



Sandston Presbyterian Church Newsletter October 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...

Wendell Berry

In addition to Dolly Parton, the world lost another faithful servant recently. Wendell Berry, a poet, novelist and essayist from Kentucky passed away at 92. He was also a man of faith, a lifelong member of the Baptist church where he was baptized. He wrote more than 50 books of fiction, poetry and essays focused on agrarian life, community, and the environment. He was also a living embodiment of Romans 12:2, "Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect." Despite his obvious talent and success as a writer, he shunned attention and rarely gave interviews. The following is an excerpt from an article in *The Guardian* after his passing...

Few authors were more tied to their home than Berry, an intellectual and spiritual heir to Henry David Thoreau and such southern agrarians as Robert Penn Warren and John Crowe Ransom. In prose and poetry that mirrored the uncluttered and deeply felt life he advocated, Berry challenged modern assumptions about prosperity and happiness and renewed the mysteries of birth, love, work and death. He had learned from his own history: Berry was born and raised in a farming town during the Great Depression and watched its seemingly immortal ties unravel by his teens.

Berry was born in Henry County in 1934, and he moved with his family soon after to New Castle, where his father practised law and all worked on his grandfather's farm. As a teenager he graduated from the Millersburg Military Institute and entered the University of Kentucky.

By his early 20s, he was publishing poems and stories. He received a Wallace Stegner Fellowship from Stanford University in 1958 and stayed on another year as a visiting lecturer. He also lived in New York in the early 1960s, but soon bought Lanes Landing in Kentucky and settled there.

Berry and his wife lived without computers, television or phones, but did install solar units in 2005, an act of defiance and of commitment to clean energy in a state powered by coal. He cut ties with the University of Kentucky, his alma mater, after the school accepted \$7m for a new basketball dormitory from a group of donors organized by a coal company president. In 2011, he joined a sit-in at the governor's office in protest of strip-mining.

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He was among the most prominent authors never to receive a Pulitzer prize or National Book Award, although his honors included a National Humanities Medal and membership in the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 2016, he was presented a lifetime achievement award from the National Book Critics Circle.

His most famous poem, *The Peace of Wild Things*, is always worth reading. You will find it below.

*When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives might be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.*

Our Prayer List...

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

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



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 11th everyone is encouraged to bring canned goods or to give monetary donations. 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



PW Circle Meetings...

- The Finley-Walker Circle will meet on **Wednesday, October 14th at 10:00am.**
- The Davis Circle will meet on **Wednesday, October 14th at 6:00pm.**

Flower Calendar Requests 2026...

We only have a few dates left for the flower calendar for 2026! You can find the request forms outside of the office as well as the narthex of the church. The cost of the flowers is \$35.00. You will find the available dates right below.



October - 4 & 25
November - 1



PW Missions...

The Women of Sandston Presbyterian Church have a history of serving both our own congregation, as well as the greater mission field by carrying the Missions banner. We are grateful to our congregations, past and present, for enabling us to serve so many worthy causes.

Now, we are forced to re-evaluate the impact that we can expect to make in the coming years. In 2025, we lost our primary source of income, the White Elephant Sale, due to the lack of used items otherwise known as "stuff" to sell. The decision to cancel was made just one week before the scheduled event. Consequently, the PW immediately launched a "No Sale White Elephant & Bake Sale". Due to the generosity of the congregation, \$2,000 was received to maintain the 2026 missions.

Midway through this year, the Coordinating Team took a hard look at the wide array of causes that we were attempting to support with contributions of \$100 -\$200 each once a year. While all of these causes welcomed our support, we recognized that only a few directly impacted our local community which is experiencing hard times of its own. We further recognized that in these times a gift of \$100 only goes so far and perhaps we were spreading ourselves too thin. We wanted to be able to make a real difference, so we refocused our efforts on the needs of Eastern Henrico County, specifically in the areas of food, shelter, and mental health. Although we may not be able to do everything that we did in the past, we feel that, by streamlining our efforts, we can continue to demonstrate Christ's love.

To address those three areas, the schedule is as follows:

December: Homemade Cookie Sale - all funds dedicated to Sandston Food Pantry

March: Spaghetti Lunch/ Dinner with Laughs – all funds dedicated to Housing Families First

June: A TBA Event and Silent Auction - all funds dedicated to the Henrico County Detox and Residential Treatment Center.

It is our hope that the congregation will rally around these causes and make our 2027 Missions Projects a real success. More information concerning each one will be made available in future months.

October Birthdays

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



Meetings this month...

The Highland Springs Garden Club will meet on **Tuesday, October 20th from 10am to 12:30pm** in the fellowship hall. Anyone who loves *flowers or arranging flowers is encouraged to come and join us. If you have any questions please contact Pat Fitzgerald.*

What's going on in our community...

Eastern Henrico FISH

We are collecting board games for the month of October for FISH to help them out with Christmas coming up. Please remember to pick up a game or two while you are out 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 27+ boxes of cereal for FISH. Thank you to everyone for your support each month!



It's Yard Sale Time! Eastern Henrico FISH will be having a yard sale on Thursday, October 1st from 9:00am to 6:00pm and Friday, October 2nd from 9:00am to 5:00pm at Village Presbyterian Church. All proceeds benefit Eastern Henrico FISH and their missions. Hope to see you there!



Church Office Renovation...

The church office is currently under construction! It's going to be painted and new flooring is going to be put down, so in the meantime if you are trying to get touch with the church office please call Paulette's cellphone at 804-937-2986.

YMCA MEI Collection Update...

For the month of September we were able to collect a total of 34+ cans of tuna for the MEI's walk up food pantry right here in Sandston, which will go to help families and individuals in need in this area. We thank everyone who supported this cause and be on the lookout for the next collection!



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 31st, 2026. 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 (make checks out to Paulette O'Berry. We can't do this without your help!



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!!!**

8th 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 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service & Communion	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service World Food Day Collection	12	13	14 10am Finley- Walker Circle Meeting 6pm Davis Circle Meeting	15	16	17
18 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	19	20 10am- 12:30pm Highland Springs Garden Club	21	22	23	24 Lindsey Bourne's Memorial Service 11am
25 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	26	27	28	29	30	31 Community Trunk or Treat 12pm-2pm Happy Halloween!

