



PAXTON

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Members' Choice

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS
PREDESTINATION?

AUGUST 3, 2025
3500 SHARON ST | 717-561-0510
HARRISBURG, PA

WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

August 3, 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 worshipping 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

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
maker of heaven and earth.

MUSIC INTERLUDE

"Marcus Herndon's Air"

THE WORD GATHERS US

CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise God, who protects and blesses us, who waters our lives as a garden.

We cannot keep silent, for our lives have been strengthened and affirmed.

We will sing for joy that a people has responded to God's call and joins in the growth faith demands.

In the depth of our spirits we know we have been called to a new hope that must be shared with the world. Let us worship the God who has called us here. Amen.

* HYMN - No. 410

"God is Calling through the Whisper"

* PRAYER OF PRAISE

From near and far, we come to worship. Amid our joys and sorrows, we come to praise. In our strength and in our weakness, we gather to be refreshed and renewed. You have called us to this place. Praise be to you, O God, for your protecting love and freeing grace. Shine your light upon us here that we may know your truth, your mercy, and your grace. Amen.

* GOD'S PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

* OUR RECOGNITION OF BROKENNESS

Almighty God, we have turned from your way and stumbled through life, intent on our own pursuits. We have rejected the witness of those whom we envy or fear and dismissed the revelation of Jesus as too visionary and demanding. We have received the earth's abundance from your hand as if it were our due and rejected your blessings as unworthy of our notice. Forgive our foolishness, O God, and destine us in love to live as your children, through Christ. Hear us now as we lift our personal confessions to you. (silent confession)

THE WORD SEALS US

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (FROM A DECLARATION OF FAITH, PCUSA)

God chose one people for the sake of all. To the world in its rebellion and alienation God promised blessing and restoration. The Lord chose Abraham and Sarah and their descendants as bearers of that promise for all peoples. They had done nothing more than others to desire the Lord's favor, but God loved them and made them God's own. We acknowledge God's freedom and grace, though we are unworthy, the Lord has made us his own in Christ. God has chosen us as God's servants for the sake of the world and destined us to be God's daughters and sons, giving us love and life, calling us to worship and honor God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE WORD SENDS US

- * HYMN - No. 850 "In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness"
- * INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP
- * SENDING FORTH AND BLESSING
- * POSTLUDE "Celtic Tunes"

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, Debbie Hough; Worship Assistant, Mary Myers; Conversation with Our Children, Michelle Sheppard; Director of Music, Sue Beckley; Organist, Jeanne Bruce; Musicians, Nan Bonnet, John Palmer, Bill Sanford

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, 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

NEWS OF OUR COMMON LIFE

FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL today are given to the Glory of God in memory of George August Erbrech by Ken and LaVerne Collins.

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 & 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.

BUDGET AND FINANCE MINISTRY TOWN HALL Please join the Budget and Finance Ministry on Sunday August 17, in the Great Room after the church service for an informational presentation on Paxton’s finances. It has been six months since the last presentation, and we look forward to reviewing the midyear reports with you. After a brief presentation we will welcome questions and comments. If you have any questions that you would like us to include in the presentation, please email budgetandfinance@paxtonchurch.org or lenglersnj@comcast.net.

ADULT CLASSROOM REFRESH

Property Management will be soliciting bids for a much-needed refresh of the Adult Classroom (101) as part of our continuing effort to maintain and improve our church campus. In addition to its use as a Sunday School room, it is also our primary meeting space for Session and their ministries, and Deacons and their committees.

Within the past few weeks, new LED lighting has been installed in this room as well as Fellowship Hall making both spaces much brighter and welcoming. Plans are made to do the same in Agape Park in time for the fall startup of classes.

It is our hope to have a deep clean done of the entire Adult Classroom, including closet space, as well as fresh paint, new carpet, drywall and new seating.

The estimated cost of this is \$20-\$25K.

We are inviting the congregation to participate in this endeavor through monetary donations toward the cost of this project. When making your donation please indicate that it should be directed toward the Room 101 refresh. Donations can be put in the collection plates at worship, mailed to the church @ 3500 Sharon Street, Harrisburg, PA 17111, or electronically via our giving QR code.

Thank you all in advance for your support of this project.

Geoffrey Vinton- Chair PMM

The graphic features a honeycomb pattern of hexagons in various colors (purple, yellow, orange, pink, grey). Each hexagon contains text for a worship service. The text is decorated with illustrations of bees, flowers, and leaves. The title 'Summer Worship Series at Paxton' is in a large, dark blue font, and 'Members' Choice' is in a smaller, orange font. The services are listed as follows:

- August 10 - Creating Home, Revelation 21:1-4, John 15:12-17, Isaiah 58:6-12
- August 3 - "Predestination"
- August 17 - TBD
- August 24 - "Triennium Experience"
- August 31 - Appreciate These Things, Philippians 4:8

Paxton Presbyterian Church is mentioned at the bottom.

AUGUST 3 - 10

Sunday, August 3	9:15 AM Summer Bible Study 10:30 AM Worship 1:00 PM Nepali Speaking Community Church	Seekers' Room Sanctuary Fellowship Hall
Monday, August 4	12:00 PM Mission Ministry 6:00 PM Christian Education	Zoom
Wednesday, August 6	6:30 PM Property Management	Seekers' Room
Sunday, August 10	9:15 AM Summer Bible Study 10:30 AM Worship with Communion 1:00 PM Nepali Speaking Community Church 1:30 PM Multifaith Picnic	Seekers' Room Sanctuary Great Room 40 & 8 Club

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, August 17	11:30 AM Financial Town Hall	Great Room
-------------------	------------------------------	------------

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

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*	Craig Staudenmaier	Budget and Finance
Judy Schmidt*	Jan Gough	Mission
Gary Myers*	Janice Hutchison	Nominating
Jay Kealey*	Gary Myers	Personnel
Nino Giambrone*	Geoffrey Vinton*	Property Management
Craig Staudenmaier*		Stewardship
Sharon Webb*		Technology
Anita Laughery*	Bob Frank	Worship and Music

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.



410 God Is Calling through the Whisper



1 God is call-ing through the whis-per of the Spir - it's deep-est sighs,
2 God is call-ing through the voic-es of our neigh-bors' ur-gent prayers,
3 God is call-ing through the mu-sic of sub-lime and hu-man arts,



through the thrill of sud-den beau-ties that can catch us by sur-prise.
through their long-ing for re-demp-tion and for res-cue from de-spair.
through the hymns of earth and an-gels, and the car-ols of our hearts.



Flash of light-ning, crash of thun-der; hush of still-ness, rush of won-der:
Place of hurt or face of need-ing; stri-dent cry or si-lent plead-ing:
Lift of joy and gift of sing-ing; days and nights our prais-es bring-ing:



God is call - ing—can you hear? God is call - ing—can you hear?
God is call - ing—can you hear? God is call - ing—can you hear?
God is call - ing—and we hear! God is call - ing—and we hear!



O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go 833



1 O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my
2 O Light that fol-lowest all my way, I yield my
3 O Joy that seek-est me through pain, I can-not
4 O Cross that lift-est up my head, I dare not



wea-ry soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that
flick-ering torch to thee; my heart re-stores its bor-rowed ray, that
close my heart to thee; I trace the rain-bow through the rain, and
ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glo-ry dead, and



in thine o-cean depths its flow may rich-er, full-er be.
in thy sun-shine's blaze its day may bright-er, fair-er be.
feel the prom-ise is not vain that morn shall tear-less be.
from the ground there blos-soms red life that shall end-less be.

850 In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness



1 In a deep, un-bound-ed dark-ness, long be-fore the first
2 Though our world is ev-er-chang-ing, you are con-stant, firm,
3 Joy trans-forms our lips to boast-ing on-ly in your match-
4 God of Ha-gar, God of Sa-rah, God of no-mad A-



light shone, you, O God, be-yond all mer-it worked a
and sure, faith-ful to your cov-enant prom-ise. Trust-ing
less grace, send-ing Christ to dwell a-mong us, Word made
bra-ham; God of Mir-yam, God of Mo-ses, Fi-ery



won-der faith makes known: in your mer-cy, in your
you, we live, se-ure: sing-ing prais-es, sing-ing
flesh in time and space: Friend and Sav-ior, Friend and
Pil-lar, great I AM: lead us home-ward, lead us



mer-cy, you em-braced us as your own,
prais-es, long as heart and breath en-dure,
Sav-ior, in whose life we glimpse your face,
home-ward, to the love-feast of the Lamb,



ev-er-more and ev-er-more.