

Saxonburg Memorial Church Winter-Spring Newsletter



Greetings from Pastor Doug Lent Bible Study Sundays at 5 pm, Mar 16– Apr 6

In his new devotional, *From Wilderness to Glory: Lent and Easter for Everyone*, Norman T. Wright provides an opportunity for us to think, pray, and reflect through the stories of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. This study provides the opportunity to read a Bible story each day of the 40 days of the Lenten season. Wright relates the passages to our daily lives and leaves us with thought-provoking discussion questions.

Wright helps us to embrace that we're not going to always understand what is going on in a passage until we look deeper. He encourages us to "Look and learn to see and hear in it the heavenly vision, the heavenly voice."

Let them change you, mold you, make you somebody new, the person God wants you to be. Discover in the story the normally hidden heavenly dimension of God's world."

I would encourage everyone to take part in this Lenten journey. Call the church office to order this devotional.

You can read the daily passages on your own or with your family, and then I invite you to join us for our Lenten study starting on Sunday, March 16th and going through Sunday, April 6th at 5 p.m. Bring your favorite meal to share at the "Potluck Dinner" each evening.

In His Grip,

Pastor Doug

LENT & EASTER HIGHLIGHTS

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Tuesday, March 4 from 4-7 pm

Ash Wednesday Service (Little Church)

Wednesday March 5 at 7 pm

Messy Church

Tuesday, March 11

Messy Church (Easter)

Tuesday, April 8 at 5:30 pm

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 12 at 12 pm Noon.

Palm Sunday Services

+Children's Cantata *The Tale of the Three Trees*

April 13 at 8 am & 10 am (Kids at 10am only)

Brunch following 10 am service.

SMPC Maundy Thursday service (Little Church)

Thursday, April 17 at 7 pm

Good Men's Breakfast at SMPC (Fellowship Hall)

Friday, April 18 at 6 am

Good Friday Women's Breakfast at Cabot Methodist

Friday, April 18 at 9:30 am

Good Friday Youth Event

Friday, April 18. Details TBA from the CLN.

Easter Sunday Services

April 20 at 8 am & 10 am

Sunday School Easter Party

April 20 during Sunday school

LENT & EASTER HIGHLIGHTS (Continued...)

SMPC Lenten Study

Sunday evenings at 5 p.m. starting March 16 – April 6

Join Pastor Doug on four Sundays in lent for a potluck dinner and Bible study. We'll be reading and learning from the book, *From Wilderness to Glory: Lent and Easter for Everyone*, Norman T. Wright.

There is a sign up sheet in the church. The kids of the church will spend part of this time working on their upcoming musical. Families are welcome to join for the whole study!

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesdays at noon during Lent (March 12 – April 9)

Provided by cooperation of churches involved in the Christian Leadership Network.

Schedule to be published soon!



Jan. 31 - Feb 7 - Feb 21 - Feb 28

7-9 pm @ Abba's House (320 West Main St. Saxonburg)

All are invited to a series of discussions with pastors from different Christian traditions followed by a time for questions. Bring a friend who has never attended church or has been inactive for some time.

**Sponsored by the local pastors of the Christian leadership network in partnership with Abba's House.

If you would like a visit from our church or know of someone that would, please call Karen Murphy at 412-855-9657.

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 2nd at both services.

Please join us in praying for this process.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, FEB. 23

ONE SERVICE AT 10 AM

Lunch Provided Following Meeting

Bring a salad or dessert to share!

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

Please note: The online stream will continue through the meeting, for those who would like to watch. Folks joining online will not be able to actively participate in the meeting.

DEACONS' EVENTS

The deacons thank everyone for their continued support.




*Shrove
Tuesday*

**Pancake Dinner
March 4
4-7 pm**



**BAKE
SALE**

**Palm Sunday
Cookie/Bake Sale
April 13**



Easter flower orders
start March 9 –30.
Help adorn our
chancel in beauty this
Easter with lilies,
tulips,
and hyacinths.

Speckled Hen candy fundraiser April 4-12. As you buy your Easter candy, please be sure to mention Saxonburg Memorial when you place your order!

Backpack Program: We are collecting food that fits in backpacks to be delivered monthly to the school. Please see the updated list on the backpack table in the narthex. March 16-April 6 starts our Easter food collection. We prepare 10-12 Easter dinner boxes for families in need. Please see the new list starting March. 16, and of course monetary donations are always welcomed. Easter basket supplies like candy, food and small gifts for the children will be accepted also.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY + OTHER STUDIES

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 meet Tuesdays EXCEPT on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. We welcome you to Messy Church on those Tuesdays!

Thursday Women's Small Group starts March 13 though April 24 at 1pm Thursdays in the Youth House. Karen Dorsey is leading the study, "Chasing Vines: Finding Your Way to an Immensely Fruitful Life."

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.

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY - One Sunday a Month at 5 pm - Next Dates: 2/16, 4/27

We meet at a family home for Bible Study and fellowship! Study first, then dinner and hang out after. Perfect for families with all sorts of schedules. *In March we'll plan to attend the study led by Pastor Doug.* We'd love for you to join us! Talk with Dan or Melissa.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

“Greetings, children of God! I am excited to offer many opportunities for growing in faith and service as we enter into springtime—a season of growth and renewal.

Dan Byerly, Heather Check, and I are collaborating on a **children’s cantata** based on the folktale “Three Trees”. These songs and narration personify three trees dreaming about what they hope to become. Throughout the story, the hope of the trees turns to despair as their dreams do not become reality. The despair melts away at the climax and resolution when the trees reflect on their own timelines. They realize that their dreams were fulfilled in a much more meaningful manner than they ever could have imagined. This musical presentation teaches about the life of Jesus from the cradle to the cross. The music is catchy, the movements are simple, and the plot is profound. *We hope that you come out to support the children and youth on Palm Sunday!*

Sunday school continues weekly with an **Easter party** on April 20th during the Sunday school hour (classes will be combined that day).”

Other events:

Father/Daughter Dance: February 7th, 7-10pm; *HELPERS ARE NEEDED* for:

- Decorating on February 4&5 at 10 am,
- Filling cookie trays & registering guests on February 7th during the dance (6-10),
Clean-up on the 8th from 10-noon.

Rehearsals for the CHILDREN’S CANTATA: *The Tale of the Three Trees*

- Sundays @ 11:15-11:45 (2/16-4/6) & 6-7 pm (3/16-4/6*) **This is during Pastor Doug’s Lenten Bible study. We hope that parents can deepen their knowledge of the Bible and relationships with God and one another while we take care of your children. Dinner is served at 5 pm.*
- Thursday evenings from 6-7:30 pm on March 13, 20 & 27, and April 3 (Blocking/movement)
- Dress rehearsal 4/12, 10-12 pm—*Egg hunt to follow.*
Performance 4/13 @ the 10 am service.

Messy church: Second Tuesdays, 5:30-7:30 pm

February 11th (God’s Love)

March 11th (Movie/popcorn night)

April 8th (Messy Easter)

Easter Egg Hunt: April 12 @ 11:30 (youth house)

VBS – save the date!! June 9-13 in the evening. Volunteer teachers, guides, and registrars are needed.

2 Peter 3:18 “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever!” Amen.



Fri, Feb 7 from 7-10 pm

\$10/person, \$25/family of 3+

Register online at

www.saxonburg.org

MUSIC MINISTRY

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!

EASTER CHOIR - Extra Singers Welcome!

REHEARSE: Thursdays at 7:00 PM, Mar 13 – Apr 3, + WEDNESDAY, Apr 9

SING: Palm Sunday, April 13 + Easter Sunday, April 20

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

EASTER BRASS

REHEARSE as needed, depending on ensemble availability.

CALLING ALL BRASS PLAYERS! If you have experience with a brass instrument, speak with Dan. We love to add a few special musical arrangements with brass for Easter Sunday.



CHILDREN'S CANTATA – *The Tale of the Three Trees*

REHEARSE: Sunday Mornings, February 16 – April 6 at 11:15 – 11:45 am

Sunday Evenings, March 16 – April 6 at 6:00 – 7:00 pm (during Pastor's Lent study)

Thursdays, March 13 – April 3 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Saturday, April 12 at 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

PERFORM: Palm Sunday, April 13 at the end of the 10:00 am service.

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

Feb 6 at Concordia Haven 3 | **Mar 6** at Magnolia Place | **May 1** at Concordia Haven 1

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 April, due to Easter music rehearsals.)

CONCERT SERIES

GROVE CITY COLLEGE WIND ENSEMBLE

Sunday, March 16 at 2:00 pm

The GCC Wind Ensemble is the select wind band of the college. Under the direction of Dr. Andrew Erb, the group presents an engaging concert full of exciting flourishes, lush harmonies, and fabulous fanfares. It performs literature of the highest caliber in the repertoire, including premiers of new works.

***Special Note** - Members of the GCC ensemble will also join us to aid in worship music at the 10:00 am service the morning of March 16. Plan to attend. It will be a great day of music!

PLUTO SOUNDZ - Modern Fusion String Quartet

Sunday, April 27 at 4:00 pm

Pluto Soundz is an eclectic string ensemble that fuses 20th century techniques and popular music. Classically trained founders explore new styles of playing, writing, and performing. Co-Founder and violist Bill Tackett is a proud Knoch High School alumnus! Bill is the violist who joined us this past Christmas Eve to enhance our service with some beautiful music. He now lives in Houston, but is making the trek back home to share his gifts with us. Don't miss this unique musical experience!

Check www.saxonburg.org/concertseries and our facebook page at www.facebook.com/saxonburgconcerts to stay up to date on all the latest info on our concert series!

GIVE to Support Future Concerts

You can always give directly to the concert series. Please be sure to clearly mark any giving here with "Friends of Music". All funds indicated as such will be used expressly to support this series.

OTHER EVENTS IN CHURCH LIFE

NEW MEMBERS:

Robert & Sarah Iseman joined on January 26, 2025

BAPTISMS:

Wren Eleanor Iseman on November 17, 2024

Jack Michael Norris on November 24, 2024

RECENT PASSINGS:

Phyllis McCrea went to be with our Lord on December 17, 2024. May God grant her eternal rest.

A NOTE OF THANKS:

Ralph and Rose Davis would like to thank our church family for the food, cards, concerns, and prayers as they travel on the road to recovery. "We firmly believe in the power of prayer, and hope to join in person worship soon! Love to all!"

Youth Group

Youth grades 6-12 meets Friday nights at 6 pm in the Youth House. The Lord is blessing this ministry! In just six months, Rob has 20 kids coming regularly, and so is need of additional help to manage all that energy! Please prayerfully consider how you might help, and talk to Rob.

Missions/Deacons

Below are some of the events and outreach programs that our church is involved in, both within our church family and the community as well.

Father/Daughter Dance, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, Good Friday Men's Breakfast, Mother's Day Tea, Messy Church, School Backpack Program, Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Food Boxes, Summer Food Boxes, Back to School Shoe Ministry, Mingle on Main food truck, Music Concert Series, Cantata, Nursing Home Hymn Sing, VBS, Fall Festival, Apple Butter Making, Veteran's Dinner, Light Up Night and Parade, Gingerbread House Night, Cheer Bags, Sewing Ministry, Meal Ministry, Youth Group, Bell Ringers, Women's Ministry, Prayer Chain and Card Ministry, Helping Hands, Cookie Sales, Kitchen Ministry, First Responder's Dinner.

As you can see, we are an active church and these events can't be done by just a few....it takes a village, better known as our church family!

We would like to challenge you to become involved in helping or attending at least one new event this year! Imagine the impact it would have on our church and community! There are all types of ways—big and small to help out, and remember many hands lighten the load.

We thank all those that help in so many ways and we look forward to welcoming new helpers this coming year!

FIRST RESPONDERS APPRECIATION DINNER

Wed. April 30 @ 6 pm

Speaker is Rob McCafferty from the 911 call center. RSVP by April 16.

FINANCE REPORT

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The Church recorded a deficit from operations of \$46,000 for the year ended December 31, 2024 compared to a budget shortfall of \$49,000. General Giving tithes & offerings were \$19,000 less than anticipated, while total operating expenses were approximately \$3,000 less than budget. More information on these figures for 2024, as well as the 2025 Operating budget, will be provided at the February 23, 2025 Annual Congregational Meeting. Please try to attend.

Additionally, both the 2025 giving envelopes and the 2024 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



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 upstairs in the church from 11-1.



Yard Sale

Friday & Saturday May 16 & 17

8 am -2 pm

VBS June 9-13 in the evening.

Volunteers Needed: Teachers, guides, and registrars.



FORMAL MOTHER'S DAY TEA

“In the Garden”

Sat. May 10 at 12 noon

\$10 p/psn

Light lunch, entertainment, prizes. Hats strongly encouraged. RSVP at 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
 [@SaxonburgMPC](https://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

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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