



Paxton Pulse



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

From the Desk of Pastor Gary

Does it ever feel like the world is on fire? With so much unfolding in our community, our state, and our nation, it's easy to find ourselves asking, *Where is God?* We proclaim that Christ is risen—but where is He now? Where is the Spirit moving in us and through us into a world that feels so broken?

These are not new questions. They echo the same cries raised 2,000 years ago. And the answer remains the same: **God is with us—always.**

In Jesus' time, many expected a very different kind of Savior. They imagined a powerful leader, a warrior-king who would drive out the Romans and restore Israel's glory. They looked for someone who would ride in on a white horse and make everything right in an instant. Even after the resurrection, some still held onto that expectation.

But Jesus came differently. He entered on a donkey, not as a conqueror of nations, but as a Savior of hearts—bringing freedom from sin and life beyond death. God's plan was not smaller than their expectations—it was far greater.

So perhaps the question is not, ***Where is God?***
but rather, ***What are we expecting God to do?***

Like those before us, we may hope God will simply remove the hatred, the violence, and the division around us. Yet the truth is this: God has already begun that work—**in us.** Through the Spirit, we are called to be Christ's presence in the world. We are the voice that speaks truth, the hands that serve, and the feet that walk toward peace. We are sent to confront injustice and to seek reconciliation wherever it is needed.

Instead of asking, ***Where is God?***
Perhaps we should be asking, ***What is God calling me to do?***

After Pentecost, we will take time to explore that question together: What is God stirring within you? What is God calling Paxton Church to do? And how can we, as a community, support one another—not only with resources, but with our time, our gifts, our prayers, and our witness?

Where is God?

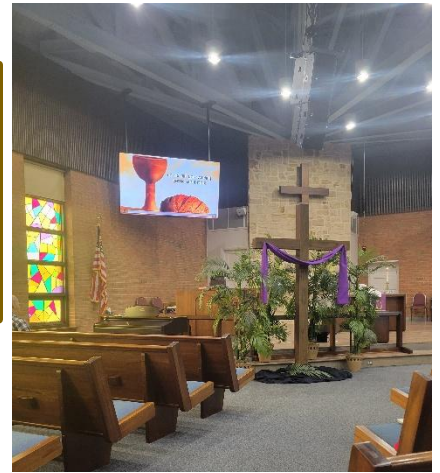
God is moving—in you, through you, by the Spirit of Jesus.

Grace and peace, Pastor Gary

[Holy Week at Paxton United Methodist Church](#)

Thank you to Pastor Gary for his creativity and leadership during Easter week. Thank you to all those who contributed their time and talents decorating and preparing the pulpit, sanctuary and fellowship hall as well as preparing meals. Their gifts of caring and serving are greatly appreciated.

Maundy Thursday: On this holy night, we remembered the Last Supper by sharing a simple meal together. Pastor Gary prepared a homemade chicken and rice casserole. As we gathered at the table, we sang, read Scripture, prayed, and remembered Christ as we broke bread and shared the cup. Following the meal, we moved quietly to our “Garden” — the sanctuary — where we spent time in prayer, remembering Jesus’ prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane.



Good Friday: Even in the shadows of the cross, we remembered: Sunday is coming. Followers came for a solemn and meaningful time of prayer, reflection, Scripture, and music as we remembered Christ’s sacrifice and held fast to the hope that is on the way.

Easter: Sunrise Service at 6 AM, Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall, and a sanctuary filled with joyful people singing and praising the resurrection of God’s Son, our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.



He is Risen. He is Risen indeed.

Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence

Paxton United Methodist Church's Involvement in the Memorial:

In January, Ann Van Dyke from Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence reached out to Paxton Church about hosting the Memorial of T-Shirts on our lawn along North Progress Avenue. The Leadership Team immediately said yes. The memorial will run from April 20 through May 4.

On Monday, April 20, members of Paxton Church and Heeding God's Call gathered to set up the display. As we worked, Ann shared stories of some of the lives being remembered. Two, in particular, stayed with us. One was about two young girls who lost their parents to gun violence; their grandparents now bring them to see the memorial each time it is displayed. Another was a T-shirt bearing a baby's onesie sewn onto the front, representing a mother and the child she was carrying—both killed by a gun.

Ending gun violence goes beyond debates over the Second Amendment or gun control alone. It calls for greater access to mental health care, a reshaping of a culture in which the value of human life has diminished, and, most importantly, a commitment to prayer. We are called to seek God's guidance as we move forward, working to protect and honor every human life.

Over 60 shirts have been set up near Progress Avenue as a memorial to those people whose lives have been recently lost due to gun violence. The shirts identify the name of the victim, their age and the date they were shot. For more information, see www.heedinggodscall.org

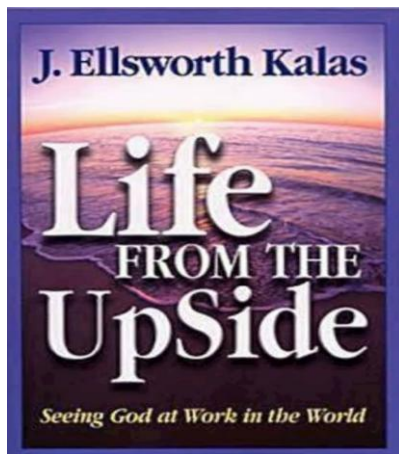


Cora Martin Weeber Student Scholarships —Last call for submissions

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, 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.***

[Opportunities to Participate, Give and Serve](#)

[New Wednesday book study begins :](#)



“I confess that I am an unreconstructed optimist. Not a naïve one; I’ve lived too long for that, long enough to have experienced a resounding case for pessimism. If you ordinarily look at life through the general news – with its constant reports of disaster and decline, evil and insanity...

But: there is God. And because there is God, there is goodness. I profoundly believe that God is at work in our world and that our planet has not been written off as a lost cause. Though our human race appears so often to dedicate itself to its own destruction, God is always at work.... And because of God, faith, love, and goodness keep being reborn.” J. Ellsworth Kalas

Join us **Wednesdays at the Peachtree Restaurant for this unique study. We meet at 10:00 AM.**

[Golden Agers](#)

The next meeting of the Susquehanna Golden Agers will be May 12 from 12:30 to 2:30. 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 upcoming trips & reservations.

[Peanut Butter Challenge – We Did It!](#)

We reached our goal of 202 jars of peanut butter. Paxton UMC participated in the district-wide challenge to help our brothers and sisters by providing peanut butter and other nut butters to The Hanna Food Pantry in Susquehanna Twp. and The Manna Food Pantry in Penbrook. Image shows half our collected nut butters greeting folks at HANNA’s Pantry.



[Sew for Peace](#)

Sew for Peace meets Thursdays from 9-noon. On Sunday, May 17, there will be a blessing upon the clothing we make that will be distributed to Shed of Grace, Lemoyne. We have been asked to make baby blankets for Harrisburg Hospital knitted or crocheted from baby yarn or quilted from fabric. Size suggestions are 30 x 30 or 36 x 36. Anyone with those skills wishing to contribute please contact Dotty Sellers (717-497-3940) for details.

[Easter Egg program was a BIG Success](#)

Paxton Church wishes to express its gratitude to the 20 + church members and friends who volunteered 5-8 hours weekly to produce the easter eggs sold throughout our community. This resulted in \$10,000 being raised for the church’s general fund.

[Support Mission Programs Throughout the Year](#)

Gift Cards for restaurants, department, and grocery stores are available for purchase year-round. A percentage of the sale is returned to the church, where it is used exclusively to support mission programs such as the Kingdom Air Corp missionaries, Camp Occohannock, Rebuild Together, Manna Food Pantry, Morning Star Pregnancy Services and others. Please see Bill or Nancy Toner (717-512-1547) for additional details.



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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.*

April

Worship and Events

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| April 27 th | 6:30 PM | AA Men's Meeting |
| April 28 th | 6:30 PM | AA and Al-Anon Meetings |
| April 29 th | 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM 4:00 PM | Office Hours Pilates – Choir Room |
| April 30 th | 9:00 AM | Sew for Peace |

May

Worship and Events

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| May 1 st | 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM 6:30 PM | Office Hours AA Men's Meeting |
| May 2 nd | 10:00 AM | Trinity Worship Church Nepali Community Women's Bible Study and Music Practice |
| May 3 rd | 9:15 AM 10:30 AM 11:00 AM | Fifth Sunday of Easter Stories That Matter – Know the Way Proverbs 4:10-18; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14 Fellowship Time Sunday School – Bible Study in Room 2 The Meanings of Discipleship Week 3 – Early Church Discipleship: Adherence, Argument and Community |

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|----------------------|---|---|
| | Noon | Trinity Worship Nepali Church Children's Bible Study |
| May 4 th | 6:30 PM | AA Men's Meeting |
| May 5 th | 6:30 PM | AA and Al-Anon Meetings |
| May 6 th | 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM 4:00 PM | Office Hours Pilates – Choir Room |
| May 7 th | 9:00 AM | Sew for Peace |
| May 8 th | 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM 6:30 PM | Office Hours AA Men's Meeting |
| May 9 th | 10:00 AM | Trinity Worship Church Nepali Community Women's Bible Study and Music Practice |
| May 10 th | 9:15 AM 10:30 AM 11:00 AM Noon | Sixth Sunday of Easter Stories That Matter – The Story Abides Ezekiel 34:1-7; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21 Fellowship Time Sunday School – Bible Study in Room 2 The Meanings of Discipleship Week 4 – Pilgrim People: Medieval Discipleship Trinity Worship Nepali Church Children's Bible Study |
| May 11 th | 6:30 PM | AA Men's Meeting |
| May 12 th | 6:30 PM | AA and Al-Anon Meetings |
| May 13 th | 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM 4:00 PM | Office Hours Pilates – Choir Room |
| May 14 th | 9:00 AM | Sew for Peace |
| May 15 th | 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM 6:30 PM | Office Hours AA Men's Meeting |
| May 16 th | 10:00 AM | Trinity Worship Church Nepali Community Women's Bible Study and Music Practice |



Strawberry and Peach Socials – Save the dates!

Come join us right after Sunday service for a time of fellowship and delicious summer fruits, on **Sunday June 7** for strawberries and on **Sunday August 2** for peaches and cream.