The Slackwood Grapevine

Slackwood Presbyterian Church
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March 2026

Pastor's Ponderings
Easter 2026

Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen." (Luke 24:5–6)

The women came to the tomb doing what made sense. They came ready to grieve, ready to honor Jesus the only way they knew how. They loved Him. They just didn't expect resurrection.

They were looking for life in a place that had always meant endings.

And honestly—we do that too.

We go back to old habits because they feel familiar, even when they don't give us life anymore. We keep replaying old failures, old wounds, old versions of ourselves, hoping somehow things will change if we just stand there long enough. We look for hope in places that once mattered but can't carry the weight of our lives now.

We show up at the tomb, fully convinced that this is just how things are.

Then the resurrection breaks in.

"He is not here." Not because the women missed him - the grave couldn't hold him, and it doesn't get the final word.

That question—*Why do you seek the living among the dead?*—is an invitation. A gentle nudge that says, "You don't have to keep looking there."

Stop staring into what's already empty.
Stop expecting life from what can't give it.
Lift your eyes.

The resurrection tells us that God is always doing something new, even when we're still standing in the old place. It reminds us that what looks finished to us is often just the beginning to God. The stone may still be there in our minds, but God is already at work on the other side of it.

Where are you still looking for life where there isn't any?
What tomb are you standing in front of instead of stepping into the light?

Jesus isn't there.
He has risen.
And He's already ahead of you—calling you forward into life.

Easter Blessings,
Pastor David
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TRUTH, JUSTICE, AND RECONCILIATION GROUP

The Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation Group meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7pm on Zoom. The link to join can be found in the email for the weekly announcements.

Thank you to all who participated in the reading of American Dirt and the discussion held on March 1. The conversation about the book was insightful and thought provoking. The group is committed to continuing these types of activities and extends an invitation to anyone who is interested in participating. Our next book discussion will take place later this year. Information will be shared as the date gets closer.

On Saturday, March 28, some members of the Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation Group will participate in a "No Kings Rally" at 2pm. If you are interested in joining us, please gather in front of the Lawrence Township Municipal building. If you would like to arrange to carpool, please reach out to Kate Moore by Friday, March 27. Several signs were made after worship on the 22nd, but if you'd like to bring your own, please do.

On June 20, the group will host a showing of the movie "Loving" as part of a celebration of Juneteenth. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us for the movie and discussion afterwards.

The next meeting will be held on April 9 at 7pm via Zoom. All are welcome to attend.

Kate Moore

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee thanks you for your patience. We continue to work on issues that have arisen with our new sound system. We are working with the company that installed the system to address these issues.

This Sunday we hope you will join us in celebrating Palm Sunday. We will reenact the laying of the palms welcoming Jesus as King and acknowledging his humble triumph over sin and death. There will also be a reading of the Passion story.

The Maundy Thursday service will be held at the Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville this year on April 2. A soup and bread supper will be held at 5:30 PM, followed by a Tenebrae service at 7:30 PM. Slackwood has been asked to provide bread and crackers for the event. If you are able to help with this, you can bring your donation to the church no later than 4pm that day and Pastor Bowman will take it over for you.

We will have two services on Easter Sunday; one at 8:30 in the garden (weather permitting) and our usual 10:30 service. We hope you will consider joining us for one or both of these services. Also, at 9:00 there will be a continental breakfast in Fellowship Hall for everyone.

On Easter Sunday the **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering** will be received. Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The work done in support of the causes supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees — serves individuals and communities in need. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope. There will be a special envelope in the bulletins on Easter Sunday, or you can write a check to Slackwood Church and put OGHS on the memo line.

The committee has decided to serve Communion by intinction on May 3. On that Sunday, those who are willing and able may come forward and receive Communion by taking a piece of bread and dipping a portion of it in the juice. Those who would prefer to stay seated will be served with individual elements in their seats.

The Worship Committee's goal continues to be to help facilitate meaningful worship at Slackwood. We will meet next on April, 26 after worship and a brief time of fellowship. All are welcome to attend and check out the committee to see if it is a fit for you.

Kate Moore

SPRING CLEAN-UP

The Spring Clean-Up was held on Saturday March 21, 2026. Approximately 20 people from Slackwood and Grace participated in completing all jobs by 10:30. Front sidewalk was edged, sticks and debris were picked up, Fellowship Hall and kitchen windows were cleaned and the weeds and leaves along the front driveway were cleaned up. Thanks to all who lent a hand!

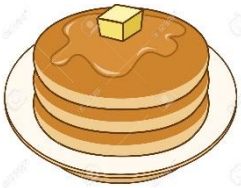
DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that we have a fund at the church that is titled the Slackwood Church Trust Fund? It was set up a number of years ago to provide an opportunity for people to make a donation to the church that could have a lasting effect. The funds donated are invested and only the income from the investment may then be used for a need at the church identified by the Session. This a good opportunity to make a contribution in honor of someone, in memory of a loved one or as a result of estate planning that may assist the church for years to come. If you are interested in making such a donation, contact any member of Session.

TIME TO CUT GRASS

We maintain the church grounds throughout the spring and summer. The Property Committee is always seeking a few good people! If you are available to help cut the grass this year, speak with Tom Clark or Bill Mansmann. They will be glad to fill you in and help get you started.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST



The March "Pancake Breakfast" was held this past Friday with 12 people participating. Following a good breakfast a few jobs were completed around the church. The "Breakfast" is held on the 3rd Friday of the month. Let Bill Mansmann know if you would like to participate at the next breakfast on Friday April 17, 2026.

COMMUNITY CARE

On March 14th, The Great Game Night and Pi(PIe)-off was held. Pot luck dinner started at 5:00 with lots of delicious foods. Following dinner games, puzzles and fun was had by all. While games continued everyone had a chance to try all of the 9 spectacular pies and vote on their favorite. Winner and queen of the Pi (pie)-off was Syd Ryon with her scrumptious peanut butter cream delight!! She was crowned and awarded a beautiful trophy. Thanks to everyone who came out and brought something delicious to share, and all who baked and entered the Pi-off!

Community Care is hosting a community Easter egg hunt on March 28 at 3 pm. Rain date is April 4th at 3 pm. Please join us for some eggs-citing fun!

DEACONS

Greetings from your deacons! We've been discussing volunteering at Arm In Arm food pantry and are hoping this might be something that interests you as well. If so, go to the Arm In Arm website. Under Volunteer Opportunities and under Volunteer FAQ you will see a link for "Give Pulse page". Just read and sign a volunteer agreement and watch a brief orientation video and you're in. From there you will have access to all their locations and shifts available. If you've made it this far, the next step is just to take the plunge. We are hoping to go in groups and are awaiting your response!! Call Sydney Ryon at 662-801-7160

CHRISTIAN ONE LINERS

I don't often have the time or the space to add a little story or humorous anecdote when I'm finalizing the newsletter but this month, with the extra space left, I thought I'd share some Christian One Liners I dug out of my newsletter miscellaneous folder. Someone sent it to me many years ago so I'm picking a few off the list and adding them here. Some are funny; some are just thought-provoking. Enjoy!

Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever.

People are funny. They want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.

It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.

Peace starts with a smile

Be ye fishers of men. You catch them—He'll clean them.

God doesn't call the qualified. He qualifies the called.

The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.

The best mathematical equation I have ever seen: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4given.

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