

Ministry @ DHUMC

Drexel Hill United Methodist Church

February 2025

www.dhum.org

I Walk the Line

Pastor's Message

*1 Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of
the wicked
or take the path that sinners tread
or sit in the seat of scoffers,
2 but their delight is in the law of
the Lord,
and on his law they meditate
day and night.
Psalm 1:1-2 NRSV*

I am interested in the stories behind hymns, ballads, and songs. Johnny Cash, who was born on February 26, 1932, had a childhood of hardship in rural Arkansas. This upbringing, as well as his battles with drug and alcohol addiction, were later the subject of many of his ballads. Cash became known as, "The Man in Black," and sang of some of the deepest pain of human existence until his death in 2003.

Cash was quite public about his Christian faith, but also open regarding his struggles with faith. A prominent illustration of this is the words of his hit song *I Walk the Line*. He said it was written to affirm his desire to remain, "true to those who believed in him and depended on him, true to himself, and true to God." You might enjoy, by the way,

reading the lyrics to *I Walked the Line* next to Psalm 1. No doubt, Cash had Psalm 1 dancing in his spirit as he wrote.

To be sure, commitment is an important attribute; it is essential in public and private life. Friendships wilt and falter without loyalty. Business dealings fall apart without the firm assurance that a promise made is a promise kept. Yet, while we sometimes fail in our commitment to God or to others, Christian faith claims that God is always faithful.

The story of the Prodigal, told by Jesus, is one of the greatest in our culture. It tells of a son who asks his father for his share of the inheritance and then leaves and travels to a far country. He squanders his money and eventually, penniless he returns home to throw himself to his father's mercy. What he finds, however, is that his Father has been waiting to forgive him and to welcome him home. Over the years, people have sometimes focused on the attitude of the prodigal son,

or of the older brother who in the story is angry with his father for forgiving his wayward brother – who he rightly sees as a stupid fool. Yet, I am always drawn to think of the waiting, father. Whether 'we walk the line' or not, the Bible says God is like a loving parent who is always waiting for us.

We give you thanks for your love, O God, which never waivers. We pray you keep us ever faithful to you and in our relationships with others.

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.

Upper Darby Food Bank



We reopened on January 6th and are currently wearing masking. We have apples, oranges, carrots, lettuce, potatoes and we've added sliced cheese. We have a bigger selection of meat, already cooked and just needs warming up. For dessert we've added a variety of pies! Wawa is still available each day. Our hours are M, T, TH & F, 10 am-12 noon. The Upper Darby Food Bank is there to help people in need. We are located at: 7766 Wayne Avenue in Upper Darby.



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 **February 6, 2025**. Hope to see you there!

Ministry@DHUMC

A monthly newsletter for the membership of DHUMC.

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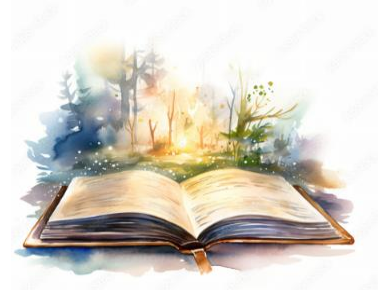
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Tuesday Morning Bible Study Class

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

February Worship Services

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

February 2, 2025
Jeremiah 1:4-10
Luke 4:21-30
“Love in Context...or Out”

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

February 9, 2025
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11
“Constant Biblical Patterns”

Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

February 16, 2025
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26
“How To Be Middle-Class and Hungry”

Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

February 23, 2025
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
Luke 6:27-38
“Active, Not Passive”



February 17th

Lay Reader Schedule for February

- 2 Cindy Carper
- 9 David O'Connell
- 16 Carol Martsolf
- 23 Keith Chase



February 14, 2025



February Worship Notes

Another Season in Faith



On Sunday, February 2nd, we continue reading the account of the early events in Jesus' ministry.

In fact, all the Gospel lessons during February are from Luke, which is the larger pattern of Year C in the cycle of lections. Luke 4:21–30 contains the famous words, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown." This is also the place where Jesus' own townsfolk seek to throw him over a cliff.

Jeremiah's report of his vocation (Jeremiah 1:4–10) is good preparation for the Lucan emphasis upon the parallels between the role of Jesus and that of the earlier Hebrew prophets: gracious words came out of his mouth, and no prophet is honored in his own country. The passage from

Jeremiah records his call and commission. "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." It also supports the theme of conflict with opponents in the Gospel lection.

The much-loved words of Paul regarding love (1 Corinthians 13: 1–13) are included in this week's service.

More is heard, on February 9th, from the semicontinuous readings from the Gospel of Luke and 1 Corinthians. This morning, we have an example of the lections not always presenting a single or even dominant theme for the worshipper. However, a motif present in one way or another in both Gospel and Epistle is concern with the power and authority of the word. First Corinthians 15: 1–11 is Paul's summary of the Gospel that he had preached and through which God works. In Luke 5: 1–11 the people crowded to hear from Jesus' "the word of God", he taught them from the boat, and at the "word" of Jesus Simon let down the nets again. Moreover, the Gospel account of the call and response of the apostles parallels in significant ways the vocation of Isaiah and his response.

The readings from Luke and 1 Corinthians continue on February 16th, each raising different issues. Luke 6:17–26 begins the Sermon on the Plain (Luke's sermon on the Mount takes place closer to sea-level) with a series of blessings and woes, in part parallel to the Beatitudes (Matt. 5:3ff). Luke stresses the contrast between the righteous and the unrighteous, between weal and woe.

First Corinthians 15: 12–20 turns our attention to Paul's argument concerning belief in the resurrection. It does to some extent suggest some of the eschatological tone of the Gospel reading.

To close the Sundays this month, on February 23rd, Genesis 45:3–11, 15 is included, doubtless selected to be read because it reinforces the main concerns our Gospel from Luke 6:27–38, in which Jesus teaches that one should love one's enemies. Joseph, in his forgiveness of his brothers, becomes an example of such love, of lending without thought of return. God's providential care. Paul's faith in the resurrection expressed in 1 Corinthians 15:35–38, 42–50. Here we'll hear Paul answer his own question, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?"

Events Around Our Community

It's Time for **Souper Bowl Sunday!** By Alex Mullin



SM WHAT IT IS: The Souper Bowl of Caring is a one-day effort to reach out and “love our neighbors” by contributing food to a local charity or organization.

WHEN IT WILL TAKE PLACE:

February 9, 2025 will be Super Bowl / Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday. Drexel Hill UMC will hold our own soup and sandwich “Souper Bowl of Caring” luncheon in

Fellowship Hall (AKA Rainbow Room) after Church.

HOW IT STARTED: Brad Smith, then a seminary intern at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina, came up with the Super Bowl = Souper Bowl of Caring idea in 1990. It has spread across the country in the years since. In over 30 years, the Souper Bowl of Caring has collected over 25 million dollars and food donations for hunger relief charities. At Drexel Hill UMC we have been holding the Souper Bowl of Caring since 2003, collecting thousands of pounds of items for donations and over \$2000.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: This year, once again, Congregation members are encouraged to bring items to donate to the Upper Darby Food Center. They are in need of creamy peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti, canned fruits, cans of Chef Boyardee products, cans of chili, white potatoes and other canned, non-perishable items. (check “use by” dates!)

SOUPS AND SANDWICHES ARE NEEDED!

Every year, we have had volunteers make and donate as many as 8 kinds of soup and 10 kinds of sandwiches. If you would like to provide a container of soup or a plate of sandwiches, please sign up in the Narthex. It's always a great time of fellowship and sharing and you can watch two “bowl” events on February 9th. See you there!





Welcome Adelaide Mae!

Taylor and Christopher Dawson are happy to welcome a new child to their family! Adelaide Mae arrived on January 4, 2025. Their daughter Charlotte is reported to be a wonderful and excited big sister!

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 **February 20th!**



**February is
American Heart Month**



Nursery School News

Photos and Story by Denise McCarthy & Jennifer Ryan



In January we learned about the changes the weather brings and how animals prepare for the long cold winter. We have also started our journey with the alphabet and are continuing to count each day.

In February we will have pink and purple day. At our Valentine's Day party, we will be letter carriers by delivering our Valentine's cards to each other's special mailbox.

Registration has begun for the 2025/2026 school year. Family and friends are invited to enroll. We will be closed Friday, February 14th to celebrate President's Day weekend. We are hoping for some warmer weather in March.

Undies for Epiphany

January 6th to March 4th

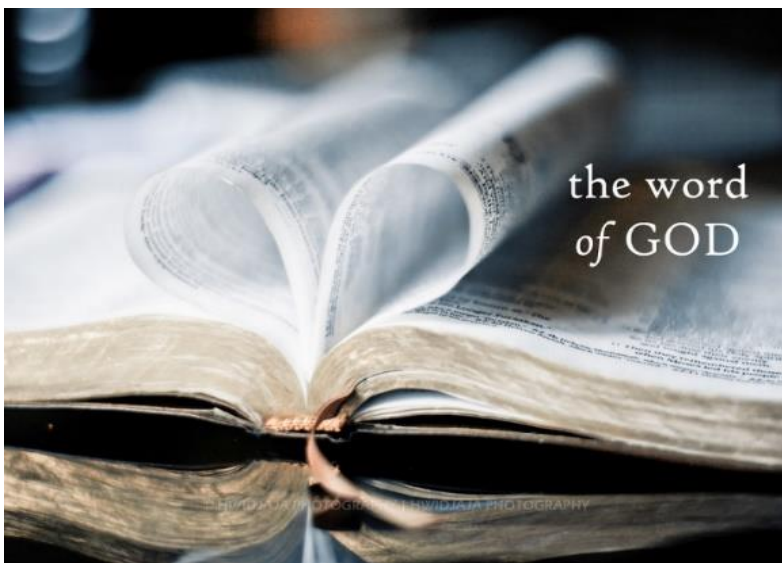
We are blessed to be able to take much for granted. One particular need for Philadelphia's homeless population is new underwear. During Epiphany all sizes and sorts of underwear are requested at Philadelphia's homeless shelters. All donations will be delivered to Arch Street United Methodist Church's clothing bank.

Please bring children's, women's, and men's underwear of any size to church during Epiphanytide (Epiphany, January 6th to Transfiguration, March 2nd). We'll ask God's blessing on them at our Sunday morning service on March 2nd.



DHUMC Together In The Word

We will soon be taking a pause from discussing in small pieces the classic book *The Practice of the Presence of God*. It would be a good time to stop by, join, in—as would any time. You don't need to have or read the book to gain from how it is covered. The format and fellowship time is kept simple. It's a chance to connect and to prepare for the worship hour.



Happy Birthdays in February!



Here are a few birthdays to celebrate in the month of February! 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.

2/8- Suzanne Huffnagle
1141 Cornell Ave
Drexel Hill, PA 19026
suzanne.huffnagle@verizon.net

2/8- Jane Marchesano
18 Edmonds Ave
Havertown, PA 19083
janehuffnagle@gmail.com

2/19- Connie McLaughlin
Artman
Park Place Household, 59
250 N. Bethlehem Pike
Ambler, PA 19002

February is.....





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 sallyannemullin@gmail.com
Charles Webb chuckster242@comcast.net
Dan Matarazzo dmatarazzo90@gmail.com
Helen Campbell giveemhelen@aol.com
Keith Chase & keithmchase@gmail.com
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Jane Todd 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.