****Paxton Pulse**

**P a x t o n United Methodist C h u r c h /December 2023**

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***From the desk of Paster Gary***

We begin a new liturgical year this week with Advent.

“Yikes! It’s Advent!” is the technical term pastors use to describe this time of the year. It is a busy time within the walls of Paxton Church and outside the walls as well. Throughout this newsletter you will learn of upcoming events and ways that you can participate. Advent is a reminder that we are waiting for the return of Jesus, just as our ancestors waited for his first coming. We are not to wait anxiously or be idle, but we wait with Hope, Love, Peace, and Joy while serving God. We will be guided through Advent this year both in Worship and Bible Studies by Rachel Billups book, ***An Unlikely Advent.***

We will study some of the lesser-known parts of the Christmas Story. Elizabeth and Zechariah, King Herod, The Magi, and the shepherds; all played a significant role in the Christmas Miracle. I invite you to attend Worship on Sundays at 9:15 AM and stay for Sunday School at 10:30 AM. Our Wednesday Bible Study at the Peachtree Restaurant at 10 AM will look at the places discussed in the book ***An Unlikely Advent.***

This year **Christmas Eve** is unique, in that it falls on Sunday, The Fourth Sunday of Advent. We will have our usual Sunday morning Worship at 9:15 AM, but we will not have Sunday School. Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is at 7 PM. But you will want to come early; we will begin at 6:30 PM with special Christmas Music and Carols from several people. We still have room for more, if anyone else would like to present a song or two.

***Quick Updates -- So Much going on !***

Rev. Joel Coleman, director of Camp Occohannock brought a message of hope and gratitude on November 26. He referred to himself as a child of Paxton Church saying “you loved me, you loved me”, thanking us for supporting him and Hope Project. A video showed the camp and work accomplished to date. Afterwards, Rev. Coleman and his father, Rev. Larry Coleman enjoyed a social gathering with the congregation. See photos.

At the service on November 19, a bell was rung as the congregation remembered and honored those saints who went home to be with the Lord recently. Saints recognized were Fay Moore, Nancy Fetterman, Priscilla Brauning, Janet Dundore, Jean Weiger, Mekenna Reiley, Kelli Lee Dreibelbis and Barbara Holloway.

A new flagpole has been erected in front of the church to honor Pastor Richard Dennison for his many years of service to Paxton Church, veterans, and this country during his military career.

A big hello and welcome to Kim McGovern, our new administrative assistant. She will be in the office on Wednesday and Fridays from 9 am to 2 pm.

***Upcoming Activities***

***Sunday Morning***

9:15 am Regular Services in the Sanctuary. Available on YouTube after 11 am same day.

Communion is served the first Sunday of every month -- Dec 3, 2023, is next.

A children’s nursery is available.

10:30 am A Bible study is held each Sunday following the service ***except Dec. 24 Christmas Eve.***

***Weekly Activities***

**AA Meetings** – 6:30 PM Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays

**Al Anon –** 6:30 PM, Tuesdays in Room 103**.**

**Dart ball –** 6:30 PM Tuesdays. Contact Skip Smith at 717-545-0652 for info.

**Book Study Group –** 10 AMWednesday at the Peach Tree Restaurant.

***NOTE: no meeting on December 20th or December 27. Resumes January 3,***

**Choir Practice** -- 7 PM on Wednesday

**Pilates** -- 4 PM Wednesday

**Sew for Peace** --***will be on Christmas break from Nov. 23 to Jan. 3.Resume Jan 4.***

***Monthly Activities***

***Golden Agers*** – 12:30 pm Tuesday, December 12 for dinner, bingo, and fellowship. Upcoming trips: **Sight & Sound’s Daniel** ( March 26, $130), **Magic & Wonder Dinner Theater** (April30, $95) and Williamsport Chocolate Lover’s Tour (June 4, $ TBD) Contact Dotty Sellers.

***Daystar –*** The dinner program for residents will be on hiatus during December and January.

***Staying in Touch, Getting Involved and Helping Others***

***Prayer Requests --*** Darryl, Jess, Steve, Donna Tom & Judy, Joy, Philip & John, Danielle, Ray & Sue, and Meridith . Pray the Lord will bring comfort, healing, and his love to all.

***Harvest Sunday, November 26th*** – the congregation thanked God for all God had given us. We blessed food for the Manna Food Pantry, adult clothing & a sleeping bag that will be distributed locally, and clothing made by Sew for Peace which will go to children in Guatemala (See photos). Thank you, everyone, for your generous donations to help others.

There continue to be opportunities to donate.

**Daystar** – needs socks, hats, underwear for its male residents. Drop off in narthex.

**Manna Food Pantry --** A list of the most helpful items is on the hospitality table in the narthex. Please NO GLASS containers due to breakage concerns. Thank you.

**Mission Fund –** After worship on Sunday, see Nancy Toner in the narthex to purchase gift cards. They make great gifts for friends, family, postman, etc. There are many local restaurants and businesses to choose from. Proceeds support Paxton’s mission efforts including the recent trip to Camp Occohannock.

***Pastor Gary can be reached*** at 717-332-2743 and [gallshouse@susumc.org](mailto:gallshouse@susumc.org). His normal office hours are 9 am to 3 pm Monday through Thursday. Please call ahead before stopping in to ensure he is available.