Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost **August 30, 2026**
Liturgical Color: Green

Slackwood's Mission Statement

Slackwood Presbyterian Church is a diverse, caring Christian community guided by scripture, committed to loving God, loving our neighbors as we love ourselves, and sharing Christ's love with all people.

Slackwood's Vision Statement

We envision glorifying and serving God by being an example to each other, the community, and the world through:

- Meaningful Worship
- Faithful Prayer
- Relevant Study
- Joyful Fellowship
- Compassionate Service

We strive to build a safe community that embraces:

- All Ages
- People of color
- The LGBTQIA+ community
- People with disabilities
- Other Marginalized people

Values

Grace – We recognize that God's grace is extended to all, regardless of our shortcomings or differences.
Welcoming – We intentionally create an inviting atmosphere where newcomers feel embraced and valued.
Inclusive – We celebrate diversity and actively seek to include all people in our worship, fellowship, and service. We believe that every person has a place at God's table.
Respect – We strive to listen to one another, value differing perspectives, and honor each person's dignity.

www.slackwoodchurch.org

Like us on Facebook

Slackwood Presbyterian Church
2020 Brunswick Avenue
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Embracing God. Extending Welcome. Celebrating All.

Moses and the Burning Bush
Frank Wesley

August 30, 2026 **10:30 a.m.**

--Order of Worship—

As a consideration to all who seek to worship this morning, please turn off or mute cell phones and other electronic devices.

Bell of Invitation
Welcome & Announcements
The Lighting of the Peace Candle and Centering Prayer

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

Call to Worship

Leader: This is our holy ground.

People: A place where we lift our voices in praise to God and share the stories of faith that inspire us to embrace Christ's love.

Leader: God has called us here, through whispering winds and blazing flames,

People: and in God's presence, God dissolves the barriers we've built around ourselves.

Leader: And in our vulnerability, God meets us anew.

People: On this holy ground, let us worship God.

*Hymn #214 MORNING SONG
"You Are My Refuge, Faithful God"

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession *(In unison)*

Holy God, we confess that we do not always turn aside to listen for your voice. We hurry through our days, distracted by our tasks and anxious about our own plans. Though your holiness surrounds us, we often fail to notice the sacred ground beneath our feet. Forgive us when fear keeps us from following your call, when comfort keeps us from risking love, and when our hearts are slow to trust your holy mystery. Surround us with your wondrous love. Make us wise enough to hear your call, humble enough to confess our need, and brave enough to follow your path. *(Moment of silent prayer).* **Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon

*Gloria Patri (#581)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

HEARING OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading - Psalm 105:1-6: 23-26

The Word of the Lord./**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem "Come by Here" Kyle Pederson

Second Scripture Reading - Exodus 3:1-15

The Word of the Lord./**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Turning Aside" The Rev. David Bowman

*Affirmation of Faith (adapted from *"A Brief Statement of Faith*)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image. We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness to Christ as Lord and Savior, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Hymn #53 "O God, Who Gives Us Life" NOEL

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and

forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Call for Offering
Offertory
*Doxology (#606)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

*Prayer of Dedication
*Hymn #49 "The God of Abraham Praise" LEONI
*Charge and Benediction
*Postlude

DEPART TO SERVE

*Those who are able may stand.

Christ's Ministers in the World: All members of the church
Pastor: The Rev. David Bowman
Director of Music: Dr. Shelley Sanders Zuckerman
Liturgist: Emma Moore, Kate Moore

The Peace Candle in the Chancel is lit to remind us of the gift of Christ's peace and our call to be peacemakers.

Pastor Bowman's contact information:
Email: dfbsbv@gmail.com or Telephone: 732.547.3480.

Welcome to all who are worshiping this morning. If you are visiting, we hope you feel very welcome, that you will complete one of the Welcome cards found in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate, and that you will stay following the service for refreshments and conversation.

Announcements

Choir rehearsal is on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

The **Christian Education Committee** will meet on Wednesday, September 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Bible Study will be on Thursday, September 3 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The link is in the Saturday announcements email.

Pastor Bowman will be on vacation from September 4 through September 11. In case of pastoral needs during that time, contact the Clerk of Session.

Sunday, September 13, following worship, there will be a discussion of the book *Boy Erased: A Memoir of Identity, Faith, and Family* by Garrard Conley led by the Truth, Justice & Reconciliation Group. Everyone is welcome.

Two ways to help Arm in Arm:
First, **donate non-perishable food items** by placing your contributions in the bin in fellowship hall. The need is great.

Second, A group of **volunteers from Slackwood Church will be working at the new Arm in Arm facility** in Trenton on the first Saturday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Ten people are needed. To participate on Saturday, October 3, add your name to the sheet in fellowship hall. Once all have signed up, you'll get an email about car pooling opportunities. You do not need to commit to every month. A sign up will be provided each time.

On the table in fellowship hall is a new sign-up sheet for providing **refreshments after church** each Sunday. The list includes the months of September through December. The first Sunday of September is next week! Stop by the table and sign up for the date or dates that work best for you.

Calling all Knitters and Crocheters (or those who would like to learn). Several people are meeting in the Library after Sunday Services to make scarves and hats to sell at the upcoming Hopewell Harvest Festival. The proceeds of the sales will be used by the pastor for individuals who are food insufficient. Any questions please see Debi Moore, Margie Buck, or Amanda Clark.

Those people and places remembered in the morning prayer last week are: Amanda & Matt, Patty, Samantha, Kim, Pam, Mark, Carrie, Mary, Carol, Pat, Doris, Fran, N.G., O.R., students & teachers, world leaders, Dan, Deb, Ann Klein Forensic Center, Trenton Psychiatric Hospital, unhoused, unemployed, under-employed, marginalized, those impacted by climate change, those impacted by violence, Jacqui, Doug & Heather, Lilian, Sanders Family, Chuck, MaryJane, Dan, Cindy, Kevin, Kim, Emily, MJ & Richard, Erica, Doug, Debi, Mikey, Jack, Mavis, Brit, Jon, Emma, Samantha, Levi, Sharon, Tina, Audrey, Sean & Lacey, Diana, Melissa, Sheeka, Myracle & Angel, Sue, Barbara, Ben, Kirk, Eunice, Mylan, Sandy, Marisa, Fred and Tom.