



Sandston Presbyterian Church Newsletter September 2024

Worship Service September 1st is our last 10:00 am worship service for the summer. September 8th will begin our 11:00 am worship service.

Sunday School Classes (Start September 15th @ 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
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Check out our website:
www.sandstonpc.org

A Note from Pastor Todd...

Romans 8

I'm continuing this month after 'summer break' with another one of my favorite scripture passages: Romans 8:37-39...

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is obviously a well-known 'oldie but goodie' passage that is often used in worship as part of the Assurance of Pardon following the Prayer of Confession. And the passage certainly *is* reassuring in reminding us that the things we do which separate us from God do not separate us from God's love. Paul wrote the letter to the Romans during a period of intense persecution and hardship for early Christians. Believers faced numerous trials, including opposition from authorities and societal rejection. Amidst these difficulties, Paul's words served as a powerful reminder of the unwavering love and presence of God.

Paul wrote the letter to the Romans during a period of intense persecution and hardship for early Christians. Believers faced numerous trials, including opposition from authorities and societal rejection. As we know, Paul engaged in several years of intense missionary church-planting work. He focused for time on collecting contributions from mostly Gentile churches in Greece and Asia Minor with the idea of using them for a church in Jerusalem. His hope was that in doing so it would help untie the two main groups – Gentiles and Jewish Christians – who were trying to now 'do church' together. As this letter is written scholars believe that Paul is in Corinth and intending to travel to Spain with a stop in Rome on the way after delivering his collection to Jerusalem. So he writes a letter to followers there to explain his intention and also potentially gather more support for continued travel and work. This passage falls within a part of the letter where, after Paul has talked about the salvific act of the cross, he discusses the new life available in Christ.



We all know life can be complex and difficult and can leave us feeling isolated or overwhelmed by the challenges we face. What I like the most about this passage is that we know in the midst of those challenges we often experience human, conditional love. People are sometimes on our side only if we are on theirs. This passage reminds us there is a love beyond that. One that is not conditional and we cannot lose when we inevitably fall short of our best selves. And a love that no outside force can take away from us either. It is God's unconditional love in the form of grace. In this scripture we are reminded as we face our challenges, whether personal struggles, societal pressures, or global crises, we are never alone. The same love that empowered early Christians to endure their trials is available to us today, offering comfort, guidance, and an unshakeable foundation.

May you remember today and every day that God loves you. God love you more than you can possibly imagine. And that loves never fails and never ends.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Todd



Our Prayer List...

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

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

"Welcome Back" Breakfast...

Come join us on **Sunday, September 8th at 9:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast. The Men of the Church will be cooking this year and yes that includes Pastor Todd! We hope to see you there!

Sunday school classes will get going for the year starting on **September 15th at 9:45 am**. The Men's & Women's class will be led by Arlo Amstutz and will continue studying the Book of Acts. The Shurley class will be group led and they will be reading the book, "An Altar in the World" by Barbara Brown Taylor. She shares how to encounter God far beyond the walls of the church. Taylor reveals meaningful ways to discover the sacred in the small things we do and see, from simple practices such as walking, working and prayer.



Facilities Committee Report on Sanctuary Window Replacement

After a long delay in determining the best course of action to take and many delays for various reasons the Facilities Committee along with the Administration/Finance Committee is ready to present to the Session on



the 25th of August a recommendation of the type, style, color, and cost of replacing the windows in the Sanctuary in the form of three price quotes for to be voted on and approved by the Session members on behalf of the congregation. Once approved the committee can move forward in having the windows ordered, which takes approximately three weeks, perhaps longer. Installation can be scheduled, realistically, it will probably be late fall when this project will be complete. The committee wish to thank everyone who has donated money for the purchase of the window, and certainly your patience in waiting for a report.

The Facility & Administration/Finance Committee



Flower Calendar Requests 2024...

We only have a few dates left for the flower calendar for 2024! 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 just below.

September – 1, 15, & 22
October – 20
November – 3
December – 15

PW Circle Meetings...

The PW circle meetings will start back up in September! This year, the study is "**Let Justice Roll Down.**" According to Scripture, the earth and its members belong to God. We are called to care for creation not only because God loves it, but also because a healthy creation supports human well-being. We are called to care for neighbors and creation with all our hearts, with particular care for society's least powerful members who are disproportionately impacted by unjust systems. This PW/Horizons Bible study is an invitation to explore and to act, with all our hearts, in responding to an issue that impacts all life on God's earth. Readers will learn about ecological systems, the challenges we face in this time of accelerated climate change, and the possibilities available to address or counter the impact of human-made stress on our environment. Further, readers will explore theological questions that point us to act and engage, in large and small ways.

- The Finley-Walker Circle will be lead by Bettie Kirkpatrick and will meet on **Wednesday, September 11th at 10:00am.**
- The Davis Circle will be lead by Judi Johnston and will meet on **Wednesday, September 11th at 6:00pm.**



September Birthdays

- 4 Shelley Row
- 5 Patty Kelley
- 10 Max Oldham
- 14 Ron Wakeham
- 16 Algis Radzisauskas
- 17 Ellsworth Row
- 22 Frank Ridout
- 24 John Oldham

What's going on in our community...

Eastern Henrico FISH

We are collecting cereal for the month of September. Please remember to pick up a box 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 September 30th.

Camp Hanover

Join in a weekend of faith and fellowship with Camp Hanover's Come to the Water Women's Retreat October 4th to 5th 2024 from 5pm on Friday to 4pm on Saturday. Step out of your usual routine and gather near Camp Hanover's lake. Reflect on the gift and responsibility of water in connection to the places in our lives where we feel parched and distressed, and the places we find nourishment and refreshment. We'll find time to rest and recreate, connect, and be quiet, pray, and play. Learn more at <https://www.camphanover.org/womens->

MLP Supply Collection...

The Christian Life Committee would like to give a huge "THANK YOU" to everyone who donated school supplies for the month of August to our preschool. It means a lot having your support with this mission of ours!





Meetings this month...

The Beekeepers of Richmond will meet on **Tuesday, September 3rd 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, September 17th 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.

YMCA MEI Collection Update...

For the month of August we were able to collect a total of 58 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 another collection!

Rock Painting...

The Christian Life Committee would like to "Thank" everyone who showed up for rock painting! We had a smaller crowd of only 7 people but were able to paint a total of rocks which is awesome! Next time we have a rock painting event please consider coming to join us in on the fun!



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 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 holidays.

September Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00am Worship Service & Communion	2 Labor Day (Office Closed)	3 7-9pm Richmond Beekeepers Meeting	4	5	6	7
8 9:00am Welcome Back Breakfast 11:00am Worship Service	9	10	11 10am Finley-Walker Circle Meeting 6pm Davis Circle Meeting	12	13	14
15 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	16	17 10am- 12:30pm Highland Springs Garden Club	18	19	20	21
22 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	30					

