



**PAXTON**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# Living Stones

**May 3, 2026 | 10:30 AM**

# WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

## *Fifth Sunday of Easter*

May 3, 2026

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

"A Fanfare on 'Solid Rock'"  
"Where God Is"  
"How Firm a Foundation"

-J. Wilson  
-arr. R. Williamson  
-arr. J.W. Kerr

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

Christ is risen!

***He is risen indeed!***

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

Mary Myers

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

"The Church's One Foundation"

-arr. M. Hayes

## THE WORD GATHERS US

\* CALL TO WORSHIP (*written by Sandra E. Graham*)

Today is a new day!

***We come with the past behind us, and the future open.***

***We come to celebrate the new life Christ brings.***

Christ is with us!

***Christ is with us indeed!***

\* HYMN – 409

"God is Here!"

\* OPENING PRAYER

***O Lord God, full of compassion and gracious, long-suffering and overflowing with mercy and truth: turn to us and give us grace. Show us the signs of your good pleasure. Let us rejoice in the light of your presence. Magnify your name among us, O Lord. Amen.***

\* PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

\* OUR RECOGNITION OF BROKENNESS

***Redeeming God, you bring life out of dead ends, and hope in the midst of despair. Forgive us for doubting that you are still at work even in the darkest hour, even in the most painful moments. Forgive us for our hesitant action, our cautious compassion, our too-frequent reluctance. Make us true disciples—filled with love, acting with justice, and living out hope. (silent confession) Amen.***

\* 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

AGAPE SINGERS	“I’m Gonna Sing”	-Audrey Snyder
CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN		
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION		
READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES	Acts 7:55-60	(NT 153)
ANTHEM	“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”	-arr. Mark Hayes
READING FROM THE EPISTLES	1 Peter 2:2-10	(NT 282)
SERMON	“Living Stones”	
HYMN – 361	“O Christ, the Great Foundation”	

## 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 “Victim, Divine, Thy Grace We Claim”

SCAN HERE  
TO GIVE  
VIRTUALLY



-arr. D. Johnson

## THE WORD SEALS US

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER  
Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord’s Prayer  
The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts.

***We lift them up to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

Words of Institution

Prayer After Communion

(Traditional p.35)

## THE WORD SENDS US

\* HYMN – 515 “I Come With Joy” v.1-2,5

\* INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

\* SENDING FORTH AND BLESSING

\* POSTLUDE “Toccata on ‘Built on the Rock’”

-arr. G. Young

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

CCLI#2707192

**Directing our worship today:** Preacher, Pastor Margaret Poteet; Worship Assistant, Nancy Lengler; Conversation with Our Children, Nancy Lengler, Director of Music, Sue Beckley; Organist, Jeanne Bruce; Director of Youth Music, Andrew Vinton

*Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

## Anthem

arranged by Mark Hayes

O praise the Lord! All glory, laud and honor be unto the King! Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, to His feet thy tribute bring; Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore His praises sing. Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favor to our fathers in distress. Praise Him, still the same forever, slow to chide, and swift to bless. For the word of the Lord is right and true. He is faithful in all He does. The Lord loves righteousness and justice. We hope in His steadfast love. We wait in hope for the Lord. He is our help and our shield. In Him our hearts rejoice for we trust in His holy name. May Your steadfast love and faithfulness be upon us as we put our hope in You.

Angels in the height, adore Him. Ye behold Him face to face. Saints triumphant, bow before Him, gathered in from every race. Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace. Alleluia! Amen!

## NEWS OF OUR COMMON LIFE

**FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL** today are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kealey by their loving children and grandchildren.

**IN SYMPATHY** The congregation extends its sympathies to Cindy Mory on the death of her brother, James Wix, on Saturday April 25th. Services will be held here at Paxton Presbyterian on Wednesday, May 6th. There will be a continental breakfast and time of visitation beginning at 9:30 am in the Great Room and a memorial service at 11 am in the sanctuary. Please hold Cindy and all of the Mory and Wix families in your prayers.

**FAITHFUL FRIEND ADOPTION** Vacation Bible School is July 13-16 and this year's theme, "Faithful Friends; Learning From God's Creatures" is going to be amazing! We will be studying God's word and learning about animals. Every evening we will have live animal presentations - Zoo America, Bunny Bonanza, Batz Farm and our own Paxton pets. To offset the cost of these groups, we are holding an Adopt A Friend fundraiser. Information can be found on the bulletin board outside the office.

**UNITY CIRCLE** will meet Tuesday, May 5, at 12:00 noon in Room 202. Please bring your packed lunch, lesson book, and small change for the Least Coin collection. If you would like to bring a greeting card for a homebound member, that would be welcome. Our hostess will be Jeanne Bruce. Dessert and beverages are provided. The Lesson of the day is Chapter 8, Mary of Bethany, and the lesson leader is Carol Himmelright. We hope to plan the summer picnic at this meeting also. Bring your suggestions.

**CRAFT SUPPLIES** The Christian Education Ministry is collecting square tissue boxes for an upcoming prayer craft. If you have an empty box to spare, would you bring it to Michelle's office? Thank you.

**PILLOWS WITH A PURPOSE** Join us May 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:00 PM for Pillows with a Purpose! We'll be making more pillows for breast cancer patients at UPMC and Penn State Health. Please reach out to Mary Myers or Nancy Bingaman with questions. Thank you!

### **Congregational Meeting Announcement**

A congregational meeting is being called for Sunday May 17 at 10:30 am. The purpose is to vote to bestow the title of Pastor Emeritus on Paxton Presbyterian Church's former pastor, the Reverend John Wilson Green, in recognition of his years of good and faithful service to Paxton, its members and to God's mission in the Paxton community and beyond.

In October 2002 the Reverend John Wilson Green was installed as Pastor of Paxton Presbyterian Church. He served until his retirement in December 2021. For over nineteen years John served Paxton with love, enthusiasm and grace. He delivered outstanding heartfelt sermons and served his flock with humble devotion. The congregation of Paxton will always be grateful for John's time with us serving as our faith leader and friend. In appreciation we would like to recognize John with the honorary title of Pastor Emeritus.

A light reception featuring some of John's favorite snacks will follow service on May 17. Please R.S.V.P. to the church office by Wednesday, May 13 if you plan to attend.

**LITTLE FOOD PANTRY** Thank you all for your help these past few months. For those who asked, we are low on Chef Boyardee, pork and beans, canned proteins, and pasta. Thank you.

**ABOUT TODAY'S ANTHEM** Our anthem this morning is based on the beloved hymn, Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven. It was written, (words), by Henry Lyte, the same composer who wrote the text for Abide with Me. "Lyte captures the spirit with heartfelt reverence lifting the believers' eyes' to the majesty, grace, and compassion of God."

**VBS HELP** Calling all painters, crafters, decorators and VBS supporters.... If you are interested in helping prepare our space and prep crafts for VBS, please let Michelle know. We also welcome all who are interested to stay after church on May 31 for a working craft/decoration prep time. (no skills required ) We will meet in fellowship hall from 12-1:30.

# PRAYER SQUARE

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

## Members

Rick Bazdar, Jim Brillinger, Brenda and Ron Brinkley, Fran Gilchrist, Family of Shirley Grunden, Nancy Hutchison, Jo Jacoby, Penny Knight, Nedra Maxwell, Joanne Miller, Donna Powers, Elsie Williams, Dave Wion, Kathie Zimmerman

## Friends

David Altland, Atkins Family, Jim Bonawitz, the family of Betty Conte, Dr. and Mrs. Kent Groff, Kris Heimberger, Donna Hitz, Natalie Jerkovick, Mary Langley, Terri Leary, Bob Marshall, Carol Poteet

If you would like to add someone to the Prayer Square please contact Janice at 717-418-1526 or momjakh@aol.com

**BOOK STUDY** The Christian Education Ministry invites the congregation to participate in a summer book club, reading Bruce Reyes-Chow's book, *Everything Good About God is True*. A synopsis of the book can be found in the newsletter. This is the perfect book to read as the church approaches a confirmation year this Fall and we explore again what we believe. You are welcome to read this book on your own or read it and meet with us every other Sunday morning over the summer to discuss. Please email Michelle Sheppard to sign-up or for more information. Books are available now in the office for \$10.

**VBS** It's time to register for Paxton's Faithful Friends VBS where furry and faithful critters will help teach us every day about God's love and care. We can't wait! Use the QR code below to sign up! Registrations are due by June 28. Volunteer opportunities will be coming soon.



**THE AMERICAN COMPOSERS' CHORAL FESTIVAL**, featuring Dr. René Clausen, will take place Saturday evening, May 16, at 7:30 PM, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Camp Hill. Dr. Clausen is an internationally known composer and former director of the celebrated Concordia College Choir. Joining The Harrisburg Singers, will be the Cedar Cliff Chamber Singers, the Lower Dauphin High School Chamber Singers and a Festival Choir including six local church choirs and totaling more than 150 voices. OUR OWN PAXTON CHURCH CHOIR IS ONE OF THE PARTICIPATING CHURCH CHOIRS AND WILL BE SINGING! Tickets are only \$10! Please check out the posters around the church for more information.

## May 3 - 10

Sunday, May 3	9:00 AM	Sunday School	Agape Park
	10:30 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
	11:30 AM	50 Year/New Member Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
	1:00 PM	Nepali Speaking Community Church	Great Room
	1:00 PM	Goat Snuggling	Batz Farm
Monday, May 4	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	1:00 PM	Paxtang Civic Club	Room 101
	6:00PM	Penguin Project	Agape Park
	6:30 PM	Christian Education	Zoom
Tuesday, May 5	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	10:15 AM	PW Board Meeting	Room 202
	12:00 PM	Unity Circle	Room 202
	6:00PM	Penguin Project	Great Room
Wednesday, May 6	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	9:30 AM	Sewing Circle	Fellowship Hall
	11:00 AM	James Wix Memorial Service	Sanctuary
	6:30 PM	Worship and Music	Room 202
Thursday, May 7	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	6:15 PM	Bell Choir	Sanctuary
	7:30 PM	Adult Choir	Sanctuary
Friday, May 8	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	6:00 PM	Nepali Youth Group	Fellowship Hall
Saturday, May 9	9:00 AM	Penguin Project	Agape Park
Sunday, May 10	9:00 AM	Sunday School	Agape Park
	10:30 AM	Worship	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

**Phone Number: 717 - 561 - 0510**

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>
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>
Property Manager		Jerry Bingaman	<a href="mailto:propertymgr@paxtonchurch.org">propertymgr@paxtonchurch.org</a>
Custodian		Mary Bowers	

### Board of Deacons

Sally Appleby '28* Jim Bruce '26 Linette Burd '26, Moderator Judy Frankford '27 Cheryl Holtzman '26 Rich Lengler '28*	Sue McLain '26 Merideth Staudenmaier '28*, Secretary Diana Robertson '28*, Financial Liaison Deb Trephan '27 Brenda Vinton '27 Bev Ziebell '27
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### 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

Margaret Poteet Kitti Taylor Nancy Bingaman '28* Cindy Cavanaugh '28* Nancy Lengler '26* Judy Schmidt '27* Gary Myers '26* Jay Kealey '26* Nino Giambrone '27* Craig Staudenmaier '28* Sharon Webb '26* Anita Laughery '27*	Moderator Clerk of Session Christian Education Evangelism and Outreach Budget and Finance Mission Nominating Personnel Property Management Stewardship Technology Worship and Music
Gary Myers Bob Frank '28 Geoffrey Vinton '27* 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.



# 409

# 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!

## O Christ, the Great Foundation 361

1 O Christ, the great foun-da - tion on which your peo - ple stand  
 2 Bap - tized in one con - fes - sion, one church in all the earth,  
 3 Where ty - rants' hold is tight - ened, where strong de - vour the weak,  
 4 This is the mo - ment glo - rious when he who once was dead

to preach your true sal - va - tion in ev - ery age and land:  
 we bear our Lord's im - pres - sion, the' sign of sec - ond birth:  
 where in - no - cents are fright - ened, the righ - teous fear to speak,  
 shall lead his church vic - to - rious, their cham - pion and their head.

pour out your Ho - ly Spir - it to make us strong and pure,  
 one ho - ly peo - ple gath - ered in love be - yond our own,  
 there let your church a - wak - ing at - tack the powers of sin  
 The Lord of all cre - a - tion his heaven - ly king - dom brings:

to keep the faith un - bro - ken as long as worlds en - dure.  
 by grace we were in - vit - ed; by grace we make you known.  
 and, all their ram - parts break - ing, with you the vic - tory win.  
 the fi - nal con - sum - ma - tion, the glo - ry of all things.

# I Come with Joy

515

Capo 3: (D) (G) (A) (D) (Bm)  
F B $\flat$  C F Dm



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
2 I come with Chris-tians far and near to find, as all are  
3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er  
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has

(Asus) (Am) (G) (F#m) (D)  
Csus Cm B $\flat$  Am F



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call, in  
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the

(Em) (D/F#) (G) (A) (Am7) (D)  
Gm F/A B $\flat$  C Cm7 F



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
Christ's com-mu - nion bread, in Christ's com-mu - nion bread.  
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.