



PAXTON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



February 1, 2026 | 10:30 AM

Downwardly Mobile

WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 1, 2026

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

“A Franciscan Pastoral”
“Hymn of Promise”

-arr. F. Ashdown
-arr. J. Carter

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!

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

“Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”

-arr. L. Larson

THE WORD GATHERS US

CALL TO WORSHIP

In Christ, the God of heaven has made their home on earth.

Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

Highest of all creation, he lives among the least.

He journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.

Come now, all who thirst,

and drink the water of life.

Come now, all who hunger,

and be filled with good things.

Come now, all who seek,

and be warmed by the fire of love.

* HYMN – 630

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

* PRAYER OF PRAISE (written by Jeff Shrowder)

Creating God, we praise you for your Word which called the universe into being; and for your Spirit which breathed life into your human creation, made in your image. We praise you that in your love you seek to embrace us in our brokenness; that while your only Son was handed over to death, you raised him to life, a new creation by which you recreate each of us as we believe in hope, and accept in faith. Source of life, Word of life, Breath of life, we worship you. Amen.

* GOD'S PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

* OUR RECOGNITION OF BROKENNESS

There are many times we think we love you well, O God. But upon hearing your call to love you with all our heart, and all our mind, and all our strength, we confess that our love for you is a diluted love, made insipid and flat by lesser loyalties and a divided heart. Our love seems pure only for brief moments; soon our affections are drawn away. How easily our devotion dies. Forgive us; in deep mercy spare us, despite our lost love for you; in grace rekindle our love for you in seeking anew Jesus' love for us. (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

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING FROM THE PROPHETS Micah 6:1-8 (OT 1060)

ANTHEM “Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit” arr. John Preston

READING FROM THE GOSPELS 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (NT 202)

SERMON “Downwardly Mobile”

HYMN – 734 “Hope of the World” vv.1-2,4-5

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 “Here Am I, Lord”

SCAN HERE
TO GIVE
VIRTUALLY



-arr. D. Wagner

THE WORD SEALS US

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord’s Prayer (Traditional p.35)

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

THE WORD SENDS US

- * HYMN – 372 “O For a World”
- * INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP
- * SENDING FORTH AND BLESSING
- * POSTLUDE “All Who Love and Serve Your City”

-arr. D. Hustad

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 Bingaman.
Director of Music, Sue Beckley; Organist, Jeanne Bruce;*



Worship Volunteers

ANTHEM

BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT

-BY JOHN PRESTON

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.
Rejoice and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven.

Prayer Square

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

Members

Rich Bazdar, Jim Brillinger, Brenda and Ron Brinkley, Bruce Cavanaugh, Fran Gilchrist, Shirley Grunden, Don Hoopes, Nancy Hutchison, Jo Jacoby, Jim Knight, Penny Knight, Nedra Maxwell, Joanne Miller, Wanda Newhouse, Donna Powers, Elsie Williams, Dave Wion, Kathie Zimmerman

Friends

Ray Baker, Benitez Family, Betty Conte, Shelia Gorlhard, Will Green, Susan Grieco, Dr. and Mrs. Kent Groff, Helen Heidlebaugh, Steve and Debbie Huzar, Anthony M., Janet Neff, Carol Poteet, Frank Sallusti, 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 and in loving memory of our friend, Linda Mentzer, by Susan and Lilia.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN are accepting dues during January and February. These dues support the ministries we contribute to and help fund PW activities in our church and community, including Santa Shop, Valentine's Day "Love Letters," and the Sewing Circle. If you are a woman, you are a member of PW. There is no set amount — please give what you are able. Checks should be made payable to PW of Paxton, with "PW dues" in the memo line. Cash donations may be placed in PW envelopes in the gathering room. Please include your name. Dues may be left in the PW mailbox.

CHOCOLATE EASTER EGG SALE Forms are now available outside the office and will be due with payment by TODAY. This year all proceeds will go toward the cost of the Rise Against Hunger event in April.

SOUP SUNDAY Evangelism and Outreach will be hosting Soup Sunday on February 22. Please come and enjoy some soup and fellowship following services on those dates. We provide 2 soups, including vegetarian and gluten free options, as well as mac and cheese for the children. If you are interested in making a soup for a crowd (you will be reimbursed) please contact Linette Burd (717-608-7845). See you there!

FINANCE AND BUDGET MINISTRY TOWN HALL Please join the Budget and Finance Ministry TODAY in the Great Room after worship for an informational presentation on Paxton's finances. It has been six months since the last presentation, and we look forward to reviewing in detail the end-of-year reports with you prior to the Annual Meeting on February 22. After a brief presentation we will welcome questions and comments. If you have any questions ahead of the town hall, please email treasurer@paxtonchurch.org or lenglersnj@comcast.net by January 31.

BYLAW QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION After the Budget and Finance Town Hall TODAY the Bylaws Committee will welcome questions and comments regarding the revised Bylaws for Paxton Presbyterian Church that have been approved by Session and will be on the agenda for congregational approval at the Annual Meeting. Copies of the revised Bylaws were available in the office.

PER CAPITA This year's Per Capita amount has been set for \$34.66. Your gift allows PCUSA locally, regionally and nationally to work for justice and peace, care for the hungry and homeless, and spread the word and love of the Lord. Please mark your donation "per capita" and place in the offering or mail to the church office.

PW BOOK SHARE is waiting for you in the Great Room!

PAXTON PRESBYTERIAN NURSERY SCHOOL Enrollment for the 2026/2027 school year opens in February. For more information or to schedule a tour please contact Nicole at nurseryschooldirector@paxtonchurch.org or 717-561-0510.

SEEKERS ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS is providing a welcoming, inspiring video-based presentation of THE CALL: The life and Message of the Apostle Paul. For the next six Sundays, we will be doing a video journey to the lands where the Apostle Paul traveled, preached, suffered, and triumphed. We will also be exploring why Paul is second only to Jesus in his impact and influence on the Christian faith. Each of the six lessons has a unique, valuable perspective to offer on the Christian faith that we can learn from to strengthen our own Christian faith.

THE NEXT COMMUNITY CLOTHING ACTUAL PICK-UP WILL BE 2:00 P.M. FEBRUARY 2. All men's, women's, and children's clothes for winter are desperately needed including pants, shirts, jackets, coats, shoes, underwear, socks, and dresses. Additionally, sheets, towels, and washcloths can be used. As of this writing, they are nearly out of things. Please drop off the clothing at Norm Daniels' house (500 Bonnymead Avenue, Harrisburg, 17111) NO LATER THAN 10:00 p.m. FEBRUARY 1. Questions? Call or text Norm at 717-712-7494.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY The Souper Bowl of Caring is coming Sunday February 8. Would you help our youth, and youth across the U.S., in collecting monetary and food donations to help with food insecurities. You can participate by bringing monetary donations or food items with you to worship on the 8th. Most needed items that will stock our Free Little Pantry are hearty soups, canned fruit, applesauce, pasta and sauce.

HIP-HOP CLASS A church wide hip-hop class is being offered Friday, February 20 from 6-7:30pm in The Great Room. No experience necessary and all ages welcome. This is a fun introduction to hip hop and dance as exercise. The class is \$5 a person (pay at the door) or \$10 a family. Invite friends! See Michelle for questions.

UNITY CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, February 3, at noon in Room 202. Please bring your lesson book, change for Least Coin Offering, and a packed lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided. Our lesson leader, Carol Himmelright, will teach The Samaritan Woman from Max Lucado's Ten Women of the Bible. The hostess will be Marla Mullinax.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING The Session has called a meeting of the Congregation immediately following worship on Sunday, February 22, 2026. At the meeting, the congregation will receive the 2025 Annual Report and vote on proposed new By-Laws for the congregation.

February 1 – 8

Sunday, February 1	9:00 AM	Sunday School	Agape Park
	10:30 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
	11:30 AM	Financial and Bylaws Town Hall	Great Room
	1:00 PM	Nepali Speaking Community Church	Fellowship Hall
	2:30 PM	Piano Recital	Great Room
Monday, February 2	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	6:00 PM	Christian Education	Zoom
	6:00 PM	Voices of the Valley	Great Room
Tuesday, February 3	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	10:15 AM	PW Board Meeting	Room 202
	12:00 PM	Unity Circle	Room 202
Wednesday, February 4	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	9:30 AM	Sewing Circle	Fellowship Hall
	11:00 AM	Property Management	Room 101
	6:30 PM	Worship and Music	Room 202
Thursday, February 5	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	6:15 PM	Bell Choir	Sanctuary
	7:30 PM	Adult Choir	Choir Room
Friday, February 6	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	6:00 PM	Nepali Youth Group	Fellowship Hall
Sunday, February 8	9:00 AM	Sunday School	Agape Park
	10:30 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
	1:00 PM	Nepali Speaking Community Church	Fellowship Hall

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	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
Financial Office/Treasurer	x102	John Palmer	treasurer@paxtonchurch.org
Nursery School Director	x103	Nicole Evenhuis	nurseryschooldirector@paxtonchurch.org
Custodian		Mary Bowers	

Board of Deacons

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

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



630

Fairest Lord Jesus

1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Rul - er of the

na - ture, O thou of God to earth come
 wood - lands, robed in the bloom - ing garb of
 moon - light, and all the twink - ling, star - ry
 na - tions, Son of God and Son of

down, thee will I cher - ish, thee will I
 spring. Je - sus is fair - er; Je - sus is
 host. Je - sus shines bright - er; Je - sus shines
 Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o -

hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 pur - er, than all the an - gels heaven can boast.
 ra - tion, now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Hope of the World

734



1 Hope of the world, thou Christ of great com - pas - sion:
 2 Hope of the world, God's gift from high - est heav - en,
 3 Hope of the world, a - foot on dust - y high - ways,
 4 Hope of the world, who by thy cross didst save us
 5 Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death vic - to - rious,



speak to our fear - ful hearts by con - flict rent;
 bring - ing to hun - gry souls the bread of life:
 show - ing to wan - dering souls the path of light:
 from death and deep de - spair, from sin and guilt:
 who by this sign didst con - quer grief and pain:



save us, thy peo - ple, from con - sum - ing pas - sion,
 still let thy Spir - it un - to us be giv - en
 walk thou be - side us lest the tempt - ing by - ways
 we ren - der back the love thy mer - cy gave us;
 we would be faith - ful to thy gos - pel glo - rious;



who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.
 to heal earth's wounds and end our bit - ter strife.
 lure us a - way from thee to end - less night.
 take thou our lives and use them as thou wilt.
 thou art our Lord! Thou dost for - ev - er reign!

O for a World

372



1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,



where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
that o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

