



The Bridge

October 2025



From the Pastor

Rev. Julie Sterling

Dear Church family and friends,

We live in an era of uncertainty. The uncertainty of floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, climate change, political polarization and more. The uncertainty of aggression through war, gun violence, human trafficking and international conflict. The uncertainty of employment, inflation, illness — the list goes on.

However, when I think about it, I guess humanity always has in one form or another. Long ago, the Psalmist wrote: “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me” (Psalm 23:4, NRSV). Today, as a community of faith, we claim God’s promise — you are with me.

As your pastor, I’m grateful for our participation in A Season of Peace culminating with our receiving the Peace & Global Witness Offering on World Communion Sunday. This offering draws Presbyterians together and provides

education and exposure to siblings in Christ who work for peace every day. Your support of this offering helps encourage our church partners as they struggle against the trauma of war. It helps congregations address the growing mental health crisis and the increase in the number of suicides in their communities. It provides resources for congregations seeking to address issues of gun violence in their communities.

This is why we give generously to the Peace & Global Witness Offering. We give because we know that every level of society needs Christ’s peace. From our congregation, where we retain 25% of this Offering to support peacemaking efforts in our community; to the region, where 25% is retained by mid councils to support peacemaking efforts with our neighboring congregations; and to the ends of the Earth, where the remaining 50% is used by the Interim Unified Agency to join the peacemaking efforts of church partners all over the globe. We join these monetary gifts with our prayers for peace and our work for justice.

You are invited to visit the Peace & Global Witness website (pcusa.org/peace-global) to learn how your support of this offering helps peacemaking efforts both in the U.S.

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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

Prayer Requests

- ✝ Jean Butcher
- ✝ Eric Sterling
- ✝ Joan Anderson
- ✝ Jeffery Birkey
- ✝ Sidney Brown
- ✝ Jerry Chambers
- ✝ Charlotte Davidson
- ✝ Kurt Donaldson
- ✝ Richard Alan Goforth, Sr.
- ✝ Dan Gullion
- ✝ Tommy Morrison
- ✝ Ben Potter
- ✝ Charlie Powell
- ✝ Cathy Stoughton
- ✝ Ron Ventura
- ✝ Caroline
- ✝ Leslie

Pray for our Military

- ✝ Ashlyn Dawson
- ✝ Laura Dawson
- ✝ Sidney Dawson
- ✝ Nick Meadors
- ✝ Hayden Spalding
- ✝ Greg Vernon

Happy Birthday

- 10/7 Danny Morrow
- 10/11 Breena Branham
- 10/14 Rob Saunders
- 10/18 Julie Sterling
- 10/29 Jeff Super

Happy Anniversary

- 10/3 Doc & Jerolene Crusenberry
- 10/23 Rob & Mary Ann Saunders
- 10/25 Zach & 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 by the 20th of the month 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

News Briefs

Food Pantry Donations: The greatest needs are canned veggies/fruits/tuna/chicken, cold cereal, peanut butter, and jelly. 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.

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.

Glory to God Hymnbooks: If you would like to donate to help offset the cost, each book is \$25.

Daily Devotionals Delivered to Your Inbox

<https://pcusa.us14.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=a3617d8799f77a05442289ad4&id=a54b3a778f>



Pursue What Makes for Peace Video

<https://vimeo.com/1097925528>

Administrative Office Hours



Laura Farmer's regular office hours are Tuesdays from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, Wednesdays from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, and Thursdays from 9:30 am to 1:30 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 the church office. If you are not in the directory, and would like to be added, please email your information.

Help make fleece blankets for animal shelter



During the month of October, you are invited to help make fleece blankets for the Suffolk Animal Shelter. Two fleece blankets will be made. One smaller one for a cat and one larger one for a dog. These blankets are easy to make. All ages are welcome to help.



Thank you for joining us for our recharging fellowship on Sundays in September.

(Continued from page 1)

and around the world. As a community of faith, we want to deepen our commitment to peacemaking so that it becomes a visible and profound witness to our community. I challenge each of us to consider how we might increase our witness and our giving to the Peace & Global Witness Offering. I pray that the God of Peace might open the generosity in our hearts to join with Christians all over the country on World Communion Sunday, Oct. 5, in response to the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

Rev. Julie Sterling

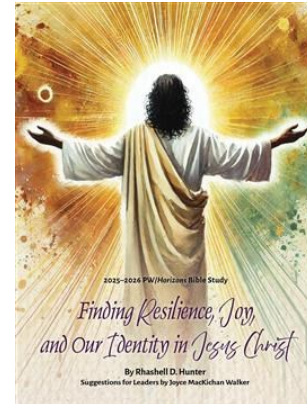
Upper Room Fellowship

Did you enjoy last month's Recharging Station Fellowship event each Sunday following worship? If so, join us on October 19th for "Upper Room Fellowship." This is the first of a monthly fellowship program that will include refreshments, activities, mission projects, and a 10 minute DVD recording by Rhashell D. Hunter, author of the Horizon's Bible Study, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and our Identity in Jesus Christ*.

This fellowship time is meant to be flexible to everyone's needs and interests. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Enjoy a bite to eat and some time with your church family.

Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ by Rhashell D. Hunter

In this Bible study, we will explore resilience. This is modeled for us by several biblical characters, gospel and epistle writers, as well as Jesus. So, what exactly is resilience? Resilience is the ability to spring back into shape and to adapt well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats, or stress—such as from family, relationships, health, workplace, and financial stressors. People who survive and thrive well in change are resilient.



The Bible study is also about joy. How do we find joy in a chaotic world? Christian joy may be different from how a lot of people define joy.

Joy is sometimes confused with happiness. For Christians, joy can occur while we are in the midst of difficult circumstances. Joy is the second fruit of the spirit, preceded by love and followed by peace (Gal 5:22-23). Trusting in God when we are in trying times can fill us with glorious joy and peace. We have joy in our suffering, because ultimately our joy is found in Jesus Christ.

We will also seek to rediscover our identity. Identity is more than who we are or who we show ourselves to be. At its core, it points to our humanity. Our core identity is not found in our titles, our positions, our spouses, our partners, or our possessions. For Christians, our identity is found in Jesus Christ.

September Session Notes - from the Clerk

At the September 23, 2025 stated Session meeting, the pastor reported on her activities and a written financial report was received from Jack Stoughton. The Session also approved the minutes of the August 26, 2025 stated Session meeting.

The moderator reported that she had been conducting training for the two Elders-elect, Cheryl Morrow and Alison Super. She then presented the Elders-elect for examination by the Session. Each presented their statement of faith and both were examined. The examination was sustained and both were approved for ordination and installation as Elders on September 28, 2025.

The Session scheduled this year's Trunk or Treat for October 25, 2025 from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. and scheduled November 9, 2025 as Stewardship Sunday.

The Session heard reports from a meeting with the West End Baptist Church facilities committee to assess the shared space agreement. The Session also received a brief report on a meeting with the Suffolk Foundation exploring the possibility for assistance in administering the Willis/Volper scholarships. After sharing joys and concerns, the meeting was adjourned.

Bruce Sharp

Trunk or Treat

Come decorate your trunk, hatchback or pickup bed and join in the fun for the ever-popular Trunk or Treat.

Co-sponsored by Suffolk Presbyterian and West End Baptist churches, this year's festivities will be held on Saturday, Oct. 25 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Vehicles will be located in the parking lot across the street from the church at 105 St. James Ave. at the corner of West Washington St.

Ghosts and goblins, scary monsters, cartoon characters and ordinary friendly folks will be handing out candy to area youngsters. Costumes are optional. If you don't have a vehicle, team up with a friend or pass out candy from our decorated canopy or help man the popcorn booth.

Drop off donations of bags of individually wrapped candy – peanut free preferred – on Sunday mornings or Monday through Friday during office hours.

Sign up to reserve your spot for the candy distribution to provide a safe and fun Halloween treat for kids!



October 2025

Suffolk Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	3 9-11 AM Plant Sale Delivery and Pick Up	4
5 11 AM Joint Worship	6	7	8	9 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	10	11
12 9 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School	13	14	15	16 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship	17	18
19 9 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Upper Room Fellowship 5 PM Youth Group	20 Newsletter Deadline 	21	22	23 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	24	25 4:30 PM Trunk or Treat
26 9 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School	27	28	29	30 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	31	Session Meeting Date TBA



Suffolk Presbyterian Church
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Suffolk, Virginia 23434



Visit our website!
suffolkpresbyterian.org

Suffolk
Presbyterian Church

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CHOIR PRACTICE
9:00 AM
WORSHIP
9:30 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:45 AM

Upcoming Events:

October 3—Plant Sale Pick Up and Delivery
October 5—World Communion Sunday Joint Worship
October 19—Upper Room Fellowship
October 19—Youth Group
October 25—Trunk or Treat

Session Meeting TBA

Thursdays—Spiritual Fellowship & Choir Practice

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