



Pastor Gary Allshouse

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Paxton United Methodist Church **Exists** to **Know, Grow** and **Share God's Love.**

From the Desk of Pastor Gary ... What's Next?

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be entering the **solemn and sacred time of Holy Week**. During this week we walk with Jesus from his triumphant entry into Jerusalem to the sorrow of the cross, and finally to the joy of the resurrection on Easter morning. I invite you to join us for as many of the worship opportunities as you are able this week; the schedule can be found in this newsletter. But I want to focus for a moment on **"What's Next."**

Not what programs or ministries—old or new—Paxton Church may be planning in the coming months. Instead, I want to focus on **what's next for you.**

The message of Jesus' resurrection did not stop with the angel appearing to Mary Magdalene and the other women at the tomb. The Good News was only just beginning. In the days that followed, the apostles waited before beginning their ministry. They waited for the Holy Spirit to fill them with the power and courage to live out their faith—to **love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously**. And once they began, they did not stop.

Their ministry was not perfect. There were disagreements and setbacks along the way. But the message they carried—the message that Christ is risen—could not be stopped. So again, the question for us is: **What's next for you?**



The Easter story is not just something we remember once a year. It is a story that is still being written. Each of us has a role in continuing the story of resurrection in the world. Like Mary in the garden—the first evangelist—we are called to share the Good News. No one is asking you to travel across the world (unless God calls you to do that). But we are all called to share the hope of Christ right where we are. With our families. With our friends. With our neighbors. With our coworkers. The story of Easter continues whenever we choose to live and share the love of Christ.

So, as we journey through Holy Week and celebrate the joy of Easter, may we listen for the leading of the Holy Spirit and ask ourselves: **What's next?**

And may we follow Jesus as our guide, to

Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously.

Grace and peace, Pastor Gary

Holy Week Worship

Maundy Thursday April 2nd 6:00 PM

On this holy night, we will remember the Last Supper by sharing a simple meal together in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be Pastor Gary's homemade chicken and rice casserole. As we gather at table, we will sing, read Scripture, pray, and remember Christ as we break bread and share the cup (individual cups will be provided).

Following the meal, we will move quietly to our "Garden" — the sanctuary — where we will spend time in prayer, remembering Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Good Friday April 3rd 2:00 PM

Friday is called "good" — not because of what happened, but because of what God was doing through it. And even in the shadows of the cross, we remember: Sunday is coming. Join us for a solemn and meaningful time of prayer, reflection, Scripture, and music as we remember Christ's sacrifice and hold fast to the hope that is on the way.

Easter Sunday April 5th

6:00 AM Sunrise Service at Paxton Church Cemetery (weather permitting)
8:00 AM Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall
9:15 AM Easter Worship Celebration

He is Risen. He is Risen indeed.

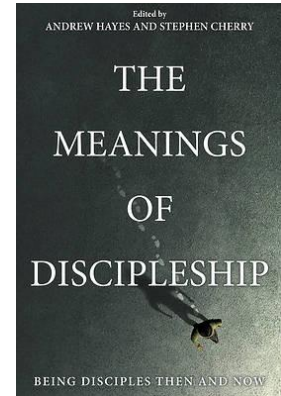


Opportunities to Participate, Give and Serve

Discipleship in the 21st Century – starting **Sunday April 12** after the worship service.

Discipleship is a foundational concept of Christian life which has become a popular and ubiquitous description of belonging and growth in early 21st century language. Discipleship courses and popular writings abound, and the term is used liberally in official church documents and strategies for growth and development. But does recent use of the word risk reducing the wide range of meanings of discipleship to something less rich and inclusive than is warranted? We will explore together what **“Discipleship”** is and is not.

Starting Sunday April 12th, there will be a new Adult Sunday School/Bible Study following the worship service. Come join us and hear about discipleship in the 21st century.



Juvenile Justice Reform Training and Advocacy Conference – Thank You

Dear Paxton UMC members,

Thank you so much for hosting the 2-day Conference Juvenile Justice training event on March 3-4. Your gift of hospitality was so evident in your friendliness, serving us food and refreshments, maintaining a clean and welcoming space and in accenting the foyer, sanctuary and fellowship hall with real flowers! It is evident in providing compostable trays and hot cups that caring for God’s Creation is important to you

Rev. Mark Terwilliger, Training event participant
Pastor, First United Methodist Church
225 South Second Street
Chambersburg, PA 17201

Cora Martin Weeber Student Scholarships

Applications are **now available** in the church office and online at Paxtonumc.org. This scholarship program was created to assist worthy students in the Paxton UMC family in payment of tuition at undergraduate academic institutions toward an associate or bachelor’s degree. Applicant or applicant's parent, grandparent, or legal guardian must be members of Paxton United Methodist Church. To apply, please fill out the downloadable form found at paxtonumc.org and submit using the instructions on the website.

Completed applications are due to the church office by April 30, 2026.

[Peanut Butter Challenge – Let’s go over the top !](#)

Paxton UMC is participating in the River Valley District challenge of our Superintendent, Dr. Gary Weaver, to help our brothers and sisters by providing peanut butter to local food pantries. Peanut butter and other nut butters are very nutritious food staples. We are well on our way to meeting our goal of 202 jars of peanut butter. Ah, but we still need a few more – big ones, little ones, any size. Peanut butter will be donated to The HANNA Food Pantry in Susquehanna Township and The Manna Food Pantry in Penbrook.

[Golden Agers](#)

The next meeting of the Susquehanna Golden Agers will be April 14 from 12:30 to 2:30. The April Philadelphia trip has been replaced by a July 22 trip to Totem Pole Playhouse with a stop at Mr. Ed's Elephant Museum & Candy Emporium and lunch at Hickory Bridge Farm. The first trip will be June 30 to The Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster to see **Joshua**. All are welcome. You do not need to be a member of Golden Agers to participate in the bus trips. See the bulletin board or contact Dotty Sellers at 717-564-9492 for reservations.

[Sew for Peace](#)

Sew for Peace meets Thursdays from 9-noon. Anyone is welcome – if only to see what we do! On Sunday March 15, clothes were blessed and delivered to the Swatara Community Closet at the Swatara Church of God. On Sunday, April 19, there will be a blessing upon the clothing we make that will be distributed to the Latino Hispanic American Community Center in Harrisburg.

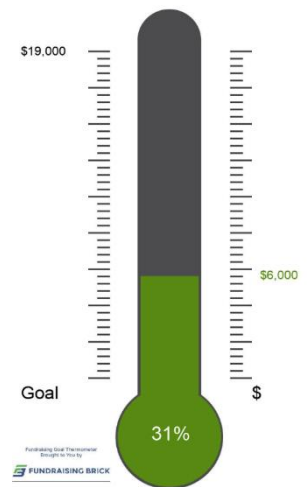
[Capital Campaign](#)

We have now entered the second year of our five-year capital improvement program to upgrade, replace, and renovate various areas of Paxton Church.

The Leadership team is reviewing and prioritizing the list of potential projects to be done in 2026. Initially, once the weather cooperates, the first priority will be to complete the replacement of the roof & gutter between the Sanctuary and the education/children’s wing. This includes relocating an air conditioner.

Most of the labor will be provided by members of our congregation and others who volunteer their time and talents. It’s the materials and supplies that need to be financed. We’re off to a good start. During the first quarter, about \$6,000 (30%) has been contributed towards the 2026 goal of \$19,000.

Please mark your donation clearly for the Capital Campaign. Envelopes are available at the back of the church.



[Know any Graduates?](#)

Let us know about anyone connected with Paxton who is graduating this spring! Call the church office or email paxtonumc@verizon.net.



Paxton United Methodist Church

Sunday Services begin at 9:15 am in the Sanctuary. Worship is in-person and streaming live or available anytime at <https://www.youtube.com/@PaxtonUnitedMethodistChurc-v8y> and www.facebook.com/paxtonumc. A children's nursery is available. *The calendar below provides details of Paxton UMC's services, ministries, and missions.*

March

Worship and Events

March 29 th	9:15 AM	Palm – Holy Communion – Passion Sunday Luke 19:29-40; Luke 22:14-23; Luke 22:47-53; Luke 23:44-53
	10:30 AM	Sunday School – 24 Hours That Changed the World Week 6 – The Crucifixion
	11:00 AM Noon	Trinity Worship Nepali Church Children's Bible Study
March 30 th	6:30 PM	AA Men's Meeting
March 31 st	6:30 PM	AA and Al-Anon Meetings

April

Worship and Events

April 1 st	9:00 AM – 2:00PM	Office Hours
	4:00 PM	Pilates (In the Choir Room)
April 2 nd	9:00 AM	Sew for Peace
	6:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Dinner and Worship in The Fellowship Hall
April 3 rd	2:00 PM	Good Friday Worship – Friday Is Good Because Sunday Is Coming
	6:30 PM	AA Meeting
April 4 th	10:00 AM to Noon	Trinity Worship Church Nepali Community Women's Bible Study and Music Practice

April 5th

Easter – Alleluia He Has Risen!!!!



6:00 AM
8:00 AM
9:15 AM
11:00 AM
Noon

Sunrise Service – Paxton Church Cemetery
Easter Breakfast – Fellowship Hall
Easter Celebration Worship
Trinity Worship Nepali Church
Children’s Bible Study

April 6th

6:30 PM

AA Men’s Meeting

April 7th

6:30 PM

AA and Al-Anon Meetings

April 8th

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
4:00 PM

Office Hours
Pilates – Choir Room

April 9th

9:00 AM

Sew for Peace

April 10th

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
6:30 PM

Office Hours
AA Men’s Meeting

April 11th

10:00 AM

Trinity Worship Church Nepali Community
Women’s Bible Study and Music Practice

April 12th

9:15 AM

10:30 AM
11:00 AM
Noon

Second Sunday of Easter
Stories That Matter – Unless I See
Sunday School – The Meanings of Discipleship
Trinity Worship Nepali Church
Children’s Bible Study

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 to ensure he is available.