

The Towers Newsletter

216 North Main Street, Suffolk VA 23434
Website: www.suffolkchristian.org

 **DECEMBER** 2022



PLEASE JOIN US AS WE
CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

Wednesday, December 7 – 2:00-4:00 pm

GriefShare's Surviving the Holidays

Please RSVP 757-539-9182

Sunday, December 11 – 12:00 pm

Pot Luck Dinner with Santa

Sunday, December 11 – 1:00 pm

Blue Christmas Worship

A quiet, contemplative, and interactive service designed for those who need
a different way to observe Christmas this year.

Sunday, December 18 – 5:00 pm

“The Colors and Music of Christmas”

Cantata presented by the Chancel Choir, Handbells and Youth
Reception follows

Saturday, December 24 – 6:00 pm

“Celebrate the Expectation of Christ”

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service for the Entire Family

Sunday, December 25 – 11:00 am

“A Savior is Born”

Casual Worship and Carols

Shining our Light in the Darkness



Our theme for Advent this year is Shining our Light in the Darkness. As we light candles of Hope, Love, Joy, Peace and await the birth of the Savior, we'll be exploring how God is calling us to be light in our world full of darkness.

There are several ways we will offer light to our community this Advent season. On Wednesday, December 7th from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., we will offer a seminar on Surviving the Holidays. This seminar helps those who have suffered a loss to navigate the upcoming holiday season. Please register by calling the church office and invite friends and coworkers who would benefit from this seminar to join you (see the fuller ad in the newsletter).

To help those who are grieving, we will also be offering a Blue Christmas service on Sunday, December 11th at 1:00 p.m. This is a quiet, contemplative, and interactive service designed for those who need a different way to observe Christmas this year. This service is also open to our wider community. Flyers for both events are available in the church office and information is available on our website.

Please plan to join us for all of our Advent and Christmas activities: our annual pot-luck with a visit from Santa on Dec. 11th, the return of our Christmas Cantata on Dec. 18th at 5:00 p.m., and our Christmas Eve service at 6:00 p.m. We will also have an informal worship service on Sunday, Dec. 25th at 11:00 a.m. Come as you are and enjoy Christmas carols and family-friendly devotional.

This year we are providing an Advent devotional booklet to each family and an Advent calendar to each of our children. I pray that you will use these at home each day and that they will enrich your Advent season.

I look forward to what God has in store for Suffolk Christian Church during this Advent seasons and as we turn our hearts to a new year of live and ministry.

As always, it's an honor to be on the journey with you,

Tracy



Pastor Search Update



The Center for Healthy Churches presented a list of candidates to the Search Team on Monday, November 21st. The committee will be scheduling initial conversations with each candidate soon after Thanksgiving. Please continue to pray for the committee and each candidate as we enter this new and exciting phase of the interim process. Pray that God's choice for our new pastor will be clear to Search Team and candidate alike!

The Colors and Music of Christmas



Christmas is often called the “most wonderful time of the year”. The season brings out kindness, generosity, and love in a special way. The decorations are colorful, lights adorn trees and carols we love are heard everywhere.

Please join our Music Ministry on Sunday, December 18th at 5 pm as we celebrate the birth of Christ. Our Child of God Choir, King’s Ringers, Chancel Handbells and Chancel Choir will present the familiar story from Luke 2, focusing on sights and sounds of this special season.

We are excited to finally return to our traditional evening celebration, and we look forward to sharing this special service with you. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite someone to our church – bring a friend!

A reception will follow the program in the fellowship hall.



Grieving? *Know someone who is?*

When you are grieving a loved one’s death, the holiday season can be especially painful. Our **Surviving the Holidays** seminar helps participants prepare for the holidays and even discover hope for the future.

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

GRIEF SHARE®

www.griefshare.org/holidays

December 7, 2022, 2:00 - 4:00 PM
Please RSVP at 757-539-9182
Suffolk Christian Church
Rev. Dr. Tracy Hartman

Blue Christmas Service

“Comfort, comfort my people, says God”

Grieving? Know someone who is?

**Sunday, December 11th
1:00 p.m.**

**Suffolk Christian Church
216 N. Main Street
Suffolk, VA 23434**

757-539-9182

www.suffolkchristian.org

suffolkchristianchurchoffice@gmail.com

Reporting on Missions....

December's Yellow Envelope Mission: VETERANS OF THE CROSS

It is our tradition in December that our yellow envelope for missions is dedicated to the faithful members of the clergy (or their spouses) who have now reached their retirement years. It is a way to honor all they have done for God and the congregations they have served as well as to give a financial boost at a time when it could very well be needed, and if not needed, then certainly appreciated. Our gift is usually presented to our past pastors or their wives. But please contact the church office if you have any additional suggestion as to a worthy recipient. Thank you so much for your generous support of this mission.



Beyond Our Shores:

*We have no new updates to share about our neighbors in Haiti...communication and travel are limited. We do know that many Haitians are still in a desperate state of need and poverty, instability and violence continue to plague this nation. Please continue to support our church's efforts to help through your dollar bills (and checks) in each Sunday's offering plate. Please pray for the nation, Supply and Multiply organization and our little friend, Shear.



Coats for the Community 2022



Coats for
The Community

Suffolk Christian Church has had a coats ministry since 1990! We are known throughout the community as the "Coats Church." Although the recent pandemic has altered what that looks like, it is still our goal to provide a warm winter coat for anyone who needs it. What "Coats for the Community 2022" will look like is this: We will maintain a Coats Closet on the 3rd floor and will accept donations of gently used coats, hats, scarves, gloves and mittens. (In years past we have accepted sweaters as well, but we don't really have the space to store those.) We will also purchase coats to stock the Closet and also purchase coats for specific needs as we learn of them. Instead of one distribution day we will give out coats on some Tuesdays in the fall when food is also being distributed and by appointment, as we learn of a need. The Adult Bible Class sponsors this project but it is a church wide effort and we hope you will participate with us. Class members will do the purchasing with our available funds but we also invite and encourage any church member to help in this procurement process. Also, if you know of a need please feel free to bring someone to church to look for a coat. We certainly solicit your ideas, input and help to make this ministry successful and to glorify God in the process.

Ways you can help:

- *Make a financial donation to the coats fund, to make these and future purchases possible.
- *Volunteer to shop for a needed coat. (You do not have to pay for the coat yourself, but can turn in a receipt to be reimbursed.) Or if you see a great value on a coat, please purchase for the Closet. We are always in need of extra-large coats (especially 2X through 5 X.)
- *As always, pray for this project and all individuals in our community in need. Thank you!

Evening Circle will meet
 Monday, December 12th at 6:30
 PM for our annual Christmas
 potluck and gift exchange.
 Please join us for good food,
 fellowship and fun.



Randy Rhodes	Dec. 3
Saniya Allen	Dec. 5
Hunter Haslett	Dec. 5
Evelyn W. Jones	Dec. 6
Debbie Alexander	Dec. 6
Charlie Mathias	Dec. 8
Savannah Marx	Dec. 9
Bennett McBride	Dec. 11
Grace Garner-Atkins	Dec. 11
Sara Keene	Dec. 11
Suzanne Cox	Dec. 11
Conner Blausey	Dec. 12
Chip Joyner, Jr.	Dec. 13
Carman Goben	Dec. 13
Susanne Reid	Dec. 15
Terry McGahee	Dec. 19
Margaret Saunders	Dec. 20
Wanda Cadwell	Dec. 20
Travis Myles	Dec. 20
Bill Carr	Dec. 22
Mary Blythe McLaughlin	Dec. 22
June Hood	Dec. 25
Richard Rock	Dec. 26
Patty Allen	Dec. 26
Pam Briggs	Dec. 27

Thanks

*Thank you so much
 for the George's gift
 card I discovered on
 my desk. Jay and I
 will enjoy your
 thoughtful gift. Tracy*

In observance of the holidays, the
 church office will be closed
 Tuesday, December 7th
 and
 Tuesday, January 3rd.

The
 Church
 Office



Will Be
 Closed:



Friday Game Nights

December 9th

December 23rd

**You may now watch our service LIVE Sunday
 mornings!**

Go to: YouTube.com

Suffolk Christian Live Worship

Subscribe

You also find us on:

www.suffolkchristian.org





A donation to Care and Concern in memory of Lena Ann Ellis
has been given by H. Jan Ellis.



January 2022 – Church Family Assistance - \$615.00

February 2022 – Meals on Wheels - \$785.00

March 2022 – Western Tidewater Free Clinic -
\$840.00

April 2022 – Winter Shelter - \$750.00

May 2022 – SCC Scholarship - \$880.00

June 2022 – CAPS - \$1,065.00

July 2022 – Crisis Pregnancy Center - \$1,542.05

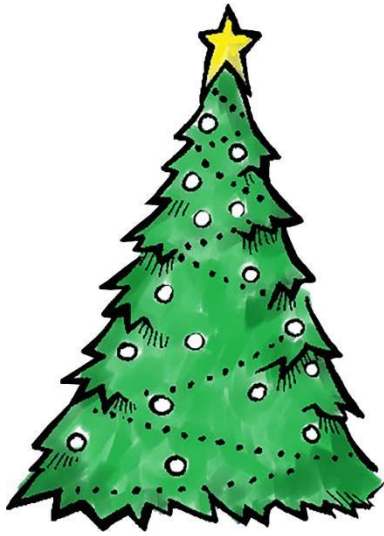
(includes \$772.05 from UK – via video broadcast)

August 2022 – Genevieve Shelter - \$810.00

September 2022 – Neighbors in Need - \$760.00

October 2022 – Sheltering the Homeless - \$1,031.00

November 2022 – Hurricane Relief - \$950.00



For Kids Toy Drive

ForKids is one of the largest service providers to children and families experiencing homelessness in Virginia. They serve 14 cities and counties in Hampton Roads by providing housing solutions, education, and critical services.

The ForKids organization helped 1647 children last year to have a brighter Christmas. We will be collecting toys this year for this organization. The tubs will be put out by the Christmas Tree in the South foyer on the 1st floor by Sunday, November 20th. *Please return the toys to the church no later than Sunday, December 11th.*** All toys will be taken to the organization on Monday, December 12th. There is a list of suggested toys/items in the newsletter. Your support of this organization is greatly appreciated by those in our community and will bring smiles to children who may be less fortunate than we are at this time. If you should have any questions, please contact Priscilla Bunch.**

ForKids Suggested Toy List

Please New Items Only:

NFL TEAM MERCHANDISE Washington Football Team, Carolina Panthers, Pittsburgh Steelers, Dallas Cowboys, Seattle Seahawks, New England Patriots, New York Giants, Green Bay Packers

INFANTS & TODDLERS:

Brand New Coats, Baby Shark Toys, Peppa Pig, Paw Patrol, Mega Blocks, Mozart Effect, Baby Einstein Counting Toys, Fisher Price Toys, Little Tikes, Magna Doodle, Mr. & Mrs. Potato Head, Musical Instruments, Wooden Puzzles, Scooting Toys, Tool sets, Tonka Trucks, Wagons, V- Electronics

AGES 5-8:

Brand New Coats, Arts & Crafts Items, Dinosaurs, Disney's Frozen Items Dolls – Multicultural, Hot Wheels, Board Games. Diva Dolls, LOL Surprise, My Little Pony, Bristle Blocks, Dress-ups, Girls Nail Decorating Kits, Kitchen Play, Rescue Rangers, Figurines, Superhero Toys/Items, Purses, Scooters

AGES 9-12:

Brand New Coats, Arts & Craft Items, Jewelry Sets, Purses, Baking Sets, Slime Kits, Cameras, Dolls – Multicultural, Hair Accessories & DIY Kits, Legos, Musical instruments, Skateboards, Bikes, Roller Blades, Scooters w/ Helmets, Sports Items & Games (basketball hoops, mini foosball), Minecraft, Roblox, Fortnite, Star Wars Items, Transformers, Superhero Items, Remote Control Cars, Comic Books, Book Sets

TEENS, AGES 13-18:

Brand New Coats, Art Supplies, Alexa Echo Dot, Batteries, Video Games (nonviolent), Nail Polish/Manicure Sets, Small Drones, Watches, Purses, Belts, Jewelry, Skateboards, Bikes, Rollerblades & Scooters w/ Helmets, Bluetooth Speakers, (water bottles, beanies, etc.), Karaoke Microphones, Wireless Headphones/Ear Buds, LED Lights, LED Mirrors, Tripod, Ring Light, Selfie Stick, Wireless Keyboards, Smartphone Camera Lens, Moon Lamp/Lava Lamp, Bluetooth Beanie, Face Mask DIY Kits, Cozy Slippers/ Robes, Eye Masks, Multicultural Hair Masks/Hair Kits (such as a soft hood blow dryer/ microwaveable hair bonnet), String Lights/ Picture Frames/ Cinema Light Box/ Tapestries, Small Duffel Bags/ Satchels (male & female), Portable Chargers, Workout Equipment (weights, resistance bands, floor mats), Big Kid Bikes

**Please No Toy Weapons/Weapon Accessories, Squirt Guns, Swords,
Machine Guns, or Ninja Sets.**



December

Daily Bible Scripture Reading

Day 1: Isaiah 7:14-17

Day 16: Matthew 2:7-12

Day 2: Isaiah 9:6-7

Day 17: Luke 1:26-29

Day 3: Isaiah 11:1-5

Day 18: Luke 1:30-34

Day 4: Isaiah 11:6-10

Day 19: Luke 1:35-38

Day 5: Isaiah 40:1-5

Day 20: Luke 1:46-50

Day 6: Isaiah 52:7-10

Day 21: Luke 1:51-56

Day 7: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Day 22: Luke 2:4-7

Day 8: Psalm 72:1-7

Day 23: Luke 2:8-12

Day 9: Psalm 72:8-14

Day 24: Luke 2:13-16

Day 10: Psalm 72:15-20

Day 25: Luke 2:17-20

Day 11: Psalm 95:1-7

Day 26: Galatians 4:4-7

Day 12: Malachi 3:1-3

Day 27: Philippians 2:5-8

Day 13: Matthew 1:18-20

Day 28: Philippians 2:9-11

Day 14: Matthew 1:21-25

Day 29: James 1:16-18

Day 15: Matthew 2:1-6

Day 30: Titus 3:3-7

Day 31: Choose your own verse

Commit to spending 10 minutes every day to reflect and meditate on God's word. Write down your thoughts on what you have learned from the scripture every day.

Churchwide Potluck Lunch and a visit from Santa



Following the 11:00 am Worship Service

Sunday, December 11th

We will have our annual potluck lunch and visit Santa on Sunday, December 11th. The Board of Christian Education will provide fried chicken and beverages. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the bulletin board outside of the church office before Wednesday, December 7th. We need to know how many children will be with us so we can have presents for each child.



Lights, Camera, Holidays!

Suffolk Holiday Parade

Saturday, December 10th

7:00 pm

Justin Sorenson, from Edward Jones, our neighbor, has invited our church to join them for the Christmas parade. He will be providing refreshments before and during the parade. Please come out and enjoy the holiday festivities.

The Christmas season is approaching quickly, and it is time to be thinking about placing your order for Christmas greenery, arrangements, and poinsettias. If you would like to place an order for any of the items listed below, in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please contact Cheryl Ashcraft at 757-418-4553.

**The deadline for orders is Monday, December 5th
(Please check what you are ordering)**

2 Outside Front Wreaths	\$85 each
4 Upstairs Balcony Wreaths	\$85 each
2 Inside Front Column Wreaths	sold
1 Side Foyer Arrangement	\$40
1 Hunt board Arrangement	sold
Piano/Organ Arrangement	\$40
Upstairs Foyer Arrangement	\$40
1 Downstairs Newel Post Swag	\$40
2 Wreaths North Entrance Columns	\$50 each
2 Wreaths North Entrance Doors	sold
2 Wreaths Iron Gates Front Entrance	\$30 each
16 Boxwood Wreaths Outside Windows	\$30 each
North Foyer Arrangement	sold
North Second Floor Foyer Arrangement	\$40
Wreath Beside Office Door	sold
2 Wreaths Iron Gates Walkway	\$30 each
Miscellaneous items (greens, candles, etc.)	\$100

Greenery/Arrangements in Honor/Memory of: [Circle one]

Given by: _____

Poinsettias (45 poinsettias are needed to fill the poinsettia tree)






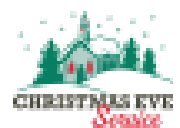
Quantity	Total (\$15 each)

Poinsettias In Honor/Memory of: [Circle one]

Given by: _____

Please mail your check to: Suffolk Christian Church / Attn: Cheryl Ashcraft / 216 North Main Street / Suffolk, VA 23434. Please mark your check "Christmas Flowers" and make payable to: **Suffolk Christian Church.**

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10:00am Thursday Crafters 6:45pm Chancel Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	2 11:30am Meals on Wheels	3 
4 9:30am King's Ringers 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	5 	6 1:00pm Saints Alive	7 2:00pm Grief Support Group "Surviving the Holidays" 6:30pm Board of Christian Ed 7:00pm Music Committee 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	8 10:00am Prayer Team 10:00am Thursday Crafters 6:45pm Chancel Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	9 11:30am Meals on Wheels 6:45pm Game Night	10 7:00pm Suffolk Holiday Parade
11 9:30am King's Ringers 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Potluck with Santa 1:00pm Blue Christmas Worship	12 8:30pm Evening Circle	13 1:00pm Saints Alive 3:00pm Food Pantry	14 6:30pm Board of Deacons 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	15 10:00am Thursday Crafters 6:45pm Chancel Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	16 11:30am Meals on Wheels	17 
18 9:30am King's Ringers 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 5:00pm Choral Cantata	19 Newsletter Articles Due 	20 12:00pm Saints Alive Potluck 3:00pm Food Pantry	21 6:30pm Board of Finance 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	22 10:00am Thursday Crafters	23 11:30am Meals on Wheels 6:45pm Game Night	24 6:00pm Christmas Eve Service 
25 Christmas 11:00am Worship Service 	26	27 Church Office Closed 1:00pm Saints Alive 3:00pm Food Pantry	28 6:30pm House of Worship 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	29 10:00am Thursday Crafters	30 11:30am Meals on Wheels	31 New Year's Eve 