



Sandston Presbyterian Church Newsletter June 2023

Worship Service is at 10:00am every Sunday in person for the summer beginning June 4th.

Sunday School Classes are on break for the summer beginning June 4th.

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...

Blessed Are...

In Matthew 5, Jesus begins what is now commonly referred to as The Sermon on the Mount with The Beatitudes, a series of blessings where he lays the groundwork for one of the cornerstones of his ministry: the idea that humans' view of God's kingdom and God's view of God's kingdom can look verrrry different. He continued to establish this ideal by virtue of who he spent his time and ministry with. The Beatitudes also have an air of 'instruction' about them. There has been an interpretation that Jesus is saying, "This is the attitude necessary for God's blessing." While our attitude is certainly important, God's blessings are not dependent upon it. If so, a good argument could be made that if this were the case, Jesus never would have come in the first place. A fact of our flawed nature as humans: even as the literal incarnation of God walked the earth it didn't improve everyone's attitudes! Lutheran pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber has offered the observation that maybe that day on the hillside what Jesus was actually doing was simply blessing the ones around him who didn't otherwise receive blessing, who had come to believe that, for them, blessings would never be in the cards. Sounds like something Jesus would do, doesn't it? Out of that idea, Bolz-Weber developed her own version of The Beatitudes to highlight her point and put a little bit of a modern touch on them. Her words are below. On both your best and worst days – the days you feel closest to God and the days you can't find God with a map and instruction manual – may you remember that God loves you and God's blessings are not contingent on those feelings.

Peace be with you,

Pastor Todd

Blessed are the agnostics.

Blessed are they who doubt. Those who aren't entirely sure, who can still be surprised.

Blessed are those who have nothing to offer.

Blessed are the preschoolers who cut in line at communion. Blessed are the poor in spirit.

You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

Blessed are they for whom death is not an abstraction.

Blessed are they who have buried their loved ones, for whom tears could fill an ocean. Blessed are they who have loved enough to know what loss feels like.

Blessed are the mothers of the miscarried.

Blessed are they who can't fall apart because they have to keep it together for everyone else.

Blessed are those who "still aren't over it yet."

Blessed are those who mourn. You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

Blessed are those who no one else notices. The kids who sit alone at middle-school lunch tables. The laundry guys at the hospital. The sex workers and the night-shift street sweepers.

Blessed are the unemployed, the unimpressive, the underrepresented.

Blessed are the teens who have to figure out ways to hide the new cuts on their arms. Blessed are the meek.

You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

Blessed are the wrongly accused, the ones who never catch a break, the ones for whom life is hard.

Blessed are those without documentation. Blessed are the ones without lobbyists.

Blessed are foster kids and special ed kids and every other kid who just wants to feel safe and loved.

Blessed are those who make terrible business decisions for the sake of people.

Blessed are the burned-out social workers and the overworked teachers and the pro bono case takers.

Blessed are the kids who step between the bullies and the weak. Blessed are they who hear that they are forgiven.

Blessed are the merciful, for they totally get it.



Flower Calendar Requests 2023...

We are continuing to take requests for the flower calendar for 2023! You can find the request forms outside of the office as well as the narthex of the church. The cost of the flowers has changed to \$35.00. You will find the available dates below.

June – 4

July – 2, 9, 23, & 30

August – 6, 13, & 20

September – 3 & 24

October – 1, 8, & 22

December – 3

Our Prayer List...

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

- Alice Baldwin
- Joe Woodham
- Judi Saunders
- Jan & Wayne Richter
- Leon App
- Richard Young



Reminders...

- The Daily Bread Devotions are here for June, July, & August! You can find them in the church narthex on the table.
- The Finley Walker & Davis Circle Bible study groups are taking a break for the summer.

Summer Worship Hours...
Beginning Sunday, June 4th worship service will start at 10:00am.

What's going on in our community...

Eastern Henrico FISH

We are collecting cereal for the month of June. Please remember to pick up a box or two while you are out grocery shopping. There is a box outside of the church office that you can drop your donations off in. The deadline is June 30th. For the month of May we were able to collect 23 packs of applesauce cups. Thank you to everyone who donated last month.

June Birthdays

9	Lee Conner
12	Jan Richter
16	Ruth Radzisauskas
18	Alice Baldwin
19	Wayne Richter
25	Judy Johnston
27	Robin King



Newsletter Photos...

For the July & August Newsletters we would like to get some pictures together again from the congregation of what everyone has been up to this spring/summer. So please send a photo or two to the church email at sandspres@verizon.net. **All pictures are due into the church office by June 20th for the July newsletter.** If you have any questions call the church office or Stacie O'Berry at (804)937-2916.

A Successful Event!

Springtime, the month of May in particular, is always a busy time for the PW (Presbyterian Women) at SPC. May is the designated month for the fundraiser, the White Elephant & Bake Sale, which was held on May 19-20th. It turned out to be a successful event, but did have a rocky start for that Friday. During an ever changing social media landscape, on Friday we did have friends who came to the event to help us out, social media-wise, to make a successful Saturday which we are very grateful.

The sale generated the following: \$2,000
Of this total, the bake sale raised: \$ 343.55

This event generates monies for the various missions that the PW supports throughout the year.

MANY THANKS need to be expressed for:



- Those people who cleaned out their houses of unwanted items. You can give credit to the PW for assisting you in cleaning your house! Are we right? Otherwise, when would it have been done?
- Those people who baked cookies, bars, pies and breads! You folks generated \$ 343.55!!! Great job!!!
- Those volunteers who worked all or a portion of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to sort through all the donated items and place them on the tables; and price each item.
- Those volunteers who assisted with the sale itself on Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day, or a portion of those days.
- Those volunteers who assisted with the packing up of the unsold items to be sent to a thrift store.
- Those people who did the miscellaneous things such as putting up and taking down the roadside signs, bringing plastic bags, newspapers for wrapping fragile items, price stickers, paper, pens, calculators, etc.

Even though it is an awful lot of work for this event (eight straight days in fact), the camaraderie and the fact that we are working on a worthwhile event makes it rewarding.

June Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 10:00am Worship Service & Communion	5	6 7-9pm Richmond Beekeepers Meeting	7	8	9	10
11 10:00am Worship Service	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 10:00am Worship Service Father's Day	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 10:00am Worship Service	26	27	28	29		

