

Saxonburg Memorial Church Spring - Summer Newsletter



GREETINGS FROM PASTOR DOUG

On May 24th we celebrate Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is critically important because He is the only source of genuine transformation. Paul reminds us in Galatians 5:22-23, that when the Spirit indwells you, He produces what scripture calls fruits of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The Holy Spirit sanctifies us through the slow, steady process of helping us to become more like Christ. We cannot develop these traits on our own. The Spirit grows them within us.



In John 16:7, Jesus told His disciples that the ascension was essential, because Jesus had to leave physically so that the Holy Spirit could come and indwell every believer. With the Spirit living within us, we have direct access to God's presence all the time. The Holy Spirit communicates with us through scripture, prayer, and our conscience. The Holy Spirit illuminates scripture, turning words on a page into a living message directed to our hearts. He guides us, teaches us, and confirms that we are children of God and guarantees our eternal salvation.



He distributes the spiritual gifts of teaching, healing, leadership, and mercy to each believer so that the church can function as the actual body of Christ on earth. In short, the Holy Spirit is the "electricity" empowering the whole Christian life. With Him, the Word comes alive, prayer becomes a conversation, and the church becomes a family with the power to change the world.

Won't you come and join us as we celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit.

In His Grip,

Pastor Doug

pastordoug@saxonburg.org



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026

"RAINFOREST FALLS / Exploring the Nature of God!"

June 28—July 1 (Sun—Wed) from 6:00 - 8:30 pm

Register your kids at saxonburg.org/vbs



SCAN HERE
TO REGISTER
YOUR CHILD!



SCAN HERE
TO BE A
TEAM MEMBER!

"Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God" VBS will be June 28-July 1 from 6-8:30 pm. Register kids aged 4 years – finishing 5th grade at Saxonburg.org/VBS. Teens can be "guides" this year. We are looking for an a preschool director, a Games teacher, and Guides. See Carrie if you are interested or fill out the Google form on our VBS webpage. We are collecting small cardboard boxes, brown paper packaging, large pieces of cardboard, faux greenery + plants (to borrow), and small plastic butterflies, frogs, lizards, etc. (to borrow). Please label items so that we can return them to you.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Sunday School and Nursery:** Last day of Sunday school (aka "Popsicle Sunday") for the year is May 24th! Nursery for ages 0-5 will continue throughout the summer. Ask God if He is calling YOU to teach for a month or two during the 2026-27 school year.
- **Messy Church:** May 12th, 5:30-7:30. Potluck! Come join us for a Christ-centered time of creativity, food, and fun for all ages. Bring a dish to share. This will be our last one until September, come celebrate what God has done!
- **VBS:** "Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God" VBS will be June 28-July 1 from 6-8:30 pm. Register kids aged 4 years – 5th grade at Saxonburg.org/VBS. Students sixth grade and older can be "guides" this year. *We are looking for an Imagination Station (science/art) teacher, a preschool director, registration table people, a Games teacher, and Guides.* See Carrie if you are interested or fill out the Team Member Form at www.saxonburg.org/vbs. We are **collecting** small cardboard boxes, brown paper packaging, large pieces of cardboard, faux greenery + plants (to borrow), and small plastic butterflies, frogs, lizards, etc. (to borrow). Please label items so that we can return them to you.

Ongoing Professional Development and Growth/Visioning forward:

I have currently been learning and reflecting on the themes of collaboration and life-long learning and applying these ideas to children's ministry here at SMPC. My hope and prayer for all of us (the children, myself, and the entire church family) is that we continue to "crave that pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness. (1 Peter 2:2-3)"

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

My desire is for YOU as the body of Christ to be in places of growth here. I want to challenge you to try something new, reach out to someone new, and seek the Lord with your heart. I want to “hear” your input on vision boards (see the bulletin boards) and through conversations. May this place be one of fellowship and worship as we remember that we are here to grow. Growth happens as we challenge ourselves and serve in new ways. Grace happens when we try something and learn in the safety of this space. We need each and every one of you—not to burn you out, fill your time, or cause you to labor tirelessly, but because God has a purpose for your being here (I have heard that somewhere...). He has given you talents, passions, and ideas for hope and a future to which He has called you. Let’s be a light by being his body.

LITTLE BLESSINGS PRESCHOOL WEEK

Saxonburg Memorial Church *Preschool is now enrolling* for “Little Blessings” week June 8th-12th, from 9:30 am-12 noon. This pilot program will be taught by Pennsylvania certified teachers with the purpose of playfully engaging children ages 3-5 years. We seek to enrich language/literacy skills, gross/fine motor skills, and social/emotional skills through Biblical storytelling, songs, games, crafts, and outdoor time. Our approach is largely based on a whole-child approach that focuses on Jesus, creativity, play, inquiry, and positive friendships. Snack is provided. Please register your child at: saxonburg.org/preschool.

Blessings in Christ,

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

SUMMER CAMPS!

- ♦ **Church Camp** is a wonderful opportunity for our kids to learn and grow in faith! There are a several great local Christian camps - Camp Lambec, Seneca Hills, and Pine Valley, and our missions team is happy to sponsor camp tuition for our church kids! Choose a camp and go to their website to register. Once you have registered and paid your deposit, forward your receipt to the church office with a detailed note, and your request will be directed to the missions committee. Missions has set aside \$2,000 to assist in camp fees. The total number of applicants will factor into determining the percentage that we can offer to help cover the cost.

LIVING WATERS YOUTH GROUP



Living Waters Summer Newsletter



Mingle on Main – Summer Outreach

Living Waters is excited to be part of **Mingle on Main** this summer! We’ll be there each month bringing fun, food, and fellowship to the community.

When: The third Thursday of June, July, and August

Where: Mingle on Main

What We’ll Be Doing:

- **Dunk Tank** – Come join the fun and make a splash!
- **Hot Dogs for Sale** – Fresh, tasty, and ready off the grill
- **Water for Sale** – Stay cool during the summer heat

This is a great opportunity to connect with others, support Living Waters, and enjoy a fun summer evening with family and friends. We hope to see you there each month!

BIBLE STUDY & FELLOWSHIP

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Tuesday Bible Study

Please join us **Tuesdays at 7 pm** in the Bride's Room. 2nd Tuesdays we attend Messy Church. We do take a break for the summer. This season's last study will be May 26, and then we will start up again in September.

Thursday Care & Share Study

Thursdays at 1 pm in the Bride's Room, through May 14th. The Care & Share group is studying through Charles Stanley's book *Relying on the Holy Spirit: Discovering Who He Is and How He Works*.

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 18 (1 week earlier due to Memorial Day), June 29, July 27, and August 31 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.

FAMILY MINISTRY

Family Bible Study - May 17, Jun 21, July 19 at 5pm

Third Sundays at 5 pm we meet for a brief study, followed by dinner and a relaxed hang out time. Tons of kids keep each other occupied while the adults have their own fun! Usually at the Byerlys' house, but rotates around. Everyone welcome - talk with Dan or Melissa to find out more!

A NOTE FROM OUR DEACONS

Springtime is here, and that brings Mother's Day (May 10) and Father's Day (June 21). 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 15, 8-2 & Sat, May 16, 8-12. We are accepting donations the week of May 11 from 6-8 pm.

Mingle on Main starts back this month on Thursday, May 21 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!

BACKPACK PROGRAM

The Easter boxes for backpack were full of meats, dry goods, fresh fruit and vegetables and dairy products. We supported 17 families and couples. We gave spring outerwear to the children from the Angel Tear Grant. Deb Edmonds headed a group of deacons to make large Easter Baskets full of goodies, books and toys for the families. A big thank you to the Deacons and church members for overseeing getting everything ready and delivered to the Backpack families since Judy Farney was out of town.

We will collect small food items for Children's backpacks till MAY 3rd.

Starting May 10, we will collect large food items for the June, July and August monthly food pick ups since school is out. We have 15 families we support and they ask me to THANK YOU for all the help you give them with food- "You are a Godsend". We will be buying school supplies, winter wear, shoes, etc. with Angel Tear Grant as we enter summer in preparation for the start of school in August 2026.

Please read your bulletin for updates for food items we need or check the backpack table for list of foods needed. We also have deacons shopping for items so if you do not want to shop you can give monetary donations to the deacons, marked "Backpack" in memo or on your envelope. God has been so good to us to be able to help those in need, each of us are blessed and we should bless others in the name of Jesus Christ.

Judy Farney -Backpack Chairperson

PERSONNEL UPDATE

BARB CORNETTI is LEAVING!

Barbara Cornetti has worked in the church office for about 14 years. Now that she is a grandmother she is leaving to take care of her new grandson while his parents work.

Many of you have come to know her through the years. If you would like to send her a card or note, her address is: 500 Sunrise Farm Lane, Sarver, PA 16055.

The office now has an opening for her position. If you are interested you can call the church office to inquire about a job description.

CEMETERY UPDATE

CEMETERY CLEAN UP DAY

Sat. May 16 from 8 am to noon.

Any help is appreciated! Talk with Al Carr or Carl Meyers for more information.

General Finance Update – as of 3/31/2026

Finance Update (preliminary figures as of March 31, 2026)

General Giving tithes & offerings were approximately \$15,000 less than budget for the first three months of the year. This is in sharp contrast compared to the same time period last year, in which our general giving tithes & offerings were approximately \$16,000 greater than budget after 3 months.

Hopefully, the unfavorable variance is just a matter of timing. Our annual budgeted General Giving tithes & offerings are \$325,000, identical to what we actually received in 2025. As a reminder, our 2026 annual budgeted bottom line is a shortfall of (\$145,000), which includes maintaining our level of General Giving at the same level as last year.

ARK Capital Campaign Kickoff!

As the seasons change, our church remains a constant source of warmth, light, and refuge for our community. It is a place where we gather to worship, learn, support one another, and serve those in need. To ensure our building can continue to be a safe, comfortable, and efficient haven for years to come, we are embarking on some essential improvement projects, and we need your help!

As a church family, we have been blessed to have our main building and other buildings on our campus free of mortgage debt for decades. This has allowed us to focus our resources primarily on ministry. However, as many of you know, we have needed capital campaigns over the years to fund major expenditures like roofing, carpeting, and other critical items in need of upgrades. Our main church building was constructed in the 1980s, so the mechanical systems that we take for granted are aging. It has become clear that our aging boiler and air conditioning system are critically in need of replacement. The windows are decades old. Some of them are rotting out and in need of immediate replacement!

To address these needs, your session elders are prayerfully launching the **ARK special capital campaign** to raise funds. If you feel called to and can start giving now, your giving envelope has a place on it titled "ARK" or you can write "ARK" on the memo line of your offering check. If you would prefer to give online you can do that at saxonburg.org under "give". We are hoping that giving to this ARK campaign would be above and beyond your normal giving, since the church has set expenses that are paid for by your normal tithes and offerings. We are so thankful for your generosity and hearts for ministry!

To guide our planning and prioritize our efforts, we need your input. Please help us by identifying any specific concerns or issues you have encountered related to our buildings and grounds, and we will consider them for inclusion in this capital campaign. By sharing what you see, you are actively participating in the care and future of our church home. In the coming weeks, watch for information in the church bulletins about how you can submit your capital improvement ideas for consideration.

Thank you for your partnership in this important work!

Jon Haverstick and Dennis Hinderliter, ARK Campaign Co-Chairs



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 14.

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 28-July 1, during VBS. SING at 10am Service on Sunday, July 5

Summer Session: Aug 2-23, Sundays at 11:15 in the Choir Rooms. SING at 10am Service on Sunday, August 30.

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 7 | June 4 | July 2 - Location details will be shared in church announcements!

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!

CONCERT SERIES - Final Concert of the '25-'26 Season!

MOTUS SONORA Percussion Ensemble - Sunday, May 17 at 4:00 pm

Led by Juliette Trudeau, Principal Percussionist of the Butler County Symphony orchestra, Motus Sonora is a collective of dynamic percussionists exploring rhythm as a living, breathing force. Through a fusion of classical precision, contemporary textures, and spontaneous collaboration, the group transforms movement into sound and sound into motion. Full details at www.saxonburg.org/concertseries. We hope to announce some exciting developments and next year's season by the end of May!



SAXONBURG CONCERTS
Free to Attend

MOTUS SONORA
Percussion Ensemble

Sun, May 17 at 4 pm
at Saxonburg Memorial Church

More on this + other concerts at
Saxonburg.org/ConcertSeries
[/SaxonburgConcerts](https://www.facebook.com/SaxonburgConcerts)

The banner features a photograph of three people (two women and one man) standing in front of a brick wall. A QR code is located in the bottom left corner, and a small logo of a church with a steeple is in the bottom right corner.

MUSIC MINISTRY

SONGS OF FAITH THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

“O Zion, Haste”

One of the most inspiring hymns for the mission of the Church in the world, “O Zion, Haste” was penned in by Mary Ann Thomson in 1868. Well, mostly – the refrain was added later, in 1871. Mary Ann was born in London and emigrated as a young girl to the United States, where she married John Thomson, who served as the first librarian of the Free Library in Philadelphia. Her text was originally six stanzas, but these four are most commonly included in hymnals and serve to render the poem quite complete.

*O Zion, haste, thy mission high fulfilling, to tell to all the world that God is Light;
That He who made all nations is not willing one soul should perish, lost in shades of night.*

*Behold how many thousands still are lying, bound in the darksome prison-house of sin,
With none to tell them of the Savior's dying, or of the life He died for them to win.*

*Proclaim to every people, tongue and nation that God, in whom they live and move, is love;
Tell how He stooped to save His lost creation and died on earth that we might live above.*

*Give of thy sons to bear the message glorious; give of thy wealth to speed them on their way;
Pour out thy soul for them in prayer victorious; and all thy spending Jesus will repay.*

REFRAIN: Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace; Tidings of Jesus, redemption, and release.

The first verse calls to mind the image of “Zion” such as is mentioned in Isaiah 40:9. This name is used throughout Scripture to refer to the genuine people of God. So in this opening exhortation, Mrs. Thomson is calling all members of the Church at large to pay heed to the task before us. Certainly the text calls to mind the Great Commission from Matthew 28:18-20. 2 Peter 3:9 is clearly referenced as well; that the Lord is “not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” Verse two calls attention to the acuteness of the circumstance; it is the Christian’s simultaneously solemn and joyful duty to bring the promise of eternal life to those who walk in the shadow of death. After reminding us of the particular work of Jesus at the cross, the hymn closes with some particular challenges to us to make our spending for the Kingdom of God from the very resources we hold most dear. Not least of these expenditures is to “pour out thy soul...in prayer victorious.” What a stirring recollection of the very real power of genuine prayer!

God is proclaimed as the main object of this petition, Scriptural reasons are given for us to praise Him, and we are clearly called to repentance unto salvation and life in Christ Jesus our Lord. These elements combine to make this an entirely excellent hymn; one the Church has enjoyed already for more than 150 years, and ought to continue singing for generations to come.

Mrs. Thomson originally had in mind an existing tune to which she fit the meter of her hymn text. We are all thankful that she heeded the urging of a minister friend to pursue a particular tune for her work. TIDINGS by James Walch is grand and stately in the stanzas, intimating the seriousness of the text. Yet in the refrain there is a light and hope to the music which beautifully reflects the hopefulness of the message the text carries there. As we approach the particular remembrance of the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, let us sing this hymn boldly to proclaim the tidings of Jesus – His redemption and release!

Listen for yourself! Search online for the hymn title and you’ll find some beautiful renderings. And be ready to sing this one in worship soon.

Yours in Christ,
Dan Byerly, Director of Music Ministry ~ music@saxonburg.org

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

FORMAL MOTHER'S DAY TEA

Sat. May 9 12 noon \$10 p/psn **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!

The SMPC annual Church Yard Sale

Friday, May 15 from 8-2 pm Saturday, May 16 from 8-12 pm

We are accepting items for the sale the week of **May 11-15 from 6-8 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Please no TVs or electronics. Gently worn clothing can be donated.

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).
May 21, June 18, July 16

Please join us in our new Church Directory!

PHOTO DATES are May 26 & 27 from 2-8:30pm

Sign up in the church or on line. Signing up online is available Mondays – Fridays. Go to www.ucdir.com click on the red button labeled "Photography Session Sign Up".

Our church code is: pa1279 and our password is smile1279.



You will get a free directory and 8x10 portrait just for participating. And you will have the opportunity to buy additional family portraits -

Don't miss out on making a new treasured memory!

Our new Directory won't be complete without you!

***Help is needed!! Looking for a person to help on the committee!*



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
 [@SaxonburgMPC](https://www.facebook.com/SaxonburgMPC) 

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