



Sandston Presbyterian Church Newsletter January 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:

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...

"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

- Isaiah 43:18-19a

Happy New Year everyone! As we look forward to all the possibilities of 2024 I wanted to share some words from Rev. Ken Rummer. It is my hope and prayer that we all believe that new things are possible. Peace be with you.

Pastor Todd

"But why start the year on Jan. 1? Why not on Beethoven's birthday or the eleventy-first of July? Why not go with March 25 as New Year's Day, the tradition in England and its American colonies before 1752?"

Beginning our calendar with January turns out to be a relic of our cultural roots in ancient Rome. They once had a 10-month calendar that matched the numerical prefixes for September, October, November and December with months 7-10. (Octagon — 8 sides. October — 8th month.)

At the end of December, their calendar inserted a to-be-determined number of month-less days leading up to March and the beginning of a new year. Eventually those winter days were divided into two new months, January and February, with January kicking off the year.

January gets its name, according to my sources, from Janus, the Roman god of doorways and gateways. He is portrayed with two faces, one looking forward and one looking back.

Though Janus looks clean-shaven on some ancient coins, others show him with a beard, a look the pandemic has made popular again. And did I mention the Romans looked to Janus for good beginnings?"

Today, few of us count ourselves worshipers of Janus, but we still look to his month for good beginnings. On Jan. 1, we dare to believe we can leave some stuff behind, imagine a better version of ourselves, chart a new course and make a fresh start.

Some of my believing, at the dawning of this year, draws strength from a few words in an ancient letter. "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (2 Corinthians 5:17 NRSV)

Here, the possibilities of a new year do not totally depend on my own choices and willpower. Here, the new arises from what God is already doing to re-create the whole Creation and even people like us. It's a new that shows in Jesus Christ, a new that can be glimpsed in those united to him.

This speaks hope to me. God's making-new is already working in us. And God's making-new goes before us into the year ahead.

So, what now?

The crystal ball has dropped in Times Square. We've raised a glass with Robert Burns for "Auld Lang Syne." Now it's time to turn the calendar page in faith and with hope.

Now it's time to make fresh tracks in the new snow."

Our Prayer List...

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

- Alice Baldwin
- Robin King
- Laura Greer
- Joe Woodham
- Jan & Wayne Richter
- Leon App
- Joanne McCabe
- Richard Young



Congratulations to Ron and Joanne Wakeham on the birth of their second great-grandchild, Beckham Miles Carter, born December 7th, 2023. Weighing 8 lbs. 12 oz. and 21 inches long. Mom and baby are doing well!

Flower Calendar Requests 2024...

We are taking requests for the flower calendar for 2024! 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.



January – 7, 14, & 28
February – 4, 11, 18, & 25
March – 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31
April – 7, 14, & 21
May – 5, 12, 19, & 26
June – 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30
July – 7, 14, 21, & 28
August – 4, 11, 18, & 25
September – 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29
October – 6, 13, 20, & 27
November – 3, 10, 17, & 24
December – 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29

January Birthdays

5 Caleb Davidson
9 Jeanette Schneck
13 Isaac Davidson
13 David Lucas
16 Paula McLaughlin
17 Marie Heath
26 Pat Johnson
27 Scottie Martin
28 Joanne McCabe
29 Kaylee Crockett
30 Anna Helen Miller

Pledge Envelopes...

The **pledge envelopes for 2024** are sitting on the bookcase in the church narthex. If you have already picked yours up, we “Thank You” if not try to pick them up before you leave on Sunday’s. If you are interested in getting pledge envelopes, ask an usher or call the church office. 804-737-1527.

Meetings this month...

The Beekeepers of Richmond will meet on **Tuesday, January 2nd 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

Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 21, 2024** following Worship service.

PW Mission Project...

It's that time of year again for the **PW** to put together hygiene kits for *Church World Services*. The kits contain seven items (including a face towel, wash cloth, soap, etc.) in a zip lock bag to be handed out during disasters in this country as well as the world. Our small church is mighty, and we have prepared 100 kits for the last



three years. Let's make it a fourth year! The value is \$15 per kit. **Monetary donations are being sought for this very important project.** There have been so many disasters in recent years, and this is such a small way we can help. **Checks must be made payable to Sandston PW.** The deadline is February 4th. Thank you!!!



PW Circle Meetings

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

Christmas Clean-up

The Presbyterian Women will be cleaning up all of the Christmas Decorations from the Sanctuary on Thursday, January 11th at 9:00am. Any help would be greatly appreciated!

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 Wednesday, February 14, 2024.**



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

Carotid Artery Screening (Plaque)

An ultrasound is performed to screen the carotid arteries (a pair of blood vessels in the neck that deliver blood to your brain) for buildup of fatty plaque. This buildup, called atherosclerosis, is one of the leading causes of stroke.

Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening

An Ankle-Brachial Index (ABI) test is performed using blood pressure cuffs on the arms and legs. It is important to screen for PAD because it increases the risk of coronary artery disease, heart attack, or stroke.



Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)

An ultrasound is performed to screen the abdominal aorta for the presence of an enlargement or aneurysm. AAA can lead to a ruptured aortic artery, which is a serious medical emergency.

Atrial Fibrillation

A 6-lead electrocardiogram (EKG) is performed by placing sensors on the arms and legs to screen for Atrial Fibrillation. AFib can lead to blood clots, stroke, and heart failure, and other heart-related

MLP Supply Collection...

The Christian Life Committee will be collecting much needed items for our preschool, Meredith Loughran Preschool for the month of January. You will find the list of items that are needed just below. All donations can be left in the box outside of the church office.

This will take the place of our monthly item collection for FISH. For the month of December we were able to collect a total of 52+ cans for Eastern Henrico FISH. Thank you to everyone who donated this past month.

Meredith Loughran Preschool

For the month of January the Christian Life Committee will be collecting much needed items for the preschool here at SPC.

You will find a list below of items that are in need that you can purchase or you can make a monetary donation. All checks made payable to MLP.

- Paper Towels**
- Kitchen Trash Bags (Drawstring 13 Gallon)**
- Disinfecting Wipes**
- Baby Wipes**
- Lysol Spray**
- Windex Glass Cleaner**

January Activity Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|---------------------------------|--------|----------|
| | 1 New Year's Day (Office Closed) | 2 7-9pm Richmond Beekeepers Meeting | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service & Communion | 8 | 9 6pm Davis Circle Meeting | 10 10am Finley Walker Circle Meeting | 11 9am Christmas Clean-up | 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 Annual Congregational Meeting | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

