



# Paxton Pulse



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## Paxton United Methodist Church Exists to Grow and Share God's Love

### From the Desk of Pastor Gary

We are in the heat of summer and things seem to be heating up everywhere. Whether it's conflicts around the world, in our nation, or in our communities, you may be asking yourself, "What can I do? I am just one person." Rest assured - you can do a lot!

When I am asked this question, I immediately think of the hymn, "**Let There Be Peace on Earth.**" There is a line at the end of the hymn that speaks to me every time I sing it: "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me." Let's face it, we feel completely inadequate to do anything about conflicts that are oceans away, but we can pray for the Spirit to be able to open the minds of the warring factions to see the harm they are causing. Locally and in our own lives we can seek peaceful solutions. Does that mean I go into a community that is protesting violently and stand between the police and the protesters, reminding them to be peaceful? Some people are called to do just that. Does it mean being the bridge builder in a family conflict? Some people are called to do that. Does it mean that we invite people to come to know the God of Love that we serve -- people that may have been excluded in the past from knowing the love of Jesus because of actual bias or even perceived bias against them? We are all called to do that and more.

I must confess I was less than peaceful during a conversation with a store's customer service representative recently. While speaking with the customer service rep, I became angry and raised my voice enough that it may have sounded threatening. That night as I was meditating on the day's events, I thought about how my action may have had a domino effect on this person's life. Did they drive home aggressively and cause an accident? Did they go home angry and yell at their spouse or children? Peace did not begin with me that day!

I pray that God will give us opportunities to show how God's peace can be shared with others through us. Let Peace Begin with Us!



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### Mark your calendar:

#### **July 13 – Awarding of Cora Martin Weeber Scholarships**

Fellowship time & meeting the scholarship recipients immediately after the service.

#### **July 27 – Game Time at Paxton 4 – 7 pm**

**Prayer Focus:** Peace

If it is possible, as far as it depends on  
you, live at peace with everyone.

Romans 12:18 (NIV)

### Home Visitation and Communion

Paxton UMC would like to establish a home visitation and communion program. We're looking for volunteers who once a month would visit and offer communion to those who can't get to church due to health or other issues. Please let Pastor Gary know if you are willing to serve in this way.

### Our Missionary on the Bay

Hannah Dundore is Paxton's Missionary on the Bay this summer. She serves as a counselor at Camp Occohannock (ootbay.org). Please pray for Hannah, her co-workers, and the young people who are attending the camp. The **Sew For Peace** group has gathered items to send to Hannah to share with her fellow counselors. Cards of support are also welcome. Her address is Camp Occohannock, attn. Hannah Dundore, 9403 Camp Lane, Belle Haven, VA 23306.



Sew for Peace meets every Thursday at 9 am. Please join us in praying for those who can no longer attend due to health issues. On July 20th, during the worship service, there will be a blessing of children's clothes headed for Ghana.

Daystar Dinner will be served on July 20th at 4 pm, for Daystar residents, family, & friends. Volunteers are welcome to help in the kitchen, serve, & visit with our guests. Contact Bill Toner.

Golden Agers: There will be no meeting in July. The annual picnic will be held August 12 in the pavilion located at the Ecumenical Retirement Community, 624 Wilhelm Road (just off Progress Avenue). On September 2 there will be an Amish Farm and House visit as part of a Basket-filling tour through the Lancaster area (\$141 PP). November 19 there will be a trip to Peddler's Village and Pearl Buck's House. (\$129pp). 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.

### Cora Martin Weeber Student Scholarship Award Recipients

Four of this year's scholarship winners will be attending the worship service this Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, to be introduced and blessed by the congregation. There will be a special time for fellowship immediately after the service. See June's newsletter for bios of each individual winner.

## It's Game Time, Paxton!



**Sunday, July 27**

**4pm – 7pm**

- Bring your favorite board game.
- A light dinner is provided, but feel free to bring your favorite snacks!

**Pastor Gary challenges *YOU* to Monopoly!**

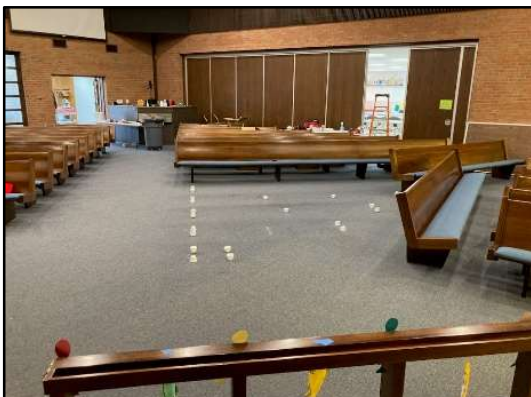


### 42 Lights

Recognizing that the 42 ceiling lights in the sanctuary were nearly twenty years old and had become dull, it was decided that the florescent bulbs would be replaced with LED bulbs. No big deal. They are just light bulbs, right? NOPE! Much more complicated than one might think.

The first step was to remove the pews, section by section, so there would be room for scaffolding. The scaffolding was erected to reach the light fixtures, some 20 + feet above the floor. Skip Smith fearlessly climbed to the top of the scaffolding and carefully disconnected each individual light fixture and handed it down. Bill Toner then removed the old parts and installed new innards which would accommodate an LED bulb. The renewed fixture went back up to be re-installed. As one section of lights was completed, the pews beneath were also reinstalled. Ultimately, all 60 pews were removed and put back in place. One of the short pews was relocated to provide space for wheelchairs and walkers. Steve Sellers and Scott O'Brian provided their able assistance throughout the entire process. After 10 days and 42 lights refurbished, there is brighter lighting in the sanctuary.

Thank you, Bill, Skip, Steve and Scott, for a job well done!



A section of pews removed so that scaffolding could be erected, to reach the sanctuary light fixtures.



Skip and Bill do a fist-bump from the scaffold heights, while Steve prays below.

## *Susquehanna Conference –Lay Delegate Report to the Congregation of Paxton UMC*

Pastor Gary and I attended the Annual conference of the Susquehanna United Methodist Church which was held in Williamsport, PA from May 29 – 31, 2025. The conference was led by our new Bishop Hector-Nunez. He brought wonderful energy, enthusiasm, and an extraordinarily strong love of God. Acknowledging how difficult the last few years have been, the Bishop encouraged attendees through music, singing and the Word to move forward and

### ***Believe ... and see the Glory of God.***

The business sessions included review, acceptance, approval and/or voting of the following:

- Three recommendations from the Board of Pensions, Commission on Equitable Compensation and Council on Finance and Administration. The total conference budget for 2026 will be \$7,039,849, which is \$523,927 or 6.9% less than 2025 and \$1,357,059 or 16.2% less than 2024. These reductions will be reflected in the shares of ministry each church pays annually to support the Susquehanna conference.
- Some 42 Reports including those for Mission Central, Daystar and the Neighborhood Center in Harrisburg.
- Four amendments to the Constitution of the United Methodist Church. These included:
  - Regionalization – which would grant greater autonomy and flexibility to regional conferences and local churches throughout the world.
  - Inclusiveness of the Church – states that all people are of sacred worth.
  - Racial justice -- commitment to confront and seek to eliminate all forms of racism.
  - The Clergy Delegate to the General Conference – sets forth guidelines on who may attend the General, jurisdictional, or regional conferences.

These amendments required a vote of the laity only. The results will be reported in the fall once all individual churches throughout the world have voted.

During a special Celebration of Ministry Worship held Thursday night, May 29<sup>th</sup>, Bishop Núñez recognized Pastor Gary as an Associate Member of the Order of Elders and acknowledged the support of his wife, Cindy. Pastor Gary is now entitled to be called Reverend and can perform marriage and communion services outside Paxton Church. In his pastoral message, Bishop Nunez spoke about the three “Cs” – Celebrate, Connect and Communicate as we all seek to share God’s love and strive to make disciples for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

If there are any questions, please feel free to reach out to me. I wish everyone a blessed day, each and every day.

RB (R. Brian Wilbur) Lay Delegate





**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/@PaxtonUnitedMethodistChurch-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.***

### **July Worship and Activities**

July 13 <sup>th</sup>	9:15 AM	Dear Children of God Part 2 Heard of this Hope Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82; Colossian 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37
	11:00 AM	Trinity Worship Church Nepali Community
	11:30 AM	Children's Sunday School
	1:00 PM -8:00 PM	Private Party (Fellowship Hall)
July 14 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM	AA Open Meeting
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	AA and Al-Anon Meetings
July 16 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Office hours
	4:00 PM	Pilates
July 17 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM	Sew for Peace
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Office hours
	6:30 PM	AA Meeting
July 20 <sup>th</sup>	9:15 AM	Dear Children of God Part 2 Imagine of the Invisible Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52; Colossian 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42
	11:00 AM	Trinity Worship Church Nepali Community
	11:30 AM	Children's Sunday School
	1:00 PM -6:00PM	Daystar Gathering and Meal
July 21 <sup>st</sup>	7:00 PM	AA Open Meeting
July 22 <sup>nd</sup>	6:30 PM	AA and Al-Anon Meetings
July 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Office hours
	4:00 PM	Pilates

July 24 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM	Sew for Peace
July 25 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM 6:30 PM	Office hours AA Meeting
July 27 <sup>th</sup>	9:15 AM  11:00 AM 11:30 AM 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM	Dear Children of God Part 2 Made You Alive Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85; Colossians 2:6-19; Luke 11:1-3 Trinty Worship Church Nepali Community Children's Sunday School <b>Paxton Game Night</b> – <i>Includes a light dinner - Bring Your Favorite Board Game!</i>
July 28 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM	AA Open Meeting
July 29 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	AA and Al-Anon Meetings
July 30 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM 4:00 PM	Office hours Pilates
July 31 <sup>st</sup>	9:00 AM	Sew for Peace

### **August Worship and Events**

August 1 <sup>st</sup>	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM 6:30 PM	Office hours AA Meeting
August 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9:15 AM  11:00 AM 11:30 AM	Dear Children of God Part 2 Set Your Mind Hosea 11: 1-11; Psalm 107; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21 Trinty Worship Church Nepali Community Children's Sunday School
August 4 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM	AA Open Meeting
August 5 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	AA and Al-Anon Meetings
August 6 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM 4:00 PM	Office hours Pilates
August 7 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM	Sew for Peace

**Bible & Book Study Group** normally held on Wednesdays is on summer break until after Labor Day.

**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.