



# The Bridge

MARCH 2024



## *From the Pastor*

*Rev. Julie Sterling*

In Isaiah 58, the prophet exclaims, “Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in” . As the people of Israel returned from the cloud of exile and struggled to rebuild their lives, Isaiah questioned their efforts: Are you not called “to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them?” (Isaiah 58:7).

Then in Matthew 25, we hear Jesus calling to us, “For I was hungry and you gave me food ... I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing. ... As you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me”.

Isaiah and Jesus are making an important theological point: faithfulness to God causes us to find solutions that will mend broken things—broken lives, broken spirits, broken hearts, broken relationships—things that happen to all of us throughout our lives.

When we give to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering on Easter Day, we are combining our efforts with those across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to repair peoples’ lives — people who are hurting, broken, oppressed, lost or on the margins of society. The

exact people about whom Isaiah and Jesus are speaking. The people we are called to connect with every day, but especially in the light of the Good News of the resurrection.

I invite you to visit the OGHS website ([pcusa.org/oghs](http://pcusa.org/oghs)) to find all sorts of information on how your gift helps people all over the world and offer prayers for those who will receive monetary support through this offering. Small changes which, when added together here and around the globe, make huge differences in the lives of our siblings in need.

It also happens that this year is the 75th anniversary of One Great Hour of Sharing—this is the perfect opportunity for our congregation to recommit to our participation in this important opportunity to do our part to participate in God’s ongoing repair of the world God so loves. There will be a special offering on Easter Sunday and Gracie Fish Banks will be available for each family to donate to support our Youth Ministry.

That brings me to my challenge. I challenge each of you to increase your gift to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering to benefit Presbyterian ministries to combat hunger, provide assistance after disaster strikes, and to work with sustainable community development. It is my hunch that you will see how giving opens your

*(Continued on page 5)*

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



3/1 Bruce Sharp  
3/30 Cheryl Super

- † Doc Crusenberry
- † Eric Sterling
- † Jeffery Birkey
- † Richard Alan Goforth, Sr.
- † Anton Johnston
- † Jimmy Hope
- † Charlie Powell
- † Cindy Robinson
- † Jeff Snow
- † Randy Stoughton
- † Courtney Super



3/7 Jack & Susie Stoughton

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](mailto:office@suffolkpresbyterian.org)
- mail to the church address
- Laura Farmer's office mailbox

Editor: Laura Farmer,  
Administrative Assistant

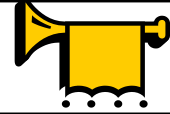


*Thank you for your service!*

- † 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](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](mailto:office@suffolkpresbyterian.org) or call 757-539-3213.

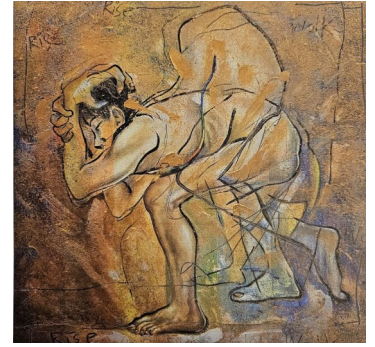
### Directory Updates

If you have a new address, phone number, or email, please contact **Laura Farmer**, Administrative Assistant, at [office@suffolkpresbyterian.org](mailto: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 A PHYSICAL DISABILITY ENCOUNTERS JESUS

Have you ever wondered how the early church dealt with issues of inequality? What was life like for people with disabilities during the time of Jesus? Come join us on March 11th at 7pm as we continue our discussion of the Horizon's Bible Study "Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts" by Olive Mahabir. This month we will be studying Lesson Six, "A Person with a Physical Disability Encounters Jesus" and will focus on the scripture from Acts 3:1-10. This lesson will include a DVD presentation from the author which will center around the following main idea:



*God calls us to affirm that each person is a child of God who should be treated with dignity and equality.*

All are welcome to attend. Please contact **Rev. Julie** or **Lisa Morrison** with any questions. We still have a few Bible Study books available but are not needed to participate in the lesson.

## Repairing the Breach, Fixing What's Broken

In Isaiah 58, God, through the voice of the prophet, calls us to be repairers of the breach — and by repairing the breach, we will, by God's grace, be led into a new season of justice, freedom and peace.

In this season of Lent, we follow Jesus' example; walking alongside the most vulnerable to partner in repairing the harm inflicted upon them. Each gift to **One Great Hour of Sharing** helps improve the lives of the suffering and the vulnerable through three life-saving programs ~

- PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE: Restore Streets to Live In
- PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM: Share your Bread with the Hungry
- SELF DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE: Loose the Bonds of Injustice

February 14-March 31, 2024

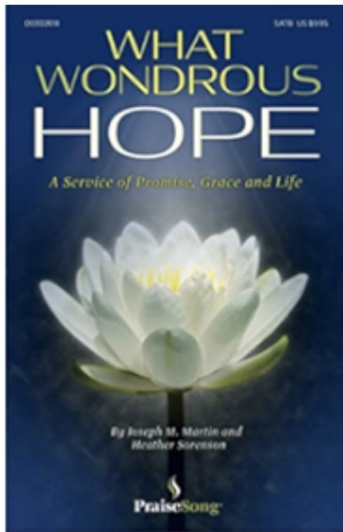
Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

### WAYS TO GIVE

- : Through your congregation
- : Online at [pcusa.org/give-oghs](https://pcusa.org/give-oghs)
- : Text OGHS to 91999 to give

-or-

You can help sustain the important ministries and programs that are supported by One Great Hour of Sharing Offering by making an online gift at any time throughout the year. Checks may be sent: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); P.O. Box 643700; Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



## Lenten Cantata

The Lenten cantata, “What Wondrous Hope” will be presented on Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 3 o’clock in the afternoon. This presentation mingles tradition music with more contemporary elements to tell the story of Christ’s ministry and passion. The songs are carefully woven together-sharing the passion of Jesus. The music portrays historical events that ultimately gave meaning and force to the entire mission of Jesus and it is a living memory, a powerful grace that gives meaning and hope to all human suffering. The gospels accounts of the passion embrace both dimensions, rooting their narratives in the historical traditions about Jesus’ last days. The program will feature the adult choir along with guest singers who will be accompanied by a chamber ensemble and piano. A reception will be held at the conclusion of the program. The public is invited to attend.

## Easter Egg Hunt Set For March 30

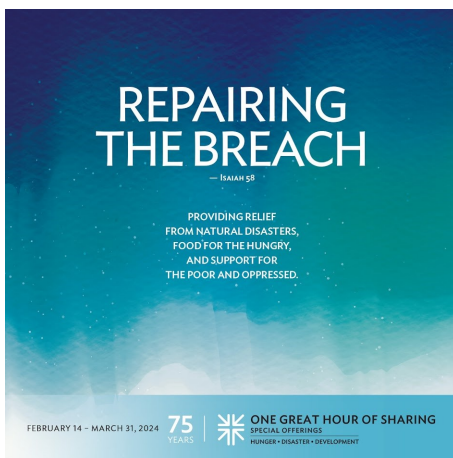
The Easter Bunny will be hopping over to Suffolk Presbyterian Church on Saturday, March 30, for the annual Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m. - rain or shine!

Weather permitting, the Easter Bunny’s helpers will hide candy-filled plastic eggs outside. In case of rain, the eggs will be hidden inside the building.

The deacons will provide light refreshments and prizes for the children and will read Easter-themed stories during the ever-popular story time.

Want to help the Easter Bunny? Donations of bags of small, individually wrapped pieces of candy - peanut free, please, because some children may have allergies - are welcome. Drop them off in the narthex by March 24.

Bring your children, grandchildren or your neighbor’s kids and join the fun!



*(Continued from page 1)*

heart to God’s work in your own life. I hope that you’ll join us this Easter Season as we collect this offering and tangibly witness to the repairing love of God in Jesus Christ through One Great Hour of Sharing.

Yours in Christ,

*Rev. Julie*



## Holy Week Calendar



March 24 Palm/Passion Sunday 11 am

March 24 Lenten Cantata 3 pm

March 28 Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm (*West End Baptist Church*)

March 29 Good Friday Service 12 pm (*Oxford UMC*) AND

March 29 Good Friday Meditation 7 pm (SPC)

March 30 Easter Egg Hunt 10 am

March 31 Easter Sunrise Service 7:30 am (*Coffee and Donuts following provided by West End*)

March 31 Easter Service 11 am

*\*The One Great Hour of Sharing special offering will be collected throughout the month of March.*

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## 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 online study is scheduled for Tuesdays at 7pm through March 19th. Each week we will discuss one of 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.

**Jesus Revealed Lenten Study Zoom Link:**

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



## Gracie Fish Mission Project

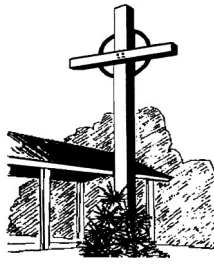
*Each year our congregation supports our Children's Ministry by collecting money for our children to donate. Donations will be collected through the month of March.*



# March 2024

## Suffolk Presbyterian Church

| Sun  | Mon                                  | Tue   | Wed  | Thu  | Fri  | Sat   |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|
|  |                                      |   |  |  | 1  | 2   |
| <b>3</b><br><i>Communion Sunday</i><br>9:45 AM Sunday School<br>10 AM Choir<br>11 AM Worship                             | 4                                    | <b>5</b><br><i>Polling Place</i><br>7 pm Lenten Study | 6  | <b>7</b><br>6 PM Spiritual Fellowship<br>7 PM Choir            | 8  | 9   |
| <b>10</b><br>9:45 AM Sunday School<br>10:30 AM Choir<br>11 AM Worship  | <b>11</b><br>7 pm Presbyterian Women | <b>12</b><br>7 pm Lenten Study                        | <b>13</b><br>7 pm Diaconate Meeting  | <b>14</b><br>6 PM Spiritual Fellowship<br>7 PM Choir           | 15   | 16  |
| <b>17</b><br>9:45 AM Sunday School<br>10:30 AM Choir<br>11 AM Worship  | 18                                   | <b>19</b><br>7 pm Lenten Study                        | <b>20</b><br>3 pm Session Meeting<br> | <b>21</b><br>6 PM Spiritual Fellowship<br>7 PM Choir           | 22   | 23  |
| <b>24</b><br><i>Palm Sunday</i><br>9:45 AM Sunday School<br>10:30 AM Choir<br>11 AM Worship<br>3 PM Lenten Cantata       | 25                                   | 26  | 27   | <b>28</b><br><i>Maundy Thursday</i><br>7 PM Worship (West End) | <b>29</b><br><i>Good Friday</i><br>12 PM Worship (Oxford)<br>7 PM Meditation (SPC) | <b>30</b><br>10 AM Easter Egg Hunt<br> |
| <b>31</b><br><i>Easter Sunday</i><br>7:30 AM Sunrise Service<br>9:45 AM Sunday School<br>10:30 AM Choir<br>11 AM Worship |                                      |   |  |  |  |   |



Suffolk Presbyterian Church  
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Visit our website!  
[suffolkpresbyterian.org](http://suffolkpresbyterian.org)

## Suffolk Presbyterian Church

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Pastor

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Pastor E-Mail:  
[pastor@suffolkpresbyterian.org](mailto:pastor@suffolkpresbyterian.org)

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

## Upcoming Events:

March 11—Presbyterian Women  
March 13—Diaconate Meeting  
March 20—Session Meeting  
March 24—Lenten Cantata  
March 28—Maundy Thursday  
March 29—Good Friday  
March 30—Easter Egg Hunt  
March 31—Easter Sunday

Tuesdays (through 3/19)—Lenten Study  
Thursdays—Spiritual Fellowship & Choir



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Church*