

Sandston Presbyterian Church Newsletter November 2026

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

Sunday School Classes (9:45am)

- The Shurley Class: meets in room 7
- Senior Walker 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…

An Attitude of Abundance

As we enter November it is our annual Stewardship time. There are a variety of viewpoints and attitudes around this topic. And truly, just as 'the body has many parts' I think people can have different motivations behind their giving. One of the more 'classic' debates I've heard regarding Stewardship is what I'm going to call 'inspiration verses nuts and bolts' and here's what I mean by that: some folks are motivated to give by the possibility of what *could be* in the form of new ideas or ministries that might come from pledges. Others are more practical in the sense that they are motivated by 'the bottom line', i.e. we have a budget to fund that means people are paid and water is running and the lights are on. The good news is…there's no wrong answer! I am grateful anytime anyone shares for *whatever* reason(s) they choose to do so!

Thinking about that second attitude made me think of a friend's story to share on the topic. I met Rev. Steve Lindsley at Massanetta Springs. He served in PC(USA) churches for a number of years and not too long ago decided to walk a different path by working as a consultant for churches in regard to stewardship. He regularly shares reflections on the topic and this was one of them:

The Sunday Morning I Turned Out the Lights

It was around year six or seven of my ten years at that congregation. Long enough that I felt I'd earned a little creative latitude. Long enough that I thought I could try something a little different with the stewardship sermon.

So I gave Mike a call.

Mike, a bass in the church choir, was also chair of our Buildings and Grounds Committee — dependable, good-humored, exactly the kind of person you want when you need someone to do something slightly unusual during Sunday morning worship. I pitched my idea for the coming Sunday. He was happy to help.

About halfway through the sermon I made the pivot — from scripture to the present moment, from the text to stewardship season, from the ancient story to our story. I was making the point that people sometimes assume the church will always be there, the staff will always be there, the lights will always be on, whether they give or not.

But giving matters, I said. It makes a difference. Without it, things won't be what we've come to expect. What would it be like, I wondered out loud, if one Sunday we came to church and found this…..

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And that's when Mike, who had quietly made his way from the choir loft to the back of the sanctuary - the back of the sanctuary where the light switches were - that's when Mike turned the lights out.

Now — full disclosure — our sanctuary had beautiful stained glass windows on all sides, so it wasn't like it got pitch dark in there. Noticeably dimmer, yes. Dramatic enough to make the point. I concluded the last few minutes of my sermon and then, in that short pause before the organ started into our next hymn, the lights came back on.

I felt pretty good about it afterwards. Made the point I thought I was trying to make. The Finance and Stewardship chairs, the ones most in the weeds with all things church budget, seemed to appreciate it.

But I didn't get much response beyond that. A few "that sure was clever" comments from folks as I greeted them at the door after the service. Though they seemed more polite than genuinely moved. Besides, they were already giving pretty regularly anyway.

When all was said and done, our stewardship season did about what we expected - okay, but not great. People gave to the church they loved. No sign at all that they gave more because of a sermon scare.

Hmm. Maybe my great idea wasn't so great after all.

And the more I sat with it, the more I understood why:

I had made giving about keeping the lights on.

Not literally — well, actually yes, literally — but more importantly, theologically. I had framed generosity as a survival strategy. Give, or things fall apart. Give, or the institution you've always known might not be there. Give, because without your dollars the church you love could go dark.

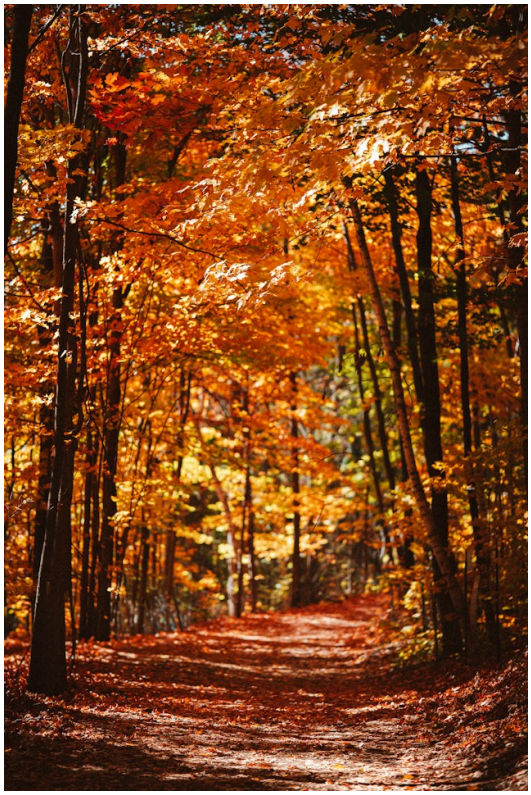
That's a scarcity-mindset ask. More directly, it's rooted in fear. And fear-based asks produce fear-based giving cultures — anxious, transactional, just-enough-to-get-by. The exact opposite of the abundant, joyful, spiritually-rooted generosity I believed in and had been working to cultivate.

During my time at Sandston Presbyterian I have been continually grateful for the generosity of our church family. I have said more than once that we should not take for granted that folks are willing to share because they love God, love others, and love the church. As we look forward to Stewardship Sunday consider this note yet another "thank you" for your abundant, joyful, spiritually-rooted generosity.

Peace be with you,

Pastor Todd

Our Prayer List…



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

- Elizabeth Breckinridge
- Laura Greer
- Joe Woodham
- Jan & Wayne Richter
- Leon App
- Jane Monacell
- Richard Young
- Joann & George McCabe
- Marie Heath

Please keep in your prayers:

Ruth Radisauskas and family for the sudden loss of her sister Lindsey Bourne on June 17th.

Douglas Martin and family for the passing of his mother on September 25th.

Judi Johnston and family for the passing of Ed Johnston, Jr. on October 1st.



Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 22nd, 2026** following Worship service to present the slate of elders for 2027-2028.

Pledge Sunday…

Sandston Presbyterian Church's Stewardship season has arrived for 2026. The Stewardship, Administrative & Finance Committee asks for your participation in pledging your financial commitment for our 2027 budget. When making your pledge for 2027 please consider also including a portion of your tithing to go to the improvement fund to help keep things up to date and in working order around the church. Unfortunately with an older building there are unexpected costs and projects. We invite you to assist our Sandston Presbyterian Church's continuing effort to keep "SANDSTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH VIBRANT and STRONG" on pledge **Sunday, November 15, 2026!** 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!

November Birthdays

4	Jack Oldham
8	Michael O'Berry
16	Jim Wagner
17	Karen Amstutz
19	John Monacell
26	Dell Shaff
28	Leon App



Meetings this month…

The *Highland Springs Garden Club* will meet on **Tuesday, November 17th from 10am to 12:30pm** in the fellowship hall. Anyone who l*oves flowers is encouraged to come and join us. If you have any questions please contact Pat Fitzgerald.*

FYI… Daylight savings ends on October 31st so remember to set your clocks BACK one hour the

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 2026. They were able to collect a total of $325 and 43 canned goods. Thank you for everyones support this year!



PW Circle Meetings…

- The Finley-Walker Circle will meet on **Wednesday, November 11th at 10:00am.**
- The Davis Circle will meet on **Wednesday, November 11th at 6:00pm.**

Thanksgiving Meals

The Christian Life Committee is working with Sandston Elementary School again this year to help two 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 with items that are needed for each family. Monetary donations are also needed due to some families not having the ability to cook their food and need everything already prepared which the Christian Life Committee will shop for those items. All donations will need to be returned to church by **Sunday, November 15th.** 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 Paulette O'Berry.





Poinsettias…

We will start taking orders for poinsettias in the sanctuary for Christmas on November 16th. 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 7th.**

What's going on in our community…

Eastern Henrico FISH

We are collecting **spaghetti o's with meatballs or franks** for the month of **November**. Remember to pick up a can or two while you are out 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 20+ board games for FISH! Thank you to everyone who donated this month!

Camp Hanover

Mark your calendars! A **Hanover Christmas** returns **Friday, December 11th and Saturday, December 12th** 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 6 & 7, 2026** from **9:00am to 2:00pm.** 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.



Bakers Needed for Christmas Cookies…



BAKERS NEEDED

The 2nd Annual
"Homemade
Christmas Cookie" Sale
is coming in December
to benefit the
Sandston Food Pantry,
and bakers need to be identified
prior to the project beginning.

CAN YOU VOLUNTEER?



See the Guidelines
or call
Kathy Wright for details
804.737.1731

Guidelines for Bakers

- Decide on a cookie to bake and call Kathy Wright with a short description (nuts, raisins, etc.) for the order form.
- No soft cookies - they will eventually break.
- Size of Cookies: All cookies should be at least 2 inches wide.
- All bakers, please make two more baker's dozen (13) of cookies than your orders for sale on the delivery date. Last year, we did really well on these last-minute sales.
- Cookies with no orders in 2025 will be removed from list.
- For delivery to kitchen, package all cookies in zip-lock bags of baker's dozen (13).
- When delivering cookies, please attach your name and the name of your cookies in large print on top so that it will be easier for Shelor and Patty to set up the assembly line.
- Deliver cookies during church operating hours of Mon - Thurs 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Otherwise, the church will be locked. You may would want to call Paulette to alert her to your arrival time just in case she has to step away from the office. 804.737.1527
- There will not be an assortment category on order form.
- There will be a category for donations on order form.
- This fundraiser is an event for the **Sandston Food Pantry**.

November Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service & Communion	9	10	11 **10am Finley-Walker Circle Meeting** **6pm Davis Circle Meeting**	12	13	14 **2pm Ed Johnston, Jr's Memorial Service**
15 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service **Pledge Sunday Luncheon**	16	17 **10am-12:30pm Highland Springs Garden Club**	18	19	20	21
22 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service **Congregational Meeting**	23	24	25	26 **Happy Thanksgiving!**	27	28
29 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	30 **FISH Donation Deadline**					

