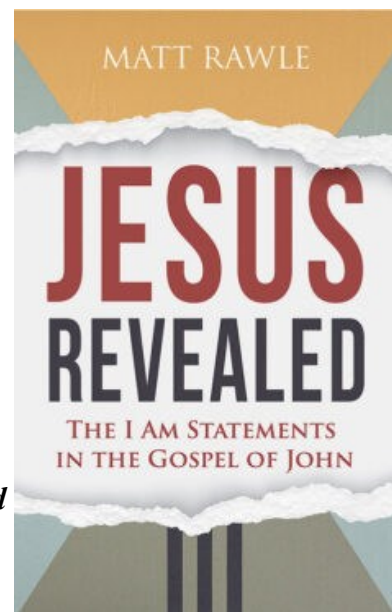
Please see the below press release to learn more about Jesus Revealed.

Discover Jesus' character through the "I Am" statements in Jesus Revealed by pastor and author Matt Rawle.

Light. Bread. Shepherd. Life. The Gospel of John uses these and other symbols to paint a picture of who Jesus is. Through the "I Am" statements Jesus describes himself with rich images, showing us that he is both fully human and fully divine and calling us as his followers.

In Jesus Revealed: The I Am Statements in the Gospel of John, author Matt Rawle explores the "I Am" statements in John as works of art that resonate throughout the Gospel and all of Scripture. He shows how these words point beyond themselves to the deep mystery of Jesus Christ. Join Matt on this journey and experience the profound truth at the heart of the I Am statements: that Jesus is light and life, and he calls us to himself and offers us the hope of resurrection.

<https://matrawle.com/publications/jesus-revealed/>



Jesus Revealed Lenten Study Zoom Link:

Topic: Jesus Revealed Lenten Study

Time: Feb 13, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Tue, 6 occurrence(s)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85494838497?pwd=V1o2WFF0NGEzcHhCdHQybzQxMXIBdz09>



An Imposition of Ashes will be offered on February 14th at our church. You are welcome to stop by during Rev. Jule's office hours from 9:30am-12:30 pm or during a meditation time from 5-5:30 pm. Please see the information below from the PCUSA Mission website to learn more about Ash Wednesday:

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent with a public act of confession and contrition. Acknowledging that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, we stand in solidarity as fellow creatures before our Creator, acutely aware of our mortality. In the face of our transience, we pledge ourselves anew to live unto God's Word in Jesus Christ, the eternal Word that remains forever.

Historically, Ash Wednesday was a time when penitents were presented for church discipline during Lent, culminating in reconciliation on Maundy Thursday. Ash Wednesday is also the occasion when would-be disciples of Christ known as catechumens were enrolled in the catechumenate, a special time of learning the basics of the faith in preparation for baptism on Easter Sunday or during the Easter Vigil. In some traditions, Ash Wednesday is a fast day, beginning the Lenten time of fasting and preparation for the Great Three Days that culminate in Easter.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/ash-wednesday/?mode=list>

Mardi Gras Service and Celebration

The season of Lent is fast approaching. The Lenten journey focuses on various disciplines such as prayer, service, study, reflection, and fasting. Before we begin our journey together, let us have one last celebration. On Sunday, February 11th SPC will be hosting an early Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday. The worship service will include upbeat music such as "When the Saints Go Marching In" as we honor the transfiguration of Jesus and the abundance of God's many blessings. We will also have a "farewell to alleluia" blessing following the anthem. The service will be followed by fellowship time. Join us as we enjoy King Cake and other goodies.

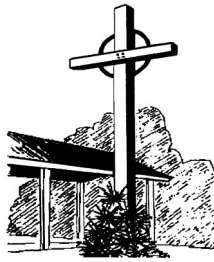




February 2024

Suffolk Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir	2	3
4 <i>Communion Sunday</i> 9:45 AM Sunday School 10 AM Choir 11 AM Worship	5	6	7 7 pm Diaconate Meeting	8 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir	9	10
11 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir 11 AM Mardi Gras Service 12 PM Fellowship	12 7 pm Presbyterian Women	13 7 pm Lenten Study	14 9:30 am-12:30 pm & 5-5:30 pm Imposition of Ashes	15 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir	16	17
18 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir 11 AM Worship	19	20 7 pm Lenten Study NewsLetter DEADLINE	21 3 pm Session Meeting	22 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir	23	24
25 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir 11 AM Worship	26	27 7 pm Lenten Study	28	29 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir		



Suffolk Presbyterian Church
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Suffolk, Virginia 23434



Visit our website!
suffolkpresbyterian.org

Suffolk Presbyterian Church

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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:

February 12—Presbyterian Women

February 7—Diaconate Meeting

February 14—Ash Wednesday

February 17—Session Meeting

Tuesdays (2/13-3/19)—Lenten Study
Thursdays—Spiritual Fellowship & Choir



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Church*