



The Slackwood Grapevine

Slackwood Presbyterian Church
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Rev. Ryan Irmer, Pastor
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January/February 2020

Inward. Outward. Together

As Slackwood enters into a new year and decade, we're seeking to live into the theme of, "***Inward. Outward. Together.***" In addition, we've decided to study the Gospels together in a series titled, "***Encountering Christ***" where our worship, Christian Education, and weekly devotionals all come together. So how can our theme and our Gospel study complement one another?

Inward

In Mark 8, Jesus asks His disciples, "Who do others say that I am?" and then follows up with, "But who do you say that I am?" Like the disciples, we have many outside voices and influences that shape and distort how we answer this important question. Being able to "Encounter Christ" through **weekly reading of each Gospel should serve to inform our personal view about who Jesus is and how His life impacts our own.** Living "Inwardly" also reminds us of all who call Slackwood their church home: How do our fellow congregants teach us, provide outlets for dialogue, support us, and challenge us in ways that our faith in Jesus Christ grows deeper and stronger?

Outward

If we come to the same understanding as Peter did, that Jesus is the Messiah, that should have a profound impact on our lives. **Putting Jesus at the center of our lives should reorient every other aspect of our life.** By reading the Gospels, we are learning what our lives should look like when Jesus receives our true allegiance. Our relationships with our friends, family, neighbors, & co-workers are all impacted by Jesus' teachings and example found in all four Gospels. Jesus' life and teachings also impact how we are to utilize our time, talents, and spend our resources. Living as Christ's witnesses allows everything that we say and do to be regarded as "mission" in that we are constantly working to bring God's Kingdom into our neighborhoods in a variety of ways.

Together

In a time and place that is so bitterly divided by politics, race, and class, how can we be a church that remains united? Most groups come together by finding a common cause but in our case, it is the person of Jesus Christ that brings us together. When we read the Gospels together, we are going to the same source to receive a common understanding about who this person is that unites us. If each of us is uninformed about who Jesus is and why He came, misunderstandings about how we are to live and the mission of the church will be numerous. However, when we collectively come to recognize that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is someone who extends unconditional love, offers us forgiveness of sins, is compassionate towards all people, and strives for mercy and justice, that will impact us. Our ability to demonstrate love towards one another, offer forgiveness to those whom have hurt us, and appreciate and value the differences of people who don't look like us or share our viewpoints will be impacted by our common understanding. When we encounter Jesus together, I would venture that our treatment of those on the margins of society and how we strive for justice and equality will also reflect the life and teachings of Jesus.

I'm very excited for 2020 and am thrilled that we are on this journey Inward, Outward & Together!

Your Pastor,

Ryan

Slackwood Presbyterian Church January/February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19 9:30 AM Messy Morning 10:00 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Deacons' Meeting 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Services	20 Martin Luther King Day 9:30 AM Service Proj. 7:30 PM AA	21	22	23 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM DA Mtg.	24	25 8:30 AM AA Meeting
26 9:30 AM Adult Forum, Sunday School, Choir 10:30 AM Worship, Communion, Annual Meeting, Soup and Sandwich Lunch 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Services	27 7:30 PM AA Meeting	28	29 6:00 ACA	30 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM DA Mtg.	31 6:00 "In the Service of Others" Night at Slackwood Elem. School	February 1 8:30 AM AA Meeting
2 9:30 AM Adult Forum, Sunday School, Choir 10:30 AM Worship and Communion 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Services	3 7:30 PM AA Meeting	4	5	6 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM DA Mtg.	7	8 8:30 AM AA Meeting
9 9:30 AM Adult Forum, Sunday School, Choir 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Deacons wrkshp-Hospital Visits 12:00 Property Committee Mtg. 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Services	10 7:30 PM AA Meeting	11 7:00 PM Membership and Outreach Committee	12 Lincoln's Birthday 6:00 ACA	13 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM DA Mtg.	14 Valentine's Day 1:00 PM Daughters of Scotia	15 8:30 AM AA Meeting
16 9:30 AM Adult Forum, Sunday School, Choir 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 Deacons Mtg. 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Services	17 Presidents' Day 7:30 PM AA Meeting	18	19 7:00 PM Session meeting	20 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM DA Mtg.	21 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast	22 8:30 AM AA Meeting
23 9:30 AM Adult Forum, Sunday School, Choir 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Worship Committee 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Services	24 7:30 PM AA Meeting	25	26 Ash Wednesday 6:00 ACA	27 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM DA Mtg.	28	29 8:30 AM AA Meeting

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 14 – Talent/No Talent Night

{To submit articles, calendar events, or address changes, please e-mail BaumannP@aol.com}

ACTIONS OF SESSION AT THE DECEMBER 18, 2019 MEETING

The session:

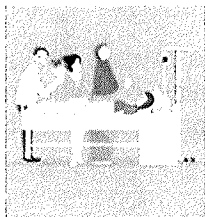
- learned that the session minute book and church registry were reviewed by the presbytery on Thursday, December 5 and approved without exception;
- voted to make donations to Slackwood Volunteer Fire Company, Lawrence Township PBA, and the Religious Ministries Department of Princeton Medical Center;
- learned of the damage to siding at the church, the claim filed with insurance company, and plans for repair work;
- approved the pastor's holiday policy as recommended by the Personnel Committee;
- approved the recommendation of the Personnel Committee concerning staff salaries.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the congregation of Slackwood Presbyterian Church has been called by the session for Sunday, January 26, 2020 immediately following the 10:30 AM service of worship, to elect elders, deacons, members of the auditing committee, members of the congregation's nominating committee, and to act on the terms of call for the pastor as recommended by the session, as well as any other business set by the session.

DEACONS

Happy New Year from your Deacons! We will continue our workshop series on February 9th. After church that day James Klotz will lead us in a discussion about **Hospital Visits**. Do you squirm thinking about what to say or do when you visit someone in the hospital? Please join us and get some practical advice on dos and don'ts...and get to ask your own specific question at the end of the presentation. Also, share your insight and experience with others. We all learn from each other, so I hope you'll join us that day.



The Church Congregational Meeting is Sunday, January 26. The Deacons invite you to join us after the meeting for a **Soup and Sandwich Luncheon**.

There is no need to commit to joining us. We'll have plenty for all!

At the Congregational Meeting we will be electing new officers. With new deacons coming on, we will be redoing the deacon's **Shepherding List**. This list pairs a deacon with about 6 or 7 church members. Deacons are responsible for checking in on their church members – sending cards, learning more about you and your family, caring and praying for you and your family, and assisting in whatever way possible. The list, once reorganized, can be found on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. If you are contacted by a new deacon, please welcome them and know they are there as your "shepherd".



MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB

The January meeting is coming up very quickly as the third Friday is January 17! The Men of the church are invited to join the activities. As usual the meeting will begin at 9:00 AM at the church. Following an enjoyable meal, we will continue our fellowship by completing small jobs around the church. Mark your calendar and join us on January 17 and the February meeting will be held on Friday February 21!



FAMILY MINISTRIES – Starr Alleyne

"I am making everything new." Rev 21:5 CEV

When we think of gifts and new beginnings in relation to Christian Education at Slackwood, we reflect on all of the wonderful times of gathering and participating in things that draw us nearer to Jesus. Each new opportunity to participate in various things that have been offered and will be offered as we enter a new year like Adult Forum, Primary Sunday School, Youth Group, Messy Morning, Young Adult Ministry and other special events continue to transform our hearts and inspire us to live as gospel people.

Thank you to those that are able to participate in Adult Forum. After finishing an Advent Study, the group will be discussing weekly scripture studies created by Pastor Ryan in order to lead the congregation through the four gospels. The Youth Group is using the studies to gain a better understanding of the person of Jesus Christ. They

are excited to have this foundation and it's helping them to connect to that Sunday's sermon.

We are grateful to the Primary Sunday School children who attend faithfully. Although they are a small number, it's great that they have that time to learn about God through their curriculum. But also that they have a discipline of reading from their Children's Bibles and learning the stories by heart. This will be a tremendous help as they grow and mature.



Young Adult Ministry spread Christmas cheer to local residents in nursing homes by caroling. The faces of the residents beamed with joy and gladness as they sang along or just listened happily. Those that participated enjoyed themselves tremendously too!

Messy Morning for December was the Christmas Pageant! It's great that everyone participated together as an entire church. What a way to get into the Christmas spirit! Messy Morning for January will be devoted to Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Day. Many members have expressed interest in this project and have been providing donations to help us to prepare.



So much happens at Slackwood Presbyterian Church from week to week. So many thanks go to all who volunteer their time, treasure, and talent to help things go well for everyone... from the littlest Slackwood member to the oldest Slackwood member. And as new people enter the doors to the church, whether they visit once or decide to keep coming, may there continue to be opportunities for fellowship and service they grow to love in the coming year.

Thank you again to all of our faithful volunteers!!!!
You are a tremendous gift to all of us.

TALENT/NO TALENT NIGHT AT SLACKWOOD

Our annual Talent/No Talent Night will be held on March 14 starting with a covered dish dinner (which is the real talent part of the evening with the usual delicious offerings from Slackwood's culinary kings and queens) at 6:00 PM. A sign-up sheet will be available in Fellowship Hall, and if you are able to contribute a covered dish toward the meal, you can

indicate what type of dish you'll be bringing, as well as whether you'd like to delight us with your talent (or...attempt at talent, whatever the case). It's recommended that you try and keep your performance to 5 minutes so everyone has a chance (and the audience gets a break). Any questions? Talk to Amelia Irmer or Karen Nolan. Please plan to join us for a night of great food, lots of laughs and award-winning (????) entertainment.

NGA – NATIONAL GIVING ALLIANCE

NGA – formerly known as New Garments Always, and now National Giving Alliance, was a mission project of Presbyterian Women at Slackwood for many years. With the dissolution of PW, the session agreed to continue to support NGA. Fred Mitchell constructed "Arlene's Closet" which sits in fellowship hall and is the place to put your contributions to NGA. Items are collected all year long and then turned in to NGA in October

The Membership & Outreach Committee recently received a full list of all the items accepted by NGA. As before, new washable clothing items, with tags still on the item, are needed for babies, children, women and men. In addition to those items, the following are also needed:

- Baby diapers, wipes, lotion, shampoo and powder.
- Toiletries such as soap, deodorant, lotion, toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, shampoo and conditioner.
- Linens (all new) – towels, washcloths, sheets and pillowcases.

All donated items must be new.

As you are doing your family shopping, look for good sales on everything needed by NGA and put your contributions in the container in fellowship hall.

PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Committee meets following worship on the second Sunday of each month. Feel free to join us as we consider items for the maintenance of the church grounds. In addition, if you have any ideas or concerns please let Bill Mansmann know of them.