



PAXTON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Christmas in
July

JULY 27, 2025
3500 SHARON ST | 717-561-0510
HARRISBURG, PA

WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 27, 2025

10:30 a.m.

WORSHIP PREPARATION

**In preparing for our worship together please quiet yourself
and allow God's Spirit to ready your heart, mind, and soul.**

During this time, we invite you to sign the **guest book**, pass it down your row and back again and note friends and guests worshiping next to you. Please also complete a **prayer request card** at this time if you have a joy or concern for which you would like special prayers during the service. The ushers will collect them during the first hymn.

GREETINGS AND NEWS OF OUR COMMON LIFE

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to all people on earth.

MUSIC INTERLUDE

THE WORD GATHERS US

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the middle of the year, we pause to proclaim a familiar joy.

For unto us a child is born, a son is given!

Christ is not just for Christmas, but for all seasons.

The Word became flesh and dwells among us – still!

In manger and mission, in water and Word,

We are God's people, born to belong.

Let us worship the God who came to be with us.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to all people the earth!

* HYMN - No. 133, vv. 1,3-4

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

* PRAYER OF PRAISE AND BROKENESS

God of all seasons, you chose to enter our world not with power, but with presence, not in a palace, but in a manger. You lived among us, full of grace and truth, and showed us that love belongs in the middle of real life. We praise you for the joy of community, the beauty of baptism, and the calling of discipleship. And yet we confess: we sometimes forget who we are and to whom we belong. We turn inward when you call us to reach out. We hesitate when you invite us to grow. Forgive us. Renew us. Let the light of Christ be born in us again today, a light of belonging, courage, and grace.
(silent confession)

* HYMN - No. 132

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

* PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. ***And also with you.***

THE WORD PROCLAIMS TO US

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING FROM THE GOSPELS Luke 2:1-20 (NT71)

ANTHEM "Love Has Come"

READING FROM THE GOSPELS John 1:1-14 (NT111)

SERMON "Born to Belong"

HYMN - No. 177 "I Will Come to You"

THE WORD SEALS US

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

SCAN HERE
TO GIVE
VIRTUALLY



THE WORD INVITES US

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation for the Offering

* Hymn - No. 145 "What Child Is This"

COMMISSIONING OF TRIENNIUM PARTICIPANTS

-Insert

THE WORD SENDS US

* HYMN - No. 122 "Silent Night"

* INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

* SENDING FORTH AND BLESSING

* HYMN - No. 134 "Joy to the World"

* POSTLUDE

The () indicates that those who are able may stand.
The words printed in ***bold face italics type*** are said by all.

CCLI#2707192

Please use your phone's camera to scan the QR code to visit our online giving page.

Directing our worship today: Preacher, Rev. Dr. Kent Carter;
Worship Assistant, Craig Staudenmaier; Conversation with Our Children, Sam Frank;
Director of Music, Sue Beckley; Organist, Jeanne Bruce; Soloist, Tara Frank



2025 Presbyterian Youth Triennium Delegation Commissioning Service

One: It is almost too good to be true, after six years the church is about to welcome many of its young people to join in fellowship, worship, and community at the 2025 Presbyterian Youth Triennium in Louisville, Kentucky. Is this really happening?!

All: It is as if we were dreaming.

One: Together we will travel, learn, make new friends, and praise God in ways that some of us have never experienced.

All: It is as if we were dreaming.

One: For over two years, people whom we have never met have been praying for us, planning and working for us; seeking the guidance of God's Spirit to create an event that will transform our lives.

All: It is as if we were dreaming.

One: And here at home, our congregations have found ways to organize and support us in our desire to attend this amazing event. Truly the whole community of faith has rallied to make this happen.

All: It is as if we were dreaming.

One: On this day as we prepare for this new adventure, we seek the prayers of this gathered community knowing that they represent so many unseen people of faith who have been praying for us all along. With gratitude we acknowledge their support. With open hearts we commit ourselves to growing in faith as we encounter the love of God in exciting new ways.

All: It is as if we were dreaming.

One: We commission these young people and their adult advisors - seeking God's protection as they travel, God's grace when patience wears thin, God's overflowing joy as they become community with the great, big family of God's people, and God's love as they deepen their faith and learn in new ways how to be followers of Jesus Christ.

All: It is not a dream. It is real. We commit ourselves to the work of God's Spirit, in Jesus' name. Amen



NEWS OF OUR COMMON LIFE

FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL today are given to the Glory of God in memory of our daughter, Kilee Peck by Erin Peck and in honor of the Rev. Dr. Kenton Carter with much love from the congregation of Paxton. We are most appreciative for your loyal dedication and commitment to Paxton the past three plus years as our Interim Pastor and friend.

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM today: infant, Luca Philip Carl; parents, Kassidy Newhouse and Joey Carl; grandparents, Richard and Angela Newhouse; great-grandparents, Brenda Alwine, and members Larry and Wanda Newhouse, Paxton ruling elder, Janice Hutchison.

PRESBYTERIAN TRIENNIUM PARTICIPANTS commissioned today: students Emery Wenger, Mary Majok, Deborah Majok, Addi Sheppard, and adults Nan Bonnet and Michelle Sheppard.

COMING IN WORSHIP NEXT WEEK Debbie Hough is preaching on predestination.

COMING IN WORSHIP AUGUST 10 On Sunday, August 10 in worship, we gather around the theme “Make This Place Your Home,” with scriptures from Revelation 21:1–4, John 15:12–17, and Isaiah 58:6–12. Pastor Kent will preach a message about God’s promise to dwell with us and our call to extend that home through friendship and welcome. We will celebrate communion, hear beloved music, and reflect on God’s steadfast love. This service also marks Pastor Kent’s final Sunday as Paxton’s interim pastor—come join in hope, friendship, and joyful worship.

THE NEXT POOR AND HOMELESS DELIVERY WILL BE AUGUST 7. Summer items are in need, particularly MEN’S CLOTHING - long pants and shorts (especially sizes 34-36); men’s medium-sized shirts; and sneakers and sandals. At this point, they have an abundance of women’s clothing. of all kinds. Sheets and towels are not needed currently. Children’s summer clothing would also be appreciated. Please drop off the clothing at Norm Daniels’ house (500 Bonnymead Avenue, Harrisburg, 17111) by 9:00 p.m. August 6. Questions? Call or text Norm at 717-712-7494.

THANK YOU! Thank you to all who lent games for our VBS. If you have not picked up your game, you can find it on the pink table in the Great Room. If you have any questions, please see Michelle.

MULTIFAITH PICNIC The multifaith community picnic organized by St Catherine's Church on August 10th at 1:00pm at the 40 and 8 Club on Chambers Hill Road. Please bring whatever summer picnic dish you wish: main, sides, salads, or dessert. Children and grandchildren are especially welcomed. Hope to see you all there.

Summer Worship Series at Paxton

Members' Choice

July 27 -
Christmas in
July - Carols
and Candlelight

August 3 -
"Predestination"

August 10 - Creating
Home, Revelation
21:1-4, John 15:12-17,
Isaiah 58:6-12

August 24 -
"Triennium
Experience"

August 17 - TBD

August 31 -
Appreciate These
Things
Philippians 4:8

Paxton Presbyterian
Church

Prayer Square

*Please keep the following church members and friends in
your prayers.*

MEMBERS

NANCY BINGAMAN, JIM BRILLINGER, BRENDA BRINKLEY, DAVE FOREMAN, BARB GREENWOOD, SHIRLEY GRUNDEN, DON HOOPES, NANCY HUTCHISON, JIM KNIGHT, PENNY KNIGHT, NEDRA MAXWELL, JOANNE MILLER, CHARLIE MORY, THE NICKUM FAMILY, DONNA POWERS, LOUIS ROBERTSON, ELSIE WILLIAMS, DAVE WION, KATHIE ZIMMERMAN

FRIENDS

STEVEN BENTZ, KAREN CHIOCHANYONT, CORK DOWNEY, CELESTE EHRHARDT, COLLEEN GERBER, DR. KENT GROFF, FRED HECKLER, SHERRY HOWER, LINDA LEEDY, JOANN MATHIS, DANIELLE SIMS, RYAN WALKER, CHRISTY WEIGLE, DAVID WEISS

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD SOMEONE TO THE PRAYER SQUARE PLEASE
CONTACT JANICE AT 717-418-1526 OR MOMJAKH@AOL.COM

JULY 27- AUGUST 3

Sunday, July 27	9:15 AM	Summer Bible Study	Seekers' Room
	10:30 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
	11:30AM	Celebration of Interim Ministry	Great Room
	1:00 PM	Nepali Speaking Community Church	Great Room
Monday, July 28	5:30 PM	Penguin Project	Great Room
Tuesday, July 29	5:30 PM	Penguin Project	Great Room
Wednesday, July 30	5:30 PM	Penguin Project	Great Room
Thursday, July 31	5:30 PM	Penguin Project	Great Room
Sunday, August 3	10:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
	1:00 PM	Nepali Speaking Community Church	Great Room
SAVE THE DATE			
Sunday, August 10	1:00 PM	Interfaith Community Picnic	40 +8 Club

Lemonade on the Lawn

August 24

Join us after church for lemonade and fellowship!
10:00 AM Coffee Central Sunday Snacks will
resume in September.

Concerts in the Grove

Keystone Concert Band
July 26th at 6 pm

Lower Paxton Variety Band
August 16 at 5 pm.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The office is open to the public

9:00am – 1:00pm, Monday through Friday

If you need to visit the office or building at another time, please call the office.

Paxton Presbyterian Church Staff

Interim Pastor	x105	Rev. Dr. Kent Carter (he/him)	pastor@paxtonchurch.org
Director of Faith Formation	x104	Michelle Sheppard	michelle.sheppard@paxtonchurch.org
Director of Music		Susan Beckley	
Organist		Jeanne Bruce	
Director of Youth Music		Andrew Vinton	
Office Administrator	x101	Abby Spencer	office@paxtonchurch.org
Worship Events Coordinator		Susan Shuey	
Financial Office/Treasurer	x102	John Palmer	treasurer@paxtonchurch.org
Nursery School Director	x103	Nicole Evenhuis	nurseryschooldirector@paxtonchurch.org
Custodian		Mary Bowers	

Board of Deacons

Tara Frank	Moderator
Merideth Staudenmaier	Secretary
Sally Appleby	Rich Lengler
Jim Bruce	Diana Robertson
Linette Burd	Deb Trephan
Judy Frankford	Brenda Vinton
Cheryl Holtzman	Bev Ziebell

Pastoral Nominating Committee

Bob Frank	Chairman
Nancy Bingaman	Secretary
Jessica Vinton	Communications
Bill Gough	
Mary Myers	
Don Laughery	

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Leaders	Gary Myers	Jane Sanford
Stephen Ministers	Karen Cirillo	Karen Herrold
	Cheryl Holtzman	Janice Hutchison
	Annette Kilpatrick	Nancy Lengler
	Steve Miller	Kathy Woodbridge

For a confidential referral please contact a Stephen Leader.

Session *Chair

Kent Carter (he/him)	Moderator
Kitti Taylor	Clerk of Session
Karen Herrold*	Christian Education
Janice Hutchison*	Evangelism and Outreach
Nancy Lengler*	Budget and Finance
Judy Schmidt*	Mission
Gary Myers*	Nominating
Jay Kealey*	Personnel
Nino Giambrone*	Property Management
Craig Staudenmaier*	Stewardship
Sharon Webb*	Technology
Anita Laughery*	Worship and Music
Bob Frank	

At Paxton Presbyterian Church, we believe that every person is a beloved child of God, made in God's image and worthy of love, dignity, and belonging. Rooted in the grace of Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, we seek to be a welcoming and affirming community for all people - no matter their race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, mental or physical ability, or religious background.



O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

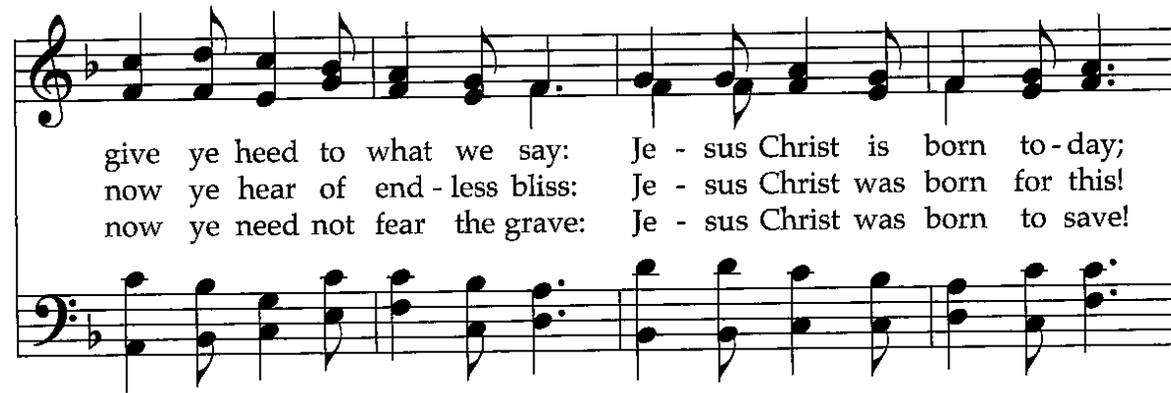
born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

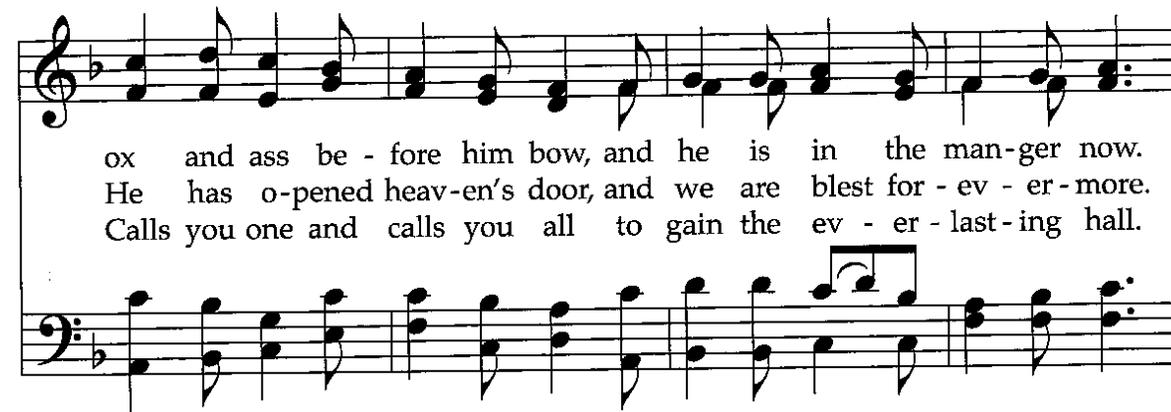
132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



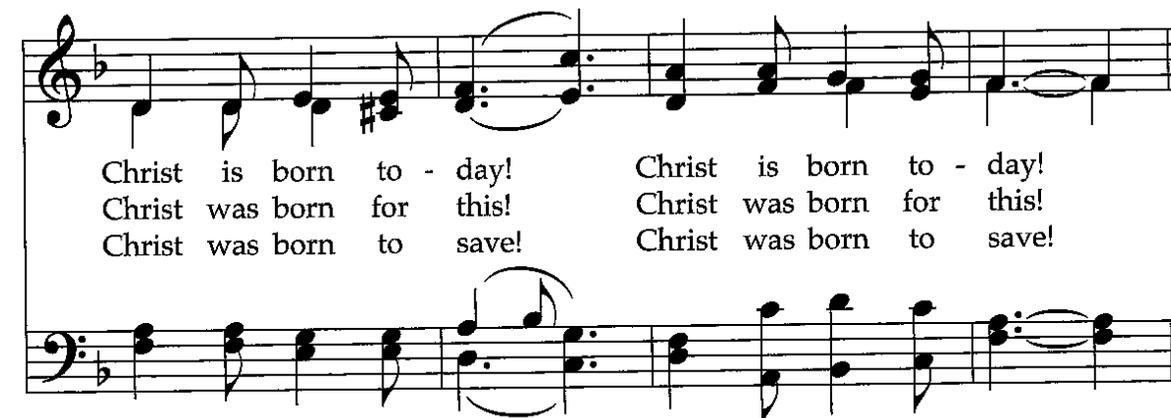
1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joyce with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joyce with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joyce with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to-day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last-ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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I Will Come to You You Are Mine

Leader or All



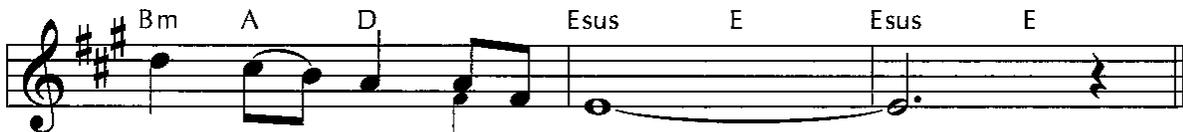
1 "I will come to you in the si - lence;
 2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less;
 3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom; I



I will lift you from all your fear.
 I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the
 heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
 am the peace the world can - not give.



You will hear my voice; I claim you as my choice. Be
 shad - ows of the night, I will be your light. I
 All the blind will see; the lame will all run free, and
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here. (to stanza 2)
 Come and rest in me. (to Refrain)
 all will know my name. (to Refrain)
 up, now walk and live! (to Refrain)



Do not be a-fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol - low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine."

145

What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!



Silent Night, Holy Night! 122



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;



'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our



mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.



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Joy to the World



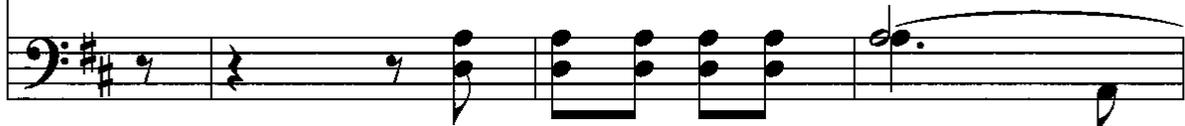
1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -



her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness



and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,



sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.



heaven and na - ture sing,