

Sandston Presbyterian Church Newsletter December 2024



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:

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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...

We have arrived again at our Advent journey. 'Advent' means "coming" or "arrival." During the season of Advent, we of course celebrate the birth of the Christ child and also watch with hope for his coming again. The four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for discernment and personal examination, as we prepare to celebrate the Nativity. We will again be using the resources from A Sanctified Art and this year's theme is Words for the Beginning. Here is an explanation of that theme from the creative team behind its development:

Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year begins. Christ's birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving; and yet, the world as we know it spins madly on. In many ways, pregnant Mary was surrounded by endings—large and small, personal and political. But Mary proclaimed hope in a God who was and is making all things new. Christ's birth offered a beautiful new beginning for shepherds and Magi alike—all the while, King Herod tried to bring Christ's story to an end. When we ourselves navigate seasons filled with endings and beginnings, we need reminders. We need words that can feel like steady ground, like a path for our feet to find as we step forward into the unknown.

We have crafted an Advent series filled with blessings, with the words we need to hear again and again as we begin a new season. We imagined the words Mary would speak to her newborn son. What scriptures and stories would she impart to him? What lessons would she teach him as he grew? And so, our weekly themes may feel like the lessons we teach to children, but in reality, these are lessons we continue to learn and relearn as adults. They may sound like the messages we impart to loved ones during special ceremonies or sacred rituals. We intentionally selected scriptures that may be frequently used in weddings, ordination services, or baptisms. And so, we invite you to enter this Advent season as if you are entering a sacred new chapter, holding fast to the reminders that will bolster you for the journey ahead.

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As you journey through this season, may you find words for belovedness and hope. May you find words for beginning again. For no matter what you are facing, no matter what this new day brings, love is your beginning.

As always, I look forward to our experiences together. Here is a prayer for the start of the journey...

Loving God, as we enter Advent, we come before You with hearts full of longing and expectation. Help us remember your promises and prepare to celebrate your gift to the world and us. In this time of waiting, we ask that our hope be renewed, that we be reminded of your faithfulness, and be drawn closer to you.

In the busyness of this season, help us to slow down and make room in our lives for your presence. Help us listen for your voice and teach us to wait with patience and trust.

As we light the candles of Advent, may their light remind us that your light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it. Guide us to share that light with others, to be bearers of hope, love, joy, and peace to our world

Amen.

Peace be with you,

Pastor Todd

Our Prayer List...

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

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



Decorating for Christmas The Presbyterian Women will be decorating the church for Christmas on **Thursday, December 5th at 9:00am**. Everyone is invited to come join the fun and help get the sanctuary ready for this Advent Season!



Poinsettias...

The deadline to order poinsettias for the sanctuary for Christmas is **Monday, December 2nd**. The cost is **\$15.00** this year. You can fill out a form, which can be found in the narthex of the church and outside of the church office. If you have any questions call the church office.

Christmas Eve...

Christmas Eve Service will be held on **Tuesday, December 24th at 7:00pm**. Come join us as we celebrate the joy of Christmas as we give thanks for the gift of the Christ Child, who became our Lord and Savior. Dress is casual.

December Birthdays

- 1 Elizabeth Breckinridge
- 9 Ed Johnston, III
- 11 Joan Curle
- 11 Lee Ann Warriner
- 17 Jane Monacell
- 17 Stephen King
- 22 John Warriner
- 22 Paulette O’Berry
- 25 David London





Helping Families for Christmas

The Christian Life Committee is helping three families (total of 7 children) from Sandston Elementary School again this year to help with Christmas. We will have the Christmas tree set up with the tags on it December 1st & December 8th. You can either shop for the actual items needed or give monetary donations to Anna-Helen Miller or someone in the O'Berry family. We cannot do this without your support! All donations are due back **BY December 15th and MUST be unwrapped.**

What's going on in our community...

Eastern Henrico FISH

We are collecting spaghetti sauce and pasta for the month of **December**. 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 December 31st.** For the month of November we were able to collect a total of 48+ craft kits. This is going to help FISH a lot for the Christmas Season for families in need. Thank you to everyone who donated this month! Every donation makes a difference.

Camp Hanover

Mark your calendars! A **Hanover Christmas** returns **Friday, December 13th and Saturday, December 14th** for two magical nights celebrating the birth of Jesus. From **6:00 to 9:00pm** each evening. Stroll a candlelit path and experience musical performances and dramatic reenactments and enjoy refreshments afterward. A donation of \$10 per person to the Annual Fund for Camp Hanover is appreciated!



Wreaths Across America

Just a reminder that **Wreaths Across America** will be at the **Seven Pines National Cemetery** to remember and honor our veterans through the laying of remembrance wreaths on **Saturday, December 14th, 2024 at 12:00pm.** All are welcome to join in on this humbling event!

YMCA MEI Collection Update...

For the month of November we were able to collect a total of 44+ cans of hearty soups 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!



Thanksgiving Meals Update...

The Christian Life Committee would like to "thank" everyone who contributed this year to help provide Thanksgiving dinner to families right here in our community. The meals were delivered to Sandston Elementary on Monday, November 25th. We couldn't have done this without everyone's help whether that was shopping for the items or giving monetary donations. Thank you!



Daily Devotionals

Our Daily Bread devotionals are now here for December, January, & February. They are located outside of the church office & the church narthex. We also have a special devotional for the Advent season called "God is with Us" available.

Upcoming Meetings...

The Beekeepers of Richmond will not meet again until January 2025.

The Highland Springs Garden Club will not meet again until February 2025.

PW Circle Meetings

- The Finley-Walker Circle will meet on **Wednesday, December 11th at 10:00am.**
- The Davis Circle will meet on **Tuesday, December 11th at 6:00pm.**

December Activity Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|-----------|---|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service & Communion | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service | 9 | 10 | 11 10am Finley-Walker Circle Meeting 6pm Davis Circle Meeting | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service | 23 | 24 Christmas Eve 7pm Christmas Eve Service | 25 Christmas Day | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service | 30 | 31 New Year's Eve | | | | |

