

# Ministry @ DHUMC

Drexel Hill United Methodist Church

September, 2023

www.dhum.org

## All In *Pastor's Message*

*Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*

*Deuteronomy 6:4-7*

I had lunch with one of the children I pastored in Lancaster back in the 90s. He is quite grown up now and an investment counsellor. Our conversation was most enlightening, and just a little frightening, because he told me what he does as an investment counsellor - managing resources, identifying goals and needs, and imagining trends into the future. Listening to all this was a little frightening, as I said, because, though I do not consider myself a slouch where money is concerned, I was confronted once more with the reality that the financial issues with which I concern myself as a layperson a few times a year, are issues that employ legions of gifted, educated, full-time professionals every day.

The conversation continued through high-risk and low-risk asset allocations and it struck me all at once that my life has been an investment. I spent time with this young man when he was a child talking about what is good, beautiful, and just. We may live with the delusion that all we have to invest is money, but money may be the least of our investments. The years have not diminished the sound - I continue to hear belting

in my ears "Time is money!" shouted by my construction crew boss. Perhaps, until one has run out of time and then money means nothing at all. When we think about our lives in terms of the gifts God has given us and how we can spend those, we may be as wealthy as wealthy can be. Which begs the question: how are you investing your life?

I have been reading about dramatic shifts in attitudes among younger generations toward nearly everything from sexuality to family to work to money. The members of younger generations, are not as interested, evidently, in money as the generations preceding them. Most accept as fact that they will never be as well off financially as their parents. What they want is a meaningful life. I am convinced that our youths are more creative and adept at bringing meaning to the gift of the life God has given them. Where adults may have grown up in generations of verity, or come of age in generations that saw the unveiling of corruption and the dissolution of institutions and absolutes, our youths have no memory of these structures whatever. What attracts most of these young people to churches are opportunities for mission and service to others. Many of them know that such opportunities are sources of joy. Joy comes from within and has to do with love. Love is our greatest resource, and the people we love are our longest-term investment.

In her book *Time*, Karen H. Whiting uses scripture quotes relating to time and provides suggestions to help people better manage it and increase the quality of family time. One of the entries focuses on what families can do together and begins with the

following quote:

*Impress them (the utterances of God) on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Deuteronomy 6:7*

These words reveal an expectation that families spend time together; time together sitting, resting, walking, going to bed and waking up. More and more studies of school children show that the greatest factor for good grades and preventing teen problems is eating meals with one's family at least five days every week. This is further confirmation of what seven millennia of civilization have proven to be foundational truth.

What Jesus knew to be true, he lived out, even to the cross. Jesus invites us to love one another as he has loved us. There is no greater investment we can make in this life than the investment we make in those we love. God's love, shown in the example of Jesus Christ is what the Church is about. Here is our investment counselor, and this love our greatest resource.

Happy investing,

Russell J. Atkinson



## **Coffee and Conversation**



This fall we will renew our coffee, tea and conversation time after church service on Sundays. This is not only an opportunity for refreshment- it is a good time to say hello to visitors and find out a little about them, as well as greeting people you know. Feel free to take your cup outside as well. This all happens at the back of our Sanctuary, where there is ample room to sit or stand and talk. Please do stop by and say hello to someone you would like to get to know better, even if you don't like coffee!

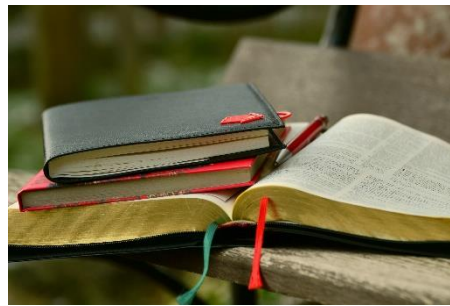
## **Heavy Psalm/Light Exercise Men's Fellowship Hour Returns**

Join us every **Tuesday** at 11am to 11:50am where we will gather in the Gym to hear a psalm and reflect on it briefly, and then engage in light exercise – walking the neighborhood if the weather is fine, or some activities like stretching in the gym, shooting basketball (no recording devices allowed). Some of you may know of other activities that fit in the realm of light aerobics.



## **Tuesday Morning Faith Bible Study Returns**

The Bible Study/Faith Formation Class will begin again on **September 12th** at 9:30 am. We will meet on Zoom. The email invitation will go out a few minutes before the meeting at 9:30 am. Please contact Pastor Atkinson (610-675-7187 or [pastor@dhum.org](mailto:pastor@dhum.org)) if you would like to be included on the Zoom invitation.



## **Bacon, Toast, and the Heavenly Host Returns**

If you've got an appetite for the Word of God and a good breakfast, come on out to the Perkins Restaurant, 706 N. Lansdowne Avenue in Drexel Hill (just a short hop from the high school) the first Thursday of each month. Our next meeting is **September 7th** at 9 am. Hope to see you there!



### **Ministry@DHUMC**

A monthly newsletter for the membership of DHUMC.

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## **Administrative Council Meeting**

The first Administrative Council of Drexel Hill UMC for 2023-24 is scheduled on Monday, **September 11th** at 7:00 pm. This meeting will take place on Zoom, so shortly before 7:00 pm, please look for Pastor Atkinson's invitation to sign on. If you aren't a member of the Administrative Council but would like to sit in on the meeting, please contact either Rebecca Harbison at [rrharbison@verizon.net](mailto:rrharbison@verizon.net) or contact the church office at [office@dhum.org](mailto:office@dhum.org).



Russell Atkinson, Pastor

## September Worship Services

### Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 3, 2023  
Exodus 3:1-15  
Matthew 16:21-28  
“Choosing Up Sides”

### Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 10, 2023  
Exodus 12:1-14  
Matthew 18:15-20  
“Miss Manners”

### Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Rally Day

September 17, 2023  
Exodus 12:1-14  
Matthew 18:21-35  
“Patience, Pity, and  
Repetition”

### Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 24, 2023  
Exodus 16:2-15  
Matthew 20:1-16  
“Grace Enough?”

## September 4<sup>th</sup> Labor Day



## Lay Reader Schedule for September

- 3 Alex Mullin
- 10 Cindy Carper
- 17 David O’Connell
- 24 Carol Martsof



# September 11th



# September Worship Notes



## Walking with Matthew

Antioch, the largest city in Roman Syria, the third-largest in the empire, is often mentioned as the location of the Matthean community. The author of Matthew wrote for a group of Greek-speaking Jewish-Christians. Unlike Mark, the author of Matthew never explains Jewish customs, since his readers were conversant with them already; unlike Luke, who traces Jesus'

ancestry back to Adam, father of the human race, Matthew's writer traces it only to Abraham, father of the people of Israel.

During September, our Gospel lections will come from the 16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> chapters. Here Matthew refers to a "church" (*ecclesia*), an organized group with rules for keeping order; this community was strict in keeping the Jewish law, holding that they must exceed the scribes and the Pharisees in "righteousness." Writing from within a Jewish-Christian community growing increasingly distant from other Jews and becoming increasingly Gentile in its membership and outlook, Matthew put down in his gospel his vision of an assembly or church in which both Jew and Gentile would flourish together.

As we consider these things in September, we will wonder at the community of the church and the gifts and challenges of life together in the among the people of faith.

September 3<sup>rd</sup>, **Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost**  
Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28 "Choosing Up Sides"

September 10<sup>th</sup> **Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost**  
Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20 "Miss Manners"

September 17<sup>th</sup>, **Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost & Rally Day**  
Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35 "Patience, Pity, and Repetition"

September 24<sup>th</sup>, **Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost**  
Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16 "Grace Enough?"

# 100th Anniversary Year of our Church's Presence in Drexel Hill

By Jane Todd



Beginning this fall, on October 28, 2023 to be exact, Drexel Hill United Methodist Church will celebrate 100 years of worship, fellowship, mission and service at 600 Burmont Road in Drexel Hill. We hope you like to celebrate, because this will last for a year! Below you will find some of the proposed events, large and small, that are being planned to mark this extraordinary span of 100 years worshipping in Drexel Hill.

Note: this year-long celebration will need to happen with involvement from our church community, not just a few select leaders. Please be ready to help with planning, be on a committee, and share new ideas. Volunteers are critical to the success of this next year.

**Kick-off Event** - commemorate the laying of the cornerstone for McBurney Chapel 100 years ago: Oct 28, 2023

- Will include a service, opening of Cornerstone Box, ringing of the church bell, coffee and cake and memorabilia tables.
- Hang a banner outside the church announcing our 100th Anniversary, to be up all year
- Contact former pastors to come and preach throughout the Anniversary Year
- Interview long-standing members to hear their remembrances of earlier years, and include in the monthly newsletter
- Ask the congregation to contribute to a fund which will help with expenses for the celebration year
- Have special music Sundays and services that include looking specifically at certain aspects of the church, i.e., the history of the stained-glass windows, missionary projects, women's groups, service projects in the community
- Have a movie afternoon or evening, to view videos of theater shows and musical concerts that were held at the church
- Hold a looking forward event, with discussions about the church's more recent activities and how to continue building on the strength of 100 years

**Final Event** - On or about October 25, 2024, hold a Sunday service of celebration which includes inviting past pastors, special music and a catered lunch

Do you like some of these ideas? What else would you like to see happen during this celebratory time? We look forward to working together to make this a very special year in the life of our church and community.

# Community News at DHUMC

## Get Ready for Rally Day – September 17<sup>th</sup>!

### The Past Rolls into The Future



We are celebrating Rally Day by looking to the past as we get started with the future! What were the clothing styles when you first started worshipping at Drexel Hill United Methodist Church? Hemlines? Tie width? Blue Jeans? Hats? On Rally Day, **September 17, 2023**, why not dress as you did when you first arrived? It will be great fun to see the styles of dress from decade to decade! If that's just a little too showy for you, then consider this: what is the oldest religious artifact in your home? A Baptismal certificate? A family Bible? A photograph of a church event? Would you be able to bring it to church and share its story? We will be having an interactive worship time as we share our stories in

small groups. Following the service, we'll roll out the grill and serve hamburgers, hot dogs, and veggie burgers. Please bring a side dish, salad, or desert to share. A signup sheet will be available in the narthex for a couple of weeks prior to Rally Day so we can make sure we have a good mix of dishes. The patio will have tables and chairs for us to sit and enjoy fellowship together. The Rally Day schedule:

9:15 am - Together in the Word

10 am - Worship

11ish am - Picnic on the Patio

## Congratulations Graduates!

Thomas Butcher cuts the cake honoring this past year's graduates in June. With him are his mother, Mary Bangura and sister Nadezna Bangura. Congratulations!



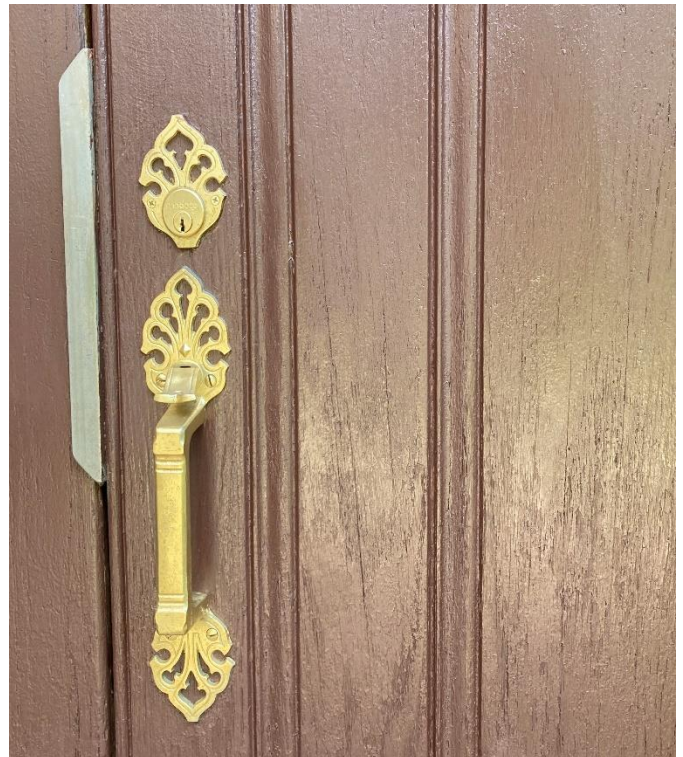
# ***Knock and it Will be Open to You!***

By Alex Mullin

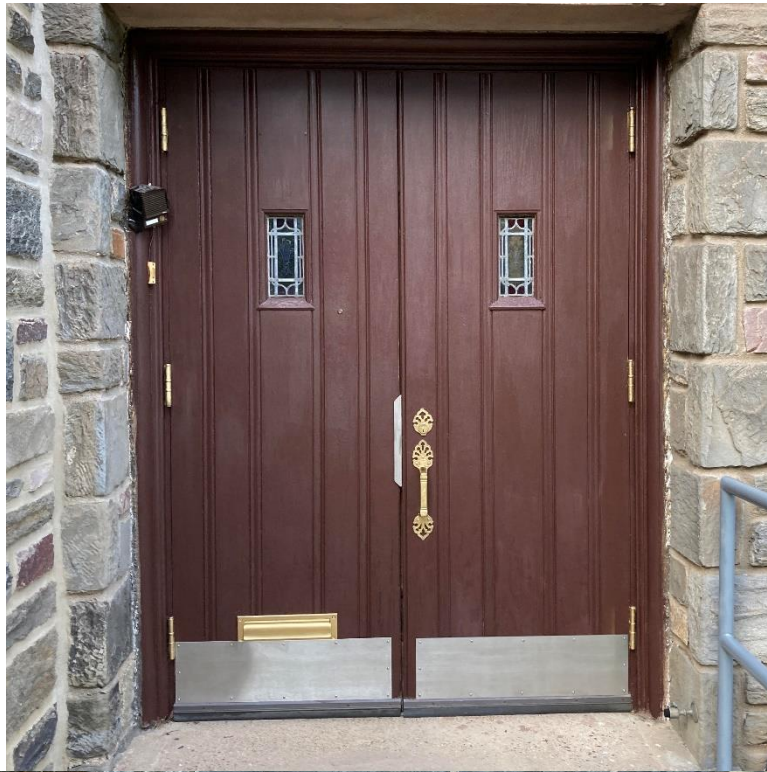
Our custodian/Sexton Miguel Rodriguez has worked hard to make our Church attractive for members, visitors and passersbys. His latest project involves redoing our exterior doors. Our doors are made of oak and were installed in 1950 or earlier depending on the area of the Church. The weather has taken its toll on the varnished finish over the years. We have made efforts to sand and recoat the finish over the years with uneven results. This year Miguel decided to try his hand at making the doors more presentable. He started on the exterior gym doors facing Burmont Road, and has also done the rear door leading to the office. His method uses brown paint which gives the doors a new look. He described his procedure to me: 1. Power wash the door and attached hardware 2. Sand areas as needed 3. Wash down the hardware with Clorox 4. Spray handle and hinges with gold Rustoleum paint 5. Paint door with brown semi-gloss Behr paint. The process takes a number of hours and results in an eye catching entrance. Check out the pictures. Church members were so impressed with the back door that they have asked Miguel to tackle the two front Church doors. The doors are only one of Miguel's many improvements to the Church. He is always looking for ways to make it shine!



**Before**



**After**



**Our doors are looking like new! Thank you Miguel!**



# National Voter Registration Day September 26<sup>th</sup>!



The Presidential elections in the United States are held every four years in November, but it is important to register with at least a year in advance. This is why National Voter Registration Day was created, to remind everyone to register to vote, otherwise they have no say in who the next president of the United States should be.

The first thing to do on this day, if you are over 18 and eligible, is to get registered to vote. Voting is the best way to ensure that your voice is heard and that you have a say in what happens in the country. You can also volunteer at one of the voter registration rallies in your city and encourage people to register to vote. This can be done at events, or by going door-to-door to educate people on their voting rights. The important thing is to spread the word about voting registration.

## Crafters & Fellowship Meetup

The time to pick up the knitting needles, crochet hooks, sewing needles, and other handiwork tools again. This year the craft group will begin meeting again on the third Thursday of the month **September 21st** at 1:30 pm in the Bohn Parlor. Please come for friendly conversation and light refreshments. And if you have a friend who would like to join us, please feel free to invite them. See you there!



## Celebrate Grandparents Day!



**September 10, 2023**

# Nursery School News

By Denise McCarthy

The nursery school staff is excited to be returning to school on Tuesday, 9/12. Our four day, 4 year old class is full. We will now start a waiting list for this class. Our three day, 3 year old class has available spots.

We would like to welcome Mrs. Laura Lewis as Mrs. Ryan's aide this year. Mrs. Adrienne Burwell and Mrs. Vera Gana are returning as our three-day teachers.



In September the children will explore our classrooms, learn the classroom rules and make lots of crafts with the color red. They will enjoy lots of stories and music.

Please share with family and friends that we have openings in our 3-year-old nursery school class.

We look forward to a great year!



Mrs. Ryan's four-day class planted sunflower seeds in May. Look how much they've grown!

# Upper Darby Food Bank

By Charlene Neigh



We opened up again on August 21st after being closed for three weeks. Our numbers have been down slightly because of the weather. Even though the temperature in the food bank was 98 degrees we only closed early one day.

We had four wonderful donations from The School For The Blind of cherries, peaches, eggplant, lettuce and tomatoes. We still get

donations from the Edgemont Giant. Ed, a wonderful volunteer, brings at least 14 large boxes of groceries each Monday. We still pick up bread and sweets from Panera on Thursdays. As of July 28<sup>th</sup>, our local WaWa stopped giving us donations. This will be greatly missed as we picked them up 4 days a week and our clients appreciated this donation. We will pursue WaWa donations again after we open.

We thank Gardia and Curtis Daniels for their generous donation along with Jack, John Neigh and Charles Webb who helped deliver it to the FoodBank. We still have many faithful people who donate to us regularly. Our clients are still served out our window and hopefully this might change this winter. No one in our area, Upper Darby Township, Milbourne, Havertown and parts of Lansdowne should go hungry. Please spread the word that we're here at 7766 Wayne Avenue, Bethel Baptist Church, from 10 am to 12 noon, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

## International Day of Peace – September 21st



# DHUMC Response to Gun Violence

By Keith Chase

Our effort in this area has been mostly on hold since our May community event. During the Fall we will evaluate what has been done to date and any future directions. This problem won't be fixed by the government alone. It needs to be addressed at every level, including the church. Perhaps especially the church. In the meantime, please pray for God's healing of our land and guiding us as to what steps we can take.



## Outreach Committee News

By Helen Campbell

September is always a new beginning at our church. Outreach is ready to reach out and offer a helping hand to our neighbors near and far. We plan to continue many of our traditional projects:



**October.** We always start with our coat and blanket drive for the Life Center in Upper Darby.

**November.** We have a food drive at Thanksgiving for families from the Upper Darby School District. Lately it has been gift cards.

**December.** It is our gift drive for families of the Upper Darby School District. Gift cards seem to be greatly appreciated.

**February.** Valentine's Day is a great chance to remember the shut-ins-Members who can no longer make it to church but who still are a part of our congregation.



We will consider other projects such as collecting supplies for Ukraine. If you would like to coordinate any of these projects or you have an idea for a new project, please contact Helen Campbell. You can reach Helen at [giveemhelen@aol.com](mailto:giveemhelen@aol.com) or 610-308-1041 or find her at Sunday service. The generosity of this congregation is amazing. Thank you for all you have done in the past and all you continue to do!

## Gardening Volunteers Needed

By Barb O'Connell

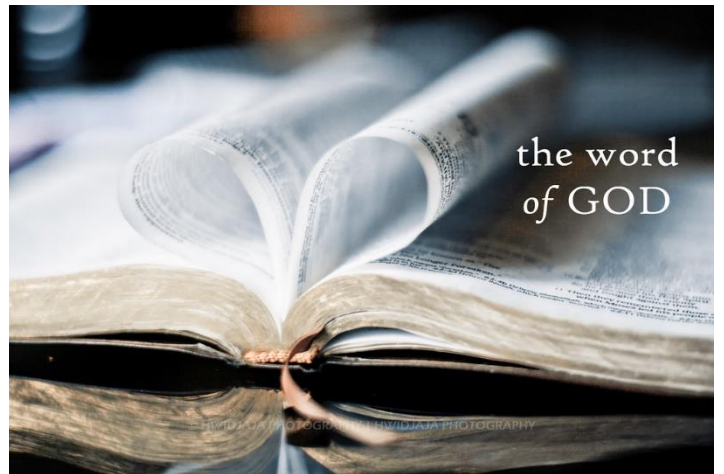


The birds, bees, and butterflies have enjoyed vacationing in the church gardens these past few months. Thanks go out to those who helped water and weed during the summer. September means the nursery school will be welcoming children to our facility. To spruce up the play yard/courtyard, help is needed on Thursday, **September 7th** from 9-11 am and from 5:30-7:30 pm. We will also be doing regular maintenance of the grounds. All hands are needed and welcomed!



## **DHUMC Together In The Word** by Keith Chase

Fall is a good time to settle into the Word and fellowship around its infinite value. We will consider possibly reviewing a book as well for the balance of the year if there is interest in doing so. Together in the Word began in January. We are looking for ways to make it of value to all.



## **Happy Birthdays in September!**



Fall has finally arrived and here are a few birthdays to celebrate in the month of September! Please consider getting in touch with the following church members by regular mail or email to help them celebrate their special days. Let us know if your birthday is missing from our list by calling the church office or emailing [Janedt@verizon.net](mailto:Janedt@verizon.net).

9/3 - Barbara O'Connell  
509 Lawrence Dr.  
Springfield, PA 19064  
[texmomoc@verizon.net](mailto:texmomoc@verizon.net)

9/23 - David Bjorkgren  
247 Abbey Terr. 2st Floor  
Drexel Hill, PA 19026  
[dbjorkgren50@gmail.com](mailto:dbjorkgren50@gmail.com)

9/18 - Sandy Dell'Arciprete  
132 S. Lansdowne Ave.  
Lansdowne, PA 19050  
[sda132@aol.com](mailto:sda132@aol.com)

9/27 - Jim Hatten  
224 James Dr.  
Drexel Hill, PA 19026  
[jimhatteniii@aol.com](mailto:jimhatteniii@aol.com)

9/19 - Helen Campbell  
410 Alexander Ave.  
Drexel Hill, PA 19026  
[giveemhelen@aol.com](mailto:giveemhelen@aol.com)



# We're Searching for Volunteers

Are you new to our church and/or looking for an opportunity to serve, meet people and make DHUMC a better place? There are many ways to participate. If you are crafty, maybe you could decorate a bulletin board or work on door wreaths or holiday altar decorations. You could help with the after-church coffee social. Delivering flowers to a member can brighten someone's day. Maybe we could add you to our communion guild. You could be a substitute for the counting team. If you would like to plan or work

on a social event, that would be much appreciated by all. You could send cards to shut-ins. How about filling in as an usher? If you see yourself helping in other ways, don't hesitate to ask. **See the list of opportunities below...**

## Get Involved!

Worship is a blessing. Our Drexel Hill United Methodist Church is so much more! Are you looking for a way to serve through our congregation? Here is a list you might consider:

### Activity:

Delivering altar flowers  
Ushering  
Singing in the choir  
Community Outreach  
Addressing Gun Violence

Maintenance of the building  
Gardening  
Media/digital/newsletter  
Membership Committee

### Contact:

Sally Mullin  
Charles Webb  
Dan Matarazzo  
Helen Campbell  
Keith Chase &  
Dave O'Connell  
Alex Mullin  
Barb O'Connell  
Diane Volpe  
Jane Todd

sallyannemullin@gmail.com  
chuckster242@comcast.net  
dmatarazzo90@gmail.com  
giveemhelen@aol.com  
keithmchase@gmail.com  
docnea@verizon.net  
acmullinv@gmail.com  
[texmomoc@verizon.net](mailto:texmomoc@verizon.net)  
office@dhum.org  
janedt@verizon.net

Please contact Pastor Atkinson at 610.259.2104 and he will get you in touch with a leader in your area of interest.

## Fall Arrives September 22<sup>nd</sup>!



# Drexel Hill United Methodist Church Calendar

september					2023	
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN	
28 August	29	30	31	1 September	2/3 9am DHUMC Together In the Word 14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost	
4 Labor Day	5	6	7 9am Bacon Toast and Heavenly Host 9am & 5:30pm Gardening	8	9/10 9am DHUMC Together In the Word 15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost	
11 7pm Administrative Council Meeting	12 9:30am Bible Study 11 am Fellowship Pre- School Starts	13	14	15	16/17 9am DHUMC Together In the Word Rally Day Sunday	
18	19 9:30am Bible Study 11 am Fellowship	20	21 1pm Crafters & Fellowship Meetup	22 Fall Arrives	23/24 9am DHUMC Together In the Word 17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost	
25	26 9:30am Bible Study 11 am Fellowship	27	28	29	30/1 October	
2	3	4	5	6	7/8	

