



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

Well, fall has arrived, and with it comes the full saturation of pumpkin spice everything—though thankfully not in the communion bread! Autumn gives us a fresh way to witness the beauty of God's creation. With each passing week, God's paintbrush transforms the landscape, turning the lush green of summer into brilliant shades of yellow, orange, and red. A simple drive through the countryside reveals brown fields with vines now bare, punctuated by bright orange pumpkins waiting to be claimed to decorate our homes.

Often, we think of fall as a season of dying: leaves falling, trees growing bare, summer's warmth giving way to cooler air. And from the pulpit, spring is usually named the season of renewal, of new beginnings. But the truth is, spring's new life only comes after fall's letting go. Autumn is actually the start of new growth—when old branches and leaves are cleared away to make room for what's to come. Some plants even set their buds for spring during these very months.

God's creation offers us a pattern to follow. The church—and each of us—must also be willing to let go to trim away what no longer bears fruit so that something new can flourish. The United Methodist Church has done this with a renewed mission statement: *"The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections."*

Our own Susquehanna Conference is in a season of prayer and discernment for a new vision statement, and here at Paxton, we too have refreshed our vision: *"Paxton United Methodist Church exists to know, grow, and share God's love."* Maybe it's time for each of us to craft our own personal vision. How will you live out the love of Jesus Christ in your daily life?

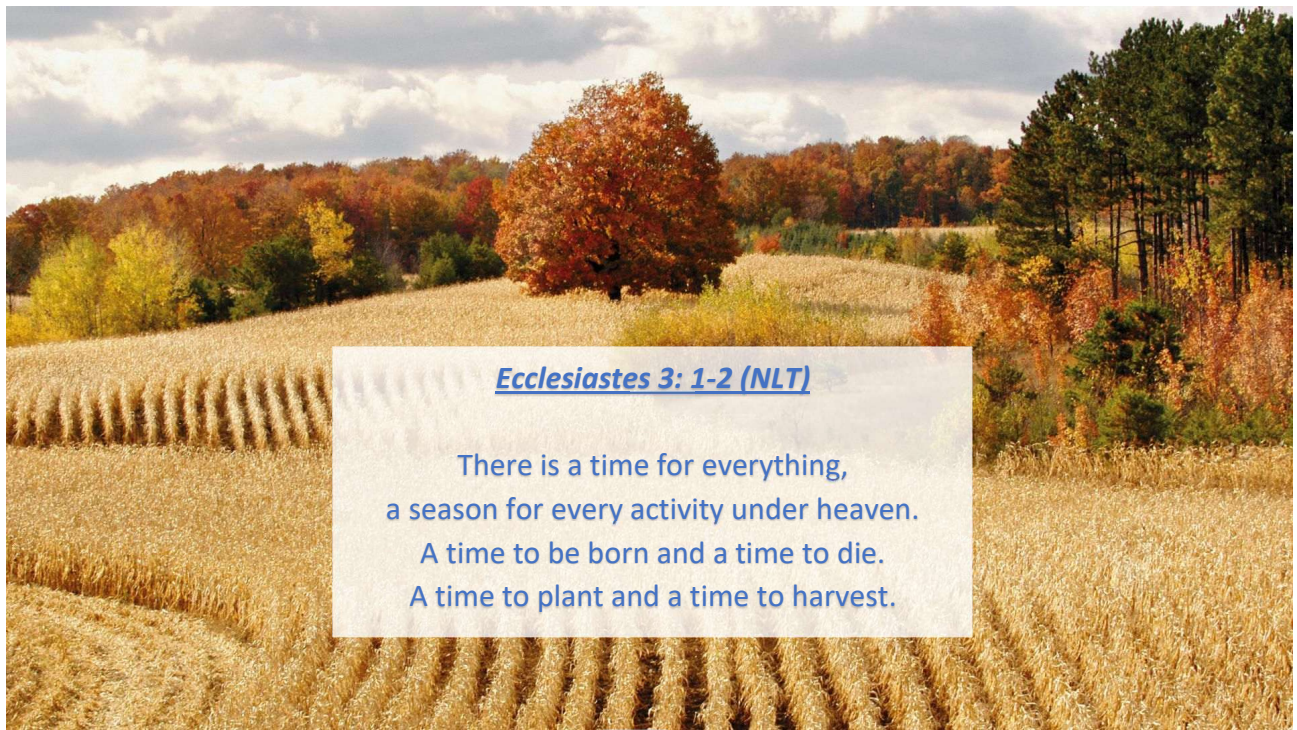
At Paxton, our leadership team has been discerning ways to trim back what no longer produces fruit and to open space for new growth. A few examples:

1. Updating our sound and video system so that those worshiping online can share more fully in the service—funded through grants from the Susquehanna Conference, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church, and the Trinity Worship Nepali Community Church.
2. Clearing out storage spaces so that fresh ministries have room to take root.
3. Relocating coffee and snacks to the lobby, creating a space for greater hospitality and connection among members and guests alike.

These are small but meaningful steps in this season of pruning, preparing the way for the new life God is already stirring among us.

So, what about you? Is there something in your life that needs trimming away—or even letting go completely--so that God's new growth can take root within you? Pray about it. Then, let it fall away.

Prayer Focus: New Growth with God



Ecclesiastes 3: 1-2 (NLT)

There is a time for everything,
a season for every activity under heaven.
A time to be born and a time to die.
A time to plant and a time to harvest.

Dates to Remember

October 5th -- Communion

October 10th – Pre-orders due for chicken corn soup.

October 17th – Cook and package corn soup.

October 18th – Corn soup sale

Home Communion Ministry

Paxton UMC has established a home visitation and communion program. In September, we began distributing Communion. We're still 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 manner.

Sew for Peace

Sew for Peace meets every Thursday at 9am. Our recent shipment of clothing to Africa will support children and families across four underserved districts in Bombali, Kambia, Bonthe, and Moyamba. Also, in October we will be making a delivery to Mission Central of hat sets and blankets as well as donations of new/gently used coats, ChapSticks, reusable water bottles, gallon size Ziplock bags, new children's socks & underwear, personal cleansing disposable wipes, and clothespins. Please put donations in the collection box in the Narthex. If anyone has other items for Mission Central's various ministries like computer equipment to be refurbished or household items for New Digs, contact Dotty Sellers at 717-564-9492, and she will take them along.

Golden Agers

Golden Agers meet the second Tuesday of the month for food, fellowship & fun. The next meeting will be on October 14th. Bus trips for the rest of this year are full. Dottie is working on some new adventures for 2026 which will be distributed when the schedule is finalized. 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. ***Thank you, Dottie, for a great 2025.***



Chicken Corn Soup Sale

Saturday, October 18th

10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Paxton United Methodist Church

3550 N. Progress Ave

Prices:

Large Container (approx. 1 Quart) Frozen or Unfrozen \$10.00

Small Container (approx. 1 Pint) Frozen or Unfrozen \$5.50

Money (cash or check) due at pick up at the church..

Remember: the soup is made with fresh corn we cut off the cob and froze in August ~ yum!

PRE-ORDER by October 10th. Pre-Orders will insure that there is enough soup for you!

There are many ways to order:

- Use the QR code.
- Go to www.Paxtonumc.org and click on "Order Here!"
- Fill out a paper order form, available at the back of the sanctuary.
- Call Bill Toner at 717-497-8213.



Volunteers are needed to make the sale a success!

- **Friday, October 17th** – *We need people to help prepare and pack the soup.*
 - **Saturday, October 18th** – *We will need people to sell and facilitate picking up of orders.*
- See Bill Toner to sign up for a time when you can help.*

Daystar Dinner

The next dinner will be served on October 19th at 4 pm, for residents, family, & friends. Volunteers are welcome to help in the kitchen, serve, and visit with our guests. Contact Bill Toner.

United Women in Faith – Annual Day Conference

The Susquehanna Conference United Women in Faith will hold its Annual Day - Pathways to Hope - on Saturday, November 8, 2025, at St Paul UMC in Chambersburg PA. For agenda and details, please go to the conference website (susumc.org) and search under the Ministries tab, for *United Women in Faith*.

Come, be part of our Sunday Services!

We are looking for musicians, singers, and even poetry readers and writers to provide special music during worship each week. Please see Pastor Gary if you would like to participate.



Capital Campaign

In May of 2024, Paxton UMC celebrated its 50th anniversary of being in our building. The building has held up well over those years. But like anything that is 50 years old it needs maintained, upgraded and the occasional sprucing up. Sometimes, it cries for help, like when it needed a new boiler. So far, in 2025, there have been improvements to the lighting, the sound system and video presentations in the Sanctuary. The Sunday Service is now available via Facebook and YouTube, for those who want to stay in touch but can't be there in person. Re-painting of the lines for handicapped parking and installation of new rugs in the halls help contribute to a safer environment.

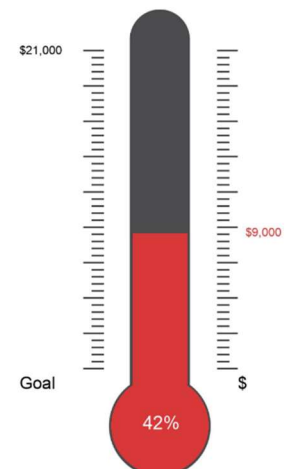
As we look forward, more needs to be done. Therefore, a five-year capital improvement program is being undertaken to upgrade, replace and renovate various areas.

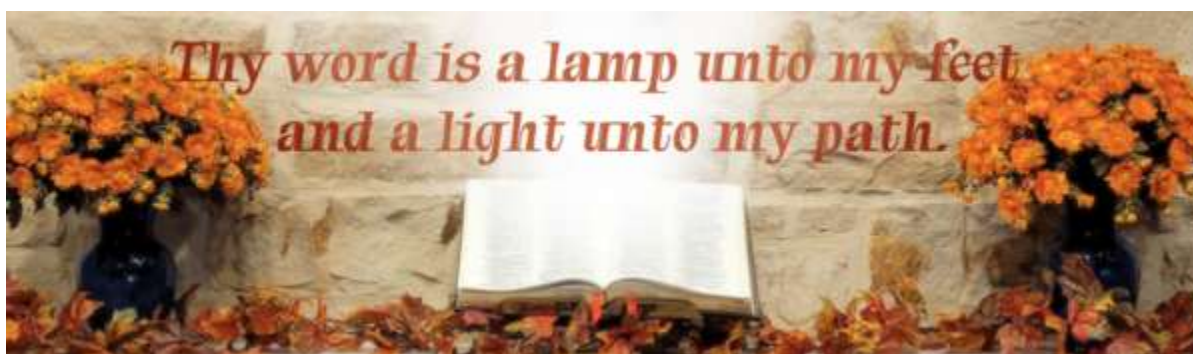
In 2025, the projects will include:

- Replacing the roof & gutter between the Sanctuary and the education/children's wing. This includes relocating an air conditioner – \$15,000.
- Installing a new monitor in the rear of the sanctuary – \$1,000.
- Painting, re-carpeting and reconfiguring the narthex/lobby area – \$5,000.

Most of the labor will be provided by members of our congregation and others who volunteer their time and talents. It's the materials and supplies that need to be financed. The goal is \$21,000 for 2025. At this point about \$9,000 has been received.

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





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 gives details of Paxton UMC's services, ministries, and missions.*

September Worship and Events

September 28 th	9:15 AM	Let My People Know Week – 4 Know What's Right Psalm 25; Exodus 20:1-21; James 1:19-26; Matthew 22:34-40
	10:30 AM	Fellowship Time (No Sunday School)
	11:00 AM	Trinty Worship Church Nepali Community
	11:30 AM	Children's Sunday School
September 29 th	6:30 PM	AA Men's Meeting
September 30 th	6:30 PM	AA and Al-Anon Meetings

October Worship and Events

October 1 st	10:00 AM	Bible Study and Breakfast at the Peachtree Restaurant - The 12 Minor Prophets of the Old Testament – Hosea week 3
	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Office hours
	4:00 PM	Pilates
October 2 nd	9:00 AM	Sew for Peace
October 3 rd	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Office hours
	6:30 PM	AA Meeting

October 4 th	10:00 AM to Noon	Trinty Worship Church Nepali Community Women's Bible Study and Music Practice
October 5 th	9:15 AM	Let My People Know Week – 5 Know the Enemy Psalm 81; Exodus 16:2-8; 1 Peter 2:4-10; John 1:6-13
	10:30 AM	Sunday School Bible Study “The Bible with and without Jesus” Week 4 – “Isaiah's Suffering Servant”
	11:00 AM	Trinty Worship Church Nepali Community
	11:30 AM	Children's Sunday School
October 6 th	6:30 PM	AA Men's Meeting
October 7 th	6:30 PM	AA and Al-Anon Meetings
October 8 th	10:00 AM	Bible Study and Breakfast at the Peachtree Restaurant - The 12 Minor Prophets of the Old Testament – Hosea week 4
	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Office hours
	4:00 PM	Pilates
October 9 th	9:00 AM	Sew for Peace
October 10 th	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Office hours
	6:30 PM	AA Meeting
	Chicken Corn Soup Pre-Orders Due today!	
October 11 th	10:00 AM to Noon	Trinty Worship Church Nepali Community Women's Bible Study and Music Practice
October 12 th	9:15 AM	Let My People Know Week – 6 Know the Mission
	10:30 AM	Sunday School Bible Study “The Bible with and without Jesus” Week 5 – “The Sign of Jonah”
	11:00 AM	Trinty Worship Church Nepali Community
	11:30 AM	Children's Sunday School

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.