



# Paxton Pulse



Pastor Gary Allshouse

(717) 332-2743 | [gallshouse@susumc.org](mailto:gallshouse@susumc.org)

[www.paxtonumc.org](http://www.paxtonumc.org)

Editor: R. Brian (RB) Wilbur (717) 798-4384 | [mamasue11@comcast.net](mailto:mamasue11@comcast.net)

[www.paxtonumc.org](http://www.paxtonumc.org)

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

## From the Desk of Pastor Gary

"Repeat the Sounding Joy" is the theme guiding our Advent and Christmas season this year. The phrase comes from the beloved hymn ***Joy to the World***, written more than 300 years ago by Pastor Isaac Watts, who loved to paraphrase Scripture into poetry. About forty years later, Lowell Mason set those words to the melody we know today.

We usually reserve *Joy to the World* for December, but it's truly a hymn for every season. It celebrates not only Christ's arrival in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago, but also the promised day when He will come again. That is the heartbeat of Advent—learning how to wait faithfully.



This year, we will Prepare Him Room with **Hope**, Employ Our Songs with **Love**, rejoice as His Blessings Flow with **Joy**, and rest in the promise that He Rules the World with **Peace**.

Advent culminates when together we "Repeat the Sounding Joy" in our Christmas Eve celebration—but the story doesn't end there. Our rejoicing continues as we follow God's plan for us, watch for Christ's return, and live in His joy every day.

Join us throughout Advent and the Christmas season as we journey together in hope, love, joy, and peace while we wait for the One who is coming again.

Grace and peace, Pastor Gary

## Dates to Remember

**December 21** – Fellowship time and cookie tasting after worship.

**December 24** – Christmas Eve music (6:30)  
Candle light service starting at 7 pm

**December 25** – Christ the Savior is born.



**Focus:** Repeat the Sounding Joy!



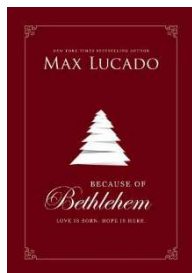
## Opportunities to Participate, Give and Serve



The congregants and friends of Paxton UMC again showed their strong commitment and generosity supporting our mission from God to know, grow and share God's love. We want to thank all those individuals who organized and prepared materials so that many folks could participate and contribute to the various activities that serve our church, its members, and the community around us.

Special opportunities to give and serve during November & December included:

- \* Taking tags from the Angel Tree, providing gifts for local families in need.
- \* Providing new hats, gloves, and other personal clothing items for the residents of Daystar Recovery Center.
- \* Donating non-perishable items which were blessed at the altar and will now be shared with the food banks we sponsor.
- \* Serving a Thanksgiving dinner on November 16 for residents, family, & friends of Daystar Recovery Center.
- \* Ringing the bell for the Salvation Army at Sam's Club, on three Saturdays this year.
- \* Purchasing gift cards in support of mission projects.
- \* Making Christmas cards to send to homebound members and to people in the community who need extra spiritual support.
- \* Decorating the sanctuary, the tree, and the narthex.



### [New Advent Bible study – Max Lucado.](#)

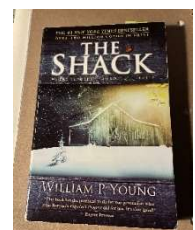
On November 30th, Pastor Gary started a new Advent Bible study based on Max Lucado's book ***Because of Bethlehem***. We meet after worship each Sunday. Grab a cup of coffee and join us.

### [Gift Cards are a Great Holiday Gift](#)

Gift cards are available for local restaurants, grocery, and department stores as well as many other businesses where people commonly shop. **The final deadline is December 7<sup>th</sup>** to order cards in time for Christmas. You will receive the cards on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Please see Bill or Nancy Toner for additional details.

### [Family Movie Night – The Shack](#)

SAVE THE DATE – Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup> will be movie night at Paxton. Everyone is invited. Bring a friend. We will start at 5:00 PM with hotdogs, candy, popcorn, and drinks. The movie will start at 6:00 PM. The movie is ***The Shack***, based on the book by William P. Young. We will be discussing The Shack Book/Movie in Sunday School starting in January.



**Fellowship and Cookies, Cookies, Cookies.**

The next Fellowship Time Is Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> after the worship service. We will have a cookie tasting and recipe sharing time. Bring 2 dozen of your favorite cookies and the recipe to share. No worries, if your favorite cookies are from a bakery, bring the information about where we can buy them. There will also be Hot Chocolate served with all the trimmings.



**Christmas Eve Worship**

**Joy to the World – A Celebration of Christ**

6:30 PM Music – Still need more singers and musicians  
7:00 PM Candlelight Worship Service





### **Reach out to someone:**

Remember to stay in touch with one another. Especially those you haven't seen in a while. Call, visit, text, or mail a card to let people know you are thinking about them.  
Let them know that God loves them !

### **Sew for Peace**

The Sew for Peace group will take a break for Christmas through Jan. 1, 2026. We are looking forward to starting our 21st year when we return at 9am Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026.

### **Golden Agers**

Susquehanna Golden Agers will hold the December meeting off-site. Regular meetings will resume at 12:30, Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. New trips are posted on the bulletin board. Dottie has created some new adventures for 2026. 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.

**Wednesday Bible Study taking a break for December:** The Wednesday Bible Study group that meets at the Peachtree Restaurant is taking a break and will begin again in the New Year.

**Daystar Support:** There will be no dinner served in December or January. The next dinner is planned for February 15, 2026.

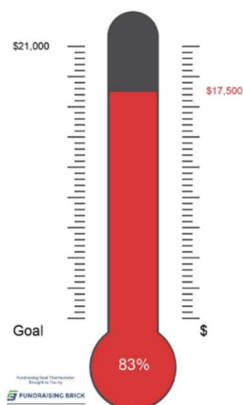
### **Capital Campaign**

The project replacing the roof & gutter between the Sanctuary and the education/children's wing has begun. Prior to the cold and snow showing up, a base coat was applied to 2 of the 3 sections. The third section and the application of top coat will be completed when the weather permits.

A third large TV has been purchased and will be installed at the back of the sanctuary before Christmas. This will improve readability for Pastor Gary, Skip, and other worship leaders.

At this point we have achieved 83% of our goal for 2025, with contributions totaling \$17,500. Thank you, Paxton, for your generosity.

Please mark your donation clearly for the Capital Campaign. There will be envelopes available at the back of the church.



The roof project is caring for a part of the roof that we can't even see! Many thanks to the Paxton men who are climbing up high to make sure we all stay dry.



## 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](https://www.facebook.com/paxtonumc). A children's nursery is available. ***The calendar below gives details of Paxton UMC's services, ministries, and missions.***

### December Worship and Events

December 7 <sup>th</sup>	9:15 AM	Second Sunday of Advent Repeat the Sounding Joy Our Songs Employ – A Celebration of Love Max Lucado's "Because of Bethlehem"
	10:30 AM	Trinity Worship Church Nepali Community
	11:00 AM	Children's Sunday School
	11:30 AM	Trinity Worship Church Christmas Practice
	1:00 PM	
December 8 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	AA Men's Meeting
December 9 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	AA and Al-Anon Meetings
December 10 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Office Hours
December 12 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Office hours
	6:30 PM	AA Meeting
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 AM to Noon	Trinity Worship Church Nepali Community Women's Bible Study and Music Practice
December 14 <sup>th</sup>	9:15 AM	Third Sunday of Advent Repeat the Sounding Joy His Blessings Flow – A Celebration of Joy Max Lucado's "Because of Bethlehem"
	10:30 AM	Trinity Worship Church Nepali Community
	11:00 AM	

	11:30 AM 1:00 PM 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Children's Sunday School Trinity Worship Church Christmas Practice Central PA Ornament Club
December 15 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	AA Men's Meeting
December 16 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	AA and Al-Anon Meetings
December 17 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Office Hours
December 19 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM 6:30 PM	Office hours AA Meeting
December 20 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 AM to Noon	Trinity Worship Church Nepali Community Women's Bible Study and Music Practice
December 21 <sup>st</sup>	9:15 AM  10:30 AM 11:00 AM 11:30 AM 1:00 PM	Fourth Sunday of Advent Repeat the Sounding Joy He Rules the World– A Celebration of Peace Fellowship Time – Cookie Tasting Max Lucado's "Because of Bethlehem" Trinity Worship Church Nepali Community Children's Sunday School Trinity Worship Church Christmas Practice
December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	6:30 PM	AA Men's Meeting
December 23 <sup>rd</sup>	6:30 PM	AA and Al-Anon Meetings
December 24 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM – Noon 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Office Hours Music of Christmas Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Repeat the Sounding Joy – A Celebration of Christ
December 25 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM to 4:00 PM	Trinity Worship Nepali Church A Bhutanese/Nepali Christmas Celebration
December 26 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM 6:30 PM	Office hours AA Meeting
December 27 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 AM to Noon	Trinity Worship Church Nepali Community Women's Bible Study and Music Practice



*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 to ensure he is available.