****Paxton Pulse**

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

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

There are only a few times in the year that bring about a greater number of changes in our lives than does Autumn. This time of the year brings about cooler, soup weather, and different smells take over the airwaves in our homes; spice, pumpkin, and chocolate just to name a few. (I do need to add that, against popular rumor, there are no such thing as pumpkin spice Communion wafers).

There are a few events coming up that I want you to be aware of:

Saturday, November 11th from 9 AM to 2 PM, we will be having a time of visioning here at Paxton Church. Kim Shockley from the Susquehanna Conference office will be facilitating this time of discernment to see where God wants us to go within the community in which we have been placed to serve. Everyone is invited to participate in the visioning process whether you are a member of Paxton or not. We seek to hear what God has placed on your heart.

Wednesday, November 15th at 6:30 PM, Paxton will have its annual Church Conference in the sanctuary. Rev. Dr. Gary Weaver, our district superintendent, will be here to lead a time of prayer and holy conferencing on the day-to-day business of Paxton Church.

Sunday, December 24th at 6:30 PM, which is a half an hour before our Christmas Eve Worship, we would like to have a time of music for all to enjoy. Whether you are a professional or just starting out, or if you sing or play an instrument, you are invited to share your gift with all. Please speak to Pastor Gary if you have any questions or wish to join in the fun.

***Join Pastor Gary Exploring the Bible***

Each Sunday, following the morning service, Pastor Gary continues his Bible study on **HOPE !**

Max Lucado’s book **3:16 The Numbers of Hope** provides the background for the discussion.

This is an exciting study about one of the most important verses in the Bible, John 3:16.

Each Wednesday, there is a book discussion group at 10 AM at the Peach Tree restaurant. The discussion uses the book ***the Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi*** by Kathie Lee Gifford with Rabbi Jason Sobel. to help us to develop a deeper understanding of God’s Word and of God Himself. All are welcome. Bring a friend. See Pastor Gary for copies of the books which are available for your use.

***Thank You Paxton for your support of Hope Project***

**WHOO HOO** –The people of Paxton Church have shown their support and always present love for God’s work. Generous giving helped us exceed our goal by raising $5,557 for the Hope Project mission trip. Any additional donations will also go to support the expenses of ***Project Hope.***

On Sunday October 15th, Pastor Gary will lead us in prayer for the safety and success of this mission. The volunteers, led by Bill Toner, will leave that afternoon, and return Saturday, October 21st. .

***Hope Project*** is a multi-year, multi-phase project to upgrade and renovate portions of the campgrounds ***at Camp Occohannock***. For details, see August & September Newsletters or [www.ootbay.org](http://www.ootbay.org). The camp director is Rev. Joel Coleman, the son of Larry and Judith Coleman, former members of Paxton Church.

***Upcoming Activities***

***Sunday Morning***

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

Communion will be served the first Sunday of every month -- Nov. 5, 2023 is next.

 A **children’s nursery is available.**

10:30 am A Bible study is held each Sunday following the service.

***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,

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

**Pilates** -- 4 PM Wednesday

**Sew for Peace** -- 9 AM Thursday.

*Monthly* ***Activities***

***Golden Agers*** –Next meeting Tuesday, October 10th for a light lunch, bingo, and fellowship. Upcoming trips: Wednesday, Oct. 18.Choo Choo Barn & Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre (standby only) and Thursday, Dec.7. 2023 ***Christmas Show: The First Noel***. Contact is Dotty Sellers.

***Daystar –***Church members will serve a dinner to residents on October 22nd from 4-6 pm.

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

A total of 110 pounds of food, collected in September, was given to the Manna Food Pantry in Penbrook. The Director was very grateful to Paxton for its ongoing support and especially, the high quality of the donated food. The Manna Food Pantry serves about 210 households monthly. A list of the most helpful items is on the hospitality table near the donation barrel.

On Sunday September 17, the congregation blessed clothing made by the Sew for Peace. The clothing was given to Cocoa Packs.org which is fighting childhood hunger in Dauphin and other nearby counties.

The new season of **Dart Ball** has begun. The Paxton team is looking for some new team members. They play every Tuesday at Paxton or other churches. Please check with Skip Smith at 717-545-0652 for information and the schedule.

Paxton Church has received $4,000 from the Conference Office of Equipping Vital Congregations to buy cameras, associated equipment and services to upgrade and improve our online worshipping system.

Pastor Gary is sending an early morning Daily Devotional via email. This devotional authored by Sarah Young is written as though Jesus is writing the devotional. If you are not receiving it and wish to, please send your email address to Pastor Gary at gallshouse@susumc.org.

Remember to stay in touch with our shut-ins, those going through difficult times or experiencing health issues. Call, visit, text, or mail a card to let people know you are thinking about them. Home communion is available. Please get in touch with Pastor and/or Jon Matter (717-571-2900) to schedule one.

***Pastor Gary can be reached*** at 717-332-2743 and gallshouse@susumc.org. His normal office hours are

 9 am to 3 pm Monday through Thursday. Please call ahead before stopping in to insure he is available.