



**PAXTON**  
**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

# Abide

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2025**  
**3500 SHARON ST | 717-561-0510**  
**HARRISBURG, PA**

# WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

## *Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

September 7, 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

Praise the Lord!

***The Lord's name be praised!***

### MUSIC INTERLUDE

## THE WORD GATHERS US

### CALL TO WORSHIP†

The God of New Beginnings has called us to this place.

**We come celebrating the new life that is ours as God's faithful people.**

Let your joy ring through the universe, and let your vision see to the depths of every soul.

**We will be shouters of joy and seekers of God's light wherever we go.**

**Praise God for this day!**

\* HYMN - 409

"God is Here!"

\* PRAYER OF PRAISE

***Holy God, we praise you for your presence among us and for your faithfulness in love. Your majesty is revealed in the beauty and wonder of your creation, and we offer you our worship. In your mercy, you dwell among us and sustain all that you have made, including all people, with your love. We thank you, O God. May your Spirit inspire our prayers and our praise, so that we may honor you with our worship and with our lives. Amen.***

\* GOD'S PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

\* OUR RECOGNITION OF BROKENNESS

***Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, and what our hearts can no longer bear. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.*** (silent confession)

\* GOD'S ASSURANCE OF RECONCILIATION

\* OUR GRATEFUL RESPONSE - No. 581

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen. Amen.***

\* 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

FIRST READING

Psalm 1

(OT603)

ANTHEM

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

-John Rutter

READING FROM THE LETTERS

1 John 4:7-19

(NT292)

SERMON

“Abiding in Love”

HYMN - 366

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

## THE WORD INVITES US

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation for the Offering

\* Response of Praise - No. 606

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\* Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

SCAN HERE  
TO GIVE  
VIRTUALLY



## THE WORD SENDS US

\* HYMN - 733

“We All Are One in Mission”

\* INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

\* SENDING FORTH AND BLESSING

\* POSTLUDE

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

CCLI#2707192

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

***Directing our worship today: Preacher, Pastor Margaret Poteet;  
Worship Assistant, Anita Laughery; Conversation with Our Children, Michelle and Margaret;  
Director of Music, Sue Beckley; Organist, Jeanne Bruce***

# ANTHEM

## FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

-JOHN RUTTER

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH, FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE SKIES, FOR THE LOVE WHICH FROM OUR BIRTH OVER AND AROUND US LIES: LORD OF ALL, TO THEE WE RAISE THIS OUR JOYFUL HYMN OF PRAISE.

FOR THE BEAUTY OF EACH HOUR OF THE DAY AND OF THE NIGHT, HILL AND VALE AND TREE AND FLOWER, SUN AND MOON AND STARS OF LIGHT: LORD OF ALL, TO THEE WE RAISE THIS OUR JOYFUL HYMN OF PRAISE.

FOR THE JOY OF HUMAN LOVE, BROTHER, SISTER, PARENT, CHILD, FRIENDS ON EARTH, AND FRIENDS ABOVE, FOR ALL GENTLE THOUGHTS AND MILD, LORD OF ALL TO THEE WE RAISE THIS OUR JOYFUL HYMN OF PRAISE.

FOR EACH PERFECT GIFT OF THINE TO OUR RACE SO FREELY GIVEN, GRACES HUMAN AND DIVINE, FLOWERS OF EARTH AND BUDS OF HEAV'N: LORD OF ALL TO THEE WE RAISE THIS OUR JOYFUL HYMN OF PRAISE.

## Prayer Square

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

### MEMBERS

NANCY BINGAMAN, JIM BRILLINGER, BRENDA BRINKLEY, DAVE FOREMAN, FRAN GILCHRIST, SHIRLEY GRUNDEN, DON HOOPES, NANCY HUTCHISON, JIM KNIGHT, PENNY KNIGHT, NEDRA MAXWELL, JOANNE MILLER, MARLA AND DAVID MULLINAX, DONNA POWERS, LOUIS ROBERTSON, ELSIE WILLIAMS, DAVE WION, KATHIE ZIMMERMAN

### FRIENDS

LUCA CARL, KAREN CHIOCHANYONT, CORK DOWNEY, DR. KENT GROFF, HELEN HEIDELBAUGH, MONICA MANGAU, JOANN MATHIS, SUSAN REDWOOD, DANIELLE SIMS, CHRISTY AND BOB WEIGLE, BILL W.

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 loving memory of Bill's mother, Marian Sanford, by Bill and Jane Sandford and with love from the congregation of Paxton in celebration of Pastor Margaret's first Sunday.

**PAXTON CHURCH PICNIC** You're invited to our Church-Wide Picnic hosted by the Board of Deacons! Join us after Worship today for food, fellowship and fun for all ages in Fellowship Hall. We look forward to seeing you there!

**MATERIALS NEEDED** The PW Sewing Circle needs your old flannel sheets, or thin blankets!! To make the comfort lap quilts for Harrisburg's children, we have tops, we have bottoms, but no middles!! Consider donating your soft fuzzy stuff today!

**COLLEGE FAMILIES**, please share your college (undergraduate or graduate) students' addresses with the church office. Our Christian Education Ministry often sends encouragement, prayers and gift cards.

**DEACONS HOCKEY OUTING** The Deacons are sponsoring another outing to a Hershey Bears game on Sunday, November 9. Prices are \$25/ticket and \$15 for prepaid parking. More details to follow in the Church newsletter. Meanwhile, feel free to contact Rich Lengler ([rlengler@comcast.net](mailto:rlengler@comcast.net)) with any questions.

**THANK YOU!** Dave Holt would like to thank everyone for the many expressions of kindness, support and love they have shown through Sally's illness and passing. It has been a comfort and blessing during this time of sadness.

**PPNS FUNDRAISER** Support PPNS programs and take a night off of cooking! Purchase subs/sandwiches from R&K Subs while supporting a wonderful cause. Order forms are available in the office. Orders and payment are due by Monday, September 29th. Orders will be available for pickup on Wednesday, October 8th from 11:30am - 1:00pm.

**PAXTANG ELEMENTARY VOLUNTEERS** The E&O Ministry began Paxton Volunteers as a group of members working as "tutors and helpers" with Paxtang Elementary and we are looking for more help! We will be starting up again later this fall. The commitment is an hour a week helping small groups with math and reading skills. Clearances are mandatory for all volunteers. Please think about this important service and contact Janice Hutchison if you are interested in joining the group.

**PANTRY UPDATE** Thanks to the VBS children for the wonderful food donations! Since items weren't specified, we received a surplus of some and are low on others. We especially need vegetables (corn, carrots, peas, mixed), fruit (applesauce, raisins, canned varieties), beans (kidney, white, pork & beans), peanut butter, canned chicken, and spaghetti sauce. With cooler weather coming, soups will also be helpful. We currently have plenty of tuna, cereal, pasta, and mac & cheese, so no need for those. We appreciate your continued support in keeping our pantry stocked!

**PW SEPTEMBER COLLECTION** This month we are supporting Operation Christmas Child. Shoe boxes are filled to the brim with useful and fun items for children in third world countries. Our part is to collect the top two most useful items – Pencils and Individually Wrapped Toothbrushes. Drop your donations in the bin in the Gathering Room today!

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH BEGINS TODAY.** Children grades 1-4 are welcome to join children's church after the children's message in worship. This time will be a time of fellowship, lessons and games. Children in kindergarten can choose to go to the nursery at this time or if ready, can participate in children's church. Children grade 5 and up are encouraged to remain in worship.

**COLORING AND FIDGETS** Worship bags with toys, fidgets, coloring pages, devotion books and more are available for all children to use during worship and are located by the parlor door.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** This year our children's ministry will be using the curriculum Simply Loved - Where Kids Experience God's Greatest Gift. Simply Loved helps children love Jesus and each other and takes to heart 1 John 4:7 "Dear Friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God." Animals like Savanna the giraffe and Mack the Rhino help teach object lessons and memory verses as we travel through the Old and New testament- hence our WILD theme!

**VOLUNTEER WITH CEM** Join Our Christian Education Ministry this year. Can you share in faith and fun with our children and youth? Opportunities exist as lesson teachers, craft and activity helpers, aides during sunday school, children's church leaders, nursery workers and more! If you can give a little time on a Sunday morning once a month or once a quarter, please talk with Michelle. All the resources and encouragement you need will be provided!

## DO YOU KNOW?

Do you know that there is an hour on Thursday nights, just an hour during the week that many Paxton folk regularly meet to have fun? They laugh, they sing, and enjoy each other's company. And YES, it's The adult choir. I bet I know a few things about choir that you would be surprised about.

Do you have to be able to read music? NO  
Do you have to have previous choral experience? NO  
Do you have to have good sight-reading skills? NO  
Does your voice have to be in perfect shape? NO

Do you enjoy singing and lifting your voice to the Lord? If your answer is yes, I'm inviting you to visit us from 7:30 – 8:30 any Thursday night beginning September 11. You are welcome to come and sing or just observe to see what it's all about. If you have questions, please call, text, email, pull me aside or yell across the room!!!! The choir would be thrilled to welcome you!

Sue  
717/577/4331  
cobssb@aol.com



## September 7 - 14

Sunday, September 7	9:00 AM	Sunday School	Agape Park
	10:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
	11:30 AM	Church Picnic	Fellowship Hall
	1:00 PM	Nepali Speaking Community Church	Great Room
Monday, September 8	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	1:00 PM	Paxtang Civic Club	Adult Classroom
	6:00 PM	Voices of the Valley	Great Room
Tuesday, September 9	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	10:00 AM	Stephen Ministry	Room 201
	11:45 AM	Church Staff Meeting	Room 202
	7:00 PM	Budget and Finance	Adult Classroom
Wednesday, September 10	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	9:30 AM	Sewing Circle	Fellowship Hall
	10:00 AM	Evangelism	Library
	6:30 PM	Worship and Music	Room 202
Thursday, September 11	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	6:00 PM	Paxtang Lions	Fellowship Hall
	6:15 PM	Bell Choir	Sanctuary
	7:30 PM	Adult Choir	Sanctuary
Friday, September 12	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
Saturday, September 13	9:00 AM	Presbytery Meeting	First Pres. Church
Sunday, September 14	9:00 AM	Sunday School	Agape Park
	10:30 AM	Worship Service with Communion	Sanctuary
	1:00 PM	Nepali Speaking Community Church	Great Room

### 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

Pastor	x105	Margaret Poteet	<a href="mailto:pastor@paxtonchurch.org">pastor@paxtonchurch.org</a>
Director of Faith Formation	x104	Michelle Sheppard	<a href="mailto:michelle.sheppard@paxtonchurch.org">michelle.sheppard@paxtonchurch.org</a>
Director of Music		Susan Beckley	
Organist		Jeanne Bruce	
Director of Youth Music		Andrew Vinton	
Office Administrator	x101	Abby Spencer	<a href="mailto:office@paxtonchurch.org">office@paxtonchurch.org</a>
Worship Events Coordinator		Susan Shuey	
Financial Office/Treasurer	x102	John Palmer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@paxtonchurch.org">treasurer@paxtonchurch.org</a>
Nursery School Director	x103	Nicole Evenhuis	<a href="mailto:nurseryschooldirector@paxtonchurch.org">nurseryschooldirector@paxtonchurch.org</a>
Custodian		Mary Bowers	

## Board of Deacons

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

## Stephen Ministry

Stephen Leaders Stephen Ministers	Gary Myers Karen Cirillo Cheryl Holtzman Annette Kilpatrick Steve Miller	Jane Sanford Karen Herrold Janice Hutchison Nancy Lengler Kathy Woodbridge
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*For a confidential referral please contact a Stephen Leader.*

## Session \*Chair

Margaret Poteet Kitti Taylor Karen Herrold* Janice Hutchison* Nancy Lengler* Judy Schmidt* Gary Myers* Jay Kealey* Nino Giambrone* Craig Staudenmaier* Sharon Webb* Anita Laughery*	Craig Staudenmaier Jan Gough Janice Hutchison Gary Myers Geoffrey Vinton*	Moderator Clerk of Session Christian Education Evangelism and Outreach Budget and Finance Mission Nominating Personnel Property Management Stewardship Technology 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.



## God Is Here!

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to  
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our  
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the  
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an

of - fer praise and prayer, may we find in  
 life - long need of grace; here are ta - ble,  
 Shep - herd's flock and fold; here as bread and  
 age of change and doubt keep us faith - ful

full - er mea - sure what it is in Christ we share.  
 font, and pul - pit; here the cross has cen - tral place.  
 wine are tak - en, Christ sus - tains us as of old.  
 to the gos - pel; help us work your pur - pose out.

Here, as in the world a - round us, all our  
 Here in hon - es - ty of preach - ing, here in  
 Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant seek in  
 Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we

var - ied skills and arts wait the com - ing  
 si - lence, as in speech, here, in new - ness  
 wor - ship to ex - plore what it means in  
 have to give, re - ceive: we, who can - not

of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
 and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
 dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
 live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

# 366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to  
2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery  
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

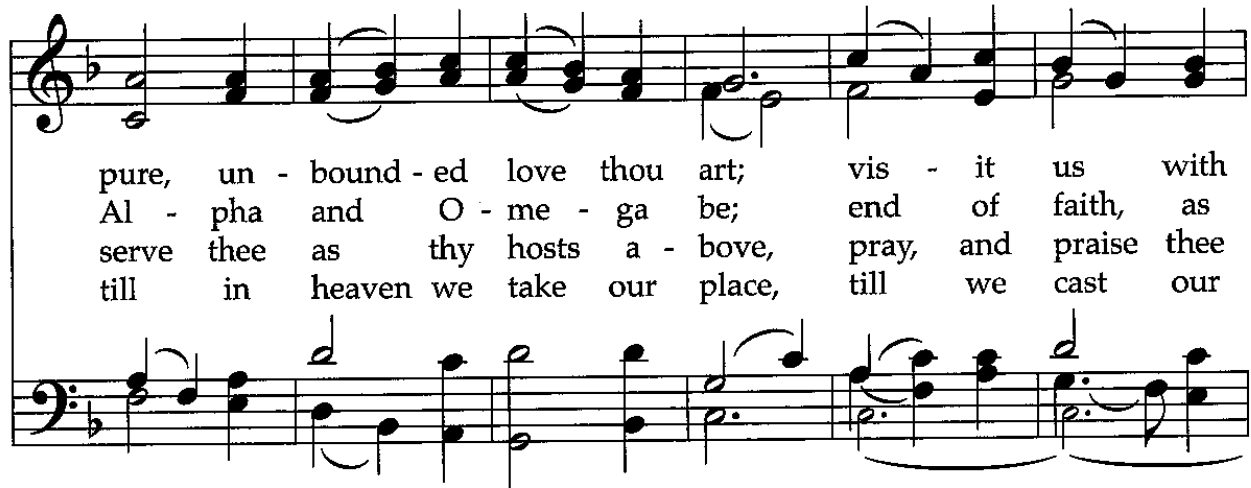


earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy  
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;  
find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,





pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

# 733 We All Are One in Mission



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,  
2 We all are called for ser - vice to wit - ness in God's name.  
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.  
Our min - is - tries are dif - ferent; our pur - pose is the same:  
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing word.



A sin - gle, great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove  
to touch the lives of oth - ers by God's sur - pris - ing grace,  
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.  
so ev - ery folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.  
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.