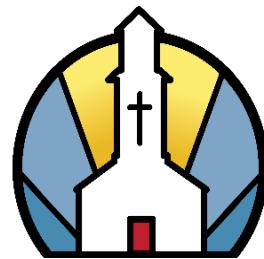


Saxonburg Memorial Church Winter-Spring Newsletter



Greetings from Pastor Doug

Once again, we are entering the Lenten season. Lent is the 40-day period between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. Hopefully it is a time that we set aside to remember and reflect on what Jesus did for all of us. This six-week period is usually a time of self-examination to see how we can become more Christ-like in everything we do.

This year we will be using Susan Robb's book *Seven Words – Listening to Christ from the Cross* for our Lenten study. We will be looking to see what all four of the gospel writers recorded.

These are the scriptures we will be looking at over the four weeks of our study:

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Matthew 27: 4 6, Mark 15:34

“Father, forgive them: for they do not know what they are doing.” Luke 23:34

“Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” Luke 23: 43

“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” Luke 23: 4 6

“Woman, here is your son...Here is your mother.” John 19: 26-27

“I am thirsty.” John 19: 28

“It is finished” John 19:30

I have had the honor and privilege to hold the hands of people in their last moments. I have heard some of the last words shared with family members. These words are often the most honest and meaningful words spoken. So why did these gospel writers choose to share the words that Jesus spoke while on the cross?

Join us as we examine the seven last phrases from Christ on the cross, and discover what Jesus most wants us to hear.

In His Grip,

Pastor Doug

LENT & EASTER HIGHLIGHTS

- ◇ Tuesday, Feb 13 from 4-7 pm — **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner**
- ◇ Tuesday, Feb 13 at 5:30 pm — **MESSY CHURCH**
- ◇ Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 7 pm — **SMPC Ash Wednesday service** (Little Church)
- ◇ Tuesday, March 12 at 5:30 pm — **MESSY CHURCH**
- ◇ Thursday, March 28 at 7 pm — **SMPC Maundy Thursday service** (Little Church)
- ◇ Good Friday, March 29 at 6 am — **Men's Breakfast** at SMPC (Fellowship Hall)
- ◇ Good Friday March 29 9:30 am — **Women's Breakfast** at Cabot United Methodist
- ◇ Good Friday, March 29 at 11 am — **Youth Lunch** at New Life
- ◇ **Palm Sunday Services** — March 24 at 8 am & 10 am
- ◇ **Easter Sunday Services** — March 31 at 8 am & 10 am

SMPC Lenten Study

Sunday evenings at 5 pm starting Feb. 25 through March 17

Join Pastor Doug on four Sundays in lent for a potluck dinner and Bible study. We'll be reading and learning from *Seven Words: Listening to Christ from the Cross*.

In *Seven Words*, Susan Robb looks at the seven last words of Christ on the cross through a lens that finds life and hope in his final sayings, while exploring each from a biblical and historical perspective. The book brings a hopeful and contemplative take on the cross during the weeks of Lent.

There is a sign up sheet in the church. Kids welcome! Miss Carrie is excited to see them!

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES—THE PSALMS OF LENT

Join us as we journey through the Psalms of the season to discover how they speak to us today!

WEDNESDAYS AT 12 noon FEB. 21 - MARCH 20

PRESENTED BY THE CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP NETWORK

Feb. 21 @ Zion Methodist Community Church

Speaker: Rev. Mike Galica of St. Luke's Lutheran Church

Feb. 28 @ St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Speaker: Rev. Dave Perry of Summit Presbyterian Church

March 6 @ Emory Chapel United Methodist Church

Speaker: Rev. Shawn Smith of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

March 13 @ Summit Presbyterian Church

Speaker: Rev. Chris Marshall of New Life

March 20 @ Jefferson Center Presbyterian

Speaker: Rev. Seth McClymonds of Zion Methodist

Elders & Deacons – Nominating Committee & Officer Elections

The Nominating Committee continues to meet and prayerfully discern God's call for the correct people to fill the leadership positions of Elder and Deacon still available. This is an important committee because these are folks we charge with the spiritual leadership of our church. So please join with the committee in praying and asking for guidance to the correct people to lead us as a congregation.

Here is how our Book of Order defines a Ruling Elder –

“As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they “lord it over” the congregation (Matt. 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Ruling elders, together with ministers of word and sacrament, exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships.”

And our Book of Order says deacons are to be, “persons of spiritual character.” They should be persons of deep faith and high moral standards (see 1 Timothy 3:8–13), committed to a life of prayer, study and other spiritual disciplines.

Once the New Officers are nominated and approved by the Session and congregation they will be ordained and/or installed on Sunday, March 10th at both services.

Please join us in praying for this process.

A NNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, FEB. 25

ONE SERVICE AT 10 AM

Lunch Provi ded Following Meeting

Bring a salad or dessert to share!

In the coming weeks we will make available materials to peruse ahead of the meeting, as well as a link to watch the meeting online. Please be sure to sign up to our e-mail newsletter list to be sure you receive this important info!

Please note: the online link will be for WATCHING only. Folks joining online with not be able to actively participate in the meeting.

DEACON'S EVENTS

The deacons thank everyone for their continued support.

*Shrove
Tuesday*




Pancake Dinner
Feb. 13
4-7 pm

**BAKE
SALE**



Palm Sunday
Cookie/Bake Sale
March 24



Easter flower orders start in Feb. Help adorn our chancel in beauty this Easter with lilies, tulips, and hyacinths.

Speckled Hen candy fundraiser March 2-9. Please mention Saxonburg Memorial when you place your candy order!

Donations are needed for the weekend backpack program. A list has been placed on the backpack table and items must be small enough for backpack. Monetary donations are always welcome.

We are providing Easter dinners to those local families in need. A list of food items needed to fill those needs will also be posted soon.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Tuesday Bible Study meets Tuesdays at 7 pm in the Bride's Room. Bring a Bible, pen, and notepad, and be ready to study the Word! We will be starting a new study called "Finding Rest in a Busy World" on Feb 20th. We meet Tuesdays EXCEPT on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. We welcome you to Messy Church on those Tuesdays!

Thursday Small Group is currently meeting on Thursdays Jan 24 – Feb. 29 at 1:00 pm in the Youth House. Karen Dorsey is leading.

Women Dine Out:

Meets the last Monday of the month at 6 pm at the Fieldhouse restaurant on Rt. 356.

Sewing Group:

Meets Mondays from 1-4 pm, weather permitting. Please call the church office if you are interested in learning more about the Sewing Group.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Hello Children of God!

“This is the day that the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

Psalm 118:24.

My prayer for you and I is that we may rejoice in *today*. As we look forward to the future with hope and reflect on the past with wisdom from experience, may we rejoice and be grateful in the present. Oh Lord, help us to be fully present in the moments of today. Let us not be anxious, but full of joy as we join you in the good work that you began in us. --Carrie

Opportunities to Receive & Serve in Children and Family Ministry

Sunday School / Nursery, ongoing, Sundays 10:30-11:45 am.
CARING ADULTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME to participate!

Messy Church, February 13th, March 12th, & April 9th from 5:30-7:30

Father Daughter Dance, February 16th 7-10pm


VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: decorating, organizing cookie trays, making punch, greeting guests, and more!

Winterfest-Warming Center Feb. 24 from 10:30-5 / Soup sale 11-2 pm

Lenten Bible Study, Feb. 25, March 3rd, March 10th, March 17th at 5pm
Childcare provided!

Palm Sunday Brunch & Egg Hunt, March 24th, 11-1pm

*****Keep in mind that VBS is just around the corner!***



FATHER Feb 16 / 7-10 pm
\$10/person, \$25/family of 3+
Daughter Register online at
DANCE www.saxonburg.org

COMMITTEE for COLLABORATION, FELLOWSHIP & YOUTH

SPECIAL MEETING of Presbytery Committee

Tuesday, February 6 – 7:00 pm at SMPC (Fellowship Hall)

SMPC is hosting a meeting for the Presbytery committee on Collaboration, Fellowship, and Youth. This is to talk about joining forces with other local churches for some special ministry opportunities. All are welcome to attend!

MUSIC MINISTRY

EASTER CHOIR — Extra Singers Welcome!

REHEARSE: Thursdays at 7:00 PM, Feb 29, Mar 7, 14, 21 + WEDNESDAY, Mar 27

SING: Palm Sunday, March 24 + Easter Sunday, March 31

We meet in the choir room on Thursdays at 7:00 PM, with the exception of moving to Wednesday during Holy Week. New singers are welcome!

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

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!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR — Palm Sunday Session

REHEARSE: Sundays, February 18, 25, Mar 3, 10, 17 at 11:10 in the Choir Room

SING: Palm Sunday, March 24 at the 10:00 am service.

(Final run through in sanctuary at 9:30 AM)

All kids pre-K through 6th grade are welcome! Rehearsals will be on Sundays after the 10 am service *in the choir room*. Bring your kids and their friends to sing with us!



EASTER HANDBELLS

REHEARSE: Thursdays at 6:00 PM, Feb 22, 29, Mar 7, 14, 21 + WEDNESDAY, Mar 27 in the Choir Room

RING: Easter Sunday at 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Services

We hope once again to incorporate handbells during the Easter season. Join us in the choir room!

MONTHLY HYMN SINGS at Local Senior Living Centers

First Thursdays of most months at 6:30 pm

Feb 1 at Magnolia Place | Apr 4 at Concordia Haven 3 | May 2 at Embassy/Seasons of Saxonburg

Join to encourage our neighbors living nearby in senior living centers. We shared 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!

(We will not have a senior hymn sing in March, due to Easter music rehearsals.)

Missions

We kicked off 2024 with the Life Choices Baby Bottle campaign. Melody from Life Choices explained about their organization's continued commitment to upholding the sanctity of human life. February 11th Mallory (McKinney) Thompson will come to share about the organization Isaiah 117. On March 17th our mission minute will focus on the Fuller Center Disaster ReBuilders. This is the organization we went through for our mission trip this past November. On April 14th someone from Austins Place will share about their organization.

If there is a particular Christian organization that you are passionate about, please bring it to our attention and consideration.

The church is meant to be a place of unity – that is why it is described as the Body of Christ. In order to function well, the body needs every part connected and working well together. All of our parts have different talents. Do you have a heart for Missions? Maybe you are not physically able to go on a mission trip, but you are a good organizer or fundraiser. There is a place for your unique time and talent. Please reach out to Jane Cooper, Cindy McCrea, or our office to find get started!

Blessings, SMPC Mission Team



OTHER EVENTS IN CHURCH LIFE

BAPTISMS:

Evelyn Patricia Lefever, granddaughter of Doug and Jeanne Lefever, was baptized in November.

RECENT PASSINGS:

Eileen Crawford, Marsha Austin, and Merle Hoak have gone to be with our Lord in recent days. May we and their families be comforted in knowing that our Lord Jesus will welcome them home to glory.

FINANCE REPORT

FINANCE REPORT

The Church recorded a surplus from operations of \$22,700 for the year ended December 31, 2023 compared to a break-even budget. General Giving tithes & offerings were \$4,600 greater than anticipated, while total operating expenses were approximately \$14,000 less than budget. More information on these figures for 2023, as well as the 2024 Operating budget, will be provided at the February 25, 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting. Please try to attend.

Additionally, both the 2024 giving envelopes and the 2023 giving statements are available. Please contact the Office at either Office@saxonburg.org or 724.352.2888 if you need us to help get those to you.

"For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but it is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!" 2 Corinthians 9:12-15

Restr i cted Fund Giving

SMPC greatly appreciates all your generous tithes and offerings throughout the year. When you indicate "current expenses" on your giving envelope (or make no indication at all), that designation is most helpful to the Church because it allows those monies to be utilized in the areas of greatest need.

However, if there is an occasion when you would like to donate to a specific cause above and beyond your normal level of giving, these are the following restricted funds that are available to you. Simply indicate the name of the restricted fund on your giving envelope on the line entitled "other" or in the memo section of your check.

Youth Ministry – these funds will be used to subsidize any operating costs of Youth Ministry, including Youth Director salaries. The monies cannot be used for expenses associated with the Youth House, such as utilities, repairs and maintenance, or building improvements."

Per Capita – these funds are used to support the Beaver-Butler Presbytery and are not required by either SMPC or the Presbytery. All monies donated to this Fund are transferred by the Church to the Presbytery for their use.

Deacons – these funds will be used to subsidize any operating costs connected with the day-to-day activities associated with the Deacons Ministry, including but not limited to Helping Hands.

Mission Special Trip – these funds will be used to support any special mission-related trip planned and approved by the Missions Committee.

Building Fund – The Building Fund is currently synonymous with the "Resurrect the Ark" capital campaign and will remain so until our goal of \$40,000 is obtained, or through September 2024, whichever comes first. More specifically, the monies will be used for improvements to the former Manse, Roebing House, Main Church, Trailer and parking lot.

Organ Fund – these funds will be used toward the eventual replacement of the Church's existing organ, or for the major repair and replacement parts of a future new organ. The monies will not be used for regular maintenance expenses such as tuning, voicing, etc.

Friends of Music – these funds will primarily be used to support a concert series hosted by SMPC. Specific types of costs include stipends to musicians/acts; production costs such as sound system & instruments; and venue acquisition such as Roebing Park. Occasionally, these monies could be used to purchase special equipment needs that support the concert series, such as kettle drums, music stands, etc.

Vacation Bible School – these funds will be used to subsidize any operating costs associated with the Annual Vacation Bible School, except for Children's Ministry Director salaries.



WINTERFEST
SAXONBURG, PA
SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 24
10:30-5 pm

Bundle up and come on out for a fun winter festival in Saxonburg! Attractions will include ice carving, horse-drawn carriage rides, a mobile petting zoo, food trucks, vendors and more! SMPC will serve as a “warming station” throughout the event, and will have food available in Fellowship Hall from 11-2.



Yard Sale

Friday & Saturday May 17 & 18

8 am -2 pm



FORMAL MOTHER'S DAY TEA

"In the Garden"

Sat. May 11 at 12 noon

\$10 p/psn

Light lunch, entertainment, prizes. Hats strongly encouraged. RSVP Saxonburg.org or 724-352-2888.

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



www.facebook.com/saxonburgmpc



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

Jackie Siano & Barbara Cornetti, Secretary

office@saxonburg.org

Bob Young, Finance

finance@saxonburg.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

prayer@saxonburg.org

Sign up to receive our monthly E-mail Newsletter!

Just go to www.saxonburg.org and fill out the form at the bottom of the page.