

Saxonburg Memorial Church Spring - Summer Newsletter



GREETINGS FROM PASTOR DOUG

In today's world of technology, staying connected with people seems to be getting easier and easier. We can send a text message to someone halfway around the world almost instantaneously these days. With cell phones we can stay connected whether we're in the car, grocery store, backyard or the mountains as long as we have a good connection.

In John 15:5 Jesus says, *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*



In John's gospel Jesus uses the image of the grape vine to illustrate his connectedness to us. He is the vine, and we are the branches. In our baptism we are connected to Christ and his life saving work. Jesus could have accomplished all his work without the disciples. However, he chose the disciples to partner with him. God doesn't need us either. He could have accomplished all He wills from the throne of heaven. But He **wants** us with Him. He longs for a relationship with us. He came to be "Emmanuel," God with us.

Being a branch to the true Vine means living with Christ. It's the ongoing awareness of his presence. Just as a branch gets its nourishment and life from the vine, we as believers receive our spiritual life and strength from our connection to Jesus Christ. Remember, staying connected is important in our relationships with the people closest to us and it is essential in our relationship with God.

In His Grip,
Pastor Doug





Vacation Bible School

**Jun 9-13
(Mon-Fri)**

6-8:30pm



Kids Ages Pre-K to Entering 6th

*Register & find more info at
saxonburg.org/vbs*



UPCOMING EVENTS!

Popsicle Sunday/Last Day of Sunday School: During the Sunday school hour on May 25th. This is our last Sunday school session until fall. Nursery will continue throughout the summer for kids 5 years and younger.

Water Play Wednesday: Wed, May 21 from 10 am - 12:00 pm. Bring your kiddos to the church for a splashing good time! Dress appropriately! If we're excited about this, we may have a few of these throughout the summer.

Nature Explorer's Club: Wednesdays June 25-Aug. 13 from 10-12. Miss Carrie will have locations soon. Check www.saxonburg.org/children for updates.

Team Family: "Be Kind, Rewind" event will happen June 24th at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. It will kick off our new theme for the summer. Very similar to Messy Church. Details to follow. We will also offer a family worship type service in July TBD.

Fireworks Watch Party at the youth house: July 3rd @ 7 pm (fireworks at dusk)

Butler Blue Sox Game: July. Exact date TBD - the Blue Sox have not yet released their season schedule!

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

I am looking forward to working through the theme “Be kind, rewind” with families this summer. This new approach toward ministry called “Team Family” is based on the verse: “Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you” (Ephesians 4:32).

Be on the lookout for family events, devotionals, connect cards, and interactive worship services. Know that as you go out into the world and raise your family, you are supported and loved. I pray that the exciting things we have planned for you this summer are a blessing and make the church feel like home to you. May you also find times to connect with your families in real and meaningful ways, and may each member be kind to one another, and forgive one another as God has forgiven us.

Additionally, our summer outreach will include a fun-filled week of Vacation Bible School and many opportunities for playful fellowship.

In Him,
Carrie

SUMMER CAMPS!

Church camp is a great way for kids to grow closer to our Creator God. We have a few great local options: Camp Lambec, Seneca Hills Bible Camp, and Camp Crestfield. Websites for all of these are linked from the Children’s Ministry page of our website at www.saxonburg.org/children. Contact the church with questions, and to inquire about scholarships available through our Missions Fund.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Summer is heating up, and so is the fun at our Youth Group! We’re still meeting every **Friday night from 6–8 PM**—starting with **Bible study in the Fellowship Hall**, followed by games and hangout time over at the Youth House. It’s a great way to grow in faith and friendship!

A big **thank you** to everyone who supported our **Pittsburgh Popcorn fundraiser**—we raised **\$400!** That money will help fund some exciting summer outings like **putt putt golf and bowling nights**.

Looking ahead, we’ve got even more ways to support our youth this summer, including a **Car Wash Fund-raiser** and a fun **Dunk Tank event at Mingle on Main**. Bring your friends, bring your sense of humor, and come help us make a splash—literally!

We’re also looking for a few awesome **adult volunteers** to help out on Friday nights and during events. Whether you can come once a month or more often, we’d love to have you join us.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our youth!

Rob Bauer

Congratulations to the Graduation Class of 2025!



Join us June 1 at the 10 am Service as we will recognize the graduating class of 2025.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Thursday Nights - Choir at 7, Band at 8:15. We're always taking new members!

Our music groups meet to rehearse music, enjoy fellowship, and spend time in prayer and the Word. We seek to grow our faith as much as our musical skill!

CHOIR - New Singers Always Welcome!

REHEARSE: Thursdays at 7:00 PM in the choir room. We break for a bit in the summer. Our last sing for the "season" will be Sunday, June 8.

IN THE LIGHT WORSHIP BAND

REHEARSE: Thursdays at 8:15 pm in the Sanctuary.

If you or someone you know play an instrumental or love to sing, get in touch with Dan. Come jam with us! We meet Thursdays at 8:15 PM in the sanctuary

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

VBS Session: June 9-13, during VBS. **SING** at 10am Service on **Sunday, June 15**

Summer Session: July 27 - Aug 24, Sundays at 11:15 in the Choir Rooms. **SING** at 10am Picnic Service on **Sunday, August 31**.

Kids of all ages are welcome! Bring your kids and their friends to sing with us!

MONTHLY HYMN SINGS at Local Senior Living Centers

First Thursdays of most months at 6:30 pm

May 1 at Magnolia Place | **June 5** at Concordia Haven 2 | **July 10** at Magnolia Place

Join to encourage our neighbors living nearby in senior living centers. We share hymns, Scripture, and pray together. It is a special and encouraging time for both us and the residents. You do not need to be a "regular" on our music team to come – the more the merrier!

AUDIO / VISUAL MINISTRY - Join the Team!

Make an impact! Join this simple, low time commitment ministry that has an outsized effect on those it touches. Some comfort with computers is helpful. Talk with Dan today! It is a regular occurrence that I receive messages from folks who could not make it in person on a particular Sunday (or perhaps for several Sundays while dealing with a health issue), saying how much they appreciate being able to join in worship online. Though they cannot be with us for a time, this truly allows them to feel genuinely a part of our worshipping body until they can be fully rejoined in person. This work makes a difference!

CONCERT SERIES - That's a wrap!

We've completed our first season with a wonderful group of concerts that have truly engaged our community in a new and fresh way! THANK YOU to all who have supported in various ways. Be on the lookout for next season announcements. Follow on Facebook: www.facebook.com/SaxonburgConcerts.

Yours in Christ,
Dan

A NOTE FROM OUR DEACONS

Springtime is here, and that brings Mother's Day (May 11) and Father's Day (June 15). We have some fun traditions here for these special occasions. Mothers, be sure to be on the lookout for a beautiful potted flower that you can enjoy all season long.

Fathers, hope you have the garden ready because a young tomato plant is coming your way! Be sure to be in church those respective Sundays to enjoy these fun extras.

We thank all those who supported our fundraisers. The Speckled Hen Candy and the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper were very successful! We appreciate everyone's support.

The annual garage sale will be a 2 day event! Stop by Fri, May 16 8-2 & Sat, May 17, 8-12. We are accepting donations the week of May 12 from 6-8 pm.

Mingle on Main starts back this month on Thursday, May 15 from 5:30-8:30 pm. Look for great food specials! We can always use a few extra hands to help with Mingles. Even just one hour to help setup or man the booth is a huge blessing!

We are looking forward to these events to be successful and we thank you for all of your support!

DRIVE the BUS!

We need a few extra folks on our roster to help drive the bus to pick up residents from Concordia on Sundays for the 10am service. This is a very low time commitment that has a huge impact for our brothers and sisters who ride the bus from Concordia. There is NO special license required - just a very brief training session with someone who's already done it. Pray on it, and talk with Carol Hines or our office if you can be part of this meaningful ministry.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Women's Bible Study

Please join us **Tuesdays at 7 pm** in the Bride's Room. We do take a break for the summer. This season's last study will be May 27, and then we will start up again in September.

Women Dine Out

"WDO" continues to meet the **last Monday of the month**. We are currently meeting at the Fieldhouse Restaurant. Our next meetings are May 19 (1 week earlier due to Memorial Day), June 30, July 28, and August 25 at **6 pm**.

Sewing Group

The Sewing Ministry meets Mondays from 1-4 pm. We prepare items for our annual fall festival, special quilts for baptism of children, and various other projects throughout the year. Please call the church office you are interested in learning more about the sewing group.

MEN'S MINISTRY

Wednesday Breakfast

Each **Wednesday at 9 am** a group of guys meet for food and fellowship at Kelley's restaurant.

MISSIONS

Mission trip opportunities! St Luke's in Cabot is going to Kentucky the week of June 1st and have openings if anyone is interested in going along. Another trip to North Carolina is planned for October. If interested, let the office know and we will connect you with the proper people.

Blessings, Jane Cooper, Missions Committee Chair

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

FORMAL MOTHER'S DAY TEA

Sat. May 10 12 noon \$10 p/psn

Light lunch, entertainment, prizes.

Hats strongly encouraged.

With over 230 people already RSVPed, we are sold out! That means **we need your help** to serve our community as we welcome them in to this unique event.

Call Nancy Hanson at (724) 316-7260 to be a part of it all! Looking forward to a wonderful afternoon!

Saxonburg's Mingle on Main

Every third Thursday May through September!

5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Organized by the Saxonburg Area Business Association (SABA).

The deacons will offer snow cones and a dinner special! Help is need for May 15! Please see Linda McDonald to join the team.

OTHER EVENTS IN CHURCH LIFE

RECENT PASSINGS:

Pam Layden went to be with our Lord on February 11.

Patrick Milliren went to be with our Lord on February 21.

Carol Kaltenhauser went to be with our Lord on March 13.

May God grant them eternal rest.

Finance Update – as of 3/31/2024

Finance Update (preliminary figures as of March 31, 2025)

General Giving tithes & offerings were approximately \$16,000 greater than budget for the first three months of the year. This is primarily associated with timing, as several families made multiple-month donations during this time period, as opposed to spreading them out evenly throughout the year. This resulted in a bottom-line surplus of roughly \$8,000 through the end of the first quarter 2025. As a reminder, the annual budgeted deficit is \$67,000.



The SMPC annual Church Yard Sale
Friday, May 16 from 8-2 pm
Saturday, May 17 from 8-12 pm

We are accepting items for the sale the week of
May 12-15 from 6-8 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Please no TVs or electronics. Gently worn clothing can be donated.



Saxonburg Memorial Presbyterian Church

PO Box 466 100 W. Main St.

Saxonburg, PA 16056

(724) 352-2888



SAXONBURG MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“To Shine the Light of Jesus Christ; to Discover, Experience, and Share His Love with our Community and World.”

Worship Times: 8:00 AM Traditional — 10:00 AM Blended / Contemporary

www.saxonburg.org
f @SaxonburgMPC y

Rev. Douglas M. Dorsey, Sr. Pastor
pastordoug@saxonburg.org

Dan Byerly, Director of Music Ministry
music@saxonburg.org

Carrie Allio, Director of Children & Family Ministry
kidsandfamily@saxonburg.org

Rob Bauer, Director of Youth Ministry
youth@saxonburg.org

Jackie Siano & Barbara Cornetti, Secretary
office@saxonburg.org

Bob Young, Finance
finance@saxonburg.org

PRAYER REQUESTS
prayer@saxonburg.org

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