



Sandston Presbyterian Church Newsletter April 2025

Worship Service is at 11:00am every Sunday in person.

Sunday School Classes (9:45am)

- The Shurley Class: meets in room 7
- Men's & Women's Class: meets in the library

CONTACT US...

Email us:

sandspres@verizon.net

Call us: **804-737-1527**

Office hours: **Monday -
Thursday (8:30am -
1:30pm)**

Follow us on Facebook
@sandstonpc

Check out our website:
www.sandstonpc.org



A Note from Pastor Todd...

Nadia Bolz-Weber on Easter

As you well know, I am prone to frequently share my favorite theologians words on various topics. I am someone who likes to be inspired, and good writing (and good theology) do that for me. So as we celebrate ***the*** event that is the foundation for our belief – the resurrection – this year I am sharing words from Nadia’s book *Pastrix*...

Once upon a time, the God of the Universe was basically fed up with being on the receiving end of all our human projections, tired of being nothing more to us than what we thought God should be: angry, show-offy, defensive, insecure, in short, the vengeance-seeking tyrant we would be if we were God. So, at that time, over 2,000 years ago, God’s Loving Desire to be Known overflowed the heavens and was made manifest in the rapidly dividing cells within the womb of an insignificant peasant girl named Mary. And when the time came for her to give birth to God, there was no room in our expectations – no room in any impressive or spiffy or safe place. So God was born in straw and dirt. He grew up, this Jesus of Nazareth, left his home, and found some, let’s be honest, rather unimpressive characters to follow him. Fishermen, Tax collectors, sex workers, homeless women with no teeth, people from bad neighborhoods. If you think I’m kidding...read it for yourselves. These people were questionable at best. So, with his little band of misfits Jesus went about the countryside turning water to wine, eating with all the wrong people, casting out demons, angering the religious establishment and insisting that in *him* the kingdom of God had come near, that through *him* the world according to God was coming right to us. He touched the unclean and used spit and dirt to heal the blind and said crazy destabilizing things like the first shall be last and the last shall be first, and sell all you have and give it to the poor.

And the thing that really cooked people’s noodles wasn’t the question “is Jesus like God” it was “what if God is like Jesus”. What if God is not who we thought? What if the most reliable way to know God is not through religion, not through a reward and punishment program, but through a person. What if the most reliable way to know God is to look at how God chose to reveal God’s self in Jesus?

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Because that changes everything. If what we see in Jesus is God's own self revealed, then what we are dealing with here is a God who is really bad at choosing friends. A God who would rather die than be in the sin accounting business anymore. A God who would not lift a finger to condemn those



who crucified him, but went to the depths of Hell rather than be apart even from his betrayers. A God unafraid to get his hands dirty for the ones he loves. This, this is the God who rises to new life with dirt still under his nails and chooses a woman with a past to tell everyone else about it.

So while churches may try and clean Jesus up to make him seem nice and spiffy, The God of resurrection, the God who brings life out of death isn't satisfied with making you good or nice. If you think that's what resurrection looks like, if you think it looks like perfection and piety and therefore you haven't experienced it, you might be wrong.

See, God isn't about making you spiffy. God isn't about making you nicer. God is about making you **new**. And **new** doesn't always look perfect, with a fabulous new dress, because like the Easter story itself, new can be *messy*. **New** still has dirt under its nails.

As we remember just how much God loves us may we all be made new and messy and continue to follow God's example and get our hands dirty for others.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Todd



Our Prayer List...

Please keep the following individuals below in your thoughts and prayers.

- Alice Baldwin
- Marie Heath
- Laura Greer
- Joe Woodham
- Jan & Wayne Richter
- Leon App
- Joann & George McCabe
- Richard Young



Holy Week Reminders...

- Our **Maundy Thursday** Service will be on **Thursday, April 17th at 6:00pm in-person**. It is a quiet, moving, reflective time of worship, during which we *come* to the table for Communion. Dress is casual.
- Our **Good Friday** Service will be on **Friday, April 18th at 6:00pm via Zoom ONLY**.
- Our **Community Easter Sunrise Worship Service** will be on **Sunday, April 20th at 6:30am**. It will be held at Corinth United Methodist Church in the parking lot weather permitting and Pastor Todd will be preaching!
- If you have any flowers blooming in your yard, please bring them on **Sunday, April 20th** to place on the Easter Cross at the beginning of service! If you have extras to share it would be greatly appreciated.



Lent Devotionals...

We just received the "**Messiah's Last Words**" from Our Daily Bread for the lenten season. Come spend Holy Week with our Savior who lived, died, and triumphantly arose for you. We do have a limited amount of these so get one before they are gone! If you would like one mailed to you call the church office.



Easter Lilies

We are continuing to take orders for Easter Lilies! You will find order forms in the narthex of the church and also by the church office. **The deadline to order is Sunday, April 6th.** Please fill out the order form, attach your check made out to Sandston Presbyterian Church (SPC) and place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office.



Flower Calendar Requests 2025...

We are continuing to take requests for the flower calendar for 2025! You can find the request forms outside of the office as well as the narthex of the church. The cost of the flowers is \$35.00. You will find the available dates to the right.

April – 6 & 13
May – 11 & 18
June – 1, 8, 15, & 22
July – 6, 13, 20, & 27
August – 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31
September – 7, 14, & 21
October – 5, 19, & 26
November – 2 & 23
December – 7

Meetings this month...

The Beekeepers of Richmond will meet on **Tuesday, April 1st from 7pm to 9pm**. If you have an interest in bees this may be the place for you. If you have any questions please contact Arlo Amstutz.

The Highland Springs Garden Club will meet on **Tuesday, April 15th from 10am to 12:30pm** in the fellowship hall. Anyone who loves *flowers* is encouraged to come and join us. If you have any questions please contact Pat Fitzgerald.

April Birthdays

5	Jack Smith
19	Todd Davidson
20	Joyce Spiller
25	Amy Monacell
28	James Sadler
30	Betsy O'Brien



Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at **Sandston Presbyterian Church on Monday, May 12th, 2025 in the Fellowship hall.**

A package of four screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered.

PW Circle Meetings

- The Finley-Walker Circle will meet on **Wednesday, April 9th at 10:00am.**
- The Davis Circle will meet on **Wednesday, April 9th at 6:00pm.**

Covered Dish Luncheon...

The Presbyterian Women are hosting a covered dish luncheon following worship service on **Sunday, April 6th**. So bring a dish or dessert and come join us for some fellowship and good food!

White Elephant & Bake Sale: Donate Stuff & Bake Items



White Elephant & Bake Sale

Friday, May 2nd &
Saturday, May 3rd
9:00am to 3:00pm



Please start to clean out your closets, attics, basements, etc of all of your unwanted stuff to be brought to church for the sale beginning April 21st. All donations can be left in the fellowship hall. Helps you and helps the PW too!

Volunteer....

Volunteers are needed to unpack, sort, and price items beginning Monday, April 28th - Thursday, May 1st. Volunteers are also needed for during the sale to assist customers and work the Bake Sale on Friday, May 2nd and Saturday, May 3rd from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Pack-up and cleanup is on Monday, May 5th. Sign-up sheets can be found on bulletin board by office.

What's going on in our community...

Eastern Henrico FISH

We are collecting **canned mixed vegetables** for the month of **April**. Please remember to pick up an item or two the next time you are grocery shopping. There is a box outside of the church office you can drop them off in. **The Deadline is April 30th**. For the month of March we were able to collect a total of 47+ boxes of rice. Thank you to everyone who donated this month! Every donation makes a difference.

Easter Festival Volunteers & Filling Eggs...

The Christian Life Committee is in need of candy to fill eggs for our Easter Festival coming up. All candy donations can be left in the church office. Monetary donations can be given to Anna-Helen Miller. If you would like to help fill Easter eggs we will be getting together Friday, April 4th at 6:30pm at church in the library. Please come join us as we have over 1000+ eggs to fill!

We are also still looking for volunteers to help us on Saturday, April 12th from 12pm to 2pm to run games for our Easter Festival, which have all been homemade by the O'Berry family. We have a sign-up sheet if you would like to help and you can choose what game you would like to run! We cannot do this without you!!



If you have children, grandchildren, or neighbors with children please help spread the word!



April Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7pm – 9pm Beekeepers of Richmond Meeting	2	3	4 6:30pm Fill Easter Eggs	5
6 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service & Communion Covered Dish Luncheon	7	8	9 10am Finley-Walker Circle Meeting 6pm Davis Circle Meeting	10	11	12 12pm-2pm Easter Festival
13 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service Palm Sunday	14	15 10am- 12:30pm Highland Springs Garden Club	16	17 6pm Maundy Thursday Service	18 6pm Good Friday Service (Zoom ONLY)	19
20 6:30am Community Sunrise Service (@ Corinth) 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service Easter	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	28	29	30 FISH Donation Deadline			

