

Ministry @ DHUMC

Drexel Hill United Methodist Church

April, 2023

www.dhum.org

Easter Then, Easter Now

Pastor's Message

And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?"

When they looked up, they saw the stone, which was very large, rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here." Mark 16:2-6



The Easter story is amazing! More than that, though, it is incredible! Surely, life after death is more digestible in its familiar other-worldly suit of harps, clouds, and halos. But in the flesh! Now that is disturbing! For a few years now, I have been amazed at the immediacy of the Easter accounts in the Gospels, particularly here in Mark where the story is told in just a few phrases. The incredible is so economically reported, and the dazzling truth is so thriftily unwrapped.

Easter is not an event only, but the pattern of our lives. This makes more sense to me the older I become. Our grieving creates a longing until our believing begets our belonging (as Ted Loder says in *Guerrillas of Grace*). Out of painful longings we develop new beliefs, the old beliefs passing away having served their day. Here is the deep mystery: death and the many little deaths of our lives become the doorway to growth and new life. This is the paschal mystery, from Pascha, the Hebrew Passover, where violent political oppression in Egypt becomes the birth pangs of liberation. It is the message of the Joseph story in Genesis:

"You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good, so that many people might be kept alive," Gen 50:20.

The paschal mystery is seen most clearly in the cross and resurrection of Jesus: violent suffering transformed into loving energy.

If we do not fill the vacuum of our losses with positive beliefs, the vacuum becomes filled with a sort of Gospel According to Hobbs, lesser beliefs (life is a struggle, and then you die). We clutch these "attachments" to fill the void, until they disillusion us. But if we will stop to listen to our grieving, our temporary desires point us to our deepest Desire. I believe that is when the stone is rolled away dear friends. Our God has done an amazing thing for us.

A blessed Easter to you,
And to those you love,
And to those they love,
And on and on until all
the world is blessed.

Russell J. Atkinson



Coffee and Conversation



Our coffee, tea and conversation time after church service on Sundays 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



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.

Ministry@DHUMC

A monthly newsletter for the membership of DHUMC.

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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 **April 6, 2023**. Hope to see you there!



DHUMC Member Directory Available

During the month of April, directories will be mailed or delivered to members who no longer attend in person and have not received one.



Administrative Council Meeting

The next Administrative Council meeting will be held on Zoom on Monday, **April 17th**. As usual, the meeting will be called to order at 7:00 p.m., so please watch for Pastor Atkinson to send out the Zoom log-in information shortly before 7 p.m. If you aren't a member of the Council but would like to sit in on the meeting, please contact the church office at office@dhum.org or Becky Harbison at rrharbison@verizon.net, and you will be added to the Zoom invitation list.



Russell Atkinson, Pastor

April Worship Services

Palm/Passion Sunday

April 2, 2023
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Luke 19:41-44
“Choosing Liberation”

Maundy Thursday

April 6, 2022
Exodus 12:1-14
John 13:1-17, 31b-35
“Remembering Shared”

Easter Sunday

April 9, 2022
Acts 10:34-43
John 20:1-18
“The Encounter”

Second Sunday of Easter

April 16, 2022
John 20:19-31
“The Show-Me Disciple”

Third Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2022
Luke 24:13-35
“The Long and Winding Road”

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 30, 2022
Psalm 23
John 10:1-10
“Hearing Voices”



Lay Reader Schedule for April

- 2 Jane Leggieri
- 9 Sally Mullin
- 16 Barbara Felton
- 23 Becky Harbison
- 30 Alex Mullin

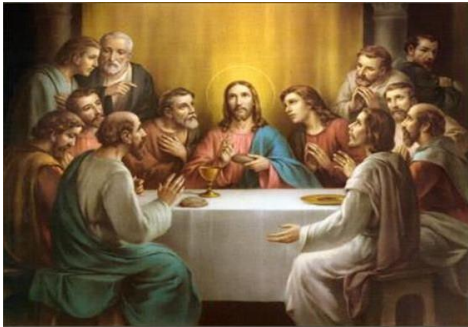


Earth Day April 22



Worship Notes

The Lord's Supper Maundy Thursday Service



Join in worship on Maundy Thursday, 7:30pm, **April 6th**. On Maundy Thursday night Christians celebrate the supper Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion, when Jesus instituted the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The gospel text for the evening, John 13:1-17, 31b – 35, only makes the briefest mention of the supper, however. Nevertheless, it is an appropriate text for the evening. The title Maundy Thursday recalls the new commandment (manatum novum in Latin) Jesus speaks in John 13:34, "Love one another.

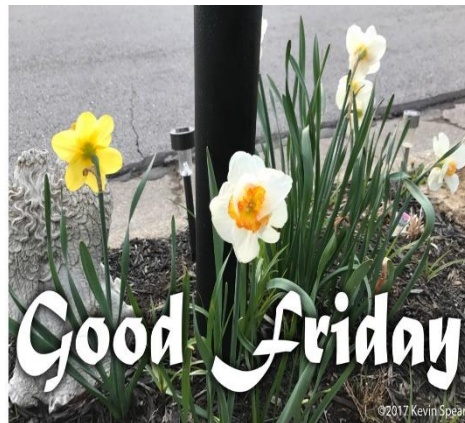
Following the service, we will remove all the paraments and brass in preparation for Good Friday. the ancient practice of stripping the church on this night following communion is a vivid way of showing the desolation and abandonment our Lord was subject to following his arrest.

Maundy Thursday is a service full of a special immediacy not least because the Upper Room supper took place at night – and we have few opportunities to partake of this Sacramental meal at night (Ash Wednesday evening is the only other evening Lord's Supper observance presently in our congregation's life.).

Come, eat and drink, and remember.

Good Friday Service

Our community will gather for a Good Friday observance at 7:30pm, **April 7th**. The service commemorates Jesus' final hours on the cross.



Wonderful Eastertide

Listen to the sounds of earth's resurrection as a solitary blackbird heralds the dawn calling his fellows to sing out a chorus in glad celebration of light and life reborn.

The sun has risen. Let us greet the day. Alleluia! Listen to the sounds of Christ's Resurrection, as the earth trembles and the stone is rolled away, as women take courage to tell their good news no longer fearful of what anyone might say.

Christ has risen. The stone is rolled away. Alleluia!

Listen to the sounds of faith's resurrection, in the thud of racing heartbeats and running feet. In word tumbling over word in their eagerness to announce love's vindication and death's defeat.

Christ has risen. He has given us the victory. Alleluia!

Celebrate today the sounds of resurrection in early morning worship and breaking bread. Sing with glad thanksgiving the church's dawn chorus 'Christ is alive! He has risen from the dead.'

Christ is alive. He has risen from the dead. Alleluia!

Celebrate today the sounds of resurrection where truth is mocked and violence glorified. Shout out for joy, an Easter song of freedom in every place where love is crucified.

Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Jean Mortimer, The United Reformed Church

Hymn Background

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today



In the English-speaking world this is certainly the most recognized Easter hymn. The words were first written by Charles Wesley in 1739, but ever since others have added to, and subtracted from, this great Easter hymn. Our 1989 hymnal was the first attempt, by a major American denomination to express a conviction for gender equality through inclusive language. In stanza 1:2, “sons of men and angels” has been changed to “earth and heaven in chorus.” Whatever its merits

on poetic grounds it succeeds in avoiding the sin of sexism.

The poem was first published as “Hymn for Easterday.” It had eleven four-line stanzas. In 1760 it appeared in *A Collection of Psalms and Hymns*, but had its stanzas reduced to eight. Because John Wesley did not include the hymn in his 1780 *Collection*, it did not come into use until 1831 in British Methodist hymnals, although it had been reprinted with “Hallelujah’s” added in other collections. The text entered American Methodist hymnals in 1849, with the first five of the original eleven stanzas. The hymn was sung to a variety of tunes until the 1905 *Methodist Hymnal* coupled it with the present tune and altered each line with the addition of the Hallelujah’s. Hallelujah was changed to “Alleluia” in the 1935 hymnal. Our present hymnal includes seven stanzas; the second is the first couplet of Wesley’s second and the second couplet of his third. The omitted couplets:

Lo! our Sun’s Eclipse is o’er,
Lo! He sets in Blood no more.
Vain the Stone, the Watch, the Seal;
Christ has burst the Gates of Hell!

Apparently, most modern versions conclude this hymn with the words “Ours the cross, the grave the skies.” Surely, that is the way many of us remember it from our childhoods. Our current hymnal restores the final two stanzas of Wesley’s 1739 original, and provides a more accurate Wesleyan theology of eternal life. As more than one Wesley scholar has noted, the Methodist movement has been concerned with eternal life here and now.

King of glory, soul of bliss,
Everlasting life is this,
Thee to know, thy power to prove,
Thus to sing, and thus to love.

New Members:

Join the Sacred Throng

O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall, we at his feet may fall! We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of All.

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name, Edward Perronet, 1779.

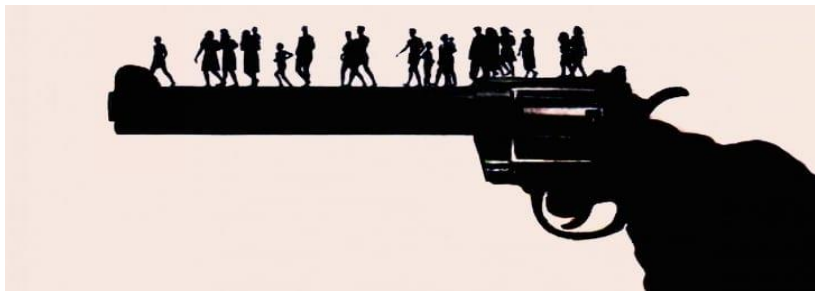
Would you like to join Drexel Hill United Methodist Church? We have a wonderful ministry here. We also have a beautiful congregation. On the Sunday following Easter, **April 16th**, our congregation will be taking in new members. Please inquire of the pastor if you feel moved to join. We can be a blessing to one another and together a blessing from God to the world.



Our service on April 16th will be full of singing, dancing and joy! We will be worshipping with the Matsiko World Orphan Choir. Called “Our world’s treasure” by Disneyland in March of 2012, and “The greatest ambassadors for our world’s orphaned and vulnerable children” by a former US Congressman, the Matsiko World Orphan Choir tours the United States to promote hope through education.

Events & News Around Our Community

DHUMC Response to Gun Violence Update



The horrific Nashville school killings underscores the crisis is going unabated. Solving this problem will require a wide range of changes—top-down policy and grass roots community building efforts. And a mighty movement of the Hand of God.

Our **May 13th** Celebrate Community—Health and Music Fair is a grassroots effort to build bridges with our community, tangibly demonstrating the love of God. Good progress is being made with much more to do. The organizing group will be asking for volunteers in specific areas during April and into early May. Please pray that this nightmare will end and that God will lead us and equip us for the May 13th event to be a start in our community.

There are other DHUMC responses to gun violence efforts that were shared in early February that will resume as the May Celebrate Community gets further along.

Crafters & Fellowship Meetup

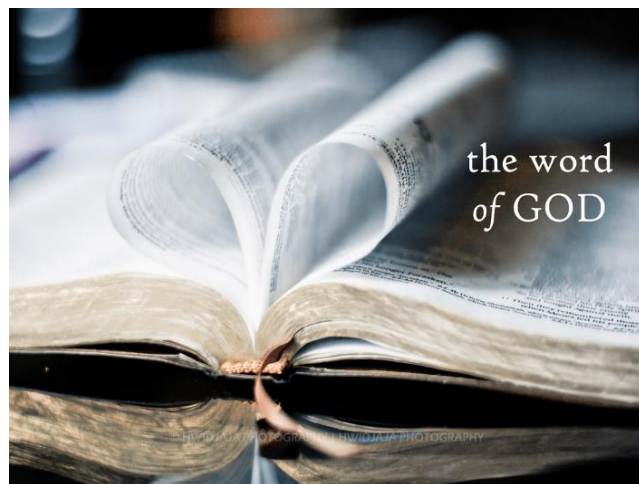


Enjoy our community with an afternoon with crafters. This group of women enjoy knitting and crocheting, but more importantly they enjoy the friendships that have formed. Even if crafts and needlework are not your thing, you are more than welcome to come for the conversation and camaraderie that is sure to ensue. Gatherings are in the Bohn Parlor at 1:00 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Join us on **April 20th**.

DHUMC Together In The Word

Sundays (9:15 am in the Prayer Chapel)

As we celebrate the 100-year anniversary of our church, we are reminded of God's faithfulness and the incredibly great gift of the Word. Each week we will have a time to discuss God's Word from 9:15 am to 9:45 am in the prayer chapel. Please join for what will be a basic and comfortable format. We will share a short passage from the Bible and consider its application to our lives and the life of DHUMC. You don't need to bring a Bible as there will be a handout including the passage for that day and some questions/topics for reflection and discussion.



DHUMC Together In The Word reflects the simple intent of this weekly Bible discussion: Our being the body of Christ here in Drexel Hill growing in the knowledge and service of God...together.

Tuesday Morning Faith Bible Study



Our Bible Study/Faith Formation Class will meet each **Tuesday**, 9:30 to 11 a.m., by ZOOM invitation and is open to everyone. 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) if you would like to be included on the Zoom invitation.



National Pet Day (April 11)

Nursesey School News



Our school photographer came and took pictures of the children in March. There were lots of smiles! We celebrated Dr. Seuss on his birthday by reading some of his books and making fun crafts. On St. Patrick's Day we searched for a "Pot of Gold".

School will be closed April 4th through April 7th for Spring Break.

During the month of April, we will have yellow day, look for signs of Spring, and on **April 18th**, the Fire Company will visit us. The firefighters will teach the children about fire safety and then they will be able to see the fire trucks.

We are continuing to work on our alphabet books that we will bring home at the end of the school year. Registration is still open for the 2023-2024 school year.

Spring is Calling all Gardners!

Spring has announced its arrival to the grounds around DHUMC. Each week you will be able to notice changes in the flowers, shrubs, and trees. Take time to enjoy the new growth on the corner of Burmont and Bloomfield--the "helicopter bed." Also note the new look to the border of the parking lot along Burmont Road. If you are willing to take part in caring for nature's delights, join the fun on Monday, **April the 24th** at 9:00 a.m.



Upper Darby Food Bank



Thank you so much for your donation of \$230 from the Super Bowl of Caring collection. We will put the money toward purchasing meat items for our clients. We have been keeping busy due to the cuts in snacks and the food stamps programs. Your donations will be used to help stock our shelves. No one in our area, Upper Darby Township, Milbourn, 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. **We are closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday.**

Happy Birthdays in April!



Here are a few birthdays to celebrate in the month of April! Please be sure to let the church office know if you want to be added to the birthday list! A card or email from friends makes birthdays just a bit brighter! Please consider getting in touch with the following church members by regular mail or email to help them celebrate their special days.

4/12 – Christ Lenz
905 Harper Avenue
Drexel Hill, PA 19026
lenzarts2@msn.com

3/20 – Rev. Jack Ross
1915 Acorn Lane
Abington, PA 19001
jackross3101@gmail.com

4/20 – John Mahoney
268 N. Highland Avenue
Lansdowne, PA 19050
Moejo1245@verizon.net

4/28 - Judy Frysinger
217 W. Rose Valley Road
Wallingford, PA 19086
jfrysin@comcast.net

Drexel Hill United Methodist Church Calendar

april						2023
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN	
27 March	38	29	30	31	1/2 April DHUMC Together In the Word Palm Sunday	
3	4 9:30am Bible Study 11am Fellowship Spring Break Starts	5	6 9am Bacon Toast & Heavenly Host Maundy Thursday	7 Good Friday	8/9 DHUMC Together In the Word Easter Sunday	
10	11 9:30am Bible Study 11am Fellowship Hour	12	13	14	15/16 DHUMC Together In the Word Second Sunday pf Easter	
17 7pm Administrative Council Meeting	18 9:30am Bible Study 11am Fellowship Hour	19	20 1pm Crafters & Fellowship Meetup	21	22/23 DHUMC Together In the Word Third Sunday of Easter	
24 9am Gardening Time	25 9:30am Bible Study 11am Fellowship Hour	26	27	28	29/30 DHUMC Together In the Word Sunday Fourth Sunday of Easter	
1 May	2	3	4	5	6/7	



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
Helping with communion Ushering
Singing in the choir
Community Outreach
Hand out lunch on the Parkway
Helping in the Sunday school
Addressing Gun Violence
Maintenance of the building Gardening
Media/digital/newsletter
Prepare after-church refreshments

Contact:

Sally Mullin sallyannemullin@gmail.com
Charles Webb chuckster242@comcast.net
Dan Matarazzo dmatarazzo90@gmail.com
Helen Campbell giveemhelen@aol.com
Russell Atkinson pastor@dhum.org
Helen Campbell giveemhelen@aol.com
Dave O'Connell docnea@verizon.net
Alex Mullin acmullinv@gmail.com
Diane Volpe office@dhum.org
Jane Todd janedt@verizon.net

If you don't use email but would still like to reach out to serve in an activity, just contact Pastor Atkinson at 610.259.2104 and he will get you in touch with a leader in your interest.