



Sandston Presbyterian Church Newsletter November 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...

Psalm 23

It was around my sixth grade year that we moved to upstate New York because Dad was stationed at Fort Drum. Eventually we found a church home at a Presbyterian church in nearby Watertown. It was a formative time for me because a few committed adults provided me with my first youth group experience at church. It was also formative because my Sunday School teacher, Mrs. Sudduth offered a candy bar to anyone who was willing to memorize scripture. So it was that I received my sweet reward for memorizing Psalm 23. It has been near to my heart ever since.

¹ The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters; ³ he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

This is one of those passages of scripture that has transcended the church and made its way into culture via music, TV, and movies. I would guess there are those who have never stepped foot in a church who would recognize "walking through the shadow of the valley of death" from somewhere even if they didn't know the original source. It is also, of course, an almost automatic part of a funeral service as well, reaching across denominational divides in that respect. The poetry is vivid and evokes emotions and scenes in our minds. I believe most of us can picture a time when we have walked through lush, green grass or had the opportunity to quiet our minds beside a body of water.



This beloved psalm, attributed to King David, has been a source of solace and hope for countless generations. Historically, it draws on David's own experience as a shepherd in the rugged hills of ancient Israel, where he cared for his sheep in dangerous and uncertain conditions. Shepherds in David's time lived lives of constant vigilance and self-sacrifice, guiding their flocks to green pastures, finding water in barren landscapes, and protecting them from predators. David takes this imagery and uses it to describe the deep trust he has in God. Just as a shepherd provides everything the sheep need—food, water, protection, and guidance—David expresses his unwavering belief that God is always with him, providing for his every need. This trust extends even to the "valley of the shadow of death," where God's presence and protection bring peace in the face of fear.

Elsewhere in scripture, in Matthew 11:28 Jesus tells us, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." I think this Psalm speaks about that rest, that restoration of our souls, that God alone can provide. Writer and theologian Frederich Beuchner put it this way:

Like sheep we get hungry, and hungry for more than just food. We get thirsty for more than just drink. Our souls get hungry and thirsty; in fact it is often that sense of inner emptiness that makes us know we have souls in the first place. There is nothing that the world has to give us, there is nothing that we have to give to each other even that ever quite fills them. But once in a while that inner emptiness is filled even so. That is part of what the psalm means by saying that God is like a shepherd, I think. It means that, like a shepherd, he feeds us. He feeds that part of us which is hungriest and most in need of feeding.

As we continue to journey through life and all of its challenges, may we continue to seek God's guidance, trust in God's care, and know that no matter where we find ourselves—whether in green pastures or shadowed valleys — the Shepherd is with us.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Todd

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 \$301.00 and 12 canned goods. Thank you for everyones support this year!



Our Prayer List...

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

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

Meetings this month...

The Beekeepers of Richmond will meet on **Tuesday, November 12th 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 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.

November Birthdays

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





FYI... Daylight savings ends on November 3rd so remember to set your clocks **BACK** one hour the night before.

Pledge Sunday

Sandston Presbyterian Church's Stewardship season has arrived for 2024. The Stewardship, Administrative & Finance Committee asks for your participation in pledging your financial commitment for our 2025 budget. We invite you to assist our Sandston Presbyterian Church's continuing effort to keep "SANDSTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH VIBRANT and STRONG" on pledge Sunday **November 10, 2024!** We are expecting a good attendance on Pledge Day and hope all will participate in our **covered dish luncheon** right after our worship service in celebration of our successful pledge Sunday. So bring lots of great dishes and delicious desserts. See you there!

Thanksgiving Meals

The Christian Life Committee is working with Sandston Elementary School again this year to help three families right in our community with Thanksgiving meals. We will be collecting food items as well as monetary donations. We will have sign up sheets in the narthex of the church on November 10th with items that are needed for each family. All donations will need to be returned to church by **November 17th**. All food donations can be dropped off in the church office and if you wish to make a monetary donation please make checks out to Anna Helen Miller.



PW Circle Meetings...

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

Decorating for Christmas The Presbyterian Women will be decorating the church for Christmas on Thursday, December 5th 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 taking orders for poinsettias in the sanctuary for Christmas on November 17th. The cost is **\$15.00** 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 Monday, December 2nd.**

YMCA MEI Collection...

The **YMCA has a Mission, Equity, and Inclusion (MEI)** Committee that has a walk up food pantry at the Chickahominy location right here in Sandston. They are in need of protein items, so the Christian Life committee is going to be collecting **hearty soups** for their food pantry for the **month of November**. Please put these items in the box for FISH outside of the church office and we will separate them at the end of the month!



What's going on in our community...

Eastern Henrico FISH

We are collecting craft kits (rock painting, jewelry making, pottery painting, etc.) for the month of **November**. We know this isn't like our regular food items we normally do, but collecting craft kits for the month of November will help FISH so much with Christmas time approaching. You can find these kits at Target, Walmart, Hobby Lobby, Michael's, etc. 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 18+ cans of Brunswick stew. Thank you to everyone who donated this month! Every donation makes a difference!

Mexico Restaurant on Williamsburg Road is having a spirit week to support Eastern Henrico FISH from **November 11th - 15th, 2024**. They will give a percentage of your receipt to FISH all you have to do is show them the flyer which is attached to the end of the newsletter. This is a great opportunity to support Eastern Henrico FISH and get some great food!

Superior Tire & Auto in Quinton, VA is also having a fundraiser for Eastern Henrico FISH for the **remainder of this year (until December 31st 2024)**. If you bring your vehicle in for service, owner Robert Clemons will donate 10% of your receipt cost to FISH all you have to do is present the flyer attached at the end of the newsletter. You can call 804-966-7335 with any questions.

Camp Hanover

Mark your calendars! A **Hanover Christmas** returns Friday, **December 13th and Saturday, December 14th** 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!



Covenant Woods Christmas Market

Covenant Woods is having their annual **Christmas Market** on **November 8, 2024** from **10:00am to 4:00pm**. Come shop over 25 vendors to find that special gift for yourself or anyone on your holiday shopping list. You will find hand-crafted wooden, bowls, cutting boards, jewelry, beautiful artwork, notecards, purses, totes, holiday decor, baked goods and more. You can also enjoy lunch in their restaurant, Fireside.

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 the most volunteers this year in all the years we have done this so far. We had a great turnout with over 150+ kids from right here in our community. We thank everyone for all of the help and support.





November Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service & Communion	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	11	12 7-9pm Richmond Beekeepers Meeting	13 10am Finley-Walker Circle Meeting 6pm Davis Circle Meeting	14	15	16
17 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	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 Thanksgiving (Office Closed)	29	30



MEXICO FUNDRAISER



FOR FISH

November
11th - 15th
2024



Mexico will give a percentage of your receipt to Eastern Henrico FISH, must present flyer at time of dining in or carry out

5213 Williamsburg Road
Sandston, VA 23150

Fundraiser



Eastern Henrico FISH

Bring your vehicles for services, Owner Robert Clemons will donate 10% of your receipt cost to Eastern Henrico FISH. Please call the shop at 804-966-7335 with any questions.

Please present this flyer at the time of service to get the 10% for FISH.

1 flyer per vehicle

October 1, 2024 thru December 31, 2024

Superior Tire and Auto Quinton 

1701 Pocohontas Trail

Quinton, VA 23141