

Ministry @ DHUMC

Drexel Hill United Methodist Church

November 2024

www.dhum.org

The Delight of Earthly Things

Pastor's Message

So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

1 John 4:16 NRSV

Something made is a marvel, wouldn't you say? I walk through our sanctuary at times and wonder at the faith of past generations who aspired, planned, and built our handsome church structure. Little brass plaques, so carefully worded, may hope to remind us of the life of a spouse, a child, or a parent, but all together points profoundly to the glory of God!

When Christians first began building sanctuaries, carving icons, or composing hymns, they wanted to illuminate the glory of God with the things they made. Buildings, poems, and music, are symbols of our love for God. Such things, of earthly material, were, are, and remain indications of heaven. Every time such a thing is made, though, it risks becoming an object of worship in and of itself. Icons can become idols.

When Barbara and I lived in Bayeux, Normandy, I meditated in the Cathedral each morning. I liked to get there early, before the big doors were opened, and the sightseers came through. It was then that I saw visitors come, some of whom likely only saw a wonderful building. There is no denying its impressive edifice, but some visitors' vision stopped at the technique of the stained-glass and the architecture of the pillars - and did not see the description of the glory of God that the medieval builders intended.

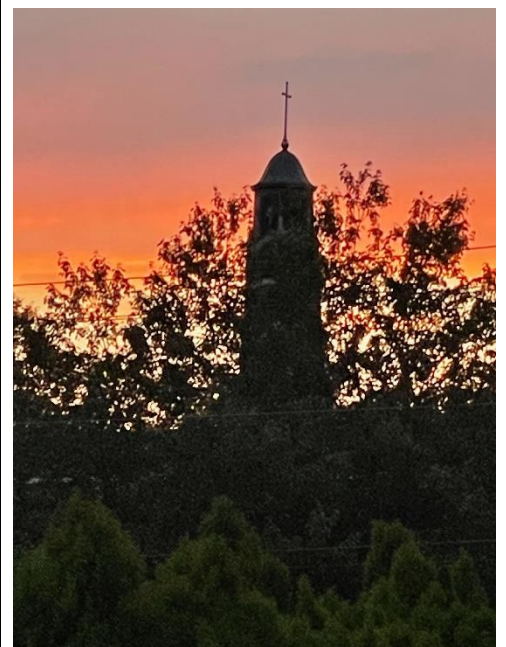
We don't need to be in a far-off ancient town to know this; we can be reminded of this as we celebrate Holy Communion. We are surrounded by a beautiful building and use beautiful words. And yet, there is the danger of going no further; of taking such delight in these earthly things that we fail to look to heaven. I can't deny it, nor would I wish to, but I love the words and the building, and as Saint John reminds us, whoever lives in love, lives in God, so I hope that whenever we encounter something beautiful and our

hearts are stirred, we edge a little closer to God.

Join me in a prayer:

O Lord, who has safely brought us to the beginning of our second century here at Drexel Hill United Methodist Church; defend us in our moments and our days with your loving presence; and grant that this day we fall into no meaninglessness, neither run into any kind of meanness; but that all our doings, being intended for love and forgiveness, may be righteous in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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



The Crafters 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 **November 21st!**



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 **November 7, 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

Why don't you join us every Tuesday Morning for 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

November Worship Services

All Saints Day

November 3, 2024

Isaiah 25:6-9

John 11:32-44

“The Problem with Eternal Life”

Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost

November 10, 2024

Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17

Mark 12:38-44

“In For a Penny....?”

Twenty-sixth Sunday After Pentecost

November 17, 2024

1 Samuel 1:4-20

Mark 13:1-8

“Oblivion’s Edge”

Reign of Christ Sunday

November 24, 2024

Ezekiel 34:11-16

Matthew 25:31-46

“What it Eternal?”



Election Day
November 5, 2024

Lay Reader Schedule for November

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



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

VETERANS DAY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

November 11st





November Worship Notes

Old Time Religion

All Saints Day Explanation

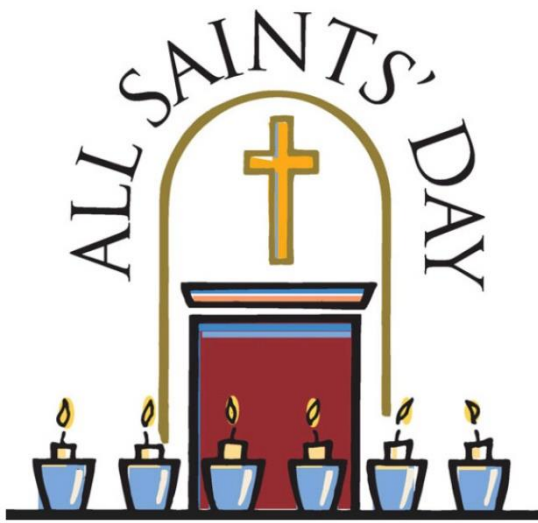
In some areas of the United States the observance of Halloween is under attack by certain Christian groups. This is curious, and perhaps even comical, as the observance of “All Hollows’ Eve” has every bit as much Christian parentage as All Saints Day. The objection is probably focused on witches, magic, and children dressing up as Harry Potter and casting spells. Occasionally these days you will hear people, often Christians, saying that we should do away with the celebration of Halloween. Halloween carnivals at schools are being changed to “Fall Festival”. Thus, something that began as a Christian celebration to become so corrupted by our modern culture that people want to dispense with it.



When we lose sight of church history, as many 21st century people do, we become ignorant of meaningful traditions, this one having been celebrated annually since about the eighth century.

Halloween derives from “Hallows ‘Eve”, the evening before All Saints’ Day or All Hallows’ Day. Hallow is an old English word for holy or saint. All Saints’ Day has been celebrated in Europe and America on November 1 for more than 1000 years. It is a day set apart in our tradition to remember the saints of the faith, those remembered in history, and many unknown. It is a time to thank God for the brave souls who paved the way before us and passed the Gospel down to us. We United Methodists, cherishing church history and tradition, continue this celebration in our day.

Selection of November 1st as All Saints Day, like the selection of other feast days, was based on celebrations observed during the pagan days of the Roman Empire. The date of All Saints’ Day was set to replace pagan harvest festivals. The tradition of All Hallows’ Eve goes back to ancient celebrations in Europe and



England when Christians dressed as early saints' or their enemies, to demonstrate the struggle between good and evil. In worship services the people would pray for protection from the evil powers of their world and proclaim the Gospel of Christ's triumph over evil. Children would parade through the streets and people would reward them with treats.

In some communities, people would gather in cemeteries near the graves of forebears whose lives had been exemplary, and commemorate their lives – John Wesley often stood on his father's grave near the door of the Anglican Church in Epworth to preach the Gospel.

Some say today that Halloween is a Satanic festival and a celebration of mischief and evil. It becomes such a thing only if we allow it to. We need, perhaps, to reemphasize its traditional meaning: the triumph of the Godly lives of the Saints of Christian history over the evil powers of this world. That's what it will continue to mean to me, and I encourage you to reclaim All Saints' Day and Halloween as a Christian celebration, too.

Welcome Back Rev. Eckert!

Photo by Barb O'Connell

On Sunday, September 29th, David Eckert, previous pastor and one of our Centennial guest preachers returned as a guest preacher. David was pastor of Drexel Hill UMC from 2008 to 2016. His wife, Amy, joined the congregation for services.

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

It was great seeing David again and we hope that he will return soon!



Rev. David Eckert and Amy Eckert

100th Anniversary Celebration!



October 27th was a day of celebration as the congregation of Drexel Hill United Methodist Church celebrated 100 years of community and service to the people of Drexel Hill. The service began with the delightful refrains of Corelli's Prelude Suite in B \flat from the Lenape Brass Ensemble. Rev. Atkinson led the congregation in prayer and song culminating with a Centennial observance outside at the corner stone of the original building on School Lane. The church bell rang out (with a little help from some strong arms) over the neighborhood announcing that the church was ready to begin its second 100 years of service. Members of the congregation returned inside to gather and enjoy a wonderful luncheon arranged by the Centennial committee. Each attendee received a special remembrance booklet and letters of congratulation were read and celebrated. It was truly a day to remember!





Note: Correction to the October Newsletter

Due to an inadvertent oversight, Carol Martsolf's name was omitted from the list of 100th Anniversary Committee members that appeared in last month's newsletter. Carol worked on helping design our centennial booklet, especially the front and back covers and also created the "Favorite Memories" survey form. Thank you, Carol. And thank you to all the helpers who made the Anniversary Luncheon a success!

News Around Our Community

Darts: Iron Sharpens Iron



Spend some time with a nice group of people in the Rainbow Room and chuck a few darts at a board. A new fellowship opportunity around darts will begin this September will meet every Monday evening at 6:30 pm. There will be metal-shaft darts in various weights, but also traditional Philadelphia darts with their turkey feather flights. We'll play Around-the-World, 301, and Baseball. Someone might suggest another game. What could be more relaxing than throwing a sharp

missile at a stationary target?

All are welcome, young and old, men and women, boys and girls. For more information, call Dave O'Connell (610)986-1174, docnea@verizon.net, or Russell Atkinson, (610)675-7187, pastor@dhum.org.

Upper Darby Food Bank

by Charline Neigh

Food Bank Report: The Food Cupboard will be closed November 11th for a federal Holiday and November 28th and 29th for Thanksgiving. As of today, we have no one giving us Turkeys this year. We have had several calls concerning this. But we have most of the other items for Thanksgiving Dinner and fully stocked on the usual items. We have a solid core of great volunteers that I enjoy working with and want to thank. We haven't had as many customers the past 2 weeks and unfortunately, we still have to serve out the window on Wayne Avenue. Remember, the first three weeks before Thanksgiving is always busy. Come early. Happy Holidays to all! If you have any questions, please call 610-853-2481.



Nursery School News

Photo by Denise McCarthy & Jennifer Ryan

The children were busy in October with the color orange and making lots of fun and scary crafts. We had lots of Halloween fun with games, stories, and music.

In November we are looking forward to Parent Visitation, Brown Day, learning about families, and our Thanksgiving Celebration. School will be closed Wednesday, 11/26 – Friday, 11/28 for Thanksgiving.

We are looking forward to a visit from Mrs. Claus in December.



October Fun!



Outreach Committee News



NOVEMBER THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

We will be collecting gift cards to area supermarkets, Target and Walmart the first three Sundays of November. Again, we are helping 5 deserving families recommended by the social workers from the Upper Darby School District. This is a wonderful opportunity to help some of our neighbors have a good Thanksgiving they might otherwise not be able to have. The cards will due by Sunday, **November 17th**. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Coats and Blanket Drive is a Big Success!

Photos and Story by Helen Campbell & Alex Mullin



We had another super successful Coat and Blanket Drive in October. The congregation generously donated 30 blankets and 15 coats to the Life Center in Upper Darby. Our donations were greatly appreciated. Pastor Atkinson blessed them at the service on October 20th and they were delivered on the 21st. A huge thank you goes out to everyone who contributed to this project.



November is Caregiver Appreciate Month

The Matsiko World Orphan Choir Brings Joy to Drexel Hill!

Story by Jane Ryan and Photos by Alex Mullin

The Matsiko World Orphan Choir arrived at DHUMC on October 7th and stayed until the 10th, using their visit to catch up on sleep and get reenergized for their continuing tour of the USA. They were very well fed by members of our congregation during their stay, and they thanked us with a joyful, musical performance on Tuesday night, filled with dancing and singing, handshakes and hugs. The 35-member choir and chaperones did some sightseeing in Philadelphia on Wednesday, and then packed up and cleaned up, leaving on Thursday morning for Pittsburgh. We will miss their smiles, singing in the hallways, their healthy appetites and their sincere thankfulness for being able to spend some time at our church.





Delaware County Flute Choir



The Delaware County Flute Choir, which uses the McBurney Chapel operates through the Upper Darby Arts and Education Foundation. The choir meet every Thursday. If you are interested in joining the class, the tentative schedule is below. Anyone interested needs to register and pay and the next session which is planned for January.

Fall 2024 Session

Thursdays, 6:30pm-8:00pm (7 rehearsals)

October 3rd - November 21 (No rehearsal on 10/31 for Halloween)

Drexel Hill UMC

Winter Session

Thursdays, 6:30pm-8:00pm

January 16th-March 6th (8 rehearsals)

Drexel Hill UMC

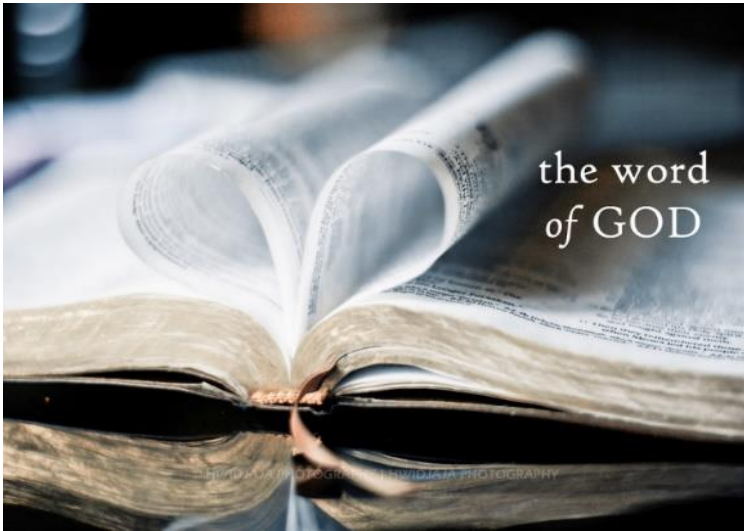
Spring Session

Thursdays, 6:30pm-8:00pm (8 rehearsals)

March 20th - May 15th (No rehearsal on 4/17 for Spring Break)

Drexel Hill UMC





DHUMC Together In The Word

Please join us each Sunday before services for another edition of Together in the Word - 9:15 am in the Prayer Chapel.

Happy Birthdays in November!



Here are a few birthdays to celebrate in the month of November! 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 Jane Todd at janedt@verizon.net.

11/25 - John Neigh
520 Fairfax Road
Drexel Hill, PA 19026
jcneigh@verizon.net

11/20 - John Campbell
410 Alexander Avenue
Drexel Hill, PA 190126



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

November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 All Saints Day	4 9:30am Bible Study 11am Fellowship Hour 6:30pm Darts	5	6	7 9 am Bacon, Toast & Heavenly Host	8	9
10 25th Sunday after Pentecost	11 9:30am Bible Study 11am Fellowship Hour 6:30pm Darts	12	13	14	15	16
17 26th Sunday after Pentecost Gift Card Food Drive	18 9:30am Bible Study 11am Fellowship Hour 6:30pm Darts	19	20	21 1pm Crafters & Fellowship Meetup	22	23
24 Reign of Christ Sunday	25 9:30am Bible Study 11am Fellowship Hour 6:30pm Darts	26	27	28	29	30

