The Slackwood Grapevine

Slackwood Presbyterian Church
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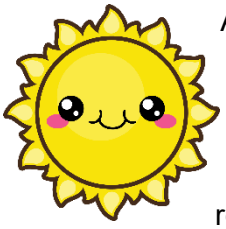
June 2026

Pastoral Ponderings

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." — Ecclesiastes 3:1



As summer unfolds around us—with longer days, brighter skies, and moments that invite us to slow down—we are reminded that God meets us in every season. Summer can feel lighter and more relaxed, but it is also a holy opportunity to notice the steady faithfulness of God again. In the warmth of the sun, in the beauty of creation, and in the rhythms of rest and gathering, we are invited to remember that the Lord who carried us through winter and spring remains with us now, constant and true.

This season also offers a special invitation to connection. In a world where it is easy to become distracted or isolated, the church is called to be a community rooted in Christ's love. We need one another's prayers, presence, encouragement, and witness. Whether we gather in Sunday worship, share conversation during fellowship hour, serve side by side, or simply check in on each other, these small acts of connection become sacred reminders that we belong to God and to one another. Worship grounds us in that truth: We are not alone, and we are being shaped together into the body of Christ.

As we continue through the summer, we are called to be people of truth, justice, and reconciliation. To follow Jesus is to seek truth, love our neighbors, and do the hopeful work of reconciliation. The **Truth, Justice and Reconciliation movie and conversation on Saturday, June 20 at 1 p.m.,** *Loving,* offers a meaningful opportunity to listen, learn, and reflect together.

I hope you will also join us for our **Summer Festival on Saturday afternoon August 15**—a joyful expression of community, welcome, and celebration. Events like these are more than dates on a calendar; they are opportunities to share Christ's redeeming love, strengthen friendships, and open our doors to others.

My prayer is that this summer will be a season of renewal for you and for our church: a time to worship with gratitude and to rejoice in the gift of belonging to one another. May the faithfulness of God be the source of strength beneath all we do.

Grace and peace,
David

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ALL CHURCH PICNIC

Saturday, June 6, 2026 at 3:30pm
Pastor David's Farm in New Egypt, NJ
Hot dogs, Hamburgers, Rolls, condiments provided
Bring a side dish/salad, beverages or a dessert
The address will be provided to those who sign up!
Sign up by calling Pastor David
by Wednesday, June 3.

COME ENJOY THE FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

HANG OUT WITH THE ANIMALS

TAKE A DIP IN THE SWIMMING POND

BIBLE STUDY

Interested in learning more about the Bible? Looking to share in a time of virtual study and fellowship? Join us on the 1st and 3rd evenings at 7pm via Zoom for Bible Study. No prior knowledge required! Materials provided. Contact Pastor David if you'd like to participate.

PROPERTY AND FINANCE

The committee met via Zoom on Monday May 11, with five members and Rev. David Bowman participating.

The monthly Pancake Breakfast was held on May 11. We usually have 10 – 12 people participating. If you would like to join us at the next breakfast on Friday June 19 at 8:30 a.m., please let Bill Mansmann know so he can plan to have adequate amounts of food. This will be the last breakfast until September.

Solar Panels: Now that all documentation and inspections have been completed, we will begin to see a financial return on the electricity that we generate. We will begin to receive payments for the electricity generated since June 2025!

We received a letter from Explorations Community Preschool stating they intend to close the program at the end of this school year. We are saddened by this development and wish owners Shana Schiavo and Ellizabeth Newman well in their future endeavors. The Preschool has positively benefited the church as well as the program itself. The church building came alive with the children's presence each day.

The tent was put up on May 16 for use during outside worship. However, Mother Nature blew in a severe storm that tore the cover off the frame and created some tears in the cover. Repairs were made and the cover was put back on the frame in time for outside worship May 31!

Thanks to those who helped on both days.

A new EGO leaf blower was purchased for church use. It is a powerful, battery-powered leaf blower. No more mixing gas or pulling the cord to attempt to start it! An electrical outlet in the shed made this possible!

CHURCH FINANCES

During this time of church services that are online/outside/inside, we continue to be blessed with members who know how important their church financial commitment is. Thanks to everyone who has continued with financial support through mail, in person and online. We are generally in sound financial shape after five months of the current fiscal year. But…….Please keep up the great support through the summer months! We still have the normal expenses, and bills will need to be paid. So, plan on continuing to support the work of your church even though you may not be around each Sunday. Have a wonderful summer!

CALLING ALL GARDENERS

If you enjoy being outside to do gardening, and like seeing the results of your effort, your help is needed at your church. We have numerous garden areas around the church property that need tending to from time to time. We are in good shape now, but those pesky weeds often make a comeback. So, if you are so inclined, stop by and clean any area around the church of unwanted weeds. This keeps our church grounds looking cared for!

SLACKWOOD IN THE COMMUNITY

The following letter was sent to the church email account. This is how others experience Slackwood Church.

"Over the past year, I've really enjoyed following your church on social media and watching the services online. I grew up in Lawrenceville. I had a tough experience with church as a young adult, which made me feel like I didn't belong; church people said and did some really unkind things to me. But now, as the mother of 2 1/2-year-old twin girls, I've started searching again and found what I believe is a Jesus-filled community in Slackwood. Listening to your services and seeing what you're doing has truly touched my heart. It's obvious you care about others and about our world. My faith has been challenged at times, but also renewed by what I see and hear. I've also had the joy of attending some events, like the Easter Egg Hunt, which my girls loved. I look forward to the day I can worship with you in person and be part of your faithful community. (*Signature omitted for privacy purposes*.)

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

"For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." — Isaiah 56:7

What does it truly mean to welcome "all" into our sanctuary? We at Slackwood Presbyterian Church hope each person who enters our doors feels a deep sense of belonging. True hospitality goes beyond a friendly good morning at the door as you receive your bulletin. It lives in the physical and sensory fabric of our worship space.

As the Worship Committee continues to strive to make worship meaningful for all, we will be exploring ways to make our service more accessible for all. Our updated sound system has improved the listening quality in the sanctuary. The two rows of chairs serve to provide comfort and dignity for bodies of all shapes, sizes, and mobility levels. Recently added “pondering paper" provides a way for some in the pews to connect with God through reflection, sketching, or note-taking.

In the coming weeks we hope to create a designated, quiet play area within the sanctuary so our youngest members can worship alongside their "big people.” As we continue to work toward inclusivity, our sanctuary might look and sound a little different. We kindly ask for your patience, tolerance, and prayers during this period of growth. Change takes time, but creating a space where everyone can encounter God is worth the journey. We look forward to hearing your feedback as we grow closer together in community.

The Worship Committee

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

The Truth and Reconciliation committee continues to be an active group within the Slackwood community. We meet on the second Thursday of the month at 7pm via Zoom. All are welcome to attend using the link provided in the bulletin the Sunday before the meeting.

On Saturday, June 20th at 1pm, the group will host a showing of the movie “Loving” as a way to celebrate Juneteenth. The movie will be shown in Fellowship Hall with light refreshments at no cost. We hope you will consider attending. Even better, invite a friend to join you!

Over the summer, the group will read the book Boy Erased: A Memoir which will be discussed in September. Books that were ordered were handed out or left in Fellowship Hall with your name on it. Please see Kate Moore if you have not received your book, or have any questions about the group or upcoming events.

IN SYMPATHY

We were all saddened to recently hear of the death of former church member, Theresa Suanno, on January 31st. When Theresa moved from Heritage Village she transferred her membership to an Episcopal Church in Bordentown. She kept in touch with Slackwood through caring members of our church family. Pray for Theresa's family and friends that they may find comfort in the knowledge that Theresa is now in the arms of our loving God.

Please keep the family of church member Fred Romanowsky in your prayers as they mourn his passing on May 30th. We send our deepest condolences to his daughter, Amy Valentino, and her husband, Bob, and children Peyton, Oliver and Colette. Services will be held at Slackwood Church on June 4th at 11:00 a.m.

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