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

[From the Desk of Pastor Gary](#)

With the groundhog predicting another six weeks of winter, we're in for a little longer wait until spring arrives. But while that furry weather forecaster has us holding out for warmer days, another season is about to begin – Lent. After our Shrove Tuesday celebration (join us for a Pancake and Sausage Dinner at 6 PM on March 4th), the reflective season of Lent starts the very next day on Ash Wednesday. There will be three opportunities to receive ashes that day: at Brookdale Retirement Community at 9:30 AM, Columbia Cottage Retirement Community at 11:00 AM, and Paxton Church at 7:00 PM.

This Lent, we'll dive into the Psalms of Lent during both worship and Bible study. 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.

In Sunday School, we'll follow a unique approach by exploring "[Finding Jesus in the Psalms: A Lenten Journey](#)" by Barb Roose. This study will be led by Cindy Radich, with my support. The book is available for a suggested donation of \$20.00. Instead of giving up something for Lent, consider adding something. Let the study of the Psalms become part of your daily scripture reading.

[Lenten Schedule](#)

March 4th – Shrove Tuesday 6 pm. Pancake supper. All are welcome.

March 5th – Ash Wednesday – opportunities to receive ashes include:

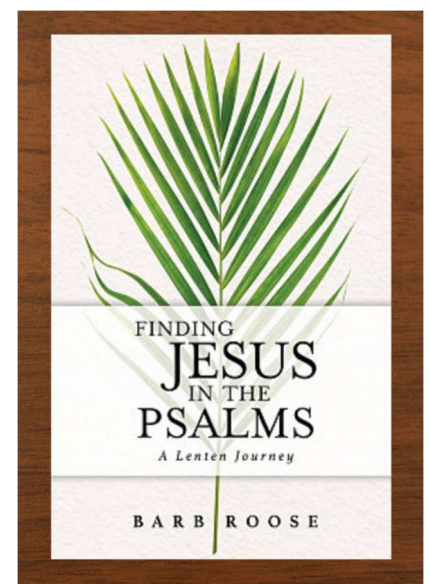
9:30 AM at Brookdale Retirement Community.

11 AM at Columbia Cottage Retirement Community.

7 PM at the evening service at Paxton Church.

March 30th UMCOR Sunday – formerly known as One Great Hour of Sharing.

[Prayer Focus:](#) The Psalms of Lent





The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Psalm 23:1-6

Bible Study begins at 10:30 am each Sunday. In the new Bible study just starting, we'll explore "**Finding Jesus in the Psalms: A Lenten Journey**" by Barb Roose. Cindy Radich will lead this study.

Bible & Book Study Group meets at 10 am every Wednesday at the Peach Tree Restaurant.

Sew for Peace meets every Thursday at 9 am. On March 16 during the Sunday service there will be a blessing of children's clothes sewn for the Crossroads Christian Ministries serving the Steelton-Highspire area.

Daystar Dinner will be served on March 16th 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 February 11 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). For info about other 2025 trips, see the bulletin board or contact Dotty Sellers at 717-564-9492.



Easter Eggs Now Available: 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.

Cora Martin Weeber 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.

Peanut Butter Challenge: Peanut butter is a very nutritious food staple. Please contribute some jars – big ones, little one, 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 dynamic part of the movement to end hunger around the world. Volunteers are needed to fill the bags & boxes with meals. Contributions are needed to reach our goal of \$4,000 to purchase supplies. Please contact Andrea Smallcombe at 570-460-8894 for additional information.



Medical Equipment Sharing Ministry: If you have medical and home care equipment you are not currently using, that could be shared temporarily with someone else in need in our congregation (E.g., wheelchair, walker, shower stool, etc.), we have created a sign-up sheet for you to register what you have for others to borrow, and we will match-make between owner & borrower. This sign-up sheet will be in our church narthex, or you may call the church office at 717.545.3530 if you would like us to add your info to the registry. Our Volunteer coordinator is Linda Grissing. Her email is sukley111@yahoo.com.

If you have to get rid of your equipment permanently, it can be donated to the Mission Central program by calling (717) 766-1533.

Transportation Ministry – Rides to Worship: Are you available to give a ride to worship and church activities, to someone who is not able to drive here and lives near you? A sign-up sheet for your availability will be in the church lobby, as we are launching this matching service. You may indicate your vehicle's capability and your times of availability, and we will match your offer with someone in need of transportation who otherwise would not be able to join us in person for fellowship. We're looking for a coordinator to manage this program. However, in the meantime you are welcome to call the church office at 717.545.3530 to register your interest and availability or your need - or sign up this Sunday on the sheet in narthex.



March Worship and Events

[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.

March 2nd	9:15 AM	Where You Are: Astounded at the Greatness Exodus 34: 29-35; 2 Corinthians 3: 12-4: 2; Luke 9: 28-43, Holy Communion
	10:30 AM	Bible Study – The Holy Spirit – What do you know and what do we believe.
March 3 rd	11:30 AM	Children's Sunday School
	9:00 AM	Making Easter Eggs
March 4 th	8:15 AM	Packing Easter Eggs
	6:00 PM	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
March 5 th	9:30 AM	Ash Distribution at Brookdale Retirement Center
	11:00 AM	Ash Distribution at Columbia Cottage Living Center
	7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Service at Paxton The Psalms of Lent – Psalm 51 – Sustain Me
March 9 th	9:15 AM	The Psalms of Lent – Rescue Me Deuteronomy 26: 1-11; Psalm 91; Romans 10: 8-13; Luke 4: 1-13
	10:30 AM	Bible Study – Finding Jesus in the Psalms
March 10 th	11:30 AM	Children's Sunday School
	9:00 AM	Making Easter Eggs
March 11 th	8:15 AM	Packing Easter Egg
March 12 th	10:00 AM	Lenten Bible Study at the Peachtree Restaurant
	4:00 PM	Pilates
	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
March 13 th	9:00 AM	Sew for Peace

March 16 th	9:15 AM	The Psalms of Lent – Conceal Me Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27, Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35
	10:30 AM	Bible Study – Finding Jesus in the Psalms
	11:30 AM	Children’s Sunday School
March 17 th	9:00 AM	Making Easter Eggs
March 18 th	8:15 AM	Packing Easter Eggs
March 19 th	10:00 AM	Lenten Bible Study at the Peachtree Restaurant
	4:00 PM	Pilates
	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
March 20 th	9:00 AM	Sew for Peace
March 23 rd	9:15 AM	The Psalms of Lent – My Soul Clings Isaiah 55: 1-9; Psalm 63: 1-8; 1 Corinth. 10:1-13; Luke 13: 1-9
	10:30 AM	Bible Study – Finding Jesus in the Psalms
	11:30 AM	Children’s Sunday School
March 24 th	9:00 AM	Making Easter Eggs
March 25 th	8:15 AM	Packing Easter Egg
March 26 th	10:00 AM	Lenten Bible Study at the Peachtree Restaurant
	4:00 PM	Pilates
	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
March 27 th	9:00 AM	Sew for Peace
March 30 th	9:15 AM	UMCOR Sunday – previously One Great Hour of Sharing The Psalms of Lent – Steadfast Love Joshua 5: 9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinth. 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	10:00 AM	Lenten Bible Study at the Peachtree Restaurant
	4:00 PM	Pilates
	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
April 3 rd	9:00 AM	Sew for Peace

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.