



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:

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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...

You may have noticed that we've been joined consistently in worship by some younger children of God. It's been a joy to have them and a credit to all of you that they feel welcome in our sanctuary...because unfortunately in churches this can occasionally not be the case. Children have many wonderful qualities but understandably sitting perfectly still and quiet for upwards of an hour may not be among them! That noise has never particularly bothered me though. First, if we are truly being welcoming it means being patient and accepting. But more to the point, I've always believed that children making their presence known in worship is a sign of life! I was reminded of this recently when reading Phil Christman's article in *The Christian Century* entitled, "In praise of unruly children in church". I found his thoughts worth sharing...

*In a sufficiently torpid service—one in which the leaders are running on sheer willpower, as I often am simply in showing up—the ill-behaved kids can be the only sign of life. They are God's simultaneous recognition of and dissent from our solemn boringness. We intone our prosy liturgical responses, from which the poetry and beauty have often been edited out for the sake of "accessibility" or "relevance," and God pulls a face. We warble our way through that hymn that sounds like a rip-off of the big number from *Les Misérables*, and the Holy Spirit blows a raspberry. The liturgy isn't a dispensable part of this process; we create a structure so that the children can blow it up. You build the altar here so the fire can come down over there, as Charles Williams once said.*

Parents whose babies cry too loud, overwhelmed caregivers whose charges can't stop whispering or squirming or making faces, are the bearers of an uplifting message—although I understand why they can't, in the moment, feel as though this is true. Not when the diaper already smells full, or when churchgoers more officious than I am are turning to shush the toddler or smile passive-aggressively at the adults. Not when the parents have to worry that other congregants will mutter about their parenting, or say something vaguely racist about "cultural differences in childrearing," or the other nonsense parents are subjected to at church. Mary and Joseph probably felt pretty stressed out most of the time, too. Carrying the embodied Word is a lousy job; it's easier to just flap your jaw for a living, as I do. The rest of us should show these beleaguered accompanying grown-ups a little respect. Yes, even that one lady—the one you're thinking of as the exception to my argument.

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Several years and several churches ago, something happened that cinched this point for me. Our church had done a canvass of the working-class neighborhood in which it was situated, and a large group of unattended kids, with their (overwhelmed and overworked) parents' permission, had started attending. (We may have bribed the children a bit with coloring books and bowls of cereal.) The little knot of people who I sat with ended up being the default babysitters for this group of kids, whose ages ranged from four to 11.

One week, as our rector repeated, for the umpteenth time, the words that accompany the Eucharist, when she got to "He died," a four-year-old face turned to me, full of shock and horror, and said: "He what?!"

It's one of the only times I've seen someone begin to register what we do and say in church, in all its world-overturning beauty and terror, while sitting in church. It's more appropriate than anything I've ever said in that setting, and more fitting than the inadequate words of comfort that I offered this kid, which were something like, "Yes, he died. But then he came alive again, because he was God. It's wild!" I was, in that instant, a dull, responsible adult, trying to shovel as much wholesome theological content into my words as I could. I was trying to be adequate to the moment, because that's what inadequate people do.

She has probably forgotten me and whatever it was I said. But I hope she never forgets what she said. He died. He what?! He rose again. He what?! He loves us, he loves her, he loves me, he loves you.

He what?!

May we all be shocked and overwhelmed by God's love and sacrifice as we move into post-Easter time.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Todd

Worship Service at Camp Hanover...

Mark your calendars! We will be having church service out at Camp Hanover on **Sunday, May 25th** at **11:00am**. **Carpool with friends** and stay after worship for a potluck luncheon! Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy the fresh air along with the fellowship. We will gather in the same shelter as last year.

Our Prayer List...

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

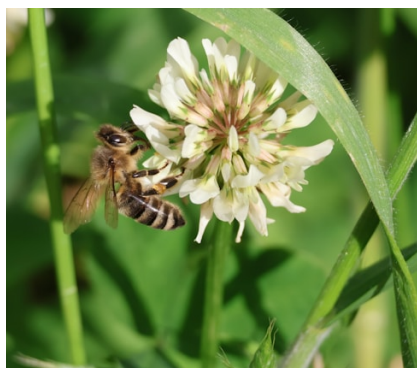
- Alice Baldwin
- Marie Heath
- Laura Greer
- Joe Woodham
- Jan & Wayne Richter
- Leon App
- Joann & George McCabe
- Richard Young



Flower Calendar Requests 2025...

We are continuing to take requests for the flower calendar for 2025! 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 to the right.

May – 11 & 18
June – 1, 8, 15, & 22
July – 6, 13, 20, & 27
August – 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31
September – 7, 14, & 21
October – 5, 19, & 26
November – 2 & 23
December – 7



Meetings this month...

The Beekeepers of Richmond will meet on **Tuesday, May 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 meet on **Tuesday, May 20th 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.

White Elephant & Bake Sale: Donate Stuff & Bake Items

Baked Goods Needed

The PW needs baked goods for the White Elephant Sale. Bake cupcakes, bars, cookies and package them in small groups. Depending on the size of your items, pack individually, packs of 2, or packs of 4. Or, we can package it for you! Deliver for Friday and or Saturday's sale days.

White Elephant & Bake Sale

Friday, May 2nd & Saturday, May 3rd
9:00am to 3:00pm



Please continue to clean out your closets, attics, basements, etc of all of your unwanted stuff to be brought to church for the sale. All donations can be left in the fellowship hall. Helps you and helps the PW too!

Volunteer....

Volunteers are needed to unpack, sort, and price items beginning Monday, April 28th - Thursday, May 1st. Volunteers are also needed for during the sale to assist customers and work the Bake Sale on Friday, May 2nd and Saturday, May 3rd from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Pack-up and cleanup is on Monday, May 5th. Sign-up sheets can be found on bulletin board by office.

PW Circle Meetings

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

Summer Worship Hours...

Beginning Sunday, June 1st worship service will start at 10:00am.



May Birthdays

1	Joe Woodham, Jr.
17	Stacie O'Berry
19	Mary Hamilton
21	Jim Smith
22	George McCabe
22	Lee Hart

What's going on in our community...

Eastern Henrico FISH

It's Yard Sale Time! Eastern Henrico FISH will be having a yard sale on Thursday, May 1st from 9:00am to 6:00pm and Friday, May 2nd from 9:00am to 5:00pm at Village Presbyterian Church. All proceeds benefit Eastern Henrico FISH and their missions. Hope to see you there!

We are collecting Ziplock bags (gallon & quart size) for the month of May. 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 May 30th. For the month of April we were able to collect a total of 33+ canned vegetables. Thank you to everyone who donated last month and continue to each month!

Memorial Day Parade

Come join us on May 26th at 1:00pm for the Annual Memorial Day Parade in Sandston. Following the parade from 2:00pm to 4:00pm for a block party where there will be games for kids, a bounce house, free ice cream, and more.



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, May 12th, 2025 in the Fellowship hall.**



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

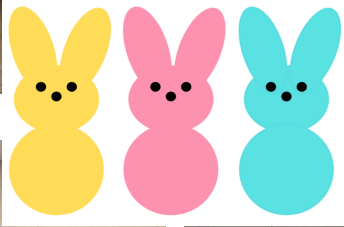
YMCA MEI Collection Update...

For the month of April we were able to collect a total of 40 cans of chicken for the MEI's walk up food pantry right here in Sandston, which will go to help families and individuals in need in this area. We thank everyone who supported this cause and be on the lookout for another collection!

Thank you!!!

The Christian Life Committee would like to "Thank" everyone who volunteered and helped make our first Easter Festival a success! Whether you helped stuff eggs, make the games, run the games, or just show up to support us we thank you! We had a great turn out with 48 people in attendance. We definitely plan to do this again next year! Here are a few pictures from the event.





May Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 9am-3pm White Elephant & Bake Sale	3 9am-3pm White Elephant & Bake Sale
4 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service & Communion	5	6 7pm – 9pm Beekeepers of Richmond Meeting	7 5pm-7:30pm Bowling League Banquet	8	9	10
11 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	12 8am- 5:30pm Lifeline Screening	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 10am- 12:30pm Highland Springs Garden Club	21	22	23	24
25 11:00am Worship Service & Potluck at Camp Hanover	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29	30 FISH Donation Deadline	31

