



PAXTON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Blood is Thicker than Water

May 17, 2026 | 10:30 am

WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2026

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"
"Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise"
"Jesus Shall Reign"

-arr. R. Lau
-arr. R. Williamson
-arr. D. Paxton

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

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

To bestow upon the Rev. John Green the title of Pastor Emeritus of Paxton Presbyterian Church

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

"Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor"

-arr. L. Shackley

THE WORD GATHERS US

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with songs of joy. Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

God is ruler over all the earth; the Lord reigns on a holy throne. Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

God put this power to work in Christ, raising him from the dead. Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Jesus Christ is Lord! Glory to God in the highest.

Let us worship the Lord together!

* HYMN - 271

"The Lord Almighty Reigns"

* OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, rose far above all heavens that he might fill all things in heaven and on earth. Give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us to the end of time and has given us the Holy Spirit as our advocate and strength. Glory be to you, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, one God, now and forever. Amen.

* PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

* OUR RECOGNITION OF BROKENNESS

Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life, and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not always bowed before him, or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the ways of the world, and failed to give Christ glory. Forgive us, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the church, his body. (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

FIRST SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 35: 3-6

(OT 811)

ANTHEM

“The Apple Tree”

-arr. K. Lee Scott

SECOND SCRIPTURE

1 John 5:6-8

(NT 293)

SERMON

“Blood is Thicker than Water”

HYMN – 265

“Jesus Shall Reign Where’re the Sun”

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.***

SCAN HERE
TO GIVE
VIRTUALLY



* Prayer of Dedication

OFFERTORY

“I to the Hills Lift Up Mine Eyes”

-arr. L. Smith

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

THE WORD SENDS US

* HYMN – 267

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

* INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

* SENDING FORTH AND BLESSING

* POSTLUDE

“All Hail the Power of Jesus Name”

-arr. H. Hopson

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, Bruce Humphrey; Worship Leader, John Green;
Worship Assistant, Mary Myers; Conversation with Our Children, Happy Barber,
Director of Music, Sue Beckley; Organist, Jeanne Bruce; Soloist, Harrison Monahan



Anthem

The Apple Tree

Arranged by K. Lee Scott

The tree of life my soul has seen, laden with fruit and always green: The trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ, the apple tree. His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but ne'er can tell the glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree. For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought: I missed of all, but now I see tis found in Christ, the apple tree. I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile: under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ, the apple tree. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive; which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

NEWS OF OUR COMMON LIFE

FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL today are given to the Glory of God and in honor of the Reverend John Green and Mrs. Cindy Green with love, friendship, and gratitude from the congregation.

ABOUT TODAY'S ANTHEM In the Song of Solomon 2:3 Christ is compared to an apple tree standing among other trees symbolizing His uniqueness and the richness of the life He gives to you. Christ offers life, joy, and salvation to those who believe in Him.

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY Dr. Humphrey retired to Pennsylvania after nearly 40 years in pastoral ministry out west. He lived and served among the Tlingit Native Americans in Alaska for his first 8 years as a mission pastor. He returned to his home state of Arizona where he served a medium sized congregation that grew from 300 to 600 members during his 12 years of leadership. He finished his active ministry by leading a large congregation of 2500 members for 17 years in California. In retirement he has served as a transitional pastor for two small congregations as well as leading our Presbytery's anti-racism and clergy support programs. He currently serves as a volunteer, leading staff development for International Service Center in Harrisburg, working with refugees. He and his wife Kate have four married children and three grandchildren all living in the Harrisburg area.

HAPPENING TODAY The ushers will be handing out colorful index cards and pens today. Please write a note of memory or gratitude for Pastor Green, sign your name and place the card and pen in the offering plate. The notes will be put together in a book for Pastor Green.

IN SYMPATHY The congregation extends its sincere sympathies to Margaret on the death of her mother, Carol Poteet, on May 12. Please hold Margaret, her siblings, and her father in your prayers. Even as we share our grief, we receive comfort in the sure and certain hope of eternal life through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

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.

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 to sign up! Registrations are due by June 28. Volunteer opportunities will be coming soon.



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.

NETWORK UNDER CONSTRUCTION Friday, May 22, from 1p-4p the church network, wifi, and phones will be shut off to replace the network cabinet. Emails and phones calls made to the office during this time will not be returned until Tuesday, May 26.

BOOK STUDY Paxton's summer book study will be Bruce Reyes-Chow's book, *Everything Good About God is True*. All are welcome to read along. You can pick up a book in Michelle's office. We will meet to discuss throughout the summer from 9-9:50am in room 101 on the following Sundays: June 14, 28, July 12, 26, and Aug 9, 23.

Congregational Meeting

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.

SAVE THE DATE June 8-12 Paxton will be hosting a Local Service Week. Throughout the week volunteers can choose to help with projects at Paxton and/or in the local community. More information to follow. Please see a member of the Mission Ministry if you have any questions or suggestions.

THE NEXT COMMUNITY CLOTHING DRIVE IS COMING. PLEASE DROP OFF ALL CLOTHING BY NOON ON MAY 27th All men's, women's, and children's clothes for spring and summer are needed including pants, shirts, jackets, coats, shoes, underwear, socks, and dresses. Additionally, sheets, towels, and washcloths can be used. Please drop off the clothing at Norm Daniels' house (500 Bonnymead Avenue, Harrisburg, 17111). Questions? Call or text Norm at 717-712-7494.

THANK YOU to our crew of pillow stuffers and sewers who joined us Tuesday evening for Pillows With a Purpose. We stuffed and sewed 78 pillows in an hour and a half! We have 23 more pillows that were stuffed and will be sewed together soon. Grand total of 101 pillows for breast cancer patients!

T-SHIRT ORDER New Paxton T-shirts are available to order. Pick up an order form outside the office. T-shirts are a soft fabric, light blue color, long sleeve and short sleeve in child and adult sizes. Forms must be in by June 1st.

Prayer Square

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

Members

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

Friends

David Altland, Atkins Family, Jim Bonawitz, Deb Brooks, the family of Betty Conte, Dr. and Mrs. Kent Groff, Kris Heimberger, Donna and Elvin Hitz, Mary Langley, Terri Leary, Bob Marshall, the family of James Wix

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

May 17 - 21

Sunday, May 17	9:00 AM	Sunday School	Agape Park
	10:30 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
	11:30 AM	Congregational Meeting and Reception	Great Room
	1:00 PM	Nepali Speaking Community Church	Fellowship Hall
	3:00 PM	Piano Recital	Great Room
Monday, May 18	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	6:00 PM	Stewardship	Room 101
	6:00PM	Penguin Project	Great Room
Tuesday, May 19	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	6:00 PM	Penguin Project	Agape Park
Wednesday, May 20	9:00 AM	PPNS Graduation	PPNS
	9:30 AM	Sewing Circle	Fellowship Hall
	6:00 PM	TH Gala Rehearsal	Great Room
	7:00 PM	Session	Room 101
Thursday, May 21	6:00 PM	TH Gala Rehearsal	Great Room
	6:00 PM	LifePoint Grey vs Paxton	Bethany Field
	6:15 PM	Bells	Sanctuary
Friday, May 22	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	1:00 PM	NO PHONES OR WIFI AT CHURCH	
	6:00 PM	Nepali Youth Group	Fellowship Hall
Sunday, May 24	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.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MAY 25 IN OBSERVANCE OF
MEMORIAL DAY**

Paxton Presbyterian Church Staff

Phone Number: 717 - 561 - 0510

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
Property Manager		Jerry Bingaman	propertymgr@paxtonchurch.org
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.



271 The Lord Almighty Reigns

(Psalm 93)



1 The Lord Al - might - y reigns in maj - es - ty most bright,
2 The world es - tab - lished stands on its foun - da - tions broad;
3 The seas have lift - ed up their voice in maj - es - ty,
4 Your tes - ti - mo - nies, Lord, in faith - ful - ness ex - cel,



ap - par - eled in om - nip - o - tence, and gird - ed round with might.
your throne is fixed, you reign su - preme, the ev - er - last - ing God.
but God on high, su - preme in might, is great - er than the sea.
and ho - ly must your ser - vants be who in your tem - ple dwell.



265 Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - oners
 5 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring hon - ors pe -

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 thron - g to crown his head; his name, like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song, and in - fant voic - es
 leap to loose their chains; the wea - ry find e -
 cu - liar to our King; an - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume, shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud A - men!

267 Come, Christians, Join to Sing

1 Come, Chris - tians, join to sing: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
2 Come, lift your hearts on high: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
3 Praise yet our Christ a - gain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Loud praise to Christ our King: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
Let prais - es fill the sky: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
Life shall not end the strain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - joice;
He is our guide and friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;
On heav - en's bliss - ful shore his good - ness we'll a - dore,

praise is his gra - cious choice: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
his love shall nev - er end: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
sing - ing for - ev - er - more: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

