



Sandston Presbyterian Church Newsletter April 2026

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...

God Always Speaks Our Name...in love.

John 20

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look^[a] into the tomb, ¹² and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir,^[b] if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew,^[c] "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).

From Nadia Bolz-Weber:

Mary

Every single year at the Easter Vigil, when John 20 is read, I get choked up at a very particular point.

It's that moment when Mary is standing outside the tomb weeping saying "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."

Now, I do not know what it was like to be a woman in the first century from whom 7 demons had been cast out, but I do know what it is like to be saved from self-destruction, and how difficult it is to adjust to the changes that comes with it, and I know how no matter what, even after 34 years of sobriety, to some people I will always be that messy drunk girl.

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Which is why I have often thought that maybe part of Mary's grief was that to everybody else she was always "that crazy lady". But to Jesus, she was Mary. Just Mary. And each time Jesus called her by her name, it felt like a complete sentence.

I imagine that over the years, in the company of Jesus she had grown used to being seen as a whole person. And now he was gone, and maybe part of her grief was wondering whether anyone would ever see her that way again. But then, as she stood weeping Jesus says, "Mary." And she turns.

Not at the sound of "hey aren't you that crazy lady?" She turns at the sound of her name spoken by the one who knew her completely through every iteration of her life.

Maybe that is what salvation feels like sometimes. Just hearing your name spoken in love.

So, friends, there will still be times when we find ourselves wishing we could return to an earlier version of our lives. Or an earlier version of the world. Or an earlier version of our church.

But the God who meets us in Jesus is not in love with some archived edition of us. I guess what I mean is that even as our lives keep changing beyond our ability to keep up, God continues to know us in love.

I know there's that cutesy saying that the only constant in life is change, But there is a deeper constant in this world which is a God who changest not- who is always calling us by name with that still, small voice that tells us who we are. A God in whose presence we can totally relax, from whose heart flows such generosity that we are defenseless against it.

So no matter what change comes, there's just no need to ever impersonate a previous version of ourselves, and given the changes at St John's, it may be worth saying as we move forward here, that there is also no need for us to ever impersonate a previous version of this cathedral.

Because the God who has been faithful to us in every past iteration of who we were follows us into every future iteration of who we are becoming. Not protecting us from change, but always, always, sustaining us through it.

Friends there is so much going on in our world at once recently that it can certainly seem overwhelming at times. The Easter message of resurrection is partly that God is always making all things new. And because God is always faithful, we try to be as well. We continue to show up in the church and the world believing that even when we cannot always see it, love is a powerful force that ripples in ways we cannot fully understand. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Alleluia.

Pastor Todd



Our Prayer List...

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

- Ed Johnston Jr.
- Elizabeth Breckinridge
- Laura Greer
- Joe Woodham
- Jan & Wayne Richter
- Leon App
- John & Jane Monacell
- Richard Young
- Joann & George McCabe
- Marie Heath

Flower Calendar Requests 2026...

We are continuing to take requests for the flower calendar for 2026! 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 just below.

- April – 12 & 26
- May – 10, 17, & 31
- July – 5, 19, & 26
- August – 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30
- September – 13, 20, & 27
- October – 4 & 25
- November – 1, 8, & 15



Holy Week Reminders...

- Our **Maundy Thursday** Service will be on **Thursday, April 2nd 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 3rd at 6:00pm via Zoom ONLY**.
- Our **Community Easter Sunrise Worship Service** will be on Sunday, April 5th at 6:30am. It will be held at Sandston Baptist Church in the parking lot weather permitting.
- If you have any flowers blooming in your yard, please bring them on **Sunday, April 5th** to place on the Easter Cross at the beginning of service! We will have extras for anyone who may not have flowers or forgets!



Covered Dish Luncheon

The Presbyterian Women are hosting a **covered dish luncheon** following worship service on **Sunday, April 12th**. Members from Camp Hanover have been invited to worship service & the luncheon, so bring a dish or two and/or dessert to share as we enjoy fellowship with one another!



Meetings this month...

The Beekeepers of Richmond will meet on **Tuesday, April 7th 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 21st 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



PW Circle Meetings

- The Finley-Walker Circle will meet on **Wednesday, April 8th at 10:00am.**
- The Davis Circle will meet on **Wednesday, April 8th at 6:00pm.**



YMCA MEI Collection Update...

For the month of March we were able to collect a total of 17+ cans of chicken for the MEI's walk up food pantry right here in Sandston, which will go to help families and individuals in need in this area. We thank everyone who supported this cause and be on the lookout for the next collection!

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, June 8th, 2026 in the Fellowship hall from 8am to 5pm.**

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

Thank you!!!

The Christian Life Committee would like to "Thank" everyone who volunteered and helped make our 2nd Annual Easter Festival a success! Whether you helped stuff eggs, run a game, or just show up to support us we thank you! We had a great turn out! Pictures to come in the May newsletter!

What's going on in our community...

Eastern Henrico FISH

We are collecting **mac & cheese cups** 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 20+ corned beef hash. Thank you to everyone who donated this month! Every donation makes a difference.

Camp Hanover

Enjoy a taste of summer camp for everyone! Visit Camp Hanover on **Sunday, April 26, for Camp Fun Day**. At this free afternoon event from **2pm to 5 pm**, experience everything that makes Camp Hanover special.



Bring the family (and friends!) to:

- Meet Camp Hanover's staff
- Tour our grounds and buildings
- Try activities like archery, canoeing, and the climbing wall

•Enter drawings for awesome prizes

For more info, visit

www.CampHanover.org
or call **(804) 779-2811**.

Special Collection for Camp Hanover

The Christian Life Committee is raising funds with a special collection for Camp Hanover for the month of April. You can find more information below.

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR...

Camp Hanover

**FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL HELP US
RAISE FUNDS FOR CAMP HANOVER!**

Camp Hanover has lost their funding from the POJ which was going to happen over time, but it was drastically reduced this year so they now rely heavily on Congregations contributions to continue their mission in addition to other fundraisers they do.

You will find envelopes with Camp Hanover on them in the bulletins/narthex of the church that monetary donations & checks (made out to SPC) can be placed in.



April Activity Calendar

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