



# Sandston Presbyterian Church Newsletter May 2026

Worship Service is at 11:00am every Sunday in person.  
10:00am worship service starts Sunday, May 31st.

Sunday School Classes (9:45am): May 17th last day for Sunday school for the summer.

- The Shurley Class: meets in room 7
- Men's & Women's Class: meets in the library

## CONTACT US...

Email us:

**[sandspres@verizon.net](mailto: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](http://www.sandstonpc.org)**



## **A Note from Pastor Todd...**

### April Shower and May Flowers

Perhaps it's because we are in the midst of a period of weather where we could really use some rain or perhaps it's because the forecast is calling for temperatures in the 90's but when I started to think about a note for May, the old phrase, "April showers bring May flowers" came to mind. My natural curiosity came out and so I did some research about where and how that phrase might have taken root.

Turns out, the earliest known version appears in a 14th-century English poem by Geoffrey Chaucer, in *The Canterbury Tales* (which I remember having to read in 12<sup>th</sup> grade English!). It's opening lines describe spring rains: "Whan that Aprille with his shoures soote, the droghte of March hath perced to the roote...". Fast-forward to the 1500s, and there had been an evolution into an actual proverb. A 1557 collection by Thomas Tusser: "Sweet April showers, do spring May flowers."

While there is of course no *exact* understanding of why some things 'stick' while other do not, a guess is the phrase had staying power because it reflects a real seasonal pattern in England's climate (and similar regions): April tends to be rainy. Those rains nourish plants. May brings visible blooms. Over time, it then further grew into more than just weather advice. It also became somewhat of a metaphor for patience and hope. Because, as we all know, sometimes life brings difficult circumstances or

unpleasant periods. (Read: "showers").

And hopefully in time, making it through such things can lead to growth or beauty or even 'rewards'. (Read: "flowers")

Coincidentally this phrase and idea also fits very well with the post-Easter season we find ourselves. To borrow and shape the metaphor, we have been through the April showers of Good Friday weekend representing a time of grief, loss, and uncertainty to emerge in the May flowers of Easter morning celebrating new life, hope, joy, and resurrection. As Romans 6:4 says, "Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life."



Honestly, we can also extend the metaphor even a little further. You have heard me mention before that part of Christianity is being honest and real about life's challenges and not pretending that everything is sunshine, butterflies, and happiness just because we go to church and believe in God. This kind of thinking minimizes the human experience and scripturally, even Jesus himself – fully human – cried out to God in pain and frustration. Sometimes in life quite frankly (to borrow another metaphor) when it rains it pours. We are stretched to the point of wondering what's next. During these times we try and remember God is present *in* the rain always with us. And sometimes growth is happening even when we can't see it. Psalm 126:5-6: "May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves."

As we continue to live and grow and experience may we be reminded that God is never far from all of it.

Peace be with you,  
Pastor Todd

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### **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
- John & Jane Monacell
- Richard Young
- Joann & George McCabe
- Marie Heath



## **Worship Service & Luncheon at Camp Hanover...**

Mark your calendars! We will be having church service out at Camp Hanover on **Sunday, May 24th 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.



## **Flower Calendar Requests 2026...**

We are continuing to take 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.

May – 10, 17, & 31  
July – 5, 19, & 26  
August – 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30  
September – 13, 20, & 27  
October – 4 & 25  
November – 1, 8, & 15



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## **PW Circle Meetings**

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

## **Summer Worship Hours...**

Beginning Sunday, May 31st worship service will start at 10:00am.

### **Life Line Screening**

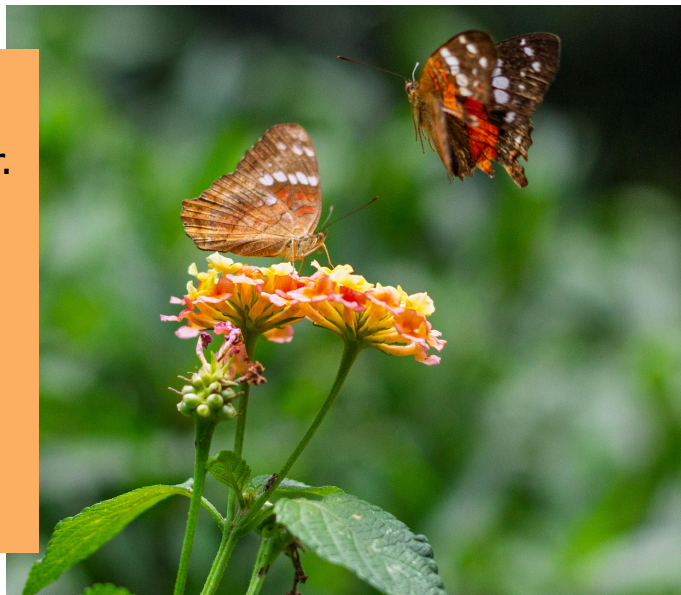
**Life Line Screening**, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at **Sandston Presbyterian Church on Monday, June 8th, 2026 in the Fellowship hall from 8am to 5pm.**

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

If interested call 1-800-324-9458 and use promo code HABC001.

### **May Birthdays**

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



### **Meetings this month...**

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

## **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 7th from 9:00am to 6:00pm and Friday, May 8th from 9:00am to 5:00pm at Village Presbyterian Church. All proceeds benefit Eastern Henrico FISH and their missions. Hope to see you there! A flyer is attached at the end of the newsletter!

We are collecting condiments (ketchup, mayo, mustard, bbq sauce, etc) for the month of May. Please remember to pick up an item 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 31st. For the month of April we were able to collect a total of 102+ cups of Mac and cheese. Thank you to everyone who donated last month and continue to each month!

### **Memorial Day Parade**

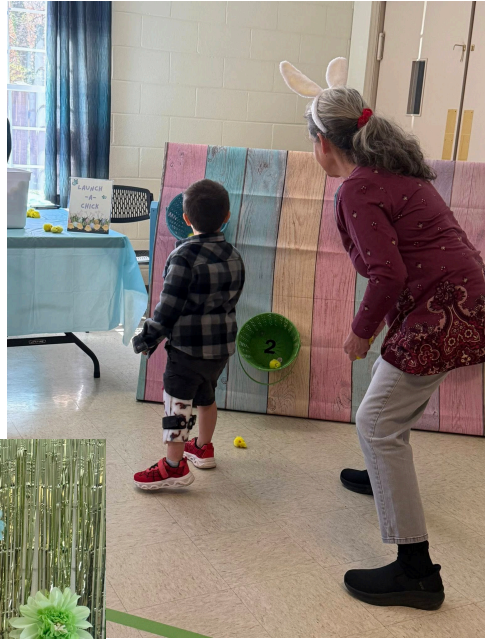
Come join us on May 25th at 12:00pm for the Annual Memorial Day Service and a Parade in Sandston that follows at 1:00pm. Following the parade from 2:00pm to 4:00pm there will be a block party where there will be games for kids, a bounce house, free ice cream, and more.

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## **Thank you!!!**

The Christian Life Committee would like to "Thank" everyone who volunteered and helped make our 2nd Annual Easter Festival a success! Whether you helped stuff eggs, run the games, or just showed up to support us we thank you! We had a great turn out with 47 children in attendance. Here are a few pictures from the event!





# May Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3  9:45am Sunday School  11:00am Worship Service & Communion	4	5  <b>7pm-9pm Beekeepers of Richmond Meeting</b>	6	7	8	9
10  9:45am Sunday School  11:00am Worship Service  <b>Mother's Day</b>	11	12	13  <b>10am Finley- Walker Circle Meeting</b>  <b>6pm Davis Circle Meeting</b>	14	15	16
17  9:45am Sunday School  11:00am Worship Service	18	19  <b>10am- 12:30pm Highland Springs Garden Club</b>	20	21	22	23
24  11:00am Worship Service & Luncheon @ Camp Hanover	25  <b>Memorial Day Parade</b>	26	27	28	29	30
31  10:00am Worship Service  <b>FISH Donation Deadline</b>						

