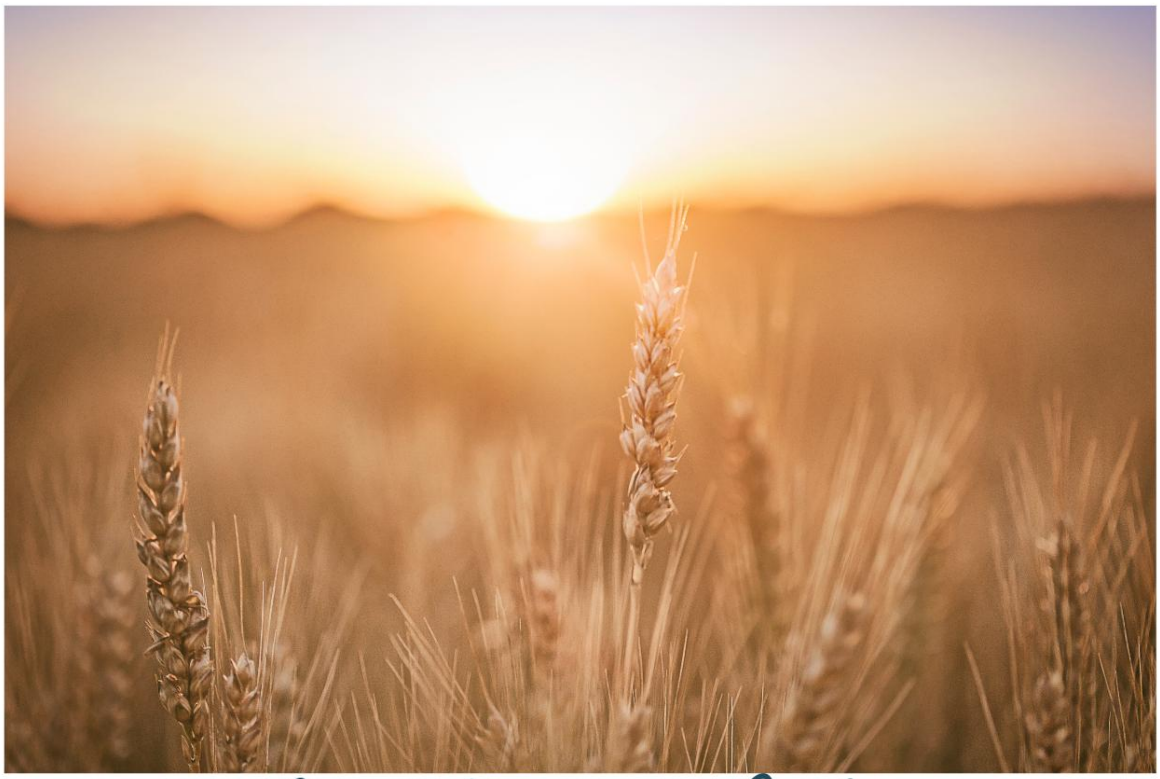
PAXTON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Members Choice

Short-Term Decisions

Ruth 1 and 2

JULY 6, 2025
3500 SHARON ST | 717-561-0510

WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Second Sunday after Pentecost

July 6, 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 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

Praise the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised!

MUSIC INTERLUDE

THE WORD GATHERS US

CALL TO WORSHIP

Today we come to worship full of questions. Who do you follow and who follows you?

If God called on us to leave everything we know and move to an unknown, and probably unfriendly place, could we obey God's command?

Have we ever had to uproot ourselves and our families for new jobs? What was that like? What about moving in the case of a famine in search for food?

Questions of faith and discipleship are rarely easy to answer. But we come in hope knowing that whatever choices we must make, it is God who is sovereign and gives us an enduring love that will never leave us. And so, let us worship our God.

***** HYMN - No. 35 "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty"

***** PRAYER OF PRAISE

O Lord, open our lips, and our mouths shall proclaim your praise. For your unfailing love and mercy never cease, fresh as the morning and sure as the sunrise. Amen.

***** GOD'S PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

***** OUR RECOGNITION OF BROKENNESS

O God, you want us to go where and do what? We cannot have heard your correctly. Do we trust you enough to leave our comfort for the unknown? Sometimes we believe that you are responsible for all that goes wrong in our lives and we really didn't have any choice in making that last decision. Forgive us, O God, turn us around inside and out. Help us to discern what it means for us to only follow Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us. Hear us now as we make our personal confessions to you. (silent confession)

***** GOD'S ASSURANCE OF RECONCILIATION

O God, never leave us, keep us on the path following Jesus,

May we go where he goes, live as he lived.

May your people be our people, and may we always care for the widows, the orphans, and the strangers in our midst, as he would,

Grant us your favor and help us to live lives full of mercy and grace.
Friends, in the name of Jesus Christ, remember your baptism and believe the good news of the Gospel:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

***** 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	Ruth 1	(OT299)
ANTHEM	"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"	Irish Melody
SECOND READING	Ruth 2	(OT300)
SERMON	"Naomi and Ruth: Short-Term Decisions"	
HYMN - No. 731	"Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm"	

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *"A Declaration of Faith"* Chapter 9, Section 3,1977

Christ calls us to live for our neighbors. Jesus broadened the definition of neighbor to include those ordinarily despised and excluded. His life in behalf of others led to persecution and death. Jesus commanded his disciples to live the same way. We believed Christ gives us and demands of us lives that recognize all people in all cultures as our neighbors on this planet. Christ teaches us to go beyond legal requirements in serving and helping our neighbor, to treat our neighbor's needs as our own, to care passionately for the other's good, to share what we have. It is part of our discipline to live simplicity, avoiding greed and luxury that threaten our neighbor's survival. We are obligated to speak the truth in love, to listen with patience and openness, to love our enemies, to accept the risk and pain which love involves.

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Traditional (p. 35)

THE WORD SENDS US

***** HYMN - No. 714 "God of the Fertile Fields"

***** 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

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, Jay Kealey; *Conversation with Our Children,* Happy Barber;
Director of Music, Sue Beckley; *Organist*, Jeanne Bruce; *Soloist,* Janice Hutchison

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, THE HOLT FAMILY, DON HOOPES, NANCY HUTCHISON, JIM KNIGHT, PENNY KNIGHT, NEDRA MAXWELL, JOANNE MILLER, CHARLIE MORY, THE MORY FAMILY, MARLA AND DAVID MULLINAX, THE NICKUM FAMILY, DONNA POWERS, LOUIS ROBERTSON, THE SANDERSON FAMILY, ELSIE WILLIAMS, DAVE WION, KATHIE ZIMMERMAN

FRIENDS

BECKI BLAZI, BETTY CONTE, CELESTE EHRHARDT, COLLEEN GERBER, DR. KENT GROFF, FRED HECKLER, SHERRY HOWER, LINDA LEEDY, JOANNE MATHIS, DANIELLE SIMS, CHRISTY WEIGLE, DAVID WEISS, THE WIX FAMILY, LYNN BUCK WOODWARD

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 Ruthie and Jim by Steve, Linda and family and in honor of the founding of our country, where the freedom to worship as each person's conscience dictates is recognized.

COMING IN WORSHIP On Sundays, July 6 and July 13, we begin a two-part sermon series on the Book of Ruth. In preparation, please read the whole book. It's short – just four chapters. On July 6, we will look at what happens to the main characters, Naomi, Ruth and Boaz, in the first two chapters. They will be making some *Naomi and Ruth: Short Term Decisions* for their lives. Then on July 13, we will finish the rest of the story, by looking at what happens in chapters three and four. There we will encounter the *Long-Term Decisions - Naomi and Ruth* made that have affected the lives of all people of Jewish and Christian faiths to follow. Most of us only know the verses from Ruth that are often quoted at weddings, Ruth 1:16-17, but there is so much more to this short story. It is a story where women are the main characters, and we are allowed to eavesdrop in on some of their conversations with each other. This is a story of loyalty, friendship and love amid famine, migration, and danger. The Book of Ruth is a great short story for all of us to explore.

PASTOR MARGARET POTEET It is with tremendous joy that we share the good news that the Reverend Margaret Poteet was confirmed as Paxton Presbyterian Church's next Solo Pastor at the congregational meeting on June 29. Her first day at Paxton will be September 1, following an ample transition time at her current church in Tennessee and time to settle into her new home in Pennsylvania.

SPONSOR A GAME FOR VBS Games needed for VBS. We are still in need of a few games for our upcoming Vacation Bible School. See the bulletin board outside the office to donate**.**

REGISTRATION It's time to sign up for Vacation Bible School. Our Twist & Turns VBS, for children age 3 through 5th grade, is July 14-17 and registration spots are filling up. Be sure to sign up soon!

DOWNTOWN DAILY BREAD The Renewed Hope Pantry opened in July 2024 and now serves over 300 families, many who are working but rely on the Pantry to help them bridge the gap between income and daily necessities. Through this food ministry, the pantry serves its neighbors with dignity, compassion, and stability. As the number of families relying on the Pantry increases the DDB is asking for help restocking its Pantry. Please see the sign outside the library for the list of specific items requested.

SECURITY PMM Safety/Security requests that doors be locked during all after hours meetings/events within 10 minutes of scheduled start time. Anyone arriving after that time should call someone inside to let them in. The church office can provide a phone directory upon request. Thank you for your assistance in keeping our campus safe for all.

COINS FOR CARING May $53.00 to Brethren Housing Association. The June collection will go to Krislund Presbyterian Camp.

Summer Worship Series at Paxton

Members' Choice

July 6 - The Story of Ruth Part 1

July 13 - The Story of Ruth Part 2

July 20 - TBD, Book of Revelation, or "Unanswered" Prayer

July 27 - Christmas in July

August 3 - "Predestination"

August 10 - Creating Home, Revelation 21:1-4, John 15:12-17, Isaiah 58:6-12

August 17 - TBD

August 24 - "Triennium Experience"

August 31 - Appreciate These Things Philippians 4:8

Paxton Presbyterian Church

THIS WEEK AT PAXTON

Sunday, July 6	10:30 AM	Worship with Communion	*Sanctuary*
	11:30 AM	VBS Training	*Great Room*
	1:00 PM	Nepali Speaking Community Church	*Fellowship Hall*
Monday, July 7	12:00 PM	Mission Ministry	*Room 202*
	5:00 PM	VBS Training	*Agape Park*
	5:30 PM	Penguin Project	*Great Room*
	6:00 PM	Christian Education	
Tuesday, July 8	5:30 PM	Penguin Project	*Great Room*
Wednesday, July 9	10:00 AM	Paxton Bylaws Committee	*Room 202*
	10:00 AM	Evangelism and Outreach	
	5:30 PM	Penguin Project	*Great Room*
	7:00 PM	Finance Ministry	*Seekers' Room*
	7:00 PM	Worship and Music	*Gathering Place*
Thursday, July 10	5:30 PM	Penguin Project	*Great Room*
	7:30 PM	PNC	*Seekers' Room*
Saturday, July 12	2:00 PM	Memorial Service	*Fellowship Hall*
Sunday, July 13	9:15 AM	Summer Bible Study	*Seekers' Room*
	10:30 AM	Worship	*Sanctuary*
	1:00 PM	Nepali Speaking Community Church	*Great Room*

Lemonade on the Lawn

July 27
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

Keystone Concert Band
July 26th at 6 pm

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	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

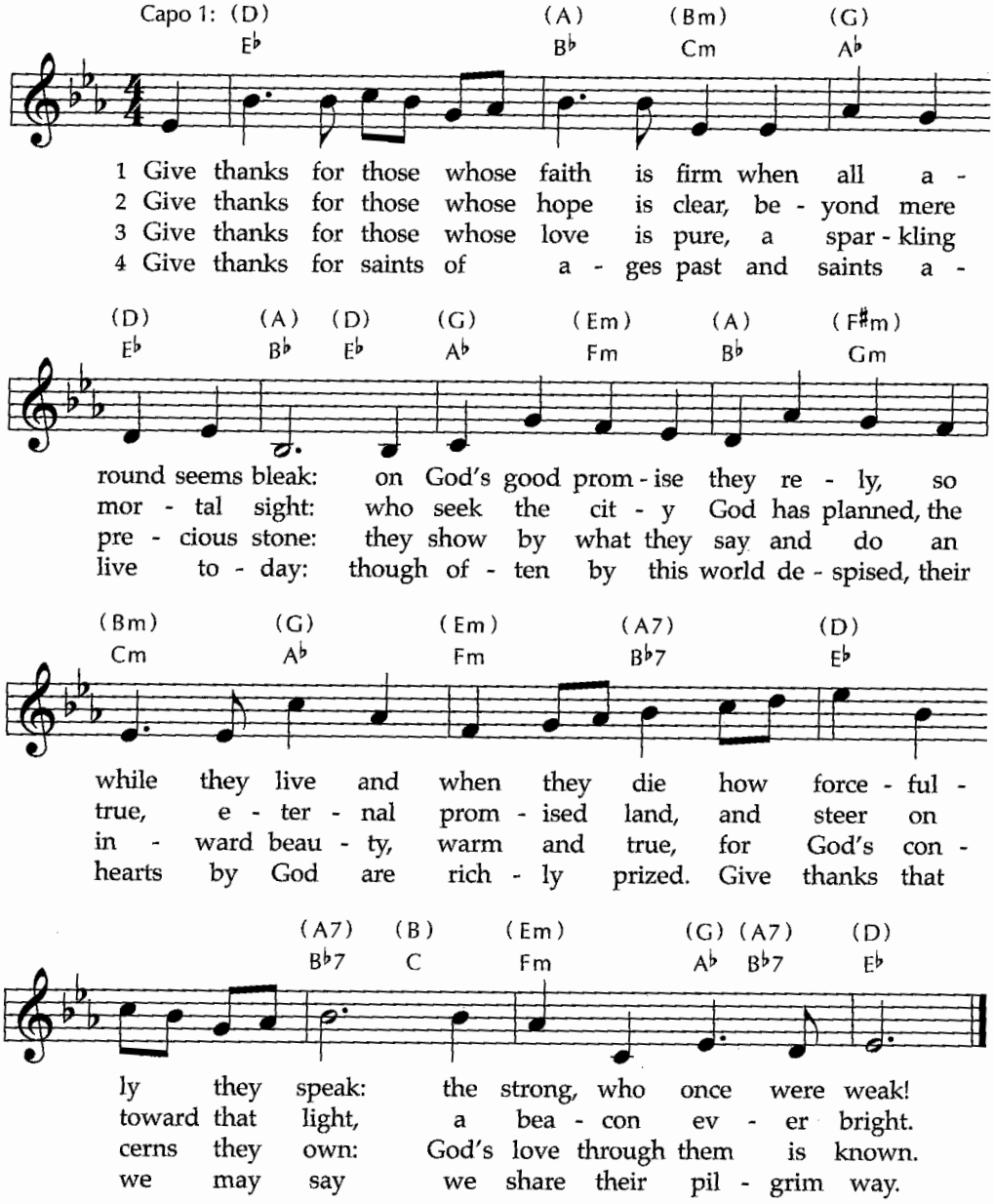
Kent Carter (he/him)		Moderator
Kitti Taylor		Clerk of Session
Karen Herrold*		Christian Education
Janice Hutchison*		Evangelism and Outreach
Nancy Lengler*	Craig Staudenmaier	Budget and Finance
Judy Schmidt*	Jan Gough	Mission
Gary Myers*	Janice Hutchison	Nominating
Jay Kealey*	Gary Myers	Personnel
Nino 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.

35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty



731 Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm



Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

God of the Fertile Fields 714

