

AUGUST 2025

# THE MESSENGER

**Talbot Park Baptist Church**

**6919 Granby Street**

**Norfolk, VA 23505**

**757.423.8677**

**email: [info@talbotparkbaptistchurch.org](mailto:info@talbotparkbaptistchurch.org)**

**[www.talbotparkbaptistchurch.org](http://www.talbotparkbaptistchurch.org)**

## THE REVEREND'S RAMBLINGS

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Marina Cyphers – 2

Susan Jones – 8

John Saunders – 10

Ray Clyburn – 11

Ellie Brittain – 11

Lydia Gross – 13

Jerry Sebastian – 14

Rosell Carr – 15

Wanda Romm – 16

Mary Jane Porter – 22

Kim Goode – 23

Cindy Lee – 31

### SERMON TEXTS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST

#### **August 3**

Hosea 11:1-11

#### **August 10**

Jeremiah 10:6-16

#### **August 17**

Amos 8:1-12

#### **August 24**

Haggai 2:20-23

#### **August 31**

Brian Williams Preaching

During the month of August, Aaron will be preaching a series of sermons from the prophetic books of the Bible entitled "Experiencing God."

During the month of August, we will have our usual combined adult Sunday School class meeting in the Social Hall immediately after worship. This year, our theme is "Rethinking..." in which we will revisit familiar topics from a new angle.

Learning anything is difficult. It requires patience and practice. But even harder than learning is to unlearn something. Unlearning requires a great flexibility of heart and mind. It requires the humility to be able to question things about which we are convinced are correct. And yet, this ability to unlearn is fundamental to human development. At some point, most of us had to unlearn or rethink something. As we mature, our ideas and opinions change.

This is a process that should also be taking place in the lives of Christ followers. There are some folks I know that have been learning the same Sunday School lessons for 80 years and they still have the same beliefs they did when they were in elementary school. It's good to be dedicated to our convictions. But I believe Jesus also wants us to have the courage to grow in our faith. When Jesus asked Peter and those other fishermen to follow him, it required them to rethink and unlearn much of what they assumed they knew about the way God was working in this world. I believe you and I are being asked to do the same thing as Jesus' disciples today. It's not about changing our views to accommodate the times but it is about continuing to be open to the movement of the Holy Spirit.

Alvin Toffler wrote that "the illiterate of the 21<sup>st</sup> century will not be those who cannot read or write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn." I agree with that assessment. And I'm hopeful that these sessions in August, which feature some great guest speakers, will help us do just that. Come be a part of our rethinking and unlearning!



## ICE CREAM SOCIAL



We will meet at the home of Buzz and Sheri Foster on Saturday, August 23rd, 6:00-8:00pm, for an ice cream social. All ages are invited. Hot dogs will also be provided. Everyone is asked to bring a lawn chair and their favorite flavor of homemade or store-bought ice cream. Snacks, toppings and drinks will be provided. If you would like, wear your swimsuit and enjoy a dip in the pool. If you need a ride, please contact the church office.

(Fosters' address is 7142 Hunters Chase in Norfolk)

## 2025/2026 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Talbot Park Baptist Church Scholarship Committee received one application this summer and awarded one scholarship to Owen Foster at Old Dominion University. Congratulations on your hard work and best of luck for the year ahead!

## BENEVOLENCE FUND

Talbot Park has a Benevolence Fund that is used to help people who are struggling to pay bills or need money for a specific concern (rent, utilities, groceries, etc.). Money is tight these days. If you are having trouble making ends meet or know of someone who is, please make a request for these funds. The application process begins with our Office Manager Laura, and is completely confidential. Controversely, if you are in a position to help, donations can be made by making out a check to Talbot Park Baptist Church and designating the Benevolence Fund on the item line. Four envelopes are in your box for this purpose throughout the year. We want to be generous in making sure there funds are used to help others!



## SCHOOL SUPPLIES TOTAL REPORT

Thanks so much to the members of Talbot Park for another successful School Supply Drive! Because of your support we were able to fill 32 backpacks with essential supplies like paper, notebooks, pencils, scissors, crayons, rulers, and glue! We will be blessing the backpacks in service on Sunday, August 10th. These backpacks will be distributed to children in need throughout Norfolk.

The total number of items collected was:

	22 pencil boxes
66 boxes of crayons	19 rulers
731 pencils	37 packs of paper
65 erasers	38 folders
24 scissors	22 bottles of glue
1 pack index cards	25 composition books
137 glue sticks	2 boxes of tissues
3 boxes of markers	26 ink pens
10 boxes colored pencils	2 lunch boxes
34 one subject notebooks	4 binders
24 dry erase markers	
4 pencil sharpeners	

## WORSHIP IN AUGUST

During worship in August, we will be a bit more relaxed. We encourage everyone to dress comfortably (no tie needed!). We will continue our August tradition of inviting people in the congregation to choose favorite hymns for us to sing during the morning service.



## Preschool News

Our summer camp was a huge success! The kids had a fantastic time making new friends, exploring new activities, and creating lasting memories. It was a season filled with laughter, learning, and adventure. As summer wraps up, we're proud of all they've accomplished and excited to see them carry that energy into the new school year!

*Holly Costas*

## PRAYER PARTNERS

In an effort to encourage us to pray more regularly, we are going to pair up with someone else to lift up prayer concerns and praises. It is up to the partners how regularly they want to meet and if they want to do so in person or over email or text. But this is a simple way we can encourage one another and stay accountable. Sign-up on the sheet in the hallway to be assigned a prayer partner.



## SAVE THE DATE! PUMPKIN PATCH PLANNING

Keep an eye out next month for exciting updates regarding the 2025 pumpkin patch! We already have our pumpkin delivery scheduled for Saturday, September 27 at 10am.

## AUGUST/SEPTEMBER OFFICE HOUR CHANGES

The church office and preschool will be closed Wednesday, August 13th - Friday, August 15th, as well as Friday, August 29th and Monday, September 1st.

## SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Every year during the month of August, we have one combined adult Sunday School class centered around a particular theme. This year's theme is "Rethinking..." and will challenge us to think about familiar topics in new ways. The class will begin after worship at 11am each week in the Social Hall. The schedule is below:

The schedule is below:

### **August 3: Rethinking the Bible**

Led by: Rev. Aaron Brittain

### **August 10: Rethinking Sin**

Led by: Dr. Mark Biddle of Sophia Seminary

### **August 17: Rethinking Norfolk**

Led by: Dr. Johnny Finn of Christopher Newport University

### **August 24: Rethinking Denomination**

Led by: Mark Snipes, Co-Coordinator of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Virginia

## WOMEN'S GROUP

The Talbot Park Women's Group will meet immediately after Sunday School on Sunday, August 3rd. All women are invited. Please bring a covered dish.



# August 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:00am Communion  12:00pm Women's Group	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 10:00am Blessing of the Backpacks	11	12 7:00pm Deacons Meeting	13 Office Closed	14 Office Closed	15 Office Closed	16
17	18	19	20	21 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	22	23 6:00-8:00 Ice Cream Social 
24	25	26	27	28	29 Office Closed	30
31 Comfort Meals @ Ronald McDonald House	Office Closed					