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

From the Desk of Pastor Gary

The weather is warming, flowers are blooming, Lent has passed, and Easter decorations have been packed away until next year. Now, it's time to go fishing—**Fishing for People**.

This season between Easter and Pentecost offers the perfect opportunity to sharpen our skills in sharing the Good News. "Fishing for People" is not just a metaphor; it's a commissioning given directly by Jesus. In Matthew 28:19–20, He tells us:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The mission statement of The United Methodist Church echoes this call: we are to make disciples **"for the transformation of the world."** At Paxton, our vision statement continues this purpose:

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

I invite you to join in this fishing expedition with your **Prayers, Presence, Service, Talents, and Witness**. Our mission to fish for people doesn't end on Pentecost Sunday—just as Pentecost in the Book of Acts marked the beginning of the Christian church, so it marks the start of our journey into our communities, casting our nets wide.

Later this month, on May 29th, 30th, and 31st, R.B. Wilbur (Paxton's Lay Representative to Annual Conference) and I will attend the Susquehanna Conference's Annual Conference in Williamsport. Please keep us in your prayers as we discern important decisions, including potential changes to the United Methodist Book of Discipline.

On Friday evening during the Ordination Service, I will be recognized as an **Associate Member of the Order of Elders** in the Susquehanna Conference. I humbly ask for your prayers as I take this next step in my pastoral ministry.

(If you'd like to know more about what it means to be an Associate Member, feel free to ask me!)

May 11th – Mother's Day

May 17th – Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event

May 29, 30 and 31st – Susquehanna Annual Conference

Prayer Focus: Fishing for People





Celebrate Pentecost

Sunday, June 8th, 9:15 am

Join the Celebration! The Day of Pentecost is one of the most significant events in the Christian calendar, marking the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the followers of Jesus Christ, and is often considered the “birthday” of the Christian Church.

During the service there will be an opportunity to renew our commitment to the church and our vows to uphold Paxton with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

[Psalm 121 \(NLT\)](#)

Assurance of God's Protection

*O LORD, you have examined my heart
and know everything about me.
You know when I sit down or stand up;
You know my every thought when far away.
You chart the path ahead of me and tell me
where to stop and rest.
Every moment you know where I am.
You know what I am going to say
even before I say it, LORD.
You both precede and follow me.
You place your hand of blessing on my head.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
Too great for me to know!*

[Bible Study](#) begins at 10:30 am each Sunday. In our new Bible study, Pastor Gary will lead a discussion about fishing for people, that is, disciples and followers for Jesus Christ our risen Savior. If you are looking for an interesting book, see [Crossing the Waters](#) by Leslie Leyland Fields.

[Bible & Book Study Group:](#) The group that has been meeting on Wednesdays is taking a break. Pastor Gary will announce when it resumes.

Gratitude and Updates

Paxton United Methodist has just enjoyed a wonderful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior – *Jesus Christ*.



We would like to express our appreciation to everyone who shared their time, talents, financial support, and presence at the various activities: pancake supper, pancake breakfast, Holy Week services, and, of course, Easter Sunday.

Easter Eggs: Over 13,000 eggs were prepared and sold throughout our community and beyond. Some 20 + people volunteered 5-8 hours weekly including friends, church members and a group from Annapolis that took 30 dozen eggs back with them to Maryland. The funds raised will support the work of the church.

Hearing Assistance System: A hearing assistance device is now available during worship in the sanctuary. See Bill or Cindy (in the booth at the back of the sanctuary) before any service if you would like to use it. This system is made available in memory of Tom Meredith through a donation by his wife, Judy Meredith.

Peanut Butter Challenge: For those facing food insecurity, peanut butter is a staple. Paxton participated in a district-wide United Methodist challenge to help our brothers and sisters. **Over 200 jars** of peanut butter were collected and will be donated to The Hanna Food Pantry in Susquehanna Twp. and The Manna Food Pantry in Penbrook. Thank you, Paxton, for your generosity!



Audio-visual Changes: Our current video system is old and fading. At times, it can be very hard to see the lyrics and words for the response readings. Help is on the way! The church has purchased two very large screen (100 inches) television sets. These should provide for more vivid video presentations and greater clarity of sound. Installation is expected by mid-May.

Rise Against Hunger – 68% of our fundraising goal has been reached.

Come join us on **Saturday, May 17th**, to package emergency meals for **Rise Against Hunger**, an organization committed to ending hunger. Volunteers are needed to fill the bags & boxes with 10,000 meals that will be distributed throughout the world. Additional information and sign-up sheets are in the church lobby. Contact Andrea Smallacombe at 570-460-8894 for additional information. So far 68% percent of the \$4,100 necessary to purchase supplies has been raised. Please consider a contribution to help us reach our goal.



Bishop Recognizes Paxton Church: Bishop Hector A Burgos Nunez, bishop of the Susquehanna conference, has congratulated Paxton UMC for meeting 100% of its 2024 Shares of Ministry. Shares of Ministry support various ministries at the conference, jurisdictional and General Church levels. Thank you everyone for your ongoing support for our mission to grow and share God's Love.



Reach out to someone: Remember to stay in touch with one another – especially those you haven't seen in a while, or those who might be lonely, going through difficult times, or experiencing health issues. Call, visit, text, or mail a card to let people know you are thinking about them. Let them know that God loves them!

Bible & Book Study Group: The group that has been meeting on Wednesdays is on a temporary hiatus.

Sew for Peace meets every Thursday at 9 am. On May 18th during the Sunday service there will be a blessing of children's clothes sewn for Henderson Settlement in Kentucky, which lifts Jesus Christ up by providing basic needs in Appalachia through God's love.

Daystar Dinner will be served on May 18th at 4 pm, for Daystar residents, family, & friends. Volunteers are needed to help in the kitchen and serve. Contact Bill Toner.

Golden Agers will meet May 13 for food, fun and fellowship. On September 2 there will be an Amish Farm and House visit as part of a Basket-filling tour though Lancaster area (\$141 PP). November 19 there will be a trip to Peddler's Village 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 Scholarships : Applications submitted by the May 1 deadline are now being reviewed. This scholarship program was created to assist worthy students in the Paxton UMC family in payment of tuition at undergraduate academic institutions as they pursue an associate or bachelor's degree. Winners will be announced on June 8th, during the Pentecost Sunday Service.



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. A children's nursery is available. ***The calendar below gives details of Paxton UMC's services, ministries and missions.***

Mission Projects

Rise Against Hunger

Collecting \$4,100 to be able to make 10,000 meals
Sign Up to help on Saturday May 17th

CHURCH CALENDAR

May Worship and Events

May 1 st	9:00 AM	Sew for Peace
May 4 th	9:15 AM	Fishing for People Where Do We Fish? Sitting and Waiting
	10:30 AM	Bible Study – Let's Go Fishing
	11:30 AM	Children's Sunday School
May 7 th	4:00 PM	Pilates
May 8 th	9:00 AM	Sew for Peace
May 11 th		Happy Mother's Day!
	9:15 AM	Fishing for People Where Do We Fish? Rain Barrels
	10:30 AM	Bible Study – Let's Go Fishing
	11:30 AM	Children's Sunday School
May 14 th	4:00 PM	Pilates
	7:00 PM	Choir Practice

May 15th	9:00 AM	Sew for Peace
May 17 th	9:00 AM – 1:00PM	Rise Against Hunger Meal-Packing Event Shifts at 10 am and 11am, each lasting 1 hour
May 18 th	9:15 AM 10:30 AM 11:30 AM	Fishing for People Where Do We Fish? Streams Bible Study – Let's Go Fishing Children's Sunday School
	May 21 st	4:00 PM - Pilates
May 22 nd	9:00 AM	Sew for Peace
May 25 th	9:15 AM 10:30 AM 11:30 AM	Fishing for People – Memorial Day Remembrance Casting Our Nets Bible Study – Let's Go Fishing Children's Sunday School
May 26 th	Office Closed	Memorial Day
May 28 th	4:00 PM	Pilates
May 29 th	9:00 AM 9:00 AM – 9:00PM	Sew for Peace Susquehanna Annual Conference Williamsport, PA Please Pray for Pastor Gary and Lay Delegate R.B. Wilbur
May 30 th	9:00 AM – 9:00PM	Susquehanna Annual Conference Williamsport, PA Please Pray for Pastor Gary and Lay Delegate R.B. Wilbur
May 31 st	9:00 AM – 1:00PM	Susquehanna Annual Conference Williamsport, PA Please Pray for Pastor Gary and Lay Delegate R.B. Wilbur



June Worship and Events

June 1 st	9:15 AM 10:30 AM 11:30 AM	Fishing for People – Teaching Others to Fish Bible Study – Let's Go Fishing Children's Sunday School
June 4 th	4:00 PM 7:00 PM	Pilates Choir Practice
June 5 th	9:00 AM	Sew for Peace
June 8 th	9:15 AM	Pentecost Sunday

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.