



# The Slackwood Grapevine

Slackwood Presbyterian Church  
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Rev. David Bowman, Interim Pastor  
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## INTERIM PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

*<sup>23</sup>Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for God who has promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup>And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup>not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:23-25)*

Have you ever wondered why people come to church? As much as I'd like to think it's about the sermon, or the worship service, for the most part that's not the case.

**So why do people come to church?** There may be many reasons, but I would say the number one reason is this: **community**, we need each other. In fact, I think that it is nearly impossible to live the Christian life without the support of brothers and sisters in Christ.

**WE ARE TO HOLD fast without wavering TO THE HOPE WE confess:** this is the basic goal of the Christian life. In the case of the Letter to the Hebrews, being a Christian meant risking persecution; it appears that these Jewish Christians were getting ready to give up and the writer issues this challenge: **hold on to the hope you profess without wavering.**

Like the early Jewish Christians, there is a very real possibility that we could become discouraged and give up: that's where the other command comes in. "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

**THE WRITER SAYS: We need to MEET TOGETHER FOR ENCOURAGEMENT AND TO BE SPURRED ON, provoked, to love and do good deeds.** The only way that we're going to be able to holdfast without wavering to the hope we profess is if we have the support of other Christians to help us – **IF WE MEET TOGETHER.** We need each other. God calls us into the community of God's children so we can have fellowship with and encourage one another.

In community, masks come off, conversations deepen, hearts open up, lives are shared, accountability is invited and compassion flows; people really do become like family. As we experience fellowship, community, we can become stronger and more vital, individually and as a community, as our lives become entwined with one another, moving closer together, deeply caring for each other. The very time we feel like isolating from people is the time we need to be with people the most.

I encourage you then to hold fast to your hope, without wavering. The best way you can do that is by drawing support from one another in the community of the faithful...by actively participating in the life of the church.

May it be so,  
Pastor David  
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## **FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR STARR ALLEYNE**

After serving Slackwood Church for five years, Starr Alleyne, our Director of Family Ministries, will be leaving us. In gratitude for her faithful service, there will be a special coffee hour to honor her on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> following worship. Please take the opportunity to extend your appreciation to Starr and wish her God's blessings on her continued ministry.

## **CONFIRMATION/YOUTH SUNDAY**

On Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> during our 10:30am Worship Service, our youth will lead us. In addition to celebrating the Sunday School year and our children and youth, we will be confirming four of our young people: Miles Buck, Noelle Buck, Emma Moore and Peyton Valentino. A special reception will follow worship in their honor. It is also Pentecost Sunday; we encourage all worshippers to wear RED.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

On Saturday, June 22, beginning at 3:30pm, there will be a church picnic at Pastor David and Richard's farm. Look for more details to come. Rain date will be June 29. Sign-up sheet will be posted in fellowship hall.



## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COORDINATOR POSITION**

In light of Starr's leaving, the Christian Education Committee has prayerfully discerned what our next steps will be in finding someone to provide leadership and resources for our Christian Education Program. Session approved a position description for a part-time (8-10hours/week, 43 weeks a year) Christian Education Coordinator. The position has been posted at a number of seminaries and presbyteries and a search committee has been formed to interview prospective candidates: Mark Thomas, chair; Amanda Johansen; Emma Moore; Amy Valentino; and Pastor David. Please pray that God would lead the right person to this ministry with our church family.

## **BI-MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY**

Our bi-monthly Bible Study is meeting again on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 7pm via Zoom. We study the Scripture passages which will be used in worship on the following Sunday. No prior Bible knowledge is necessary! All are welcome!



## **MEMBERSHIP AND OUTREACH**

Thanks to everyone who helped and came out to support the community egg hunt. It was a great success with 39 children finding over 400 eggs in under seven minutes. There were a lot of happy kids!

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the diaper and baby wipe drive for Homefront. There is still lots of time to donate. Boxes are set up in Fellowship Hall. The drive will end on May 12th.

## Summer Community Festival

Just another reminder that the 2024 Community Summer Fair will be held on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Planning is already in the works and your help would sincerely be appreciated! It takes many jobs and lots of willing people to pull this amazing outreach opportunity off but it is always so rewarding and lots of fun! There will be a sign-up sheet on the Fellowship Hall table to join the committee or you can email Ginger Baker at [gingerwells55@hotmail.com](mailto:gingerwells55@hotmail.com).



## FROM WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Mark your calendars for May 19<sup>th</sup>. As mentioned above, our Pentecost service will also be Youth Sunday. Plan to attend and watch our young people take part in leading the service. Stay afterward to celebrate some of our youth who will be confirmed that day as well.

We will be utilizing our outdoor grounds again this summer for half of the worship services in June, July, and August. We hope you will consider joining us under the tent with our beautiful garden as a backdrop. Our fellowship hour will be held outdoors as well.

Please continue to support Slackwood by ushering, being a liturgist, participating in the choir, or attending our monthly planning meetings. See a member of the worship committee if you have questions or are interested.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

*“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. -Colossians 3:17*

- **Workers in The Vineyard**

Many thanks for all the committee has been able to accomplish through the leadership of Mark Thomas and Pastor David Bowman along with our members Amy Valentino (educator and parent), Sandy Murray (educator and aunt), Debbie Moore (educator and grand-parent), and Scott Baier (new member this year). The committee is faithful and dedicated to sharing ideas and collaborating to provide the best programming for Christian and Spiritual Formation at Slackwood. Please continue to pray for the committee and for the spiritual growth of all friends and members of Slackwood. We want all that we do to be in honor to Jesus so that we may draw others into the fold.

- **Scripture Study**

This has been an amazing year for Christian Formation at Slackwood. Pastor David Bowman led Scripture Studies via Zoom the first and third Thursdays of every month along with Advent and Lenten Studies. We are grateful for his abundance of knowledge and ability to facilitate in-depth discussions. But we are also grateful for the ways he helped participants ask thoughtful questions to illuminate a deeper understanding of the message in sacred scripture as well as challenging us to further action.

- **Confirmation Preparation**

Pastor Bowman also led the Confirmation Group's lessons this year. He engaged the Youth to develop a thorough understanding of faith in the Presbyterian Tradition while using various visuals and props. There were minimal absences and every session was interesting, informative, and creatively put together. Also, part of the programming were mentors who met with the youth a few times a month using guides and the journals provided to the youth. This was all coordinated by Pastor Bowman. Many thanks to Mark Thomas, Shirley Hafford, Tara Perigny, Karen Nolan, Robin Garzoni, and Sandy Murray for serving as mentors for this year's Confirmands. We thank you also for attending the special sessions and meetings as well as the recent Saturday retreat. We'd especially like to extend special thanks to Robin Garzoni for planning, hosting, and leading the community service project! We truly appreciate all the love and preparation that went into hosting the Youth.

- **Adult Christian Education**

The Adult Forum continues to do well under the leadership of Mark Thomas. Mark also sends out Wednesday Prayer Requests via email every week. The group continues to meet on Sundays via Zoom and has been working on a study of the book of Revelation. Faith Formation is so important for spiritual maturity and growth. Mark has given his time for years. We are truly grateful for his willingness to lead and openness to the guidance of the Holy Spirit when leading the discussions and helping the group decide what they should study.

- **Children's Church**

We have four young people for the Children's Church. Many thanks to our volunteers Sandra Thomas, Tina Morrell, and Debbie Pratt. They've developed great relationships with our youngest disciples at Slackwood and are always ready to share fun lessons with them. It's so important for the children to be present at church regularly and have an opportunity to develop the ability to pray and learn more and more about the stories in the Bible. The volunteers gather with the children in the Nursery School Classrooms during the regular Sunday Morning Worship. We are so grateful to our volunteers for their enthusiasm and willingness to serve in this important ministry.

- **Messy Morning and Youth Sunday**

Upcoming important dates to support Christian Education are on Sunday, May 5th and Sunday, May 19th. May 5th will be an intergenerational Messy Morning in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00am and May 19th will be Youth Sunday during the regular Sunday morning Worship Service at 10:30am. May 19th is also Pentecost Sunday and several of our Youth will be confirmed.

What an amazing and blessed year for Christian Education at Slackwood. We appreciate all of your prayers and support.

## **SPRING CLEAN-UP**

The Spring Clean-Up was finally held on Saturday March 30, a day before Easter. The weather forecast was a little iffy but numerous brave souls showed up to complete the entire list of items to be completed. Edging the front sidewalk, trimming the front lawn, resetting the border around the front sign, policing the grounds, cutting the rear lawn, cleaning weeds out of the path of the Meditation Garden, repairing the fence near the playground and cleaning the outside windows of Fellowship Hall and the kitchen were done by 11:00! Many thanks to all who participated!



## **CHURCH BUS**

The Property Committee has been discussing what to do with the church bus. Since it has had a few issues, it was decided that we should sell it. Tom Clark led the way on finding a buyer and a contract of sale was signed on April 21. The bus will still be parked in our lot until the final payment is made in a few months. Thanks to Tom for all his effort!

## **THANK YOU**

Terrie and Bill Mansmann wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to our Slackwood family for all the Love and Support we received the past months. Also, many thanks to Pastor Bowman, Shelly Sanders Zuckerman and Robin Garzoni for their efforts to make the memorial service for Todd a very special event. All of you will always be in our hearts.

Please check our calendar online for upcoming meetings and events:  
<http://www.slackwoodchurch.org/event-calendar.html>