



Ministry @ DHUMC

Drexel Hill United Methodist Church

September 2024

www.dhum.org

Centennial Year

Pastor's Message

For the Lord your God has blessed you in all that you have done; God has known your wanderings through this great wilderness. These forty [or for DHUMC, 100] years the Lord your God has been with you; you have not lacked a thing.”

Deuteronomy 2:7

We Are No Longer Secular!

What an exciting time to be alive! We are at a cross-roads time, in 2024, in so many ways – internationally, nationally, politically, and culturally our lives are being changed by forces way beyond our control! Whether we like these changes or not is not the most important question at all . . . but the real question is: how are we going to swim in these mighty changing currents?

October Dates to Keep in Mind

October 3 –

Breakfast at Perkins

October 8 - Matsiko World Orphan Choir Concert

October 26 –

Charge Conference

October 27 –

Centennial Celebration

One of these changes we face in our Centennial year is that we are living in a more secular age. It is clear that “churchy” things do not occupy the imaginations of our children the way they have ours. I do not believe for a moment that wonder, reflections on the transcendent, and searching for meaning are the stuff of the past. Younger generations seek for understanding every bit as much as we. Today’s world may be measured as less churchy, but everyone needs to understand a purpose for their lives in order to truly live.

We think of “secular” as being the opposite of “religious.” Of course, in the larger culture we inhabit, that is that - language has become impoverished. Most ideas that used to be in relationship have been reduced to oppositions. Such is true with regard to “secular” and “religious.” It once was that secular referred to things of the moment, the time, or this century, while the religious was concerned with that which has meaning across larger spans of time -

The transcendent and the eternally true.

What an entertaining notion! That this year, our congregation is crossing over from the secular to the religious timespan! I had thought we were there all along. This does pose a question for us though – how to offer the religious frame we have found so vital in our lives to a secular age where the ascendancy of notions such as autonomy of choice and diversity of truth hobble anyone’s pursuit of a sacred life.

This Centennial year is a fine time to celebrate, but also to rise to the challenge of offering Jesus to a world that has lost its sense of what it might be missing or where to find meaning. That may sound bold and brassy, but why not? What an exciting time to be alive!

Peace,

Russell J. Atkinson



Coffee and Conversation

Please stop by for 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 and Fellowship Hour



Join us every **Tuesday** at 11 am to 11:50 am where we will gather in the parking lot to hear a psalm and reflect on it briefly, and then engage in light exercise – walking the neighborhood. Please come and join us.

Crafters & Fellowship Meetup Return!



The Crafters will once again gather in the Bohn Parlor on the third Thursday of the month. Even if you do not have a craft or hobby project, you are welcome to come be with friends. If you would like to learn how to knit or crochet, we can get you started. If you have a skill you would like to share with us, please do so. We come in the side door on School Lane at 1:00 pm. If you arrive after 1:10 pm, please ring the doorbell and wait a minute or two until we come down the stairs. Come join us on **September 19th!**



Bacon, Toast, and the Heavenly Host

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 5, 2024**. Hope to see you there!

Ministry@DHUMC

A monthly newsletter for the membership of DHUMC.

Administrative Assistant
Editor & Circulation:
Diane Volpe
office@dhum.org/[610-259-2104](tel:610-259-2104)

Submissions:
Email Diane Volpe at office@dhum.org no later than the third Sunday of each month to have items included in the newsletter.

Church Office:
Pastor Russell Atkinson
pastor@dhum.org
Email/Phone:
office@dhum.org/[610-259-2104](tel:610-259-2104)



Tuesday Morning Faith Bible Study

Beginning on **September 10th**, join in our Tuesday Morning Bible Class! We are a group who gather to read and talk about Bible themes. We meet in person in the Church Office as well as online via ZOOM. You are very welcome to give it a try and, if you like what you see, please attend. **Important:** you'll need a Bible. We'll begin at 9:30am and finish a little before 11am. The Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81458981321?pwd=SmFRQopLS21kUmdhZHNRnRnJmbnFyUT09>



Russell Atkinson, Pastor

September Worship Services

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2024
Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
“The Work Isn’t a Job”

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Rally Day

September 8, 2024
Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Mark 7:24-37
“It Takes the Whole Box of
Crayons to Color God’s
World”

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 15, 2024
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Mark 8:27-38
“The Cost of Following”

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 22, 2024
Proverbs 31:10-31
Mark 9:30-37
“The Man Nobody Knows”

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 29, 2024
Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-
29
Mark 9:38-50
Centennial Guest Preacher:
Dr. David Eckert



September 2, 2024

Lay Reader Schedule for September

- 1 David O’Connell
- 8 Carol Martsolf
- 15 Keith Chase
- 22 Marion Mendimasa
- 29 Anne Louise Simons



September 22....





September Worship Notes

Come Labor On

Worship and Meaning in our Centennial Year

*O God, you have bound us together in this life.
Give us grace to understand how our lives depend
on the courage, the industry, the honesty,
and the integrity of all who labor.
May we be mindful of their needs, grateful for their faithfulness,
and faithful in our responsibilities to them;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Reinhold Niebuhr, alt.

Liturgia, the Greek from which we get our English word liturgy has been defined as “the people’s sweaty work.” If our recent experience of the pandemic has taught us anything it is the meaning and value of work. Whose work is essential and what work can be done from home? But in the world of faith, we must ask; can anything truly be accomplished virtually? That is an essential question in our Centennial year! What are the consequences of remaining apart? We each have work to do. Some work can be done alone and in isolation, while other work is the work of the people congregated.

All sorts of labor will be celebrated in our September worship services. With bread and chalice, paper and pen, crayons, saw and hammer, laptop and bookbag, we will give glory to God for our mission and ministries.

In our Wesleyan tradition, when we gather for worship, we do not seek to separate ourselves from the world and go to another realm. We are not in the habit of using incense or bells to signify the presence of the transcendent moment. Rather, we seek to revive again our sense of the holy in our lives and work. God is present in our workplaces no matter what we do.

Continuing Through Mark

The Gospel According to Mark is nearly universally held to be the earliest of the Gospels and also the source for most of what is contained in the others. It is the shortest – dressing out to a petite 16 chapters. It also comes across as the most literarily economic and urgent – though this can sometimes be deceiving; many a memorable phrase comes from Mark’s chapters:

“What God has joined together, let no one put asunder.”

“For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come.”

“No one can enter a strong man’s house without first tying him up.”

“Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.”

A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.”

The month begins with Mark 7:24-37, and full it is of healing stories as Jesus meets the foreigner (Syrophoenician woman) and the occasion for an expanded perspective on Jesus’ mission field. After giving a deaf and speech-impaired man full faculties, the crowd around return thanks be not listening to Jesus and telling others what Jesus asked them specifically not to say. An interesting question for us to

ponder – what do we do rejoicing in God’s gifts that might be displeasing to God? The passage from Mark 8:27-38, asks us first who we believe Jesus to be and eventually comes full circle by asking us who we think we are.

The lessons we will be hearing through the end of September, as we walk through the back third of the 9th chapter (which is a marvelously extreme work in and of itself), begin with the Transfiguration on the dazzling mountain top and close with the utterly common salt of the earth.

September promises to be a great month for scripture hearing at Drexel Hill United Methodist Church! O God, you have bound us together in this life.

Rally Day and Barbeque Picnic



In this, our Centennial year as a congregation on Burmont Road, **September 8th** will be the Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost, and it will also be Rally Day! Our theme this year will be, “It Takes the Whole Box of Crayons to Color God’s World.” During our worship service, we will consider the wonder of God’s good creation as we color our faith through the medium of crayons!

Following the service, we will enjoy a fellowship meal on the patio! The grill will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, and veggie burgers. Everyone is asked to bring something to share: a salad, a side dish, or a desert. A sign-up sheet will be available in the back of the nave. Please record what you intend to bring so the organizers can better plan.

Guild of Layreaders

As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country. Proverbs 25:25

Would you consider offering yourself to the ministry of layreading? Our layreaders are going to meet following the worship service on **September 15th**. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss 4 items:

1. Have Yvette Benson, our Layreader Coordinator review our current system.
2. Learn to use the new sound-system to best advantage.
3. Review the lessons that will be used through September – December to see who is best suited to reading them.
4. Discuss any concerns that layreaders offer to the group.



We’ll be meeting in the front of the Sanctuary. What a blessing to be able to bring the word of Scripture to the congregation during worship. Please contact Russell Atkinson with any questions: (610)675-7187, pastor@dhum.org

News Around Our Community

DHUMC CELEBRATING 100 YEARS!

As we move toward the completion of our 100th Anniversary booklet, the committee is once again asking for your input. This brief survey asks you to think about your personal relationship to Drexel Hill UMC by answering one or more of the following questions. Your comments will be included on the anniversary booklet as space allows.



- What drew you to this church?
- What is your favorite memory of DHUMC?
- What are you looking forward to?
- What other special memory or note would you like to share?

Please email your answers to the church office at office@dhum.org or mail them to Drexel Hill United Methodist Church, 600 Burmont Road, Drexel Hill, PA 19026. To those of you who have already filled out this survey and dropped it in the box at church, and we thank you for your comments.

Administrative Council Meeting



The DUMC Administrative Council will meet on **Monday, September 9th**. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be held on Zoom. Shortly before 7:00 pm, please look for your invitation from Pastor Atkinson to join the meeting. If you aren't a member of the Administrative Council, but would like to sit in on this meeting, please contact the church office by phone at 610-259-2104 or by email at office@dhum.org Please mark your calendar and make plans to attend as we meet to discuss our outlook for the 2024-25 church year.

Gardening News

by Barb O'Connell



Cooler weather is approaching and gardening is becoming more delightful. Weeding and watering will continue in **September on Wednesday, the 4th at 9:00 am**. We will be taking a look at the courtyard and preparing it for the return of the Nursery School children.

You may choose to weed, prune, mulch, water, deadhead---whatever suits your fancy. You also get to choose how long you stay. Bring your own tools or share what we have on hand. We gather on the patio at the front of the church---hope to see you there.
Barb O'Connell (610-348-9129).

Christian Nationalism Discussion

In September, you are invited to a vital and timely topic - **Christian Nationalism: What It Is and Why It's Dangerous**. Our pastor, Russell Atkinson, will be attending all three sessions lead by Dr. Greg Carey, an international expert on the topic, who will present and lead discussion on the history, impact, and concerns of Christian nationalism. Three sessions, 1 1/2 hours each, with the same program, will be offered on the dates listed below. Please register for one of the three events for September by clicking on one of the links below:

Workshop/event title Christian Nationalism: What It Is and Why It's Dangerous

Dates of events:

- Thursday, September 12, 2024
- <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/993592230107?aff=oddtcreator>
- Monday, September 16, 2024
- <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1001535729327?aff=oddtcreator>
- Tuesday, September 24, 2024
- <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1001548758297?aff=oddtcreator>

This offering is part of an ongoing series of presentations through *Crossroads and Connections: Building Relationships and Community*. This starts *Crossroads'* third year of book studies, workshops, and sacred listening sessions. The purpose is to have open discussions, challenge participants to grow and to use suggestions/resources to build community and to keep human life human. The four areas addressed by Crossroads are gun violence, racism, environmental issues, and mass incarceration.

Crossroads programs in the near future are:

October: *The Problem with Plastics*
Nov/Dec: *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*, the context of his struggles and challenges and how they are relevant today.

Nursery School News

Photo and story by Denise McCarthy & Jennifer Ryan

The nursery school staff is excited to be returning to school on Tuesday, September 10th.

We would like to welcome Ms. Liz Moorhead as Mrs. Ryan's aide and Ms. Mackenzie Hoban as Mrs. Burwell's aide.

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 four-day, 4-year-old-class and three-day, 3-year-old classes.

We look forward to a great year!



One of our students grew this sunflower from seeds we planted in class.



Project Restoration Help Needed

Our congregation has been asked to supply 2-4 volunteers - we are finishing a small amount of glue down resilient flooring, stucco repair, and minor interior painting at

one home. At another is only drywall repairs to two ceiling cracks. Please feel free to contact me (pastordhum.org, (610)675-7187) if you have any questions. Further, on **Friday, September 8th**, we hope to gather a team to work on other Project Restoration tasks.

Upper Darby Food Bank

by Charline Neigh

WE OPENED ON AUGUST 19TH after being closed for 3 weeks. We have been very busy and we didn't have fresh food to give out the first two days. We must rethink being closed for that long. The need for food is growing. The best time to come for fresh food and baked goods are 11 am Monday and Tuesday morning. People are still very generous with monetary donations and our volunteers do the shopping. Our volunteers are all wonderful and thankfully we are currently staffed enough. We will be closed Labor Day weekend. When in doubt, people can call 610-853-2481 to check on our status.



DHUMC Notes of Thanks

THANK YOU



To Helen Campbell and DHUMC Members:

I wanted to thank you all so very much for the true benefit and enjoyment of the altar flowers delivered to me to so greatly enjoy on my birthday weekend! So colorful and they lasted a very long trime....like my friendship with so many of you. God bless you all! Chris Lenz

UMCOR Disaster Response Kits

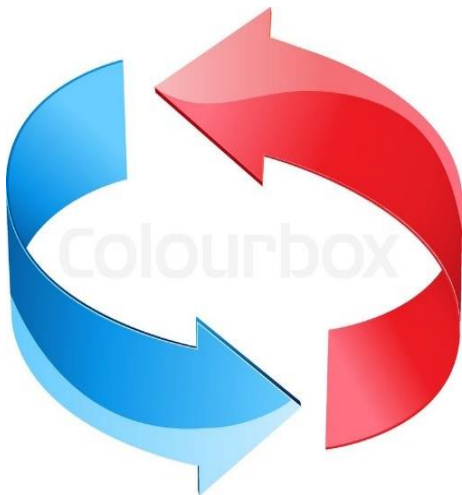
Photos and Story by Alex Mullin

It's that time of year again when the US faces the devastating aftermath of what storms can bring to the region. Members of DHUMC took time out during services on July 29th, to help pack five UMCOR cleaning kits for needy homeowners and to be sent where needed. Sally Mullin directed the activity and many members of our church helped to pitch in to assemble the kits. Thanks to all who volunteered during the service and donated the materials for each kit.





New Directions for DHUMC by Keith Chase



Fall Forward!

Sometime in September an update on our strategic direction will be presented and discussed on a Sunday morning or after a worship service. We fell behind in some areas this summer, but will get back on track across the board to advance all five priorities.

Gardeners often refer to *Fall is for Planting...* for New Directions for DHUMC *Fall is for Moving Forward* (and planting too.)



Pastor David Returns!

On Sunday, September 29th, at 10 a.m., the Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost, David Eckert, previous pastor and one of our Centennial guest preachers will bring us the Word. David was pastor of Drexel Hill UMC from 2008 to 2016. His wife, Amy, and sons Noel and Jonah were active parts of our congregation.

Currently, David serves our congregation at Marshalltown UMC, Chester County, and is an active part of our Conference's urban ministries program.

You'll certainly enjoy seeing David and swapping stories about an important time in his life and the life of our congregation.

DHUMC Addressing Gun Violence

In the Fall, we will have an open discussion about resuming our efforts, however small those steps may be to do our part in addressing this tragic situation. In the interim, if you have any ideas or suggestions please speak with Dave O'Connell or Keith Chase.



Be Someone's Hero
Give Blood



Blood Drive **Drexel Hill United Methodist Church**

Rainbow Room
600 Burmont Road
Drexel Hill, PA 19026

Monday, September 30, 2024
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



DHUMC Blood Drive

Please join us for a blood drive at Drexel Hill United Methodist Church on Monday, **September 30th** from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org) to schedule an appointment or call 1-800-733-2767.

A Short History of Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting

Photos and story by Sally Mullin

This summer I visited the Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association's location in Oak Bluffs on the island. It is now a national historic landmark. The idea of camp meetings originated in England and Scotland. It was part of the Great Awakening of the early 19th century. Francis Asbury was the first Methodist bishop ordained in America. Under his leadership, camp meetings became all the rage. People got together to sing, pray, receive communion and listen to circuit riders preach the gospel.

A Revival style meeting was started in Edgartown in 1835. 200 people attended the first meeting. At this time many attendees lived in tents during their visits.

The Seaview hotel was built in 1872 and it became the heart of the camp revival. In 1873 Trinity Methodist Church was built next door to the tabernacle. The meeting grounds became more permanent. Over time many people extended their stay before and after the camp meeting. Boarding houses and restaurants sprang up on the outskirts of the campgrounds and wooden cottages with elaborate jigsaw-cut gingerbread trim began to replace the tents.

In 1886, the resort named Cottage City became independent of Edgartown. In 1907 they changed the name to Oak Bluffs. Meetings are still held on Martha's Vineyard lasting four days, starting on Friday afternoons.

I was interested in seeing the camp meeting which is part of our Methodist history. The Tabernacle is open on the sides. You can still feel the life in this aged, but still used religious center.

Gingerbread houses surround the area. Some of these houses can be rented. You can make an appointment to visit one. Unfortunately, our tour didn't allow much time for exploration. Sunday services are held in July and August and are now interdenominational. I thought this adventure was worth sharing with our congregation.



Methodist Tabernacle. Front. Oak Bluffs, Mass.

1340.



Happy Birthdays in September!



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.

9/3 - Barbara O'Connell
509 Lawrence Dr.
Springfield, PA 19064
texmomoc@verizon.net

9/18 - Sandy Dell' Arciprete
132 S. Lansdowne Ave.
Lansdowne, PA 19050
sda132@aol.com

9/19 - Helen Campbell
410 Alexander Ave.
Drexel Hill, PA 19026
giveemhelen@aol.com

9/23 - David Bjorkgren
247 Abbey Terr., 1st Fl.
Drexel Hill, PA 19026
dbjorkgren50@gmail.com

9/27 - Jim Hatten
224 James Dr.
Havertown, PA 19083
jimhatteniii@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
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.

Drexel Hill United Methodist Church Calendar

September 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| 1 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost | 2 | 3 11am Fellowship Hour | 4 9am Gardeners Meet | 5 9am Bacon Toast | 6 Project Restoration | 7 |
| 8 Rally Day | 9 7pm Admin Council Meeting | 10 11am Fellowship Hour 9am Bible Study Nursery School Opens | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 Seventeen Sunday after Pentecost <u>Lay Readers Meeting</u> | 16 | 17 11am Fellowship Hour 9am Bible Study | 18 | 19 1 pm Crafters Fellowship | 20 | 21 |
| 22 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost | 23 | 24 11am Fellowship Hour 9am Bible Study | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 Nineteen Sunday after Pentecost | 30 2pm Blood Drive | | | | | |

