



The Slackwood Grapevine

Slackwood Presbyterian Church
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Summer 2024

INTERIM PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Summer 2024

Summer has arrived, bringing with it unusually hot and dry weather. Our yard hasn't needed to be mowed in several weeks, and our pastures are more brown than green. It seems like overnight the grassy lawn has been scorched. A nice downpour would be so welcome!

The arrival of summer may also leave us feeling spiritually parched. With schools closing, the rhythm of life shifting, and the anticipation of vacations, visits, picnics, fireworks, and parades, finding time to be spiritually renewed and refreshed can be a challenge.

I find comfort and inspiration within our Slackwood Church family through worship services and events such as the Truth and Reconciliation Movie Night, Thursday Bible Study, the church picnic, and after-church fellowship. However, I find that it's also important to balance community engagement with personal time. On long summer nights, I make sure to find time to read and meditate on the porch or by our koi pond as it helps to nurture my spirit. I firmly believe in setting aside time for personal spiritual reflection.

How are you taking care of your spiritual well-being this summer? Are you making time to participate in Sunday worship, setting aside time for quiet reflection and prayer, or getting involved in any of our church activities? I encourage you to prioritize staying connected to or being reconnected with that which gives your life meaning and purpose – your life of faith! Don't let your spirit dry out!

Have a refreshing, meaningful, relaxing Summer! Looking forward to seeing you!

Pastor David

Contact info: dfbsbv@gmail.com or 732-547-3480

Please check our calendar online for upcoming meetings and events:
<http://www.slackwoodchurch.org/event-calendar.html>

At the June 19th Session meeting , The Mission Study Team presented the following Mission, Vision and Values Statements which the Session adopted.

Slackwood Presbyterian Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission Statement:

Slackwood Presbyterian Church is a diverse, caring Christian community guided by scripture, committed to loving God, loving our neighbors as we love ourselves, and sharing Christ's love with all people.

Vision Statement:

We envision glorifying and serving God by being an example to each other, the community, and the world through:

- Vibrant Worship
- Faithful Prayer
- Relevant Study
- Joyful Fellowship
- Compassionate Service

We strive to build a safe community that embraces:

- All Ages
- People of color
- The LGBTQIA+ community
- People with disabilities
- Other Marginalized people

Values:

Grace - We recognize that God's grace is extended to all, regardless of our shortcomings or differences.

Welcoming - We intentionally create an inviting atmosphere where newcomers feel embraced and valued.

Inclusive - We celebrate diversity and actively seek to include all people in our worship, fellowship, and service. We believe that every person has a place at God's table.

Respect – We strive to listen to one another, value differing perspectives, and honor each person's dignit

Slogan: Embracing God! Extending Welcome! Celebrating All!

SAVE THE DATE – CHURCH PICNIC

August 25 at Noon (Following our Sunday Worship Service) The Presbyterian Churches of Lawrence Township (Slackwood, Grace, Lawrence Road and Lawrenceville) will gather again for a picnic at SLACKWOOD! We will need “grillers” – we will be providing hot dogs, hamburgers/buns, condiments, beverages and paper products. Hope you’ll mark your calendars and join us!



BIBLE STUDY



Our Thursday night Bible Study will continue the first and third Sundays of the month at 7pm via Zoom. We study the passages that will be used for worship on the next Sunday. Let Pastor David know if you are interested in participating!

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Outdoor Worship

We have held our first outdoor worship under our new tent. Thank you to the Property and Finance committee for preparing our worship space and to Carl Belles for making our outdoor cross. Unfortunately, the weather has not cooperated on two of the three Sundays in June. We are still scheduled to worship outside for July 21st, and 28th, and August 18th, and 25th. Help is needed each of those weeks setting up and breaking down for the service. Please see a Worship Committee member or offer your help before or after the service.

Bulletin Covers

The Worship Committee has decided to end our subscription to the company which provided the weekly bulletins covers. This will not only save money, but will allow us to tailor the bulletin for our congregation. Look for the new covers starting in the fall.

World Communion

Looking forward, please mark your calendars and consider joining us on Sunday, October 6th for World Communion Sunday. This is a special joint service held with the Grace Taiwanese congregation meant to celebrate our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world (Presbyterian Church USA). It is always a wonderful service and time of fellowship together. A special *Peace and Global Witness Offering* will be taken during the service to benefit our brothers and sisters in need.



Pet Blessing

On Saturday, October 19th, a special Pet Blessing service will be held for the community at 11:00am. Look for more information to come in the September weekly announcements.

Livestream Help Needed

The Worship Committee continues to look for two people each week to help with livestreaming. Thank you to Robin, Beth, Andy, and Kate for volunteering. We would really like to add some more names to the volunteer list. The more people we have in the rotation, the better it is for everyone. Please consider helping out. If this non-tech savvy person can learn how to do it... anyone can!

Kate Moore

SUNDAY SCHOOL WELCOME BACK EVENT

Sunday, September 8 we will kick off the Sunday School year with a special Welcome Back event at 9:15am in Fellowship Hall for all children, Middle School and Senior High Youth and their parents! We will introduce you to this year's teaching volunteers and the way our Christian Education program will be organized. We hope to see you then!

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION GROUP

Our Truth and Reconciliation Group held a dinner and movie event on Thursday, June 13th. Over 20 people from the Slackwood and Grace congregations and the community watched the movie "Rustin." The movie was about Bayard Rustin, an [American civil rights](#) activist who was an adviser to [Martin Luther King Jr.](#), and who was the main organizer of the [March on Washington](#) in 1963. Most who attended did not know that Bayard Rustin conceptualized and was the driving force behind such a pivotal event in our nation's history. If you missed this event, we hope you will consider watching the movie on Netflix.

The Truth and Reconciliation Group will be reading [Across That Bridge: A Vision for Change and the Future of America](#) by John Lewis. Information about a discussion of the book will be shared in the upcoming months. All are welcome to participate. You don't have to be a member of the group to join us in reading the book or to join our discussion. Please reach out to Kate Moore if you have questions.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 8th via Zoom. Please look for the link the Sunday before in the "announcements" email from Carol. All are welcome.

Kate Moore

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to several in our church family who graduated this year.



Brooke Baumann, granddaughter of Jerry & Penny Baumann, from Frontier High School in Hamburg, NY

Miles Buck, son of Kathy & Ken Buck, from Lawrence High School

Tobie Mitchell, son of Ken & Tammy Mitchell, from Lawrence High School

Hannah & Julia Stebbins, grandchildren of Marilyn Stebbins, from The George School

Helen Zuckerman, daughter of Shelley Zuckerman & Tara Perigny, from Drew University