



Pastor Gary Allshouse

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

From the Desk of Pastor Gary...

As this season of Lent is headed toward the most solemn week of the Christian (and should be the world's) year, Holy Week, we are reminded of the greater reason and purpose for Lent. Lent is not meant to be just a forty-day time to give up something like chocolate or social media.... Lent is meant to be a time when we seek to be closer to God; to seek God's face as we have read multiple times in the Psalms we studied this year. Lent is a time to remove items that are keeping **US** from being closer to God. Is your schedule so full you cannot set aside time to pray, to be in a quiet conversation with God? If so, you need to find that item or items getting in the way, and give them up.

This year's Holy Week services will be:

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 13th at 9:15 AM – We will move from Jesus triumphant entry into Jerusalem to Jesus' death on the cross.

Maundy Thursday April 17th at 7:00 PM – We will celebrate the Lord's Table and prepare for the next day.

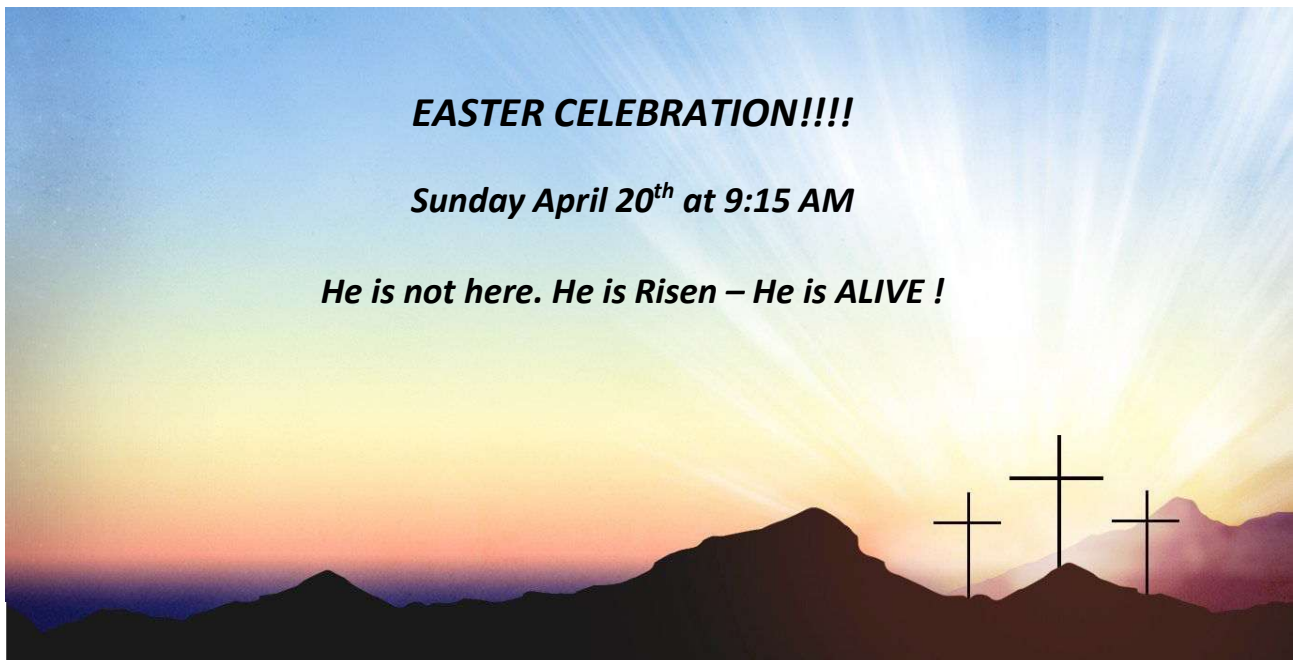
Good Friday, April 18th at 7:00 PM – Why is Friday Good? Because we know Sunday is coming!

Easter Sunday Breakfast April 20th at 8:00 AM – No need to bring anything. Just come with your family and friends to enjoy a time of fellowship.

EASTER CELEBRATION!!!!

Sunday April 20th at 9:15 AM

He is not here. He is Risen – He is ALIVE !



Prayer Focus: The Psalms of Lent

We'll continue to delve into the Psalms of Lent during both worship and Bible study in April. The Psalms offer profound theological insights and provide a meaningful way for us to strengthen our relationship with God through the perspective of the psalmists. Let the study of the Psalms become part of your daily scripture reading.



Assurance of God's Protection

*I lift up my eyes to the hills –
from where will my help come ?
My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.*

*He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.*

*The LORD is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.*

*The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.*

Bible Study begins at 10:30 am each Sunday. In the current Bible study, we are following a unique approach by exploring "**Finding Jesus in the Psalms: A Lenten Journey**" by Barb Roose. Cindy Radich is leading this study.

Bible & Book Study Group meets at 10 am every Wednesday at the Peachtree Restaurant, 251 N Progress Ave, Harrisburg.

[Lenten Easter Projects](#)

[Easter Eggs – Deadline for orders is April 6th](#)



Paxton Church has a long-standing tradition of making Easter eggs. It is fun, a great way to interact with people and helps support the church and its missions financially. Why not purchase some, and share them with family and friends? Both coconut and peanut butter are available. See Bill or Nancy Toner to purchase eggs.

All orders received by or before April 6th will be filled.

[Peanut Butter Challenge](#)

Peanut butter is a very nutritious food staple. Please contribute some jars – big ones, little ones, any size – as we participate in a district-wide United Methodist challenge to help our brothers and sisters. Peanut butter will be donated to The Hanna Food Pantry in Susquehanna Township and The Manna Food Pantry in Penbrook.



[Rise Against Hunger – Save the Date.](#)



Come join us on Saturday, May 17th to support **Rise Against Hunger**, a growing movement to end hunger. Volunteers are needed to fill the bags & boxes with 10,000 meals that will be distributed throughout the world. Contributions so far amount to about 40 percent of the \$4,100 necessary to purchase necessary supplies. Please contact Andrea Smallacombe at 570-460-8894 for additional information.

[Reach Out to Someone](#)

Remember to stay in touch with one another. Especially those you haven't seen in a while. 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!

[Sew for Peace](#) meets every Thursday at 9 am. On April 27th during the Sunday service there will be a blessing of children's clothes sewn for the Grantville Clothes Closet at Faith UCC, which serves the Grantville area.



[Daystar Dinner](#) will be served on April 27th 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 April 8 for food, fun and fellowship. The first bus trip in 2025 will be April 23: Winterthur & Wee Fancy Tea, DE (\$122 pp). On July 1st there will be a trip to The Totem Pole Playhouse to see the play "9 to 5" (\$91 pp). Only three seats are left. For info about other 2025 trips, see the bulletin board or contact Dotty Sellers at 717-564-9492.

[Adopt A Counselor at Camp Occohannock](#)

Summer Camp Counselors are young adults who commit to 8-10 weeks of ministry over the summer. They work to nurture, care for, guide and build up the children and youth that come to camp. They are paid a modest amount. This is where we are hoping churches, businesses and families will walk beside our Counselors!



We ask that churches, youth groups, women's groups, men's groups, Sunday School classes, families or even businesses 'adopt' one of our Counselors. It's a commitment of prayer and financial support. Contributions will be placed into a Summer Staff Adoption Fund which will be divided equally among the Summer Staff members for an end-of-summer bonus. Also, throughout the summer, we will ask you to regularly uplift your adopted staff member with prayers, letters of encouragement, and a care package.

Paxton Church's own Hannah Dundore was a counselor last year and will be returning to Camp Occohannock this year.

[Cora Martin Weber Student Scholarships](#)

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.

Completed applications are due to the church office by May 1.



Sunday Services are 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.***

March Worship and Events

March 30 th	9:15 AM	UMCOR Sunday – One Great Hour of Sharing The Psalms of Lent – Steadfast Love Joshua 5: 9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21; Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32
	10:30 AM	Bible Study – Finding Jesus in the Psalms
	11:30 AM	Children's Sunday School
March 31 st	9:00 AM	Making Easter Eggs

April Worship and Events

April 1 st	8:15 AM	Packing Easter Egg
April 2 nd	4:00 PM	Pilates
	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
April 3 rd	9:00 AM	Sew for Peace
April 6 th	9:15 AM	The Psalms of Lent – Steadfast Love Isaiah 43: 16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3: 4-14; John 12: 1-8
	10:30 AM	Bible Study – Finding Jesus in the Psalms
	11:30 AM	Children's Sunday School
April 7 th	9:00 AM	Making Easter Eggs
April 8 th	8:15 AM	Packing Easter Egg
April 9 th	10:00 AM	Bible Study at Peachtree Restaurant
	4:00 PM	Pilates
	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
April 10 th	9:00 AM	Sew for Peace

Holy Week

April 13 th	9:15 AM	<i>Palm – Passion Sunday</i> We will move from Jesus triumphant entry into Jerusalem to Jesus' death on the cross. We will be celebrating Holy Communion.
	10:30 AM	Bible Study – Finding Jesus in the Psalms
	11:30 AM	Children's Sunday School
April 16 th	10:00 AM	Bible Study at Peachtree Restaurant
	4:00 PM	Pilates
	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
April 17 th	9:00 AM	Sew for Peace
	7:00 PM	<i>Maundy Thursday Service</i> We will celebrate the Lord's Table and prepare for the next day
April 18 th	7:00 PM	<i>Good Friday Service</i> Why is Friday Good? Because we know Sunday is coming!

Easter Sunday

Sunday April 20th at 8:00 AM Easter Sunday Breakfast – No need to bring anything. Just come with your family and friends to enjoy a time of fellowship.

Sunday April 20th at 9:15 AM – EASTER CELEBRATION!!!! –

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***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.**