



# Sandston Presbyterian Church Newsletter November 2023

Worship Service is at 11:00am every Sunday in person.

Sunday School Classes (9:45am)

- The Shurley Class: meets in the Finley Room
- 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...**

As usual for me it seems as if the year is flying by. How are we already in sight of Christmas?! I find that as life gets busy a certain tired can set in. Compounding this sense of personal weariness is an additional wariness that sets in as I hear and read about the dysfunction in Congress and the senseless loss of life in the Middle East. It adds up, and not in a good way. Because of all of this I was particularly drawn to A Sanctified Art's Advent theme this year – How Does A Weary World Rejoice? An apt question, and one that I look forward to exploring. I hope you will too. Below you will find some more information and explanation about this year's journey. May the peace of Christ be with us all as we go.

Pastor Todd

*Joy is often a companion to many other emotions. We can feel joy in addition to feeling many other things at once: grief, anticipation, anxiety, excitement, disappointment, exhaustion. Perhaps many of us live with the myth that joy is not something we deserve—or that it is wholly out of reach. But our joy is rooted in the truth that we belong to God. Can you tether yourself to that deep truth? You deserve to feel joy—fully. The world needs your joy, even if you are weary. Our joy is better when it is shared.*

*This theme of course alludes to a line in the familiar Christmas hymn, "O Holy Night,"<sup>3</sup> which has an interesting history. The song was originally written by a French poet who was atheist, and the music was supplied by a Jewish composer. The hymn was later translated into English by an American Unitarian minister. In the 1800s, it became a popular hymn for Christian abolitionists due to its justice-focused language in verse 3.4 Like Mary's song, the hymn reminds us that justice and joy belong together. Sometimes our joy is an act of resistance.*

*And so, this Advent, we will hold space for our weariness and our joy. We will seek a "thrill of hope" in our hurting world. We will welcome joy—even and especially if, like the prophet Isaiah, we cry out for comfort (Isaiah 40:1). In this weary world, may we find many ways to rejoice.*

*In this series, we are paying close attention to how the Gospel of Luke begins the story of Jesus: by interweaving Christ's birth with the parallel story of Elizabeth, Zechariah, and John the Baptist. As we looked closely at both of these birth narratives told side by side, we saw the full scope of human emotions: isolation, fear, disbelief, as well as connection, trust, and joy. We acknowledged that the Christmas season is often an emotionally-charged time when we feel many things deeply—sometimes all at once. Many experience emotional dissonance in the midst of joy-filled carols and festivities.*

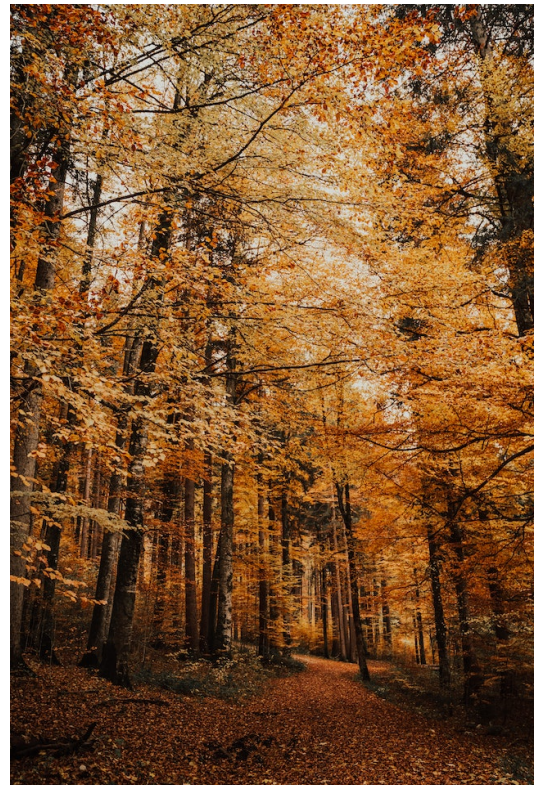
*In each week of our series, we respond to this question with a statement inspired by our scriptures. These texts bring us into a space of possibility; in them, we find rhythms for rejoicing, even in the midst of difficult circumstances. Each weekly sub-theme is a "we" statement because joy is deeply relational and rooted in the fact that we belong to God. As we move through our series, we hope to create space for acknowledging the weariness of our world while celebrating God's closeness with great joy.*

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### **Our Prayer List...**

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

- Alice Baldwin
- Robin King
- Laura Greer
- Joe Woodham
- Judi Saunders
- Jan & Wayne Richter
- Leon App
- Richard Young
- Joann McCabe





## **Pledge Sunday**

**November 12th, 2023 is Pledge Sunday!** Let's keep Sandston Presbyterian Church Strong! Join us during worship service to submit your 2024 pledge cards and all are invited to join us in our celebration covered dish luncheon afterwards in the Fellowship Hall. So bring lots of great dishes and delicious desserts. See you there!



## **November Birthdays**

- 4 Jack Oldham
- 8 Michael O'Berry
- 17 Karen Amstutz
- 17 Grayson Fitzgerald
- 19 John Monacell
- 26 Dell Shaff
- 28 Leon App

## **World Food Day Update...**

The Presbyterian Women would like to "Thank" everyone for donating canned goods and monetary donations to the Henrico Christmas Mother for World Food Day. They were able to collect a total of \$435.00 and 62+ canned goods. Thank you for everyone's support!

**FYI...** Daylight savings ends on November 5th so remember to set your clocks **BACK** one hour the night before.





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

The Beekeepers of Richmond will meet on **Tuesday, November 7th 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, November 14th 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. There will be no meeting in December 2023 and January 2024.



### **What's going on in our community...**

#### **Eastern Henrico FISH**

We are collecting Brunswick Stew for the month of **November**. Please remember to pick up a can 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 November 30th**. For the month of **October** we were able to collect a total of 42+ cans of pasta. Thank you to everyone who donated this month! Every donation makes a difference.

#### **Camp Hanover**

Mark your calendars! A **Hanover Christmas** returns Friday, **December 8th and Saturday, December 9th** for two magical nights celebrating the birth of Jesus. From **6:00 to 9:00pm** each evening. Stroll a candlelit path and experience musical performances and dramatic reenactments. A donation of \$10 per person to the Annual Fund for Camp Hanover is appreciated!

## **SPC Hosting "FALL GATHERING"**

The Presbyterian Women (PW) of the James holds two gatherings per year for all PW within the Presbytery of the James district. There is a Spring Gathering and a Fall Gathering. The Gatherings rotate to the various churches, and this November is SPC's turn on Saturday, November 4, 2023.



REQUEST: Volunteers are needed to provide baked finger-food items such as cookies, brownies, and bars. (The PW of the James will be providing breads and savory items.) Attendance is estimated to be around 40 people. To make sure that everyone does not bake the same item, please call Kathy Wright to sign up. The baked items need to be received on Friday, November 3rd because Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

ANOTHER REQUEST: Ladies, the Sandston PW Coordinating Team encourages every Sandston woman to please consider attending this meeting. It would really be a wonderful show of support for our church and the Presbyterian Women organization. If you have never attended a gathering, this is a great time since it is in our own backyard.

### **IN SUMMARY, NEED:**

1. Baked finger-food items such as cookies, brownies or bars.
2. Your attendance.

Call, e-mail or text Kathy Wright letting the Sandston PW Coordinating Team know on the above two items. 804.737.1731 H; 804.363.4505 C

PW of the James' Fall Gathering  
Sandston Presbyterian Church  
Fellowship Hall  
Saturday, November 4, 2023  
8:30 – 9:30 a.m. - Registration & Refreshments  
9:30 – Noon - Mid-Morning Break & Refreshments

### **PW Circle Meetings...**

- The Finley-Walker Circle will meet on **Wednesday, November 8th at 10:00am.**
- The Davis Circle will meet on **Wednesday, November 8th at 6:30pm.**



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**Decorating for Christmas** The Presbyterian Women will be decorating the church for Christmas on Thursday, November 30 at 9:00am. Everyone is invited to come join the fun and help get the sanctuary ready for this Advent Season!



### **Poinsettias...**

We will start on November 19th taking orders for poinsettias in the sanctuary for Christmas. The cost is **\$14.00** this year. You can find forms in the bulletin in the coming weeks, and you can place them in the offering plate. **The deadline to place an order is Sunday, December 3rd.**

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### **Trunk or Treat Update...**

The Christian Life Committee would like to "Thank" all of our amazing volunteers who helped make our Annual Community Trunk or Treat a success! We had a great turnout with over 70+ kids from right here in our community. We also had the most volunteers this year than ever before so we truly thank everyone for all of the help and support. You can find a few photos from this exciting event on the next page.







The Minions



Retired: Gone Fishing







Alice in Wonderland



Raggedy Ann

# November Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 8:30am to 12:00pm PW Fall Gathering
5 9:45am Sunday School  11:00am Worship Service & Communion	6	7 7-9pm Richmond Beekeepers Meeting	8 10am Finley Walker Circle  6:30pm Davis Circle	9	10	11
12 9:45am Sunday School  11:00am Worship Service  <b>Pledge Sunday Covered Dish Luncheon</b>	13	14 10am-12:30pm Highland Springs Garden Club Meeting	15	16	17	18
19 9:45am Sunday School  11:00am Worship Service	20	21	22	23 <b>Happy Thanksgiving!</b>	24	25
26 9:45am Sunday School  11:00am Worship Service	27	28	29	30 9am Decorating Sanctuary for Advent		