

May/June/July 2023

Saxonburg Memorial Church Spring - Summer Newsletter



Greetings from Pastor Doug

In Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (NIV), Solomon writes how there is a time for every purpose under heaven.

*There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones
and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace
and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.*



Once again summer is just about upon us. It is the time of year for vacations and family fun, going to camp, swimming pools, and cutting the grass. As much as it seems like activities at the church slow down over the summer, it is the time of year that our church goes on display to the community. We have more people coming to and through our church during the summer than we do all year long. We get started on May 13th with the Mother's Day Tea followed by Mingle on Main on the 18th, and the Yard sale on Saturday the 20th.



In June we will be hosting our annual Vacation Bible School program. This year's theme is *Compassion Camp: Changing the World Through Loving Kindness*. This is an excellent opportunity to share the love of Christ with the local children and community and have a good time.

All of these activities take a lot of planning, work, cooperation, and time to put together and run. Timing is important. I hope to see each of you over the summer as we work together to make each of these events a success. We have some wonderful opportunities to show our community who we are at SMPC, so let's continue ***to shine the light of Jesus Christ: to discover, experience and share His love with our community and world.***

All it takes is a willing heart and a giving spirit.

In His Grip,
Pastor Doug



WAYS TO SERVE

To live out our mission, you are encouraged to join in sharing the love of Jesus with others in our church and community. Various ministry teams and several Session committees are open to your participation — just ask how you can get involved! If you don't know the contact person, call our office and they'll be happy to get you connected.

Meal Ministry: Contact: Linda McDonald

Meals are prepared and delivered to families in our church and community who could use our help and encouragement in this area for a time.

Bus Ministry: Contact: Carol Hines

Drivers are always needed to pick up folks living in Concordia to attend our 10 am service. Our small bus does NOT require a special driver's license.

Anyone with a license can help with this important ministry.

Card Ministry: Contact: Jane Miller

This special work can be done by anyone from anywhere. We write cards of encouragement and prayer to various folks in our church community.

Greeters: Contact: Carol Hines

These folks are the first people we see in the door each Sunday. If you have a heart for welcoming hospitality, ask about joining this team.

Children's Ministry: Contact: Carrie Allio

Gifts of service and encouragement are always welcome to help in our nursery, Sunday School rooms, VBS, and various activities throughout the year.

Audio/Video: Contact: Dan Byerly

Folks on this team learn to work our easy-to-operate sound board and video streaming equipment. This is a huge blessing to all who attend, both in person and at home!

Music: Contact: Dan Byerly

Our band, choir, children's choir, handbells, and brass groups are always open to new members. Just talk with Dan!

Finance Update — as of 3/31/2023

Bottom Line	\$2,800 actual surplus	ARK Giving	\$1,874 (actual)
	\$3,000 budgeted surplus		\$7,150 (budget)
General Giving	\$78,000 (actual)	AKF Fund Balance	
	\$82,000 (budget)	Donations	\$1,874
		Expenditures	(\$5,100)
		Balance	(\$3,226)

RESURRECT THE ARK CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

What's the Story...

Did you know that our newer church building was designed after Noah's Ark? Next time you're in, look at the windows near the roof on each side the building!

Do you know the name of our first capital campaign in this church, which kicked off in March of 2006? "Cover The Ark" was an ambitious initiative with goals to replace the entire church roof, gutters and drains, and various other smaller projects. Our target was \$250,000 and we reached it in 3 years.

How about the name of our second capital campaign? In January of 2013 "Renovate the Ark" eyed several major projects, including installing the elevator, sealing the parking lot, installing a brand new sound board and sound system, installing the glass wall which now divides the sanctuary from narthex, creation of the narthex coffee bar, new pew seat cushions in the little church, and directional signage. Our target was \$375,000 and we reached it in 3 years.

Resurrect the Ark

As of April 2023, we have entered into a new capital campaign, "Resurrect the Ark". With a target of \$40,000 in 1.5 years, we hope to accomplish the following projects

- replace furnace in manse
- repair and seal parking lot
- replace roof on rental trailer
- repair wind damage on little church
- replace seals in main church windows.

So What Do We Do?

You may find yourself wondering, how can we come up with the money? First, remember that God provides for His people. Second, know this: this is our church and it is our responsibility to keep it up - no one else will do it for us.

- ⇒ If each current giving unit were to add an additional \$5 per week, the cost of a cup of coffee at Starbucks or a half of breakfast at Kelley's, we can pay this off in a year and a half.
- ⇒ If each giving unit would add \$8.00 per week, we could pay it off in just ONE year.

On your physical giving envelopes is a space marked "ARK." Please add your donation for this campaign in that spot.

You can give online at www.saxbonburg.org/give. Please choose "Building Fund" from the list of options there.

Our church has been shining the light of Christ in our community and beyond for more than 185 years. Now we have an opportunity to help ensure that tradition of faithfulness continues to endure for generations yet to come. With God's help, we can do this together.

Thank you so much for your help!

Sincerely,
The Session of SMPC

**SMPC 2023
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Monday - Friday
JUNE 12 - 16
6 - 8:30 PM**

**Open to kids ages Pre-K to
entering 8th grade
REGISTER ONLINE
www.saxonburg.org/vbs**



**Email: vbs@saxonburg.org
Or call the office (724) 352-2888
to volunteer to help!**

Carrie Allio, Director

**POPSICLE SUNDAY!
DURING
SUNDAY
SCHOOL
MAY 28TH**



**On May 21
all third graders
will receive
Bibles!**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

My three-year-old asked me the other day, "Do you work for Jesus?"

I considered my reply and joyfully answered, "Yes. I try my best to work for Jesus."

He responded, "He [Jesus] wants everybody to do their own work. He [Jesus] wants my work to be playing."

My heart warmed at the wisdom and correctness of his thoughts and our conversation. We have all been given this *one* wonderful life to use in work for Jesus. God gave each of us unique abilities, aptitudes, and passions. He has called us to use this one precious life in work that is pleasing to him (and to us, I assert). My husband, Reverend Mark Allio, always says, "Do what you are passionate about because that is what the world needs...people who are more passionate."

God made you with certain passions and interests to make a difference in this world. In his book, *Things That Matter*, Joshua Becker writes, "Your most important work will never be the easiest—in fact, it will probably be one of the hardest things you ever do. Being an intentional parent, loving spouse, faithful employee, inspirational artist, good boss, or selfless member of the community is never the easiest road to travel. But in the long run, there is more joy and happiness to be found there than anywhere else."

Our example of selfless and intentional living comes from Jesus, who intentionally remained focused on heaven. Practicing spiritual disciplines of prayer, acts of service, Bible reading, enjoying nature, and fellowship with other believers (to name a few) can be useful for helping us as humans to "set our hearts on things above". We must be careful that our acts are done in secret as it exhorts in Matthew 6 "17 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 18 so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

I ask that you be in prayer about how you can use your gifts to glorify God through service in our church. You may feel that you have nothing to offer, but I assert that even the most humble gifts, given with a generous heart, have the power to make a huge difference. You have wisdom and talents that may fill a niche here at Saxonburg Memorial Church.

And, as an aside, playing IS the work of childhood (as Ty had previously stated). It is through play that children learn how to problem solve, cooperate with others, reenact real life events, be creative, explore, learn, and grow. As adults, we can guide and facilitate that learning and be an example of loving-kindness to others and ourselves.

Many opportunities for service are available during the Vacation Bible School and in our "Ways to Serve" section of the bulletin. Prayerfully consider how you can join the momentum of God's amazing work!

Carrie Allio

Director of Children & Family Ministry
kidsandfamily@saxonburg.org

MISSIONS

MISSION TRIP TO KENTUCKY:

Join us for an exciting trip to challenge yourself and build your faith! We will be teaming up for our friends at St. Luke's Cabot. An informational meeting will be held in July. Please contact Jane Cooper, Pastor Doug, or our church office to let us know you'd like to join!

Oct. 29 - Nov. 5

Stay in Madisonville, Kentucky

Maximum 15 volunteers.

ARMSTRONG HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Rock the Block — Kittanning

June 10 & Aug. 19

Meet at the Living Water Church 629 Woodward Ave. Kittanning, PA

Many more opportunities to help. Contact: Craig Glatfelter, Executive Director 724-793-0044

SMPC MINUTE FOR MISSION—Coming Up!

May 21 Camp Lambec. Retired pastor, Dennis Molnar will be here to share on all about camp opportunities.

May 21 Gideons International

June 25 Robin's Home — Founder Mary Chitwood will be our guest speaker.

July 9 VNA Hospice Care

UPCOMING EVENTS

FORMAL MOTHER'S DAY TEA

"In the Garden"

Sat. May 13 12 noon

\$5 p/psn



Light lunch, entertainment, prizes.

Hats strongly encouraged.

With over 200 people already RSVPed, we have reached capacity for this event. Looking forward to a wonderful afternoon!

****Please note: If you received noticed regarding the waitlist, the office will be in touch the week of the event.****

Saxonburg's Mingle on Main

Every third Thursday starting in May through Sept.!

5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Organized by the Saxonburg Area Business Association (SABA).

The deacons will offer snow cones and a dinner special!



The SMPC annual Church Yard Sale

Friday, May 19 from 8-2 pm

Saturday, May 20 from 8-2 pm

We are accepting items for the sale starting
May 15-18 from 6-8 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

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

A NOTE FROM OUR DEACONS

Springtime is here, and that brings Mother's Day (May 14) and Father's Day (June 18). 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, the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, and the Palm Sunday cookie sale were very successful! We appreciate everyone's support.

The annual garage sale will be a 2 day event! Stop by Fri, May 19 8-2 & Sat, May 20, 8-2. We are accepting donations the week of May 15 from 6-8 pm.

Mingle on Main starts back this month on Thursday, May 18 from 5:30-8:30 pm. The deacons will offer snow cones and a food special May & July and then back to the 'Saxonburg Super Spuds' June, Aug. and Sept!

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

*Looking further ahead: Get ready for a good ol' fashioned **CHURCH PICNIC on August 27. We will have ONE SERVICE at 10:00 am that day at Winfield Township Municipal Park, with the picnic immediately following. Stayed tuned for more details as the date approaches.***

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 23, and then we will start up again September 12.

Women Dine Out

"WDO" continues to meet the **last Monday of the month at 6 pm**. We are currently meeting at the Fieldhouse Restaurant. Our next meetings are May 22 (a week early due to the Memorial Day holiday), June 26, July 31, Aug. 28, and Sept. 25.

Coffee Talk

Coffee Talk is held **last Saturday of the month at 9 am in the Youth House**. We here from special guest speakers and enjoy delicious breakfast food!

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.

ManUp Pittsburgh — Men's Conference June 10

We are looking to get a group of guys together to attend ManUp Pittsburgh, a conference hosted in Cranberry. There's a great lineup of speakers, including Steelers head coach Mike Tomlin. General Admission is normally \$49, which includes the full day with food. BUT if we have at least 10 in our group we can get a better rate. Talk with Dan or Pastor Doug to get involved. Check out <https://uifpgh.org/man-up-pittsburgh/> to learn more about it.

MUSIC MINISTRY

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

Why Do We Sing in Church?

We're all used to music during worship. But have you ever stopped to wonder why we keep music in our worship? Particularly the kind that asks everybody to sing along? I mean, the music people handle that, right? Do they *really* expect the rest of us to actually join in the singing? The simple answer is, "Yes!"

You might say... "OK... but... Why should I when I don't have a good voice? Singing isn't my thing. You wouldn't want to hear..."

Let's stop right there. Here's the reason: Because God himself has commanded it.

Yes – God Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, creator of the universe, has commanded that we worship him in song. And he has given us voices to do it. Some may be more suited to lead, but none are to be left silent. God allows some freedom of form and style in our songs, but He does not leave us a choice as to whether or not to join in the singing. Instead He commands:

"O come, let us sing for joy to the LORD, Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation." (Psalm 95:1)

"O sing to the LORD a new song, For He has done wonderful things... Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth; Break forth and sing for joy and sing praises. Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, With the lyre and the sound of melody." (Psalm 98:1, 4-5)

"Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God." (Colossians 3:16)

Christian, your voice may not be of *professional* standard, but it IS of *confessional* standard. Indeed, if you recognize Jehovah God as the creator of all; if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead (Rom 10:9), you *must* sing. Whatever the quality of your voice, whatever your feelings about it – SING. Sing boldly. Sing with thankfulness in your heart to praise Almighty God. Sing with wisdom and discernment in your mind so that you might teach and admonish your brothers and sisters in Christ. For there is Truth from Scripture in the songs we sing, and we need to hear it.

So this is the challenge to us, church: Sing. Sing boldly. Sing as men and women who love the Lord and want the whole world to hear of His love and power and grace and might. Sing such that folks who visit us in this place might wonder just what it is that has us expressing ourselves so earnestly. Let's just see whether the Lord might use our strong singing to bolster our faith and our community.

Yours in Christ,
Dan
Director of Music



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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

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PRAYER REQUESTS

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