



Pastor Gary Allshouse

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

### [Greetings from Pastor Gary](#)

When it comes to new beginnings or a New Year in the life of Paxton Church, I believe there are two; January 1<sup>st</sup> and the first Sunday after Labor Day. I know we are still in August, but because Labor Day is September 2<sup>nd</sup>, I wanted to give you some upcoming information to make plans.

Beginning September 8<sup>th</sup> we will start offering two Sunday School classes; I will be leading one and I will be doing a study on the Old Testament prophet Jonah. I am writing this Bible Study for a class, so there will not be a book to purchase all the materials will be provided (even a Bible if you need one). The second class has yet to be determined; (if you would like to help teach let Pastor Gary know) we will give you the information as soon as we can.

Ruth Higbee is working on a curriculum for a Children's Sunday School Class that we will be offering at 11:30 AM to all children. The Upasana Nepali Church asked for our help in providing a Bible Study for their children. Ruth is looking for volunteers to help with this class. If we have 7 or 8 people sign up to help, you will only need to help 1 or 2 times a month.

On Sunday, August 25, the congregation will have a time of prayers for those going back to school and the blessing of backpacks, briefcases and other back to school items.

Paxton Church is alive and working not only in church but also out in the community. Take this "New Year" time to step out in faith to join in an established ministry of Paxton or maybe start your own ministry as you are called by God to do and let us know how we can support you.

### [Welcome Bishop Burgos-Nunez](#)

Bishop Hector Antonio Burgos-Nunez will be assigned to the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church. He will be shared with the Upper New York Annual Conference as part of the new episcopal area configuration.

Bishop Hector Antonio Burgos-Nunez was elected to the episcopacy by the Northern Jurisdictional Conference on Nov. 4, 2022. He is the first Hispanic-Latino bishop in the Northeastern Jurisdiction.

Bishop Burgos-Nunez holds an M.Div. from the School of Theology at Drew University in Madison, NJ, a bachelor's in business administration from the University of Puerto Rico and a graduate certificate in Information, Systems and Technology.

### [Caroling in July !!](#)

Eleven carolers visited four Paxton church members at their homes on July 28. It was such a blessing to see and sing hymns with Edith, Connie, Erma and Judy. They were so kind to us – we could see their "little lights" shining.

[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. We are now studying the Book of Revelation. The last book of the Bible is really God's word of hope and joy. Max Lucado's book [Life Lesson's from Revelation](#) brings these words to our everyday life.

[Book Study Group](#), [Choir Practice](#) & [Pilates](#) are on summer break, returning after Labor Day.

[AA Meetings](#) at 7 pm on Mondays and 6:30 pm on Tuesdays & Fridays.

[AI -Anon Meetings](#) 6:30 pm, Tuesdays.

[Sew for Peace](#) meets at 9 am Thursday. They will be on summer break September – 5, 12 & 19.

[Mission Control](#) is currently collecting items for their activity kits: 12" rulers, 5-5.5" scissors (no plastic blades), blue or black ink pens, 6-12 packs of pencils, colored pencils and markers, large erasers, hand-held pencil sharpeners and 24 pack crayons.

[Boiler Replacement Update](#) The boiler replacement project has begun. The old boiler has been removed. The new boiler has been ordered and we are awaiting its arrival. By fall, this project should be completed. Thank you so much for your continuing prayers and contributions as we approach our goal for this unexpected cost.

[Golden Agers](#) On August 13, at 12:30 pm, the Ecumenical Retirement Community is providing a picnic on their campus at 624 Wilhelm Rd. ***Reservations and tickets are required.*** Regular meetings will resume September 13 at 12:30. The Oct. trip to the Wolf Sanctuary has availability, but there is a waitlist for the Christmas show at the American Music Theatre. Family, friends -- everyone is welcome. Contact Dotty Sellers at 717-497-3940.

[On Saturday, August 24](#), the folks of [Daystar](#) will be hosting an appreciation picnic to thank the local community for its ongoing support. Everyone from the local community is invited. It will be held from noon to 6 pm at the Susquehanna Veterans Memorial Park, 1955 Elmerton Ave.

#### [Pastor Rick Dennison](#)

Rev. Dr. Richard Dennison a former pastor at Paxton UMC, died, Friday, July 18, 2024. Among his survivors is his wife, Barbara J. Dennison. A celebration of Life Service will be held Sunday, October 6, 2024, at 3 pm at Hope United Methodist Church, 6260 Carlisle, Mechanicsburg, PA, immediately followed by a time of gathering. Pastor Rick will be interred at Indiantown Gap on Monday, October 7, 2024.

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

Dear Paxton family,

When we became members of the United Methodist church, we vowed to uphold it with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness. At a special service held on May 19<sup>th</sup>, we were asked as individuals to reflect on these vows and consider taking a step closer to living a consecrated life in one or more of these areas. Many of you chose to do so and completed a Seeking the Consecrated Life sheet and placed it on the altar during the service.

The Consecration Service Committee reviewed the submitted sheets and wanted to share a general synopsis of your responses. This information will also be shared with the Leadership Committee, and they will use it to plan, develop, and implement programs, studies, activities, and opportunities to help you work toward your new commitment.

We found an overwhelming interest in the area of prayer. We note that many want to develop a daily prayer life to include prayer for those around us, for Paxton, and for those in need, as well as helping to build or join small prayer groups.

The area of presence included attending worship services, participating in worship, and growing into the full measure of the presence of Christ. Some of you indicated a willingness to be a liturgist, increase your regular attendance, and reach out more to others.

In giving back to God, many of you wanted help in identifying ways in which your skills can be applied where needed and committing more time to the life of the congregation. Others of you committed to increasing your financial giving. There was also a desire to help fund special projects.

For some of you, the new step you wanted to take in service for Jesus Christ centered around serving or supporting a mission project and, also, identifying ways to care for others in the congregation.

Witnessing our faith to others had some looking to participate in a small group to pray, study and witness; others want to witness through teaching, and some are interested in learning how to share God's love and give public witness to your faith.

We thank everyone who felt called to commit and take a new step in your spiritual journey. If you didn't have an opportunity to complete a Seeking a Consecrated Life Sheet and would like to, it is not too late!! You can find one on our church website or pick up a sheet on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

As soon as new groups, studies, opportunities and activities are developed and ready for the congregation to join in we'll be back in contact with you. We also welcome your ideas.

Paxton is truly a blessed congregation!

The Consecration Service Committee