



Sandston Presbyterian Church Newsletter December 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
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Check out our website:
www.sandstonpc.org



A Note from Pastor Todd...

Advent 2025

We have again reached the time of the Christian year where we anticipate and celebrate “our dear Savior’s birth.” For years I/we have used a group called A Sanctified Art to celebrate this and Lent. Each year has a new theme and this years is What Do You Fear? I am in the habit of sharing with you the creative impetus in developing the theme. You will find that below. Looking forward to praying, singing, and candle lighting as we see what God has in store for us.

Pastor Todd

Luke’s Gospel begins the story of Jesus with this opening line: “In the time of Herod...” This detail may seem minor to modern readers, however, it reveals layers of information about the fearful world Jesus entered, one filled with rampant oppression, economic disparity, uncertainty, and instability. A world not so unlike our own. And yet, throughout the stories of Christ’s birth, the whispers of angels deliver a surprising message: “Do not fear.” In our own time, we might ask: is it even possible to be fearless in a fearful world? When Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the magi are each called into God’s redemptive story, they do not deny their fears—they move through them. They ask questions, hold fast to courage, trust in good news, and say, “Here I am, Lord.” When we find ourselves in fearful times, can we acknowledge our fears while also insisting on hope?

We’ve crafted an Advent series that takes seriously the angels’ message and trusts that Christ’s birth truly is good news of great joy for all people. This series looks closely at the fear and terror looming in the background during the time of King Herod and invites us to consider the fears we hold now. Fear can divide and paralyze us, and even be used as a tool for oppression. But what if we formed a different relationship with fear? Can we acknowledge fear without letting it rule us? Might we catalyze our fears into love and action? What if naming our fears helps us see more clearly how God is breaking in and where God is at work? This series gently invites us to identify where fear is present—both in the Advent story and in our lives—while also finding our way toward hope, with the angels’ voices in our ears.

Continued on next page.

Every Advent, we light candles, sing carols, and pray for Christ's coming because we believe God entered a frightened world to bring good news. We hold onto hope because we believe that Christ did come—that's the promise of the season. Our hope is not flimsy or fleeting. It's gritty, resilient, and can endure—no matter what we fear or face. This season, let us insist on hope and trust that good news is greater than fear.

Our Prayer List...

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

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

Please keep Leon App and family in your prayers for the passing of his sister Phyllis Kogel back in November.



Poinsettias...

We will start taking orders for poinsettias in the sanctuary for Christmas on November 16th. The cost is **\$15.00** this year. You can find forms in the bulletin in the coming weeks, and you can place them in the offering plate. **The deadline to place an order is Monday, December 8th.**

Decorating for Christmas

The Presbyterian Women will be decorating the church for Christmas on Thursday, December 4th at 9:00am. Everyone is invited to come join the fun and help get the sanctuary ready for this Advent Season!



Christmas Eve...

Christmas Eve Service will be held on **Wednesday, 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.

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 Gift for All" and "What do you Fear" devotionals for Advent.

Helping Families for Christmas

The Christian Life Committee is helping two families (total of 4 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 November 30th & December 7th. You can either shop for the actual items needed or give monetary donations to Paulette O'Berry. We cannot do this without your support! All donations are due back **BY December 14th and MUST be unwrapped.**





PW: Homemade Christmas Cookies For Sale...

The PW (Presbyterian Women) is offering baker's dozen "Homemade Christmas Cookies" for sale in December as a missions fundraising event in support of children, the disadvantaged and disaster relief. The cookies will make excellent Christmas gifts!

An order form will list the 6 – 10 different cookies for individuals to choose a cookie or two or three, indicate the number of baker's dozen desired with the price. The cookies will be baked to fill the orders.

The deadline to order is December 14th and the cookies will be delivered on December 21st.

PW Circle Meetings...

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

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 |



Upcoming Meetings...

The Beekeepers of Richmond will not meet again until January 2026.

The Highland Springs Garden Club will not meet again until February 2026.

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, December 1, 2025 in the Fellowship hall**. For more information grab a flyer outside of the church office!

What's going on in our community...

Eastern Henrico FISH

We are collecting ramen noodles for the month of December. When you do your grocery shopping don't forget to pickup an item or two. There is a box outside of the church office you can drop them off in. **The Deadline is**

December 28th. For the month of November we were able to collect a total of 33+ craft kits. Thank you to everyone who donated this month!



Camp Hanover

Mark your calendars! A **Hanover Christmas** returns **Friday, December 12th and Saturday, December 13th** 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. 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 13th, 2025 at 12:00pm**. All are welcome to join in on this humbling event!

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 24th. We couldn't have done this without everyone's help whether that was shopping for the items or giving monetary donations. It's amazing how giving our small church can be. Thank you!

December Activity Calendar

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

