



Sandston Presbyterian Church Newsletter March 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...

The...*season* of Easter?

Quite a few times over the years I have been reminded and reminded others that Christmas doesn't end with the dawning of December 26th. I freely admit that sometimes this sentiment has been uttered as a justification for leaving the Christmas Tree up a little longer! As the song reminds us, it is in fact, The Twelve Days of Christmas going from the 25th to January 6th, which we celebrate as Epiphany. I will admit that it has been far less often – maybe even never – that I have reminded myself or anyone else that Easter is also a season. Upon reflection, I'm not sure we always use this language in church on the Sundays following the lilies and sung "Hosannas" that Easter morning brings.

Maybe this is because of the effort and pageantry that often go into an Easter Sunday service. For many church professionals and volunteers alike, once Jesus is risen, we want a chance to catch our breath! Yet, on the PC(USA) website in the Presbyterian Mission page, we are reminded, "Easter isn't just a Sunday — it's a *season*. One day out of 365 is hardly sufficient to celebrate the great mystery of our faith — that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Accordingly, the season of Easter lasts seven weeks (a "week of weeks"), spanning the 50 days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday and encompassing the festival of the Ascension of the Lord. The season of Easter is intended to be a joyful time for celebrating the presence of the risen Christ in the church."

So, I'm *sure* you are thinking, 'How did we end up landing on fifty days of celebration?' I'm so glad you asked! From the *Companion to the Book of Worship*: "The period of seven weeks of jubilation can be traced back to its Jewish roots of the fifty days celebrated from the day after Passover to Shavuot (Feast of Weeks, Exodus 23:16). For Jews, the Feast of Weeks closed the season of harvest, which had been initiated by the Feast of Unleavened Bread. In a similar manner, early Christians observed a fifty-day period of celebration from Easter to the Day of Pentecost. To underscore the uninterrupted rejoicing of these fifty days, fasting and kneeling in prayer were forbidden at least as early as the end of the second century. On the *pentecoste* ("fiftieth") day, not only was the fifty-day period concluded, but a festival with its own proper content was celebrated. The Jews observed a feast of covenant renewal and eventually commemorated the giving of the Law. Christians celebrated the gift of the Spirit as preparing the way for the day of the Lord. What Moses and the Law did for the Jewish community, the Holy Spirit now does for the community of Christ."

Continued on next page.

Perhaps this idea of the season of Easter is why – in addition to the timing on the calendar – the season of spring and Easter Sunday are sometimes associated together, as both are a reminder of new life in the world around us. Ideally this idea of new life should inspire us to a new way of life where we claim our identity as a beloved creation of God and remind others it is the same for them. One where we are inspired to “do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with (our) God.” On the dawn of April 1, here’s hoping we try to do just that...for fifty days and well beyond.



Pastor Todd

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.



March – 3, 17, & 24
April – 7, 14, & 21
May – 5, 12, 19, & 26
June – 2 & 9
July – 7, 21, & 28
August – 4, 11, 18, & 25
September – 1, 8, 15, & 22
October – 6 & 20
November – 3

Easter Lilies

We are now taking orders for Easter Lilies. The cost is \$15.00 this year and you will find order forms in the bulletins in the coming weeks and also by the church office. **The deadline to order is Sunday, March 17th.** Please fill out the order form, attach your check made out to Sandston Presbyterian Church (SPC) and place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office.

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



Holy Week Reminders...

- Our **Maundy Thursday** Service will be on **Thursday, March 28th at 6:00pm in-person**. It is a quiet, moving, reflective time of worship, during which we *come* to the table for Communion. Dress is casual.
- Our **Good Friday** Service will be on **Friday, March 29th at 6:00pm via Zoom ONLY**. (You can find the connection info for Zoom at the end of the newsletter.)
- Our **Community Easter Sunrise Worship Service** will be on **Sunday, March 31st at 6:30am**. It will be held at the Corinth United Methodist Church in the parking lot weather permitting.



Daily Devotionals...

The Daily Bread Devotionals for March, April, & May are here! You can find them outside of the church office and in the narthex of the church. If you would like a Devotional mailed get in touch with Paulette in the church office. We also have **"The Sanctuary for Lent 2024"** and **"The Hope of Easter"** available. There are a limited amount of copies available.

March Birthdays

5	Patricia Anderson
10	Frances Lowery
13	Jennifer McLaughlin
27	Bailey Johnston
27	Joanne Wakeham
29	Page Shurley



Meetings this month...

The Beekeepers of Richmond will meet on **Tuesday, March 5th 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 meet on **Tuesday, March 19th from 10am to 12:30pm** in the fellowship hall. Anyone who loves *flowers* is encouraged to come and join us. If you have any questions please contact Pat Fitzgerald.



Daylight Savings Time starts March 10th. Remember to set your clocks UP one hour on Saturday, March 11th or when you get up on Sunday, March 12th.

PW Circle Meetings

- The Finley-Walker Circle will meet on **Wednesday, March 13th at 10:00am**.
- The Davis Circle will meet on **Tuesday, March 12th at 6:00pm**.

What's going on in our community...

Eastern Henrico FISH

We are collecting condiments (mustard, ketchup, mayo, relish, etc.) for the month of **March**. 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 March 31st**. For the month of **February** we were able to collect a total of 35+ items for Eastern Henrico FISH !Thank you to everyone for the continued support every month!



Camp Hanover

Enjoy a taste of summer camp for everyone! Visit Camp Hanover on **Sunday, April 28, for Camp Fun Day**. At this free afternoon event from **2 to 5 pm**, experience everything that makes Camp Hanover special. Bring the family (and friends!) to:

- Meet Camp Hanover's staff
- Tour our grounds and buildings
- Try activities like archery, canoeing, and the climbing wall
- Enter drawings for awesome prizes

For more info, visit **www.CampHanover.org** or call **(804) 779-2811**.

A Big Thank You...

We received a Thank You note to our congregation on February 5th, 2024 from Eastern henrico FISH and just wanted to share it with everyone!

"Dear Members of Sandston Presbyterian Church,

Thank you very much for the awesome donation of toys, books, and socks to give to the children at Christmas. We used almost everything that you donated. This was just a thoughtful collection of items. We are truly grateful for your support. I'm sure these items brought smiles to the faces of several children and happiness for the entire families.

With deep appreciation,
The Board of Eastern Henrico FISH"

Help Our Garden Grow...

The Christian Life Committee is holding a Rock Painting Event on **Saturday, April 13th from 1:00 to 3:00pm**. Come join us paint some rocks to go in our Kindness Rock Garden out front. You can stop by for a little bit or stay the whole time. Rock painting is such an enjoyable activity that requires no skill just a little imagination. Hope to see you there!

Help Our Garden Grow



**Come join us paint rocks for our
Kindness Rock Garden!**



**Saturday, April 13th, 2024
1:00pm to 3:00pm**

March Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service & Communion	4	5 7-9pm Richmond Beekeepers Meeting	6	7	8	9
10 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service Daylight Savings Starts	11	12 6pm Davis Circle Meeting	13 10am Finley Walker Circle Meeting	14	15	16
17 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service St. Patrick's Day	18	19 10am-12:30pm Highland Springs Garden Club	20	21	22	23
24 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	25	26	27	28 6:00pm Maundy Thursday Service	29 6:00pm Good Friday Service (via Zoom)	30
31 6:30am Community Easter Sunrise Worship Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service Easter						



FOR COMPUTER USERS, GO TO:

Zoom.us

**CLICK ON "JOIN" - LOCATED AT THE VERY TOP
TOWARD THE RIGHT**

MEETING ID: 632 720 2148

**PASSWORD: 737-1527 (WHICH IS CHURCH PHONE
NUMBER)**

FOR NON-COMPUTER PEOPLE, DIAL:

1 - 646 / 558 - 8656

Use above meeting ID and password