



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

### *Greetings from Pastor Gary*

With all the showers and gloomy days we had in April, surely the flowers of May will be blooming (God has not disappointed us this year with the April flowers blooming). In April though, we celebrated the eternal life-giving miracle of Jesus' resurrection. The Hymns, Prayers, Scripture, the beautiful Altar Decorations (thank you Diane and Skip), and just being together to Worship our Risen Savior made this Easter Sunday very memorable for all.



Since Easter, we have been studying what it means to live a Consecrated Life to God and to each other through the vows we make as United Methodists. We lift up our intentions to support the United Methodist Church, the Paxton Church Congregation, our community and promise to live a life consecrated to God. That support comes in the form of our Prayers, Presence, Service, Gifts and Talents, and Witness. Each of these parts of our Consecrated Life are important and to single one out as more important does an injustice to the others. If you want more detail on the importance of Prayers, Presence, Service, Gifts and Talents, and Witness, I encourage you to go to the Paxton Facebook page and watch the Worship Services from the previous weeks.

In May we will have another day of celebration on the 19th during and after worship. We will be celebrating the past, present and future of the Christian Church and Paxton Church as part of the Christian Church. The past will be the birthday of the Christian Church, or The Way as it was originally called, on Pentecost Sunday. The Present will be celebrated as Paxton Church's 50th anniversary of being in its current church building. The building is the center from which the missions and ministries of Paxton Church go forth. Ministerial Son, Joel Coleman, will be providing a video message of how Paxton Church has supported his ministry. The Future will be celebrated through living out our Vision that Paxton United Methodist Church Exists to Grow and Share God's Love and our commitments to live a Consecrated Life as part of that vision. With this May Newsletter, you will find a form that you can pray and discern over prior to May 19th. This paper lists the five parts of our vows to live a Consecrated Life and suggestions on how you can "step up" in each of these areas. We ask as you pray that God will guide you on how to make steps forward in your Spiritual Life. During Worship, we will present these commitments to God on the altar. There will be more available prior to worship so that all family members may make their commitments to live a Consecrated Life. You do not need to be a member of the church to participate, and all are encouraged to attend and join us on this day of celebration.



After worship we will have a time of fellowship by sharing brunch, planting red geraniums that each person bought with them to worship, opening the corner stone, and sharing other photos and artifacts.

May 19th will be a day of Worship in song, prayer, scripture, and message. You will also have an opportunity to welcome our new congregation from UPASANA, Nepal Community Church.

**Sunday Services** are 9:15 am in the Sanctuary. **Worship is in-person and live on Facebook Live on anytime at [www.facebook.com/paxtonumc](http://www.facebook.com/paxtonumc)**. A children's nursery is available.

**Bible Study** begins at 10:30 am each Sunday. The current focus is on prayer and praying.

**Book Study Group** meets at 10 am every Wednesday at the Peach Tree Restaurant. May 22 is our last meeting before summer. **Choir Practice** 7 pm Wednesday. **Pilates** 4 pm Wednesday



**Sew for Peace** 9 am Thursday. A **Mission Central** collection basket has been placed in the Narthex for May/June donations of **Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Heavy Duty Black Trash Bags**. In May we will deliver cloth bags for the various kits they pack, shoes for families in developing nations, nail clippers, hand towels, wash cloths, combs, gallon Ziploc bags and children's books. We also collect plastic bags that stores to pack your purchases. These ultimately go to Virginia where mats and pillows are made for the homeless.

**Golden Agers** meets at 12:30 pm Tuesday, May 14th for lunch, bingo, and fellowship. Next trip is the Williamsport Chocolate Lover's Tour (June 4, \$ 126). Check bulletin board for other upcoming trips. Family, friends -- everyone is welcome. Contact Dotty Sellers at 717-497-3940.

**Daystar Dinner** will serve be on May19th at 4 pm, to Daystar residents and family, & friends. Volunteers are welcome in the kitchen and as servers. Contact Bill Toner 717-497-8213.

**AA Meetings** at 6:30 pm Mondays, Tuesdays, and Friday. **Al-Anon** 6:30 pm, Tuesdays.

**Prayer Chain** – Please send prayer requests to Kathy O'Brian ([kobrian53@gmail.com](mailto:kobrian53@gmail.com)). Those interested in joining the prayer chain should send current email address and phone number to Kathy. Note: prayer requests on Sunday will be separate and in the following week's bulletin.

**Student Scholarships** – Winners of the Cora Martin Weeber Scholarships will be announced in June.

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

**Check out our website, [www.paxtonumc.org](http://www.paxtonumc.org)**, to learn more about us and upcoming service opportunities, and more about the May 19, 2024 special Sunday, celebrating Paxton UMC's Past, Present, and Future. Feel free to share this with friends and family.

