



Sandston Presbyterian Church Newsletter

January 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...

Candle Blower Outers

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine...

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This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine...

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

As we transition into a new year (How is it 2026 already?!) there are plenty of things to think about and look forward to, Rather than talking or thinking about any resolutions, I have a different question for you to consider: Are you a candle blower outer? Have you surrounded yourself with any candle blower outers? In order to answer those questions, you obviously need to know what the heck I'm talking about! You may have heard me mention Brene Brown before in sermons. She is one of my favorite authors and podcasters. I find her to be someone who can take academic and psychological jargon and explain it in a way that makes it so accessible. In one of the interviews or talks she was giving she talked about candle blower outers in relation to parenting. Here's what she had to say...

"One of the things we talk a lot about in our family with our kids starting in third or fourth grade when friendship can get dicey is 'candle blower outers'. And this is a big lesson we teach our kids: "You've got this flame. This is your spirit. This is your soul. This is your light. Sometimes it will shine really, really bright and you want to surround yourself with people who, when it's shining bright, think 'Wow, what a beautiful light.' And you want to be the type of friend that when your friend's light is shining you say, 'Man, that's a great light.' And you want friends who protect your light. We don't want to surround ourselves with candle blower outers. We want someone who has room in their life for our light because our light comes with us."

In Matthew 5 at the beginning of what is now referred to as the Sermon on the Mount Jesus said the following: ¹⁴ You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can't be hidden.¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven." But can we let that light shine if the people around us are finding ways to dim or blow it out? It certainly makes it much more difficult. Similarly are we being candle magnifiers for others in our lives? Or are we jealous and trying to find ways to dampen their light? Worth considering.

Grace and peace to you as we begin anew. Let your light shine in the new year.

Pastor Todd

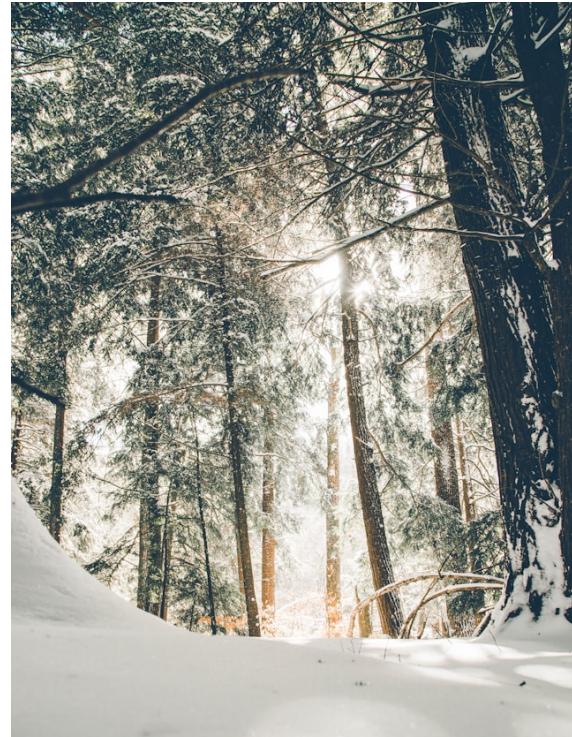
Our Prayer List...

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
- Jane Monacell
- Richard Young
- Joann & George McCabe
- Marie Heath

Please keep Pat Fitzgerald and family in your prayers for the passing of Grayson Fitzgerald in November.

A Memorial Service for Grayson Fitzgerald will be on January 10, 2026, at 2pm at SPC, followed by a reception in the fellowship hall.



Homemade Christmas Cookie Sale

Dear Congregation,

Your support of the Homemade Christmas Cookie Sale made it a complete success!!! The total raised was \$692. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!

Even though this was our first-ever cookie sale, it was also an experiment that came with hiccups. We do apologize for any inconvenience you may have experienced. We will be making some administrative changes so that this process will run smoothly for any future such projects.

Thank you again for your support!!!

The Presbyterian Women

Christmas Clean-up

The Presbyterian Women will be cleaning up all of the Christmas Decorations from the Sanctuary on Thursday, January 8th at 9:00am. Any help would be greatly appreciated!



Presbyterian Women Mission Project...

It's that time of year again for the PW to put together hygiene kits. One of the most successful projects of the

Sandston Presbyterian Women is the assembly of hygiene kits that are sent to Church World Services for distribution to disaster areas around this county. **Monetary donations are sought from the congregation for the items required for the kits.** Since 2018, we have assembled 100 kits per year!!! That translates to helping 600 people during their time of need. Thanks to the congregation's help in making this possible. Donations for the 2026 campaign can be given to Pat Fitzgerald or Kathy Wright. **The deadline is February 1st. Checks must be made payable to Sandston Presbyterian Women.** Thank you!!!

Pledge Envelopes...

The **pledge envelopes for 2026** are here! If you have already picked yours up, we "Thank You". If you are interested in getting pledge envelopes, ask an usher or call the church office at 804-737-1527.

PW Circle Meetings

- The Finley-Walker Circle will meet on **Wednesday, January 14th at 10:00am.**
- The Davis Circle will meet on **Tuesday, January 14th at 6:00pm.**



Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 25th, 2026** following Worship service.

Meetings this month...

The Beekeepers of Richmond will meet on **Tuesday, January 6th 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 not meet again until February.



January Birthdays

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



Christian Life Committee "Thank You"

We would like to thank everyone who helped with the two families that we adopted for Christmas this year at Sandston Elementary. Whether you gave monetary donations or physically went out and purchased items. We could not have done this without everyone's help and support!

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, February 23, 2026 in Fellowship hall**.

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

Flower Calendar Requests 2026...

We are taking 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.

January – 4, 11, & 25
February – 1, 8, 15, & 22
March – 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29
April – 12 & 26
May – 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31
June – 7, 14, 21, & 28

July – 5, 12, 19, & 26
August – 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30
September – 6, 13, 20, & 27
October – 4, 18, & 25
November – 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29
December – 6

What's going on in our community...

Eastern Henrico FISH

We are collecting **cereal** for the month of **January**. Please remember to pick up a box 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 January 31st.** For the month of December we were able to collect a total of 200+ packs of ramen. Thank you to everyone who helps support FISH every month!



January Activity Calendar

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

