



# Sandston Presbyterian Church Newsletter October 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](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...**

1 John 4

I am continuing with my 'series' on some of my favorite passages of scripture. This month is 1 John 4:7-12...

*"<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us."*

The letter of 1 John was written to a group of believers facing conflict and division. Scholars believe it was penned toward the end of the first century, during a time when the early church was grappling with theological disagreements, particularly about the nature of Christ. Some members of the community were spreading teachings that contradicted the apostles' understanding of Jesus as both fully divine and fully human. These divisions threatened the unity of the early church, and the author of 1 John sought to remind believers of the core of their faith: the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

In this passage, the writer emphasizes that God's love is not just a theological concept, but something real and tangible, made known through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. God's love is not static; it is meant to be lived out through us. The call to "love one another" is the very heart of the Christian life, and it is through this love that we reflect God's presence in the world. This ancient call to love is frankly no less relevant to us today than when it was written. We are supposed to try and commit to a radical way of living rooted in the love of God. But it's not just a sentimental call—it's a transformative invitation to embody God's love in our relationships, actions, and community.

Aside from a fundamental belief that God is first, foremost, and always love, this is a favorite passage of mine because I believe – as I have mentioned multiple times from the pulpit – that one way to read the Bible is as a love story. God made creation and then loved – and still loves it – so much that at no point was God willing to give up. No matter how many times God's people tried to go their own way, or didn't listen, or didn't do what was asked of them, God never gave up. And still doesn't. And on the days where I'm having a hard time tolerating someone else, I try and remember all the times I've made a mess in my own life and God has not given up on me.

In a time where we often find ourselves divided—whether by opinions, backgrounds, or personal struggles—this passage reminds us of our responsibility as people who call ourselves representatives of God. We are invited to put aside whatever may divide us and, instead, draw closer to one another through acts of compassion, humility, and grace. The words of a hymn immediately come to mind, “And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love...”

Peace (and love!) be with you,

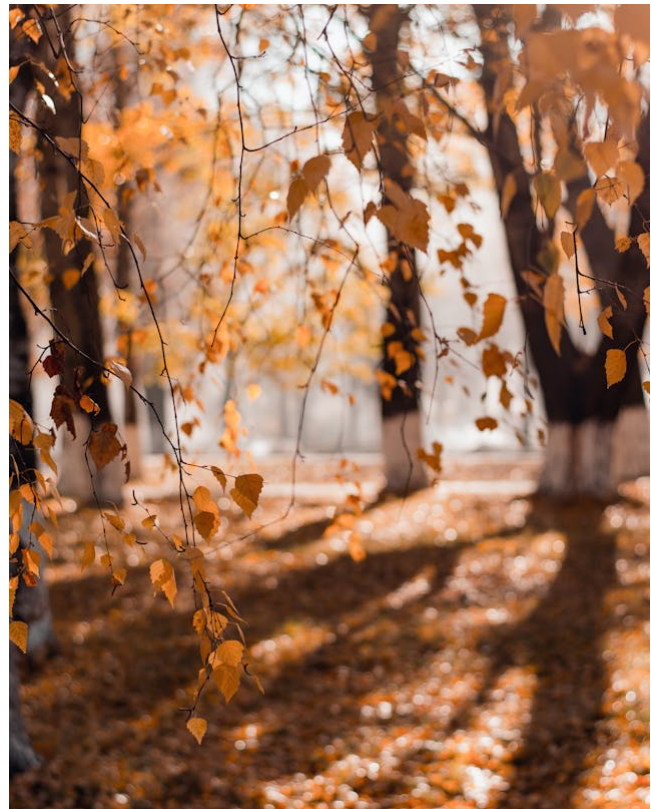
*Pastor Todd*

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

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

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



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

The Beekeepers of Richmond will meet on **Tuesday, October 1st 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, October 15th 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.

## **All things Presbyterian Women...**

### **PW: World Food Day Collection**

World Food Day has been a tradition in the United States since the first World Food Day in 1982. The Presbyterian Women have chosen to give our donations of food and money to support the Henrico County Christmas Mother Program since we have a long-standing connection with them. **On Sunday, October 13th everyone is encouraged to bring canned food**



**goods or to give monetary donations in an envelope labeled with "World Food Day".** Checks **MUST** be made out to "Henrico Christmas Mother" that way it will go directly to this program to purchase food. With their help and connections our dollars will go much farther to help those in need during the holidays.

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

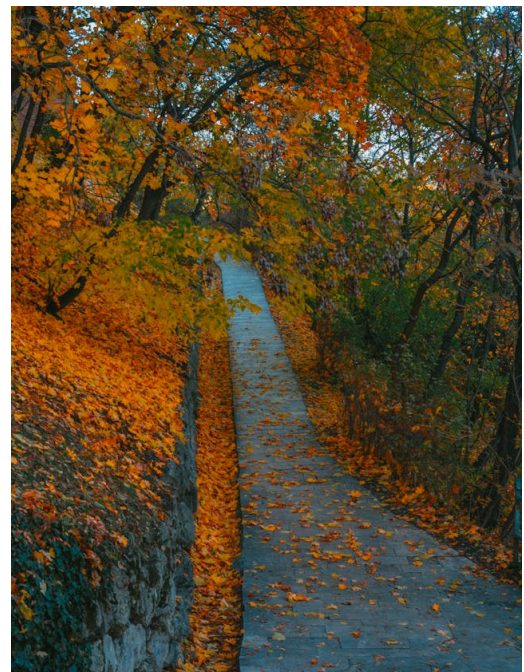
- The Finley-Walker Circle will meet on **Wednesday, October 9th at 10:00am.**
- The Davis Circle will meet on **Wednesday, October 9th at 6:00pm.**

### **Flower Calendar Requests 2024...**

We only have one date left for the flower calendar for 2024 which is November 3rd! If you are interested in this date get in touch with the church office! The cost of the flowers is \$35.00. Keep your eye out for when the 2025 Flower Calendar opens!

### **Daily Devotionals**

Our Daily Bread devotionals are now here for September, October, & November. They are located outside of the church office & the church narthex.



## **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 Tuesday, October 22nd, 2024 from 8am to 5pm.** The church office also has two (2) "Complimentary Screening" certificates. If interested come by the church office or call 804-737-1527.



### **October Birthdays**

11	Shelor Smith
13	Arlo Amstutz
14	Ellen Oldham
17	Scott O'Brien
21	John Anderson

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

### **Eastern Henrico FISH**

We are collecting Brunswick stew for the month of October. Please remember to pick up a can 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 October 31st. For the month of September we were able to collect a total of 35+ boxes of cereal for FISH. Thank you to everyone who contributed this past month and continue to each and every month!

Eastern Henrico FISH is having their MEGA Yardsale on Thursday, October 3rd from 9am to 6pm and Friday, October 4th from 9am to 5pm at Village Presbyterian Church.



## **Replacement Windows & Donations...**

This announcement is a update on the financial status of the replacement windows for the Sanctuary of SPC, not only windows, but interior and exterior painting, including the repair/replacement of the sagging steps leading to the front of the church, and three sanctuary exterior doors. Currently the church has funds from the Building Fund, various memorials, and miscellaneous accounts to pay for the new windows, which have been ordered. Many of you have expressed a desire to donate to the "Window Fund," and may be disappointed to find out that the windows were already funded. Those of you that would like to donate to the window fund, send in your donations, the funds currently set aside for the windows will be used to fund the other Sanctuary projects already mentioned. However the "Window Fund" really needs to be relabeled as the "Sanctuary Fund" to cover all the repairs and needs of the Sanctuary, not just the windows replacement. Price quotes are currently being collected for the painting of the Sanctuary both inside and out, including upgrading and repairing of both interior and exterior lighting for the campus.

With a Sanctuary that is 100 years old, there is always going to be the need for repairs and maintenance, so funds are always going to be needed to fund future maintenance expenses.



## **Annual Community Trunk or Treat Donations...**

The Christian Life Committee is starting to collect **candy and monetary donations** for our Annual Community Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 19th, 2024. If you would like to contribute please give all donations to Anna-Helen, Paulette, or Stacie. We can't do this without your help!

## **6th Annual Trunk or Treat...**

We are looking for volunteers to help us out at our Annual Community Trunk or Treat. This is such a fun event and would love for you to be a part of it. If you are interested in volunteering please call the church office or get with Anna-Helen, Paulette, or Stacie. Please remember that we need your participation to make this happen, and this is a great opportunity for us to reach out to our community and be a part of it!



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024  
(RAIN DATE OCTOBER 26)  
12:00 - 2:00 PM

### COMMUNITY TRUNK OR TREAT

*The Christian Life committee is looking for candy donations and/or monetary donations as well as volunteers to come park their cars in the church parking lot and bring candy to hand out. We encourage everyone to dress up, decorate their cars, and have fun! You must RSVP if you plan to participate due to limited parking by calling or emailing the church office. We need your help to make this possible!*



6th Annual  
**Trunk  
or  
Treat**

Candy Costumes Fun

October 19th, 2024  
(October 26th Rain Date)  
12 p.m. - 2 p.m.

IN THE CHURCH PARKING LOT  
ALL ARE WELCOME!

# October Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7-9pm Richmond Beekeepers Meeting	2	3	4	5
6 9:45am Sunday School  11:00am Worship Service & Communion	7	8	9 10am Finley-Walker Circle Meeting  6pm Davis Circle Meeting	10	11	12
13 9:45am Sunday School  11:00am Worship Service  <b>World Food Day Collection</b>	14	15 10am- 12:30pm Highland Springs Garden Club	16	17	18	19 12pm-2pm Community Trunk or Treat
20 9:45am Sunday School  11:00am Worship Service	21	22 8am-5pm Life Line Screening	23	24	25	26 12pm-2pm Community Trunk or Treat (Rain Date)
27 9:45am Sunday School  11:00am Worship Service	28	29	30	31 <b>Halloween</b>		

