

Sandston Presbyterian Church Newsletter October 2025



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)**

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@sandstonpc

Check out our website:
www.sandstonpc.org



A Note from Pastor Todd...

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

Jeremiah laments over Judah

¹⁸My joy is gone; grief is upon me; my heart is sick.

¹⁹Listen! The cry of the daughter of my people from far and wide in the land: "Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King not in her?" ("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?")

²⁰"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."

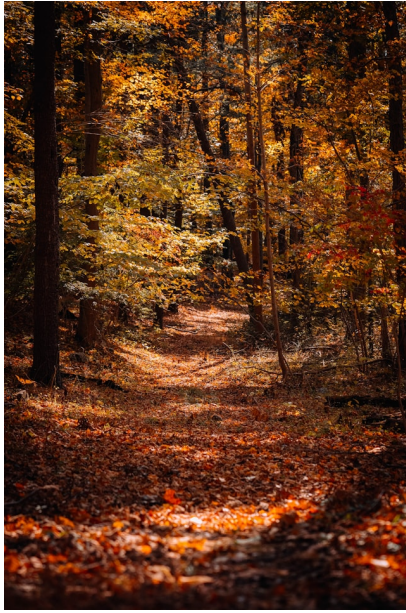
²¹For the brokenness of the daughter of my people I am broken, I mourn, and horror has seized me.

²²Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of the daughter of my people not been restored?

¹ O that my head were a spring of water and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

For those of you who were in worship several weeks ago, in the wake of yet **another** incident involving guns and death in our country, during the prayers of the people I shared the following words from *The Onion* website, which publishes satirical articles on international, national, and local news. Again, so I am sure you catch it, this is a satire site.

In the days following a violent rampage in southern California in which a lone attacker killed seven individuals, including himself, and seriously injured over a dozen others, citizens living in the only country where this kind of mass killing routinely occurs reportedly concluded Tuesday that there was no way to prevent the massacre from taking place. "This was a terrible tragedy, but sometimes these things just happen and there's nothing anyone can do to stop them," said North Carolina resident Samuel Wipper, echoing sentiments expressed by tens of millions of individuals who reside in a nation where over half of the world's deadliest mass shootings have occurred in the past 50 years and whose citizens are 20 times more likely to die of gun violence than those of other developed nations. "It's a shame, but what can we do? There really wasn't anything that was going to keep this guy from snapping and killing a lot of people if that's what he really wanted." At press time, residents of the only economically advanced nation in the world where roughly two mass shootings have occurred every month for the past five years were referring to themselves and their situation as "helpless."



Part of my point in sharing these words was that they were written...in 2016...and tragically they are no less relevant in 2025. As a pastor, a parent, and frankly, a human being I sickened and frustrated by what seems to be a lack of any attempt to curb these incidents. To paraphrase something I saw recently: I am not anti-gun I am anti-innocent people – children! - being shot to death. Over and over and over. And all of this before the events of this past week that brought what amounted to a public execution on the Utah Valley University campus and yet another school shooting, this time in Colorado. As it happened, the words of the prophet Jeremiah were in the lectionary this past Sunday and I found them both relevant and an expression of the grief and

lament my self and others are feeling.

The response to events like these is, sadly, almost predictable at this point. Outrage, people retreating to “their” side, name-calling and insults on television and from behind many a keyboard...and very little change actually happening. In a press conference following the events in Utah, the governor, Spencer Cox offered the following words:

"And that, ladies and gentlemen, I believe, is the answer to this. We can return violence with violence. We can return hate with hate. And that's the problem with political violence, is it metastasizes, because we can always point the finger at the other side. At some point, we have to find an off-ramp, or it's going to get much, much worse. These are choices that we can make. History will dictate if this is a turning point for our country, but every single one of us gets to choose right now, if this is a turning point for us. We get to make decisions. We have our agency."

Jesus, of course, was an advocate for not returning violence with more violence. And even in my most frustrated moments I still believe an eye for an eye leaves everyone blind. I agree with Christ's sentiment that attempting to love your enemies and pray for those who harass you is the strategy for ending unhealthy cycles. While I certainly appreciate the governor using this language and agree with the call for de-escalation, I feel compelled to offer this observation: It's “going to get much, much worse”?! Didn't that already happen **thirteen** years ago when twenty 6 and 7 year olds were murdered in Newtown, Connecticut while doing nothing more than attending school? Or in the five years following that when there were an approximate total of 121 more school shootings?

I cannot help but think we continue to miss the forest for the trees. We become so consumed with all the ancillary things surrounding these events that we continue to fail to address the root causes. We install metal detectors and lock doors in schools and have children doing lock-and-hide drills rather than addressing the issues that are causing those measures to be necessary to begin with. Indeed, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved. For the brokenness of the daughter of my people I am broken, I mourn, and horror has seized me."

May God's peace which is still somehow present in the midst of unthinkable situations and passes all human understanding be with all of us.

Pastor Todd

Our Prayer List...

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

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



PW Circle Meetings...

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

Presbyterian Women: 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 12th 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.



Meetings this month...

The Beekeepers of Richmond will meet on **Tuesday, October 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, October 21st 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.

Flower Calendar Requests 2025...

We only have three dates left for the flower calendar for 2025 which are October 5, 19, & 26! If you are interested in any of these dates get in touch with the church office! The cost of the flowers is \$35.00. Stay tuned for when the 2025 Flower Calendar opens up!



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 children's toothbrushes & toothpaste for the month of October. 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 October 26th. For the month of September we were able to collect a total of 94+ rolls of toilet paper for FISH. Thank you to everyone who contributed this past month and continues to each and every month!

Eastern Henrico FISH is having their MEGA Yardsale on Thursday, October 9th from 9am to 6pm and Friday, October 10th from 9am to 5pm at Village Presbyterian Church. (Rain dates: Thursday, October 16th & Friday, October 17th.) Come on out to support FISH!

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 18th, 2025. We don't want to run out of candy, so if you would like to contribute please give all donations to Paulette or Stacie O'Berry. We can't do this without your help!



7th 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 or have any questions please call the church office or get with Paulette or Stacie O'Berry. 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 apart of it!



October Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service & Communion	6	7 7pm-9pm Beekeepers of Richmond Meeting	8 10am Finley-Walker Circle Meeting 6pm Davis Circle Meeting	9	10	11 9am-5pm Special Beekeepers of Richmond Meeting
12 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	13	14	15	16	17	18 Trunk or Treat 12pm-2pm
19 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	20	21 10am-12:30pm Highland Springs Garden Club	22	23	24	25 Trunk or Treat 12pm-2pm (Rain Date)
26 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service FISH Donation Deadline	27	28	29	30	31 Happy Halloween!	

